No.180 September 2025

Contents

| President's Report | 2 |
|---------------------------|----|
| Membership Report | 4 |
| From the Secretary's Desk | 5 |
| Bowls Director's Report | 6 |
| Health & Safety Report | 6 |
| Fair Play or Foul? | 7 |
| Bowling Myths and Maths | 8 |
| Social Director's Report | 9 |
| Craft Group | 10 |
| Indoor Bias Bowls | 12 |
| Bridge Wildcards | 13 |
| Pickleball at NBBC | 15 |
| Our Sponsors | 16 |
| Club Personality | 17 |

I hope you find the September newsletter informative. You can jump to a particular item by clicking on its entry in the above table of contents.

The next newsletter will be published early November. Contributions, including photos, are welcome. Please email them to tonyral49@gmail.com by the end of October.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

President's Report

Hello Members,

Yesterday 56 of our most hardy bowlers braved the blustery late winter weather to play a game of bowls after the Official Opening of our NBBC Greens for the 2025-2026 bowls season.

At the Ceremony, we welcomed The Hon Dr Monique Ryan member for Kooyong and The Hon Jess Wilson member for Kew and we thanked them for making time in their busy schedules to join us.





Boroondara Council Mayor Sophie Torney, Councillor Felicity Sinfield and Councillor Chris Pattas all sent their apologies as they were attending a council planning function.

Due to the inclement weather we retired to the clubrooms earlier than planned and were joined by several other members who made an excellent choice to avoid the cold and stay warm inside. The lovely floral decorations on the tables gave the room a touch of class. We enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea and less time on the green gave us an opportunity to socialise and enjoy each other's company for a little longer. My sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in a wide variety of ways to help the event run so smoothly. In particular, I would like to thank Deb Petty and Sue Stephens for their support in organising this event.

Earlier we had thanked Monique Ryan and Jess Wilson and Boroondara Council for the support of their respective offices in relation to NBBC receiving three separate grants. It was also mentioned that these government grant opportunities are very much appreciated by the members of NBBC.

- 1. Commonwealth Volunteer Grant, \$1,466. This will be put towards improving our online communications to make our volunteer roles a little easier.
- 2. Victorian Government Sporting Club Grants Program, \$1,000. This will contribute to the purchase of our newly designed club polo shirts.
- 3. The Boroondara Council Annual Community Strengthening Grants Program, \$3,248. This will be used for the continued promotion of our Pickleball program.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

It was with sadness that we learnt of the recent passing of our members **Eileen** Lockey and **Elaine** Matthews and former club president **Sally** Lynch. Their contributions to NBBC were considerable and greatly appreciated. Their friendships will be very much missed by many.

To **club members** who are currently not experiencing the best of health and are unable to come along to enjoy our club activities, we extend to you our best wishes. We look forward to many of you being back soon.

Our 2025-2026 **Handbook** is now available for all members. A big vote of thanks to Stephen Clarke for preparing this publication once again. It includes lots of valuable information for the year ahead and we encourage you to collect your copy when next at the Club. They will be located on the table inside the front door. Thanks also to our valued sponsor Snap Print Solutions for having the books ready for distribution at yesterday's event.

The first five of our **Club Championship Events** are underway and I wish all participants good bowling. The Draw Sheets can be found on our website (including the conditions of play) and on the noticeboard by the bar. The timetable for all events can be found on the website and in the handbook (page 25). Thanks to Stephen Clarke and Michael Potter for once again doing an excellent job of managing these championship events. The number of entries has been pleasing however it is disappointing that we again only have a small number of entering our Women's Singles event. It's all about having a go and gaining some experience in playing a singles game.

At the recent **Yarra Region AGM** that I attended with Peter Harry, it was also noted that not a lot of women enter the Yarra events. If singles events are too daunting, I encourage you to get a team together and give the pairs, triples or fours a try. It's all about having some fun while expanding your bowling experience with your friends. The Yarra timetable is on page 10 of the handbook, and all entries are completed via Bowlslink. Please contact me if you would like more details.

The new glass dishwasher has arrived to make serving in the bar easier again especially for Bridge happy hour and booked functions. We thank everyone for their patience in what has been quite a drawn-out process. We have now engaged a contractor Rob Bertram from Acclaim Wardrobes to renovate the bar cabinets. There may be another interruption if we need to disconnect the dishwasher when the new cabinetry is fitted, but hopefully this will not a big inconvenience.

I would like to remind all bowlers to remember to collect a copy of our **Medical Emergency Form** from the counter by the main club noticeboard. Please complete it and store it in your bowls bag in one of the RED envelopes provided as soon as possible.

Following a recommendation from our H&S committee the Board acknowledges that we should not be allowing any of our members to climb onto the roof to change the time on the **Club Clock** every six months for daylight savings. The Board has investigated the cost of a clock that adjusts the time automatically, however, they are quite expensive. Given the various costs to the club at present, we would like to gauge how many of the members would object to the removal of the clock from its current position where is can be seen from both Greens 1 & 2 and have no clock or whether an automated clock (\$5,126) that will switch time during daylight savings periods is warranted. If you have an opinion please contact me, Michael Potter or Deb Petty in the next couple of weeks.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

It is now time to get serious on the greens and enjoy the competition and have fun. I take this opportunity to wish all members enjoyment in whatever activity you choose be it Bridge, Indoor Bias Bowls, Pickleball, Craft, Mahjong – this list goes on.

Spring is on its way!

Robyn McClelland President

Platinum Sponsor



lan Mollison is the Managing Director of Helloworld Balwyn North. **Ian** has been a Member and Sponsor of North Balwyn Bowling Club for 36 years. Ian's business offers exceptional knowledge, experience, and customer service.

Members are strongly encouraged to see Ian for all their travel needs.

"We pride ourselves on getting to know all our clients and in learning specifically what you want from your holiday experiences and how we can make that a reality every time you travel with us. We are also available to assist you on each step of the holiday journey, from planning to booking to travelling to returning home and to booking again!"

66 Doncaster Rd, Balwyn North Ph 9819 7173; Mobile 0418513 120

Membership Report

Our Membership Director Yvonne Wheeler is enjoying a much-deserved overseas holiday and will be back early September.

Before heading off Yvonne lodged the order for our new Pennant shirts with Premier Bowls Wear, so all players will be looking very smart when stepping onto the green for our first Pennant match in October. See the Secretary's report for more information.

Since our July e-newsletter we have welcomed several new members: bridge enthusiasts John Sorrentino, Brijesh Gupta and Anita Chaula and Indoor bowlers Roula & Colin Gillespie.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

It has been decided not to hold an Open Day in October this year, however, we encourage all members to continue to invite family, friends, neighbours or work colleagues to come along and try bowls on Friday afternoons or Sunday mornings (or now spring is on its way) any evening under our new lights.

Robyn McClelland For YW

From the Secretary's Desk

I have spoken recently with Premier Bowls Wear regarding the new uniform.

Our polo shirts are expected in the next week or so. When they arrive, we will organise a couple of pick-up times to coincide with practice matches we are playing at home. For those of us who have ordered more than one shirt, a payment will be required. Short sleeves \$34 and long sleeves \$37. We will let you know how this can be paid when the shirts arrive.

In regard to the lower half of the uniform, we hope to have sample sets of men's shorts and long pants and women's pants, ³/₄ pants and skirts somewhere towards the end of September. The sample sets will be in the new colour of Navy Blue. We will let you know when they arrive and when you can attend the club to try for size. Please remember it is not necessary for you to purchase the lower half of the uniform at this time. We have a two-year transition period for this to occur.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with Robyn or me, or Yvonne Wheeler on her return from leave.

Regards,
Deb Petty



Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

Bowls Director's Report

Hi Bowlers,

We are fortunate to have secured **Howard Sandler**, two-time *Coach of the Year in New Zealand* and now residing and coaching here in Australia, as our **guest coach on Friday 12 September from 4.30** – **6.00 pm**.

This session comes just one day prior to our practice game against Camberwell BC on Saturday 13 September, making it an excellent opportunity to sharpen our skills.

Howard is an outstanding coach, and there will be plenty of valuable takeaways from his session.

Quote - "It's the start that stops people."

See you all on the green.

Peter Harry Bowls Director

Health & Safety Report

Help keep our club safe and incident free. The Health and Safety Committee is keen to hear your concerns about potential hazards at the club. Please speak to one of us or fill in a hazard or incident report and hand it to one of us or a board member. The forms are in the Health and Safety folder which is located near the defibrillator.



One of our aims is to remove heavier objects from high shelves, to reduce the risk of working on ladders. This process was started during the recent successful Spring Clean working bee; thanks to all for a great job in improving the cleanliness, as well as the appearance of the club. We now have a new step ladder with handles and remind everyone to think carefully about safety issues when using any ladder.

Thanks to Stephen Clarke who has provided an updated emergency contact list for all members. It is also located near the defibrillator, and a copy will also be placed in the Rink managers' satchels for Away games.

Health and Safety Committee: Judy Birch, Michael Potter, Alison Milne.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

Gold Sponsors



At **Pinnacle Living**, we create vibrant, high-quality communities that bring retirement to life. Our aim is to consistently offer the very highest standards of excellence in our homes, facilities, staff and services.

165 Union Road Surrey Hills 3127 Ph 9890 8500



Commonwealth Bank offers over-the-counter Banking, Home loans, Insurance, Investing and Superannuation services.

333 Whitehorse Rd, Balwyn 3103. Ph 9836 0122

Fair Play or Foul?

Refer below for a question to test your knowledge of Bowls Rules.

Also, if there are any bowls questions that you would like answered please email me. If it's a difficult question I will include the question and answer in the next Fair Play or Foul.

Rules reference is World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Crystal Mark 4th Edition Revised May 2023.

Question

A bowl, which had been a toucher in the previous end, is delivered with its chalk mark still on the bowl. It does not touch the jack but the chalk mark is not removed. As a result of play, several bowls later this bowl is forced into the ditch within the confines of the rink. What should happen?



Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

Answer

If a player fails to remove a mark from a bowl before delivery and that bowl does not become a toucher, a member of the *opposing team* or the marker must remove the mark as soon as the bowl comes to rest. Law 15.5

The bowl is dead, not being a toucher, and must be removed from the ditch as soon as it is declared dead. If the Skips cannot agree they should ask the umpire to make a decision. Law 17.1.1, 17.3, 17.4

Terence Staunton Umpire

Bowling Myths and Maths

Perceptions of Aiming Points and Angles

The term "delivery line" is being used in this series of articles. It is also called the aiming line. This line is an imaginary straight line along which the bowl starts to travel immediately after delivery. The bias of the bowl will curve its path away from this line. If the bowler uses an aiming point on the bank, then their delivery line runs from the point of delivery, i.e. where the bowl is released from the hand, to that point on the bank. This assumes that the bowler's perceived delivery line is their actual delivery line.

If you observe how other bowlers (your teammates, your opponents, champion bowlers seen on television) place their feet on the mat, you will see many different techniques. You can be a champion bowler even with a theoretically poor technique as long as you can consistently repeat your delivery, but it is easier to be consistent with a good technique. It is easier to consistently bowl along a line parallel to the direction you are facing than it is to consistently bowl the same way across your body or away from your body.



John Snell from his book Winning Bowls (1982)

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

Most coaches, including our recent visiting coaches and the late Bob Middleton in his two coaching sessions at NBBC quite a few years ago, advocate placing your feet parallel to and just inside the delivery line. Bob used coins placed at a bowler's toe and heel to demonstrate that many bowlers think their feet are thus aligned but that actually they are not pointing along the line to their nominated aiming point. This means that their perceived aiming point is not on their actual delivery line or they are not delivering the bowl along a line parallel to the direction they are facing.

Some bowlers do not want to have their feet parallel. They feel better balanced with an angle between the feet. In this case, our recent visiting coach Kelly McKerihen says that the leading foot (the left foot for a right-handed bowler) should be parallel to the delivery line.

In attempting to implement the technique of aligning the feet parallel to the delivery line, some bowlers greatly overestimate the correct angle of the feet on the mat. If they stand with their feet at too great an angle, then their delivery line cannot be parallel to the direction they are facing. On greens of NBBC's dimensions with the mat on the back mark, it is about 34.7 metres from the mat to the number on the bank and rinks are 4.8 metres wide. If your delivery line is to the next rink number, then the angle from the centre line is about 7.9 degrees. To the rink's boundary peg, it is 4 degrees and to the further boundary peg of the adjoining rink, it is 11.7 degrees.

On our greens, in the absence of a cross wind, a typical delivery angle would be less than 10 degrees. I had a skip once who told me that my feet should be at 11 o'clock or 1 o'clock, the centre line being 12 o'clock. This was clearly bad advice, notwithstanding that our greens at the time were faster than they are now, as those positions correspond to an aiming angle of 30 degrees and an aiming point more than four rink numbers away. That skip, a very good bowler, either wasn't following his own advice or, if he was positioning his feet at that angle, had a delivery line well inside where his feet were pointing. Continuing with the clock analogy but using the minute hand, two minutes to or past the hour corresponds to an angle of 12 degrees. I think that many bowlers would be surprised to be told that their delivery angle should be around one and a half minutes to/past the hour on an imaginary clock.

Tony Ralston

Social Director's Report

The Opening of the Bowls Season went very well on the 30th, despite the weather. We catered for 70 members – thank you to all who attended, and a special thank you to everyone who helped with preparation and clean-up.

A big thank you also goes to the members who assisted with cleaning the kitchen prior to Opening Day: members of the Social Committee – Anna Sinclair, Anne Durrant, Bev Brown, and Gayle Slessar – along with Adeline Roberts and Phil D'Paul, who did a magnificent job on the stovetops and ovens.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

The Social Committee hopes to commence Friday evening social events in September (dates to be advised). These will follow Pennant training.

A reminder to members: if you book an event through TidyHQ, you do not need to add your name to the list on the board.

The bar area is scheduled to have new cabinets installed in the coming weeks and the dishwasher will soon be fully operational.









Thank you to all who have assisted Gayle Slessar (Functions Manager) with recent events, and to Chris Nolan and Cheryle Amos for maintaining the bar stock. Members with RSA certificates are reminded to keep them current. A bar roster will be provided shortly for the upcoming Pennant Season.

I look forward to seeing you all at our events.

Sue Stephens

Craft Group

In **July** Anna taught our ladies to paint this **Wooden Keyholder** and the results were amazing. We have some very talented ladies. See if you can find the Ladybug.



Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

Bev Brown, Betty Collins, Therese James, Sue O'Brien and Ann Ong brought in some beautiful garments and blankets for KOGO. Betty has demonstrated exceptional productivity in her blanket donations, each of which is unique and exhibits excellent colour co-ordination. I think Bev is probably the next big maker of blankets. Thank you to all our ladies for your donations.





In **August** we were challenged with making six **gift wrapping ideas** in two hours -Paper cup holder, The Tri-angular Box, The Gift Bag, The Gift Sachet, The Gift Card Holder and the Serviette Cookie Holder.

Due to the eLetter only being published bi-monthly, I now need to get my act together so I can tell you what is happening in the next two months. Our next meeting is **Monday**, 8th **September**, 2025 and we will be making **Christmas Cards and Gift Cards** with **Anna Sinclair** and on **Monday**, 13th **October**, 2025 we will be making a **Beaded Angel** with **Lois Staunton** (Lois is providing a Kit – so please advise Lois Staunton if you wish to make one).

Looking forward to seeing you all for some Craft, a chat and a cuppa with like-minded people. LOIS STAUNTON

| Bronze Sponsors | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|---|--|
| Snap | Snap Printing Ground Floor, 689 Burke Road, Camberwell, Vic 3124 | | Meat in a Box 68A Doncaster Rd, Balwyn North VIC 3104 | |
| Harvest Bakery | Harvest Bakery Harvest Bakery is located at 255A Belmore Rd, Balwyn North | PETE'S SIGNS | Pete's Signs We provide a huge range of signage solutions for businesses, shops, sporting clubs and schools | |
| GEORGE & MATILDA TENERS TOTAL JOYCE OPTOMETRISTS | Joyce Optometrists - George & Matilda EyeCare Our qualified optometrists use the latest techniques and equipment, ensuring your eyes receive the very best care possible. | | | |

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

| Bronze Plus Sponsors | | |
|--|--|--|
| anew smile | A New Smile Exceptional dental services, industry-renowned professionals, and compassionate patient care. 55 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene | |
| real health Naturopathy & Acupuncture | A Real Health A professional & holistic healing centre, combining naturopathy, painless acupuncture, and low-level laser therapy. 437 Belmore Rd, Mont Albert North VIC 3129 | |
| REGAN MARKAGE TO | Regan Motors Regan Motors has been selling and servicing new and used vehicles in Balwyn and the surrounding areas for over 70 years. | |
| Vets on Balwyn North Balwyn Veterrary Proposal | Vets on Balwyn Life's Better with a Happy Pet. Welcome to Vets on Balwyn | |

Indoor Bias Bowls

Our Indoor Bias Bowls Pennant Season has wrapped up for 2025 with very pleasing results.

For the first time we entered four teams in the pennant competitions, and we were successful having 3 teams competing in the semifinals, two teams progressing to the finals and our NB1 Wednesday team winning the Div 2 flag.

Thanks, and congratulations to all the players who contributed during the 16 weeks of competition. Special thanks to Barry Stillman & George Liondas for their assistance with Pennant selection.

Also, thanks to every member who has come along on Friday & Sunday mornings this past year to bowl, enjoy the camaraderie and have some fun while honing our bowling skills.

See finals photos on the ESIBBA Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575386741440

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

All members who have participated in Indoor Bowls this year, both social & pennant players are invited to attend the **ESIBBA Presentation Day** on Sunday 21st September 2025 at 12.00noon for 12.30pm, here at North Balwyn Bowls Club. The cost is \$15.00 (cash) per person payable on the day.

To assist with the catering (soup, quiche, tea/coffee & cake) please put your name on the list by the main NBBC noticeboard before the 17th September 2025 OR contact ESIBBA Treasurer Jodie Jones direct on 0407 567 422 or by email jnrjones@optusnet.com.au
Please advise if you have any special dietary requirements.

Finally, our regular Friday morning social sessions will continue, and all members are welcome to come along and give the game a try.

Robyn McClelland Indoor Co-ordinator

Bridge Wildcards





Defence is one of the hardest aspects of bridge. When the declarer starts playing her winning tricks, it can be difficult to know which card to discard to avoid giving away tricks.

Here are a few guidelines to consider:

- 1. **Protect your honours**. Avoid discarding from holdings like Kx, Qxx, or Jxxx if there is a possibility of making a trick.
- 2. **Keep length with dummy**. Especially with four cards in a suit, keep that suit if dummy also has four cards; unless all your cards are lower than dummy's lowest card. The same applies for shorter suits.
- 3. **Keep length with declarer**. If declarer has bid a suit, she will have four (or five) cards in that suit. So, if you have four (or five) cards in that suit, including perhaps one high card or even a Jack or a Ten, try and keep that suit rather than discarding from it.
- 4. Watch declarer's discards. It's often a good idea to discard the same suit that declarer is discarding.
- 5. If you think partner has a long suit, try to **keep a card in partner's suit** if you think you may gain the lead so that you can lead that suit back to partner.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

6. If you wish to signal strength in a suit, try to **signal by discarding** a low-ish card in that suit or a high card in another suit (if you play 'reverse attitude signals' - Low for Like/encourage, High for Hate/discourage). Other signal systems can also be used here.

And for suit contracts only, some more discarding guidelines:

- 7. It's often safe to discard a suit that declarer has already ruffed in her hand, unless you need to keep length with dummy.
- 8. If dummy has a short suit but declarer does not try to ruff that suit in dummy, it may be because she has no losers to ruff, so that may be a safe suit to discard. But also keep length with dummy.

These guidelines work well, but sometimes conflict with each other, and we can't do everything we wish to do.

Good luck at the tables.

Happy bridging,

Morry Freedman ♥

| Bronze Plus Sponsors | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| GREYTHORN CELLARS | Greythorn Cellars Family-owned business with over 30 years experience providing the right price and the right service. Fine Wines, Beers & Spirits | |
| EASTERN BELL CHINESE RISTAURANT | Eastern Bell Chinese Eastern Bell is BYO & has a bottle shop and a large dining area – perfect for family gatherings. | |
| // Amcal+ | Amcal+ Pharmacy David's Amcal+ Pharmacy 81 Doncaster Road, Balwyn North 3104 | |
| KIESER | Kieser Physiotherapy We help you reduce pain and build strength with our unique mix of physiotherapy and strength training 733 Whitehorse Rd Mont Albert | |

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

Pickleball at NBBC

Overview of Pickleball Sessions

NBBC currently offers two Pickleball sessions each week, both held on Fridays at 9:30 AM and 10:30 AM. Attendance has been growing consistently, with some sessions reaching the full capacity of ten participants. Despite the positive trend, it is surprising that more members have not taken the opportunity to try Pickleball. To date, no session has been cancelled due to bad weather, although the conditions last Friday came quite close to causing a cancellation.



Coaching and Equipment

Our professional coach, Anthony Baranoski, plays a central role in supporting new and returning players. He provides all necessary equipment for the sessions and patiently introduces newcomers to the sport, beginning with fundamental strategies. This supportive environment has encouraged most participants to return after their initial experience, with only a few exceptions.

Grant and Development Plans

NBBC has been awarded a grant of \$3,248 to support the further development of Pickleball. In accordance with the grant's requirements, these funds will be allocated to court marking, equipment purchases, coaching, and marketing initiatives.

Future Expansion

Pending final approval from the board, there are plans to double the number of Pickleball courts from two to four. The new courts are expected to be oriented east-west rather than the current north-south layout.

Booking Information

Members interested in participating in Pickleball sessions can make bookings through the NBBC website.

Peter O'Brien Co-ordinator

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North ----- our Platinum Sponsor

Our Sponsors

Sponsors of our Club are mentioned throughout this newsletter. The Club is grateful for their support of our activities. Please consider supporting our sponsors if you need the goods and services that they offer.

| Silver Sponsors | | |
|---|---|--|
| BCIB INSURANCE BROKERS | BCiB is a division of Domina General Insurance Brokers and a leading insurance broker to the licensed bowling club industry throughout Australia. | |
| | We are a proud major sponsor of lawn bowls throughout Australia. | |
| Choices | We invite you to Choices Flooring 's stunning new showroom in Doncaster. | |
| Chaises Rissing Disseasors #30 Disseasors and #300 1000 thickerforcing centum thickerforcing centum | We have the latest in residential flooring in carpet, timber, tile, laminate, luxury vinyl and the new hybrid flooring. | |
| back to sleep mattress & pillow specialists | Back to sleep exert a uniqueness in the world of bedding and mobility products - a specialised showroom in the heart of Balwyn, staffed by a friendly team whose only focus is helping you to sleep better, live better®, now, and into the future. | |
| plumbers choice | Plumbers Choice is a Trade Only plumbing supplies, our goal is to change the way plumbing goods are sold in Australia | |
| Jellis Craig | Jellis Craig are local area experts, delivering the best results for all clients as they share their passion and knowledge of Melbourne real estate. 244A Whitehorse Rd, Balwyn | |
| JOINT & MUSCLE PAIN RELIEF | Zen Herbal Liniment & Zen Sports Spray help relieve minor sports injuries including bruises, sprains and general muscle aches. Perfect for bowlers! | |

Our Platinum, Gold, Bronze Plus and Bronze sponsors are displayed earlier in the newsletter.

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

Club Personality

Club Personality No 31 – Patrick Culshaw



Patrick was born in Feb 1939, at Thame (pronounced Tame) in Oxfordshire, England, just a few months before WWII started. He was born on a "Home Leave", his father working for the colonial service as a Civil Engineer in West Africa. It was not thought appropriate to take newborn babies back to the tropics so when leave came to an end Patrick joined his elder sister in a life of boarding schools and living with Aunts. — To this day he brags "I went to school at the age of 4, that's 4 months, not years".

A trial period of 8 months when he was 9 years old in The Gambia was not successful, so it was back to England.

His father retired from West Africa in 1951 and settled in Chester, which is where Patrick likes to call home - after North Balwyn.

Patrick went to Tonbridge School, in Kent, famous for producing Colin Cowdrey. He left early to take up a career in Engineering with de Havilland Aircraft Co.. He assures us that none of the Comets he worked on crashed and is proud of the fact that it was only after the research into **Metal Fatigue** by de Havilland that all the other Jet airliners could safely fly.

In 1962 Patrick joined a group of 9 others and drove overland to Australia, well the last little bit was by boat and plane. Having arrived in Melbourne with no money for a return fare he settled down to work as a professional engineer - ACL/Repco 6 years, BF Goodrich (2) and Ajax Fasteners (13). He was Chief Engineer at BFG and Ajax before rising to the dizzy heights of senior management as Screw Division Manager in the Sunshine factory of Ajax Fasteners.

In 1967 he married a local girl, Bronwyn Brooks. Bronwyn had already been overseas four times and had a successful career in PR working for a number of top executives in major daily newspapers as well a director of Macmillan Publishing. Two children quickly followed.

In his late 40s the retrenchments in the ever-decreasing manufacturing sector caught up with him. The Sunshine factory which had boasted a peak work force of 1,200 was down to 150, Patrick was in charge for the last 200 retrenchments!

Helloworld Travel Balwyn North - - - - - our Platinum Sponsor

He then joined his wife in a small family business of stationery and Schools supplies-"**Byron Business** and **Supply Service**" where he looked after all the company accounts. Over a 10-year period they built the business up to a full-time staff of 20 with a large warehouse and two retail outlets. When the time came to sell the business, Patrick took a number of part-time jobs as Bookkeeper.

Outside of family and work Patrick was heavily involved with Rugby Union. He had joined the Footscray RC whilst working in the area in 1963 and was a regular first grade player. He was called up for State trials over a number of years "I was kept out of the State Team by a fellow called David Sheppard, a Wallaby and captain coach of the state team", he says.

His other great interest has been contract-bridge, starting in West Africa when he was 9 (!) making up the numbers for his mother. He taught beginners at U3A for a number of years and is now a regular player with Bronwyn at the Club bridge sessions.

Patrick has always got involved with running things. At college it was the rugby club and the Student News; In Melbourne - Rugby again, being on Club and State committees and producing the weekly VRU News; Scout and School committees; Local Liberal party; Treasurer for the Victorian Sculpture association and the State and National "Go Associations" - an ancient Chinese board game; Bridge teacher at U3A, occasional presenter for military history for U3A.

Patrick started bowls about 6 or 7 years ago but wishes he had started 10 years earlier. "I've just started getting reasonably good and now my body is giving out" - His knee has forced him to keep away from skipping for the coming pennant season. He has been a regular in Pennant on Saturday and Tuesday over the last 5 or so years and was also responsible for the Club Newsletter for the last three and a half years.

Patrick and Bronwyn have lived in North Balwyn/Balwyn/Kew for the last 58 years. Their two children, both live in Victoria. Each have two children, and they are proud expectant great-grandparents.

His one overriding philosophy in life is simple. "You are master of your own destiny. It does not matter what has happened to you in the past, just get on with life the best you can and stop blaming others".