



BOWLED OVER



MOUNT WAVERLEY BOWLING CLUB INC.

'The friendly bowls club'

www.mwbc.com.au

Club Mobile: 0478 952 026

60 Years - 1964 - 2024

February March 2024

End of Season Club Dinner 2024

President's Speech

Good evening, everyone and I hope you have enjoyed the entrée and dinner that you just have partaken of. The food has been fantastic and what a wonderful job has been done by our great team from the Social Committee that have prepared, cooked and served the meals to you. I am in awe of what this team can achieve. Please put your hands together in appreciation for Sarina and Joe Bonnici, Bev Wong, Fui Chong, Shirley Melissas, Connie Epstein, Alan Sharp and our very special team co-ordinator and chef extraordinaire Michelle Chan with special thanks to David Beard for the chicken curry meal and Maisie Tsoi for the provision of the decorations. I cannot forget the happy bar team that have kept us hydrated all evening - great work guys. On behalf of the Committee of Management, it is just wonderful to have so many of our club members and partners here tonight to celebrate the achievements of our Pennant Sides in season 2023/24.

The Club has performed very well in the pennant competitions with 4 of the 5 sides competing making it into the finals. Our Weekend Pennant sides in Div 2 and Div 5 had very different seasons. Side 1 in Div 2 struggled this season and unfortunately finished in the relegation position and will be playing in Div 3 next season, a time to re-build and re-new. Side 2 in Div 5 had a wonderful season and will play off in the Sectional Grand Final tomorrow at Bennetswood Bowls Club. This means that the Side will move up to Div 4 next season. I am sure that we will have lots of club supporters to cheer the team on.



Our Side 2 winning the Sectional Preliminary Final



Our Side 2 winning the Sectional Grand Final against Armadale



Our Side 2 with the Sectional Final flag!

Midweek Pennant Sides in Div 2 and Div 5 also had great seasons with both finishing in the top 4 of their respective Sections. Side 1 had a first up win over Glen Waverley in the semi-final but just went down to a strong Heathmont yesterday in the Pre-lim. Side 2 played Cardinia Waters in the Semifinal at home but couldn't reproduce the form they had just 2 weeks ago when they beat them by 40 odd shots, the Side losing by 5 shots in a very close game.



Our Midweek Preliminary finalist Side 1

The Thursday 7's team did well and finished in the top 4 but had to play Clayton in the semi-final at their venue and tried hard but didn't quite get there.

Overall, a wonderful season and congratulations to all players competing. Very special thanks to the Selection Team of Celia Ware, Richard Sluggett and Michael Murray for their hard and sometimes vexing job and to all the Team managers and umpires that helped during the season.

The Club bowls championships are well on the way so please check the board in the foyer to see what matches you are participating in. As always, Celia Ware and Alan Sharp have done a wonderful job in getting them organised. The Club Presentation Dinner will be held on Friday the 19th of April. I will keep you informed as to when the rest of the Championship finals will be held.

Before we enjoy our lovely deserts prepared by the Social Committee, I have one very special function as the President of the Club. This year we are celebrating the Club's 60th anniversary and aren't we happy that we belong to this wonderful sporting club. For the last 50 of those 60 years, we are so lucky to have a member that is still with us and has been part of the fabric of the Mt Waverley Bowls Club for all the rest of us. I of course am talking about our esteemed Life Member Bruce Kendrick who is celebrating his 50th year with us this month. Bruce, you are the embodiment of this club - a humble, happy and lovely person who has time for all members. For those who are relatively new to our Club, I will let you know of some of his achievements over his time with us.



Barrie Epstein presenting Bruce Kendrick with his 50 year certificate

- He has been the CEO on 3 separate occasions.
- The deputy CEO on one occasion.
- He has won numerous Club Mens Singles, Pairs and other championships in his time with us.

- He has been involved in coaching, selection, sponsorship, auditing, social committees and other Club activities for most of his time with us.
- And, he has been the great record keeper for all members with his record cards of which I know he is very proud.

All I can say is that Bruce, you do us proud and lets hope that you are with us for many years to come.

I am going to give Bruce a little memento of his life with the Club. Please raise your glasses and give him 3 rousing cheers.



Michelle Chan presenting Bruce with a cake to celebrate his 50 years with the Club.



Again, thank you for your attendance tonight, enjoy the deserts and stay safe and well on the way home.

In the words of our former president John Bridgland, HOW GOOD IS THIS CLUB.



**Celebrating BRUCE KENDRICK,
50 years of Membership**

Bruce joined the Club on 4th March 1974, ten years after the Official opening of the Mount Waverley Bowling Club. At that time it was a men's club, women could only join as Associates. Both he and his wife joined at the same time, choosing to join Mount Waverley as it was close to where they lived as well as joining several Shell employees who were already members. Bowling was also something he and his wife Enid could do together.



Bruce's second wife Heidi was also a member of the club but an unfortunate incident on the green with a bullying Skip caused her to leave after only two years.

Bruce had played Rugby and Soccer – he was a Sydney boy - and when he joined the bowls club was playing high level Squash. That combined with having a young family meant he was a busy man. He worked for Shell Company first as an Accountant - which explains why he was appointed Auditor two years after joining the Club - and later as an Administration Manager.

The Club fielded 10 Saturday Pennant teams then, the ninth and tenth sides being called "Roamers" who played at other clubs. The ladies provided the sandwiches for afternoon tea as most men working on Saturday mornings, often coming straight to the Club from work.

The women were very successful on the Green, their A2 side losing in the semifinal but winning \$500 for being the top scoring A Grade Ladies side. The weekly progress of the teams was featured each Sunday on Channel 7's World of Sport and it was a proud day for the Club when Madam President appeared on the program to accept the award. Later the women's A1 side won 4 Premierships. Bruce says the women were better bowlers then, than the men.

In 1974 the inaugural John Dobbie Invitational Fours Tournament was held, the fourth Two-day Tournament was held with 168 players, the first Medley Tournament was held and Sunday bowls had 2825 participants over the season in a variety of events.. Wednesday bowls also ran a very successful competition. In 1974 the first coach was appointed.

Bruce became an accredited coach in 1984 and was instrumental in acquiring a video camera to help with coaching. He admits he had no idea how to use it and a steep learning curve was quickly needed.

In 1974 the sliding front doors were purchased from a building which was about to be demolished, as were the acoustic tiles we still have on the ceiling.

In the early days many social events were run, notably the Black-Tie event held annually at Merrimu a reception place in Murrumbreena. Dances, card nights, sports nights and singalongs were regular events. A Christmas Concert was held and was so popular it had to be repeated twice.

One hundred members attended the AGM and a second Life members was approved. Membership in 1974 stood at 1 Life member, 214 Full members plus 2 on leave, 19 Provisional members, 156 Associates' members plus 2 on leave and a waiting list of 5 for Full membership and 9 for Associate Membership.

Bruce has an extensive knowledge of the Club's development over the last 50 years. The Club had three grass greens and when one needed to be relaid, the members volunteered to do the work. Bruce remembers filling wheelbarrows with tons of earth and a couple of Uni students were employed to wheel the barrows from the car park to the green (they gave up after a day). Grass seed was mixed with water and Bruce held a large hose as the seed was sprayed onto the green. While he was doing this someone was trying to steal his car from the car park!



Pictured are a couple of medals presented to Bruce as CEO, from corporate events in 2003. I don't think Barrie has ever received a medal for running a corporate event, though he certainly deserves one.

Due to work moving him Interstate, Bruce was on leave of absence from 1979 to 1984 and when he came back as a full member, he was not allowed to join the Management Committee having to wait the two years required of any member wanting to be part of that Committee.

After that, Bruce's list of positions held in the Club are extensive. There are too many to list them all, but notably he held the Chief Executive position for several years, Development and Coaching position, Auditor, Selector, member of the Committees for Sunday Bowls, Social Events, House Maintenance and Development, Membership Records and Sponsorship. All these positions he has held for a great number of years.



Bruce after playing together with Joe and Sarina's grandsons – up and coming future MWBC members?

Bruce is a Life Member. At 97, he is our oldest member, still playing Pennant and Social Bowls.

Happy 50th anniversary Bruce.



The three Bruces with the Saturday Side 2 Section flag.

Club Singles Finals held on Friday 9th.

Friday 16th February 2024 saw Mount Waverley Bowls Club hold the finals of the Men's and Ladies Club Singles Championships. The weather was fine, and many members took advantage of being on our new deck to view the game. They were able to see both games being played whereas before, views were restricted.

The Ladies match was between Bev Wong and Jenny Roberts. It was a very close game throughout, lasting for 45 ends. The Mens game was also very close between David Rae and Minh Vo.

Congratulations to Jenny Roberts becoming our Ladies Singles Champion for 2024 and to Minh Vo our Mens Singles Champion for 2024.

Commiserations go to Bev Wong and David Rae who both put up quite a challenge.

Our thanks also go to Jim Fary and Celia Ware for marking and to Lindsay Markham and Bernie Brennan for keeping the scoreboard up to date. Thanks also to Joe Bonnici the umpire. Peter O'Hara and Barrie Epstein were the sausage specialists, thank you.



Bev Wong runner up with Jenny Roberts winner of the MWBC Women's singles.



Minh Vo with David Rae runner up for MWBC Men's Singles.



David Rae, Minh Vo, Jenny Roberts, and Bev Wong players in the MWBC Club Singles finals.

Up coming events – Save the DATES

Club Presentation Dinner

The Club Presentation Dinner will be held on **Friday 19 April 2024** after the completion of the Club Championships. Currently everyone is completing their championship rounds. Check out the action when you are at the club.

60th Anniversary Tournament

This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our wonderful Club. Two events are planned to commemorate this milestone. The first being a bowls tournament to be held on **Saturday the 13th of April 2024**. We would like to see as many club bowling members participate. We have also advertised the tournament to other Clubs around Melbourne and via the Bowls Vic Facebook page.

Please see the entry form that has been sent out via email previously. If you would like to enter a team, please complete the entry form and return or email back to the Club.

We thank Jellis Craig for sponsoring the tournament.

60th Anniversary Dinner.

When: **Saturday 7th September 2024**.

Time: 6pm for 6:30pm serving of food.

Dress: semi formal.

Special guests are being invited to the dinner and members will be asked to register.

More information to follow closer to the date.

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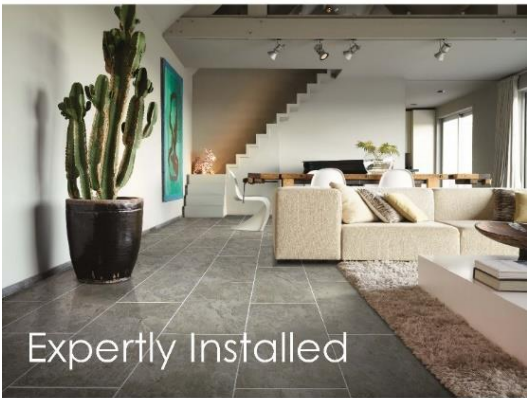


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