

HEATHMONT  
Bowls  
CLUB INC.

# AMAROO

**NEWSLETTER**



MARCH 2024

[www.heathmontbowls.com.au](http://www.heathmontbowls.com.au)

9 The Greenway, Heathmont, 3135. {Reg. A0012905M}

## 2023-24 END OF SEASON WRAP

### BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Well, here we are at the conclusion of another bowling season. I hope that you have had an enjoyable season whether as a pennant bowler, social bowler, Jack attacker or social member. On behalf of the Board, I thank you all for your support and interest in our Club.

#### **Bowls Finals**

HBC has hosted several Sectional and Divisional finals over the last 12 days. The feedback from visiting clubs and their supporters has been amazingly positive. We have received high praise for our outstanding greens, the location, clubrooms, and fantastic viewing areas for visitors plus of course lots of comments about the "Taj Mahal" women's toilets.

There was also praise for how well run the days were. This is something for which Heathmont has now earned a well-deserved reputation, whether it be for finals, our tournaments or just general pennant game days, we consistently deliver a high standard. This is only possible through the dedication of a relatively small group. I'm not going to single them out but they are the people providing hands on support at events, week in, week out.

We must have impressed some visitors because I handed out some membership forms .

#### **Board news.**

Brad Munro has been co-opted as a Board member until the end of the current term. Brad is a very successful businessman and involved with many Community sporting clubs and will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Board.

Nominations are open for Board positions, Bowls Committee and both Weekend and Mid-Week pennant selectors. I would urge you to consider putting up your hand (or if in doubt), contact Jan MacGregor or me and we can certainly explain what the roles entail.

Con'd on next page



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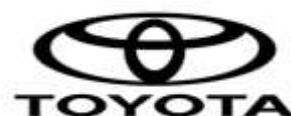
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## **BOARD CHAIR REPORT (COND)**

### **Promoting Our Club**

We've have had a successful few weeks, in terms of trade, but like most businesses/clubs, business has not been as robust since before COVID. There will be lots of initiatives to try to get people attending the club during winter: Rocket Lounges, winter bowls, meals nights etc. Please promote these to friends and families.

Two of the events that have had new people coming in has been Jack Attack and Barefoot Bowls. Ken Barnhill has done a brilliant job building the Jack Attackers up each season. Barefoot Bowls has only been running for a month and we had 46 last Friday!! Music by Sean Carroll certainly helped to get some of them up and bopping!

### **End of Season Departures (and Arrivals)**

It's inevitable that at the end of a season, some bowlers will move to other clubs (hopefully not too many ). Likewise, we will probably recruit some transferring bowlers and we have recruited several new bowlers recently, which is very exciting.

My main message is lawn bowls is a wonderful, inclusive sport that you can play until a ripe old age. So long as you are playing somewhere, and you are happy and fulfilled, go for it!!

### **End of Season Dinner**

A dinner has been booked for Wednesday 27/4/2024 with Sheila catering. It will be a carvery of beef, pork and chicken, spuds, salads, and dessert for \$20. Fliers will be displayed around the club and promoted on Facebook and the Messenger group. A sign-up sheet will also be on the sloping board in a couple of days.

Cheers, Terri

Terrie Verberne

***Board Chair***



Friday Night  
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*Carroll*

## **MEMBERS DRAW**

The Members draw is having a small break, and will restart on FRIDAY April 5th. The cash prize is \$50 per week, and jackpot's if unclaimed.....



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## **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT**

I would like to remind members that the maximum speed limit inside our car park is 10 Km. We have had several close calls especially as people walk up the yellow walkway towards the entrance to the Club and around the corner.

At this stage, we intend that the Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (as mentioned in the members' handbook).

**Nominations for positions are open, and they close at 5:00pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The nomination forms are on the table as you walk into the main entrance.**

The vacancies are as follows:

Board of Directors – 1 Chairman, 1 Treasurer, 3 Directors.

Bowls Committee – 1 Secretary, 5 committee members.

Mid-Week Selectors – 1 Vacancy. Weekend Selectors – 3 vacancies.

I am pleased to advise that Terry Anderson came down to Club on 7/3 accompanied by Steve Bird. Both these members have had health issues lately so I am delighted to see them up and about. Less pleasing is Ron Hopper – he is struggling with depression – he is still at home and his two boys regularly come in to help him, so he is being looked after quite well. Also Brendan O'Brien – has not been to the Club lately but several members have seen him around at the shops and seems OK.



**Board Secretary**

Peter Verberne



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## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023-24

Been a bit of action with finals of the club Men's and Ladies Club Singles plus Finals of the Men's Pairs and Club Triples

With the Temperature reaching 36 degrees on Finals Sunday...Play was brought forward to a 10.30am start

The Men's singles was Played between Nick Dawe and Mark "Curly" Alyward

Nick got off to a fantastic start and set up an early lead

Curly then found his range and the match was even halfway through

Nick then kicked away again and won 25-13 in a very entertaining match

### This was Nick's First Club Singles



The Ladies Final was between Sandy Elliott and Annette Ruffle

In an Epic battle there was nothing between the two all day

The temperature continued to rise as the two Ladies went shot for shot

In the end Sandy outlasted Annette to win 25-23

Special mention to both Players and Marker Terri Verberne for staying out in the scorching heat

Both Nick and Sandy will now represent the Club in Champion of Champions...Good Luck to Both

The Men's Pairs was Played between Earl Mathison/Darren Mays against Paul Dodd/Leon Verkuyll

A Fantastic exhibition of bowls was on display with great heads all match

In a Thrilling encounter the scores were 10 all going into the last

Earl and Mays then picked up a nice number in the last end to come away Victors in this High Standard Game **Con'd on next Page**



## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS Con'd

In the Triples it was Joffa Taylor, Greg Boyd and Simon Jeffery against Jason Barrett, Norm Whithead and Matty Ottobre

The Ottobre team jumped out of the blocks early and won the first set

The Second set saw Team Jeffrey fight back and send the Final into a Tie Breaker

The First End of the Tie Breaker saw Team Jeffery pick up a 2

Team Ottobre fought back picking up a 1 in the Second end

With the Shot Being up and down... Simon drew the shot with the last Bowl of the Match to give his team the Victory

Also this was Joffa's First Club Championship

Please keep an eye out for upcoming Finals of other Club Championships



**Championship**

**Co-Ordinator**

Greg Boyd



## MID-WEEK PENNANT SELECTORS REPORT

This season was competitive and successful. H1, 2,4 &5 made finals. H1 & H2 made grand finals but were unsuccessful on the day. BUT how many clubs can boast 80% of their teams reaching finals? Probably not many.

Poor H3 had a tough draw all year and will have a much better year in Div 3.

The big highlight was that we added an additional ½ side this year. This allowed us to play several new players who wouldn't otherwise have got a regular game. The draw and section were terrible and hopefully, if we can get a couple of extra players, we could field a full 12 player side next year. Fingers crossed as this would be very positive for the club and new bowlers.

### **End of Season Dinner**

A dinner has been booked for Wednesday 27/4/2024 with Sheila catering. It will be a carvery of beef, pork and chicken, spuds, salads, and dessert for \$20. Fliers will be displayed around the club and promoted on Facebook and the Messenger group. A sign-up sheet will also be on the sloping board in a couple of days.

*We will be taking the opportunity to present 50 and 100 game badges to MWP players. I will contact each eligible player in the next week. It would be lovely to have as many awardees as possible present.*

On behalf of the selectors, many thanks for a great year. You are a wonderful bunch of bowlers to work with and we receive, mainly, positive, and productive feedback.

Hoping to see you all at the 27/4 dinner. If not, have a great winter Grey Nomading etc.

**Mid-Week Selection-Chair**

Terri Verberne



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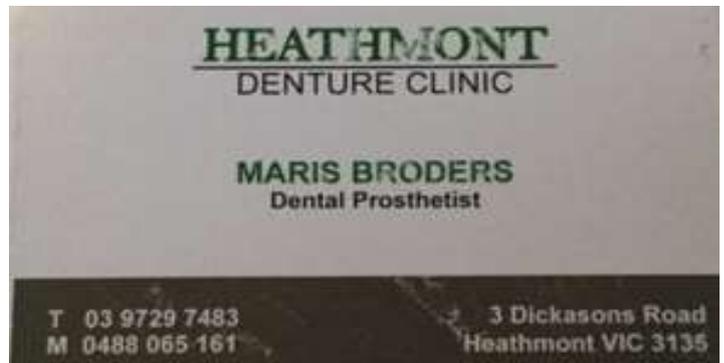
Physiotherapist

Phone For Appointment

**9870 8038**

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please make our new members welcome when you see them around the Club:

| Name           | Bowling Category            | Previous Club | Phone Number |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| John Hunter    | 1 <sup>st</sup> year bowler |               | 0412 535 742 |
| Michael Fowler | 1 <sup>st</sup> year bowler |               | 0419 369 772 |
| Miles Ridler   | 1 <sup>st</sup> year bowler |               | 0413 015 184 |
| Chad Smith     | 1 <sup>st</sup> year bowler |               | 0417 393 813 |

Membership Officers-Janice (Jan) MacGregor (Bowls Committee) ,Terri Verberne (Board)

## BOWLS VIC' INTEGRATED PAIRS

Berwick B.C 14th January

Congratulations to our own Rob Ruffle, who combined with Rob Huddle (Albert Park) in the 10th anniversary of this event, and were runners up. After playing 4 games of 10 ends, the two "Robs" lost by only 4 shots, having 4 wins, and the same amount of ends won.

Well Done Rob....

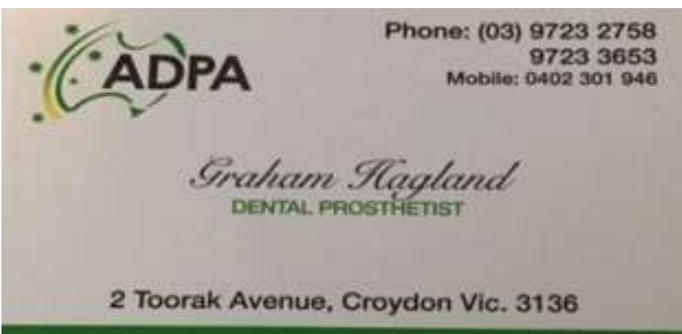


## FOR SALE : Henselite Ladies Bowls Shoes



\$50 - Hardly worn Henselite Athletica Bowls shoes. USA 10. \$120 New.

Contact - Annette Ruffle  
0417342763



## Weekend Pennant Selectors Report

The 2023/24 Weekend Pennant Season has now concluded and we can reflect on a season of mixed fortunes:

**Heathmont 1** (Premier Reserve) retained level following a slow start. H1 defeated Whittlesea (PR finalists), Richmond Union (twice), Mentone (twice) and drew with Essendon (PR finalists) and Fitzroy Victoria (PR finalists). The goal for H1 was that we retain level in our first season in Premier Reserve. Achieved.

**Heathmont 2** (Division 1) unfortunately demoted although had an opportunity to retain level until the last game of the H&A season. H2 defeated Mitcham (Section winner), Kingsbury (Section finalists), Yarra Glen and Bundoora (twice). The promotion to Division 1 was always going to be a challenge. Division 2 next season.

**Heathmont 3** (Division 3) had a successful season reaching the Sectional Final after finishing top of the ladder after the H&A season. Promoted to Division 2!

**Heathmont 4** (Division 4) finished Fourth after H&A season. Defeated in Section Semi-final. Solid season and remain in Division 4.

**Heathmont 5** (Division 5) reached the Sectional Final after finishing Fourth after H&A season.

Won two finals. Successful season. Promoted to Division 4!

**Heathmont 6** (Division 6) demoted to Division 7 having won two games during the H&A season. The players in H6 were veterans still enjoying representing their club and predominantly new bowlers in their first season of pennant. The new bowlers will benefit from the experience. Demoted to Division 7.

All in all, the Weekend Pennant Selectors are satisfied the club had a solid season with the only downside being that Heathmont 2 just missed out on retaining its place in Division 1.

## Bowls Secretary Report:

**Amaroo Classic 2024:** HBC hosted another successful AC tournament this season. All 42 team places were filled within 2-3 weeks of the first e-mail invitations which demonstrates the profile of the tournament and the reputation of our greens. The winning team was **Simon Jeffery** (HBC), **Jason Saunders** (Ferntree Gully) and **Matt Creighton** (Croydon) – interesting side note that all three did not play pennant bowls this season! Runners up were **Ron Short**, **Rick Carver** and former HBC member **Craig Anderson** (Vermont South)

**Summer Friday Pairs:** Summer Friday Pairs games have struggled post covid to attract the numbers of teams we regularly had pre covid (two full grass greens and often extending onto the synthetic green). The numbers of team entries this season pre-Christmas were just acceptable (average 14 teams) but after the break fell away dramatically and all games have been cancelled post-Christmas for lack of entries. Bowls Committee will have to review and determine a way forward – do we look at another day, increase prizemoney, change structure etc. BC would welcome member input? – All suggestions/observations welcome.

**Winter Season:** Bowls Committee expects to offer a Friday Pairs game again this season (TBC) and the return of our popular **Saturday Teams 2B Triples** competition (with soup!). More details to come.

**Between Summer and Winter Seasons:** **David Hall** has offered to manage a 2-4-2 Pairs game on Fridays commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March to 26<sup>th</sup> April. The Board has approved prizemoney of minimum \$100.00 per week. Entry sheet on the sloping board.

Finally, an acknowledgement to **Ken Barnhill** (Jack Attack), **Terri** and **Peter Verberne** (Friday Barefoot Bowls) and all helpers (**Janice MacGregor** etc etc) for generating such energy and community involvement around the club currently.

Some "Happy" Jack Attackers



Greg Pullen

**Bowls Secretary**



## SPONSORSHIP REPORT

Firstly I would like to congratulate all weekend and midweek bowls teams that made it into the finals. It shows why Heathmont is such a wonderful and successful club. That's why we have to protect it as much as we can, and one way is to support our sponsors by utilizing their services when we can.

I'm pleased to announce that we have a new sponsor on board for the 2024/2025 season in MADISON SLOAN LAYWERS please take the time and read their BIO in this newsletter as to what services they provide. I'm sure they will welcome your enquiry whether that be for a new Will or Probate and Deceased Estate advice or just for a legal issue they will welcome your call. (see next page for ad and details).

On a sadder note we have lost another of our long term sponsors in Maroondah Foot Clinic they have decided to cease all sponsorship as they experience the down turn in the economy however that should not stop us from utilizing their services.

A big thankyou to our three sponsors IGA Plus LIQUOR MONTROSE, NOEL JONES REAL ESTATE and NUNAWADING TOYOTA on sponsoring another successful AMAROO Classic without their support it would have been just another bowls tournament so well done to those three sponsors, also a special mention to WILL FOWLES MP who kindly donated a raffle prize.

As the bowling season has now finished and footy season is now upon us let's get behind the club and support the ROCKET LOUNGE as we have a number of great bands playing so check the WEBSITE FOR DATES, plus there is our Friday night happy hour and bare-foot bowls so spread the word that the HEATHMONT BOWLING CLUB is the place to be

On finishing I again ask that we check our sponsors list before we go and purchase any item as they may be able to supply



**Sponsorship Officer**

Graeme Eslick



### A FEW ACTION SHOTS FROM H5 FINALS, Thanks to IAN MARSH



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## "SKILL'S and DRILL'S

As another season draws to a close, Skills and Drills will be taking a short break before returning to our traditional Sunday morning timeslot of 10am, on Sunday, April 21st. Rod and Nick would like to give a huge shout out to all of those who have helped in making this one of the most successful Skills and Drills seasons ever. We cannot remember a year where we have had such a large and talented group of newcomers whose enthusiasm has been infectious, and of course, we cannot forget our loyal and devoted club members who have been supporting the program over so many years. We've had a ball this year, and can't wait to get going on April 21st. Looking forward to seeing you all then.

Rod MacGregor  
and Nick Dawe





## Anil Singh

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## **BOWLS PRESIDENT REPORT**

### **Eastern Ranges Bowls Region events for 2023-2024:**

**Women's Singles** final was won by Karen Barton 25-7 against Debbie Nixon from Mitcham on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at Lilydale.

**Men's Triples** final was also held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at Lilydale, with the Heathmont team of Mark Slade, Rod MacGregor and Nick Dawe winning 16-9 against the Mitcham team of Nigel Malcolm, Adam Donohue and Andrew McFarland.

**Women's Over 60's Pairs** – this final was held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at Heatherdale with the winners being Sandy Elliott and Lyn Cameron (Mooroolbark) 17-11 against Gordana Baric and Irma Turner from Monbulk.



**Mixed Pairs** – our best performing team was Karen Barton and Earl Mathison who made it to semi-final level.

**Champion of Champions** – will be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March so best wishes to Nick Dawe and Sandy Elliott.



Ladies Singles Champion Karen Barton, with "The Wiggles" triples champions.

### **State Championships:**

State Championships will be held from the 13<sup>th</sup> April to the 21<sup>st</sup> April at Bendigo East Bowling Club. Our representatives will be:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April: Norm Whitehead (Men's Singles)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April: Karen Barton (Women's Singles)

"Mark Slade, Rod MacGregor, Nick Dawe (Men's Triples)

Congratulations to all and best wishes – go 'Monters!

### **State Para Championships:**

Entries are now open for this event to be held from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> April at Kangaroo Flat Bowls Club.

### **Vic Open:**

Entries have now closed for the Vic Open to be held in the Gippsland area from the 19<sup>th</sup> March to the 28<sup>th</sup> March. The draw is now out and we have 24 players from Heathmont competing so good luck to you all!

**Con'd on Next Page**



**Ian de Blaquiere**

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## **BOWLS PRESIDENT REPORT Con'd**

### **Novice State Championships:**

This event will be held from the 10<sup>th</sup> May to the 13<sup>th</sup> May at Mulgrave CC Bowls Club, with entries now open. Events are Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Open Pairs. To qualify you need to have become an affiliated bowler after May 21<sup>st</sup> 2021, thereby giving a 3-year time frame. I would encourage all our newer bowlers to enter if possible, it will be a great experience!

### **O60 State Carnival:**

I know many of our over 60 members have already put their entries in for this carnival which is to be held from the 20<sup>th</sup> May to the 26<sup>th</sup> May in the Northern District Playing Area with Club Barham as the hub precinct. Events are Mixed Pairs, Men's & Women's Singles, Men's & Women's Pairs. See you there?

### **Pennant Update:**

Finals for both Midweek and Saturday Pennant are now done & dusted, congratulations to all our pennant players across all sides.

Please see Selectors' reports in this newsletter for more details.

Also on the subject of pennant finals – Heathmont has hosted both MWP and WP finals (ongoing) and an enormous amount of time and energy has been expended by members not involved in playing themselves. I wish to thank these people immensely as it is a big job and of great benefit to our club. At risk of forgetting someone, huge thanks to Terri Verberne, Greg Pullen, Paul Dodd, Karen Barton and I know there are many others! And of course to Mark Vezey for presenting our greens in tip top condition.

### **New Pennant Shirts:**

Terri Verberne and myself will be meeting shortly to check and distribute the latest order of club pennant shirts – it has been such a busy time for all but we will get there!

**Jack Attack:** The current season of Jack Attack commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> February and will finish on 20<sup>th</sup> March. There are 12 teams competing so approximately 40 bowlers turn up each Wednesday evening – competition is fierce both for bowling prowess and for best team shirts! Once again, Ken Barnhill is an absolute legend in running this event. Plus now sausages are available thanks to Lorraine & Brian Siddles.

### **Barefoot Bowls:**

Barefoot bowls has been running on Friday nights between 6.00 and 8.00 pm for 3 weeks and the numbers have been week (1) 11, week (2) 15 and week (3) 46!!! The program is run by Terri & Peter Verberne and myself, with terrific on-green support from Gary Meyers, Dennis Jay, Nigel Page, Michael Rae, Jeff Stanton. Please let us know if **YOU** can help out so as the same people don't have to be there every week. Players pay \$10 for bowls and a sausage and so far is proving to be very popular.

### **One More Thing:**

I have heard from a couple of members that they are unhappy with certain aspects of the club, mostly to do with pennant selection but other issues as well. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have with myself or other bowls committee members, or selectors if applicable.

Rumours can grow and flourish (often without foundation) if not properly addressed.

As the pennant season draws to an end, best wishes to you all for any further bowling you may have lined up (tournaments, state championships, Vic Open, etc) and to those who are travelling interstate and overseas.

Bowling will still be available over the winter period, so keep an eye out for further details.

***The Heat is On!***



**BOWLS PRESIDENT**

Janice MacGregor

## THE ROCKET LOUNGE IS BACK!!!

The following dates are pencilled in for the Rocket lounge so far. On the 5th May, The Sammy Owen blues band will be on, followed by a double bill of the The Stetson family with special guests Amarillo on 26th May, followed by Gallie and his band on 23 June, and lastly Opelousas on 7th July,



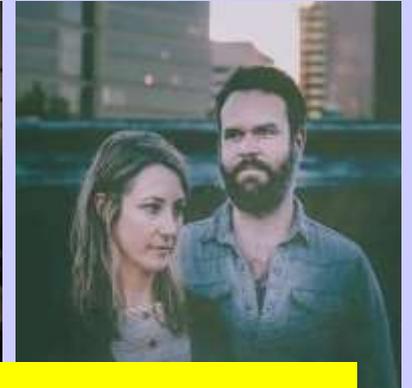
5th MAY

"The Sammy Owen  
Blues Band"



28th MAY

"The Stetson Family" and "Amarillo"



23rd June

"Gallie and his Band"



7th July

"Opelousas"

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The **AMAROO** is edited and prepared by **Brian Siddles**

Your next issue will be the **JUNE/JULY** edition - Closing date for copy will be JUNE 23rd  
Articles can be handed to the editor, or emailed to [bsiddles@bigpond.com](mailto:bsiddles@bigpond.com)