

**NEW MEMBERS
WELCOMED**



THE CLUB WHISPER

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Editor Sandra Darling

Newsletter of the Diamond Creek Bowling Club

February 2011

Incorporation No. A10212

50th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

1961 - 2011

On Saturday night 12th February, 2011

Diamond Creek Bowling Club's
50th Anniversary Dinner

was held at 'Ashton Manor' in Diamond Creek.

Over 100 members and their partners attended.

A wonderful night was enjoyed by all.



Pat Calabresi, from Bowls Victoria, presents **John Harrigan** with a **50th Anniversary Certificate**



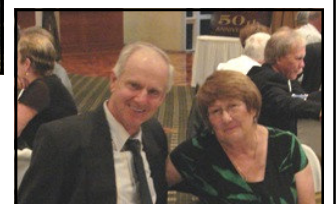
Debbie Wright was the lucky winner of our Grand Draw. The number drawn was... **1282**



**GREAT FOOD
GREAT COMPANY
GREAT NIGHT**



The room looked terrific thanks to **Sharon Harrigan** and her helpers.



MORE PHOTO'S ON PAGE SIX

The Diamond Creek Bowling Club

How it all began...



On Tuesday 13th December, 1960 approximately two hundred people attended a public meeting for the purpose of starting a Bowling Club in Diamond Creek.

This meeting was organised by **Mr. Les Herbert** who, at his own expense, had organised and distributed flyers in the Diamond Creek and Greensborough districts.

Mr. Herbert, a bank manager with the A.N.Z. bank, arranged with the R.V.B.A. for Councillor W. Lowe, to address the meeting.

The Club was formed on the motion of L.J. Herbert and at the inaugural meeting; the following Committee Members were elected...

President... A.K. (Gus) Lines

Vice Presidents... Dr. Donald Cordner, Gordon (Nuts) Coventry.

Hon. Secretary... L.J. (Les) Herbert.

Hon. Treasurer... M.P. (Merve) Cunningham.

Committee...

S.P. (Stan) Kellond, H.G. (Harry) Hodgson, I.L. Wadson, E.L. Morrissey, Jack J.F. Ryan, A.L. (Allan) Goldsworthy, J.A. (Joe) Marriage, D. (Don) Fisher, Cr. S. (Stan) Ashley, A.E. (Albert) Cole, B. (Bernie) Talbot A.C. Graham, Cr. W.K. (Bill) Robertson, K.A. (Ken) Leahy.

Membership conditions were that each member take out a minimum of one Ten Pound debenture, or pay a joining fee of Ten Pounds plus an annual subscription of Five Pounds.

Five per cent per annum, was to be paid as interest to the debenture holders.

Foundation membership applied to all members who joined the Club before 27th April, 1961.

Most of the foundation members belonged to the Diamond Creek and Greensborough, Masonic Lodge.

With a total of Fifty-seven Foundation members, only around twenty-two members actually took up bowling. But each and every member was important in giving moral and financial support to the Club in its foundation years.

Provision was made in the foundation of the Diamond Creek Bowling Club for ladies to have Associate membership. The annual subscription was fixed at Two Pounds, Ten shillings per annum.

The Associates Foundation Officers 1961- 62...

President... Mrs. L. Herbert

Vice President... Mrs. R. Pulford

Secretary... Mrs. E. Evrall

Treasurer... Mrs. R. Wieland.

Many of the Associate Foundation ladies were wives of the Foundation members. Around nineteen of the thirty-two ladies became bowlers, but all made a positive contribution to the foundation of the club.

Much of the Foundation Years information was taken from the informative booklet "Diamond Creek Bowling Club "25 Years On" written by **Mr. M. P. Cunningham**.

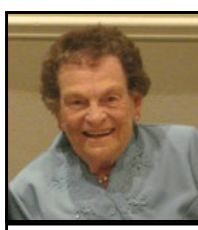
Other memories and information was kindly given by Foundation Member **John Elliott**, Life Member **Lorna Upton**, Life Member **Betty Evrall**, and Life Member **Diane Geer**.



John Elliott



Lorna Upton



Betty Evrall



Diane Geer

I thank them all
for their support
Sandra

BEFORE THE CLUBROOMS WERE BUILT...



Diamond Creek Bowling Club did not have clubrooms in 1961.

The club house was officially opened on **29th January, 1966**. Prior to that, during the bowling season, members used the football pavilion as a club house. Before each Pennant day, the Graffiti had to be washed off the walls.

The outside toilets were a challenge at times; possums were regular visitors and the occasional snake would cause a stir.

Private homes were used for important affairs such as Committee meetings etc.

Apart from the building of the New Club House, it was a very big event when the ladies got the 'hole in the wall' for their indoor toilets.

AFTER THE NEW CLUBROOMS WERE BUILT...



Diamond Creek Bowling Club held a dance once a month. Club member **Fred Gall**, brought his own keyboard organ to the clubrooms and played all night. These were very popular nights with all the dances, including the Barn dance.

Sometimes, Fred used to sing or his friend **Harry Collins**, a baritone, would bring his music and sing as well.

After Fred retired, 'Don Blackie and his band took over. Members brought their own supper to these nights.

During the winter season, the Club held indoor carpet bowls.



In 1969, the Men's Singles Champion was **Mr. Jack Evrall**.

RAISING FUNDS...

During the early days at our club, funds were raised by holding Gala Days, as well as street stalls in Diamond Creek and Greensborough. Also, members used their private homes for progressive dinners, barbeques, and even the occasional gambling night.

While the club was very young, the best supporters of our club were...

The **Fitzroy Men's Bowling Club**,

Myrtle Evrall from the **Edinburgh Park Ladies Club** (which later merged with Fitzroy), and **Marion Hodgson** from the **Alphington Ladies and Men Bowls club**.

They brought bowlers to our gala days.

FRIDAY NIGHT Membership Draw

11/02	Stuart McDonald	\$10.00
18/02	Laurie Bain	\$10.00
	Ken Merrey	\$10.00

REMEMBER...

YOU HAVE TO BE THERE TO WIN!!!

This cup reads...

D.C.B.C
OPENING OF CLUBHOUSE
29 - 1- 1966



This cup reads...

D.C.L.B.C
E.M. EVRALL
FOUNDATION SECRETARY
1961



FIRST BAR...

A liquor licence was obtained on 18th December, 1985.

Bob Cugley was President when we had our first bar. It was located at the rear of the hall, where the bowls storage room is now.

Bill Knows built the original bar with help from **Dough McDonna**.

The bar shelves came from the kitchen of Jean McClarren, the mother in-law of Betty Evrall's daughter.

The red curtains that cover where the first bar was, were made by **John Elliott**.



THE FIRST GREEN...

In 1961 on a hot January day, Cr. A.K. (Gus) Lines, Cr. Stan Ashley, Les Herbert, Merve Cunningham and an officer from the City of Heidelberg, met to determine where the grass green would be constructed.

After June, 1961, Mr. Lindsay Bassett, a Foundation member and Earth-works contractor, was engaged to fix the level of the original bowling green. This level was to be above the highest known flood level in memory.

The first bowling green at Diamond Creek was ready for play in the 1963/64 pennant season and Diamond Creek won its first Pennant.

The second green was constructed in 1985.

BOWLING ON THE FIRST GREEN...

The first green was situated where the new **Bill Mitchell** Green is now.

Members all took turns in watering the green when rationing was on.

Once a year the green was top dressed. Piano wires were stretched across the green to determine the level. Sand was placed to the level.

It was very dangerous when a wire broke.

Snakes would come up from the river and lie in the sand ditches. Members would take great pleasure in telling visiting players to watch out for the snakes. It was a great way of putting your opponent off their game.

There was also a game of night bowls on the first green. Members **Cedric Smart** and **Bert Pulford**, both farmers in the district, fixed portable spot lights to the front of their tractors and parked them on the hill near the front gate. This gave the bowlers enough light to play by and a great night was had by all.

MEN'S GAMES in the 1960's...

Saturday Pennant...

On Saturday afternoons, the ladies did the catering for the men's Pennant. They supplied scones and sandwiches and there was no dishwasher! When **Keith Gibbs** was President, he obtained our dishwasher.

Every Saturday, there were five ladies on duty. Raffle tickets were 20cents each or 5 for a dollar.

Turkey Triples...

This was played every fortnight with private teams. A very popular competition, but also very hard to get a game, it was said you only got into a team if someone died.

There were stubbies on the hill before bowls.

Bowling practise was, as is still is, on Thursday night.

LADIES GAMES...

Ladies played Pennant on Tuesdays; Social bowls on Thursdays with Pennant practise in the morning and a game in the afternoon. These games were sponsored by the ladies and were very social and enjoyable.

MIXED GAMES...

In the Club's early bowling history, there were no mixed bowls in Pennant. But, on Sundays, everyone played. The greens were full with 64 players. Whites were worn for these games.

There were trophies consisting of cup, saucers, and plate sets etc. (not money).

Club members sponsored these days.

There were no rings on bowls or narrow bowls in the early days at Diamond Creek.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO...

3rd Ken Borlase

3rd Pat Bateman

5th Terry Coles

16th Faye Lewis

17th Pat Allison

28th Eileen Lowe

31st Sandra Darling

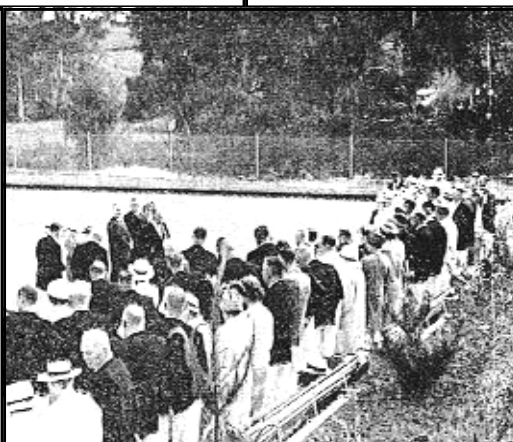


AND...

Belated Happy Birthday to...

Lorraine Turner who turned about 100 on 31st January...

Sorry I forgot you Lorraine...



The Official opening of the Diamond Creek Bowling Club's Green. Performed by RVBA Cr. J.J. Delany on September 21st, 1963.

PENNANT...

All Pennant, Hot Cash and Club Competition results will be in the next newsletter.

Good luck to all bowlers playing in finals.

UNIFORMS in the 1960's...

Men...

The men wore all white...pants, shirts, jumpers, shoes, and no cricket trousers. Men's shirts had to be tucked into pants.

Ladies...

All white...Dress, cardigan, hats, shoes, and handbag. Ladies only wore dresses, no slacks. Dress length was 12 inches from the ground and short sleeves were four and a half inches long, measured from the underarm. There were dress managers and lengths were checked every few weeks.

Ladies always wore stockings and a double fronted petticoat. A white hat was to be worn at **all times**, inside the clubrooms as well as outside.

If the club was hosting a gala day or other event, and important visitors were to be welcomed at the club. White gloves had to be worn. A lady member did not shake hands without wearing gloves.

There was also an appointed flower lady as the club always had fresh flowers.

A photo of our Ladies Division D1, Section2, Winners...1968-69



STORAGE SHEDS...

When the Club purchased two storage sheds from club member, **Tony Rutt's** hardware store, volunteer labour was recruited from the Club, to lay a concrete slab.

The workers were assisted by member **Mario Molinaro** and his son Laurence. .

The cement truck arrived, and began to pour concrete down sheets of tin to where the workers were waiting with wheel barrows. This was taking a long time and the decision was made for the truck to back over the rail line and pour directly into the wheel barrows.

Members stood watch on the rail track with whistles at the ready to warn the truck driver when a train was coming.

A quick exit was made when a train came around from the bottom cutting. The train driver was tooting his horn and not impressed.

The very next day, a sign warning that anyone crossing the railway line would be fined \$200, was erected.

CHANGES OVER TIME...

During the years, the Diamond Creek Bowling Club has seen many changes from its early beginnings.

Our Clubrooms have grown with the addition of a lounge and new bar area.

Our first grass greens were replaced with synthetic greens. The greens served us well for 15 years and just recently have been replaced with two new synthetic surfaces. These greens have been named in honour of two of our club members, **Mr. Tony Rutt** and **Mr. Bill Mitchell**.

At this time, lights were also erected on the Bill Mitchell green. This gave the Club the opportunity to become involved with Tuesday Night Pennant and Social Night games.

Many other improvements, large and small, have been made thanks to the efforts of our present and past Club Members.

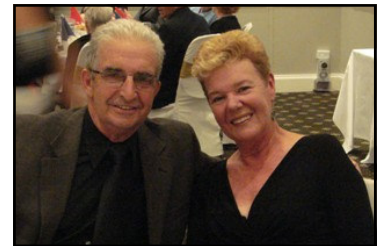
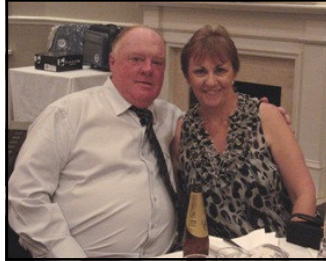
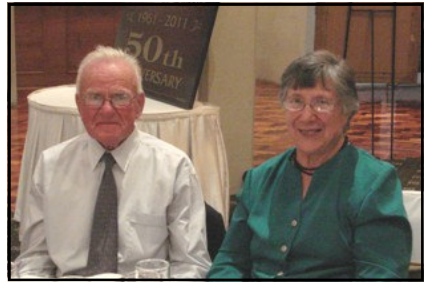
Would our Foundation Bowling Members, have imagined that the club would have synthetic greens, that ladies and men would play Pennant together, and Ladies would be wearing slacks?

What would they have thought of bowlers wearing coloured shirts and pants and having such a range of coloured and speckled bowls?

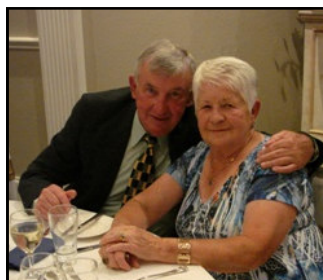
Many aspects of bowling have changed over the years. But one thing that has not changed is the enjoyment of bowls, the challenge of competition, companionship, friendship, and Club Pride found at the Diamond Creek Bowling Club

Numerous stories and wonderful people have not been able to be included. We are fortunate to have countless members who have done so much for our Club. I am sorry there are just too many to mention, but thank each and every one of them sincerely.

Sandra Darling



OUR NEW PLAQUE



What a smart looking bunch you are... unfortunately too many photos and not enough room to show you all. But, there is a photo album at the Clubrooms, with all the photo's of the night.