

## **CBD Chairperson Report 2013/2014**

As part of the "New Look" CBD I am proud to report on what has been a very successful year.

The Board structure of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Administration Officer and 8 Board members, (one from each Club introduced last AGM) has been workable and productive. I thank all Board members for their ability to not only indicate their Club's views on issues, but to look at the big picture of what is required to manage and grow the CBD. Many thanks to the Clubs who hosted our meetings, the welcome and in some case the delicious lunches were greatly appreciated. It was wonderful to see that generous hospitality is still paramount at Bowling Clubs through Central.

All our State events were well managed and results were through to the Region by the required date. All this was made possible by the great team work between our hard working Admin Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, Denise Hogan, the Championship Committee of Greg Jones, Jenny Kreemers, Marie Evans, Margaret Legge and Ken Argent and our Chairman of Umpires, Phil Skehan. Congratulations to our Regional winners who went on to State Finals:

Will Hanna – Men's Novice Singles Finalist.

Adele Aitken- Women's Novice Singles.

Trevor Young- Men's 60 & Over Singles.

Denise Hogan, Jenny Kreemers, Lyn Meek & Sylvia Love-Women's State Fours Semi-Finalists.

Mark Simmonds & Ken Argent-Men's State Pairs.

Alison Hall-Women's Champion of Champion Singles Winner.

I have recently learnt that the State Champion of Champion Pairs has been dropped for the upcoming season, being replaced with a State Mixed Pairs.

The Championship Committee also organised two excellent pennant competitions and finals, special thanks to Stephen McGregor who assisted with the pennant recording and production of ladders, while our regular pennant recorder Bob Philp was unwell. I am looking forward to the coming pennant season, especially with the changes introduced for mid-week pennant, ie no restrictions for men and the possibility of Seymour VRI entering a team. Congratulations to the Kilmore Mid-Week pennant team who won the Regional Play-Offs and made it through to State Finals. While Central may only be a small division, we are full of bowling talent.

In October 2013, CBD hosted a workshop focussing on Club Administration, Junior Bowls, School Competitions and Membership promotions. Clubs from Central and elsewhere attended, what was a very interesting day. Following from this I was invited to address a meeting of Secondary School sport teachers and principals at Broadford in December, speaking about the possibility of running a school pennant competition and including lawn bowls as part of the sport curriculum. I believe promoting junior bowls in our Division should be a priority because the rewards for our clubs will be numerous. Recently I was contacted by the Sports Co-ordinator at Seymour College, and ran two 3 week sessions for Year 10 students. The teachers were impressed with the way the students engaged in the programme, I used a number of new games and teaching techniques I picked up from completing the Introductory Coaches course. I would like to see an Introductory Coaches course conducted in CBD with each Club sending at least two people to attend. This would assist Clubs in the running of all their promotions for both young and old prospective members.

Many Clubs' within the Division took up the challenge this season to increase their membership. Barefoot Bowls type events have been run at most of the clubs. I particularly mention Yea's effort, where they ran a program providing bowls and a free BBQ, after sending letters to the Yea population. I heard the participants enjoyed it so much they wanted to play on for a few more weeks than was scheduled. It is imperative for the future of bowls that all clubs include a bowls promotion for new members in their annual bowling calendar.

Clubs will need to get themselves “techno savvy” quick smart. All the administrative work for membership has been given to clubs’ to administer via the IMG console introduced by Bowls Victoria and Bowls Australia. This IT system enables clubs to set up web-sites, run competitions and handle all membership issues. It has the ability to be a powerful resource for clubs and I hope that CBD clubs make learning this system a priority. Check out VRI’s website that was set up using this system. The CBD is also up and running with IMG but more work is needed to make it more usable.

The future for CBD looks good if

1. Clubs continue to run promotions and increase their membership
2. Clubs learn and use the IMG system
3. Strategies are put in place to increase the growth of CBD
4. Bowlers believe in the strength of this unified Division and put their hands up to help

In closing, I must again mention the fantastic work from Denise Hogan in keeping this Division going. Every bowler in Central should be grateful that Denise put her hand up for the job of Secretary/Treasurer, she has performed all her duties diligently (if not effortlessly).

Well done and thank you to all who made this a very successful year for the Central Bowls Division.

Alison Hall  
CBD Chairperson  
12/6/14