



Institute Bowler

December 2007

Welcome, to the 2nd edition of the “VRI Institute Bowler” Newsletter.

The newsletter is designed to spread news, interest and history of the Club and look at current and future events.

In this issue, the 2004 ANZRI Bowls Carnival in New South Wales is reviewed, a number of members are interviewed and we look at the future events on the VRI Bowlers Calendar.

Member Profile: Jack & Enid MacFarlane

Jack commenced his VRI involvement in 1941, when we worked as a “lad messenger” at the head office in Flinders Street 3rd floor.

Later on, Jack moved and became President of the Bendigo VRI, staying on the committee for 11 years while there.

When Jack moved again, he became a Councillor of the VRI, until he retired.

Jack joined the VRI Bowls Club in 1963, and has been in many VRI Bowls Carnival sides, the first in 1966 in Brisbane. Jack is a Life Member of the ANZRI Lawn Bowls Carnival and also a Life Member of the VRI Bowls Club.

Highlights from Jack’s ANZRI Carnival years include being the Manager of the 1966 Denniss Cup winning side, (Jack was the only Manager that year in a double breasted suit!). He and Enid went to the theatre to see “the sound of music” in the dress circle, and were the only couple there!

Jack also was in the winning team of the inaugural Triples Championship in Tasmania in 1970 (to become the ANI Trophy).

Jack & Enid MacFarlane (cont.)

Jack fondly remembers one Carnival to WA, the team drank the Indian Pacific dry, until it was restocked in Kalgoorlie! He also remembers the heat wave of the Canberra Carnival.

The weekend Winter trips away are a highlight of Jack and Enid's memory in the Club.

Personalities – George Gurney, Alan Simpson, Les Duggan, Bill Dunbar (SA) (became a bookmaker), Alan Sheehan, Des O'Donnell taken on tour of food and wine places. In WA, you were not allowed to drink in the morning.

Enid's first ANZRI Bowls Carnival was in Melbourne in 1978, prior to this she had stayed home to look after the family, while Jack travelled.

Organising the name badges and mingling with people, Enid made everyone welcome, and became famous for sleeping, while waiting for rooms to be available at hotels (Jack has the photos).

The first time they went to Albury, Enid was introduced to the poker machines. Max & Frances Penney rushed out to tell Jack that Enid had won a jackpot – when asked where it was, Enid said "I spent it – all \$12.00 of it!"

Jack remembers the local taxis being organised to supply the ice for the drinks, en route, during the 1968 Carnival trip.

They have enjoyed their involvement in the VRI and VRI Bowls Club, and are very pleased that it continues today.

MALTESE CLUB v VRI BOWLS CLUB Match 2007

In December, the VRI played the Maltese Club in their annual match, and a thrilling result ensued. Following the morning game, the VRI side were ahead by 38 shots, but after lunch (lovely) at Sunshine VRI Bowls, the VRI side failed to win a rink – and scraped home by 3 shots overall to win the trophy, for the third year running!

President Leo graciously accepted the trophy, and hung it back on the wall of the Sunshine Club, until next year's rematch!

Well done all players!

ANZRI Bowls Carnival 2002: Warilla, New South Wales.

The 2004 Lawn Bowls Carnival was held in Warilla, New South Wales, and was ably organised and run by Rocky Stone of the Warilla Bowls Club.

New South Wales had tendered out this Carnival, and the players and visitors were very pleased with the standard of the Carnival provided by the host Club.

During the Carnival, everyone was picked up by bus in the morning, and taken to breakfast at the Club. The large function room was at our disposal all day.

This was the first Carnival that the morning Alan Simpson Fours trophy was played for, so everyone was playing all day.

Following the morning games, a light lunch was served. Players had the opportunity to relax in the bar, or try their luck on the pokies.

During the afternoon, the Tests were played.

The Day Trip was a tour of the local area, and beyond... including some parties going to Bowral, and others taking in a jewellers.

Many of the VRI party were experiencing their first Carnival, and what a way to start, with many saying it was the best run Carnival.

In the results, the Vics didn't take out a trophy this year, but all enjoyed the Carnival and facilities, and looked forward eagerly to the next Carnival, on the Gold Coast in 2004.

Next Game: PUT Tournament February 2008

The next organised game for the VRI Bowls Club, is the Public Utilities Tournament, in February 2008.

This will be our last practice match, prior to the Carnival side leaving for New Zealand a few days later.

All Carnival Players are requested to make themselves available for this day, so selectors can fine tune the sides, prior to the Carnival.

Member Profile: Eddie & Dorothy (Dot) Foss

Eddie joined the VRI in 1957, when he was a 'lad labourer' at the Ballarat Loco.

Eddie joined the VRI to study for his Driving tickets, did all his schooling through the VRI.

When he came to Melbourne, he joined the Sunshine VRI Tennis Club in 1969, joining Committee and becoming President of this Club in 1971 – 73.

Eddie took a break from VRI Clubs for a period, until he retired, and took up bowls, joining the Sunshine VRI Bowls Club in 1994. During this break, Eddie and Dot continued to use the VRI facilities of their holiday units, in Mulwala (during the Sun tour), Swan Hill, Merimbula, Bright.

A highlight of his time in the VRI is the winning of the VRI Tennis Country Week with Sunshine VRI side (Geelong had been the dominate side for many years).

Eddie and Dot are long time players in the Indoor Bias Bowls Competition too.

Within 12 months of taking up Bowls, Dot joined in too, and loves it!

Eddie is in his second year as President of the Sunshine VRI Bowls Club. Highlights of his VRI Bowls Club years include the Winter weekend trips, and making the final of the 2007 Triples Championship.

“My time in the VRI has been wonderful” Eddie said, “the average member doesn't use the full extent of their membership”.

Dot has been involved in the Railways since she was 16. “It is great to still have the involvement, to keep the link after your working life has ended”.

