

Kitty whispers

December 2016

NARRE WARREN BOWLS CLUB
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Our 2016/2016 club champions,
Pam Uren and Graham Dodd

Opening Day 2016

Opening Day 2016 was its usual triumph, with most of our members attending, plus our usual local dignitaries. A magnificent spread was devoured with alacrity, after the first bowl and jack were delivered by **Keith** and **Alan Mark**. They were the gold medal winners at the Australian Deaf Games this year, and Keith is our immediate past club champion. They are a true double act, as Keith delivered the jack ditch to ditch, and Alan followed with a bowl within six inches.

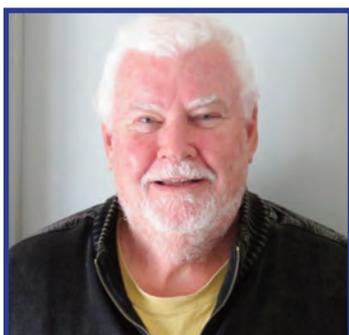
Below: Some of the attending dignitaries, from left, **President Eric Sydenham**, **Hon Luke Donellan**, Minister for Roads, Road Safety and Ports, **Anthony Byrne MP** - Federal Member for Holt, and **Secretary Peter Bowman**.





Two awards were presented on the day. **Len O'Brien** (left) received the club-nominated Volunteer of the Year award. He went on to make the final 16 in the Bowls Australia presentation. Congratulations, Len, an award truly deserved.

Jim Sheahan (right) was a proud recipient of an OBE. (That's 'Over Bloody Eighty' for those newbies among you. Hang around long enough, and you'll get one, too).



President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all committee members I would like to wish all our members a happy and safe festive season.

The club has a large number of Christmas function bookings during December and we need as much help as possible with running them.

A roster sheet is on the notice board listing all functions, and we would appreciate the assistance of ALL members in some way during this period. Please indicate your willingness to help with any of the events listed.

The club has also been offered the opportunity to run a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Narre Warren on Boxing Day. This is a real bonus for us as this is potentially one of the busiest days of the year and we stand to make very good revenue for the club. Please let **Sandra** know if you can help out on this day.

We have a new cupboard to secure the mats and jacks on the outside of the club adjacent to both greens. Access to this cupboard will be with the side-gate padlock key which some members currently have. We have taken this step to avoid members having to access the clubrooms just to have a roll up. This should dramatically reduce the number of false alarm activations we have experienced since the new alarm system was installed. Everyone who has a clubhouse key and uses it only for roll up access is requested to return the key in exchange for a padlock key to access the greens, mats and jacks.

Eric Sydenham, President

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

LADIES' SINGLES

The ladies – due to the fact there are not so many of them – got through their games by 14 November, with the victor being **Pam Uren**. This is Pam's first time as champion, and her and **Wilma Stevenson's** game was terrific to watch.

The game started with Wilma taking three shots, then Pam won the next four ends. Wilma replied with another two shots, and Pam won the next three ends. Not liking this, Wilma put her head down and won three ends in a row, lost one, then took another two,

to take the lead. But, Pam was unstoppable, and took four out of the final five, to win in 20 ends.

It was disappointing that so few arrived to cheer the ladies on, but they battled it out in the freezing weather to give a great tussle to those of us who were there something to keep our minds off the cold.

Afterwards Pam said: "It was a great game against a strong opponent, and I thank President Eric for marking for us."

Congratulations, Pam, you are a worthy winner. Good luck in the Champion of Champions.



MEN'S SINGLES

A week after the ladies' game, **Graham Dodd** and defending champ **Keith Mark** stepped up to the mat to begin their tussle. In contrast to the previous week, which was cold enough to freeze the ... (you know the rest), the men played in high-30s heat. Their marker, Margo Worsley, almost melted, but bravely soldiered through the 28 ends.

The game started off with Graham taking four, then Keith took one. Graham stayed in front consistently until he got to the 'magical' 23 on the 20th end. It really got exciting then, As Keith fought back, winning six of the next eight ends, with the final score being Graham 25, Keith 23. The sweat was popping out on both their faces, and I can tell you it wasn't all to do with the heat of the day.



Division Games

The semi and final games in the mixed pairs took place at Cranbourne RSL on 20 November. Our entrants were Wilma and Ian Stevenson, who played Maree and Ian from Cranbourne.

This game got off to a casual start, with Narre taking the first two ends for three, then Cranbourne evened it up for three in the third end. They played tit for tat for the next couple of ends, then Cranny had a streak of four ends for a score of 12/6. Then it went end about and Narre got within two shots at the 18th, but Cranbourne finished triumphant 16/13. Well done for a great effort, Wilma and Ian. Another end might have seen a different outcome.

The final was won by Cranbourne, as its opponent, Pakenham, called it after six ends due to heat distress.

Indoor Bowls

by *Micki Horton* - wearing two hats:
those of *Secretary* and *Selector*

It has been an interesting season, and started with a bang, requiring three mats for social Tuesdays. After a while, this dropped off, and we finished the season with two mats most weeks. Lunches were a welcome addition to our Tuesdays, so much so that we often had difficulty getting bowlers away from the table and onto the mat.

I believe we all enjoyed our Tuesdays, and some of us also played on Sunday – usually organised by either **Derrick** or **Rudi**, and attended by a small core of players.

Club champions for this season are **Judy Naughton** and **Derrick Noble**. Congratulations to both of you, and to the runners up, **Rose Rasmussen** and **Rudi Pompe**.

The pairs final was played out between **Judy** and **Helen**, and **Micki** and **Rudi**. Micki and Rudi left their run too late, but managed to catch up to lose by only two shots. Judy and Helen were in top form in a game that was attended by several 'fans'. This really added to the occasion and was most appreciated by the players.

Judy and **Rose**, plus **Derrick** and **Rudi**

played the Life Members' Shield, and won

Pennant was a mixed bag this season. We decided to field only two teams, and thank God we did. With the loss of **Dot Farrell** to illness, and **Enid** and **Eddie Gibb** to Scotland, we had a huge struggle each week getting enough players.

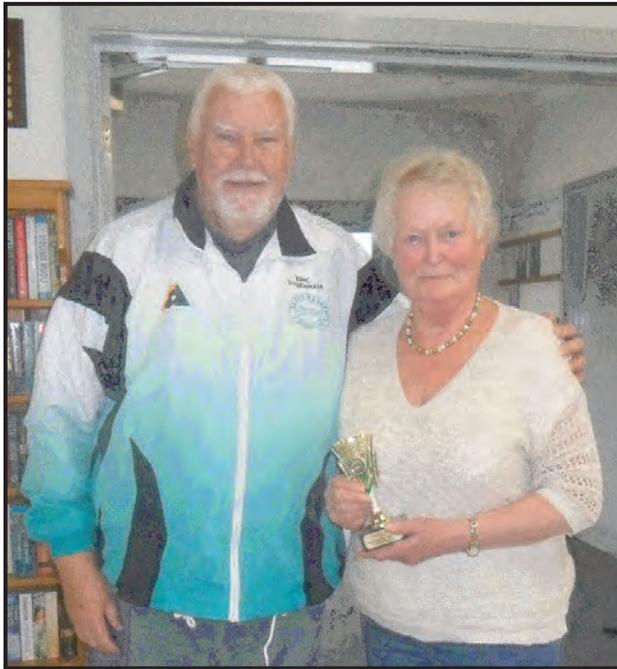
About half-way through the season - due to its position of last on the ladder - Division 1 had to be 'thrown to the wolves' as Division 3 was on top. This was not a popular decision but, without experienced players, was the best we could do.

Thank you to my co-selectors **Nancy Pugh** and **Derrick Noble**. A thankless and stressful job was made less so due to their support.

My gratitude goes out to those who did play, whether in Div 1 or Div 3. You all did your best each week, which is all we could ask.

A big thank you also to **Kevin McCarthy**, who worked his backside off, taking both mat and lunch fees and writing in the following week's entrants, helping with the cards, and, on occasion, playing when he really didn't want to to fill out the numbers.





The Winners:

Far left: With President **Eric, Derrick Noble** and **Judy Naughton**.

Above: Runners-up **Rose Rasmussen** and **Rudi Pompe**.

Left: **Judy** and **Helen**, pairs winners.

Below: **Micki** and **Rudi**, pairs runners up.



Champion of Champions

Our club champions – **Judy Naughton** and **Derrick Noble** – faced stiff opposition in the Champion of Champions games, with Judy – after a gruelling three games – finishing runner-up.

Derrick played his heat at Blue Hills Rise on Saturday, 16 July and was ahead most of the game until the 14th end, when his opponent took advantage of a slight dizzy spell, and won the next two ends. It was a very interesting game to watch, as Derrick really took Berwick's **Michael Adams** out of his complacency, and gave him a real run for his money.

Judy played her games at Keysborough on Tuesday evening. After a

very shaky start, she beat her first opponent, **Jan Alley** from Noble Park, quite convincingly. Then, playing **Hermiese Constable** from Swingers, she really starred, rarely letting Hermiese win an end.

Unfortunately, the final, played against Keysborough's **Karen Brodie**, was **Judy's** undoing, and she went down, to become runner up in the competition. It probably didn't help that Judy had played three games to Karen's two, but credit where it is due, Karen played a really good and competitive game.

It was a strong effort by both **Judy** and **Derrick**, as our indoor section is quite small compared with some of the other clubs.



8 Badges

In the first round of pennant, the team of **Micki Horton** (third), **Rosie Rasmussen** (lead), **Enid Gibb** (skip) and **Nancy Pugh** (third) absent, were the proud earners of the coveted 8 badge.





Christmas Social

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER AFTER PENNANT

Raffle drawn on the night



FOR CATERING PURPOSES,
PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME
ON THE BOARD



Obituary - Gordon Lowry



It was with great sorrow we learned of the passing of our esteemed life member **Gordon Lowry**. Gordon was a stalwart of the club, who joined NWBC in **December 1993**. He was a tireless worker for the club until his health stopped him and, in the early days, was known as 'Mower', due to the fact that he usually spent more time on the green mowing than

bowling. A member of the Greens Committee from **1997 to 2007**, Gordon also trimmed the hedges and made the tables we used until just recently.

A very quiet man, with a wry smile and sense of humour, Gordon was universally liked, and was honoured for his contributions to the club with a life membership in **2014**.



Special Day

*A Christmas lunch prepared by Mrs Claus (aka) **Buffy** and her helpers is part of special day of Wednesday 21 December. As school holidays will have commenced, children are also invited, but you must indicate your interest on the form on the board. Buffy is a great cook, but she cannot manufacture food out of nothing, and requires numbers for provisions.*

A special appearance will be made by Santa himself, who could be carrying the odd present in his sack.

Hearing Help will be at the club in the morning, providing free hearing tests.

*And, somehow, a game of **social bowls** will also be fitted in on the day. So, come along and celebrate Christmas with your bowling friends.*



Extra presents needed for Summer



Although she will be too young for turkey this Christmas, **Pam** and **John Uren's** second great-grandchild, **Summer Ann**, daughter of their granddaughter **Jessica Couchman** and partner **Aaran Gillard**, will definitely be ready to play with her presents.

Summer was born at 4.47pm on 7 July 2016 and weighed in at 3.62kg (8.08lb) and stretched out to an elegant 52cm (20.2 inches).

Summer is pictured soon after her birth with her very protective and loving cousin, **Jayden**