

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone who will take the time out to attend our Greater Newcastle Region Annual General Meeting on September 14. The last 12 months again has been a busy one for our Executive and our Committees. Many of us have attended to many Club Presentation Nights and Annual General Meetings and I would like to thank all those clubs for the invitations. I would sincerely like to thank all our Executive and Committees for your excellent support to our Regional Bowling Clubs over the year. A big thank you also must go out to the Club Delegates for attending our meetings. We decided to try the Zoom Meetings due to fuel costs and travel and they have been a great success. This may continue every now and then.

I welcome all our new Committee Members who have been nominated to be part of our Region, and I know you will thoroughly enjoy the friendship of each other. On that note I would like to give a big shoutout to Gayle Gannon, our Match Chairperson, for her fantastic dedication and professional work over the past year. Her knowledge of the sport of Lawn Bowls is very valuable. Unfortunately, Gayle has stepped down from this role due to a recent knee operation and being limited to travel being in this leadership role. So, Gayle again, "Thank You" and we all wish you all the best.

Our move of office to the Beresfield Club has been terrific and a great cost saving and many thanks to CEO Phil Ticehurst and your board for your continued support. Our Region has continued to run the Vets/Super Vets Day with great sponsorship from David Llyods Funeral/ Beresfield Bowling Club and Maitland Bunnings. Last year a record breaking of around 160 Bowlers attended and 2026 will see more than this playing on the day. This event may have to be split in two next year due to the interest in this great day of friendship. At the time of writing this report I would like to Congratulate all the award winners from our Greater Newcastle Region Presentation Night which will be held at the Beresfield Bowling Club on September 3.

Our Inter Region Men's/Ladies and Senior 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. In 2027 we will see the Inter Regionals being held in our Region in February after a lot of behind the scenes work by our Bowls Co-ordinator Warren Shipley and myself. This event showcases some of the best Bowlers in Australia and we hope that this will attract heaps of supporters from our own Bowling Clubs supporting their Regional Representatives. Our Region had many of our players being selected to play for NSW this year with some of players also either winning or being runners up in the Australian Open Bowls Open and NSW State Championships. What a great achievement. To Mr Nick Nancarrow from HLB MANN JUDD Accounting Firm for all the support you give to our Region with always honest and reliable feedback and direction with our finances, thank you.

To all our Bowling Clubs my sincere thanks to you and to your staff and greenkeepers. To all those clubs that had hosted Regional Championships, Mattara and Pennant Playoffs thank you. I must also show my appreciation to our Bowls Co-ordinator Warren Shipley for your outstanding work ethics and assistance to our Bowling Clubs. Thank you, Don Wells, for your tight control on our funds and to Fiona Attril for your ongoing support in the office.

Throughout the year we have seen the passing of many of loving Bowling Members and some of their own family members. Our Region's strength and support are with you always.

As President of this Region, I am very proud to have represented you over the past two years and, if elected, I am again looking forward to the next two years working alongside our hardworking Executives, Committee Members and our Bowling Clubs with another busy Bowls Calendar.

"Thank You".

Best wishes
Mark Conway
President.

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.

We encourage GNB members to use the site regularly as information is continually being updated with current information. It has been good to hear from many members, the website is being visited often to view Pennant draws and results, all District events draws and results, representative draws, results and photos, tournaments/invitation days flyers, current conditions of play, wet weather cancellations, honour board and historical information.

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 GNB 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 GNB 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).

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

GREATER NEWCASTLE UMPIRES REPORT.

Another difficult year for the umpires committee with the loss of Cohen Ridd and some health problems to one of our members but all good now we were shorthanded for a while.

We co-opted Ros Wright from Stockton onto our committee.

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

Our region has carried out courses at Stockton, Valentine, and Waterboard and have carried put many reaccreditations but it is concerning the amount of umpires that have not reaccredited and I am hoping that it is not because you now need a working with children certificate as they are not that hard to get and cost nothing as a volunteer.

Once again 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 the sport of 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 Gleen Baxter will be a loss to our committee. The effort that he has put into the his time on the committee is greatly appreciated.

Kevin Bucklee
Chairman.



GNB Annual Report 2025-26

MARKETING (Facebook) REPORT

The Greater Newcastle Bowls Facebook page reached almost 3500 followers by the end of the 2025-26 season. Thanks to our members, especially bowls coordinators and committee members, it is a current and relevant community page.

The purpose of the Facebook page is 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.

There are many people who contribute to our Facebook would like to thank all publicity officers, bowls coordinators committee members, and club volunteers who have taken send through photos and made the effort to comment on posts during major region and state events.

With a goal of our Facebook page being to promote bowls the people who have supported us with providing ensure our bowlers and clubs are celebrated and I would like to extend my gratitude to the coordinators of state events within their club as they provide updates and every event. Everyone is a pleasure to work with and goes measures to make sure the bowlers of the region are acknowledged. It's not an easy task being a host club of a and your time, effort and support is appreciated by all of our members.



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It is a pleasure to manage the Greater Newcastle Bowls Facebook page as I see so much support bowlers give each other, pride in the achievements of club mates and friends, and a genuine love for the game of lawn bowls. Thank you to all of our members who contribute positively and make our bowling region such a wonderful community to be involved in.

Katey Hughes
Marketing (Facebook)

GNB ANNUAL MATCH REPORT 2025/26 Season - Year in Review

Herewith is a summary of members who have achieved great success in championships and representative events since the last AGM on 20/10/25. Congratulations to you all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support over the past two years.

- Region men's pairs – winners G Jennings, T Creighton - Lambton R-up -J McEwan, R Koenig – Mks Pt
- NSW/ACT vision impaired championships in Gloucester – Winner J Toby and Director R Toby won 2 gold medals in the B3 category singles/pairs
- 3/3s Gold winners – Charlestown, R-up Easts
- 25/26 Womens Senior Triples – winners L Farmer, P White, R Namutwong C/t R-up P Stephens, V McIntyre, B Herbertson SPt
- Men's region triples – winners B Stokes, J Stokes, L Schraner – RT R-up J Bell, L Freeman, L Scott – RT

- Men's senior triples – winners M Sheppard, M Beesley, C Ramage – Spt, R-up D Collins, B Waugh,, J Littlewood – C/t
- Women's triples – winners S McReynolds, G Delves, N Van Eldik; R-up J Holmes S Pyle, C Cook – Easts
- Open Reserve Triples – winners T Milton, T Creighton, T Laughlin – Lambton; R-up D Palmeiri, P Lyford, P Palmieri – C/t
- Women's senior fours – winners L Genders, L Faint, A Redhead, P Collaros – C/t; R-up A Pearson, P Stephens ,V McIntyre, R Ryan
- Men's Senior Four – winners P Lynn, G Smith, D Collins, J Littlewood – C/t; R-up G Boyce, J Doyle, G Solomons, J Dunn – Bero
- Men's Fours – winners B Stokes, J Stokes, L Scott, J Bye-Norris – RT; R-up B Bailey, N Mitchell, J Graham, J Davis -NBay
- Reserve Fours – Winners R Simmer, I Burge, J Dukes, A Brown – MkPt; R-up G Geise, L Murrell, G Latimore, S Rees – Easts
- Womens Fours – winners S Pyle, S Wells, C Hayman, I Griffiths -Easts; R-up K Pedder, J Schumacher, B Herbertson, L Burton – SPT
- Bowls NSW Awards night held October 2025 at Wentworthville Leagues – Female Junior Bowler of the Year – Tahlia Kennedy – Easts; Male Senior Bowler of the Year – Warren Shipley SPT; Club Administrator of the Year – Brett Gemmell – Lowlands
- Veterans and Super Vets held at Bero on 30th October was a huge success
- Pat Geary Shield @ SPT – October 25/26 – Winners GNB; Runner up – Mid North Coast 120/103
- State Mixed – GNB section winners to play in State Finals in June 2026 are K Limond, J Duncan – C/t; H Hemmingway, D Govan – Bero; K Giles – RT and I Lean – SPT.
- Para Blues champions – Simone Smith - Easts – Para Nationals
- Rodney Robards Waves to Wine Mens and womens rep sides vs Hunter Valle – winners
- U/18 boys and girls sides won Gold at the Australian Championship in Tasmania. Pairs winners were Chanel and Zoe Davies; U/18 Fours winners – Zoe Davies Charlotte Hayman Tahlia Kennedy Ella Cameron; U/18. Tahlia won 4 gold medals in triples, fours, Australian girls champions and Australian Overall Champions
- Men's senior side won the Senior Sides Title in Tasmania – Queensland won overall, Qld won the womens
Players who represented GNB in the Senior Sides were Raweang Namutwong, Bill Ahoy, Tony Hinton, W Shipley
Open Sides – NSW were crowned overall champions, Qld men's side are the Alley Shield Champions and NSW womens side won the Marj Morris Trophy. Natasha Van Eldik was a member of the successful women's side.
- MATTARA was held over two weeks in November with finals day at Marks Point on 21 Nov.
Les Parrott Open singles – Winner - Tony Hinton - SPT; r-up D Govan – Bero
Denis Broad restricted singles A Newman – Lowlands; r-up S Clarke – Bar Beach
Wal Young Mens pairs winners T Malone, S Richards – RT; R-up T Hinton (Tony Maclean), I Lean;
Women's pairs – winners S Lowndes, J Dorricott – Hamilton Nth; R-up S Sumner – Kurri, Deb Barber – Hamilton Nth
Restricted pairs – winners – B Eick, N Willis - Lowlands; R-up G Baxter, A Milkovich -C/t
Frank Gardner Fours – G Brown – MayWest, M Cooper, M Brown (Bero), Mick Brown – HNth; R-up C McDermott, M Dettelbacher, A Ellercamp, D Goven – Bero
Twilight Triples – K Simmons, J Bucton, C Duggan – Lowlands; R-up W McVicar, G Hogan, M Dettelbacher – Bero
Nancy Childs mixed pairs – winners K Lumsden – HNth, M Bert – RT; R-up D Woods – MayWest, V McIntyre – SPT
- Congratulations to Henry Ly – RT who received the Mick Bell Encouragement award – Rookie Singles Finals
- John Smith OAM Shield – winners GNB by 7 points from Metro North West Region
- Rose Bowl – winners GNB by 6 points from Hunter Valley
- Congratulations to J Hudson – SPT who was a silver medallist Vision Impaired Pairs at the Scottish 4 Nations and will now represent Australia at the Glasgow Clth Games
- 2025/26 PENNANT

MEN

Winners Division 1 Winners Raymond Terrace R-up Nelson Bay

Division 2 Easts r-up Nelson Bay;

Division 3 Winners Valentine R-up New Lambton

Div 4 Winners Bayway Village R-up Easts

- WOMEN –

Div 1 winners Easts r-up Charlestown black
 Div 2 winners Easts r-up Valentine blue
 Div 3 winners Lambton
 Div 4 winners Soldiers Point

- OPEN PENNANT –

Grade 1 – N Bay def Bero
 Grade 2 – Charlestown def Raymont Terrace
 Grade 2 – Charlestown def Cardiff
 Grade 4 – Water Board def Dora Creek
 Grade 5 – New Lambton def Tea Gardens
 Grade 6 – Easts def Charlestown
 Grade 7 – Lowlands def Water Board white

Raymond Terrace were runners-up in PLATINUM PENNANT and Minor Premiers

CHAMPION OF CLUB CHAMPION PAIRS

Women : winners G Delves, N van Eldik RT;
 Men : J Bye-Norris, L Schraner – RT
 SINGLES winner – J Bye-Norris - RT

Congratulations to the following players selected in the NSW Blues Open women's side

G Delves, N Van Eldik – RT
 Men's – L Schraner RT D Hill - Charlestown
 Over 40s women – L Burton SPt
 Over 40s men N Dawson - Charlestown
 U/25s women – C Hayman, T Kennedy – Easts
 U/25s men – B Stokes – RT, C McDermott – Beresfield

- GNB Veterans runners up at Forster
- Well done to Raweang Namutwong on her inclusion in Bowls NSW Senior women's squad vs Victoria in August
- Jacqueline Hudson, Soldiers Point in Jackaroos para squad for Scottish 4 nations test in Glasgow 28th April
- In February the Men's and Women's Inter Region sides competed at Yamba and Iluka. Unfortunately both sides were defeated in semi finals which was a great effort against outstanding competition
- Senior Men were also narrowly beaten.
- Selected in the Para Womens Side from Easts – Kathleen Wilton, Simone Smith

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (7 to 20 June 2026)

Shannon McIlroy – Easts reached the semis of the men's singles
 Scott Baus – Dora Creek – reached the semis of the Disability Singles
 J Bye-Norris – RT was runner up in the Men's Fours and Men's Pairs
 Congratulations to Tony Hinton and Warren Shipley (Soldiers Point) – winners of the Over 60s Men's pairs

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Men's Fours Winners. B Stokes, J Stokes, I Scott, J Bye- Norris – Raymond Terrace.
 N Van Eldik – RT won the Women's State Singles;
 Pam Stephanis – RT was runner-up in Para Reserve Singles
 Open Reserve Pairs – Runners-up were G Jennings, T Creighton from Charlestown
 Semi Finalists in Senior Women's Pairs were K Limond and R Namutwong

GNB Junior Inter region 7 a side at club Dubbo. W Powell, Elias Allan and B Allan RT, C White Forster, M and T Wicks, X West RT

BioScapes Bowls NSW def Bowls Queensland test series at Cabramatta. Congrats to D Hill - Charlestown, L Schraner - RT open men's, over 40 women Leisa Burton SPt, over 40 men N Dawson

Charlestown, under 25 women C Hayman, under 25 men B Stokes RT, C McDermott Bero. Para vs Qld – Winners were K Wilton and S Smith – Easts
Senior Men and Women played end July.

The Annual Greenkeepers vs Legends at Towradgi 27 July. Congrats to GNB players selected for Greenkeepers - L Johnson Bar.Beach, Legends V McIntyre, B Herbertson, W Shipley S Pt, R Namutwong Ct

GNB region 25/26 champion of champion fours. Valentine team of M Barry, R Sharkey, J Baldwin, B Stauble won the Women's event from Charlestown team of TGibson, J Turner, P White, K Shuttlewood
Men's final was held 8 August. Congrats to D Hall J Gibson B Bailey J Davis- Nelson bay who defeated T Twining J Bell B Stokes J Bye-Norris – RT

NSW Rookies Singles GNB qualifying results – winner Brian Sams – Belmont who will now play in the State Finals in September. Runner-up John Buckton – Lowlands

Women's State Pennant 4 August - Winners were Division 1 – Merrylands; Div 2 – Harrington; Div 3 South Tamworth; Div 4 Wee Waa/Narrabri/Lightning Ridge

Men's State Pennant – Winner Cabramatta – R-up RT; Div 2 Winner Belrose, R-up Easts; Div 3 Winner St Johns Park R-up Maitland City; Div 4 Winner St Ives

Australian Indoor Championships 10/8 – qualifiers from our Region are R Namutwong – Charlestown and S B-Howley – Soldiers Point

BioScapes NSW Sides vs Victoria from 17/8. Chosen to represent this Region are Daniel Hill and Lee Schraner – Open men; R Namutwong – Senior Women; C Hayman – Easts U/25s Women; B Stokes – RT and C McDermott - Bero – U/25s men; Open Women Natasha Van Eldik – Maitland City.

NSW Open Men and Women; Senior and Para Men defeated Victoria; Victoria defeated NSW in Senior and Para Women.

Gayle Gannon – Match Chair