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## Member Spotlight



The Spotlight this month is shining on Bernice Brook.

Bernice has been at FVBC for three seasons and is a valued gold member, willing to put her hand up wherever she sees a need.

Bernice had been dealing with some health issues and when the U3A group suggested lawn bowls she saw it as an opportunity to get fit. She didn't expect to enjoy it and after a couple of games was surprised to see it was something she could do. And maybe do well.

FVBC was Bernice's immediate choice, having trained with the U3A program and, importantly, having received such a warm welcome from everybody. It was an easy decision. Living in Clifton Hill made it very handy as well.

After working in the Public Service Department of Statistics for some time Bernice turned her hand to helping out in her children's classrooms. Then an opportunity presented to begin working as an integration teacher aid. She had found her niche, loved it, and went on to develop a long and satisfying career working with special needs children. Bernice said, 'I believe I got more out of the experience than the kids. It was so rewarding to know these kids and be able to support their needs.'

Bernice has spent her life stepping up wherever she sees a need and is still doing so. If you want to know anything about club uniforms, talk to Bernice.

She works hard on her game and can be a formidable opponent. Last season she was joint winner of the Coach's Player Award. Good to have you Bernice.



# Committee of Management

## **Long term major project – Club house and grounds upgrade**

We are working with the City of Yarra Manager of Recreation and Leisure to develop a long-term upgrade plan for the clubhouse and grounds. This will involve the Committee of Management and interested members exploring options and then prioritising and sequencing projects. It is a significant task, but an essential one for the club's future and long-term sustainability. It will also better position us to apply for council funding, as well as government and philanthropic grants. If you have skills or experience in building upgrades, planning, or project management, we would be delighted to have your support. Please contact Lynn May, Secretary, if you are interested.

## **Electronic Score Boards**

We have finally received our two new electronic scoreboards. These will display the overall division scores for our pennant games. A big thank-you to Neil Ronaldson for his extensive research, including many hours and visits to other clubs to assess the various options. The scoreboards suit our space well—they're not too dominant and can be stored securely after games. They are a clear improvement on our previous setup. When playing at home, one of the Seconds will enter the overall scores using a remote device.

## **Uniforms - the saga continues**

Many will have heard that the supplier made a mistake and that the club logo was not correct on a recent and long anticipated order.

In the meantime:

**Polo shirts** with the incorrect logo—great for practice, bowlo, club games, Wednesday night pennant and tournaments - \$30

**Shorts** with the correct logo - \$50

**Hoodies** in a lighter fabric more suitable for less cold weather. Limited stock of 3 mediums and 4 XL - \$80

**Long pants and Track pants** - reduced from \$70 to \$40

**Skorts** - reduced from \$50 to \$30

The supplier is in the process of providing a replacement order for the polo shirts at no cost to the club. They are about three weeks away. Stay tuned.

Please text Andrea (0417 107 178) or Bernice (0403 445 051) to make a time to meet at the club and make your purchase. Alternatively, if you see one of them at the club, just ask!

The logo for KIESER, featuring the word "KIESER" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark blue background. A horizontal blue line is positioned below the text.

**KIESER**

*Valued Club Sponsor*

# CoM...

## Christmas Message from the Committee of Management

Dear Members,

As the year draws to a close the Committee of Management would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your support, participation and friendship throughout 2025. Lawn bowls is more than a sport—it's a community, and together we've created a welcoming club where everyone belongs.

This festive season we celebrate not only the joy of the game but also the spirit of camaraderie that makes our club special. Whether you've been on the green, volunteering behind the scenes, or cheering from the sidelines your contribution has made a real difference.

May Christmas bring you peace, happiness and time with loved ones. We look forward to rolling into the new year with fresh energy, shared laughter and continued success both on and off the green.

From all of us on the Committee of Management—Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## From the Newsletter Editorial Team

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our club newsletter and to those who have provided feedback. Many members say they enjoy the updates and find them interesting. If you hear of anyone not receiving the newsletter please ask them to contact the Secretary who will check their email details in TidyHQ. We always welcome suggestions for improvement.

There will be no newsletter in January. **The next edition will be February 2026.**



# Social News

## Fitzroy Victoria Christmas Party - DEC 21

### Join the Christmas Party Music!

**This year's entertainment is all about our own club talent.**

**We'll kick off with an acoustic performance and then open the night up to you.**

**Members are invited to bring their instruments, jump on the open mic and show us your talents.**



**Or if you would like to just have a singalong, we'll also have karaoke.**

**Come along, take part, or just enjoy the fun!**

Entertainment enquiries - Rob McIntosh 0439660599

Bookings - Peter Hille

Gold Members: \$20

Partners: \$25

Social Members: \$25

U18s: \$10

# Social News...

## CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS

Have you booked your Christmas party yet? We are the place you want to be but the calendar is filling up quickly and there are limited spaces left.

Book at [functions@barefootbowling.com.au](mailto:functions@barefootbowling.com.au)

## Wednesday December 10 – Closed for private function

The club will be closed for a private function on Wednesday December 10 from 5:00pm.

## MUSIC ON SUNDAYS

Thank you for a great year and big thanks to Rodger Bryant and John Archer for their hard work and dedication to the Music on Sundays program. We will be back early in the new year.



*Valued Club Sponsor*

**Nelson  
Alexander**

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# From the Manager

As usual, just a couple of quick items from me.

Some of you may have noticed already that we have changed the padlocks on the front and rear gates for something a little sturdier. The codes will all remain the same for ease of use.

I have also recently purchased a new speaker for members to use. It's a nifty little JBL unit that should more than service everyone's need to blast bangers up on the green. Members, please use this speaker and this speaker alone. The other one is reserved for Marquee bookings of which we have a heap in the coming month all through the weekdays and weekends. Also, please be mindful and look after the new unit—especially its power cord! If you take it up, make sure it comes back down, cord and all, so we can continue to have nice things!

You are also probably aware that the Marquee toilets are currently out of action. Thank you to everyone for raising the issue with me. I am engaging with Council to sort it out. The issue is unrelated to our previous problem and unfortunately it's not a simple blockage. It's a more complicated problem involving the pumps and wiring that operate the plumbing for those toilets. We are currently waiting for parts that should arrive next week and work will commence from there. Until then it's crucial that those toilets are not used so we don't compound the problem. I appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience.

Lastly, a little one from the bar. Sim has one last late addition to our summer wine list in the form of a new Sav Blanc. If that's your flavour, come give it a try.

Stay hydrated and I'll see you around the club house!

Rohan

## **HOLIDAY HOURS**

The Christmas and New Year holidays are approaching and the clubhouse will close for a short break so everyone can recharge their batteries.

**Last day of trade:** Tuesday, December 23 at 5:00pm

**Reopening:** Saturday, January 3 at 11:00am

Members can still use the green during the break as they normally do outside business hours, but the clubhouse itself will remain closed.



# On the Green

Neil Ronaldson

## PENNANT SEASON

All pennant competitions are now underway.

With Night Pennant on Wednesdays and 7-a-side on Thursdays, some members are representing FV up to four times a week. To those who are doing this, well done!

Everyone is getting the chance to be out on the green at least once a week for competitive bowls.

Please let the selectors know if you are unavailable for any matches. Add your name to the *unavailability sheets* on the notice board or contact a selector as soon as you can.

The Selection Committee meets every Monday night to choose the five Saturday sides, so it's important they know your availability before selections are made.

## SATURDAY

**Reserve** had a resounding victory against an unbeaten Lalor in Round 5 to finally kick-start their season.

**Side 2 (Div2)** is off to a rough beginning and are looking for a win to get their season going. Lots of player 'ins and outs' haven't helped the situation.

**Side 4 (Div 6)** Let's congratulate Div 4 Andy Mbepe Carter and his rink (Beau A, Sam C and Lynne Darkin) for picking an eight on their first end v. North Balwyn (Novemembr 29). Nice work legends!!!

**Side 5 (Div 7)** A massive shout out to our Division 7 side on a fantastic performance on November 29. With only 13 players, playing an away game at Hawthorn, they got the chocolates with a one shot victory. What a brilliant effort that's well and truly the spirit of the Lions!

That we are able to keep fielding five sides each week is also a real positive.

## TUESDAY MIDWEEK

**Side 1 (Div 1)** have been up against some tough opposition but can lay claim to a great away win in Round 2 against Keilor.

**Side 2 (Div 4)** is off to an excellent start with three wins from four games as is our **6-a-side** with three wins and one loss so far.

**Keep up the good work!**

# On The Green...

## Thursday Midweek

This uses a different format with **7 players per side** made up of two teams of pairs and a team of triples. Since this competition began two years ago we have had great success. The season is short, only ten rounds, and started in mid-November. We have two divisions playing.

## CLUB LOAN BOWLS AND BOWLING ARMS

The club has invested in loan bowls for those who are new to the game. We have a specific area in the women's locker room where they are kept.

Being on loan doesn't mean that they are to be taken home and held onto as other new bowlers, visiting bowlers and members' friends require access to them.

If you are playing pennant—Saturdays or mid-week, including night games—please collect bowls on the day of playing and return them after the game. Or have someone on your team pick up and return them.

Some bowls are currently missing and there is no record of who has them or when they will be returned. To fix this there is now a Club Loan Bowls instruction poster and register next to the storage area. Please record your details if a set of bowls is going to leave the club.

- Saturday or Tuesday pennant: you only need two bowls.
- Thursday or Wednesday night: you may need three bowls.

When returning bowls please place them back in the correct labelled box and ensure each set of four is complete. This keeps locker room tidy and ensures that others can use the equipment.

Loan Bowling Arms use the same process: if they leave the club you must fill out the register and return them the same day.

## Club Loan Bowls stock take

Jack will be conducting a stock take on December 3. Please return all loan bowls by this date.



# On The Green...

## NATIONALS

At the recent Nationals in Devonport, Tasmania, four FV players competed:

- Chloe Scherger (Victoria U18s)
- Tris Doolan (Victorian Women's)
- Dale McWhinney-Shillington (representing Queensland)
- Cody Packer (representing New South Wales)

A massive congratulations to all four—they each won a medal!

## Fitzroy Players Shine at Australian Sides Championships – by Tris Doolan

The Australian Sides Championships, held this year in Tasmania, once again brought together the nation's best bowlers to represent their states in a week of fierce competition. Across five days, each team battled through warm-up pennant games before facing seven rounds against rival states.

We're proud to share that four of our Fitzroy Victoria players not only represented their states with distinction, but each returned home with a medal.

### Chloe Scherger– Victorian Under 18s

Chloe won a silver medal—a brilliant achievement—and found the event a great learning experience both on and off the green. Being part of a great squad of young players only enhances her success and she continues her great form in our Premier Reserve side each week. On Saturday November 29 she notches up her 100<sup>th</sup> pennant game for FV.



### Tris Doolan – Victorian Women's

Tris played a pivotal role in the Victorian Women's team. After a tough opening loss to New South Wales the team rallied with resilience and determination, winning their next six matches. Their outstanding effort secured a Silver Medal, marking Victoria's second national medal in three years and reinforcing their reputation as a force on the national stage.



cont...

# On The Green...

## Dale McWhinney Shillington – Queensland Men

Dale's Queensland side followed a similar path. Despite dropping their first game to Tasmania they bounced back with six consecutive victories. This remarkable run was enough to clinch the Gold Medal crowning Queensland as national champions.

## Cody Packer – New South Wales Men

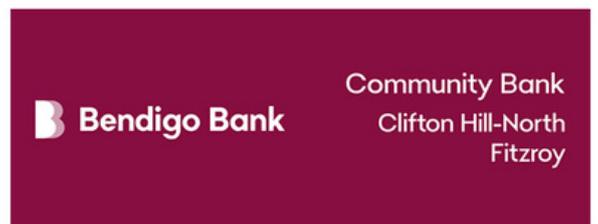
Cody's New South Wales team also impressed, dropping just one game across the tournament. Their consistency earned them a well-deserved Silver Medal



## A Club to Celebrate

In summary, all four Fitzroy representatives finished on the podium—an incredible achievement at the highest level of competition. Six wins out of seven games is no small feat and we couldn't be prouder.

**Congratulations to our champions—you've done Fitzroy proud!**



*Valued Club Partner*