

Christmas



CHRISTMAS was celebrated a little differently 'back in the day'.

As well as a traditional Christmas dinner, we had the very best in entertainment and, for many years, Neville Bell was the bearded one, handing out chockies and lollies in exchange for a kiss, mostly - but not always - from the ladies.

Up close and personal with the gorgeous dancing ladies, from left: Ken Tomlin, Gordon Lowry (our elder statesman as very few were privileged, or shocked, to see him), Keith Blencowe and Andy Sheppard, with the ever-smiling Santa.

Of course, there's no show without an audience.

Enjoying themselves on the night were Enid Gibb, Beverley Brotherton, John and Jan Heathcote, Eddie Gibb, Beryl and Keith Blencowe.



Presentation Day 2003

Presentation Day back in 2003 was just a champagne breakfast and trophy presentation. We didn't amalgamate this day with the AGM until 2015.

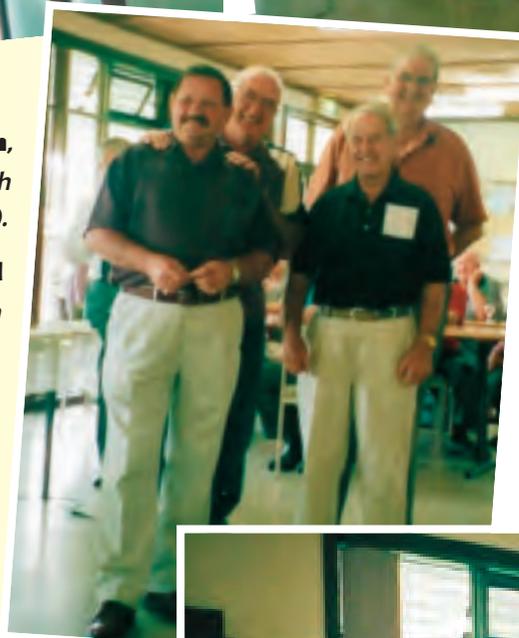
The Ladies' President in 2003 was **Audrey Mortimer**, while the Men's President was **Fred Fox**.

From top to bottom, the recipients are **Micki Horton**, who won the *Ruby Jernner Drawn Pairs* with **Dot Farrell** (not present).

Dennis Amezdroz, Andy Kidd, Ron Cobbett and (absent) **John Schwennesen** received an 8-pin

The pennant team of **Geoff Miller, Jim Sheahan, Jackie Hewett** and **Frank Appleby** also received an 8-pin.

Shirley Bell and **Judy Naughton** were the *Ladies' Pairs* champions, while **Billy Brewster** and **Ian Brotherton** were runners-up in the *Men's Pairs*





Then, as now, the food didn't cook itself, and in those days, **Pat Yates** (holding her spatula aloft) ran a tight ship as *Providore*. She was ably assisted by, from right, **Audrey Mortimer**, **Ann Bray**, **Enid Arnott**, **Dorothy Poupponneau**, head sausage cooker **Neville Bell**, **Aileen McKenzie**.



Jill Berger, Dorothy Platt



Norm and Jacquie Hosmer



Kids Try Day 2008



Nowadays we have in place a schools' program, which gives schoolchildren the chance to become involved in bowls. Back in 2008, we held a Kids' Try Day



Christmas 2008 was a huge success, with many members enjoying the traditional feast. Paul O'Day (left) and Wilma Johansson with Peter Castricum, took to the dance floor.



Third Decade

THE PAST 10 YEARS may be defined as the decade for change. The change, concerning the loss of single-gender events, (originating in the latter half of the previous decade) adversely impacted many bowlers - particularly some of the ladies. The general unhappiness with this change is still felt in many clubs.

The decision in 2009 to unify the old Royal Victorian Bowls Association and the Victorian Ladies Bowls Association into one organisation called Bowls Victoria represented a great change in the organisation of bowls in Victoria. (Incidentally, the RVBA was the first ladies' bowls association formed in the world). The main benefits offered at the time for unification were the making of a more efficient organisation through the elimination of duplication in administration of bowls in Victoria, cost savings, improved governance and better marketing through a unified approach to governments and other parties.

While the actual merging of both associations was achieved in a relatively smooth fashion, the loss of past customs and practice adversely impacted on many bowlers, particularly lady members. In our club, the lady members were at the forefront of social activities, including the staging of bowls tournaments. The regular yearly events were the Ladies' Triples, Fours, Gala Day and the intraclub Ruby Jenner tournaments, which is a ladies drawn event. Unfortunately, in many cases, time has not reduced such impact. The Men's section traditionally ran the President's Day tournament. With unification, the responsibility for the staging of tournaments was assigned to the Bowls Committee, Committees, and the Ladies' Days were lost. During the decade, significant change occurred in the physical nature of the club in terms of its amenities. Early in 2008, a formal

PowerPoint presentation was made to a full sitting of the City of Casey councillors for \$150,000 to be set aside to extend our clubrooms and, by doing so, put a front on the building. (When the clubrooms were first constructed, the building frontage faced the greens. The back was a treed area that doubled as a car park, and was accessed only from Princes Highway by a road that terminated near the entry of the existing car park. There was no road access from Narre Warren North Road. As time passed, the area known as 'the back of the club' changed in a major way. Trees were lost, the car park was graded, and the shopping centre grew enormously. The original back of the

It's hard to imagine we did not have a computer just 10 years ago

club, once hidden by trees, became clearly visible and, in the new environment, looked akin to an abandoned railway shed). The appropriate amount of funds was duly set aside for the club-room upgrade.

An interesting Minute from the club committee meeting of 8 October 2008, wherein it is stated that 'because there are too few ladies to prepare sandwiches, cheese, biscuits and fruit cake is now the fare'. There was a comment that several guest players have complained about the new practice.

Year 2009 was a busy time. In that year, a new top was put on Green B, and turf was sown in lieu of bent grass. Also installed that year was a concrete path between both greens, and new seating was installed. In late 2009, the clubrooms were upgraded, with a new entry, office and meeting room added to the initial building. The car park was sealed at the same time. In addition to these 2009 improvements, lighting was installed

over both greens, and this gave the club the opportunity to extend the utility of its greens. In 2011, Green A was converted to a synthetic surface, and this gave the club year-round playing capability. Also in 2011, a concrete path was installed around the synthetic green. New sun-shades were installed between both greens, and this was followed a couple of years later with new shades on the east side of both greens. Concrete slabs were installed in conjunction with the east-side shades.

Less expensive assets acquired during the decade include two top-end lawn mowers, rink scoreboards, and good quality office equipment (it's hard to imagine we did not have a computer just 10 years ago, and internet only three years ago). New tables and chairs, two TV screens, modern sound system, a defibrillator, additional refrigerators and an up-market gazebo and associated outdoor cooking facilities.

In 2009, the club newsletter, *Kitty Whispers*, commenced publication in its current form. Previous newsletters were brief in content, and spasmodically produced by various anonymous editors. Introduced by past member **Gordon Moxey** as a leaflet, it evolved into its current form with **Micki Horton** firstly doing layout, then becoming editor. Arrangements were made for the printing of the newsletter to be done at **MP Luke Donnellan's** office – an arrangement that continues to this day.

Early in the decade, great excitement was created on the green. In season 2007/8 the ladies' side in A2 Section finished on top of its section for the first time in the history of the club. (In those days there were four teams to a side). They then marched through a gruelling competition to finish up in the final of the post-sectional competition. They lost the final to a better side on the day – one that fielded no less than seven men of a

higher grade. Of significance on the day of the final was that the side was supported by more than 20 per cent of the club membership. It is recalled that a real sense of 'family' existed within the club at the time.

In the summer season of 2008-9, the club was proud of itself because the chance it took in sinking a bore to find water had paid off, and the threat of having to close because of lack of water had passed. At the time, Victoria was experiencing severe drought conditions, and water restrictions were such as to make it virtually impossible to keep grass greens alive. Records show that the allowable use of reticulated water was the use of sprinklers between the hours of 6am and 8am on Sundays and Wednesdays, and hand-held hoses between the same hours on Mondays and Fridays. The club was aware that a natural spring once evident on the club side of the existing road crossing to Westfield Shopping Centre. In fact, local water carters often filled their tanks from the spring. Tests organised by the club established that the aquifer still existed, and a modest amount of potable water was probably available.

With the appropriate approvals from the relevant water authority, a bore was installed at cost to the club of approximately \$20,000. The club could have obtained a 50 per cent contribution from the City of Casey; however it was aware that if it did, it would have to share the available water with both the tennis and cricket clubs. The club considered its options at the time, with the knowledge that the Government was planning to introduce Level 4 water restrictions – meaning no reticulated water could then be used by bowling and like clubs. So the options were few – sink a bore or close down.

The bore was a success, and potable water became available. In the months that followed the installation of the bore, we were able to boast of

having greens the best, or equal to the best, in the district.

Unfortunately, the drought continued and water tables were reduced to unrecorded levels. The unthinkable happened: the water in the aquifer dwindled and turned sour, and the bore water started to kill the grass greens. The club had made the best decision on the bore with the facts it had available at the time. Fortunately the \$20,000 was not totally lost. Later, when seeking a council grant to enhance the club facilities, and have the car park sealed, Councillors viewed the club as being 'enterprising' and not always dependent on Council funds. It made a difference;



John Wen
John was instrumental in initiating the changes that took the club into the third decade.

however, the difference could not be quantified.

On 5 June 2009, a thief(s) entered the clubhouse, including the bar area. A considerable sum of money (estimated at \$600) and a slab of beer were taken from the bar. The local police visited the site, and were furious with the club because, in their opinion, club security was poor. The police wanted to know how it was possible for a thief to have both front door and bar keys and know the security alarm code. They demanded that action be taken to bring the clubhouse security up to acceptable standards. As a consequence, the club invested in a controlled key system. It also changed the locks to the bar, installed the roller shutter, additional

external lighting and changed the security alarm code.

An unusual event occurred at Opening Day 2009 in that a total of six Super Veteran Badges were presented. Recipients on the day were: **Stan Birkett, Keith Blencowe, Arthur Fitt, Ken Harrison, Cliff Heath, John Schwennesen** and **Jack Scanlan**. Only Stan and Arthur are still involved with the club.

Changes

One of the most significant changes that have over the past decade is the manner in which the club funds itself. Ten years ago, funds were raised through membership and green fees, bar sales, raffles and social events such as cabaret nights, club dinners, Cup Eve and Christmas parties, trips to the pokies and Bunnings sausage sizzles. Except for the Bunnings event, and some income from the bar and green fees, the money raised came from the pockets of members. Improvements such as the extension to the clubhouse, lighting of the greens, installation of a synthetic green and, more recently, the erection of the gazebo have provided the club with the opportunity to hire out our facilities for barefoot bowling, corporate bowling events, indoor parties and commercial activities. The result of the growth of these activities at the club, together with a growth in sponsorships, is that a significant portion of income now comes from the pockets of people outside the club.

Changes in the community have also brought about changes in the club over the past decade. While club membership within Australia is currently in decline, participation in the game of lawn bowls is booming. Playing barefoot bowls has become 'flavour of the month'. It is currently commonly referred to as the socialisation of bowls. Our club has promoted barefoot bowls with success since obtaining a synthetic green, and will continue to provide for both the

traditional and barefoot bowling needs within the community.

The final year of the decade saw the loss of the club's prized synthetic green. Late in December 2016, a burst of very heavy rain caused the green to flood and severely damage its sand foundation. It was duly deemed beyond repair. Fortunately, the event was covered by Council insurance, and a contract let for the installation of a replacement is in progress. On this occasion, a needle-point carpet surface is being installed - which is not so susceptible to damage from inundation.

One of the highlights of the final year of the decade was our inclusion by Bowls Victoria as a Lighthouse Club member. We are the 18th club in the state, out of more than 520 members, to be recognised and honoured in this way.

Also in the final year of the decade, the club has been fortunate to secure a number of separate grants. These include:

Grants

- ◆ a grant to have a number of members to complete a coaches' course;
- ◆ to purchase size 0 and 00 bowls and two junior Jack Attack sets to assist in a primary schools' development;
- ◆ to purchase two bowling arms and training aids to assist coaches in their work;

- ◆ to finance the removal of hazardous water up-stands and to modify water reticulation in other areas of the club;
- ◆ to finance the installation of a concrete path around Green B;
- ◆ to finance the installation of sunblinds on the new gazebo;
- ◆ to finance the upgrade of the club security alarm system;
- ◆ to finance the decommissioning of the water bore;
- ◆ to finance for the concreting of the alfresco area, and installation of an associated storage shed.

Some of these projects have not yet commenced.

The success of the club over the past decade, in all of its area of operations, could not have occurred without the efforts of its members and the support it has received from outside the club. Club sponsorship has been great over the period, and the club truly hopes our sponsors have got value for their support. We have benefited in a significant way from initiatives at both Federal and State levels of Government, and it is hoped their recognition of the value of sporting clubs in building better communities continues in the future.

The level of support during the period received from the City of Casey has been outstanding. They have been a leader in local government administration for many years, and it is

recalled it was the first municipality to employ staff dedicated to the development of sporting clubs within its community. The reader would have noted earlier that our first president, **Bob Roff**, and his wife, **Noelle**, were recently interviewed regarding the formation of the club. After detailing the events of the time, and the erection of the clubhouse and greens, Bob said, "Of course, none of this would have happened without the wonderful support we got from the Council." So, in stating our appreciation for the support received from the City of Berwick/City of Casey, such appreciation is given for the total history of the club.

For editorial convenience (to prepare for printing) the cut-off point for the end of the third decade is six weeks in advance of the real end of the period. Two meetings of considerable importance are to be held soon after the selected date. One is a planning meeting with a member(s) of the Federal, State and Local Government and another with club members concerning the way the club is financed. The results of both meetings could bring about considerable change in the way the club operates in the future. The outcome of the above meeting(s) and the anticipated results of these meetings will be covered in 'The Next Decade ...' of this publication.

Club Champions

Men

R Ireland, W Wilson, L Brodie, R Ireland, R Ramsey,
H Adams, L Brodie (2), B Letts, M Olden, D Rowswell (2), R Brodie, F Appleby.
RVBA: L McCurran (2), D Smith, M Gruios, L Willcox (3), G Manifold (3), P O'Day, J Parker (3), K Mark, G Dodd.

Women

L Wilson (3) M McCombe (5), T Parkin (3), N Pugh (3), S Bell (6), J Naughton (3), E Gibb, M Horton, P Uren



Presentation Day 2008

Billy Brewster

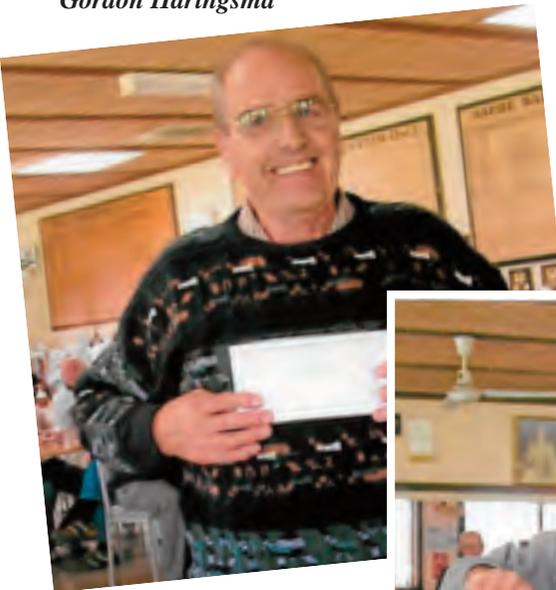


Frank Appleby

Ron Dixon



Gordon Haringsma



John Uren

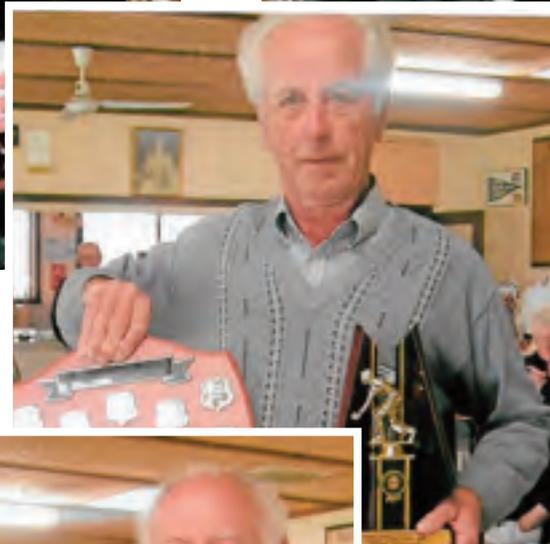


Graeme Manifold

Wilma Haringsma and 'Curley' Wilson



Rudi Pompe



Stan Robinson



Opening Day 2008

Presenting the new committee, from left: Immediate Past President Frank Appleby, Leo McGear, Ron Dixon, Ian Brotherton, Billy Brewster, Treasurer Geoff Miller, President Judy Naughton, Secretary John Uren



Members welcoming the new committee, from left: Jack Heathcote, Paul O'Day, Ray Pigdon, Nan Dickie, Ron Dixon, Gordon Haringsma. Sitting: Rhonda Appleby, Trish Miller

Enjoying the day, from left: Jack Heathcote, Roy Naismith, Jack Norman



The wonderful kitchen crew, from left: Pat Yates, Esma Naismith, Rose Rasmussen, Joan Bretherton, Dorothy Pouponneau

Ladies' Guest Day 2008



Before 'equality' the ladies ran several functions throughout the season, one of which was Ladies' Guest Day.

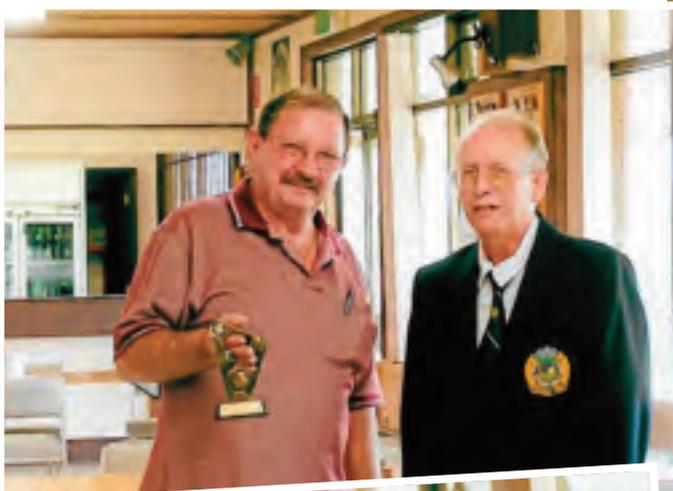
*Proudly holding her winning trophy for 2008's Guest Day is **Enid Gibb**.*

President's Day 2009

There was a great turn-out for President's Day 2009 as shown by the scoreboard, right, and the place-mat, below.



Presentation 2009



*Being presented with their trophies by **John Hickman** are from left: **Geoff Miller, David Smith, Enid Gibb, Graeme Manifold and Keith Mark.***

*Wonderful end-of-pennant bus trips up to the border towns were organised by **Stan Robinson.**
Pictured is the happy group from the 2009 tour.*



Pennant Finalists

THREE OF THE TEAMS THAT MADE IT TO THE MEN'S SEMI FINAL

Right
John Schwenessen
Jim Sheahan
Cliff Heath
Stan Firmin



Left
Luka Klarica
John Zanon
John Henman
Ron Dixon



Right:
Ray Bligh
John Uren
Rick Hoare
Dennis Amezdroz

Pennant Finalists



Div 8 2010-2011



Div 3 2011-12



Div 5 2011-12



Div 7 2011-12

Pennant Finalists

In 2010/11, Division 8 made it to the finals.

The 2011/12 pennant season was very successful, with three sides fielded and all three finishing in the top four. Division 5 went through to win its semi-final, but lost the final - and the flag.

In the 2012/13 season, our Tuesday Open Division 2 side (pictured right), brought home the first-ever Tuesday Open pennant.

In 2015/16 our Division 6 side also brought home the flag.



Division 6 - our latest flag winners.

Indoor Bowls



Although nowadays mostly considered the poor relation of bowls, indoor carpet bowls was a big mainstay of the club almost since its inception, and provided us with quite substantial revenue over the winter months.

This started to dwindle once we opened the greens year round, but for those who play this gentler/ version of bowls, you can't beat it.

Ian Adcock was its biggest fan and, for many years, he ran this area with a rod of iron. He knew the rules; he knew the players and their strengths and weaknesses; and he knew how to put it all together.

We may not have the numbers of past glory days, but our players get into the pennant finals year after year. We usually manage to get into the VIBBA South Group championships and, while not always successful at Sunshine (where the finals are played), we put up a good fight, with the Fours being our most successful entry.



*Top: President **Peter Rouse** presents 2015 Ladies' Champion, **Dot Farrell**, with her trophy.*

*Above: 2015 Fours winners, **Enid Gibb**, **Judy Naughton**, **Micki Horton**, **Mary Payne**.*

*Left: 2015 Life Shield entrants and club pairs winners and runners up, **Derrick Noble**, **Judy Naughton**, **Enid Gibb**, **Alan Pugh**.*



The Next Decade ...

I HAVE BEEN INVITED to write about the future of Narre Warren Bowls Club as we celebrate our 30th anniversary.

It is an honour and privilege to be in the position of President of this great club at this time and have such a capable and dedicated board supporting me and guiding our club into the future.

The past 15 months have seen many changes for the better in our club, and we are determined to maintain this momentum for the foreseeable future.

Our vision for the future is ambitious, but very much achievable, and all board members are fully committed to the challenging agenda we have set.

I would invite you to close your eyes and imagine walking into the club in three years' time when the first thing you would see is the clubrooms fully renovated, with new kitchen, meeting rooms, bar, storage areas and up-to-date disabled-accessible toilets. You then walk out

the rear doors under the new awning to where two new state-of-the-art synthetic greens are located under a full roof which provides year-round protection from the elements for both greens. Turn to the right and you find our existing barbecue area, which has now become a modern al-fresco area with its own roof cover (as part of the main roof over both greens). This area will include new storage facilities for much of the furniture and equipment needed to bowl with or hold outdoor functions.

When you look around the banks of both greens you will find all the existing grass has been replaced with concrete around the greens, and syn-

thetic grass as a maintenance-free border between the greens and the boundary hedges. All the existing outdoor seats will be replaced with new functional seating in keeping with the modern arena in which they will be located. The outside will be lit with the latest LED lighting which can illuminate the rinks and all the whole area efficiently and economically.

The whole club precinct and roof structure will complement the adjoining Bunjil Place with its futuristic design and roofline.

Looking even further ahead we will see the installation of a third green to handle the extra capacity needed with all the new members who will be attracted to joining this progressive and proactive club.

The club will become a regular venue for bowls championships and playoffs due to its all-weather features. It will also become a sought-after location for undercover concerts and community events.

A number of the improvements mentioned above will actually occur within the next 12 months!

My vision for the next decade of our club is for strong membership growth, strong on-green performances and a state-of-the-art venue for bowls and all sections of the community to use and enjoy whilst still maintaining the values upon which this club has been built over the past 30 years.

I invite all members to join us in this exciting new era of Narre Warren Bowls Club.

Eric Sydenham
President

