

Greater Newcastle Region Bowls – Presidents Report 2025.

I would like to Welcome Everyone here tonight for our Greater Newcastle Region Annual General Meeting. The previous 12 months has certainly been very hectic with finalising our new Committees for our Region plus our Management Committee where we have seen a few changes since Unification. So, I would like to thank Milton Rigby who served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee and was also a Vice President for his excellent service to our Region and Members. Many thanks also to Vicki Rankin and Jacquie Aldred who was also very professional when we began to start the Unification process around 2 years.

Our Region has continued to run the Vets/Super Vets Day along with the Mattara Carnival each year with great sponsorship from David Llyods Funeral. Many thanks to Debbie Green and Aaron Bessant for your continued support from this company. This year we held a combined Men's and Ladies Presentation Night for the first time, and it was a huge success. We were honoured to have Mr Steve Glasson OAM to host the night along with our Bowls Co-ordinator Warren Shipley. Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to the Beresfield Bowling Club for your excellent support on the night.

Our Inter Region representative teams also done us proud throughout the year. Thank you to all players who were selected to represent the Region with pride, loyalty, and professionalism. The new uniforms looked great. There are many representative games fast approaching and no doubt there will be headaches for our selectors to select our Teams especially for the Inter Regionals to be played in Yamba and Illuka in February 2026. Our Men and Ladies did an amazing job in selecting the teams. Well done.

I would like to thank Michael Gray, CEO from the Club Charlestown/Lambton Club for the 4 past years whilst we have occupied office space at Club Lambton. As a result of consultation with Michael we have now moved our office to the Beresfield Bowling Club. A huge shout out to CEO Phil Ticehurst and the board for supporting our move to your club. This year we also saw Life Member being awarded to John Smith OAM/Denis Broad OAM and also our Treasurer Don Wells. Well-deserved for these proud members of our region. I must also thank Mr Nick Nancarrow from Cutcher and Neale Accounting Firm for all the support you give to our Region with always honest and reliable feedback and direction with our finances.

To all our Bowling Clubs my sincere thanks to you all and to your delegates for your continued support always. Not just to your clubs but also to you to staff and greenkeepers. To our Regions Committees a big thank you for your dedication and voluntary work throughout the year. I would like to show my gratitude to Warren Shipley our Bowls Co-ordinator for his hard work and honesty throughout the year. I catch up with Warren at least twice a week and his knowledge of administering Bowls is credit to him. I must also show my appreciation to Max Dettlebacher who has been tireless in his work behind the scenes with Bowls Draws etc. With Max/Warren and Match Chairman Gail Gannon we are in a good space with their knowledge and hard work. I would also like to thank my other management team of Don Wells and Gaye Brown and Fiona Attrill, for always your great support.

Throughout the year we have seen the passing of many loving Bowling Members and some of their own family members. Always sad and our Regions love, and support are with you always at your time of grieving.

As President of this Region, I am very proud to represent you, and I am again looking forward to the next 12 months with another busy Bowls Calendar. At times I just can't attend every function, Championship Games or Annual General Meetings as there are always heaps of invites being forwarded to us which is great. With a full Management Team now we will always try our best to share your celebrations with you and your members. I would also like to thank my wonderful wife Jenny for all her support throughout the year and making sure I always wear the correct coloured shirt.

Enjoy the evening sharing your friendship amongst each other and again "Thank You".

Best wishes
Mark Conway
President.

GREATER NEWCASTLE BOWLS - MATCH CHAIR REPORT

Since July 2024 the amalgamation of Lake Macquarie District Women, NDBA, and Newcastle Women, the new Greater Newcastle Bowls Region, has been an outstanding success. I must thank Vicki Rankin, the inaugural match chair and Jacqui Aldred, secretary for their dedication in the first few months, Coordinator Warren Shipley and President Mark who lead the region by example, the umpires who give up their valuable time to officiate, volunteers on the various committees.

- The first season of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle regions combined resulted in Women's Pennant Grade 2 Charlestown side winning the region flag and then went on to win the State flag.
- Platinum Pennant competition will commence in February 2026, Soldiers Point and Charlestown have replaced Mt Lewis and Taren Point, joining Raymond Terrace and East Maitland from our Region.
- It was a popular decision to play senior women's events during the week and women, men, reserve at the weekend. Conditions of play were amended in the women's 4 bowl pairs to 18 ends; senior women pairs to 3 bowls 21 ends.
- Following a survey of members, it was decided that the region open, single gender pennant be played at the same time and these events are set down for February/March 2026.
- We have a wonderful group of juniors who continue to have success; the women and men have been successful at Region and State level and every player should be congratulated for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit
- There is ongoing difficulty finding venues to host our region championships, especially singles events where markers are required. Hopefully this situation will improve over coming months.
- Of particular note were the 2024/25 Region awards:- Raweang Namutwong – C/t Female senior bowler of the year; David Govan - Beresfield Male Representative Player of the Year; Kelly Giles RT Female Rep player of the year; Tahlia Kennedy - Easts Junior Bowler of the Year; Warren Shipley – Male Senior bowler of the year; Female bowler of the year was Leisa Burton – SPT; Lee Schraner Male Bowler of the year
- Club Charlestown hosted the very successful Deaf Bowls Australia National Championships last month.
- The Region was well represented in singles, pairs and triples at the NSW Bowling Arm National Championships in Victoria
- Women's State Carnival will be held 4 – 8 May 2026 and will remain in the Barrington Region with Forster BC main event host.
- Over 40's pairs finalists to play in State Finals 6 – 7 December at Yamba are P Russell and G Kelly – SPT and S Davis and Nathan Dawson – C/t; W Smith – SPT and C Thompson – Hamilton Nth
- Congratulations to R Namutwong who has been chosen as skip in the Aust Senior Sides Championship, Devonport, Tasmania 15-18 November.
- Keno Blues Teams vs Qld at Club Tweed 17 – 18 September – L Schraner – open men, Natasha in open women, U/25s C Hayman – RT; T Kennedy – Easts, Z Nicholls – RT
- O'40s men – D Govan – Bero; N Dawson – C/t
- Congrats to K Wilton and S Smith – Easts who were part of the champion BNSW Para Blues side
- 2025/26 championship winners:-
- Senior women's singles – winner - K Arnott – Easts; r-up R Namutwong – C/t
- Women's singles – winner Natasha Van Eldik – RT, r-up K Matthews – RT
- Senior men's singles – winner Pierre Coulin – NBay R-up W Shipley - SPT
- Men's singles – winner D Govan – Bero, r-up L Selby – NBay
- Open reserve singles – winner G Jennings – Lambton; R-up P Smith -SPT
- Women's senior pairs – winner K Limond/R Namutwong r-up J Blanch/J Tyson -SPT.
- Men's pairs:- winners M Baus/JBye-Norris – RT; R-up S Thoroughgood/C Kanine – C/t
- Men's senior pairs:- winners M Beesley, W Shipley – SPT; r-up J Doyle and J Dunn - Bero
- Women's pairs:- winners T Kennedy and L Morgan – Easts; R-up L Burton, M Witts - SPT.
- Open Reserve Pairs winners G Jennings and T Creighton – Lambton; R-up J McEwan and R Koenig – MP

ANNUAL REPORT – MARKETING COMMITTEE
GREATER NEWCASTLE WEBSITE

As the Website Administrator, it is with much pleasure that I present the Greater Newcastle Bowls Website Annual Report on behalf of your Marketing Committee.

The Website is designed so that members of GNB stay informed and up-to-date with results, events, draws, invitation and tournament days, honour board, circulars, umpire information, conditions of play plus lots more.

We encourage GNB members to use the site regularly as information is continually being uploaded with current information. It has been good to hear from many members, even though our website is in its infancy (12 months old), that the website is being visited often to view Pennant draws and results, all District events draws and results, representative draws and results, tournaments/invitation days flyers, current conditions of play, wet weather cancellations and historical information.

A special thank you goes to those members from Newcastle District Bowling Association, Newcastle District Women's Bowling Association, Lake Macquarie Women's Bowling Association and Hunter River District Women's Bowling Association for their contributions and information supplied to me as the Website Administrator, so the history of these 4 Districts wasn't lost when we merged into Greater Newcastle Bowls. The historical information supplied thus far is found on our GNB website. If any members have more historical information, please let me know so it can be included in the information already on our Website.

Between our GNB Facebook Page (Administered by Katey Hughes) and the GNB Website, our members should feel they are kept up-to-date on both platforms. Both GNB Facebook and GNB Website are being used more and more by our members as they become familiar with the layout and information supplied on each. It is good to see how beneficial both our Facebook and Website are to our members and also to members from other regions who visit our Facebook and Website for information on GNB activities.

We hope members find our Website relatively easy to navigate through drop down menus across the top of the screen. Greater Newcastle Bowls Website address is:

<https://greaternewcastlebowls.com.au>

Any Club wishing their tournaments/invitation days to be advertised on GNB website, please email Warren Shipley (greaternewcastle7@bowlsnsw.com.au) or June Evans (j_m_evans60@hotmail.com).

Thank you for the opportunity to create the GNB website and continue to update GNB website for the benefit of our members.

June Evans
Website Administrator



GNB Annual Report 2024-25

MARKETING (Facebook) REPORT

The Greater Newcastle Bowls Facebook page became open to the bowling community on 15 June 2024 in preparation for the 2024-25 season, the first as a unified region.

Following collaboration with the Management Committee, it was determined that the purpose of the Facebook page would be to provide a source of information regarding region events and other relative bowling information. Working alongside Bowls NSW, the page also shares state and national information, and celebrates members of Greater Newcastle who represent the region, state and country. While the Facebook page was not established to share information for individual bowlers or clubs (as clubs have their own Facebook pages), there are some avenues, such as a reoccurring 'Upcoming Tournaments and Invitation Days', and 'Regular Gala and Events' posts that allow club representatives to forward advertising material for their events. This was established to provide convenience for our members who wish to participate, as well as promote the clubs of our region. Club representatives can send through their flyer or sign via Messenger.

Shortly after the Facebook page was established, 'Quicklinks' was devised following feedback from members who required support to find certain posts. Quicklinks is a post pinned at the top of the Facebook page and contains links to all current and upcoming events, including region draws, Bowlslink link, event entry information and Bowls NSW and Bowls Australia event information. It is similar to a *contents* or reference page of a book, however it contains live links that take you to the information you're looking for with one click. Also included are links to previous posts, including region events winners and finalists from previous seasons, representative event photos, and state and national representatives.

The Management Committee want to provide a clear line of communication through their website, emailing system and Facebook page. With the help of our delegates and bowls coordinators, the members of our bowling community should feel informed and part of an inclusive community.

Katey Hughes.





GREATER NEWCASTLE
BOWLS

REGION PRESIDENT Mark Conway
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Greater Newcastle Bowls

www.greaternewcastlebowls.com

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2025
GREATER NEWCASTLE BOWLS
UMPIRES REPORT.**

With Unification now well established the Umpires Committee now has a new look with three ladies and three men making up the committee.

The committee has worked very well together and I must thank Christine Davies, Kris Wright, Glenda Robins, Glenn Baxter and Cohen Ridd for their support and input as well as their assistance when running umpires' courses.

Our region has carried out approximately 35 new umpires as well as 50 reaccreditations in the last 12 months. We have lost some umpires so it is good to see new umpires coming into clubs as well as our umpires reaccrediting.

It is great to see some of our newer bowlers doing umpires tickets as well as older members as this helps them understand the Laws better as well as putting something back into bowls.

I would like to thank President Mark and his Board for their support thought out the year and also to Warren for his efforts and backing.

Lastly the loss of Milton Rigby has been a great loss to our committee. The effort that he has put into the umpiring side, firstly Zone 2 and then Greater Newcastle Bowls for some many years, I personally, and I know my committee, will miss him greatly for his efforts in helping clubs and his knowledge of the game. We wish him well in his retirement just to play bowls and enjoy himself on the green.

Kevin Bucklee
Chairman.