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Member Spotlight

The Spotlight this month is shining brightly on Pat Morton, a long-standing member of FVBC.

Pat was introduced to lawn bowls in Darwin some years ago. The Darwin Bowls Club would have a BBQ and a social game each Friday night and Pat and Barrie went along most weeks. Then, as often happens, they began playing pennant.

They moved to Brisbane and then some time later to Melbourne. But in 1996 men and women didn't bowl together—women had a separate bowling area in the Edinburgh Gardens. So it wasn't until 2005 that Pat and Barrie joined the club as they wanted to play together.

The very next year Pat won the Women's Singles Championship and has been a very handy bowler for FVBC ever since, playing in all divisions including the top side. Well done Pat.

She is a very active member of Rotary, putting her hand up for whatever is needed, and sharing time with others at the Rotary bookshop once a week. Another interest is singing in a weekly community choir. And there's more!

Pat travels extensively each year. To make communication easier in Italy this year she has been studying Italian with the local U3A group. Something else to know about these travels is the amount of luggage she takes—only around 8kgs in a backpack!

She spent her working years in office duties including liaison officer for NT gas and various other positions. Now Pat has two daughters and four grandchildren to keep her busy as well many other interests. She is always a pleasure to be with.



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Committee of Management

Well, we are back into business as usual and two months of the year have passed already.

Tidy HQ - Using the Members Portal

Gold members were introduced to the Tidy HQ membership system last year and during the 2025/26 Pennant Season you were encouraged to practice using the Members Portal.

All the pennant information you need is on this portal. Information about:

- conditions of play;
- fixtures; and
- the weekly team selections.

This allows all players to check who is playing where.

Because all this information is on the portal we are hoping that for the 2026/27 season we can rely on members to go into the portal to find the selections for the division/s they play in. This will allow Neil to stop sending texts about team selections. But as we are still transitioning to the new system we'll play this by ear when the season starts.

Teams will be uploaded to the portal on:

- Wednesday (Saturday Pennant)
- Thursday (Tuesday Pennant) and
- Monday for (Wednesday night and Thursday Pennant).

Please become familiar with using the portal.

<https://www.barefootbowling.com.au/member-portal>

Follow the link above using your Tidy HQ login and password to login. The member portal tab is in the top right-hand corner.

Ultimately, we are trying to improve members' experience, make information available and reduce the volunteer hours that go into keeping people informed.



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CoM...

Committee of Management Meeting

Some changes and the progress of projects in play.

Upstairs room

This is now a viable booking space with a workable bar and alternative setup options. Feel free to check this out and refer friends, family and business to use the space.

Contact functions@barefootbowling.com.au

Solar panels

You may remember that the roof was replaced by the City of Yarra last year. We now have the go ahead to install new solar panels which will assist in the reduction of electricity costs as well as doing our bit towards reducing carbon emissions.

New mural

We're hoping that work on the street facing wall will begin this month. A fresh new look is coming our way.

Sponsorship opportunities

We are approaching local businesses to offer them advertising space in exchange for discount products and/or services for members. As they sign up we will, literally, put a sign up at the club. We will also let you know about them and what they are offering via this newsletter.



Valued Club Partner

Social News

JACK HOWARD'S EPIC BRASS BAND

Jack Howard's Epic Brass played at the club on Sunday February 22 with a star-studded line up including Helen Cattanach, John Archer, Kim Salmon and Dave Graney. They had the place rocking with some classic Australian tunes.



Ramble Tumble - The Australian Creedence Show Sunday March 29

RAMBLE TUMBLE
Melbourne's own Creedence Clearwater
Revival tribute band!
SUNDAY 29TH MARCH
Doors: 1:00pm
Showtime: 2:30pm
Tickets: \$30

TICKET ***

Ramble Tumble – The Australian Creedence Show is a five-piece band that perfectly replicates the sound of Creedence Clearwater Revival.

**Nelson
Alexander**

Valued Club Sponsor

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>



Footy Tipping

Young Henry's are proudly sponsoring the Fitzroy Victoria Bowling and Sports Clubs 2026 Foot Tipping. Entry is \$25.00 and you can sign up at the bar with one of our lovely staff. Come into the club every week to put on your tips and can have a free pot of either Young Henry's or Heaps Normal at the bar.



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.

A poster for the Rotary Club of Fitzroy. At the top left is the Rotary logo. The text reads: 'ROTARY CLUB OF FITZROY IS HOSTING LAWN BOWLS CRACKERJACK - ROUND ROBIN'. Below this, it says 'Fundraising for disadvantaged children in Fitzroy'. The event is 'At Fitzroy Bowling Club, 578 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy, Friday 13th March 2026 - 6pm to 9pm'. There is a list of details: 'Teams of 4', 'Come as a group or we will put you into a team.', '\$25 includes bowling, most meat roll (see us here for dietary requirements).', '\$15 for non-bowlers', '\$5 for kiddies under 14'. It also says 'Drinks at bar prices (but they are very reasonable)'. At the bottom, it says 'Please deposit submissions for Fitzroy Rotary Club', 'RSVP by Monday 9th March', and provides contact info: 'Anthony: mactormann@fitzroyrotary.com.au', 'Pat: patricia.a.mortan@gmail.com'. The background is a blurred image of a bowling green with a trophy and two glasses of wine in the foreground.

From the Manager

Hi all!

Some seasonal changes are coming on our beer taps.

With a mind to keep things fresh and affordable, for both the club and its punters alike, Balter XPA is being replaced with 4 Pines Pacific Ale which has a big fruity hop aroma and a smooth, dry, easy finish. So, if you are feeling like something new, give it a crack. It's been selling gangbusters so far!

To all you Pale Ale fans—don't fret. With the seasons gradually shifting we will also be moving on from the Young Henry's Cloudy Cider over the next couple of weeks and welcoming Young Henry's Newtowner Pale Ale to the mix.

And keep your eyes peeled as Sim might have some more little specials in the pipes behind the bar.

Lastly, footy tipping is back! Proudly sponsored by Young Henry's and Heaps Normal they are graciously supplying their fine products for you to quench your thirst each round as you enter your tips. It's these products and these only however folks: a pot of Young Henry's or a tin of Heaps Normal. No swapsies, no exceptions!

See you around the Club House folks.

Rohan



Valued Club Sponsor

On the Green

Neil Ronaldson

PENNANT SEASON

Well, the bulk of our Pennant season has been completed. Sadly, it hasn't been the season we were hoping for. Below is a brief summary.

Saturday pennant was disappointing. The only side to reach the finals was our Side 3 (Division 4) who finished second on the ladder. Last weekend was a double header. A semi final v. Albert Park on their slick synthetic surface saw us defeated.

On Sunday we hosted Middle Park, who really came to play. The visitors were too good and knocked us out of the race to get up to Division 3. Wasn't the weekend we had planned.

So next season (2026/27) will see, once again, five sides in total competing in Divisions 1, 3, 4 and 7 (two sides). Guaranteed we will be hungry to make up for the success that avoided us this season.

Tuesday Midweek

Side 2 (Division 4) had their first finals game last week, a home game against Werribee. This was an elimination final so it was a 'do-or-die' affair.

Our side performed most admirably and had a great win to advance to the preliminary final next Tuesday against Keilor. Win this game and we go up to Division 3!

So good bowling guys—go well!!

Thursday Midweek

Midweek Side 1 (Division 1) played off in the Grand Final against Caulfield Park at their indoor dome. Glad to say, for the second year in a row, we won the Division 1 section final.

After starting in Division 2 we have won three grand finals in a row!!

Massive congratulations to all those who represented FV during the Thursday competition. On a side note, we are the only club from the Northern Gateway Bowls Region that competes in this competition—GO LIONS!!

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On The Green...

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

We have just crowned two new club singles champions—Rick Hartley and Megan Grantham. Big congrats to both players and well played to the runners-up, Brad Fothergill and Ali Copley respectively. Rick and Megan have the right to progress to the Champion of Champions later in the year.



Rick and Brad



Ali and Megan

And we have a winner in the club Mixed Pairs—Jack Macnab and Chloe Scherger over Steve Webster and Jo McMahon. Well done and congratulations to everyone.



Jack, Jo, Chloe and Steve

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On The Green...

There are still lots of club games to be finalised in the lead up to our annual awards night where the Bill Foster Medal (Saturday Pennant B&F) and Morton Medal (Tuesday Midweek B&F) along with MVP (Most Valuable Player) awards will also be announced.

This awards night is the penultimate event of our season with a sit-down dinner, lots of awards, lots of laughs and a 'few' drinks!

TOURNAMENTS

Coming up in May is our third Winning Women's Tournament. This is an exclusive women's event showcasing some of Victoria and Australia's best bowlers.

In July we will be hosting our second Pride Tournament. Last year was a real hoot!

Lots of good bowls and way too much fun; this is guaranteed to be a day not to be missed.

More news to follow on these two events.

Just a heads up re the Victorian Open (held in Gippsland) and the Australian Open (held on the Gold Coast and surrounding areas). These events are coming up and I have it on good authority that we will see members proudly representing Fitzroy Victoria Bowls and Sports Club.

WINTER PENNANT

To all those keen bowlers who want to keep playing through the winter there will be a Winter Pennant season. It is not a formal Bowls Vic Pennant but they help run it. We are waiting for more details, including the season dates. It is unlikely to start for a few weeks as the finals of the formal pennant seasons are still in play.

FITZROY VICTORIA BOWLO

Yes! We will be running our social Bowlo again this winter, usually outside the Winter Pennant schedule. Jack Macnab (Bowls Coordinator) and I are in the planning stages of how it will work and who will run it. Bowlo is a social but competitive event held on Saturday afternoons. It's run by the club, and players from other clubs are welcome to join in. It's a great way to get to know other players of all skill levels and have some winter and spring fun. Stay tuned for more details.

Good bowling everyone!