

## Deakin Community Award nomination for Lloyd Iaccarino – aged 26, Vermont South resident, Vermont South Bowls club coach – Open Category

Lloyd's passion for sport and his desire to share that passion with others has been obvious since he joined Vermont South Club, 19 years ago in 2001, initially as a member of the Tennis Section, where his natural ability to lead, his loyalty and his respect, underpinned what was to become many, many years of dedicated sporting endeavour and service to the club.

In 2007, he started playing competitive Saturday Pennant bowls at the age of 14. He immediately demonstrated skill, enthusiasm and a keen sense to belong. With bowling experience and involvement in teams of the highest levels, his love of competition, spirited performances and sportsmanship always shone through.

As club coach, Lloyd communicated confidently and effectively with the older members of the bowls club, and with his gift of humour he can easily navigate that sometimes challenging work of teaching older members new approaches to the game. His unique style connects him with bowlers regardless of age, gender or physical skill and progress (individually and as a club) becomes obvious.

With empathy and understanding well beyond his age, Lloyd still encourages younger people to learn and embrace the game and it is due to him that the number of young bowlers are increasing at Vermont South.

### **Bowls achievements as a player**

- currently 2019-2020 Eastern Ranges Regional Open Singles Champion
- commenced competitive bowling in 2007 at aged 14 playing Saturday Pennant with Vermont South Bowls Club
- in 2010, Lloyd became integral part of a focus committee to develop a place within bowls for younger people at Vermont South. He began working with primary and lower secondary students in a weekly after school session to introduce them to lawn bowls. This effort culminated in two school holiday sessions at the end of term 2 and again in September at the end of term 3 with an attendance of 40 primary and lower secondary children. Lloyd was able to organise engaging sessions that were fun, and he was able to communicate in ways appropriate to his audience, including some students with special needs
- these small groups continued from 2010 to the end of 2013 and were initiatives that have since been adopted by many bowls clubs. Lloyd continued to encourage the club to connect with schools and many successful extensions to PE Programs have eventuated at the club.
- played premier league bowls (the highest level in Victoria) with three different clubs Burwood, Melbourne and Croydon, including one finals series
- led the Vermont South Bowls Club, Side 1 into the Div. 1 final in 2019.
- 3 times Vermont South Bowls Club Pairs Champion
- twice Vermont South Bowls Club Singles Champion
- twice Eastern Ranges Regional Under25 Champion
- twice selected for the Victorian State Bowls team trials
- twice selected as an Eastern Ranges Regional Bowls Representative
- Victorian Open Mixed Pairs Semi finalist
- Victorian Open Men's Triples Quarter finalist
- an Australian Open Men's Fours Quarter finalist
- 2019, 2020 played in the winning team of Deakin Challenge Cup against other club sides within Deakin Electorate.
- in 2020 initiated successful, twice a week Zoom sessions for club members during the initial COVID 19 lock down in March, April and May. This included external guest interviews, focus topics and an opportunity for club members to together to talk, discuss their day and enable them to still feel connected. These sessions still continue.

## **Bowls Coaching**

- qualified level 1 coach, and has been mentored by Lachie Tighe, an international bowls coach
- appointed Vermont South Bowls Club non-paying coach in 2016 whilst playing premier league with Croydon Bowls Club
- head of Junior Development at Vermont South Bowls Club 2010-2012
- co-coordinator of coaching and night pennant at Vermont South Bowls Club 2013-14
- in 2015 and 2016 developed a winter skills training program for club bowlers
- in 2018 developed a winter skills program for a selected group of new bowlers to develop and enhance their skills
- has set a tone for club success by setting individual focused training and game plans to achieve a competitive edge
- recently participated in numerous coaching videos.

## **Key Achievements at Vermont South during his coaching time:**

- Saturday pennant Div. 2 section semi-finalist in his first year of coaching 2016-17
- Saturday pennant Division 2 Section grand finalist in 2017-18
- Saturday pennant, 7 out of 8 sides in sectional finals in 2017-18 with 2 promotions to next division
- Saturday pennant Division 2 Section winner in 2018-19 earning promotion into division 1
- Saturday pennant 4 out of 8 sides in sectional finals in 2018-19 with 4 promotions to next division
- Saturday pennant Division 1 Section finalist in 2019-20, first year in Div. 1, a rare achievement

## **Other sports**

- **Tennis** Lloyd played competition tennis from the age of about 8 at the Vermont South Club. For 5 years from the age of about 15 became a junior tennis coach.
- in 2010, chosen by the Vermont South Tennis Club 2010 to attend a Management Training Course run by Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria to assist tennis clubs to develop future leaders
- **Netball** Lloyd played junior netball for St Timothy's Club in Whitehorse Netball Association League. He also played mixed netball in Whitehorse Netball Association league and became a Grade B umpire.

## **Other Achievements**

Lloyd's maturity and leadership capabilities were evident well before he completed secondary school.

- school captain at both St. Timothy's Primary School (2005) and Emmaus Junior Campus (2009) and student leader at Emmaus Senior Campus (2010)
- Junior Leadership Ambassador 2009-2011
- Selected as Emmaus College sole representative to attend Mary Mackillop canonisation ceremony in Rome
- in 2011, received Principal Award at Emmaus College for outstanding contribution to the college from years 7-12.
- Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award given by Australian Defence Force to the student who demonstrates leadership and teamwork within both the school and the broader local community in both 2009 and 2010.
- DAV debating finalist 2011.
- Legacy Public Speaking Competition finalist 2009
- Volunteer Work for Kirstie Marshall OAM 2010 and participated as scrutineer in the State election
- participated fully in a range of activities throughout high school (history competitions, charity concerts, public speaking, community service, school productions (2008 – 2011) and musicals.

## **In Summary**

Lloyd has always been keen to learn and improve his skills as a player, coach and leader, always encouraging, demonstrating and engendering Club and community pride. His personal growth since joining the tennis and bowls club has been praiseworthy and his contributions to the achievements of the Vermont South Bowls Club have been admirable. The local community and the sport of lawn bowls is indeed fortunate to have such a committed and talented young leader.