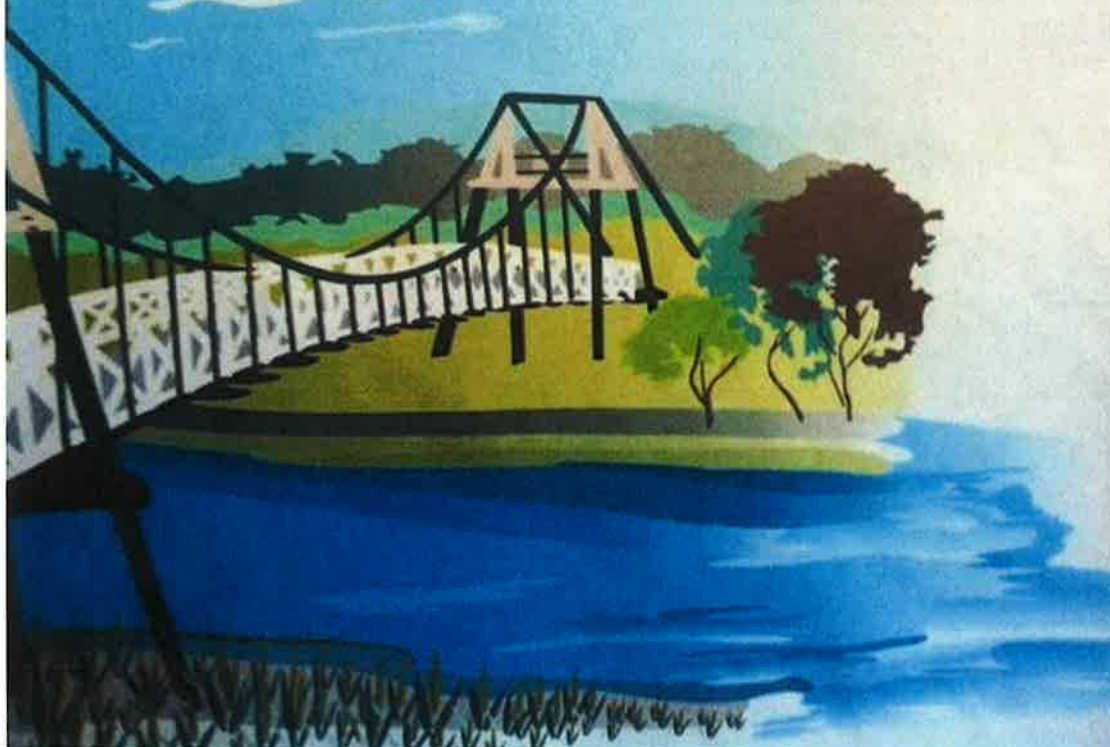


# YARRA BOWLS REGION



## ANNUAL REPORT Season 2014/15

Proudly supported by

Doncaster East and Templestowe Village  
**Community Bank**® branches



## **President's report**

As I conclude my first year as President of the Region it is time to reflect on the season and consider the future direction.

Thank you to all those clubs that assisted us with venues, officials, umpires & markers etc. throughout the season. Without your strong support we would not be able to complete the Region Championship events effectively.

Congratulations to all those participants who were successful in winning region championships this year, with the calibre of bowlers in our region it is an outstanding effort to win a region championship. It was particularly pleasing to see nine different clubs represented in the winner's circle out of the eighteen events decided. Congratulations to Jody Nevill (Bundoora RSL) who went on to win the State Championship at Bendigo in April. Jody will now represent Victoria at the Australian Titles.

Although participation numbers increased this year there were several clubs that were not represented (excluding Champion of Champion Singles) in the Championships. I encourage you to challenge your members to enter next season so that we can continue to maintain a viable competition and provide players with an important development opportunity, in addition, to competing against well performed pennant and state representatives.

We tried a few things with region events this year, in particular sectional play in singles, where the third person in each section marked the game in progress, and we asked the first named player in the draw for Champion of Champion singles to provide their own marker for the first game each day. Defeated players were then required to mark subsequent games that day. Both moves worked well and reduced the strain placed on clubs to provide officials / markers necessary to host certain events.

It was great to see more clubs sharing in the spoils with a greater distribution of region event winners. Bundoora RSL has 7 event winners, MCC - Kew Sports with 3, including both men and women's blue ribbon singles events, then came Ivanhoe and Richmond Union as multiple winners, and Alphington, Donvale, Hurstbridge and Rosanna providing one success story each.

Alphington proved you don't have to bowl at the Premier / Division 1 level to win a region event, with Greg Payne saluting in the champion of champion men's singles. That should encourage greater participation at region events. And to top that off, Heather Wilson (Montmorency) and Michael Barca (Bundoora RSL) – both selected to represent Australia at the upcoming World Deaf Bowls Championships - played as a composite team to win the mixed pairs. Their efforts over the course of the event knocked off some of the biggest names in the region.

We continued the pathway program in preparation for the Men's and Women's Region Sides Championships in January and March respectively. The Men's program was conducted over four weeks in November/December and the Women's during January/February. Both teams represented the Region with distinction, with Men reaching the final for the first time in nine years and the women competing in their first ever final. Although we didn't win the gold medal winning the silver medal was an excellent reward for their hard work and dedication. We plan to continue with the program next season and are confident of the ultimate success.

It was a pleasure to present Distinguished Service Awards to Faye Jones, Rose Pentecost and Wayne Zealley at Greensborough Bowls Club for the service they have provided over many years. Clubs are reminded that these exist as a means of recognising individuals for their contribution.

Two coaching development workshops were conducted during the year and we look forward to providing more opportunities for coaches to develop their skills next season.

We thank John Roberts for looking after our umpires and his support in providing guidance to us in the matter of Rules etc.

We started the year by welcoming Richmond Union Bowling Club to allocation of clubs to our region.

The directors developed a strategic plan to guide our thoughts over the next 3 – 5 years. A review at season's end indicated that most aspects had been ticked off.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my hard working committee for the significant contribution they have made to the effective administration of the region over the last twelve months. Particularly our Secretary Peter Russell who maintains communications between clubs and the region at a high level and ensures we achieve appropriate operational standards. Our finances are in great shape thanks to diligent and effective management by Elaine Owens. Graham Down and Lysbeth Chittenden were responsible for running a highly successful Regional Championship Program which was not without its difficulties. To Graham Howard for his work bringing up to date region coach's accreditations together with his green's responsibilities I offer my thanks.

Finally, I would encourage all our clubs to attend delegates meetings to ensure they are up to date with what's happening at region level and contribute to the effective operation of Yarra Region.

Barry Ferguson (President)

### **Secretary's report**

Our constitution provides for eight directors, four males and four females, each for two year appointments. Four positions were declared vacant, yet only three nominations were received, so Barry Ferguson, Graham Howard and Beth Chittenden were elected unopposed.

Our office bearers for the last year were: Barry Ferguson (Donvale – President), Lorraine Burton (Hurstbridge – Vice President), Peter Russell (Bundoora RSL - Secretary), Elaine Owens (Darebin City - Treasurer), with Graham Howard (Donvale), Graham Down (Fairfield) and Beth Chittenden (Burwood District) completing the region directors.

During the year the directors met to discuss region activities and events. Meetings were held on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 23 March and 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Delegates meetings were held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015, with a president and secretary's night held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Directors were quite active with email transmissions, and also received the general information forwarded to club contact officers, secretaries and delegates from time to time.

Our website is updated on a regular basis and contains a calendar of events, our constitution, the region event program, minutes of all meetings, entry forms, draw and results of region events, as well as information for prospective umpires and coaches. The site also contains links to club websites, bowls magazines and bowls forums. Our site is <http://www.yarra.vic.bowls.net.au>

One surprise was that we needed to take out insurance for professional indemnity, general liability, management liability and insurance for volunteer workers. We are insured with Marsh Advantage.

Consumer Affairs Victoria are moving to an online environment for annual reporting purposes to ease the burden of paper based administration.

Peter Russell (Secretary)

### **Treasurer's report**

Financially we have had a very successful year. This is the first year that Bowls Victoria have not subsidised the Prize Money for the Regional Championships to the regions. However with entries up this year we were able to comfortably cover this payment.

Bowls Victoria are still subsidising the Men's and Ladies Regional Championships. We received \$1125 in December and the same amount in February to help us to cover the expenses for these two events.

I would like to thank all those clubs who fulfil their obligation of payments to the Region for the Levy and for the State Game Entries within a couple weeks on receipt of their invoices and for the use of the Electronic

Transfer facility. This is our preferred way of payment and it is noted that the majority of the 28 clubs have now organized themselves to make use of this method to pay directly into our Bank Account.

We, again, paid a small amount by way of honorariums to the Greens Committee, the Umpires Panel and to the Coach of the Pathway program. We sincerely thank all these members who give up their time for the benefit of the Region.

Elaine Owens (Treasurer)

YARRA BOWLS REGION					
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 1/7/2014 TO 30/6/2015					
<b>INCOME</b>					
Region Levy			9,603.00		
Regional Championships Entries			5,936.00		
Bowls Victoria Regional Subsidies			2,250.00		
Bowls Victoria Coaching Seminar			300.00		
Bank Interest			83.80		
Bendigo Bank Sponsorship			250.00		18,422.80
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Consumer Affairs			53.00		
Regional Championships Prize Money			5,100.00		
Betty Collins Entry			200.00		
State Championship Subsidy			200.00		
Men's Regional Championships			2,975.30		
Ladies Regional Championships			2,413.00		
Bowls Victoria Coaching Seminar			300.00		
Entertainment			259.80		
Insurance			1,056.00		
Honoraria	Pathway	300.00			
	Greens	900.00			
	Umpires	425.00	1,625.00		
Website			1,100.00		
Postage/Printing/Stationery			123.66		
Bank Charges			1.55		15,407.31
Profit					3,015.49
Balance as Per Bank Statements 30/6/2014		Savings A/c	13,271.02		
		Statement A/c	149.60		13,420.62
Balance as Per Bank Statements 30/6/2015		Savings A/c	16,236.11		
		Statement A/c	200.00		16,436.11

# Form 1

## **Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012**

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

**This form is required to be provided to the members at the AGM with the association's accounts.**

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### **Annual statements give true and fair view of financial performance and position of incorporated association**

We, Lorraine Burton and Peter Russell, being members of the Committee of the Yarra Bowls Region, certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the

Yarra Bowls Region during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2015.

Signed:

LORRAINE BURTON



Dated:

27 JULY 2015

Signed:

PETER RUSSELL



Dated:

27 JULY 2015

## Match committee

Our year starts by creating a calendar of events, and pencil in dates and times for various events and activities. Then work backwards to determine closing dates for entries. Then there's the recording of entries, organising greens and the necessary rinks for play, compiling the draw for each of the events and the necessary liaison between all parties.

We like the idea of playing singles prior to Christmas and prior to any green renovations. We had some difficulty in obtaining greens for the region singles, but figured that was more to do with having to provide markers more than anything else. So we sought approval from Bowls Victoria to play singles in sections of three, where the third person in each section became the marker for that game. That seemed to work very well and will probably become the norm.

Of course it's difficult when a club closes its greens for the first day of the men's singles – throwing a significant portion of the draw into chaos. And with subsequent rescheduling we ran into protection issues as some people due to play singles were already scheduled to play in other events. But in the end we all got there.

Congratulations to the winners of the respective events, but thanks also to those who participated, and to the clubs for access to their greens, and providing the necessary administrative support for the events.

Entries for our events increased marginally, even after allowing for the scratching of two champion of champions pairs events from the Bowls Vic calendar and a mixed pair's competition was added.

The men's and ladies' fours continues to run at a loss, which is a concern. There were 16 men's teams and 10 ladies' teams – these need to have 20 each to remove the loss each time.

An area of concern is that 10 clubs had fewer than 5 entries from up to 19 events, and 7 clubs had less than 3 entries in total. Need to work on increasing entries.

Sum of Teams	Year			
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Event				
Champion of champions - Ladies' Pairs	12	14	15	-
Champion of champions - Ladies' Singles	19	20	20	22
Champion of champions - Men's Pairs	18	16	17	-
Champion of champions - Men's Singles	23	26	23	24
Ladies' 60+ Pairs		10	10	16
Ladies' 60+ Singles	15	13	20	21
Ladies' Fours	10	9	7	10
Ladies' Novice	11	8	12	8
Ladies' Pairs	21	12	12	18
Ladies' Singles	16	16	15	23
Ladies' Triples	9	11	11	8
Ladies' Under 25	2		2	2
Men's 60+ Pairs	46	44	39	43
Men's 60+ Singles	48	50	44	50
Men's Fours	11	10	11	16
Men's Novice		18	13	30
Men's Pairs	57	44	42	41
Men's Singles	84	74	56	70
Men's Triples	16	25	22	23
Men's under 25	4	6	11	7
Mixed Pairs				26
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>458</b>

## YARRA REGION – REGION EVENTS WINNERS 2014-15

Event		Champions	Club
Singles	Men	G Ball	MCC Kew Sports
	Women	T Doolan	MCC Kew Sports
Pairs	Men	P Gonzales [L] B Spurr [S]	Bundoora RSL
	Women	A Draffen [L] M Norton [S]	Ivanhoe
Triples	Men	R Kopcewicz [L] G Ball C Ball [S]	MCC Kew Sports
	Women	G Bail [L] G Farmer A Martini [S]	Rosanna
Fours	Men	T Schiavello [L] M Cipolla A Marchioli L Aiello [S]	Bundoora RSL
	Women	J Harvey [L] K Schwarzer / S Ferguson (sub) G Deveson L Thomas [S]	Bundoora RSL Bundoora RSL /Donvale Bundoora RSL Bundoora RSL
60 & Over Singles	Men	R Sharp	Donvale
	Women	N Gerty	Richmond Union
60 & Over Pairs	Men	P Wardle [L] J McPherson [S]	Hurstbridge
	Women	E Lewis [L] L Thomas [S]	Bundoora RSL
Under 25 Singles	Male	J Corless	Bundoora RSL
	Female	M Watt	Bundoora RSL
Novice Singles	Male	K Montgomery	Ivanhoe
	Female	Y Graham	Richmond Union
Mixed Pairs		H Wilson [L] M Barca [S]	Montmorency Bundoora RSL
CoC Singles	Men	G Payne	Alphington
	Women	J Nevill	Bundoora RSL

Our region events winners qualify to compete in the State Championships held in April in their respective events. The highlight at that event was undoubtedly Jody Nevill (Bundoora RSL) being crowned State Champion of Champions in the women's singles.

Congratulations also to Ivanhoe's Anne Draffen and Meredith Norton who made it through to the semi-finals of the women's pairs.





## Region Sides Championships

Corowa and Swan Hill again hosted the men's and women's events respectively.

The men's side had representatives from Bundoora RSL, MCC-Kew Sports and Ivanhoe. A number of transfers in the off season saw a new look men's side and arguably our strongest ever. But we were placed into an extremely difficult section, with Murray Mallee, Geelong and Sandbelt. We opened with an 11 shot win over the Mallee, and followed that with a 5 shot win over Geelong. Chris Ball then played the shot of the day to score 3 shots with his final bowl to secure a draw with Sandbelt to secure section honours.

In the semi we were pitted against Metro West who gave us a belting last year. It was time to turn the tables, but no one could have predicted what was to happen. Metro West threw in the towel early when the lead grew to 24 shots to save further embarrassment.

The final against Northern Gateway was an epic encounter. Gateway started better and maintained a small lead until a spirited fight-back saw Yarra close the gap to only one shot 43-42 with seven ends to play. We had the momentum but just couldn't do enough to steal the title.

The women's event saw representatives from Bundoora RSL, MCC-Kew Sports, Ivanhoe, East Ivanhoe, Montmorency, Donvale, Darebin City and Burwood District. This side set out to better the results from last season and opened with a 17 shot win over our neighbour Eastern Ranges; then recorded a 3 shot win over Gippsland, and an 8 shot win over previously undefeated Murray Mallee to claim the section. All skips claimed two wins from 3 games.

That set up a semi-final show down also against Metro West, and their skips had won five of six matches so far. But our girls were more determined and got home by 11 shots, winning two of three rinks.



So we were in the final against back to back winners in Northern Gateway. Yarra were up against it as their opponents had won 5.5 rinks from 6 starts, yet we still held a slender lead till 36<sup>th</sup> end, when the Gators mounted their challenge and won the title again.

The results were testament to the process adopted; the training program, the camaraderie and team first attitude. The irony in all this is that we tried to set up a training sessions against Northern Gateway prior to the championships but they weren't really interested.

## Greens

Thanks again for our team of volunteers who inspect the Yarra greens.

Clubs and Greens Directors are especially thanked for their making their greens available sometimes at short notice, this is appreciated.

The efforts of the hard work undertaken by Clubs, officials and volunteers and Greenkeepers is obvious by the standard of our greens.



## **Umpires**

Yarra conducted another series of workshops / tutorials in January / February 2014 with ten new candidates successful in gaining accreditation, ten candidates gaining re-accreditation and three others offered retraining.

Some umpires have suggested they get few opportunities to officiate. So a request has already been forwarded to clubs seeking to have umpire's names added to a pool to assist with region events. This will give some umpires greater exposure. Same concept applies with markers. Please look out for those lists at your club.

## **Coaching & Development**

Yarra Region has piloted and been involved in all BV Coaching & Coaching Development Committee initiatives.

Yarra piloted the "amnesty" to bring / reaccredit coaches and keep them in the fold. Our results were significantly greater than any other BV Region.

We now have a stable platform of xx accredited coaches in the Region and looking to build on that going forward.

Two Coaching Development Workshops were conducted in Yarra region and will continue as we now focus on developing Yarra's Region coaches.

Interesting to note that Upwey/Tecoma BC submitted an item to the Bowls Vic weekly bulletin in April 2015, following their representatives attending a BV Coaching & Coach Development "Master Class" back in April 2014. We genuinely believe the main reason for our huge improvement has been the Coaching Program introduced in April 2014. It started with the very successful April "Master Class" Graham & Barry conducted at Upwey. Amongst other things, that day achieved "buy-in" from our members. It also motivated ten of our players to become accredited/re-accredited coaches.

Your guidance with the Off-Season, Pre-Pennant & Pennant training drills program was implemented by our coaches each week and has become widely accepted across the club. Come Pennant practice matches back in September, we trialled your "tick system" for each mat length bowl. We also introduced the "post-match review" for each rink. Despite some initial opposition/reluctance, we persevered, and with some refinements & modifications, both initiatives are generally accepted by most players as being valuable practices."

## **Club Support & Development**

Over recent years we have had presentations from BV and many Yarra Clubs have taken part in the Sports Community club training program, and hopefully more are attending in future

These programs cover strategic planning / achieving club objectives / communications / sponsorship and fund raising / membership growth / governance and financial controls.

We stand ready to assist clubs in any programs to support clubs in these areas.

## **Junior Development Squad**

The squad continues to operate although with small numbers, with training sessions and opportunities to play against other development squads. Participants do not have to be club members – school bowlers and barefoot bowlers can participate.

Note that the Victorian Under 18 Development Squad is selected from players from the 24 regional squads, and this also becomes a pathway to the Victorian Under 25 Development Squad.

Pauline Skinner has put in a significant lot of time and effort over the last six years or so, and she has decided to step down from that coordinator role. We're really appreciate of her involvement.

Richard Lovell has been appointed as coach / coordinator and will conduct training for those interested. A flyer has been forwarded to all clubs to bring this to the attention of anyone in that age group.

## **Sponsorship**

We acknowledge our sponsors;

- Bendigo Bank – Doncaster East & Templestowe Village Community Bank Branches
- Doncaster Sporting Gear

Their support of Yarra Region is appreciated and assists in keeping our affiliation fee at the lowest level of fee charged by other BV Regions.

## **General**

Yarra Region is evolving now as a significant participant within Bowls Victoria and looking to provide a greater voice.

BV Coaching & Coaching Development Committee - Graham Howard is Chairman and Barry Ferguson on the committee

BV Umpiring Committee – John Roberts is Chairman.

To assist in progressing Yarra initiatives to BV we have introduced a process to allow / support such action. In Yarra if members have initiatives / issues –

- These should be raised firstly with their club
- The Club should consider the concept and forward to Yarra a proposal outlining the issue – how it effects the game / recommendations etc.
- Yarra will circulate to all Clubs to review and respond, or advise their delegates of their club's position
- If majority of Clubs support the proposal Yarra will raise with BV.