



# TOUCHER TOPICS

BORONIA BOWLS CLUB NEWSLETTER DEC 2014

Message from our Executive Director.

It has been very pleasing to see the club spirit enhanced by members who have stood up to fill pennant sides both on Tuesday's and Saturday's when the Club has been faced with the possibility of forfeiting games.

Those who have helped out can stand tall amongst our members. Two of them skipped teams which were rink of the week on a Tuesday and Saturday respectively.

In a previous issue members were advised that "home games away at Bayswater" would be shared by all four Saturday teams from December until the end of the current season, as a directive from the Committee of Management during the reconstruction of the back green. The Committee of Management believed in sharing the inconvenience amongst ALL members. Unfortunately a Bowls Victoria directive demands that the higher grade MUST play at home.

Bayswater have however been very generous in all aspects of this time of inconvenience and will allow our members to practice on their greens on the days leading up to the games. Thank you Bayswater.

What an amazing result from our Gala Day. In excess of \$2,000 being raised by our ladies. Congratulations to all who contributed. I believe this may be a record amount for this event.

The tremendous effort put in by our ladies, under the supervision of Lesley Russell, provided an excellent meal for the 112 bowlers who took part in our Club Kilsyth Open Fours, which resulted in a further \$2,000, including sponsorship, being added to our funds.

The response to our letter drop, and Biggin & Scott, has seen a dramatic increase in numbers attending "barefoot bowls" on a Friday night. Please give our organizers your support by adding your name to the list of volunteers in the foyer. You do not have to commit to every week.

**Jan McLean**

Executive Director.

# **SPONSORS CORNER**

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

## **BIGGIN & SCOTT KNOX**

Our major sponsor for season 2014-15. They deal in all types of real estate including rentals for the whole of Knox area.

With Biggin & Scott your property will get the best exposure being listed on 4 real estate websites.

Biggin & Scott's marketing has been independently judged as some of the most innovative and creative in the market.

## **PETE THE HANDYMAN**

For friendly, reliable service call Pete on 0425 723 598. He can help with most jobs. No job too big or small. Landscaping, Paving, Carpentry, General Repairs.  
Call Pete for an obligation free Quote.

## From London to Hong Kong By Train

This is a fascinating account of the adventures of John Robinson, his wife Lesley, and her sister and husband who they caught up with in Prague this year. We thank John for sharing it with us.

After 2 ½ weeks driving 1000 miles around England and Wales it was time to head for Europe and our train adventure. So on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September, got up at 5.00am, got dressed and packed and headed for Kings Cross St Pancras Station to catch the Eurostar to Brussels. At Brussels we changed to an ICE train to Cologne (got up to 244K/H) and at Cologne changed to another ICE train to Berlin. After two nights in Berlin, caught a train to Prague where we stayed for four nights, with a day trip to Cesky Krumlov.

The only part of the trip we did not go by train was the flight from Prague to St Petersburg. Our time in St Petersburg was spent having a good look around. We queued in the rain to visit the Hermitage Museum, spent the afternoon there and saw as much as we could. I went to a train museum as well. We traveled by train to Moscow, a big city and more modern than we expected. We were surprised at how small Red Square is. We enjoyed a visit to the Kremlin and a cruise on the Moscow River.



Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September we packed up and went shopping for things to eat on the train. We were picked up from our accommodation and taken to Moscow station, where we boarded the Tran-Siberian train, which departed

at 1.10pm. The compartment was a bit cramped for the four of us, but we swapped around so that we all had a turn at the window seats. It took till 5.25pm to cover only 285 Km and reach our first stop where we could get out and stretch our legs. After dinner in the dining car, we made up our beds. The men on the top and the ladies on the bottom. Soon got the hang of



getting in and out of the top bunk. Spent the next four days watching the ever changing scenery (forests of birch and pine and farmland, mainly maize), eating, sleeping and getting off at some of the stations and buying food with Russian labeling and hoping it was OK. As the train ran on Moscow time, we arrived at the station nearest our stop-over in Siberia, Irkutsk at 3.38am Moscow time (8.38am Local time). On the way to Listvyanka (Lake Baikal) we visited the Taltsy Wooden Architecture museum. This was very interesting, showing how buildings had changed since the time of the nomads. We then carried on to our chalet, approximately 800 meters up a hill from the lake foreshore. We had the afternoon to explore the local area. The next morning we went on a ferry to Port Baikal where we went for a 5Km walk along the old Circumbaikal rail line to a tunnel, then stopped beside the lake for a barbecue lunch with local delicacies. Then back to the chalet. Next day we were picked up and taken back to Irkutsk. We wandered around Irkutsk in the afternoon, looking at the lovely churches and old wooden buildings. The outdoor market was so interesting, with lots of grapes and autumn berries for sale. We spent the night



in a hotel, before an early morning start to catch the train. The train for this part of the journey was a Mongolian train. At about 9.30pm the Russian security check and custom control, started. This took about two to three hours. Then about midnight we had the same thing for the Mongolian security and customs. Finally got to sleep about 3.00am. Were rudely awoken about 5.45am and told to have a wash and hand in our

linen. We were met at Ulaanbaatar by our Mongolian guide and persuaded him to take us to a hotel for two hours to have a shower, rest and a change of clothes. He then took us to a nice restaurant for breakfast. After breakfast we visited the Gandan Buddhist Lamasery (monastery) and the Bogd Khan Palace Museum. Had lunch, then traveled to the Gorkhi Terelj National Park and the Buuveit Camp where we spent two nights in a Ger. Next day after a Mongolian breakfast we visited Turtle Rock, an unusual rock formation that looks like a turtle, and a remote Buddhist monastery. The afternoon was spent exploring around the camp. Next morning after packing up we visited a local family and tried their homemade yoghurt on biscuits, salty milky tea and a local spirit made from fermented yoghurt; it was a bit strong for 10am!! We then traveled back to Ulaanbaatar, a very large and dusty town.. In the evening we went to a performance by throat singers, Mongolian

Traditional Dancers and a contortionist (I didn't think you could get your body into some of the positions she did). The next morning, another early start, we walked to the station to once more board the train. This part of the journey was staffed by a Chinese crew. Traveling through the Mongolian countryside we were a bit bored by then so played a game of Spot the Camel. They are two humped Bactrian camels; it was very hard to get a decent photo through the train window. We passed through a section of the Gobi Desert, rolling hills with a few trees here and there, we saw a couple of lakes as well. At 7.00pm we arrived at the Mongolian customs checkpoint which took over one hour. Half an hour later we were at the Chinese customs. They have to change the bogies as the Chinese use a different gauge. We stayed on the train, while the carriages were raised and lowered and this took till 1.20am, we then rolled into Erlian station where we were welcomed to China. The station was floodlit and the speakers were playing Viennese waltz music. Lesley and I had a waltz around the station forecourt at 1.30 am it was all a bit surreal. We finally got on our way at 2am. When we woke up we were in the mountains of Northern China. There are sixty tunnels all numbered between the border and Beijing. We arrived at Beijing at 11.40am, and this was the end of the Trans-Siberian part of our trip. We



we were a bit sad that it was all over. We spent three nights in Beijing and went to a night market, Tiananmen Square, The Forbidden City, the Great Wall (climbed up to the second watch tower) and the Summer Garden. On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October left Beijing for Guangzhou on the fast train (2400Km in eight hours). Had a relaxing first day in Guangzhou, and then walked all over the area around our hotel, worked our way around the Metro and visited other parts of the city. Went to the Sculpture garden, a fascinating place, and Luhu Park with a nice lake. Guangzhou is a very large city, there is a large African population, also many people from the Middle East live there. After three nights in Guangzhou, we left on the through train to Kowloon. On arrival in Hong Kong, we bought an Octopus card for use on the Metro. Negotiated 3 trains

on the subway to Wan Chai where we were staying .For the next four days we were busy tourists in Hong Kong, we went to Stanley on the bus, had several rides on the tram, sitting up the top and looking at the sights. We loved the Star Ferry at dusk, and went up to the Peak at night to see the lights. A man we met on a station recommended a visit to Lantau Island to



have a ride on the cable car to see the big Buddha, so off we went. By the time we boarded our Malaysian Airlines flight we were exhausted .In fifty two days we had been on thirteen different trains, plus the Metro in every big city .The slowest train was the Metro from Southern Cross to Boronia.

### **Joke of the Month**

Everyone seems to be in such a hurry to scream “racism” these days.

A customer asked, “In what isle could I find the Irish sausages?”

The assistant asks, “Are you Irish?”

The guy, clearly offended, says, “Yes I am, but let me ask you something. If I had asked for Italian sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian?

Or if I had asked for German bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German?

Or if I asked for a kosher hot dog, would you ask me if I was Jewish?

Or if I had asked for a Taco, would you ask if I was Mexican?

Or if I had asked for Polish sausage, would you ask if I was Polish?

The assistant says, “No, I probably wouldn’t.”

The guy says, “Well then, just because I asked for Irish sausage, why did you ask me if I was Irish?”

The assistant replied, “Because you’re in Bunnings.”

## **OBSERVATIONS FORTHE MONTH.**

Boronia Village Pharmacy has now moved to the other side of Boronia Road and is now called PharmaCare, Boronia Discount Pharmacy.

Nick and Patrick are still there to answer your queries and continue the good service you have come to expect.

Congratulations to Karen Barton and Dennis Sawyer for entering the group novice championships and flying the Boronia flag.

Terry Phillips and Alan Horwood won the Club Pairs championship against Brian McCrystal and Sam Trickey. Well done Sam for making the finals, a new bowler with a great future at the club.

Signs of improvement on a Saturday. After six rounds of pennant there were 17 games won as opposed to 6 in the same period last year.

First side were in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, second side 3<sup>rd</sup>, third side 2<sup>nd</sup>, and fourth side 5<sup>th</sup>. Looks like a much better season ahead.

Ladies Gala Day raised nearly \$2400 for the club with their stalls and raffles and entry fees. A good result for all the hard work the ladies always put in. A well organized day with excellent lunch was enjoyed by the many visitors and members. Well done ladies.

Another very busy day for those ladies working in the kitchen helped make the Kilsyth Classic a successful event. This raised \$2000 for the club, including \$600 from the sponsor Club Kilsyth.

Congratulations to the winners, our own Bill Paus, John King, Peter Stiff and Mal Barrow.

The organizers of both gala days did a magnificent job, and we expect full houses next year also.

I wondered why the ball was getting bigger, then it hit me.
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## **Message from our Bowls President.**

Christmas is approaching very quickly and before we know it, the season is half over. However this season is turning out to be one of the better ones.

The Ladies Gala Day and the Men's Classic Day were both very successful. Barefoot bowls is proving very popular and we have around 6 Christmas Barefoot parties to cater for. These events can only be great for the club financially as well as providing a source of new bowlers / members. Please put your hand up to assist in the running of these events.

A big thank you to all the members that have been assisting in helping out. From those that cook the sausages after pennant, those that come down on Friday nights to help at Barefoot, etc. These things wouldn't happen without you.

The renovation of the back green is soon to start. This green is well past its use by date. It was last done around 1998 and bent grass greens usually last about 5 years. Greenkeeper Guy has done a fantastic job maintaining this green for us but now is the time to replace it. You might have noticed that after dry weather, the speeds have been around 17 seconds, it rains and it's back to 12 seconds. Not good.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Yours in bowling

***Bryan Dennehy***

**Congratulations** to our Club Singles Champions for 2014, Lesley Russell and Brian (Macca) McCristal.

Full report in next issue of Toucher Topics.

**WE** always care about our “sickies” and their spouses/partners, particularly at this time of the year as Christmas approaches.

We’ll be thinking especially about Gerald Kligerman in Centennial Lodge, Lewis Road, about Graham Worthington in palliative care, about George Lynn now back home, about Tony Buckingham at home and gradually on the mend, about Keith Scutt who will probably be home when this comes out, about Peter Marshall who, after more tests, hopefully has a clean bill of health, and about Peter Stiff, Lex Hardie, and Ron Marsh, all at home recovering.

We send our best wishes to all those under the weather or not feeling too well, and hope they are comforted in the knowledge they have friends at the club who are thinking of them.

### **FROM THE BAR.**

Many thanks to Irene Major; we now have chocolate treats @\$2 per pack..

With the expected long, hot summer, take advantage of the Legionnaires caps for protection from the sun, now only \$5.00, a bargain in any sense of the word.

For those members on cleaning duty, and those trying to help keep the surrounds tidy, please do not put general rubbish in the blue recycling bins. The brown bins are for this use.

The bar has been doing very well on Friday nights with the bare-foot bowls. This introduction to the game is an important part of our recruitment strategy and thanks goes to those involved.

All the toilets in London police stations have been stolen. Police say they have nothing to go on.
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## **OLDER BUT GOLDER**

These are our December birthday boys and girls.

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

We wish them all a very happy and peaceful birthday with many more to come.

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It escaped our notice last month when one of our members achieved a significant milestone. Yes, Santa is now able to claim the age pension having reached the ripe old age of 65. Makes us all feel so much older but sincerely hope his duties at Christmas celebrations are not impeded?

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On a more sad note, the recent passing of Kevin Gamel, although not entirely a surprise, nonetheless was distressing to his many friends at the club. Kevin bowled at the club for many enjoyable years and always took his bowls seriously. He became an identity at the club and when his health prevented him from playing, he was often seen on the sidelines giving support to all sides.

An old Footscray boy, Kevin moved into Boronia about 35 years ago and had been married for 50 years. He died aged 78.

He is survived by wife Bev, daughter Janine, son David and five grandchildren.

VALE KEVIN GAMEL.

Cleaning Roster for December only.

<b><u>TEAM NO. 1</u></b>		<b><u>TEAM NO. 2</u></b>	
<b>John McCarthy</b>	31 Aug to 6 Sept	<b>Bruce LeGrew</b>	7 Sept to 13 Sept
Brian Carolan	23 Nov to 29 Nov	Heather Couples	30 Nov to 6 Dec
Cheryl McCarthy	22 Feb to 28 Feb	Jeff Edwards	1 Mar to 7 Mar
Gerry Gommers		Stuart Cripps	
Peter Croker		Stuart Eastwood	
		Patrick Taylor	

<b><u>TEAM NO.3</u></b>		<b><u>TEAM NO. 4</u></b>	
<b>Keith Scutt</b>	14 Sept to 20 Sept	<b>Jim Arnott</b>	21 Sept to 27 Sept
Annette Scutt	7 Dec to 13 Dec	Robyn Jones	14 Dec to 20 Dec
George Bisset	8 Mar to 14 Mar	Craig Drill	15 Mar to 21 Mar
Max Lyon		Greg Johnson	
Brian McCristal		Graeme Greene	
Paul McAloney		Margaret Bennett	

<b><u>TEAM NO. 5</u></b>		<b><u>TEAM NO. 6</u></b>	
<b>Lindsay Russell</b>	28 Sept to 4 Oct	<b>Bob Lancaster</b>	5 Oct to 11 Oct
Lesley Russell	28 Dec to 3 Jan	Ron Evans	4 Jan to 10 Jan
Irene Major	22 Mar to 28 Mar	John Jennings	29 Mar to 4 Apr
Bob Williams		Len Doddrell	
Noel Dowler		Alan Horwood	
Royce Wardle		Graeme Ashmore	

**LOCATION:** Royal Canberra Golf Club, former Prime Minister Bob Hawke on the first tee.

“Sir, I understand you must probably be a new member here, but even you should know that you cannot take your first shot three metres ahead of the marker.”

The PM ignored the comment and continued to address the ball.

“Listen, I am Chairman of the greens. I must remind you to go back behind the white markers otherwise I will have to report you to the board.”

Eventually Bob looked up and replied, “Let me tell you three things mate. In the first place you are annoying the hell out of me. In the second place, I have been a member of this club almost twelve months now. In the third place this is my second shot. Now shut up and let me continue the game.