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## Member Spotlight



The Spotlight this month is shining brightly on Sam Chamberlain.

Sam joined FVBC in 2007 and is a well-known and recognised figure around the grounds. He remembers being taken to a bowls club for a visit when he was a very small boy but many years passed before his next encounter.

He was playing pub football and cricket at Edinburgh Gardens but was finding it hard going. A friend suggested lawn bowls so Sam came here and found it worked well for him.

Sam has lived a full and busy life with a lot of years spent working in areas where there was a need for support and making a difference for people.

His first position after leaving school was in the army on a six-year contract.

The next period of Sam's working life was in hospitality where he took on a variety of roles. His last position was with Australia Post as a trusty postie. He really enjoyed the freedom and being outside and on his bike.

Sam has been a constant contributor around FVBC, especially through coaching and encouraging the U3A groups. He is an accredited bowls coach and many members have benefited from his coaching hints and tricks and his infinite patience.

He is often seen collecting glasses and rubbish around the place. He turns his hand to whatever is needed and always with a welcoming smile.

# Committee of Management

## Happy New Year to all our club members and friends

The Committee of Management held its first meeting for 2026 on January 15. It felt like an early start to the year but we have a full agenda ahead and many improvements planned for the coming months.

## New Mural Project

Over the next couple of months, you'll notice some exciting activity around the club. A local artist has been engaged to create a new mural along our streetside wall—an upgrade that's well overdue and will give the club a fresh, vibrant look. The proposed design will be presented to the Committee in February.

## Upstairs Meeting Room Refresh

The upstairs meeting room is undergoing a small repurposing fit-out. Thanks to one of our suppliers, Vinarchy Wines, we now have a suitable fridge for cans and bottles. Staff are planning furniture and layout options to make the space multi-purpose.

Our aim is to create a welcoming area for:

- post-game gatherings in a quieter team environment
- corporate groups and smaller private functions

This will help us make better use of the space and offer more options for members and guests.

## Public Holiday Operations

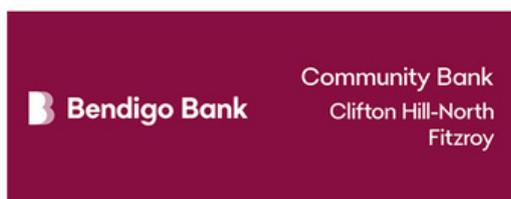
Due to rising costs—especially penalty rates—and consistently low attendance, the club will close on most Monday public holidays. For other public holidays, we may introduce themed events where appropriate.

## Bar Operating Hours

From **late March**, the club will be adjusting bar hours to better reflect customer numbers and ensure the continued sustainability of the club.

- **Mondays:** The bar will close at 5pm unless a function is booked
- **Other weekdays:** Closing times will be set daily based on customer numbers and patronage

Green access for bowlers will remain unchanged.



*Valued Club Partner*

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# CoM...

## No Cash-Out Policy

The Committee has also introduced a no cash-out policy. With cash transactions becoming less common, it has become difficult at times to maintain enough cash for floats. This change ensures clarity for members, who will now know to make alternative arrangements if they require cash when visiting the club.



## Venue Upgrade Plan – Volunteers Wanted

We are forming a subcommittee to help develop a comprehensive 20-year venue and grounds upgrade plan. If you have relevant skills or a keen interest in contributing to the future of our club, we'd love to hear from you.

We plan to engage a professional to turn our ideas into concept drawings, staged priorities, and costings.

Please contact Lynn May at [secretary@fvbowl.com.au](mailto:secretary@fvbowl.com.au) to express your interest.

## U3A Returns – Expanded Program

From February 4, we welcome back our U3A groups for the new term—this year adding U3A Yarra to the two U3A Melbourne groups.

Sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays are led by Peter Hille, Bowls Development Officer, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers.

These sessions continue to be a great success, having already produced 21 gold pennant players and many active social members who enjoy bowls for fitness, fun, and community connection.

## Thursday Dinners

Our twice-monthly Thursday dinners will have recommenced by the time you read this newsletter. This is another initiative from Peter, consistently attracting 60-80+ members and community friends each night.

If you'd like to be added to the invite list, please let Peter Hille know [phille@primus.com.au](mailto:phille@primus.com.au)



# Social News

## JACK HOWARD'S EPIC BRASS BAND

Epic Brass are making their return to the stage on Sunday February 22 3:00pm-6:00pm.

Don't miss this special one-off show with some great Australian music legends.

Dave Graney (Dave Graney and the Coral Snakes)

Clare Moore (Dave Graney and the Coral Snakes)

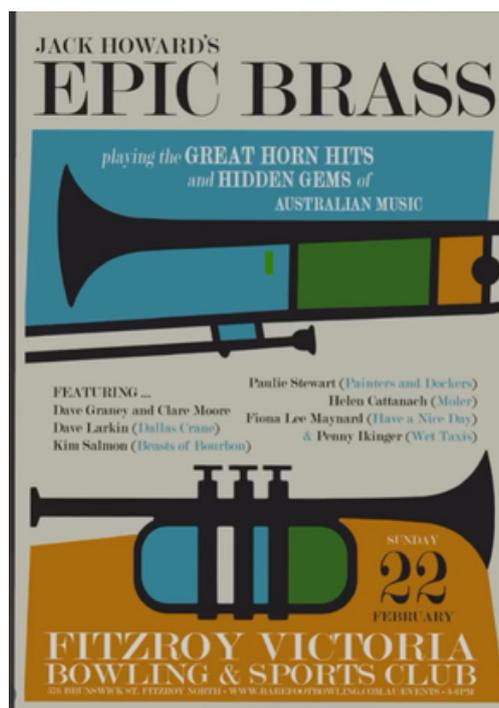
John Archer (Hunters and Collectors)

Jack Howard (Hunters and Collectors)

Kim Salmon (Beasts of Bourbon, The Scientists and

Kim Salmon and the Surrealists)

Tickets are available through Humantix  
<https://events.humanitix.com>



## Dimmies and Tinnies

Who doesn't love a Dim Sim? A classic Australian staple.

Dimmies and Tinnies is the brainchild of Eddy Buckingham (NYC Old Mates Bar), Chef Paul Donnelly (Mr Wong & Ms.G's), Sam Gordon (Australian Potter) and Andy Lee (Radio and TV legend).

Dimmies and Tinnies will be making a stop at the club in April. Keep an eye on our socials for more information.



Valued Club Sponsor

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# Social News...

## Boot Scooting

Kitty and Lu will be returning Friday March 6 stomping and kicking their way through 2026. Tickets are available through Try Booking <https://www.discorodeobootscoot.com>



## Sunday Music

We will be hopping back into the Sunday Music schedule after the Easter Holidays. Remember to keep an eye out on our socials website to see who is playing each week.

## Bingo

Eyes down and get ready to Bingo. Bazingo Bingo will be coming to the club once a month on Saturdays starting in May. More information will be available in the next newsletter.



**Nelson  
Alexander**

*Valued Club Sponsor*

# From the Manager

Hello Members!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with friends and/or family. Just a quick one from me.

As you may have heard, progress on a new mural is underway. We have been fortunate enough to have a lovely artist by the name of Melanie Capel graciously donate her time and a considerable amount of her paint to update our long-suffering mural wall. It will take a little bit of time but the wheels are turning.

In the interim I recommend you take a peep at her work if you would like a bit of insight:

Instagram: @melanie\_caple

Website: <https://www.melaniecaple.com>

On to some less fun news. In their infinite wisdom CUB has seen fit to implement a significant wholesale price increase across their entire range. Unfortunately, that in turn means a price increase is incoming for all punters and members alike. We still have a bit of buffer stock purchased at the lower price point to work through but in the coming two weeks there will be increases specific to the CUB product range.

Lastly, one of our longest serving staff members is flying the coup! The lovely Izzy is leaving us to stretch her wings and run off into the sunset. Izzy is a Bowlo veteran of six years and will be sorely missed so please show her some love if you see her around.

Catch you around the Club.

Rohan



*Valued Club Sponsor*

# On the Green

Neil Ronaldson

## Happy New Year to everyone

We have been hit with some sweltering heat on the re-start of season 2025/26.

Some games have been abandoned, some played, and Tuesday pennant recently cancelled entirely due to temperatures exceeding 40 degrees.

With only a couple of Saturday and Midweek pennant games remaining it's very important that players advise the selectors if they are unavailable. Please put your name down on the *Unavailability* sheets on the notice board or contact a selector to let them know as soon as possible. The Selection Committee meets every Monday night to pick the five Saturday sides. It is important that the selectors are aware of your availability prior to selection each week.

## PENNANT SEASON

**Saturday pennant** has been challenging due to the heat rule. The weekend of January 24 was crucial for our Division 2 side. Staving off relegation is a daunting task—each week feels like a grand final. To avoid cancellation, St Kilda, agreed to play the Round 11 clash on Friday night at FV. Our journey will continue as we had a great win with two rinks up. The rink skipped by Sam Marshall had a resounding victory and Josh Bradley's rink snuck over the line on the last end! Well done to all of second side players. Keep it going!

Premier Reserve had a very close victory over Flemington-Kensington BC at FV on a very warm Saturday. The game was well attended by supporters from both sides.

Side 3 (Div 4) and Side 5 (Div 7) both had a rest with the games being abandoned due to the heat rule.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> side (Div 6) travelled to Glen Waverley BC. An early start was instigated by Bowls Victoria to avoid the excessive heat and the champions toughed out a great win!

## Tuesday Midweek

Division 1 have been struggling against very strong opposition all season. Heading back to Div 2 won't be such a bad thing.

Hopefully our second side, currently in Div 4, can get up to Div 3. We are sitting 2<sup>nd</sup> on the ladder with three games remaining in the season.

Our 6-a-side teams continue to be competitive each week.

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# On The Green...

## Thursday Midweek

Division 1 played against Bentley and had a great win with all rinks up. They have one more game to play and will be in the finals.

Our second side won overall and are playing in a semi-final against Murumbeena Park on Thursday 5.

## REGIONALS

The Regionals were held again in the Ballarat region.

Fitzroy Victoria BC were well represented in the Northern Gateway Bowls Region women's side with Cloe Scherger, Jo Mc Mahon and Megan Grantham all playing on the same rink alongside Alana Flapper from Essendon BC. They were a formidable combination and helped NGBR elevate back to the Gold section. Well done gals!!

On the men's side, FV's Brad Janner was an integral part of another winning side.

NGBR were overall champions.

## MBA

For the second year running Fitzroy Victoria hosted the Master Builders Association (MBA).

This year we won the shield with Jack MacNab's rink a big winner on the day. His team included Ian Aitken, Chris Warne and Geoff Sims.

Once again, the day was a huge success. A delicious lunch and yummy afternoon tea rounded out a great day on the green.

Many thanks to Haydn Williams, the MBA crew, all FV players that took part, and our bar staff and management for making it another fun day at the club.



Shield winners



Best MBA rink

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# On The Green...

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Feb 1 saw the final of the 2025/26 Men's Singles Championship between Rick Hartley and Brad Fothergill.

Rick got out to a 12-shot lead with some excellent draw bowling and some big drives. Every time Brad got two to three shot bowls, Rick would blast them off!

Brad found his length and picked up eight shots in four ends and it was game on!

The next eight ends were very tight with Rick holding a narrow 20-17 lead. Brad had fought back admirably to narrow the gap but Rick proved he was a worthy winner by getting to 25 with Brad finishing on 17.

Well bowled to both players. A high quality, enjoyable game. Sadly, there can only be one winner, and today that was Rick.

Massive congratulations to both players!



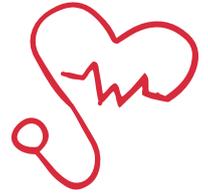
Don't forget to get along on Thursday, Feb 5 at 5pm for the Women's Singles Final between Megan Grantham and Ali Copley. Looking forward to seeing lots of support for our two women as they battle it out for the title!

**Finally, with the season nearing its end, remember the three C's:**

## CONCENTRATION, CONSISTENCY AND CONFIDENCE

**Good bowling everyone!**

# Volunteer with Street Side Medics



Street Side Medics is a not-for-profit delivering a free, GP-led mobile medical service to people experiencing homelessness across NSW and VIC.

We're currently on the hunt for volunteers to join our team as **van drivers** for our **Friday morning Dandenong clinic**.

Van drivers need to:

- Have a valid Gold C Class Driver License (standard license without any restrictions).
- Be over the age of 25.
- Be available for one clinic every month. Shifts are generally four-five hours long.

Keen to join the team and get involved? Reach out to [volunteer@streetsidemedics.com.au](mailto:volunteer@streetsidemedics.com.au) for more information.

