



# TOUCHER TOPICS

BORONIA BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER DEC 2013

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE. MAY YOU HAVE PEACE AND JOY THIS CHRISTMASTIDE AND MAY 2014 BRING YOU SUCCESS AND CONTENTMENT IN YOUR HOME, WORK, AND BOWLS.**



## **Executive Directors Report.**

As the year draws to a close, I must congratulate all the wonderful volunteers we have at our club. I know, at times there seems a lot to do and not enough people to help, but we are a club and we will only continue if we are all prepared to do our bit.

Our Gala Day and Mens' Classic have both been successful, as well as our Cup Eve. Well done to everyone who worked so hard for these events.

We have also been holding some bowling functions for other groups, and this raises much needed funds for other projects. Thanks to those members who come along and assist. Our barefoot bowls on Friday nights is going well and we would welcome more of our members. Come along and bring families or friends. It is a fun night!

Once again, don't forget our sponsors. They are very valuable to our club. Make sure you mention that you are from Boronia Bowls Club and remember to put your receipts in the sponsor box.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and I hope 2014 is a good year for all our members and our club.

***Margaret Grossbard.***

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Gerry Bevilacqua who is in rehab until December 21<sup>st</sup>. I'm sure everyone will be pleased to greet him back to the club even if he is unable to play for some time.

# **SPONSORS CORNER**

*The following are some of the sponsors that keep our club financial. Keep the in mind when you next need to make a purchase, repair or just some advice.*

## **Quest Apartments**

137 Mountain Highway  
WANTIRNA SOUTH.

Quest Knox in Wantirna is set on two acres of beautifully established gardens in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne, closely located to all major commercial and industrial areas.

Our apartments are spacious and offer a true 'home away from home' feel which appeals to both the corporate and leisure traveller.

## **Graeme Klein**

Advanced Dental Technicians  
196 Dorset Road  
Boronia.

## **JACKSONS HARDWARE & GARDEN SUPPLIES.**

2 Alchester Square  
BORONIA

See Colin Broome for friendly service for All your hardware and garden supplies.

## **15 Minutes with Joan Connan.**

Ed.

Tell me about your life story Joan, where did it all begin?

JC.

I was born in Colac in 1930 at the height of the depression. Why would you want a screaming baby in the height of the depression when you already had two beautiful girls aged 10 and 8?

Ed.

It must have been hard for your parents at that time.

JC.

Dad was an engineer in railway workshops, training apprentices. That closed down and put all those young men out of work. There was a chance of a job in Colac servicing ambulances and doctors' cars, and that's how I came to be born there. I grew up on the floor of dad's garage, and my toys were a can of old tools. For my birthday, dad gave me a micrometer screw gauge which I later took to school for "show and tell".

Ed.

You seemed to be moving around quite frequently, what about your schooling?

JC.

We had come back to Melbourne, and dad went wherever the work was. He was working for Shell Oil and installed the first petrol pump in Victoria. When I was six my first school was in Mildura, where we went for the Winter as my oldest sister had bronchitis (wet lungs) and couldn't stand the Melbourne Winters. So that was for six months and I subsequently went to schools in South Australia, Wagga, Gladstone, Brisbane and East Brunswick which was our family home. Mum was fairly religious and wherever we stayed, we became members of whatever religion was most prominent. I remember I was Church of England, Methodist, and Church of Christ, to name but a few.

Eventually came back to University High School where I was put into form 4 for maths and form 5 for English, but because I had not studied geography, history or art, I was put into form 3 for those. I was always getting into trouble at school and dad always came and bailed me out.

Ed.

Joan, you are quite a musical person, how did that come about?

JC.

Well, dad was a good brass player, mum played the piano as did my eldest sister Joyce, who was very good and won every competition, and my other sister June was an excellent violinist. I used to sleep in the room next to where Joyce practiced, and I thought to myself "I can do that", so I began to practice by ear.

Later, when my sisters entered a competition with Joyce being the accompanist to violinist June, they had an argument and June threatened to withdraw. To everyone's surprise I said that I could accompany her on the piano, and after much discussion, and although I couldn't reach the pedals, I did and we won the competition. This caused a greater rift between myself and Joyce. I soon went to music school and learned to sight read. I must say that every school I went to had a music teacher, so I had a reasonable understanding of it.

I left school at 18 and went to the Conservatory of Music and worked part-time as a youth leader in Collingwood. It was at this time I met Graham, my future husband, who worked around the corner at a Motive Club.

After 12 months at the Conservatory, I had a disagreement with the tutor, so after slamming the piano lid down, I put my foot through the piano. Dad came and extracted my leg, which was stuck, replaced the damaged parts, and took me out of there. I still have the scars on my leg to remind me!

I then went to the best music teacher of the time, Lindsay Biggins, who helped me get my Associate Diploma and Licentiate Diploma.

It was about this time that my older sister thought it would be a good idea to form a singing trio called the Bryan Sisters. We took in a friend of Joyces' and became a quartet. TV came in 1956 and we entered a talent quest and won,

Evie Hayes became our manager and we were her backing group, doing many radio commercials and other gigs until 1960.

Ed.

Didn't you also get into teaching?

JC.

I took a temp teaching course as part of a teaching diploma, and went to Upwey High for a short time. Then I went to Bayswater for 4 years, then got a promotion to Doveton where I had 10 very happy years. I was teaching music and junior math (including algebra and geometry). I finished up at Oakleigh where the Art Dept was run by four men who also took cookery classes, and during morning tea would do their knitting. It wasn't such a gay time, (editors' comment), because I was not allowed to use the school hall, which was set up for cricket and basketball, not for piano and band practice. I told the headmaster I was leaving, and that was the end of my teaching career.

Ed.

How did you get into bowls?

Graham and I moved our family to Ferntree Gully in 1997. Because Graham had been everywhere with his job, he'd had enough of traveling. I wanted to go to China so went with a girlfriend. She later suggested I go to U3A with her, which I did, and saw lawn bowls on the list of classes. I attended at Boronia and the first people I met were Lindsay Russell, Irene Lacy, a really gracious lady, and Terry Phillips. There was also a bumptious little man who had something to do with Glengollan.

I was lucky enough to win a beginners competition and still have the little glass trophy presented to me by Lindsay Russell. I had played tennis up to the age of 60 and still had good movement.

I wanted Graham to join the club but he had been diagnosed with dementia. He insisted he would not join because he refused to be in the company of men when he was not in control of his mind. "I know what I've got, and I know what I'll be like", he said.

Ed.

I can understand he left a big hole when he passed away. What do you do now to keep yourself occupied?

JC.

Graham died this year, and after sixty two and a half very happy years together, which included traveling around Australia in 1993/94, and having three sons, Brian born 1951, David born 1957 but living for only 11 months, and Chris born in 1958, I have been extremely lucky. These days it's bowls, one and a half days playing piano at Willowbrook Hostel, and the occasional outing with friends. I am a life member of MALTTA (Mountain Area Ladies Tuesday Tennis Association), and get to the odd event there.

Incidentally, Shirley and Les Moxon have just entered the Willowbrook Hostel and would love to meet old members.

May I just say that my mothers' family arrived in Australia in 1830, and my fathers' family in 1852, and I am very proud of my Australian heritage.

Ed.

Thanks for talking to me Joan.

### **Tels Teaser.**

We have 8 pairs of white socks, 9 pairs of black socks, and 11 pairs of blue socks in a box. Without looking in the box, what would be the minimum number socks that we need to take out to ensure that we get one pair the same colour?

### **SPARKS FLY ON THE GREEN.**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November saw 45 employees from AWM Electrical enjoy an evening of bowls preceded by a self inflicted BBQ meal. Approximately a dozen club members helped run the bowls, no names for fear of missing someone, but you know who you are, so thank you for putting in the time. These occasions are important for the club. Apart from raising much needed funds, to get these people interested in the game means potential recruits, and that must help the clubs' future. Congratulations helpers!

## Lady Presidents Report.

Hi everyone,

Things are going along nicely. Gala Day was good, \$1600 made on the day, slightly higher than last year. Many thanks to everyone for your input and help. Well done everyone.

Cup Eve was a good night. Margaret, Barbara, Gwen, and Olivia did a wonderful job in the kitchen. Thanks also to Bruce and Bryan for collecting the chickens. All the raffles were won by club members which was good.

We have a few fund raisers coming up for which we will be calling for volunteers. Thank you! Saturday sausage sizzle continues to do well thanks to Brenda Phillips and Ray Bilton. Well done.

What can I say about the meat raffle? Great job John McCarthy, and to all of you for buying the tickets. The weather has been yuck but there's not much we can do about that. There have been a couple of surprises in the club games. Well done to all who have participated, and much good luck for the rest of the games.

We have our Christmas dinner on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Please put your names down, bring your friends, we will have entertainment and a lovely meal. (Editors note: thanks Elvie, it was great).

That's all from me, be nice to one and other.

## ***Elvie***

PS. I would like to wish you and your families a very merry Xmas and happy and healthy New Year.

## **KILSYTH CLASSIC FOURS 2013** Report from Ian McLean.

24 teams including bowlers spread from Kyneton to Loch and in between, took part in this great annual event.

Apart from the winners from Mulgrave and runners-up from a composite Berwick/Heathmont, the highlights were:-

A magnificent morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, provided on the day by Pat Walton and her very depleted team of helpers, and the pre-game day ladies who do a lot of the preparation.

Maisie and Gary were again well in demand in the bar, and Gary also providing assistance with the scoreboard.

The great conditions of the greens, despite more than two inches of rain in the preceding 48 hours. When visiting bowlers from "synthetic" clubs compliment the back green, somebody has done a great job. Well done Guy.

However the top effort of the day must go to Daniel Price, who, when phoned to ask if he could help by selling raffle tickets at lunchtime, said "**I can do that**". He sure did, and the clubs' profit was \$440 from a solo effort by an 18 year old. If only a few more members put in the same effort as Daniel, and the others who made this day a great success. **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR THE CLUB APART FROM BOWL!!!!**

## **MENS PRESIDENTS REPORT.**

Where has 2013 gone? It only seems a blink of the eye since we opened the greens, and now we find half the pennant competition has been played, championship matches have been completed, and Christmas is upon us. Congratulations to our singles champions Cyn Caira and John McCarthy.

As Christmas comes closer, many business houses come to us for a bowls and barbecue evening, which means our small band of volunteers are called on to be in the bar, prepare and cook the barbecue, look after the guests for the bowls section of their evening, and carry the ever increasing work load which comes with these events.

I would like to thank these members for their efforts in conducting these events which provide income to run our club. If you would like to join this working group, please speak to the section secretaries and be included into the many events the club conducts throughout the season.

Merry Christmas to all members, drive safely while you're on holiday, and I look forward to meeting with you all again on the greens in the new year.

***Vin Hughes***

## **CRACK BOWLER MOVES TO THE COUNTRY.**

The clearance for one of its more conspicuous bowlers to go from Boronia to Benalla was approved on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013. David Treleaven, who for some time has been threatening to leave, has finally made his "escape to the country". The Club wishes him well, and also the bowlers at Benalla.

### **More sarcastic caddy comments.**

Golfer: "I think I'm going to drown myself in the lake."

Caddy: "Think you can keep your head down that long sir?"

Wife: "Do you want dinner?"

Husband: "Sure! What are my choices?"

Wife: "Yes or no."

## CHANGE OF GUARD IN SINGLES COMPETITIONS.

This year saw two quite unexpected results in the club singles championships, resulting in two new club champions. Congratulations to Cyn Caira and John McCarthy. Both games were enthralling for different reasons.



It was a sombre atmosphere at the start of the ladies final, as Annette was quickly 10 shots to one up. The noise from the line of spectators was deafening by its absence. From mid-game however, it was nip and tuck all the way with Cyn clawing back to 20-21 to be only one shot behind. The growing crowd had erupted into a ripple of polite applause. This was going unexpectedly to the wire. Annette had been forced into playing yard-on shots as Cyn found her length and was drawing close time and again, however many of Annettes' shots were just missing by a frustratingly small margin. The pivotal end came when Cyn drew four shots to lead 24 to 20, and after one last effort by Annette, the final shot came to end a most intriguing match. Annette really wanted this one to equal her friend Lesleys' record of 5 championships, but it was not to be. An emotional Cyn attributed her win to her beloved Gerry. Thank you ladies for putting on an excellent mornings' entertainment.

The mens' final saw two new finalists compete, and congratulations must go to John for not only winning the crown, but for actually getting there by playing his quarter and semi final on the same day, beating a former champion in the semi. An amazing effort in itself.



The game started with each bowler exchanging shots to 7-8, when John made a 4 followed immediately by 2 to lead 13-8.

Friendly banter could occasionally be heard wafting across the green, as well as the obligatory answers from marker Vin, to the often intelligent queries from the combatants. Indeed the game was being played in good spirits, although deep down Ian was hoping to be the oldest singles champ in the club. It could have been John's *laissez faire* attitude as always, (what will be will be), that allowed him to play his shots and not get rattled if they didn't come off.

Another 3 at 16-12 followed by two more singles, put him in a comfortable position at 21-12. Ian then pushed his bowl in for 21-13 until John came back with a 2 and a 1 to claim a seemingly insurmountable lead of 24-13. However, there is life in the old dog yet, and immaculate drawing saw Ian gain a further 2 shots followed by 2 more as John promoted one of his bowls. The end finally came when John drew the winning shot to go to 25-17 and end another enthralling game of bowls. WELL DONE TO BOTH PLAYERS.

The results of this year's finals show that, on a given day, anyone has a chance to play and win. To make the competition a success, it is important for every bowler to enter. Of course, half the entrants will lose in the first round, but part of the enjoyment is actually to participate. Who knows how far you can go if you win your first round? Much further than those who chose not to compete!

## **LADIES RUN ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GALA DAY**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October saw the GALA DAY run in winning form. All the time and hard work put in by our ladies proved very worthwhile with a total of \$1511.95 taken on the day. There were a few items sold subsequently but congratulations ladies on another excellent job, and a total that surpassed that of last year.

Where would we be without our ladies?

## **CUP EVE RAFFLE STAYS INHOUSE.**

Congratulations to those lucky people who won the fantastic prizes at the Cup Eve dinner.

Lex Hardy won the set of bowls.

Edith Whitehead the digital camera,

Heather Croker the picnic hamper.

Lex will no doubt go for “Scotland” bowls and Edith is still struggling with the instructions to turn the camera on. This digital age is too much for me too!

## **BORONIA RELINQUISHES THE “SIR GEORGE KNOX SHIELD”.**

16 intrepid bowlers made the bus trip to Parliament House to defend the Sir George Knox Trophy, held by the club for the last four years. The “green” had been freshly ploughed and all was ready for another interesting day. Unfortunately there were only three sides attended which meant Boronia had to sit out while Waverley Golf and Ferntree Gully went head to head. When it was time (around 12 noon) for Boronia to play, their opponents were already familiar with the surface, and so we started behind the eight-ball. After a gallant effort, and sumptuous lunch, Boronia ended up just 5 shots behind the winner, Waverley Golf, so they really did us proud.

A great day was had by all, the highlight being a grand tour of Parliament House followed by a comfortable bus ride home.

## **EDITORS COMMENT.**

What a great day was Melbourne Cup day. The 100,000 attendees at Flemington who placed bets with the bookies, were shouting and hollering as their horses galloped down the straight towards the finishing post. Of course only a very few horses ended up winning for their supporters, but the excitement was in watching them come home (with the exception of Verema, who broke down), and wondering where they would finish. That excitement, unfortunately, was not enjoyed by all. Those punters who bought sweep tickets were not all allocated a horse, which puts them out of the running even before the start of the big race. Surely if you have a small bet, in many cases the only bet for the year, you should be entitled to a horse, or even a nag, upon which to vent your excitement. Otherwise no interest at all. Perhaps it is time to go back to the old way of running the sweeps, and that is to fill each card as the punters come in, with both \$2 and \$1 sweeps on the same race. At least then everyone will have something to cheer about.

The Grim Reaper came for me last night and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.



## **OLDER BUT GOLDER**

December birthdays.

Noel Comport 1<sup>st</sup>, Ian McLean 6<sup>th</sup>, Graeme Turner 9<sup>th</sup>, Amy Haartsen 10<sup>th</sup>,  
Graeme Smith 14<sup>th</sup>, Maisie Dodds 19<sup>th</sup>, Marion Lee 23<sup>rd</sup>, Robert Kohler 28<sup>th</sup>.

If this Toucher Topics came out after your birthday, we hope it was a memorable one. To the others, have a great time and best wishes from us all.

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

An Irish daughter had not been home for over three years. Upon her return, her father yelled at her, "Where have ye been all this time? Why did ye not write to us? Not even a line. Why didn't ye call? Can ye not understand what ye put yer old mother thru?"

The girl, crying, replied, sniff, sniff, "Dad...I was too embarrassed, I became a prostitute."

"Ye what!?! Get out of here, ye shameless hussy! Sinner! You're a disgrace to this Catholic family, so ye are."

"OK Daddy, as ye wish. I just came back to give Mammy this luxurious fur coat and a title deed to an eight bedroom mansion plus a \$5 million cheque.

For me little brother Seamus, this gold Rolex. And for ye Daddy, this sparkling new Mercedes limited edition convertible that's parked outside, plus a membership to the Limerick Country Club."

She takes a breath and continues, "and an invitation for ye all to spend New Years Eve on board my new yacht in the Caribbean."

"Now what was it ye said ye had become?" says Daddy.

Girl, crying again, sniff, sniff, .."A prostitute Daddy!" ...sniff, sniff....

"Oh be Jesus! Ye scared me half to death girl, I thought ye said Protestant. Come here and give yer old Daddy a big hug."

A mate of mine recently admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time.....

**CLEANING ROSTER FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY**

<b>TEAM NO. 3</b>		<b>TEAM NO. 4</b>	
<b>Keith Scutt</b>	1 Sep to 7 Sep	<b>Stuart Eastwood</b>	8 Sep to 14 Sep
Annette Scutt	1 Dec to 7 Dec	Jim Arnott	8 Dec to 14 Dec
George Bisset	9 Mar to 15 Mar	Robyn Jones	16 Mar to 22 Mar
Max Lyon		Craig Drill	
Troy Haartsen		Greg Johnson	
Brian McCristal		Mark Westley	
Paul McAloney			
<b>TEAM NO. 5</b>		<b>TEAM NO. 6</b>	
<b>Lindsay Russell</b>	15 Sep to 21 Sep	<b>Margaret Grossbard</b>	22 Sep to 28 Sep
Lesley Russell	15 Dec to 21 Dec	Henry Grossbard	29 Dec to 4 Jan
Irene Major	23 Mar to 29 Mar	Ron Evans	30 Mar to 5 Apr
Bob Williams		John Jennings	
Graeme Greene		Len Doddrell	
Noel Dowler		Alan Horwood	
<b>TEAM NO. 7</b>		<b>TEAM NO. 8</b>	
<b>Vin Roche</b>	29 Sep to 5 Oct	<b>Bryan Dennehy</b>	6 Oct to 12 Oct
Ian Mclean	5 Jan to 11 Jan	John Robinson	12 Jan to 18 Jan
Margaret Woodford	6 Apr to 12 Apr	Marn Wynn	13 Apr to 19 Apr
Marc Buis		Alan Forster	
Keith Groenewegen		Graeme Turner	
		Stuart Schmolling	
<b>TEAM NO. 9</b>		<b>TEAM NO. 10</b>	
<b>Terry Phillips</b>	13 Oct to 19 Oct	<b>Bruce &amp; Lin Perry</b>	20 Oct to 26 Oct
Brenda Phillips	19 Jan to 25 Jan	David Inglis	26 Jan to 1 Feb
Mal Barrow	20 Apr to 26 Apr	Ray Bilton	27 Apr to 3 May
Daniel Price		Garry Overs	
David Fletcher		Ron Marsh	
		George Lynn	

**Answer to Tels Teaser.**

Four. There are three different colours, so the first three socks may not match. The fourth one however, will match one of the previous three.