

Kitty Whispers



NARRE WARREN BOWLS CLUB
Magid Drive, Narre Warren 3805. Ph: 9704 9702
narrebowlclub@bigpond.com. Editor: Micki.horton@yahoo.com.au

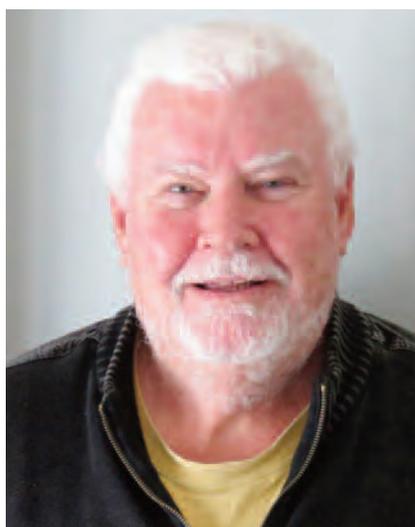
May 2017

2017/2018 Board



The NWBC board for 2017/2018, from left: Micki Horton, Sandra Lapham, Rod Lane, John Uren, Erik Luyters, Wilma Stevenson, Eric Sydenham

President's Report 2016/2017



We'll, what a year it has been. It hardly seems to have started and yet we are holding the Annual General Meeting.

So many things have happened since 1st May 2016 that it is hard to know

where to start. I will try to cover as many notable things as possible without monopolising this publication. **Micki** tells me this edition will be bigger than *War and Peace* so I had best make this the Foreword!

2016/17 commenced with a major shakeup as only two of the existing Board Members from the previous year were elected, due to others not standing again. The new Board comprised the following members:

Peter Bowman, Secretary; **Geoff Miller**, Treasurer;

Sandra Lapham; **Erik Luyters**; **Iain Stevenson**; **Wilma Stevenson**;

John Uren who was co-opted onto the Board to help with recalling our past history and advising "where the bodies were buried!! John also filled the role of Vice President.

Geoff Miller was entering his 10th consecutive year as Treasurer, after having previously served five years in various positions. This is quite an outstanding achievement and Geoff is to be congratulated by all club members for his enduring service. He has this year opted to take a well earned break and use the free time he will have to roam the world visiting family and friends.

Peter Bowman and **Sandra Lapham** have both continued to serve on the Division and Region Boards and Peter has also retained several positions with Bowls Victoria. **Geoff Miller** has also joined Peter and Sandra by taking on Treasurer's duties.

Erik Luyters took on the complex role of bar manager, and has done a great job in meeting the needs of a generally thirsty club. Some of the functions we have catered for have been record breaking in terms of attendance and turnover. Thanks for all the support you have given in this role, Erik.

Iain Stevenson has been a "quiet achiever" for the club,

working behind the scenes on many important and intricate projects for the betterment of the club and its members. Iain's valuable engineering knowledge has helped us to complete some major projects around the club without having to employ tradesmen. Everything Iain undertakes is finished to the highest level of quality which creates a great impression for the club.

Wilma Stevenson has been a stalwart so far as support for me in the office is concerned. She has stepped in several times to help me out when needed with sponsorship, research into financial matters concerning our bank accounts and more recently pursuing the best deal for the club as far as our future banking and EFTPOS requirements are concerned.

John Uren has been our "go to" man on the Board. Whenever we need to know what has happened in the past John always comes up with the answer. He has also taken on many tasks I have asked of him and never once declined to assist in any way he can to help the club. He has been a great ally for me at times when help and guidance were needed.

One person who is not a board member but warrants special mention is my wife, **Estelle**. Estelle has been extremely supportive of my involvement with the club as President, and I couldn't have undertaken this position without her understanding and encouragement. Thank you, Estelle!!

Overall the Board has functioned exceptionally well considering the relative inexperience of the majority of the committee members and this is reflected in the significant changes which have been made to the appearance of the club and the way it has operated during the current year. We are now in a very strong financial position despite having spent in excess of \$20,000 on new furniture, interior painting of the club, new blinds and completing the fit out of the pergola/barbecue area. All these improvements have been commented on very favourably by many club members and visitors to the club during the year.

The club has reintroduced social cabaret events, with two shows being held since the beginning of February. Both nights have been outstanding successes with two completely different artists performing to great crowds that have come to "PARTY!!". We now have a following of non-members of the club who wish to be informed whenever we are having these nights so they can come along and bring all their friends. The response has been nothing short of amazing at each show, and we are now scheduling these nights on a reg-

ular basis. A live show and supper for \$15 per person is great value and with our cheap drink prices thrown in, everyone is happy.

The club has had some setbacks during the year - the most significant being the loss of our synthetic green at the end of December due to heavy rain and flooding. This had a major impact on our ability to host events to the extent we would have liked. However, we are now waiting for a tender to be awarded by the City of Casey to install a new "needle punch" synthetic green which is the latest technology in non-sand-filled synthetic bowling surfaces. We are hopeful construction of this green will be completed well before the start of the new season.

An application has also been submitted through our State Member of Parliament (and strong club supporter) **Luke Donnellan** for funding to enable us to replace our grass green with a new synthetic needle-punch green (the same as the one being tendered for at the moment).

A submission was lodged with **Anthony Byrne** (Federal Member for Holt) in late January regarding our proposal to construct a roof over both greens. Anthony Byrne was very excited about this project when we first revealed it and he requested the Board to bring the planning of this forward with his assistance in obtaining funding through the Federal Government. We are hopeful this planned development will also become a reality in the not too distant future.

The Board has submitted a number of Grant Applications during the current year and I am very pleased to advise that we have been successful on every occasion to date.

Grant approvals are summarised below:

\$1000 to upgrade our security system;

\$700 for additional coaching equipment;

\$2900 for Junior Jack Attack kits and eight new sets of "0" & "00" bowls for juniors (and some other people with small hands!);

\$600 for six members of the club to undertake a coaches' course to be held at our club early in April.

We currently have four more active Grant Applications being considered to assist with:

Club uniforms for juniors (hats and shirts), totalling **\$1000**

Completion of the pergola area with concreting the surrounds, relocating taps and water pipes, installing a shed to store furniture and equipment, decommissioning the bore and connecting water and drainage to the sink in the pergola, totalling **\$22,198**

Concreting the surrounds of "B" green prior to installing a new synthetic green, totalling **\$31,262**

Installing three retractable blinds on the pergola to

provide more protection from the wind, sun and rain, totalling **\$4696**

Another setback was the withdrawal of the Taskforce Catering operation. It was hard to understand why this very worthwhile programme ceased (especially as all parties involved were very keen for it to continue). However we are not leaving the matter there, and a number of discussions have been held with interested parties to get this scheme up and running with the club taking a direct involvement in its management.

The very hard work put in by **Gail Bowman** and her kitchen volunteers (both male and female) has ensured we haven't gone wanting when it comes to being catered for. They have done a great job in conjunction with the Taskforce workers to supply us with quality food during the year. A big thank-you from all club members.

The club received very special recognition from Bowls Victoria when it was named a "Lighthouse Club" in February this year. Prior to our award, only 17 clubs in Victoria had been recognised in this way. The definition for Lighthouse Clubs used by Bowls Vic Is: "Clubs which deliver excellent performance, innovate, or have major success in building membership and participation in the sport."

This was a major achievement for us and has resulted in Narre Warren Bowls Club's profile being given an enormous lift in the bowls community.

Unfortunately our "on green" performance this year was lower than anticipated (with the notable exception of our Division 3 midweek side which not only made the finals but proceeded to win an exciting final at home. Well done to all concerned!) and this was no doubt impacted by the loss of 25 per cent of our playing strength between seasons. Despite this loss in playing numbers we increased our actual club membership by around 40 per cent due in part to a weekend of promoting the club at Westfield Fountain Gate during August.

I mentioned to a number of people during the year that the measure of a club's success is not how many trophies or pennants it wins, but how you compete and perform as a whole. In my mind we have had an outstanding year of growth and development, and success on the greens is bound to follow.

I am sure we are headed in the right direction and looking forward to a very strong period of growth as a club.

Thank you for allowing me to be the President of this wonderful club; it has been a great honour.

Eric Sydenham, *President*

Secretary's Report - 2016/2017

THE YEAR has been very busy, with a lot of achievements – increase in membership, the successful Fountain Gate weekend, and the tremendous level of support that this club is receiving from all three levels of government.

It also been very frustrating at times – namely the damage to our synthetic green and having to try to conduct events on only one green which has restricted the number of Casey Division events that we have been able to hold.

We have held two days at the club for primary school children – the first with 30 students and the second with 66 students. I would like to thank Stan Myer, Pauline Kempf, Wilma Stevenson, Reg Young and Stan Bulmer for their help on these days.

I would like to thank Sandra and Carl Lapham for all their help and assistance over the past year, because without the time they put in doing a lot of the work, I would have had to step down from the Secretary's position.

When I took on the position of Secretary last year, I didn't know that the time required for some of the other positions that I hold would increase so dramatically and it is for this reason that I am not continuing as Secretary.

Peter Bowman, *Secretary*



Bar Committee Report - 2016/2017

My thanks to **Eric Sydenham** (Mister Multi-Tasker), **Wilma** and **Iain Stevenson** (Cabaret/Function Specialist), **Judy Naughton** (stepped up a number of times at short notice), **Phil Howard** (Mister Personality), **Bill Brewster** and **Ian Brotherton** (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday stalwarts), **Geoff Miller** (Mister Consistency), **Peter**, **Marion** and **Mark Groom**, **Cameron Lee**, **Charlie Borg**, **Rod Lane** (late arrival) and **Reg Johnstone** (due to health issues was unable to participate – hope to see you next season).

SEASON 2016/2017 is coming to a close and I, as bar manager, wish to thank all bar committee members – new and old – for their work throughout a very busy period at the club.

The club had exceptional pre-Christmas function bookings, which kept all members on their toes, was financially very successful, as well as being a great promotion for our club.

All these bar committee members contributed in their own way.

As I have been asked to nominate for another position within the club, I will be handing over the bar manager baton for the coming year to someone else.

Erik Luyters, *Bar Manager*



Selection Committee Report - 2016/17

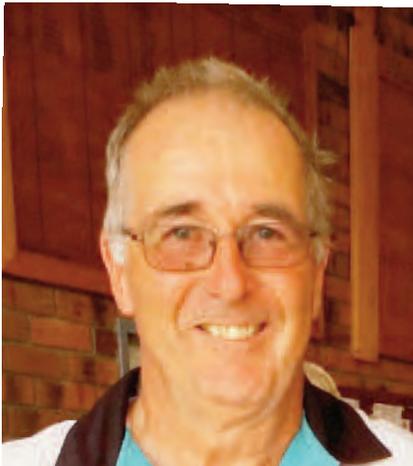
AS MOST members know it is difficult to be a selector, particularly with a number of changes to the Committee during the year and so many people being unavailable during the season. This necessitated a number of changes to teams during the year and made it difficult to maintain compatible combinations within teams.

Commitment is very important from members who wish to play Pennant Bowls at any level. Please think about your commitment on a fulltime or part time basis when nominating for the coming season and

don't let your team mates down.

On behalf of the Selection Committee I thank members who made the commitment to represent our Club during the past season and look forward to a successful 2017/18 Bowls season.

Jimmy Millar *For and on behalf of the Selection Committee*



Bowls Committee Report - 2016/2017

Last year a recruitment drive was conducted by several Narre Warren members over at Fountain Gate Shopping Centre. This resulted in a number of new people joining the club, many of them women. Social bowls was a lot of fun, with established bowlers playing in teams with newer bowlers, imparting their wisdom and knowledge of the game while still managing to laugh off a few mistakes.

Over the season, club competitions were organised by the bowls committee, namely club singles and pairs championships, 100 up and the Stan Tolley mixed pairs. It is a sign of the differing abilities within the club that only one member won two trophies this year – **Keith Mark**. Competition was conducted in a good spirit, and congratulations to all those who were

successful.

This year, **Peter Bowman** was able to resurrect the Casey Cardinia Twilight Two-bowl triples on a Thursday night. Narre Warren is represented by three teams of three competing against the best teams from Cranbourne, Cranbourne RSL, Pakenham and Hampton Park. We are confident of giving the competition a shake and would like to get the Narre Warren Club on the perpetual shield.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the bowls committee - **Janis Dukats, Andy Tobler** and **Jimmy Millar** - for their assistance during the previous season. Now I know what the responsibilities of the bowls committee are, I intend to run again for season 2017/18. **Graham Dodd, Bowls Committee**

ALTHOUGH a number of current bowls committee members had experience from previous years, I did a lot of learning on the job over my first season. Firstly, I had to familiarise myself with the computer program installed by Alain Dawson before he left for a bowls club on the peninsula and, due to limited computer skills, a few teething troubles resulted preparing the cards each game day. If it wasn't sorted before 10 minutes to go, hastily hand-written cards were made up.

AGM and Presentation

DUE TO ALL positions being filled without voting being required, this AGM was more relaxed than usual. Not having to sit in rows, but at our comfortable tables where we had eaten our delicious, and filling, breakfast, added to the atmosphere, ensuring an enjoyable morning.

We were joined by honoured guests from BowlsVic (**Judith Thorpe**) and Casey Peninsula Region (**Jan Sellars**), who gave up their Sunday morning to make a couple of presentations. Mrs Thorpe also congratulated, on behalf of BowlsVic, NWBC on its smooth running.

As well as welcoming the new board, and farewelling the old, our returning president, **Eric Sydenham**, honoured two past presidents, **Kerry Davis** and **Reg Johnstone**, with their PP badges.

Our outgoing treasurer, **Geoff Miller**, was pre-

sented with a plaque to mark 10 consecutive years as treasurer, as well as his time as president and on other committees throughout his 15 years as a NWBC member. **Leo McGeary** received a belated eight-badge from 2015/2016 season, and **Carl Lapham, Erik Luyters** and **Rod Lane** (**Joe Selfridge** was absent) received theirs from this season.

An OBE was on hand to be given to **Brian Fraser**, but will have to be presented on Opening Day.

The highlighted news of the day was the announcement that our membership fee will be reduced by \$10, to now be \$155 for full members.

A couple of positions remain open on the Membership Committee, and any volunteers in any category will be welcomed by Sponsorship, Catering, Bar, House, Social and Fundraising, and Greens and Surrounds.

Committees

<i>Board:</i>	President Eric Sydenham, Secretary Erik Luyters, Treasurer Wilma Stevenson, members Micki Horton, Rod Lane, Sandra Lapham, John Uren
<i>CCO:</i>	Carl Lapham
<i>Selection:</i>	Philip Howard, Rod Lane, Keith Mark, Jimmy Millar, David Shearer, Ian Stevenson
<i>Bowls:</i>	Ralph Devonshire, Graham Dodd, Janis Dukats, Norm Hosmer, Judy Naughton, Stan Robinson, Reg Young, Pam Uren
<i>Greens & Surrounds:</i>	Wally Finlayson, Iain Stevenson, Eric Sydenham, Andy Tobler
<i>Bar:</i>	Bill Brewster, Peter Groom, Philip Howard, Rod Lane, Geoff Miller, Eric Sydenham, Iain Stevenson, Wilma Stevenson
<i>Catering & Provider:</i>	Janice Moran, Judy Naughton, Pam Uren
<i>House:</i>	Percy Herath, Len O'Brien, John Uren
<i>Social & Fundraising:</i>	Ralph devonshire, Leo McGeary, Stan Robinson, John Uren
<i>Sponsorship:</i>	Eric Sydenham
<i>Membership:</i>	Stan Bulmer, Jim Kempf, Pauling Kempf, John Uren
<i>Hall & Facilities:</i>	Erik Luyters, Eric Sydenham
<i>Press Officer:</i>	Matt Hogan
<i>Almoner:</i>	Nancy Pugh

Presentations



Above Left: Graham Dodd and Pam Uren - club champions.
Right: champion Graham Dodd and runner-up Keith Mark

Below: Stan Tolley Mixed Pairs. Left: Alan Mark and Judy Naughton, winners,
and runners-up Keith Mark and Rose Rasmussen



Presentations



Above: 100-up champion, Reg Young. 100-up runner up, Percy Herath

Bottom: Open pairs: Erik Luyters and Carl Lapham.

Right Judith Thorpe from BowlsVic presented Carl Lapham, Erik Luyters and Rod Lane with their eight-badges.



Presentations



Above: A smiling Geoff Miller receives his plaque for services rendered. Judith Thorpe presents Leo McGeary with his eight-badge for last season

Bottom: Past Presidents Kerry Davis and Reg Johnstone were presented with their PP badges



Pennant

Unfortunately, after several seasons of climbing ever higher in the divisions, we finally hit the wall, and most sides struggled to keep up.

However, the exception was Tuesday's Division 3 side, which finished in second position. They won the first semi-final, but ended up runners-up in the Sectionals. Not a bad run and, as the selectors had to field some inexperienced players on occasion, something to be very proud of.

BowlsVic changed the rules re promotion and relegation for this season, so Div 3 will not (as would usually be the case) going up to Div 2. This is a blessing in disguise, as next season all our players would have been in Div 2 (although in different sections), causing considerable headaches to the selectors, who already live on paracetamol (just joking).

Congratulations once again to Div 3; you did a mighty job.

A very proud Tuesday Division 3 side, before taking to the green.

Back row: Len O'Brien, Andy Tobler, Keith Mark, Truus Henneman, Enid Gibb, Wilma Stevenson (team manager), Rose Rasmussen, Alan Mark, Eric Sydenham (president), Brian Fraser, Peter Castricum, Judy Naughton. Front row: Nancy Pugh, Micki Horton, Pam Uren



State Competitions

THIS year Narre Warren picked up several trophies in the Casey Division of State competitions. Ladies' singles winner was **Wilma Stevenson**. Ladies' pairs winners were **Sue Hudson** and **Wilma Stevenson**. Ladies' 4s runners-up were **Gail Bowman**, **Judy Naughton**, **Sue Hudson** and **Wilma Stevenson**. And, men's novice runner-up was **Wally Finlayson**. Congratulations on reaching this far; you are a credit to Narre Warren Bowls Club. *Wima Stevenson*

Right: **Wilma Stevenson** being presented with the trophy by **Jan Sellars**, president of Peninsula Casey Region.

Below: Three of the Ladies' Pairs runners-up, **Judy Naughton**, **Gail Bowman** and **Wilma Stevenson**.



THE TOLLEYS

The final of the Stan Tolley Mixed Pairs was played on Tuesday 14 March and was relaxed and friendly most of the game, but finished off in a brotherly stoush.

The finalists were **Judy Naughton** with **Alan Mark**, and **Rose Rasmussen** with **Keith Mark**, and what a game it was, with the result in doubt until the last end.

The first two ends went to Rose and Keith for a total of three. Then Judy and Alan scored a one on each of the next four, took a two in end seven, while Rose and Keith took one each in the next two ends. Just four bowlers enjoying the sunshine.

In round 10 Judy and Alan scored one for a total of 7/5. Rose and Keith took it up to their opponents the next two ends, turning the score over and giving them 8/7. Round 13 saw them equal on 8/8; Judy and Alan took round 14, Rose and Keith rounds 15 and 16, taking them to 12/9.

With two ends to go Judy and Alan took a three, bringing the score up to a level 12/12 in the 17th. The spectators were almost more nervous than the players when the last end was played. Judy and Alan asserted their dominance, scoring another three to give them 15/12 and the title.

Whew, what a game! - *Micki Horton*

The protagonists, from left: runners-up **Keith Mark** and **Rose Rasmussen**. Right: winners **Judy Naughton** and **Alan Mark**



Our littlest players

Our Future Has Already Commenced

We're getting them young these days, with a BowlsVic initiative, making good use of a Sports School Arts Grant, with lawn bowls being one of the sports allowed.

One of our newer bowlers, **Pauline Kempf**, who is a staff member at **Rangebank Primary School** in Cranbourne organised (with **Peter Bowman**) for her school to play at NWBC on 9 March, in order to select a team to play in the regional finals at Hampton.

The school already teaches lawn bowls as part of the SCHAG. They have a Jack Attack pack and use rubber bowls in an indoor setting.

The children, 28 of them aged from nine to 12, were stunned when they first set eyes on our green. One of them was heard to say in awe, "Is this really grass?" Another boy was in danger of drowning himself internally, so enamoured was he of the cold water from our fountain. He kept walking around, telling all who would listen to him, that this was the 'best water in the world'.

Our helpers on the day were the Student Welfare Officers of Rangebank – **Mark Renouf** and **Julie Comarmond** – as well as their coach, past member **Stan Myers** – and current bowlers **Stan Bulmer** and the abovementioned Pauline Kempf, as well as organiser Peter Bowman.

At lunch, I sat with four of the youngsters, and was asked if I still bowled. When I said 'yes', without any embarrassment, one of the children said, "How old are you, then." I told them, and informed them I was prac-



Our helpers on the day, from left: **Stan Bulmer, Pauline Kempf, Stan Myers** and **Peter Bowman**. (Unfortunately, due to privacy laws, we could not publish pix of the children.

tically a baby compared with some of our older members. They all chimed in that I was older than their grandparents, and waaaaay older than their parents.

It seemed to hit home, because one boy told me of the four sports he currently plays, then said that when he reached 50 he would start lawn bowls so that when he retired he would be well experienced.

The 12 children chosen for the regional final were **Isabella, Aadit, Ashton, Sarthika, Ethan, Dillon, Ashley J, Amber Jade, Chloe, Charlie, Alex R and Kayla**. The emergencies are **Roshni, Kori, Jamie Lee, Zac** and **Emily**.

They were lovely kids, and extremely well behaved. A credit to their parents and their school.

Bowls Victoria is hoping to get school competitions up and running, and this day was part of that. If they all go as well as this day did, and the children are as well behaved, it should go off with a bang.

Micki Horton

Mazda Summer Bowls Challenge

Story **John and Pam Uren**

Pix **Graeme Dodd**

Notwithstanding the loss of our synthetic green over the festive season, the delayed acceptance that the grass green could accommodate barefoot bowlers over a number of weeks, the late call for invitations to enter this year's event, two nights abandoned because of rain, the Mazda Summer Bowls Challenge was an outstanding success.

The event comprised only eight teams, including a club team. The teams were quite evenly matched, and this was caused in part by the introduction of Jack Attack rules. The new rules were readily adopted by the players, and fun nights resulted.

The overall winner was first-time team called **Get It Up Carpenters**, and was made up of workers from a company that had a prior corporate event at the club. The runners-up were **Red Hot** – a team that has played each year over the five-year history of the event. Red Hot won in 2014. The Encouragement

Award was won by an all-female team from the **Narre Warren Community Information and Support Service**.

A highlight this year was a raffle where the prize was the use, over a weekend, of a Mazda MX5 provided by **Berwick Mazda**. The MX5 is a sports car, and was voted the world's best car for year 2016. The winner was Graeme Couchman, a member of the Red Hot team

The event is a big commitment in terms of the numbers required each Monday night over the month of February to run the event, and thank you to all that helped this year. It is not a large money raiser. It is, however, a big club investment in the future. All the players who have played over the past five years will retire someday, and be looking for a social/sporting activity. The fun they have had in bowls at our club will be remembered.

Our appreciation is warmly extended to Berwick Mazda for its sponsorship of the event, and entries for next year's event will open next month. Please help by trying to find team to compete.

This season's champions are **Get It Up Carpenters**, from left to right:
Graeme Levy, Ryan Ebzery, Josh Swainston and Travis Mitchell





Above - Runners-up, **Red Hot Team**, from left to right:
Michael Kingett, Graeme Couchman, Alan Couchman, Steve Costas

Below - winners of the Encouragement Award,
Orth Casey Community Information and Support Service, from left to right:
Lisa Hanson, Susan McGee, Cheryl Munday, Julie Leondas





Jack of All Trades

LUKE Donnellan MP, Member for Narre Warren North District, Minister for Ports, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and currently temporary Minister for Tourism is a familiar face around Narre Warren Bowls Club.

He is also a Brisbane Lions fan (still crying over Fitzroy moving to Queensland, just as I do over South Melbourne's banishment to Sydney). Luke loves to talk football, especially trumpeting that my beloved Swans won the premiership only due to ex-Lion Paul Roos.

On Friday, 7 April he popped in for a cuppa. To show his versatility, I suggested the Honourable Member make the tea. And, blow me down, he did; then became 'mother' and poured it. He admitted not making the bun we consumed, but I'm guessing he probably could have done so, had he had time.

As well as being 'honourable' in the political sense, he is also an honorary bowling mem-

ber of Narre Warren Bowls Club, and decided it was high time he actually put a bowl in his hand. After a short lesson from our new coach Eric Sydenham, Luke was ready to take to the mat. Eric bowled his first, and then Luke put down his. It wasn't too bad, but he immediately wanted another shot, because, as he said, 'It's not good enough. It's not past Eric's.' His next one was. Then, because he is Minister for Roads, he thought it was his duty to 'drive' the bowl into the jack. I'm sure when he retires, he will make a pretty handy bowler.

Without Mr Donnellan you wouldn't be reading this newsletter in its current format; his office saves us hundreds of dollars by photocopying, collating and stapling this publication, as well as sundry ad hoc printing as required.

As well as this, Luke uses our club for his Senior Citizen morning teas and other functions. He has been instrumental in helping us to get grants, writing testimonials and letters of support to our applications, letting us know when they are available, and keeping us apprised of the outcome.

Narre Warren Bowls Club is very lucky in the support it gets from both Government and Council, and we appreciate all that is done for us in this regard.





Luke Donnellan shows his delivery style

WOMEN'S REGIONAL SIDES CHAMPIONSHIP

The Regional Championship this year was again held at Swan Hill. Again there were players from all over Victoria with 16 regions represented and 192 players involved. It is a colourful site when all the teams are in their Regional uniforms and all lined up for presentation and speeches before the games start. The format was different this year from previous years. In the past, there were four sections with three games of 15 ends played on one day and the winners of each section playing off the following morning, with the eventual winners of those games playing off against each other.

This year it was decided that for some teams it is a long way to go for one day's bowls so instead we had two sections with eight teams in each. Narre Warren was represented in Peninsula Casey by Sue Hudson and me (Wilma Stevenson). Our first game was on Friday afternoon, which we won, so it was comforting to have that one under our belt. We had four games on Saturday, starting at 8.15am but, unfortunately, they went against us.

After a long day - four games of 12 ends - we were all grateful for the extra hour with the clocks going back.

On Sunday we played two games and won both, so it was nice to end on a high note. The winners of both sections played off on Sunday afternoon. Sandbelt, our neighbours, played against Geelong. It was 15 ends for each of the three rinks and no-one got away. At the end of the 15 ends it was a draw so they all had to play one extra end. Sandbelt came out winners by one shot. That is a result that is worthy of a final.

The team managers were delighted with our efforts as, in the games we lost, we went down by no more than five shots. We missed out on fourth place by two percentage points. It is the best performance that Peninsula Casey has put forward for six years so we are all excited for next year to improve. Wilma Stevenson

The Kitchen Crew

Over the past 18 months we have had the privilege of being the host club four days a week to a crew of 'work for the dole' participants, ably led by Buffy, Jessie and Shae.

Not every club member embraced this initiative originally; in fact, some were openly hostile. But, with the close cooperation of the professional chefs in charge, and a lot of discussion, gradually it became the norm. And, as time went by, players from Narre and visiting clubs embraced a hot lunch for just a couple of dollars. We were the envy of almost everyone who visited, with almost every club trying to poach our crew for itself.

Several very funny incidents occurred along the way, with the standout probably being a culture clash between ourselves and a work-for-the-dole participant over the baking of a birthday cake, and a loud rendition of *Happy Birthday*, to which she took great exception, stating it 'was contrary to her cultural beliefs'. No amount of explanation helped, and she subsequently departed (with some help from a couple of the younger male participants, who took great glee in quietly singing *Happy Birthday* whenever she was in earshot).

Many countries were represented during their stay, and those of us who worked closely with the crew were accorded the opportunity of acting as mentors

and listening to the various problems within the Centrelink system which, for the most part, we would never have been aware of.

Something many members may not have been aware of was the amount of revenue which poured into the club coffers. As I write this article at Micki's request, I do not have the exact amount, but it would not fall too short of \$30k over the period.

When they departed recently, the management gifted us the equipment they bought during their tenure, and we became the proud owners of a heap of small equipment, including

tea towels, a deep fryer, a large bench Mixmaster and quite a number of very sharp chef knives. I accepted them on behalf of the club and said we were very appreciative.

Buffy and I shed a couple of tears when I presented her with a large bunch of bright-orange gerberas on behalf of the club. Her remark that she had got more flowers from us than her partner lightened an otherwise sad occasion.

We will miss their cheerful presence and, at this time, discussions are being held to try to have an ongoing commitment, but, so far, with no resolution.

Sandra Lapham



Bye bye Buffy

CABARET



Left: Phillip Howard and guests
Below: Eric and Estelle Sydenham
Bottom: Pauline and Jim Kempf



Our second cabaret for the year was held on St Patrick's Day, Friday 17 March.

While not attracting as big an audience as our February offering, it was certainly enjoyed by the 60-odd people who attended.

Thanks goes to all the organisers, bar personnel and other workers who assisted in making it a night to remember.

Thanks also to our very talented artist Marcel Marceau, and the dancers, who took to the floor from the first song and, although sometimes spoiling our view, were almost as entertaining.

Thank you also to Stan Robinson who booked the night, but was unable to attend due to ill health.





Above: **Trish and Geoff Miller**, with one-and-a-half eyes, a nose and (full) mouth of **Peter Bowman**

Left: **Michael Graham** and guests

Bottom: **Wally Finlayson** and guest





Marcel Marceau, the star of the show, above, and the other star, bartender **Wilma Stevenson**, with husband **Iain**.



The Gates

WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE GATES ON OUR CLUB LOGO, SO JOHN UREN DUG INTO THE ARCHIVES AND CAME UP WITH THIS ARTICLE GIVING THE HISTORY OF THE FAMOUS NARRE WARREN MEMORIAL GATES



The Narre The Narre Warren Memorial Gates are a wonderful example of how short 'forever' can be in the life of a moment or memorial. First erected in 1923 by public subscription at a cost of £200 at the Narre Warren Memorial Sports Ground, the gates were an impressive structure. (The Narre Warren Memorial Sports Ground was renamed the Percy Trewin Reserve; now the site of the Casey Lifestyle Centre). Two granite pillars supported an arch above two galvanised iron gates. A keystone carrying a rising sun and the names of the nine who did not return of the 20 who enlisted during the Great War was set in the middle of the arch. The names of those who enlisted were on the left pillar.

In 1949, the names of those who enlisted for service in World War 2 were added to the memorial, and the concrete outer pillars were replaced with granite. The concrete walls were faced

with stone. But the arch was unstable by then; wet conditions and vibrations from passing traffic had contributed to its deterioration and so it was removed. The first granite stones above each pillar were transformed into balls. The rising sun and names of those killed in action were attached to the pillar. By this time, traffic in and out of the grounds was becoming a problem; not designed for cars and trucks, the gates began to suffer damage regularly.

When one of the gates was knocked off by a truck,

the other one was removed and so, the paper says, were tied very securely to the tennis court fence. But they might not have been that secure, because they disappeared one night. Then Perry Bros came to town, and one of its animal cages got jammed in the gateway, resulting in one of the pillars being dislodged. But, help was at hand and an elephant's services were employed to fix it. How we'd like to see of photo of that!

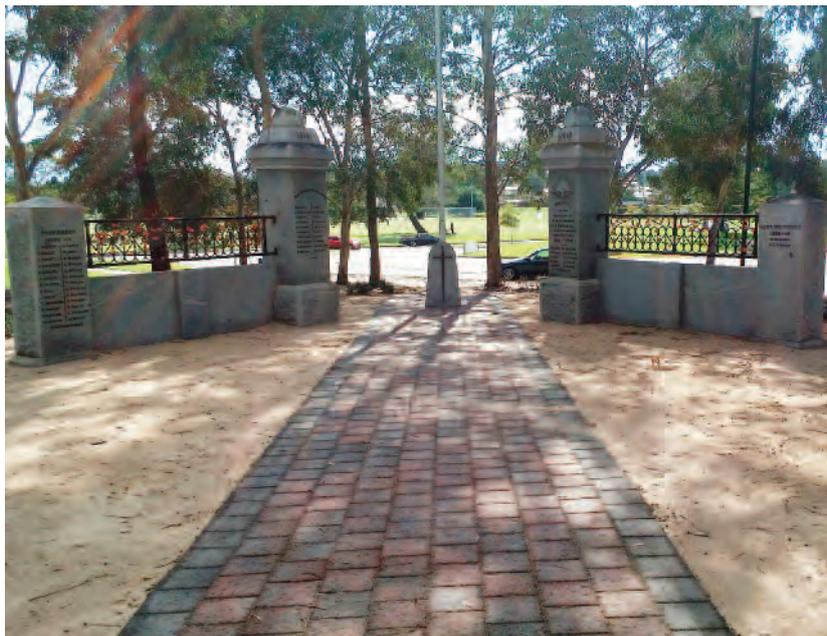
By 1981 things were looking pretty grim again; the memorial was so badly damaged that some of it was in council storage for safe keeping. Jack Nobelius was instrumental in getting the gates relocated. A public

meeting was held at the Berwick Civic Centre in November 1981. Their new home was to be not far from where they are today – over near the Casey ARC and where the ornamental lake used to be.

A re-dedication ceremony was held on Anzac Day 1983.

But, that didn't last long and, when work began on the ARC and the Patrick Northeast Reserve Wetlands, the gates were again put into storage. In April 2003, they were re-dedicated again, this time in their present position, just to the front of the City of Casey offices. Narre Warren is constantly evolving and adapting, and Bunjil Place is now becoming a reality that will necessitate yet another move for the gates.

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Pennant Feast



Round 18 went pretty much as we expected, with none of our sides declaring a win. But, this did not stop them celebrating the end of the season with a slap-up feast after the game, courtesy of **Gail Bowman** and her band of wonderful helpers. Pictured are some of the diners getting in early before the apparent locust plague that demolished it all.

Obituary

Harry McCombe

HARRY McCOMBE, one of our most senior long-time members, passed away on 9 March 2017. Harry and wife **Muriel** put in their application to join on 5 February 1987 and, as foundation members, contributed to the club in the work up to its official opening by the Mayor of Berwick on 19 September 1987.

Harry was a really good bowler, who managed to continue his competency into his late 80s. Muriel, was the hot shot. Four times she was club ladies' champ, and the achievements board is sprinkled with her name.

Harry was one of nature's gentlemen, and it was regretted when he dropped out of playing in recent years. Many club members attended his funeral as a mark of respect. - *Stanley Burkett*