



# **Mount Waverley Bowling Club Inc.**

ABN 95 157 644 599 A0008918F

Cnr Alive Road & Wadham Parade,  
Mount Waverley 3149

## **Committee of Management**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022-23**

The Committee of Management has pleasure in presenting the Fifty-Ninth Annual Report

and the

Annual Statement of Accounts and Audited Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2023

for the consideration of members.

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

The Mount has enjoyed a successful season with Midweek Pennant Side 1 playing off in the finals. Well done for making the finals again this season, finishing on top of their section for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running. Well done also to the Weekend Pennant Side 1 in finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place in Division 2, nearly getting into finals and staying in the Division for next season. The Weekend Side 2 also finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place and just missed out on playing finals. Weekend Side 3 struggled a bit in the 12-person division. Midweek Side 2 finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in a strong showing and just missed finals. Midweek Side 3 (6-a-side) tried hard all season and won a few matches. Well done to our Night Pennant team who tried their best in a very competitive section. We need to continue to rebuild our teams to ensure that our bowling numbers continue to grow.

After the spectre of COVID-19, the Club was able to operate without impact for the full twelve months. Through prudent measures, we were able to improve our financial situation from the previous year with the following information evident of our endeavours.

The Treasurer's report prepared by Club Treasurer Peter McDonald with the assistance of Richard Coleman, informs members of our expenses for the year. I wish to thank Peter and Richard for their hard work in managing a difficult financial year.

I acknowledge the wonderful support that we receive each year from our Club's sponsors, advertisers and financial supporters for, without their contributions, the Club would find it difficult to achieve the income the Club needs for its long-term viability. The Club especially acknowledges the support from our new major sponsor Jellis Craig Mt Waverley, with special thanks to Troy Riley for his great help in supporting our Club. Thanks also to our other substantial benefactors, Bendigo Bank -Pinewood and Ryman Health Care.

Our corporate and private function activities dramatically increased as our customers could now access the Club all year round. Since June last year, we have held over 65 functions with over 2000 visitors enjoying our hospitality and facilities. I also wish to thank our very hard-working group of volunteers, especially Robyn and David Beard, Kaye and Peter O'Hara, Peter Harney and Minh Vo, our dedicated bar people, and the many others who have supported the Club in managing these very important activities.

One important event was the Intergenerational Family Fun Day initiative held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October in conjunction with Monash Council. This event focused on showcasing the Club to the wider community and encouraging all ages to actively participate in our sport. Everyone attending had a great time and the Council staff along with the Club's volunteers did a wonderful job in managing the large function with many different activities provided.

The Club also hosted local school bowls sporting programmes for Avila College, Huntingtower, and Ashwood High School. The Club had over 600 students attend from these schools and from all reports, they thoroughly enjoyed their time with the Club and our volunteer Club members. Special thanks to David Beard and Joe Bonnici and our other volunteers, for their support in running these school sport events. Other significant activities held included hosting events on behalf of our State MP, Matt Fregon, before and after the State Election.

Over the past season the Club has introduced initiatives aimed at recruiting of new members with some success. It should be noted that our member numbers have stabilised this season and remain at around the 160 mark which includes 12 new members. We all need to welcome visitors to our Club and promote the Club to the community to gain new members.

The Club is continuing to look at ways to improve our environment and have made State and Federal grant applications this year and is waiting to see if these are successful. The one we are most looking forward to will upgrade the shade situation for the Club. Jill Anderson has become our grant expert and applies for any grants that our Club may be eligible for. Thanks, Jill, for your wonderful efforts in securing these much-needed funds.

As you will have noticed around the Club, we have instigated our internal Club Improvement program being managed by the Club Improvement Sub-Committee of Howard Rose, David Rae, Jill Anderson, and Kaye O'Hara. The program has an on-going plan to revamp the look of our internal spaces, starting with a re-painting of the dining and lounge areas and replacing the old curtains with new pull-down blinds. We have also replaced the original wooden honour boards with modern and easy to maintain boards that look wonderful. Photos of the original honour boards are now on the Club's website so the history of our wonderful Club remains available for all to see. We are currently removing the old wooden shelving and notice boards from the foyer area to be replaced with new cupboards, shelving and modern notice boards. Hopefully these will be installed sometime in May.

There is further work to happen inside the Club over the next 12 months, so we will keep you posted on activities as they happen. A big thank you to all the volunteers that have been helping and are still helping in achieving our goals re the Club. I especially wish to acknowledge our painting crew, of Howard Rose, Doug Oldfield, Barry Jarred, and Richard Horban and David Rae, who have put so much of their time in to paint our Club. Great job team.

Other amenity improvements around the Clubhouse undertaken during the year include:

Roof and drainage repairs resolving the leaks in the rear and kitchen storage rooms.

Additional white dining room tables.

New storage cupboards – Club Office and Ladies Foyer.

Office clean-out working bee.

The Social Deck is moving forward with the completion of the technical drawings ready to be sent out for the tendering process. We anticipate that the deck will be constructed soon after deciding on which builder provides the best value for the Club. Thank-you to the Steering Committee for all their hard work in reaching this point.

The Committee continues to progress the Club's 5 year Strategic Plan with the following key actions the focus of attention during the year:

1. Increase membership.
2. Restore financial position.
3. Increase sponsorship revenue.
4. Improve communications.

We are on track with most of our KPIs and look forward to ensuring that we build on them during the up-coming season.

During the year the Club has been well served by its members in roles and duties that sometimes go unnoticed. To those people, very many thanks for all your efforts because without your involvement all the Club activities could not continue. The members of the Committee of Management have

played a major part in providing sound administration of its activities and the Club has been fortunate to have people of their calibre prepared to give their all. In accordance with the Club's rules, three of the "ordinary" members are obliged to resign their office and seek re-election if they would like to continue. Accordingly, Ian McLean, Celia Ware and Jill Anderson retire by rotation and are thanked for all their efforts over the past two years. We hope that we can also attract new members to the Committee of Management.

A vote of thanks must go to our Executive Committee who meet every Monday morning to progress the operations of the Club. To our faithful Secretary David Beard for all the work that he does for the Club and the Committee of Management. I also express my deep appreciation for the support and valued guidance of Robyn Beard (Vice President) along with Peter McDonald (Treasurer).

Also present on Monday mornings are the Garden and Surrounds people led by David Rae who ensure the grounds always look fantastic and generate great feedback from visitors on how good the Club looks. Graeme Robinson continues to serve the Club as our Maintenance person and is well supported by Beverley Wong and David Hutchinson. Minh Vo as the Licensee, Peter Harney and John Tynan ensure that everything is spick and span in the bar ready for the week ahead. Our greens always look fantastic, and I want to say a big thanks to Joe Bonnici as our Greens Director and to Michael de Mattia our wonderful greenkeeper.

On a personal note, I wish to thank every member of the Club for your unswerving support of myself and the Committee of Management in looking after the best interests of our wonderful Club. I feel very privileged to be the President and I know that our Club will go from strength to strength.

We look forward to an improving 2023/2024 season both on and off the greens.

**Barrie Epstein, President**

Mount Waverley Bowling Club Inc.- *'The friendly bowls club'*

## **BEREAVMENTS 2022-23**

The Club extends its condolences to the family and friends of those members who have passed away during the past year.

**Vale:** Norm Lindberg (Foundation and Life Member), Enid Kelly (Life Member), Graeme Tempany (Life Member) and John Wykes (Life Member), Ken Chapman, Gwen Genat, Peter Reilly and Bruce Suckling.

## **New Members**

During the 2022-23 year, the Club welcomed the following new members:

Shirley Melissas  
Margaret Carr  
Robert Field  
Lyndall Rosengarten  
Neil Blackman  
Lloyd Reeman

Margaret Campbell  
Joan Field  
Jennifer Bortoli  
Vince Shevlin  
Tony Fairbrother  
Ann Kay

These new members are either friends or family of existing members or have been introduced to bowls through our Free Fridays or through U3A. These activities are important ways to introduce visitors to the game of bowls and our Club so we should greet each one of them as a potential new member. We are after all 'The Friendly Club' and it is our friendly and encouraging atmosphere that people comment on and has attracted many of these new members to join Mt Waverley and not another bowls club.

### **COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

The members of the Mt Waverley Bowls Club Committee of Management for 2022-23 were:

President	Barrie Epstein
Vice President	Robyn Beard
Secretary	David Beard
Treasurer	Peter McDonald
Committee Members	Jill Anderson Ian McLean Kaye O'Hara Howard Rose Richard Sluggett Celia Ware

### **Strategic Plan – 2022 - 2027**

The Committee of Management undertook its annual review of the Club's 5 year Strategic Plan in March/April 2022.

The revised Strategic Plan identified the key issues facing the Club and the key actions to be undertaken to address these issues. The Plan also includes measures of success (key performance indicators) and the corresponding performance targets.

The incoming Committee of Management will review the Club's draft Strategic Plan for 2023-2028, to ensure that it adapts to the changing environment in which the Club operates and identifies the priorities we want to focus on in the coming years.

Our performance over 2022/23 against the key performance indicators and targets is set out below:

<b>Key Performance Indicator/Target</b>	<b>Performance in 2022/23</b>
Maintenance and review of relevant policies and compliance with their implementation	Met - Club Constitution revised in draft for formal approval of members later in 2023
Formal approval from Monash Council to extend the Club's current lease	Lease renegotiation delayed by Council's development of a bowls strategy for Monash which is now no longer proceeding. We now await a draft lease agreement from Council before commencing the lease negotiations.
Number of new members	Met - 12 new members recruited.

Number of pennant sides	Met - 3 Saturday pennant sides 3 Tuesday pennant sides 1 Night pennant side 3 Pre-season Saturday 9s pennant sides 3 Pre-season Tuesday 9s pennant sides 2 Thursday 7s Spring pennant sides 1 Thursday 7s Summer pennant side
Success of pennant sides – one pennant side to be promoted each year	Not met – Tuesday’s Side 1 pennant side were runners up in the Section grand final and remains in Division 2 for 2023-24. Saturday’s Side 1 finished 5 <sup>th</sup> and remains in Division 2 for 2023-24
Success of pennant sides – no more than one pennant side to be relegated each year	Met – no pennant teams were relegated.
Establish a pro-active program to encourage the participation of women in bowls	Met – maintained number of women on Committee of Management, Selection Panel and in pennant sides. Tuesday ladies and new bowlers coaching sessions established and is proving popular.
Greens running time at 14+/-3 seconds during the bowling season	Met – both greens averaged 14 – 15 seconds across the season. Favourable comments received from visiting players on condition of our greens
2 greens available for pennant play and major tournaments	Met – Both the grass centre green and the synthetic west green were available throughout the season.
5-Year Capital Plan for grounds and buildings, fully costed and prioritized and identifying possible future funding sources.	Partially Met – substantial progress has been made by the Capital Plan working group in developing a comprehensive capital planning process.
Overall satisfaction of key stakeholders > 65%	Met – strong support from members for Clubhouse improvements, support from Monash Council for community activities, positive feedback from visitors and community groups using facilities and sponsor support.
Number of casual visitors using the Club’s facilities each year	Met – over 5,000 visitors to the Club during the year.
Operating cash surplus	Met - operating profit of \$10,000, representing a turnaround of \$19,000 on 2021/22.
Sponsorship revenue	Below target - mainly due to the loss of several sponsors due to lingering effects of COVID-19, but gained a new major sponsor.
Liquid reserves	Met - \$260,000 in liquid reserves at year end.

### **Monash Council Lease**

In October 2021, MWBC along with the other three Monash bowls clubs, were due to renegotiate their leases with the City of Monash. The Council decided to host a Monash Bowls Forum and undertake further planning and consultation to guide their deliberations on the future direction of bowls in Monash prior to these renegotiations. The bowls club’s existing leases would remain in over-hold until this was undertaken.

The Council’s Monash Bowls Forum was held in December 2021 where the four bowls clubs identified the issues facing the clubs and commented on issues identified by the Council. This input was used by Council to develop a Bowls in Monash Discussion Paper that was circulated to the

Monash bowls clubs for comment in October 2022. Our Club circulated the Discussion Paper to all its members and organised an information session where Council officers outlined the background to the paper and answered questions from our members on the discussion question being posed in the Paper. In November 2022, following extensive consultation, the Club made a comprehensive submission on each of the discussion questions posed by the Council.

Monash Council is now developing individual draft lease agreements for each club to consider. The Council has confirmed that the new agreements will be for 10 years with the option to extend for a further 5 years. The Club looks forward to negotiating these new lease arrangements with the Council.

### **Pennant Season 2022-2023.**

This season Bowls Victoria provided us the opportunity to play other games, rather than just Weekend Pennant and Midweek Pennant.

We entered the Pre-season 9s competition for both weekend and midweek. The Thursday 7 a side competition, two sides for the Spring season and one side for the summer season. Weekend pennant comprised of two 16 player sides and one 12 player side. Midweek pennant comprised of two 16 player sides and one 6 player side.

We were very pleased in the way members conducted themselves both at home and away games.

It was very unfortunate that a number of players decided to change their choice of events which left us with depleted numbers of players for both weekend and mid-week pennant. There was also a number who decided to take holidays during the pennant season. It just adds to the difficult decisions Selectors have to make.

I would like to thank Barrie Epstein who gave us wonderful guidance during the season and made it easier for Selectors; Robin Matheson, midweek selector who spent many hours on the phone finding those very needed players, also Alan Sharp, Michael Murray and Joe Bonnici, the weekend selectors.

To our greens keeper and Joe Bonnici who kept our greens in excellent condition, our side managers, and umpires, without you we would be in difficulty, thank you.

This season's results were:

#### Weekend pennant:

Side 1- Division 2. Section 6. - 5<sup>th</sup>.

Side 2- Division 5. Section 4. - 5<sup>th</sup>.

Side 3- Division 8. Section 5. - 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### Mid-week Pennant:

Side 1- Division 2. Section 6. - 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations in finishing top four years in a row unfortunately they were knocked out in the Section grand final which prevented them being promoted to Division 1. Well done.

Side 2- Division 5. Section 4. - 5<sup>th</sup>.

Side 3- 6 a side. Section 3. - 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### Thursday 7 a side - Spring season.

Team 1. - 1<sup>st</sup>.

Team 2. - 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Thursday 7 a side - Summer season.

Team 1. - 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Well done to all players and the Selection Committee and we wish you well for next season.

**Celia Ware. Chairperson, Selection Committee**

**Night Pennant**

We have finished another enjoyable season. We had seventeen players commit to playing and managed to fill a team of twelve every week (only occasionally having non-regular fill ins). Players include Saturday Pennant players, social bowl players and some who only play nights. This competition remains an excellent opportunity for those still working or with weekend commitments and those wanting to try playing pennant without Saturday Pennant pressure. We had six wins to remain mid ladder but were always competitive. Chris Cullinan shared the selection and management duties with Phil Rosengarten.

**Club Championships 2022-2023.**

Sunday 9 October 2022 saw the start of Mt Waverley Club Championships, with the centre green full with potential singles champions. Our thanks to the Club for providing the sausage sizzle and to the members coming and supporting the players. From there we saw various games being played until we reached the finals on 20 January 2023, where Richard Sluggett played David Rae and Lindsay Markham played Sarina Bonnici.

**Club Champions and Runners-up.**

	<b>Club Champion.</b>	<b>Runner-up.</b>
Ladies Singles-	Sarina Bonnici	Lindsay Markham
Mens Singles-	David Rae	Richard Sluggett
Ladies Pairs-	Jill Anderson & Lindsay Markham	Sarina Bonnici & Bev Wong
Men's Pairs-	Bernie Brennan & Brad Mathescn	Richard Sluggett & Minh Vo
Mixed Pairs-	Richard Sluggett & Michelle Chan	Bernie Brennan & Lindsay Markham
Open Triples-	Richard Sluggett, Gary Cooper & Jill Anderson.	Minh Vo, David Hutchinson & Bev Wong.
Novice Singles-	Michelle Chan	Fui Chong
Open '100 up' singles-	Jim Fary	Alan Sharp

Thank-you to all the entrants, to Alan Sharp who provided assistance with organising the events and the supporters. Next year being the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club, we would like to see many more members take part, with the hope of having some new champions at the club.

Club Championships with the number of entrants were held for:

Mens Singles.                      16 entrants.



Ladies Singles.	8 entrants.
Mens Pairs.	9 pairs, 18 entrants.
Ladies Pairs.	4 pairs, 8 entrants.
Mixed Pairs.	11 pairs, 22 entrants.
Mixed Triples.	6 triples, 18 entrants.
100 Handicap.	17 entrants.
Novice Singles.	10 entrants

The pairs formats varied this year and we like to hear from members their comments. Please let the committee know, so we can plan next season's events.

**Celia Ware, Chairperson Championships Committee.**

**Social Bowls**

The Club is grateful to Bernie Brennan, Gary Howell, Jim Fary and Alan Sharp for all their time and efforts in organising the social bowls competitions on Wednesdays and on Saturdays outside of the pennant season. The numbers of bowlers playing regularly have been down on previous seasons presumably due to the Thursday 7-a-side competitions being offered by Bowls Victoria. The social bowls competitions remain an important way to introduce new bowlers to the rules and etiquette of our games and for attracting new members to our Club. The Wednesday games are also a great opportunity to catch up with other Club members over a relaxed games of bowls without the demands of pennant competition.

**Greens Report**

The Centre Green is in excellent condition for play and it's good to hear visiting clubs comment on our green. At a recent Mixed Pairs Championship held by Eastern Ranges at Mt Waverley, even players who lost their games on the night commented on how good centre green was.

The watering of the green can now be turned on by an App. on our greenkeeper – Michael De Mattia's phone, which saves us water and is much better than the old system as the green is watered only when it's needed.

Our green keeper has suggested that we might need to do some work on the green during the Christmas break next season.

The West Green is now 7 years old and still in excellent condition and was used for more pennant games in 2022-23. The West Green is also our go to green for coaching and social bowls. The East Green remains CLOSED.

**Joe Bonnici, Greens Director**

**Grants Report**

The Club makes applications for grants from the Federal and State Governments and local Council where we meet their eligibility requirements. During the 2022/23 year, the Club was successful in receiving a \$360 grant from the Cancer Council for sunscreen.

During the State election campaign, the Club was approached by candidates from both major parties offering grant contributions toward the construction of our Social Deck – the ALP promised \$50,000 if the Labour government was re-elected and the Liberal party offered \$60,000 if the Coalition was elected. With Labour being re-elected, we await the State Budget in May to find out when we will receive this grant.

We currently have applications submitted to the Federal Government for a Volunteering grant for scaffolding, a platform ladder and gardening equipment and to Sport and Recreation Victoria for a sports equipment grant for three bowling arms.

The Club is currently preparing an application for a Federal Strengthening Communities grant for the installation of shade structures for the northern end of our West Green, for submission to our Federal Member, Carina Garland's office for approval to proceed.

**Jill Anderson, Grants Coordinator**

### **Social Deck**

While we did not have the huge complications arising from COVID-19 this year, this has been a period when we have had to work through the various statutory approvals required before we can think of starting construction.

We were very pleased to see that there were no objections from neighbours to the project when we undertook the normal Town Planning permit public notice process. Our designers had also ensured that the deck foundations would not obstruct any stormwater overflow given that the area in front of the Clubhouse lies within a flood-prone area. As a result, we eventually received our planning permit from Council. This then enabled us to negotiate approvals from Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water which will allow us to build over the Damper Creek Storm Drain and the East Damper Creek Sewer.

A small group paid a visit to Frankston Bowls Club where the CEO, Craig Williams, enthused over the benefits their deck had brought to the Club and encouraged us to 'keep going'. After discussion on final details of decking materials, balustrades etc, the Committee of Management made the decision that any construction activity should wait until after the end of the summer bowling season.

We now wait on final draft plans from our design team for approval by COM prior to submission for building approval. We have identified a number of contractors who are interested in tendering for the project. Thanks to our design team of Mark Watson and Ray Schneider for their patience and flexibility.

**David Rae, Project coordinator.**

### **Clubhouse Improvements**

Enhancing our facilities for the benefit of members, visitors and community groups has been a key focus for the Club over the past year. Improvements undertaken include:

- Social Deck – design planning has progressed to seeking a Building Approval – Strengthening Communities grant
- Painting of the Dining Room, Lounge and Foyer to the Ladies Toilets – voluntary labour
- New Honour Boards – internal funds
- New Blinds for the Dining Room – internal funds
- New wall clocks in the Lounge and Dining Room – internal funds.

Repainting the interior of the Clubhouse involved hundreds of hours of voluntary labour which has been willingly provided by Club members. My sincere thanks to all those involved with a special mention to David Rae, Barry Jarred, Richard Horban and Doug Oldfield.

The Committee of Management noted a Clubhouse Improvement Plan in December 2022 which identifies, prioritises and costs staged improvements to the remainder of the interior of the Clubhouse over the next two years. A priority is to complete enhancements to the public areas by the end of 2023.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution of Working Group members – David Rae, Jill Anderson and Kaye O’Hara - in developing the Improvement Plan and in researching products and services for its implementation.

### **Howard Rose, Convenor, Clubhouse Improvement Working Group**

#### **House and Maintenance Report**

We all appreciate the clean Clubhouse and fresh toilets each time we turn up to play bowls or catch up with friends at the Club. This doesn’t just happen by itself. It is entirely due to the efforts each and every week of Graeme Robinson and his dedicated band of volunteers – Bev Wong, David Hutchinson, Lindsay Markham and Tony Fairbrother – who ensure that the Clubhouse is clean and tidy and that there is paper in the toilets. This dedicated team would appreciate the help of any members who could spare an hour or so once a week or fortnight to assist with these tasks.

Our regular user – Reach & Belong, and our members organising our corporate and social events, ensure that our facilities are always presented in a manner that we can be proud of when we welcome visitors to our Club.

Graeme continues to ensure all the routine maintenance and all those other breakdowns and replacement items are promptly attended to. There are few things that he cannot turn his hand to and the Committee of Management appreciates how much he is saving the Club by not having to bring in external contractors if indeed we could get them to come and quote in the current construction climate.

The major maintenance items undertaken in the past year include:

- Regrading the concrete at the rear of the Clubhouse to rectify the cause of rising damp in the kitchen storeroom
- Addressing the decade long leaks in the rear storeroom by resealing the roof and treating the emerging rust problems
- Replacement of the taps in the Ladies toilet (awaiting plumber to install).

The Club has bought a mobile scaffold to ensure our members can work in a safe manner both inside and when trimming the extensive hedges in our gardens. The Clubhouse Improvement team are already making use of the scaffold in the repainting of the lounge making the job considerably quicker, easier and safer.

#### **Gardens and Surrounds**

There is a lovely story in Alice in Wonderland when the Red Queen comes to visit the Garden. She sees the gardeners busy painting the white roses red - "Off with their heads!!!" she yells. Our gardeners - or at least some of them - have not been painting the roses red but the dining room white!!! They have retained their heads! What a multi-skilled and committed group they are. Richard Horban, Barry Jarred and Doug Oldfield have been particularly flexible in giving their time to the Clubhouse Improvement project.

This has been a relatively quiet year for the garden. We have made no significant changes to the garden but the regular team of Bernie Brennan, Phil Rosengarten and Joe Ventura have continued to

ensure that our regular care and maintenance - including those everlasting and boring weeding and sweeping jobs - are carried out to a very high standard.

Jill Anderson, Lindsay Markham and David Beard continue their 'flexitime' commitment to maintaining the succulent pots, gradually "greening" the crib wall on the east green, ensuring a colourful display from the pelargoniums and providing expert advice and assistance in pruning our extensive rose gardens.

We have yet to try out the new mobile scaffold which the Club has purchased but we are sure it will be of major assistance in pruning the taller shrubs.

They are a great team and very good company and we all enjoy that cup of tea when Peter Harney rings the bell in mid-morning! Together, the efforts of all have made sure that we continue to get great reviews for our gardens and surrounds from our own members, visiting bowlers and corporate users.

**David Rae, Grounds Coordinator**

### **Bar Report**

During 2022-23 the Bar has operated throughout the year and enjoyed a 36% increase in sales to total \$45,491, up from \$33,418 in 2021-22. Corporate events have contributed greatly to this result and now represent 40% of overall bar sales. After deducting the cost of supplies and repairs, the bar produced a nett income for the Club of \$21,755.

The refrigeration system automatic timer, provided by a Government grant in the previous year, and our existing Glycol system have been working well. The manual switch, installed with the new timer, has turned out to be the most used feature of the system due to changing operating procedure to suit the new trend in bar use. These investments have resulted in a 30% reduction in our electricity expenses. Bar maintenance and repair costs totalled \$6,000 for the year.

The electronic Point of Sale (POS) and EFTPOS continues to simplify the operation and reconciliation of our bar income. A new EFTPOS system will soon be introduced as a result of Bendigo Bank's new partnership with Tyro Payments Ltd.

We welcome John Tynan and Vito de Cesare to our bartender's fraternity and thank Peter Harney, Joe Bonicci, Ken Biggs, Chris Cullinan Graeme Robinson and David Beard for all their assistance behind the bar. We encourage new volunteers to join the team to help balance the current load on existing personnel.

To all the bar volunteers, a sincere thank you for your support throughout the year in all events organised by the Club.

**Minh Vo, Licensee**

### **Corporate Events Report**

The impact of COVID was dramatically reduced which allowed the Club to provide a full-service year for our corporate function activities.

I would like to give thanks to the very hard-working group of club members who helped in organising and running all the corporate and private functions that the Club has held over the last twelve months - Peter Harney, Minh Vo and Vito De Cesare, the men behind the bar, Robyn and David Beard, and Peter and Kaye O'Hara who helped by taking over most of BBQ cooking duties, Beverley Wong, Michelle Chan, John Tranter, Bruce Morley, Michael Murray, Lindsay Markham, Shirley

Melissas, Fui Chong, Angus Reynolds and many others that have volunteered their time and efforts into making these events so successful.

We have organised over 45 events and had at least 2000 people visit the Club to enjoy our facilities. Some of the highlights were having the Monash Council Intergenerational Family Fun Day hosted by the Club, which was a wonderful event showcasing bowls and what the Club offers to the community, three of our local schools, Avila, Huntingtower and Ashwood Secondary, where we hosted the students for lawn bowls as part of their sports curriculum, functions for our State and Federal Members of Parliament, a number of the local PROBUS clubs having bowls functions, private family gatherings including ones for the Bonnici and Beard families, our good friends Metricon again had a very big function and two Lions Clubs Youth of the Year award ceremonies. Many local businesses and local government departments also came to the Club for functions. Great interaction with our local community.

Corporate events are an important part of the Club and without them; it would be much more difficult to do all the things that happen around our Club. They provide necessary funds to keep the Club going and without the support of the members in running them, we could struggle. I hope that for the next coming year, we have more functions to host and make the Club a place where the local community can enjoy all that we have to offer.

**Barrie Epstein**  
**Corporate Events Manager**

### **Community Involvement Report**

This year has seen the strengthening of MWBC's relationship with Reach & Belong (R&B). As a result of this relationship R&B have become a major source of external income for the Club. We look forward to continuing to strengthen this relationship which enable people with disabilities to be part of the broader community.

Our connection with the U3A bowling program continues. We thank Minh Vo for his dedication in supporting the U3A bowlers and welcome all the U3A bowlers to the club.

Free Fridays ran from mid-October to end November and again from February to end March. This has enabled people from the local community to come and try bowling and led directly to a number of new members joining the Club. In order to maintain these important initiatives, additional volunteer support is required to have a friendly face greet people and welcome them to our great club - our future survival and success relies on it.

We have had three secondary schools contact us throughout the year wanting to run bowling programs for their students. Ashwood High School, Huntingtower and Avila have all visited the Club for their school-based bowling programs. A huge thank you to the many people who volunteered to ensure that the events were very successful.

We have also seen a significant increase with the Club's involvement with the Social Inclusion Department of Monash Council. The Club has hosted two events with Monash Council where members of the community have had the opportunity to come and try lawn bowls. We also participated in the Council's Seniors Month program providing information on the Club at the launch and closing events as well as the community information session at Mt Waverley Community Centre.

These events provide an important opportunity to raise the profile of our Club and connect with the local community by introducing locals to our wonderful sport.

## **Robyn Beard, Community Hub**

### **Reach & Belong**

The working relationship between the Mt Waverley Bowling Club and NDIS Registered Service Provider, Reach & Belong is one that epitomises a positive, strong community hub relationship. Reach & Belong provides quality programs for secondary-school aged and adult participants with disabilities. Reach & Belong has been leasing the premises from the MWBC to run its programs since February 2021.

In February 2021 we ran our first program, a weekly cooking program, in the Bowling Club. Since that first program, Reach & Belong is now in the Bowling Club every day of the week and runs multiple programs including Cooking, Numeracy & Literacy, How to Build Your Own Computer, Budgeting and other Independent Living Skills, Art, Sewing, Drama, Music, a Receptive Language Program, Social Afternoons, a School Leavers Employment Program and an Art and Craft Program.

Our programs develop and build executive function skills and we focus on program engagement, capacity building and skills development.

The Bowling Club has proven an ideal venue on so many levels: there are the obvious facilities including the commercial kitchen, spacious dining room and access to the lawn bowls equipment. Less obvious but no less important is the valuable community inclusion opportunities provided by sharing the Bowling Club venue. This community inclusion is everything from:

- Club members greeting our participants at the start and during the programs
- our participants sitting outside having something to eat, watching and cheering the bowlers as they play
- through to everyone waving goodbye to each other at the end of their programs
- participating in Bowling Club ventures including the Free Friday Bowling and the council run community sports activities programs
- supporting R&B in its initiatives including our first Art Exhibition held in the Club in November 2022 - Club members helped run the dinner and were invited to attend the exhibition
- working with individual club members - one of the most engaging activities we have run with the Club was when one Club member showed the members of our cooking program how to make wontons – a recipe handed down by her grandma
- walking around the very peaceful and beautifully landscaped setting when a participant needs a break or a distraction
- accessing the Bowling Club equipment when players want a break and want to play lawn bowls (this includes wheelchair accessibility to the synthetic green) - Club members happily become involved to help our participants understand how to bowl and control the bowl.

Running our Friday social group during the Club's Free Come and Try Friday Bowling afternoons run during the summer, was an incredibly successful and positive initiative. It was a wonderful combination of Club bowlers, community members and our participants. Everyone enjoyed bowling and then our participants would go inside and play board games or sit outside and have pizza for dinner. An issue that many of our participants are still tackling is the anxiety and reticence to join

groups and go out into the community after two years of lockdown. The Friday summer bowling in term 4 2022 was the ideal casual environment in which participants started to re-join groups and engage in programs outside their homes. For some of our participants, coming to the Friday bowling each week, playing lawn bowls, sitting with the group and having some pizza was an enormous milestone and one which we all celebrated.

In November 2022, the Bowling Club promoted and supported our first Reach & Belong Art Exhibition which was held in the Club and open to our participants, their carers and families, and Bowling Club members. It was a very successful inaugural annual exhibition showcasing the work done by our participants in our Art and Sewing programs. Artworks were displayed and available for sale and the Bowling Club bought two of our artist's work which now hang in the Club. All the proceeds of the sales went directly to our artists. We sold a number of pieces at the exhibition and it was such a powerful outcome. The Club also helped serve dinner at the exhibition: platters and a sausage sizzle. It was a fantastic and wonderful event.

Our community collaborations have also extended to the Monash Council. In November 2022, Chris Vat, Monash Council Recycling Educator came to Reach & Belong at the Club and demonstrated the Monash recycling program to not only Reach & Belong participants but also to interested Bowling Club members. This is a wonderful example of different Monash community groups working and learning together.

During 2021 when the State had on-going lockdowns, R&B leased on a user-pays basis, where we were able to lease the Club when not in lockdown. R&B received absolutely no financial support from the State Government during lockdowns so having this leasing arrangement meant we survived – and were able to then start a proper continuous in-person schedule in 2022.

In 2022, able to run these programs, saw an increase in the number of days we leased the Bowling Club. Our lease of the Bowling Club and working with the Bowling Club (for example, when the venue has been booked by a social event) remains supported, open communication and mutually respectful. We have a wonderful working relationship with the Bowling Club and they have supported us in so many ways with the use of the Club facilities.

- We are now discussing shared office space including use of the office, the internet and photocopying machine
- A locked filing cabinet and extra storage cupboards have been provided
- We have been able to set up our kitchen utensils and supplies tubs in the kitchen's island bench shelving section.
- When we first started at the Bowling Club, we would lug in our cooking and activity boxes for each program and then take them back home at the end of each program. The Club quickly identified the need for storage space and provided it – and has remained solutions driven with additional storage options as our programs and supplies have increased.

We are currently in discussions to link in with Bowling Club events - the Club is always seeking Club volunteers to help at events run at the Club and this is the perfect opportunity to include some of our participants where they can volunteer and increase their hospitality skills.

We are also in discussions with the Club to set up a herb/veggie garden in a raised bed which would provide gardening opportunities to interested participants.

Social modelling is basically how society is modelled for people with disabilities and how society is modelled causes many barriers which could be addressed. When you start to work, for example with

a participant in a wheelchair you soon become very aware of the barriers and prejudices they have to exhaustingly deal with every day. Issues such as wheelchair accessibility which isn't really accessible because that little step into the building was not deemed a problem. Organise an excursion into the city to go to a theatre production and the participant in a wheelchair is pushed and jostled by foot traffic, they have to line up in a queue for the one all accessible toilet in the theatre venue, getting onto a train requires a ramp, room on the train, impatient commuters. Being able to work in the community hub that we have at the Bowling Club provides an incredibly supportive, accessible and welcoming space.

Our participants are able to easily access the Club facilities and mingle with the Bowling Club and other community members in a supportive, positive and sincere setting.

**Fiona Memed**  
**Director, Reach & Belong**

### **Marketing Report**

Income from sponsorship and donations in 2022-23 was \$18,679, down from \$28,156 in the previous year. This was partly due to timing differences, but also reflected the 'loss' of several long-standing sponsors due to the on-going impact of COVID – 19 on their businesses.

Overall, the Club lost four sponsors but welcomed back one previous sponsor – Hamilton Place Travel. As at 31 January 2023, the Club had 21 sponsors and/or advertisers.

A major new sponsor was recruited through a competitive bidding process - Jellis Craig Real Estate replaced Barry Plant Real Estate. The Club would like to thank Barry Plant Real Estate for their on-going support over many years and welcome Jellis Craig as a new sponsor. New green signs were installed for Jellis Craig on the Centre Green and Bendigo Bank Pinewood for the West Green. Shelter shed signs and scoreboards were installed for Jellis Craig.

I would like to thank members of the Sponsorship Team who again did a great job in engaging and signing-up sponsors and following up outstanding payments. The Club's Sponsorship Data Base, Sponsorship Agreement Forms and Opportunities Brochure were all updated.

Our website continued to perform consistently well. The website is extensively used by members and external parties and has been successful in attracting local Clubs and businesses to hold recreational bowling and social events at the Club.

Work commenced on a video which will be used to promote the Club on our Website and other platforms.

**Howard Rose, Head of Marketing**

### **Social Committee Report**

At last, after all the disruptions caused by Covid-19, we were able to have 12 months of enjoyment at the club. In June we had our Mid-Winter Feast with approximately 60 people attending who really enjoyed the home cooked casserole and sweets.



The Opening Breakfast where 45 members attended and enjoyed the delicious meal provided. Local MP Matt Fregon, Liberal candidate Asher Judah attended and our local Monash Councillor Rebecca Paterson, along with sponsors and Monash Council representatives. An enjoyable morning was had by all.

Our Melbourne Cup Day function was hampered by poor weather but we still managed to have some fun dressing in our racing attire for the Fashions of the Field parade. Thanks to Jim Fary for organising the sweeps on the day.

The Christmas Dinner was held on 2 December with great participation by 94 members and guests. Our final function for the year was an Italian Theme night with 65 people attending.

A big thank you to all the members of the Social Committee and those who assisted in any way.

### **Kaye O'Hara**

### **Super Fridays**

This year Chris Cullinan, Bruce Bennett and Phil Rosengarten sought to liven up the traditional Club social get together on Friday nights. Planned for the second Friday of the month, we run an entertaining night from 4.30 to 6.30pm with only \$5 entry where we supply finger food, several raffles, music and good cheer. A theme for the night encourages patrons to actively get into the spirit of fun. So far, we have had five Super Fridays and averaged around 40 attendees. Later in the year we plan some live music as well. Some attendees are now joining the club. We encourage members to bring a friend to experience the great feeling at Mt Waverley Bowling Club.