



32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REPORTS SUNDAY, 3RD MAY 2026

MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of 31st AGM Minutes – May 2025
3. Presentation and Acceptance of Annual Reports
4. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members
5. Notification of Sub-Committees and Supporting Positions
6. General Business
 - Motion - “That the Vermont South Bowling Club Rules, confirmed by the Bowls Committee on 3rd February 2026, be adopted subject to the approval of the VSC Committee of Management.”
 - Local Legend
7. Next Annual General Meeting Date – 2nd May 2027

SEASON 2025/2026 ANNUAL REPORTS (FOLLOW)

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Bowls Section Chairperson – Di Agius

When it began
We all began by knowing
That the Vee's spirit was growing strong
Started in Spring
and Spring became the Summer
Who would believe we'd grown so strong
Hands..... rolling bowls
Aiming true
Winning ends
Let them roll
Go Vermont South
Good times never seemed so good (so good, so good, so good)
Go Vee's go
Winning pennants as we should
Win, lose or draw
We just keep smiling
Knowing our club is happy and strong
And in the end
We will get together
Enjoying the company of our friends
Hands..... rolling bowls
Aiming true
Winning ends
Let them roll
Go Vermont South
Good times never seemed so good (so good, so good, so good)
Go Vee's go
Winning pennants as we should

What a song and what a club we are!!!!

What a year it's been and how exciting! So many events across the club, our social comps, our magnificent tournaments and club championships and a very successful pennant campaign. Then there are all the other activities with our card group, our exercise group, our corporate functions, barefoot bowls, jack attack and Friday drinks and cards. Have we had a good year.....you bet we have.....some might even say it's been a great year and we have a catch cry and club theme song as well now. It was so fantastic to see everyone singing along when our song was first introduced, so a big thank you to Sue and Peter Morgan for their creative writing. Our sense of community and feeling of belonging is strong and we are certainly living up to our reputation of being "the friendly club".

We all should be so proud of what we have built over more than 40 years of volunteering and hard work. I salute all those that have contributed to making our club a great one.

The bowls committee have been very appreciative of the support they have received in representing the members again this year.

We have completed a lot of work on our governance arrangements, reviewing and updating our Club Rules, creating job descriptions for all positions across the club and developing a code of conduct policy for all participants involved with the sport. I personally want to thank all the volunteers that have undertaken the roles in sub-committees and support positions, not only this year but for the 5 years I have been Chairperson. The committee has made it a priority to recognise our volunteers and members with a “thank you” afternoon tea every year because you are the heartbeat of our club and without you, we would not be here. If we continue to work together our future will be secure, so please come along. I encourage everyone to continue to be involved in any capacity you can manage, to maintain our long-term viability.

Our social program which includes our social days, Balmoral Cup, Mulgrave Challenge, mega bowl, barefoot bowls and jack attack, has had great attendance figures again this year and we thank all the volunteer convenors (Mal Walker; John Strybosch; Ray Spelman; Rob Graham; Paul Drew; Peter Ballam; John Temple; Mary Farley; Trevor Holland; Alan Rolfe; Mike Petty; Ken George, Peter Morgan; Matt Hay; Rick Carver; Pam Barnhill; Elaine Kendler) for the effort they put in for the enjoyment of the members always exploring opportunities to gain new members to the club.

Our Tournaments – Ladies Day; Super 4s and the newly introduced Ladies Club Challenge with Croydon were all a huge success and we must acknowledge all involved in supporting these events to attract a full field each time. Special thanks to Pam Barnhill who leads our team of catering ladies, John Strybosch who coordinates the male members supporting our Ladies Day and Croydon Challenge and overall, our Tournament Director Mike Petty. It takes a huge effort to make these events so successful so thank you to everyone involved. We must also thank our sponsors Mark Kainey, Kieser, KCL, Bendigo Bank, Balmoral Village and Keyton for enabling us to promote such high-profile events. Oh, and by the way, the winners were Vermont South, Vermont South and Vermont South!!!!

Our pennant campaign was successful with 8 teams making finals. However, we not only made finals, 5 teams made the grand final of their division and we won 3 section flags.....five teams will be promoted, others consolidated in the division they had been promoted to this season and no team was relegated.....some might say that the selectors got it right and others.....well let's not dwell on what they might be saying!!! There will be a review of the season and we will continue to strive to improve our competitive edge in this area of the club. Go Vees!!

I want to thank our Selection panels, for their hard work and the number of hours committed to a very difficult responsibility and commend them for their efforts this year. With the review of the club rules selection panels will be approved and appointed by the bowls committee and announced at the AGM. However, there are many volunteers who support our competitive arm of the club with the various jobs required including – the greens team (committed to keeping our greens in top class condition), emergency players, duty rinks, Bowlslink entries, team managers, catering staff, housekeeping and supplies, our club uniform ladies, bar staff, coaches, umpire coordinator, umpires, measurers, controlling body duties, and of course Quasimodo. It is a huge effort by everyone every week and why our club is a great one.

We must also thank our Head Coach, Peter Wardle for his contribution to our success this year. Peter is very low key and prefers to work in the background but let us not underestimate the value he has brought to players with his individual coaching. One on one coaching is the best you can have to maximise your potential and many players have let me know how Peter's coaching has certainly improved the way they go about their bowls.

The committee acknowledges and congratulates all players involved in the Pennant season of 2025/2026. We are so proud of how you represented yourselves and our club.

Our membership numbers have continued to drop over the past 3 years, which is becoming a trend. Although we recruited a healthy 12 players since our last AGM we continue to have more members reaching the stage where their capacity to keep bowling has been reduced. We continue to recruit through our usual avenues but this year we will be holding a community day across all of the VSC and hopefully this might draw a lot of interest in taking up our sport. I thank all of our members again for the way they represent our club and I know other clubs are envious of the culture we have here. Membership needs to be a major focus for the incoming committee.

We have been able to achieve the upgrade of our kitchen and with the addition of the projector and overhead screen it has enabled us to present ourselves more professionally and open up opportunities for more corporate events. Our ladies certainly love the updated kitchen. We have been working with the VSC to create a 5–10-year plan in developing our sporting precinct and are certainly pushing for more shelter and a dome would be a nice addition. We thank the VSC for working with us in partnership enabling us to fulfil our role and responsibilities.

Our Club Championship committee, consisting of Graeme Durrant, Mal Walker and David Fisher must be congratulated on their efforts this year. We have had a record number of entries in most of the events and results where everyone had a chance to win depending on how they played on the day. Congratulations to all players who entered. What a fabulous success they have been and I look forward to our presentation day when winners will receive their trophies and acknowledgments. Make sure you come along.

Our latest Action Plan has been updated and distributed to members detailing our planning and progress on an ongoing basis. I have had the opportunity to conduct a club review holding sessions with members. This has given the incoming committee a lot of information to evaluate and consider. It is very important for us to take a moment to determine where we are and what needs to be considered in planning for moving forward. I thank everyone for their honest and open contribution to this discussion.

We have continued to keep you up to date as much as possible via eNews (thanks to John Temple); our committee minutes; our action plan, convenor running sheets, social media (thanks to Pam Janssen and Leanne Bourke) and our handbook (thanks to Jim Cull). A new idea of a calendar in the greenhouse window will be introduced this year also.

I want to thank our succession planning group, that we had this year, consisting of Steve Raymond, Paul Bastiani, Craig Anderson, Loretta Benson and Matt Hay for their contribution to committee discussions and committing to future involvement with the running of the club. To my committee, who have worked hard for another year - Anne Staley, Mike Petty, John Strybosch, Pam Barnhill, Sue Morgan, Dean Stubley, Marlene Storer and Peter Morgan— I will say again, thanks does not seem enough for the enormous support you provide to me and the extraordinary effort you make on behalf of this club and its members.

This next year will be my last. You can be in a position too long and it's time for a change and some new ideas. Let's make the year a big one!!

Go Veess!!

Your very proud Chairperson - Di

Membership Information – Graeme Durrant

During the year we welcomed the following bowlers who transferred from other bowls clubs – Jodie Moore, Michael Lovelock, Peter Wardle (Playing Coach), Ross Dunlop, Helen King, Lee Andrews, Frank Gatt, John Hawes, Mavis Hawes, Rob Sharpe and Sue Sharpe (returning to us after a stint at Dandenong Club).

We have also welcomed another 5 new bowlers to our club this year, coming from our Try-Bowls efforts, our Barefoot bowls on Wednesday and Friday evenings, our Jack Attack program, and some personal references.

During the year we farewelled the following bowlers who transferred to another club – Elka Nowak, Elijah Chiodo, Warren Strybosch, Adam Wildes and Gillian Horlock. We thank them for their contributions to the club during their time with us and we wish them well at their new clubs.

Sadly, six of our bowls members passed away during this 2025/26 season, David Russell, John Henwood, Peter Raymond, Colin Evans, Nellie Sutherland (Tennis Life Member), Ian Reid and Carole Simmons.

Two bowls members elected to maintain contact with the club by electing to become “Friends of Vermont South” members rather than full affiliated members.

Seventeen bowls members did not renew their membership with the club this year.

With the membership non-renewals, clearances to other clubs and transfers to the “FOVS” category, our current bowls membership is now at **174** affiliated bowlers, down from the 187 affiliates at the previous AGM in May 2025.

A total of 98 members bowled in Weekend pennant and a total of 64 members bowled in Midweek pennant. These figures are slightly down from the previous year, and we thank all those emergencies who filled in during the year.

We also had a total of 21 members who bowled in the 7-a-side Thursday morning competition run by Bowls Victoria. This season we entered two teams.

We also had a total of 28 members playing in the two teams that we entered in the Bowls Vic/ERBR Tuesday night pennant competition. This season there were three rinks of three bowlers in the team.

A total of 53 members did not play either weekend, midweek pennant or night pennant.

We currently have 15 members who are in our Social Bowlers category, either just learning to bowl or playing in our Thursday social bowls competition and another 18 social bowls members not bowling due to health or other issues.

The following longer-term members did not renew their affiliated membership this year, but all have given valuable service to our club over the past 20-30 years. We thank them for the wonderful contributions to our bowls club.

Jan and Les Stackpoole

They have been club members since September 1997 – a wonderful 28 years of membership. Les played 329 Saturday pennant and 79 Tuesday pennant games for a total of 408 games. Jan played 56 Saturday pennant and 271 Tuesday pennant games for a total of 327 games.

Les was a member of the selection committee 2008/09, a member of the Tournament committee 2001/2006 and a convenor of social bowls in 2003/04. He won the men's 100 Up club championship twice, in 2000/01 and 2001/02. He was a member of the Tuesday pennant sectional winning team that won a pennant flag in Div. 3 in 2015/16.

Jan was member of the Catering group from 2000/2005. She won the Women's Pairs Club championship in 2004/05. She was a member of the Tuesday pennant sectional winning teams that won flags in 2006/07 Div. A2 (Side 1 – LVBA), in 2013/14 Div. 3 (Bowls Vic) and again in 2017/18 Div. 4.

Bill Jones

Bill has been a club member since late 1994 after responding to a letterbox flyer from our newly formed bowls club – a fantastic 30 years of membership. Bill played 485 Saturday pennant games over these 30 seasons, including every Saturday in the 2024/25 season. Bill was a member of our Men's Fours club championship winning teams in 1997/98 and again in 1998/99 (Oska Setyana was in those teams too). He also was a member of the men's pairs championship winning team in 1995/96 with Bryan Woods.

He was a member of the **Sectional pennant flag winning teams** in the following years:

Side 1 – Div. 5 1996/97 where he played as a second

Side 1 – Div. 4 1998/99 where he played as a second

Side 1 – Div. 3 2000/01 where he played as a second

Side 1 – Div. 2 2004/05 where he played as a second (this was the first time that our club had won its way into Division 1 on Saturdays)

Side 3 – Div. 5 2008/09 where he played as a second.

Bill also played in rinks that won an 8 badge on 3 occasions – 1998, 2013 and 2021.

Bill was also a very regular competitor in our popular Wednesday Social bowls afternoons at the club and previously at Glen Waverley.

Bill competed at the 1956 Olympic Games in two Canoe Pairs events. The C2 1,000 metres finishing in 5th Place and the C2 10,000 metres where he finished 7th. He claimed that it was a fantastic experience beginning with intense competition against rivals before and during selection trials. Upon gaining selection, the pride in wearing the Green and Gold uniform remains a strong memory along with the participation in the opening ceremony at the MCG. He claims that to achieve a goal in any elite sport is bloody hard work and involves sacrifices but also needs the support of mentors, advisors and family and that he was fortunate to have that support.

We will always remember greeting Bill with a "How are you" – to which Bill always replied "Never Better".

Bill was the consummate team player, he even withdrew from our Saturday pennant 3rds semi-finals match in 2024/25 because he thought that with his minor injury he may have let the side down.

Margaret Borden

Margaret was a foundation member of the bowling club in 1994, joining from the Heatherdale bowling club. She was the second president of the Ladies section (LVBA), a club coach and a member of numerous committees ever since. During her 15 coaching years, she became the club's head of coaching for five years. Margaret was a valuable female member of the Saturday selection committee for six seasons, a wonderful club person during the past 30 years.

Margaret played 82 Saturday pennant matches and 409 Tuesday pennant matches making a total of 491 matches for the bowls club. Margaret is still a keen Friends of Vermont South member and regularly attends important club events.

Margaret and her husband Ross kept many historical records and files concerning the Bowling club, things like Teams finishing positions, championship winners and all the Bowls AGM reports (men's, ladies, board and VSC) and these have all been passed on to the club for integration into our digital records.

Margaret's achievements are listed in the table below.

Date From	Date To	Role/Activity/ Achievement
1994	1996	Member of the Catering Group
1995	1996	Ladies section LVBA Vice President
1996	1998	Ladies section LVBA President and Bowls Board Member
1994	1997	Tuesday LVBA Selection Committee
2002	2003	Member of Tournament Committee
2000	2014	Club Coach
2009	2104	Head of Coaching
2016	2021	Member of Saturday Selection Panel
1995		Mixed Pairs Club Champion
2001 & 2004		Ladies Pairs Club Champion
1998	2001	3 times Ladies Fours Club Champion (skip)
2006		Ladies Singles Club Champion

Margaret also played in Tuesday pennant flag winning teams in 1997/98 (B2, Side 1), 1998/99 (B1, Side 1), 2006/07 (A2, Side 1), 2010/11 (Div. 2, Side 1), 2012/13 (Div. 1, Side 1) and 2015/16 (Div. 3, Side 2). She was also involved in two rinks that won an "8" – in November 2010 and November 2015.

We sincerely thank Margaret for her service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Bev Harvey

Bev was a foundation member of the bowling club joining in late 1994 (joining with her husband). She was the LVBA (Ladies section) president in the first two years of the club's history (1994/95 and 1995/96).

She was a very active member of most of the committees in the early years of the bowling club. She was an LVBA committee member from 1997 until 2008.(a wonderful 11 years), a Tuesday pennant selector from 1995 until 1999, then again from 2003 until 2007. Whilst on the LVBA committee, she was also on the Vermont South Bowls Board from 1994 until 1996, then again from 2006 until 2008. She also was a member of the social committee from 1994 until 1996 (whilst club president) and served with the catering group in 1997/98.

Bev was a very valuable member of the ladies section and a wonderful helper for the ladies group from 1994 until 2008, a valuable 14 years of service.

She played 152 Saturday and 436 Tuesday pennant games for a total of 588 matches for the bowls club. Bev played in 2 rinks that received an "8" (2018 – March and December). She also played in Tuesday pennant flag winning teams in 1997/98 (B2, Side 1), 1998/99 (B1, Side 1), 2006/07 (A2, Side 1), 2013/14 (Div. 3, Side 3).

Bev is still a keen Friends of Vermont South member and regularly attends important club events with Margaret Borden.

We sincerely thank Bev for her service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Pam Peverelle - Pam joined the bowls club on 1/11/1999 and she played 7 Saturday pennant games and 307 Tuesday pennant games. Pam served on the LVBA committee from 2006 until 2008. Pam was a great contributor to our catering and housekeeping committees.

Gerry Trenker - Gerry joined the bowls club on 22/10/2010 and he played 189 Saturday pennant and 180 Tuesday pennant games. He played in Tuesday pennant flag winning teams in 2013/14 (Div. 3), 2014/15 (Div. 4) and in 2015/16 (Div. 3).

Jack Purcell - Jack joined the bowls club on 22/4/2016 and he played 52 Saturday and 61 Tuesday pennant games. He served on the social committee from 2020 until 2022.

Gordon Russell - Gordon joined the bowls club on 25/02/2011 and he played 165 Saturday and 153 Tuesday pennant games.

Anne Marchment - Anne joined the bowls club on 1/07/2003 and she played 240 Tuesday pennant games. Anne was the LVBA president in 2010/11, served on the LVBA committee in 2009/10, represented the ladies on the Bowls Board from 2009 until 2011, and was a member of the social committee from 2011 until 2013. Anne played in a rink with Graeme winning an "8" in February 2012. We sincerely thank Anne for her service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Graeme Marchment - Graeme joined the bowls club on 1/07/2002, transferring from the Mitcham bowling club. He played 307 Saturday and 42 Tuesday pennant games. Graeme played in 2 rinks that won an "8" - in February 2012 and in March 2018. He was a member of the Club Championship Fours winning team in 2005/06.

Graeme served on the Saturday selection committee from 2005 until 2009, he was a member of the green's maintenance team from 2005 until 2009 and a member of the bowls committee in 2005/06 and again in 20011/12. Graeme was also part of the Try-Bowls team from 2012 until 2015.

We sincerely thank Grahame for his service to the Vermont South Bowling club.

Milestone Games Achieved During 2025/26 Season

700 games – Oska Setyana

500 games – Joan Heatley

400 games – Pat Andrews, Jim Baker and John Temple

300 games – Elaine Kendler, Norm weight, Di Agius and Ron Short

200 games – Jim Jones and John Strybosch

Membership and Recruitment – Graeme Durrant

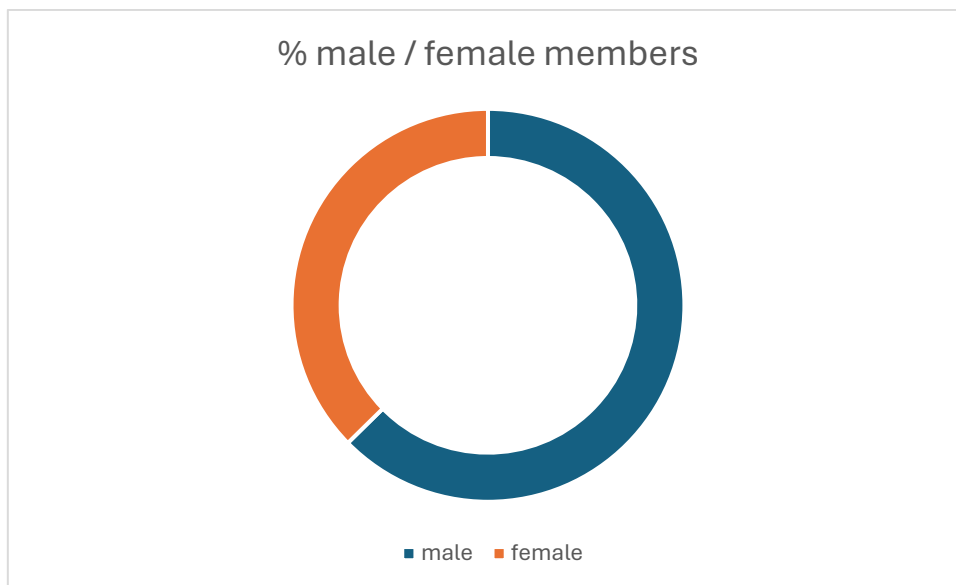
Considerable effort is required to ensure our bowling numbers are maintained at high levels. Many clubs have suffered a decline in recent years with a general reduction in interest from the community for all organised sports. Our major recruiting efforts include the annual “Try Bowls” period, our barefoot bowls program on Wednesday and Friday evenings and the continuing “Jack Attack” series which now has 18-22 competing teams. These events depend on the willing assistance of a regular band of volunteers.

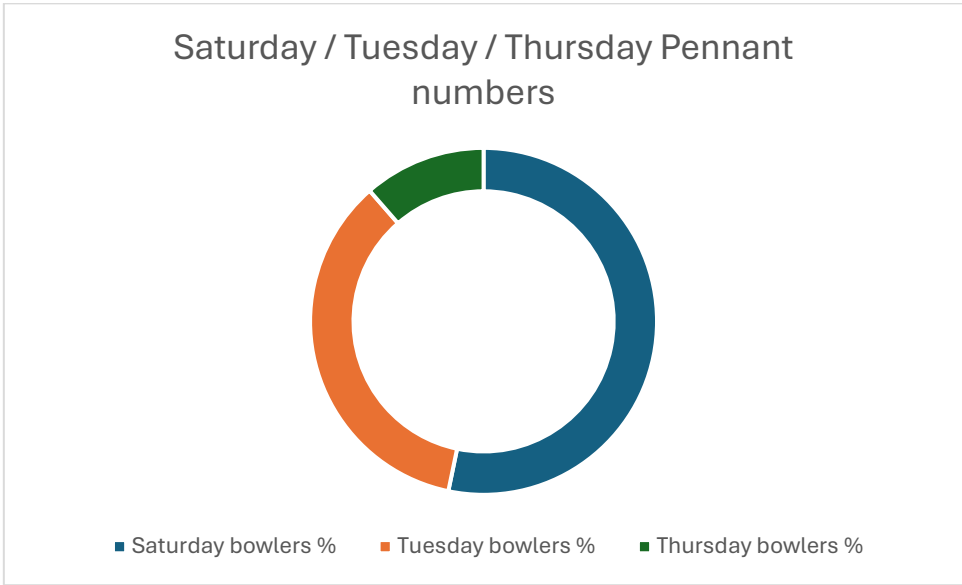
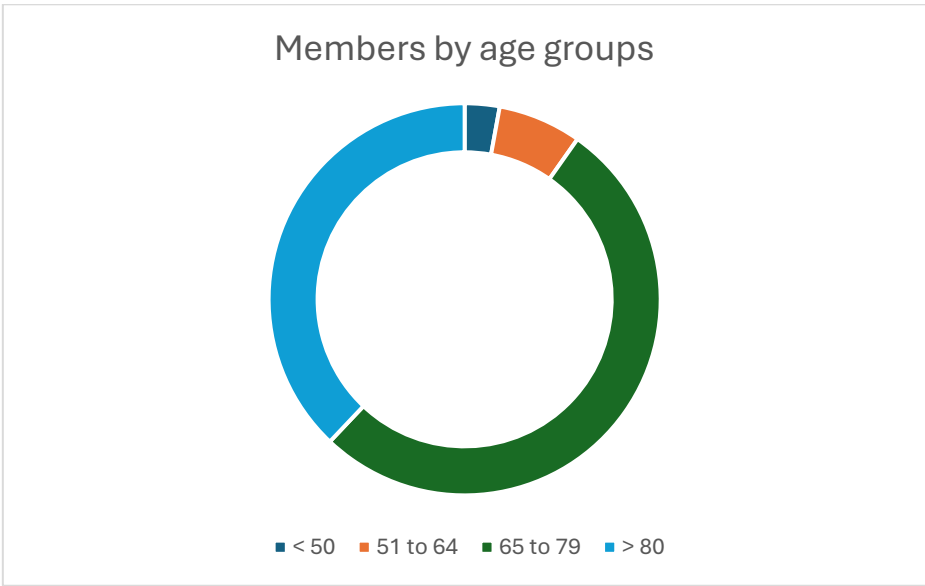
With the membership non-renewals in October 2025 and transfers to the “FOVS” category, our current bowls membership as of 1 March 2026 is now **174 affiliated bowlers**.

Of these members, 37.4% are female bowlers and 37.9% are over 80 years of age (our veterans membership category). The average age of our registered bowlers is 75.5 years as of 1st October 2025.

We had 56.3% of our members bowling Saturday pennant, 37.3% of our members bowling Tuesday pennant, 12% bowling Thursday pennant and 16% bowling Tuesday night pennant.

See graphs below for a pictorial representation of our memberships.





Weekend and Tuesday Pennant – John Strybosch

First and foremost, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to my fellow selectors, both Tuesday and Saturday. Consider this, you have sitting around a table of 5 or 6 people, all with different personalities, likes and dislikes, different levels of bowls knowledge, ability and experience, egos and temperaments, etc, who now are going to determine the fate of 54 bowlers on Tuesdays and 80 bowlers on Saturdays and all of these bowlers also have the same frailties and differences as mentioned above, but even more so.

We still have the occasional dummy spit, the whinging and the inability to play with certain other members. Many members fall into that last category, and yet the Club has had a fantastic season (why?) and as such I wish to thank my fellow Saturday selectors, Di Agius, Spiro Agius, Rob Graham, Derek Hale and Tony Bennett and Tuesday selectors Chris Holland, Gwen Baker, Martin Haines and in part Gillian Horlock who transferred to Mulgrave. Also, thanks to our senior coach, Peter Wardle, for his input at both selection panels.

Saturday

I won't go into the nitty gritty as you have all read the various reports in the eNews. However, a great year. 4 out of 5 teams into finals, Side 2 into Grand Final and promoted to Div 2 and Side 4 also into Grand Final and promoted to Div 5. Next season we will have 2 teams in Div 2, 2 teams in Div 5 and 1 team in Div 7. Congratulations to all players and emergencies who have all contributed to this success. No team relegated. And as always, our cheer squad was out in force.

Tuesday

Again, a great year. Sides 1, 4 & 5 all into the Finals, all making it to the Grand Final and all winning their section flags. Next season we will have teams in Div 1, 2 teams in Div 3 and 1 team in Div 5. Again, congratulations to all players and emergencies who contributed to this success. No team relegated. Cheer squad amazing on all occasions.

In Conclusion

To what do we attribute this success? There are various reasons and I'm sure you have considered some of these already. I will give my reasons, not in any order.

- In the previous 4 years the number of outs every week over the whole season has been approximately 110 on Saturdays and 80 on Tuesdays. This year has seen a decline of outs on both days by over 50%. This has given us more stability in having the same rinks on a more consistent basis. Therefore, people were more content and happier. This then contributed to more wins and with more wins, people wished to remain involved.
- We are a Happy and Friendly Club where all members are treated fairly and equally and all aspects of the Club are covered on a regular basis.
- Coaching. Many members have commented about their improvement in their abilities due to the one-on-one coaching by our Senior Coach, Peter Wardle. Our only concern is that attendances on Monday and Thursday training sessions are in decline. Attendance at social bowls does help.
- The influx of some good players from other clubs not only strengthened our top sides, but the flow down effect also strengthened all other sides. Also, the improvement of some of our "younger" and newer members was instrumental.
- Our Leadership and our Volunteers are second to none.
- Maybe the Selectors actually knew what they were doing? 😊

So, can we do better? Of course we can. We are a strong club and our success this year would be the envy of many other clubs. But we must all continue to work together, being active members and serve in any capacity that will be a benefit to the Club and your fellow members.

GO VEES

Good Bowling and God Bless

Tuesday Night Pennant – Ron Short

VSBC supported two sides again this season, one being in Section 1 and the other in Section 2. Section 1 was for more experienced players while Section 2 was for developing players. Each side was made up of 3 teams of triples playing 18 ends.

Side 1 had 15 members taking part over the season with 9 playing 5 or more games. They won 5, lost 4 and 1 draw which gave them 86 points and finished 6th on the ladder.

Side 2 had 25 members taking part over the season with 10 playing 5 or more games. They won 5, lost 4 and 1 draw which gave them 92 points and finished 5th on the ladder only 6 points out of fourth position.

This year we were also able to play 5 games of triples as bankers in which 18 different members were rotated. Many of them were very happy to be able to play a game.

The night pennant managers are very appreciated of the 30 members' attitude towards selection and playing the game. Most of them were rotated between the 3 games, 2 pennant sides and bankers which made it easier to manage and provide a game to members who wanted to play on Tuesday night.

Thursday 7's Pennant – Spiro Agius

Vermont South entered two sides in the 2025/26 Thursday 7's Pennant Season. (10 rounds).

Side 1 played games against Mulgrave CC1, Croydon 1, Lilydale 1, Mitcham 1 and Dandenong Club 1. It was a tough season for side 1 often coming up against quality opposition and finished 6th.

Side 2 played against Boronia 1, Lilydale 2, Heathmont 1, Croydon 2 and Croydon 3. Side 1 finished 3rd and played against Croydon 2 in a semi final and going down by 1 shot.

In all, 22 players (including emergencies) were utilised to field two teams of 7 over the 10 rounds. All players enjoyed the format and the friendly atmosphere in which the games were played.

Weekend and Midweek Pennant Summary – Graeme Durrant

Saturday Team 1 – Div 2 Section 5	Won 9, Lost 4, Washout 1 - Finished 3 rd Lost Sectional Elimination Final - 72-73 against Glen Waverley 1
Saturday Team 2 – Div 3 Section 6	Won 10, Lost 3, Washout 1 – Finished 1 st Won Sectional Semi-Final 2 - 75-70 against Donvale 2 Lost Sectional Grand Final - 69-78 to Bundoora 3 Promoted to Div. 2
Saturday Team 3 – Div 5 Section 6	Won 4, Lost 7, Draw 2, Washout 1 – Finished 6 th
Saturday Team 4 – Div 6 Section 4	Won 12, Lost 1, Washout 1, - Finished 1 st Lost Sectional Semi-Final 2 - 67-71 against Doncaster 3 Won Sectional Preliminary Final - 82-81 against Glen Waverley 3, Lost Sectional Grand Final - 67-74 against Doncaster 3 Promoted to Div. 5
Saturday Team 5 – Div 7 Section 6	Won 8, Lost 5, Washout 1, - Finished 2 nd Lost Sectional Semi-Final 2 - 54-79 against South Oakleigh 2, Lost Sectional Preliminary Final - 74-79 against Glen Eira McKinnon 2

Tuesday Team 1 – Div 2 Section 6	Won 9, Lost 3, Washout 1, Heat Out 1, - Finished 2 nd Won Sectional Semi-Final 2 - 64-55 against Glen Waverley 1 Won Sectional Grand Final - 58-41 Lost Divisional Quarter Final - 46-82 against Sunbury 1 Promoted to Div. 1
Tuesday Team 2 – Div 3 Section 4	Won 5, Lost 7, Washout 1, Heat Out 1 - Finished 5 th
Tuesday Team 3 – Div 3 Section 6	Won 7, Lost 5, Washout 1, Heat Out 1 – Finished 5 th
Tuesday Team 4 – Div 6 Section 5	Won 9, Lost 3, Washout 1, Heat Out 1 - Finished 1 st Won Sectional Semi-Final 2 - 72-55 against Mooroolbark 6 Won Sectional Grand Final - 75 -42 against Mooroolbark 6 Promoted to Div. 5
Tuesday Team 5 – 6-A-Side, Section 3	Won 5, Lost 5, Washout 1, Heat Out 1, Byes 2 – Finished 2 nd Won Sectional Semi-Final 2 - 36-32 against Malvern 2 Won Sectional Grand Final - 49-14 against Upwey Tecoma 1
Thursday 7-a-side Team 1 – Div 1 Section 2	Won 0, Lost 9, Draw 1 - Finished 6 th
Thursday 7-a-side Team 2 – Div2 Section 3	Won 5, Lost 4, Draw 1 - Finished 3 rd Lost Semi-Final - 50-51 against Croydon 2
ERBR Tuesday Night Pennant Team 1 – Division 1	Won 5, Lost 4, Heat Out 1 - Finished 6 th
ERBR Tuesday Night Pennant Team 2 - Division 2	Won 5, Lost 4, Heat Out 1 - Finished 5 th

Head Coach – Peter Wardle

I have really enjoyed my first year as Head Coach at Vermont South. My primary aim this year was to get to know as many players and their abilities as possible. This was hindered quite a bit with the attendance rates at training but I also made myself available for individual coaching. On average we had about 28 players at Thursday training during Pennant.

A key focus this year has been to improve bowlers techniques at all levels which would enable more consistency in their bowling. Some of the issues needing addressing were:

- staying down on the mat
- standing on the mat in the same place each delivery
- the way the bowl was being held
- correct delivery of the bowl
- aiming line
- setting up drills in groups

Players have expressed that they found my coaching has impacted on their consistency and are feeling more confident in the way they go about their bowls. It has also played a part in the success that the club has experienced this year. I am looking forward to taking the coaching of the players to the next level next season.

Social Bowls – Peter Morgan & Convenors

Winter Social Program

Monday “KIESER” Open Nominated 4 Bowl Pairs – Mal Walker

Thank you to all the members who helped make this such an important part of our social program. The 2025 event was played every Monday for 27 weeks from 17th March through to 15th September. Over that period, 1,200 players participated in the event which averaged just over 44 players per week. It's pleasing to see the number of visitors coming from other clubs on a weekly basis to play in the most popular event. It should be noted that our numbers are starting to return to the pre-covid times.

During the season, we also had some international players play in this event after the Victorian Open was played, Teresa Bowden invited 5 members from the Hong Kong Bowls Club to our Club to play and they enjoyed themselves so much that they said “we will be back again” when they next visit Victoria.

Offering the opportunity for players to play both front and back-end roles this format helps to improve players skills for pennant season. We will always try to accommodate teams of two or individual players looking to join us at the Monday Pairs.

Wednesday Social – John Strybosch, Di Agius

The winter Wednesday Triples was again a great success, the jewel in the crown being the Balmoral Cup, sponsored by Balmoral Gardens Village, Wantirna. This is a very popular tournament of 20 teams, 60 players, run over 10 weeks between April and June.

Over the 10 weeks all teams play each other once only. Weekly prize monies and major prizes awarded at the conclusion of the tournament. Many thanks to all the participants and all members who made themselves available as emergencies, sometimes at very short notice. We also wish to thank everybody that helped set up every week.

Thursday Social – Ray Spelman

Played all year round the Thursday social offers new bowlers and members the chance to have a relaxing day on the green whilst either learning the game or practicing their skills.

Although numbers can fluctuate during the year we still manage to have enough each week to play.

As most new members this year have come from other clubs we have not seen as many new faces on Thursday as in the past however I believe this day remains an important introduction to the Vermont South bowls club for people taking up the game of bowls for the first time.

Thank you to all members who helped make Thursdays such an enjoyable day.

Saturday Social – Rob Graham, Paul Drew

The winter social numbers were consistently around 24-30 players each week, which is a good number considering some days were challenging weather wise. We try to make the Saturday a fun day, so all members enjoy both the bowls and the camaraderie during and after the game.

A big thank you to our winter players for supporting both Paul and I with their attendance.

Summer Social Program

Wednesday Social - Peter Ballam, Rob Graham

The season again was very successful, this two bowl triples game continues to offer members a competitive game whilst enjoying the comradery that Vermont South is renowned for. The day averaged between 8-12 teams consistently and Rob and I thank all members who participated.

As with last year's report we believe the numbers are impacted with Bowls Victoria Tuesday pennant, day and night and the Thursday 7's pennant, as asking players to play consecutive days in summer can be problematic to some members.

However, we believe the day remains critical to the health of the Vermont South Social program and thank all members who participated on the Wednesdays.

Mega Bowl – Cup Day event – Peter Morgan, Mike Petty, Matt Hay and Sue Morgan

The second year for our Cup Day event saw a big increase in numbers attending with 88 members and guests arriving to enjoy a day of fun.

We thank the Bendigo Bank Blackburn South who joined us on the day as our major sponsor. This allowed for an increase in prize money for the "Draw to the Jack" and "Closest to the Ditch" challenges. Four local businesses also assisted us with prizes for our raffle and food for the sausage sizzle. Thank you to Bakers Delight, Bunnings, Coles and the Bottle-O for this support.

Apart from our two bowl challenges on the day, we had our trivia games interspersed in the proceeding. Two new games this year were Table Family Feud and Giddy Up along with a chance to go into the "Skins" putting challenge.

We would like to thank all the members and guests who supported this fun day with their attendance along with all the members who worked with us on the event.

Jack Attack – John Temple

As in past years, we conducted two Jack Attack seasons of 6 weeks each. Season 17 which ran during November and December 2025 had 22 teams playing while Season 18 running from January to March 2026 had 18 teams playing. That's 60- 80 regular players enjoying Jack Attack every week and most are non-Club members. We have an even mix of genders and ages from 16 year-olds to those in their eighties. Most teams return season after season which demonstrates the appeal of the Jack Attack product delivered by our Club. It has also resulted in a noticeable improvement in skill levels as players rack up their game totals.

On each Jack Attack evening our greens are buzzing as players enjoy refreshments and supplied nibbles greenside with lively music in the background. After the games, the vibrancy continues with enthusiastic discussions about the games while prizes are awarded, pizzas are consumed and liquid refreshments are enjoyed. But, most importantly they like playing the game.

We continually seek to improve our Jack Attack offering. We have used team handicaps to even the competition and this year introduced a format of 3 short games per week against 3 different opponents to foster greater interaction between players. They love it.

Several Jack Attack players have "graduated" and joined as full Club members, with a strong likelihood that more will follow. Some graduates are excelling at the sport and are already playing at high levels. All are enjoying it.

Our Jack Attack program could not succeed without our dedicated volunteers namely Mary Farley, Trevor Holland, Elaine Kendler, Alan Rolfe, and Mal Walker. They have been loyal and reliable from the very introduction of Jack Attack nine years ago and have all developed a fantastic rapport with the players.

We appreciate and thank VSC tennis member (and first season Jack Attack player) Darren Blood and DeBortoli Wines who donated product for weekly and end-of-season prizes. Also, thanks to our emergency players who were able to step in when teams were short.

The Jack Attack program is financially profitable and importantly opens our doors for the local community to see our welcoming environment. Jack Attack is playing an important role for our great Club and we look forward to more successful seasons ahead.

Region Championships – Graeme Durrant

Eastern Ranges Region Championships Vermont South Entries 2025/2026

Event	Players
Men's 60+ Pairs	Event being conducted in April
Men's 60+ Singles	Event being conducted in April
Women's Fours	Helen King/Malcolm (Mitcham) Nixon (Mitcham)/Smyth (Pakenham) – Round 1
Mixed Pairs	Warren Strybosch/Mary Farley – Round 1 Rob Sharpe/Sue Sharpe – Round 2 Ken Barnhill/Janice Macgregor (Heathmont) – Round 4
Men's Pairs	Ron Short/Warren Strybosch – Round 1 Ken Barnhill/Rick Carver – Round 3 Roy Arscott/Matt Hay – Round 2 Ross Dunlop/Rob Sharpe – Round 4 John Strybosch/Steven Gatt – Round 3
Men's Triples	Ross Dunlop/Lee Andrews/Rob Sharpe – Round 3
Men's Singles	Oska Setyana – 2 nd in section with 1 win Ron Short – section winner with 2 wins – Round 2 of finals
Men's Novice Singles	Jeremy O'Meara – 3 rd in section Steven Raymond – 2 nd in section with 1 win
Women's Novice Singles	Jodie Moore – 2 nd in section with 1 win
Men's Champ/Champ	John Strybosch – Round 1
Women's Champ/Champ	Mary Farley – Semi Finalist

Vermont South BC Club Championships Results 2025/2026

Event	Players
Women's Pairs	Winners – Barbara Carroll and Mary Farley Runners Up – Pat Andrew and Di Agius
Men's Pairs	Winners – Andrew Smith and Steve Raymond Runners Up – Oska Setyana and Trevor Holland
Women's Singles	Winner – Mary Farley Runner Up – Helen King
Men's Singles	Winner – John Strybosch Runner Up – Phil Staley
Men's 100 Up Handicap	Winner – Barry Hockham Runner Up – Steve Gatt
Ladies 100 Up Handicap	Winner – Jodie Moore Runner Up – Pam Barnhill
Mixed Pairs	Winners – Di Agius and David Fisher Runner Up – Ron Short and Teresa Bowden
Novice Singles	Winner – Jeremy O'Meara Runner Up – Jodie Moore
Open Triples	Winners – Ken Barnhill, Marlene Storer and Wendy O'Brien Runners Up – John Benson, Steve Raymond and Pam Barnhill

Tournaments - Mike Petty

The 2025 to 2026 Bowling season was another busy year for the VSBC with hosting and running several Bowls Tournaments and events.

The Ladies Day tournament with new sponsors for this Tournament, KCL and Mark Kainey Real estate onboard, enabling an increase to the prize pool for this significant Tournament. It will be held on Saturday March 28th and already fully subscribed. It will be another wonderful success as a major tournament for our Club and region.

Once again, I would like to thank in advance all the male volunteers on the day in their white shirts and bow ties, keeping the tournament professional and fun.

Likewise our Lady volunteers who make sure the men are kept in line and ensure the catering on the day is once again exemplary.

It will be another great day! and a huge thank you in advance to all the Volunteers and especially to Di, John and Pam for organising this again to be a successful and standout tournament in our region.

The Super 4s tournament this year will be held on Sunday April 19th. This year with new sponsors, Sports Accounting Australia from Stephen Gatt and Verso Place, we are able to hold this very successful tournament again.

At the time of this report, the Super 4s Tournament has 28 teams entered. This is in large part because last year's Super 4s Tournament was so well run. Graeme Durrant with all of our volunteers on the day, ensures that all participants have an enjoyable and problem free day.

The VSBC with John Strybosch, is again running the Balmoral Challenge Tournament for VSBC members. A handicapped Tournament sponsored by Balmoral, that again, is so successful it is over subscribed by Vermont South Bowls Club members.

Peter Morgan and helpers again ran the Mega Bowl competition on Cup Day last year. With added Trivia games and Cup Sweeps, it was bigger and more fun than last year.

Included in our busy programme of events this season were the Club Championships. Once again well participated by VSBC members. A big thank you to the Championship sub-committee for running this so smoothly. Usually, a thankless task compared to herding cows.

We also ran a successful Arms Tournament for the first time with Peter Bellam on Friday, 17th October last year. A great day from all reports.

The very successful, inaugural Vermont South vs Croydon Ladies Club Challenge was played on Sunday, 5th October last year. Another successful day for all those who participated and helped. The event is planned to keep running, with Croydon hosting next season.

The Mulgrave Challenge, in its 25th year since inception, was played on Saturday, 10th January. Hosted by Vermont South this year and involving 64 members from each club, playing for the Colin Evans and Vic Leverett Trophy. Mulgrave won this time, but we plan to win next year, to be hosted at Mulgrave. A big thank you to Mal Walker and Pam Barnhill for making this event at Vermont South Club such a success.

I send from the Bowls Committee, a huge thank you to all of our Volunteers who ensure Tournaments and Bowls events are run so successfully and continue to raise a significant amount of much needed revenue and regional profile for our great Club. This cannot be understated.

The Vermont South Bowls Club looks forward again to another upcoming year of successful Tournament and Bowls events in 2026/27.

Corporate Activities and Function Hire – Di Agius

We improved our facilities this year with the update to the kitchen and the new audio projector equipment. This has resulted in our rooms being hired to run seminars as well as the steady stream of corporate events again this year. We also have had an increase in the number of members hiring the room for their milestone birthdays.

We booked 20 events over the year involving school sessions, barefoot bowls sessions, trivia nights, OT seminars, women's health seminars, members birthdays and formal corporate bookings. With a further anticipated increase in events, it becomes even more important that we make sure we balance the demand for corporate functions in our clubroom, with the needs of our bowling community. We understand that corporate hire plays a significant role in contributing to our financial wellbeing and our sustainability, but we do not want to compromise the needs of our members.

An increase in demand for events also impacts the demand for volunteers, ready to support the holding of barefoot bowls sessions, providing bar services and catering needs for corporate functions. I thank those who willingly put their hand up every time an event was held this year, making them very successful and look forward to the opportunities that the future will bring.

Catering and Housekeeping

The club kitchen has functioned well during the last season. Special thanks to Loretta Benson who sees that the kitchen is spick and span and restocked each Monday. Also, thanks to Sharon Hedrick who has kept the kitchen well stocked and Rhona Bastiani for her enthusiasm in helping in the kitchen on social days. Your help is most appreciated.

We have catered for several events during the year. We've held two major tournaments in the last year and have had very favourable feedback from the participants. In January we catered for the Mulgrave Challenge and just recently for the Ladies Tournament. We will also cater for the Super 4's Tournament, The AGM and Presentation Day in the next couple of weeks.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who give so willingly of their time to help out in the kitchen. I look forward to working with you again next season.

Social Committee – Leanne Bourke

The following events were held during the year:

Footy Pie Night - 25th April, 21 people in attendance, finger food available to purchase, door prize won by Dean Stublely. \$51.10 plus bar profit.

Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea, - 20th May, \$1,800 raised with all money going to the Cancer Council.

Xmas in July - 27th July, Gourmet Guru catered with a 2 course lunch. 60 people attended, \$30 per head. \$180.70 plus bar profit.

Trivia Night - 29th August, Justin O'Meara from tennis club ran the night. \$10 entry, 69 attendees. Games and raffles were played, \$871.50 plus bar profit.

Xmas Party - 7th December, catering by Gourmet Guru, entertainment Jeff Pattinson. 80 people \$50 per head. Raffle raised \$908. Profit was \$903 plus bar.

Occupational, Health & Safety – Paul Bastiani

This year we formed an OHS Committee with the objective of improving safety within the Vermont South Bowls Club.

Members of the OHS Committee are Paul Bastiani as Team Lead, Craig Anderson, Pam Barnhill and Dean Stublely.

The first task of the new sub-committee was to conduct a risk assessment of the club facilities and activities. The assessment identified existing hazards and subsequently estimated the probability of each hazard occurring and the magnitude of potential harm. Based on such an analysis, a prioritised list of risk reduction actions has been generated for implementation. As part of corrective actions to date, we have:

- Sourced a new wheelchair (donated to us by The Mobility Store, Blackburn).
- Retired the old deteriorated stretcher.
- Purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Greens Team.
- Reviewed the contents of first aid kits and identified additional items they require.

We are reenergising the Incident Reporting system seeking to have all incidents reported, investigated and corrective actions implemented to avoid recurrence. Actions arising from reports to date include,

- Strapping umbrellas closed when not in use and bolting umbrellas to the concrete to avoid them lifting out and injuring people.
- Encouraging earlier start times for games on hot days.
- Arranging to acid wash sections of pathways to make them less slippery when wet.

Safety is a responsibility we all share. We strongly encourage you to discuss any safety concerns or observations with a committee members so appropriate corrections can be implemented.

Please take care of your fellow members by communicating potential hazards and reporting incidents. Together we can make Vermont South Bowls Club and even safer place.

Greens – Paul Bastiani

It's been a big year for the Greens with significant work completed on both the lower and upper greens.

The lower green had the matting rolled back from all four sides to repair flood damage which arose following expansion of the clubhouse. The lower green also had its surface rolled using a lawn roller to flatten high spots with the worst areas receiving additional attention using vibrating machinery.

The upper green had the matting rolled back from the eastern side to enable rinks one, two and part of rink three to be graded, rolled, screed and smoothed using heavy duty equipment towed behind a tractor. No roots were present but a thick section of loose sand had shifted and subsided and has had cement added to stabilise it. In addition, the entire surface was rolled using a lawn roller. The upper green has also had the numerous depressions due to historical drilling addressed. This was a time consuming task where the matting fibres were brushed up and subsequently held in position with targeted application of fine sand.

In addition to the above work, the regular weekly (twice weekly in pennant season) activities continued during which greens were vacuumed, groomed, scarified, lines painted, algaecides and herbicides applied and other TLC given by the dedicated Greens Team.

Most of the work carried out on the greens was done with volunteer resources but some specialised maintenance did come at a cost to the club. The cost however, will be recovered in time, as such maintenance enables a total green replacement to be deferred by a number of years.

A Greens Management Policy was written this year with the objective of sustaining the condition of the greens for the long-term. We encourage conveners, selectors and tournament organisers to become familiar with the policy and help apply it so we can maximise the enjoyment from our greens into the future.

Thank you to The Greens Team and all those members who supported it throughout the year.

Gardening Group – Trevor Holland

The Gnomes with assistance from a small group have kept the garden and environs to a standard and which we hope members find up lifting.

With Gillian and Keith Horlock transferring back to Mulgrave we have found their efforts hard to replace and we thank them for their unwavering and enthusiastic support over many years.

Our recent annual tidy up was well supported for which we are most grateful. With the increased member participation we were able to achieve our objectives. However, more member participation in the five or six other garden sessions per year would be much appreciated.

Members who come along say they find it enjoyable and gain much satisfaction from the experience plus they find the comradeship and the morning tea positive.

Please consider participating when the next garden session is advertised and see if you too, find the experience a positive.