



Mount Waverley Bowling Club Inc.

ABN 95 157 644 599 A0008918F

6 Alive Road Mount Waverley 3149

Committee of Management

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

The Committee of Management has pleasure in presenting the Sixtieth Annual Report

and the

Annual Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

for the consideration of members.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

I acknowledge the wonderful support that we receive each year from our Club's sponsors, advertisers and financial supporters for, without their contributions, the Club would find it difficult to achieve the income the Club needs for its long-term viability. The Club especially acknowledges the support from Jellis Craig Mt Waverley, our major sponsor, Bendigo Bank -Pinewood and Ryman Health Care, which are substantial benefactors to the Club.

The Mount enjoyed mixed success in our Pennant competitions with two Sides playing off in the finals. Well done to Side 2 in Weekend Pennant for making the finals this season, finishing in the top four and going on to win the Section flag so that they will be promoted to Div 4 for the upcoming season. Unfortunately, the Weekend Pennant Side 1 did not have the best season and finished at the bottom of the ladder and will be in Div 3 this coming Season.

Both Midweek pennant sides played well with Side 1 making the finals but did not win the sectional final and will stay in Div 2 this coming season. Side 2 for Midweek also performed well and will stay in their division for the coming season. The Thursday 7's had a good season of enjoyable bowls, playing in the semi-finals but not having a win. Due to a lack of available players, the Club did not field a Night pennant side, but we will be having one for the 2024/25 season. We need to continue to rebuild our teams to ensure that our bowling numbers continue to grow.

To assist our Committee of Management and members understand our financial position better, the Club's Accountant recommended we change reporting of our financial position onto a cash basis (Income against Expenditure) and that we report separately net Income from normal club bowling Operations against income from non bowling activities such as Grants or Hire of Club facilities.

Our cash position at 30 June 2024 remains strong at \$251,919 (Last year at 31 January 2023 was \$259,753). Overall, our net cash position after 17 months is down \$7,834. A remarkable position bearing in mind what has been achieved during this period.

The club welcomed three new major assets namely our new Social Deck, new shade for the West Green and refurbished our kitchen as well as a number of smaller improvements made during this period.

Club Treasurer, Peter McDonald's report, with the assistance of Richard Coleman, will inform members of our expenses and financial results for the year in his report. I wish to thank them for their hard work in managing a difficult financial year.

Our corporate and private function activities continued to be a great advertisement for our Club. We have organised over 45 events and had at least 2000 people visit the Club to enjoy our facilities. Some of the highlights include four of our local schools, Avila, Huntingtower, Ashwood Secondary and Mt Scopus College, where we hosted the students for lawn bowls as part of their sports curriculum. Special thanks to David Beard and Joe Bonnici and our other volunteers, for their support in running these school sport events.

We hosted a couple of functions for our State and Federal members of parliament, several of the local PROBUS clubs having bowls functions, private family gatherings including ones for the Matheson families and Fiona from Reach and Belong, our good friends from Metricon again had a very big function and two Lions Clubs' Youth of the Year award ceremonies. Reach and Belong also held a wonderful art exhibition from their clients. Many local businesses and local government departments areas also came to the Club for functions. This demonstrates our great interaction with our local community.

I also wish to thank our very hard-working group of volunteers, especially David Beard, Peter O'Hara, Joe and Sarina Bonnici, Bev Wong, Shirley Murray, Connie Epstein, Peter Harney, Vito De Cesare, Minh Vo, our esteemed bar people and the many others who have supported the Club in managing these very important activities.

Over the past season, the Club has continued seeking new methods to recruit new members with some success. It should be noted that our member numbers have dropped slightly with several of our older Social Club members deciding to resign from the Club this season. Club members are around the 130 mark which includes 12 new members. We all need to promote the club to the community to gain new members.

The Club has continued to look at ways to improve our facilities by submitting State and Federal Grant proposals this year which have achieved significant additions to our infrastructure:

- Social Deck – opened on the 24th of November 2023 with a fantastic ceremony attended by many of our sponsors, Federal and State and local council politicians and of course our club members
- Upgraded shade at the north end of the West Green
- New storage cupboards – Kitchen and storage room
- New TV for the lounge
- New portable partitioning for the Dining Room.

Jill Anderson has become our grant expert and applies for anything that may benefit our Club. Thanks, Jill, for your wonderful efforts in securing these much-needed funds.

As you will have noticed around the Club, we have continued our internal clubhouse improvement program which has been extremely well managed by the Club Improvement Working Group of Howard Rose, David Rae, Jill Anderson and Margaret Carr. The Club has an on-going plan to re-vamp the look of our internal spaces, continuing from last year's painting program to paint the Committee Room, offices and toilets. The new cupboards and shelving and modern notice board in the foyer are looking great and make a great addition to the Club. There is further work to happen inside the Clubhouse over the next 12 months, so we will keep you posted on activities as they happen. A big thank you to all the volunteers that have helped and are still helping in achieving our goals re the Club. I especially wish to acknowledge our painting crew, of Howard Rose, Doug Oldfield, Barry Jarred, Richard Horban and David Rae, who have put so much of their time into painting our Club. Great job team.

The Committee continues to review the Strategic Plan, the following key actions were identified to focus our attention for the year:

1. Increase membership
2. Restore financial position
3. Increase sponsorship revenue
4. Improve communications.

We are on track with most of our KPI's and look forward to ensuring that we build on them during the up-coming season.

During the year, the Club has been served by many members in roles and duties that sometimes go unnoticed. To those people very many thanks for your efforts because without your involvement the Club could not carry on. The members of the Committee of Management have played a major part in

providing sound administration of its activities and the Club has been fortunate to have people of this calibre prepared to give their all.

A vote of thanks must go to our Executive Committee who meet every Monday morning to progress the operations of the Club. To our faithful Secretary David Beard for all the work that he does for the Club and the Committee of Management. I also express my deep appreciation for the support and valued guidance of Richard Sluggett (acting Vice President) along with Peter McDonald (Treasurer).

Also present on Monday mornings are the Garden and Surrounds people led by David Rae who keep the grounds always looking fantastic and we receive great feedback from visitors on how good the Club looks. Graeme Robinson continues to serve the Club as our Maintenance person and is well supported by Beverley Wong and David Hutchinson. Minh Vo as the Licensee, and Peter Harney ensure that everything is spick and span in the bar area for the week ahead. Our greens always look fantastic, and I want to say a big thanks to Joe Bonnici as our Greens Director, with help from Vito De Cesare and to Michael de Mattia our wonderful greenkeeper.

On a personal note, I wish to thank every member of the Club for your unswerving support of myself and the Committee of Management in looking after the best interests of our wonderful Club. I feel very privileged to be the President and I know that our Club will continue to go from strength to strength.

We look forward to an improving 2024/2025 season both on and off the greens.

Barrie Epstein
President
Mount Waverley Bowling Club Inc.
'The friendly bowls club'

BEREAVEMENTS 2023-24

The Club extends its condolences to the family and friends of those members who have passed away during the past year.

Vale: Kaye O'Hara (Committee of Management member and Chair of the Social Committee), Graham Matheson (Life Member), Joan Skinner (Life Member), Bruce Suckling, Tony Fairbrother and Norma MacDonald.

New Members

During the 2023-24 year, the Club welcomed the following new members:

Elsa Meldrum	Jason Connelly
Steve Partos	Iris Tang
Shirley Murray	Geoff Davies
Michael Tzanlis	Michael Paterson
Michael Lau	Damian Marks
Jody Bruerton	Graham Symonds

These new members are friends of existing members or have been introduced to bowls through our Free Fridays or through U3A. These activities are important ways to introduce visitors to the game of bowls and our Club so we need to greet each one of our visitors as a potential new member. We are after all 'The Friendly Club' and it is our friendly and encouraging atmosphere that people comment on and has attracted many of these new members to join Mt Waverley and not another bowls club.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The members of the Mt Waverley Bowls Club Committee of Management for 2023-24 were:

President	Barrie Epstein
Vice President	Robyn Beard (on Leave of Absence) Richard Sluggett Acting VP
Secretary	David Beard
Treasurer	Peter McDonald
Committee Members	Jill Anderson
	Ian McLean
	Shirley Melissas
	Kaye O'Hara until 15 October 2023
	Howard Rose
	Richard Sluggett
	Celia Ware
	Beverley Wong

Life Member

At our 2023 AGM, President Barrie Epstein had the pleasure of announcing our latest, well deserving life member. Robin Matheson has been contributing to the club for over 30 years, being involved in most areas of the running of the club. This has included most recently being a mid-week selector and previously a weekend selector. She was also very active in the running of the night bowls, as well as many other committees throughout the years.

Bruce Kendrick

In the year that we are celebrating the Club's 60th anniversary we also celebrated the contribution of Bruce Kendrick who has been a member for the last 50 of those 60 years. Bruce who joined the Club in March 1974 has been part of the fabric of the Mt Waverley Bowls Club and still sets an example for the rest of us. Bruce is the embodiment of this club - a humble, happy and lovely person who has time for all members. His achievements over the past 50 years include:

- CEO on 3 separate occasions
- Deputy CEO on one occasion
- Won numerous Club Men's Singles, Pairs and other championships
- Involved in coaching, selection, sponsorship, auditing, social committees and other Club activities
- A great record keeper for all members records.

In recognition of all his achievements, Bruce was awarded life Membership of the Club in 2002. We thank Bruce for all that he has done over the past 50 years and look forward to playing bowls and socialising with him for many years to come.

Bowls is for everyone

On 11 February 2023 Bruce Kendrick, our oldest club member played his pennant game against James from Melbourne Bowls Club. James is just 11 years old and plays pennant with his mum for the Melbourne Bowls Club and also competes in the club pairs with his dad. This demonstrates that age is no barrier for playing either social or competitive bowls.

Bruce Morley (OAM)

What an honour. Bruce Morley has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for "Contribution to the community across a range of organisations". This adds to the Australian Sports Medal which he had been previously awarded. Congratulations Bruce, well deserved.

Club Constitution

After a decade under the 2012 Club constitution, the Committee of Management recognised that there have been significant changes in how the Club operates and that our constitution needed updating. A comprehensive review process identified the inconsistencies between how we are operating now and the constitution, and other policy changes to improve the operation of the Club. The Committee of Management asked the Club's Honorary lawyers Mason Sier Turnbull (MST) to review the proposed changes and identify any other matters required to improve the effectiveness and operability of the constitution in fulfilling our legal obligations.

The substantive changes to the Club's constitution endorsed by MST, recommended by the Committee of Management and approved by the Club membership were:

- *Purpose* Insertion of the Vision Statement from the Club's Strategic Plan as the purpose of the Club.
- *Financial Year* Changed the financial year from ending 31 January to end on 30 June.
- *Annual subscription* Annual subscription fees and due date to be decided by the Committee of Management.

- *Roles and powers* Clarified the current practice that the Executive manages the day to day operation of the club and deals with urgent matters or other matters referred to it by the Committee of Management.
- *Election of Executive* The Executive to serve two year terms with the President and Treasurer being elected at one Annual General Meeting and the Vice President and Secretary at the alternate Annual General Meeting.
- *Term of office* Executive and Ordinary Members of the Committee of Management may be re-elected for up to 4 consecutive two year terms and if there be no nominations for a position vacated by a Committee Member who has served their 4 terms, that person may be re-elected for a further two year term.
- *Conflict of Interest* Updated in line with the redrafted Model Rules so that the details of a material personal interest disclosure are recorded in the Minutes of that meeting and in a Conflict of Interest Register.
- *Membership* Consolidated into a single Bowling Member category the current full bowling member, social bowling member, indoor bowling member, electric light bowling member and first year bowling member categories.
 - Honorary Member category amended to allow the Committee of Management to offer honorary membership to a non-member who provides support to the Club.
 - Long term senior member becomes Long Term Member with the requirement to be over 80 years of age removed.
 - Foundation member, corporate member and the temporary member categories deleted as they are no longer required.

The Special General Meeting was held on the 18 January 2024 to vote on adopting the revised Club constitution. The vote at the meeting was unanimous in supporting the resolution to adopt the new constitution. Thank you to all that attended the meeting and those who sent in their apologies. The new constitution can be accessed in hard copy at the club house or on the Club website.

A huge thank you to David Beard and the working group that consisted of Bruce Morley, Tony Allen and Richard Sluggett. We also thank Devin Elliot and Louise Wolf at MST for all their assistance in reviewing and drafting the new constitution.

Strategic Plan – 2023-28

The Committee of Management undertook its annual review of the Club’s 5-year Strategic Plan over March to September 2023. The revised Strategic Plan identifies the key issues facing the Club and the key actions being proposed to address these issues. The Plan also includes measures of success (key performance indicators) and the corresponding performance targets.

Achievements in meeting the set targets in 2023/24 are set out in the table below.

Key Performance Indicator/Target	Performance in 2022-24
Governance - Compliance with current policies and statutory obligations. 100%	Met Updated Club Constitution approved by members at Special General Meeting on 18-11-24.
Membership - Number of playing members Maintain/increase each year	Playing members increased by 7 on 2022-23 season

- Number of new members each year 10	Met - 12 new members joined.
Bowls - Success of pennant sides. All pennant sides to place in the top four	Partially met – 4 of the 5 pennant teams competed in finals. One team relegated to Div. 3.
Diversity in bowls and administration - Increase in female participation in pennant sides - 50% representation of females on Committee of Management.	Increased female participation in pennant teams Met – maintained 50% of women on Committee of Management
Greens - Feedback from visiting players on status of greens Positive	Met –. Favourable comments received from visiting players on condition of our greens
Facilities - 5-Year Capital Plan for grounds and buildings prepared by December each year - Implementation of planned Club improvements Meets Plan	2023-24 Capital Plan completed Met – outstanding public areas of the Clubhouse, including the Kitchen, were painted and refurbished and the Committee Room cleaned up and painted. Shade was installed along the north side of the West Green and redevelopment of the gardens was commenced.
Reputation/Image - Overall satisfaction of key stakeholders. Positive feedback from stakeholders	Met – good relations were maintained with key stakeholders including Monash Council, local politicians, and sponsors. A high level of satisfaction with the Club’s facilities was expressed by visiting players and corporate and private visitors. Member satisfaction was not measured but is planned to be undertaken in 2024/25.
Community Involvement - Number of casual visitors using the Club’s facilities each year 5000	Met – over 5,000 visitors to the Club during the year.
Finance - Operating cash surplus \$7,500 - Liquid reserves \$170,000	Met - operating surplus of \$10k for 2023-24. Met – liquid assets totalled \$260k at 30-6-24.

Volunteer Appreciation Morning Tea

Here at MWBC we have amazing volunteers who contribute to all areas of the successful running of our club. As a way of saying thank you to everyone who volunteers in any capacity, the Executive held a morning tea for the club volunteers with 25 of our dedicated volunteers attending.

Pennant Season 2023-24.

It was unfortunate that we were only able to put 2 sides into each of the Saturday and Midweek pennant competitions in the 2023-24 season. We also had a side in the Thursday 7's competition. Before Pennant started, we participated in the Pre-season 9's competition.

The season started later than usual but we had some difficulty in fielding teams as several of our members were still on holidays, fighting Covid or had some injury.

We were very excited to have 4 of our 5 sides reach the finals with the Saturday second Side winning the sectional final and being promoted to Division 4. Well done to all involved. Unfortunately, our No.1 Saturday side did not do as well and will be in Division 3 next season.

I would like to thank those who took on the responsibility of being side managers and looking after the paperwork. Our thanks to Barrie Epstein although not a selector, did the distribution of the team lists, notifications and Bowlslink for us.

Thanks also to the selectors, Richard Sluggett and Michael Murray who throughout the year received a lot of phone calls, questions and other matters for referral.

We hope that next season will be successful and enjoyable.

Celia Ware, Chairperson Selection Committee.

Night Pennant

The Tuesday Night bowls competition was sadly missed by those who would have liked to play but unfortunately, we had insufficient numbers to be able to field a team every week. Whilst Bowls Victoria is introducing significant changes to the night bowling competitions in the metropolitan area for the 2024-25 season, the Club has decided to remain with the Southern District Electric Light Bowling Association and will enter one night pennant team for the 2024-25 season.

Club Championships 2023-24

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Club Championship events. It was especially pleasing to see several of our newer players participating with some reaching the finals. Well Done! We would also like to thank the members who were markers, umpires, scoreboard attendants, sausage cooks, greenkeepers and anyone else who helped.

The men's and ladies' singles were the first events to be held and finished. On Friday 16 February, we saw both finals being played with Bev Wong playing Jenny Roberts and Minh Vo playing David Rae. The weather was fine, and many members took advantage of being on our new deck to view the game. They were able to view both games being played whereas before views were restricted.

Both games were of excellent standard, with the ladies' game lasting 45 ends. Jenny Roberts became our ladies champion with Bev Wong runner-up.

In the men's final Minh Vo became our men's champion and David Rae our runner-up. In our other events some got off to a slow start with members being injured or sick or even taking holidays, but we finally saw them all finish. All of the games were very close and were worthy of watching.

The final results were:

Ladies Singles:

Winner: Jenny Roberts

Runner up: Beverley Wong

Men's Singles:

Winner: Minh Vo

Runner up: David Rae

Ladies Pairs:

Winners: Jenny Roberts & Michelle Chan

Runners up: Lindsay Markham & Shirley Murray

Men's Pairs:

Winners: Bernie Brennan & Brad Matheson

Runners Up: Barrie Epstein & Luke Boyer

Mixed Pairs:

Winners: Joe Bonnici & Sarina Bonnici

Runners up: Minh Vo & Fui Chong

Open Triples:

Winners: Joe Bonnici, Howard Rose, Vito de Casare, substitute Barry Roberts

Runners up: Richard Sluggett, Gary Cooper & Shirley Murray

100 up (handicap)

Winner: Michael Murray

Runner Up: Lindsay Markham

Novice Singles:

Winner: Lloyd Reeman

Runner up: Shirley Melissas

For interest, the number of entries received were:

Ladies Singles: 6 players

Men's Singles: 21 players

Ladies Pairs: 4 pairs (8 players)

Men's Pairs: 10 pairs (20 players)

Mixed Pairs: 12 pairs (24 players)

100 up (Handicap): 19 players

Novice: 7 players

Open Triples: 6 triples (18 players + 1 substitute).

Well done to all and the best of luck for the next season.

Celia Ware & Alan Sharp. Championship Committee.

60th Anniversary Tournament

The 60th Anniversary tournament sponsored by BCIB, was held on Saturday 13 April 2024 with 24 teams in attendance. Half the teams were outside clubs with the other half from our Mount Waverley players.

The minor hiccups that occurred along the way were addressed by a great team effort. Thanks to Shirley Melissas and Bev Wong for helping with the planning. To Julie and Richard Coleman for the back-room preparation and work on the day. Thanks also to Michelle Chan (and her helpers), who prepared a feast for players to consume after the match and to Jill Anderson for supplying the photos of the winners on the day.

A lot of positive feedback was received on the day best encapsulated by David Rae's comment - "Compliments were flying all day, from visiting teams, about the quality of the greens, the quality of the afternoon tea, the whole lively atmosphere created when the greens were full." As our former President John Bridgland said "what a wonderful promotion for the Club"

- Overall winners were a team from Dandenong: Annette McCormick, Mark Petty and Paul Meyers.
- Overall runners up: R Carver, Mal Walker and David Fisher.
- Highest score first game: Jenny Roberts, Michael Banbury and David Rae.
- Highest score second game: Cliff Fothergill's team.

Battle of the Freeway

An epic competition was held on Tuesday 5 September for The Battle of the Freeway. Nine bowling clubs from the electorates of Ashwood, Glen Waverley, and Oakleigh converged on Parliament House to play off in the event of the year. It was a close competition but eventually Ashburton Bowls Club emerged victorious with the Battle of the Freeway Cup.

A big thanks to Steve Dimopoulos MP and John Mullahy MP and the great bowls clubs from their electorates for attending. A shoutout to Burwood District Bowls Club, Mount Waverley Bowling Club, Ashburton Lawn Bowls Club from the Ashwood Electorate for coming along and competing. A special acknowledgment to Presidents Stephen Peisley, Barrie Epstein and Elizabeth Kortum.

Matt Fregon MP

Tuesday Ladies and new bowlers' fun mornings

The first of the Ladies and new bowlers' fun mornings commenced on Tuesday 7 March. The mornings provide the opportunity for new bowlers to develop their skills in a friendly and supportive environment and enable more experienced bowlers to have a roll playing in positions they do not normally play. Many of the eight attending the first session stayed on to have lunch together after bowling.

Social Bowls

The social bowls competitions remain an important way to introduce new bowlers to the rules and etiquette of our games and for attracting new members to our Club. The Wednesday games are also

a great opportunity to catch up with other Club members over a relaxed games of bowls without the demands of pennant competition. It is good to see that the numbers of bowlers playing regularly have increased on last year.

The Club is grateful for all the time and efforts of the members organising the social bowls competitions - Alan Sharp, Doug Oldfield and Barrie Epstein in organising the winter bowls on Wednesdays and on Saturdays outside of the summer pennant season, and Bernie Brennan, Gary Howell, Jim Fary for organising the summer Wednesday bowls.

Greens Report

The Centre Green was in excellent condition and used throughout the 2023-24 pennant season as well as the Club Championships. It is good to hear visiting clubs' comment on the quality of our green. The green has been closed over winter for its regular winter maintenance. With three teams playing pennant in the coming season, it will be good to see the grass green in use each weekend. Our green keeper, Michael de Mattia, has indicated that additional work will be required on the green over the Christmas break in pennant to keep it up to standard.

The West Green is now 8 years old and still in excellent condition and was used for more pennant games in 2023-24. The West Green is also our go to green for coaching and social bowls. With careful use and regular maintenance, our synthetic green should last for at least another 7 years before needing replacement.

Joe Bonnici, Greens Director

Grants

Over recent years, the Club has been very successful in its applications for grant funding from Federal and State Governments and Monash Council thanks to Jill Anderson's diligent efforts in identifying, researching, applying for and acquitting these grants. In the 17 months to June 2024, the Club has received over \$65,900 in grants.

The most significant grant received, delivered on the ALP's 2022 election commitment of \$50,000 towards the construction of the Social Deck. It should be noted that the Liberal Party promised to commit \$60,000 if they won. Sport & Recreation Victoria provided the \$50,000 to the Club in December 2023. This grant significantly reduced the draw down of funds received by the Club from the dissolution of Southern Indoor Bowling Club, which was being used to finance the Social Deck.

A \$10,000 grant was received from the Federal Government's Strengthening Communities Grant program to replace the shade awnings at the northern end of the west green. The new awning provides improved sun protection for both bowlers and spectators and its less visually intrusive design improves the amenity of the Club's grounds. Unfortunately, the delays incurred in obtaining the Building Permit for the new awning, delayed installation until after the end of the 2023-24 pennant season.

A grant from Monash Council has enabled the Club to purchase more small sized bowls to help in the running of bowls lessons for our primary and secondary schools' programs as well as our Free Friday and community events. The Grant has also been used to purchase pennant tops for our new members as part of the incentives being offered to attract new members.

Jill Anderson, Grants Coordinator

Social Deck

Well we made it!!

On 24 November 2023 the social deck was formally opened by Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood and Dr Carina Garland MP, Federal Member for Chisholm in recognition of the significant financial contribution from State and Commonwealth Governments towards the project cost. Gladys Lui, the former Member for Chisholm was also present as she was instrumental in obtaining the Commonwealth Grant.

When last year's report was written, we were awaiting final plans from our design team to make our application for a building permit. Thanks to the excellent relationship between our designer Mark Watson (Designwell) and the building surveyor, Watershed, we were able to obtain building approval in quick time.

After a closely fought tender process, we selected Anthony Clark from Freshbuilt as our builder. Following the delays and stresses of the earlier approvals processes, it was a great relief when the building project - with a few last-minute adjustments - was completed in just over four weeks. Final certificate of approval was obtained the day before the official opening.

The overall cost for the design and construction of the deck was \$108,167. The Club received grants from the Federal Government of \$20,000 and from the State Government of \$50,000. Contributions from sponsors and Club members added a further \$5,650. The Club drew down the balance of \$32,517 from the \$216,000 received from the liquidation of the Southern Indoor Bowling Club.

The Club thanks the members on the Steering Committee, David Rae, Jill Anderson, David Beard and Howard Rose, for their continued commitment as they wound their way through the various approval processes. Mark Watson our designer and Ray Schneider his engineering colleague, were unfailingly flexible and patient, while Anthony Clark, Josh Wittner and the team from Freshbuilt, with their subcontractors, completed an excellent job just in time! In recognition of his significant involvement in the design and implementation of the deck the Committee of Management awarded Honorary Membership of the Club to Mark Watson.

Importantly, the Club would like to thank the members who voted for the project to proceed at the Special General Meeting in September 2021. Without their vote of confidence, this project would not have happened. It is now very clear that the vast majority of members are very happy with the result.

The outcome was neatly summed up by Lindsay Markham recently when she said "It looks as if it has always been there!!".

David Rae
Social Deck Project Manager

Club Improvements

Enhancing our facilities for the benefit of members, visitors and community groups has been a key focus for the Club over the past year.

A significant number of improvements have been made including:

- Social Deck
- Replacement shade awning for the West green
- Replacement blinds for Committee Room, Office and Match Office
- TV for the Members Lounge
- Partition to divide the Dining Room so that stored furniture can be screened from view
- Vinyl blind in the servery hatch between the Dining Room and Kitchen
- Kitchen and Committee Room repainting
- Cabinets for the Entrance Foyer
- Notice Board and Sponsor Advertising Rack for the Entrance Foyer
- Wall clocks for the Lounge and Kitchen.
- Kitchen equipment – bain-marie and gastronome trays to facilitate catering for Club and corporate events.

Repainting the Clubhouse interior involved many hours of voluntary labour willingly provided by Barry Jarred, Richard Horban, Doug Oldfield, David Rae and Howard Rose. Thanks to Graeme Robinson and Peter Harney for their skilled workmanship in assembling the Entrance Foyer cupboards, the Servery Hatch doors and the Dining Room partition. Acknowledgement also for the wonderful contribution of Working Group members – David Rae, Jill Anderson and Howard Rose in developing the Improvement Plan and in researching products and services for its implementation.

Howard Rose, Clubhouse Improvement Working Group

Street Library

On Friday 17 November 2023, the Mt Waverley Bowling Club's Street Library was unveiled by Mt Waverley Ward Councillor Rebecca Paterson. The project was conceived by MWBC as a means of further enhancing our connection with their local community by encouraging locals to read and share the enjoyment of books for free.

The construction and installation of the street library was a cooperative effort by Waverley Woodworkers, Monash Council and the Mt Waverley Bowling Club who were all represented at the opening. The State Member, Matt Fregon MP and participants from the NDIS program that operates out of the Bowling Club's rooms also attended the opening. Although the visitors are often unseen, the regular turnover of books in our street library is testament to its popularity with our local community.

House and Maintenance

We all appreciate the clean Clubhouse and fresh toilets each time we turn up to play bowls or catch up with friends at the Club. This doesn't just happen by itself. It is entirely due to the efforts each and every week of Graeme Robinson and his dedicated band of volunteers – Bev Wong and David Hutchinson – who ensure that the Clubhouse is always clean and tidy. This dedicated team would appreciate members immediately cleaning any spills that occur and if available and can spare an hour or so once a week or fortnight, to assist with the cleaning tasks.

Our regular user – Reach & Belong, and our members organising our corporate and social events, ensure that our facilities are always presented in a manner that we can be proud of when we welcome visitors to our Club.

Graeme continues to ensure that the routine maintenance, other breakdowns and replacement items are all promptly attended to. There are few things that he cannot turn his hand to and the Committee of Management appreciates just how much he is saving the Club by not having to bring in external contractors for every repair job.

Gardens and Surrounds

Last year this report started by saying “We have made no significant changes to the Garden” - this year is very different!

We started a major renovation by removing the six large cypress shrubs along the southern side of the garden. These had become too big, were intruding into the pathways and were overshadowing and drawing water from the adjoining roses and other shrubs.

We have undertaken a major cull of the Beverley Miller rose bed to remove some very old unproductive roses and some inappropriate bush roses which did not contribute to the overall display. We are gradually removing the winter irises from that bed as these have proved too successful and are beginning to compete with the roses for water and space. We also culled the small bush roses adjoining the synthetic green.

We are now part way through a major replanting program. Ten new roses have been added to the Beverley Miller bed. See if you can find *Dame Elizabeth Murdoch* or *Sir Donald Bradman*! Any suggestions for a low front-border perennial would be welcome. Something which will not compete with the roses.

On the south side of the synthetic green, Phil Rosengarten’s pink standard roses have now been planted out from their pots and complemented by small bush roses transplanted from the eastern bed. Two additional plants have been added to the yellow rose bed and the eastern bed has been fully planted with *Firecracker* and *Knockout* bush grevilleas. The flagpole bed will be the next priority and, when plants are available, will be planted with yellow Euryops daisies bordered with blue *Convolvulus* to reflect the club colours.

This has all been done in addition to our regular weeding and trimming program - we have over 300 metres of shrubbery and hedges to keep trimmed! Thanks again to our “Frequent Flyers” Richard Horban, Barry Jarred, Phil Rosengarten and Bernie Brennan. One of our new members, Keith Clapp, is in the process of joining the group while, after an appeal for support, Gary Howell, Bev Wong, Michelle Chan and Shirley Melissa have volunteered to do regular spots in their own time. Doug Oldfield is a regular contributor at rose pruning time. Lindsay Markham continues to add greenery to the crib wall on the east green while Jill Anderson and Morag Rae have provided advice on new planting and continue to propagate new plants for the fuchsia bed.

Jill Anderson’s eagle eye for various Grants programs has resulted in the acquisition of a new set of hand tools, a new whipper-snipper and a platform ladder which gives Richard Horban a much more flexible and safer base for hedge trimming.

David Rae, Grounds Coordinator

Marketing

Income from sponsorship and donations in 2023-24 was \$32,000. Overall, the Club lost seven sponsors and welcomed one – Waverley Floorworld. As at 30 June 2024, the Club had 19 sponsors and advertisers.

The members of the Sponsorship Team are thanked for their great job in engaging and signing-up sponsors. The Team comprised Bernie Brennan, Richard Sluggett, Barbara Dance, Bruce Bennett, Minh Vo, Robyn Beard, Angus Reynolds, Maisie Tsoi, Peter McDonald and Barrie Epstein.

The Club received tremendous support from its 2 major sponsors – Jellis Craig Real Estate and Community Bank Pinewood. In addition to supporting the Club through advertising, Jellis Craig provided a significant donation towards the highly successful Anniversary Tournament in April 2024. Community Bank Pinewood donated sun umbrellas for the new Social Deck and food for the Deck Opening Ceremony in December 2023.

The Club's Sponsorship Data Base, Sponsorship Agreement Forms and Opportunities Brochure were all updated.

A short video was produced to commemorate the opening for the new Social Deck. The video was posted on the Club website and copies given to Community Bank Pinewood and those involved in the design and construction of the deck. Many thanks to Kel Watson for producing the video and to Jill Anderson and David Rae for their creative input.

Work commenced on producing a video which will be used to promote the Club on our Website and other platforms.

Our Website continued to perform consistently well. The website is extensively used by members and external parties and has been successful in attracting local clubs and businesses to hold recreational bowling and social events at the Club.

Howard Rose, Head of Marketing

Social Committee

We started the year on a sad note with the passing of our Social Club Convenor Kaye O'Hara. She was a tireless worker and leader for the Social Committee.

The opening of the Social Deck on 24 November was our first function which was a great success. Attended by Federal Member of Chisholm Carina Garland, State Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon and local government representatives of Monash Council, representatives of sponsors and FreshBuilt builders of the deck. Carina Garland, Matt Fregon and Barrie Epstein cut the ribbon to open the deck before everyone enjoyed lunch. David Rae and Michelle Chan cut the deck cake made by Michelle Chan.

On Friday 8 December we had an enjoyable Christmas Dinner with roast Turkey and baked ham served as well as Christmas themed desserts.

On 13 December we hosted the Master Builders' Christmas tournament where we had a Chicken and Ham lunch and Christmas desserts. There was positive feedback following a great day.

On 1 of March a social night offering a variety of Asian cuisine was enjoyed by all who attended.

On 13 April we hosted the Club's 60th Anniversary Tournament. There was a great atmosphere and an enjoyable afternoon tea finished the day.

The Club's Presentation night was held on 19 April with a roast meal provided by Neale's Spit Roast enjoyed by all who attended.

I would like to thank Sarina Bonnici, Alan Sharp, Connie Epstein, Shirley Melissas, Bev Wong and Fui Chong for their help throughout the year to make the functions successful.

Michelle Chan
Social Club Convenor

Bar

During 2023-24 the Bar operated throughout the year and enjoyed a 34% increase in sales to total \$61,111 up from \$45,491 in 2022-23. Corporate events have contributed greatly to this result and now represent 45% of overall bar sales. After deducting the cost of supplies and repairs, the bar produced a nett income for the Club of \$32,947.

A major change to the bar has been the removal of the tap beer system due to reduced draught beer consumption and increased maintenance costs. However, a positive side effect of this change is the availability of the beer cool room as additional cold storage allowing for the shutdown of our second bar fridge. The electronic Point of Sale (POS) and EFTPOS continues to simplify the operation and reconciliation of our bar income. A new EFTPOS terminal, introduced by Bendigo Bank's new partnership with Tyro Payments Ltd, has availed new credit card functionalities for customers.

During the year, our bartender's fraternity has been reduced by four due to illness and retirement. We encourage new volunteers to join the team to help balance the current load on existing personnel. To the team of Peter Harney, Joe Bonnici, Ken Biggs, Chris Cullinan, Vito de Cesare, Graeme Robinson and David Beard, together with all the bar volunteers, a sincere thank you for your support throughout the year in all events organised by the Club.

Mount Waverley Bowling Club maintains its commitment to responsible alcohol management by achieving accreditation under the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports program. We are confident our efforts will continue to improve the environment at the Club. We are working to ensure the Mount Waverley Bowling Club is a great place to play and socialise for all members of our community.

Minh Vo, Licensee

Corporate Events

We have organised over 45 events and had at least 2000 people visit the Club to enjoy our facilities. Some of the highlights include functions for our State and Federal Members of Parliament, local PROBUS clubs having bowls functions, private family gatherings including ones for the Matheson families and Fiona Memed from Reach and Belong, our good friends from Metricon again had a very big function and two Lions Clubs Youth of the Year award ceremonies. Many local businesses and local government departments also came to the Club for functions. This demonstrates our great interaction with our local community.

The Club would like to give thanks to the very hard-working members who helped in organising and running all the corporate and private functions that the Club has held over the last seventeen months - Peter Harney, Minh Vo and Vito De Cesare - the men behind the bar, Robyn and David Beard, Peter O'Hara and Joe Bonnici who helped a lot by taking over most of BBQ cooking duties, Connie Epstein, Beverley Wong, Michelle Chan, Shirley Murray, Sarina Bonnici, Elsa Meldrum, Bruce Morley, Michael Murray, Lindsay Markham, Shirley Melissas, Fui Chong, Angus Reynolds and many others that have volunteered their time and efforts into making these events so successful.

Corporate events are an important part of the Club and without them; it would be much more difficult to support all the things that happen around our Club. They provide necessary funds to keep the Club going and without the support of the members in running them, we would struggle. I hope that for the coming year, we have many more functions to host and make the Club a place where the local community can enjoy all that we have to offer.

Barrie Epstein
Corporate Events Manager

Super Friday Nights

Building on the successful introduction in 2022, Chris Cullinan, Bruce Bennett and Phil Rosengarten have organised seven Super Fridays over the past year. Attendances have grown to between 40 and 90 with participants and staff from Reach & Belong becoming regular attendees. It is great to see members and their friends come along to catch up with each other and have a fun couple of hours together. Raffles, best dressed prizes, entertainment and light snacks all add to the fun and excitement of the evenings.

Each of the evenings have had a theme ranging from Football, Racing, Bright Colours to Summer and Xmas in July. The Reach & Belong community choir has participated in the evenings, encouraging all those in attendance to join in singing the song of the night. The April 2024 Super Friday had over 100 people attending when it coincided with the petting zoo at the Club, jointly organised by Reach & Belong and the Club.

Free Fridays

Free Fridays are an important way the Club can introduce members from our local community to the sport of lawn bowls and potentially attract new members to the Club. The 15 Free Fridays ran from mid-October to end November and again from February to end March and attracted over 60 people trying our sport. The promotion of Free Fridays in the Monash PALS (Positive Ageing Lifestyle program) Directory has been invaluable in attracting families and older Monash residents to try lawn bowls at the Club. The Free Fridays have directly led to a number of new members joining our Club.

Thank you to all our members who have assisted welcoming the visitors to our Club and patiently teaching them how to roll a bowl and the basics of our game. Free Fridays needs to be a long term program investing in the future of our sport – you never know when someone interested in our sport will turn up and become a future lawn bowler. In order to maintain this initiative, additional volunteer support is required to have a friendly face greet people and welcome them to our great club - our future survival and success relies on it.

Schools

The Club's 'learn to bowls' program with local schools continues to expand. Given the challenges that schools face in timetabling sport into the school curriculum, the Club must be responsive to when schools are wanting to run the lawn bowls program. This year we have had over 840 primary and secondary school students from Ashwood High School, Avila College, Huntingtower School, Essex Heights Primary School and Mt Scopus College, attending our 40 bowling sessions.

Worthy of special mention is the two Special Schools fun days coordinated by Glenallen Special School. We welcomed 49 primary students from Burwood East Special Development School, Vermont South Special School, Croydon Special Development School, Yarra Ranges Special Development School, Ashwood School and Glenallen School over the two days. It was wonderful to see the excitement amongst the students and the joy when they were able to roll the bowl to the cones. The happy faces of the students, staff and support workers leaving the Club was a joy to behold. We look forward to welcoming them back again next year.

A huge thank you to the many members who volunteered to ensure that the students enjoyed their bowling experience and that these events were successful.

The Club has recently invested in a Bowls Australia 'Rookie Roller' kit which has soft foam bowls to enable us to better cater for primary school groups and children attending our Free Fridays or corporate events. The kit also has a bowling ramp and bowling arm which provides the opportunity to be truly inclusive by catering for all ability bowlers of any age.

Community Involvement

Our relationship with Reach & Belong (R&B) goes from strength to strength to the point that they are now the major source of income for the Club. Below is a report on R&B's activities for the year by Fiona Memed, Director of R&B. We look forward to continuing working closely with R&B staff and their participants which enable people with disabilities to be part of the broader community.

Our connection with the U3A bowling program continues. We thank Minh Vo and Beverley Wong for their dedication in supporting the U3A bowlers and welcoming them to the club. A number of U3A bowlers have enjoyed their bowls so much that they have become members of our Club.

Reach & Belong

The working relationship between the Mt Waverley Bowling Club and NDIS Registered Service Provider, Reach & Belong is one that epitomises a positive, strong community hub relationship. Reach & Belong provides quality programs for secondary-school aged and adult participants with disabilities. Reach & Belong has been leasing the premises from the MWBC to run its programs since February 2021.

In the past year we have introduced a Tuesday morning Yoga program and Tuesday afternoon Cooking program, a Wednesday afternoon Sewing program and a Wednesday evening Choir and Band program. Our programs develop and build executive function skills and we focus on program engagement, capacity building and skills development. These programs are in addition to our existing programs which include Cooking, Numeracy & Literacy, Independent Living Skills, Art,

Sewing, Music, a Receptive Language Program, Social Afternoons, a School Leavers Employment Program and an Art and Craft Program. Since our first cooking program in February 2021, Reach & Belong is now in the Bowling Club every day of the week running multiple programs.

We worked closely with the Club during the construction of the deck in September / October 2023. The delays in building the deck caused our November 2023 Art Exhibition to be re-scheduled to February 2024. Whilst it was unfortunate to have to re-schedule the Art Exhibition, we used the changed date to launch our 2024 programs. The Exhibition was held in February and was a very popular event with support from the Bowling Club committee (including the Club barbequing sausages for this event!!!!). We will be holding our third Art Exhibition in November 2024.

We have attended a number of the Bowling Club's Super Social Fridays and these have been such a positive collaboration with wonderful engagement between the bowling club members and R&B participants, their families and carers and R&B staff. Our new Local Vocals choir performed at one of these Super Social Fridays. In April we organised an Animal Petting Zoo to come to the Bowling Club to tie in with the Super Social Friday. Bowling Club members were encouraged to invite their extended families and grandchildren to this very popular afternoon. The zoo was set up on the de-commissioned green and was such a highlight.

In the past year, Reach & Belong has moved its offices into the little office space and share the space with the bowling club management teams. The bowling club bought a cupboard which has been set up in the little foyer as our Art Cupboard. Screens have been purchased and set up in the dining room. Chairs and R&B music equipment are stored behind these screens. Being able to easily access the music equipment and set it up in the dining hall for our weekly music groups has been a great boon.

We welcome the new cupboards in the kitchen pantry. These are a fantastic addition to the club and has meant our pantry items can now be stored on shelves for easy access. As always, we have a very positive working relationship with the Bowling Club and the committee. It is a collaboration borne from clear communication and mutual respect and we look forward to this ongoing wonderful working relationship.

Fiona Memed
Director, Reach & Belong

TREASURER'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 2023-24

At the Special General Meeting held on 18 January 2024, our members approved amendments to the Club's constitution including the change to move our financial year end from 31 January to 30 June each year. As a consequence of this change, this Annual Report provides financial reporting for the 17 month financial period 1 February 2023 to 30 June 2024.

To facilitate year on year comparison, a table is provided at the end of this report showing our financial position at the end of the 12 months 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024, the 5 month period from 1 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 adding up to the total 17 month position (see table below).

As recommended by the Club's accountant, we are reporting on a cash basis (Income against Expenditure) and reporting separately Net Income from normal Club Operations and income from non bowling activities such as Grants or Hire of Club facilities.

For the 17 month period 1 February 2023 to 30 June 2024, we recorded a Net Cash Operating surplus of \$91,424 against the same period last year a loss of \$4,300.

The breakup of these numbers is as follows:

Normal Club operations for the 17 months:

- Total Income from Bowling Activities \$150,909 against last year \$130,993.
- Total expenses from Bowling Activities \$148,421 against last year \$139,495.
- Surplus income from Bowling activities \$2,468 against last year a loss \$8,502.

Income from Non Bowling activities for the 17 months:

- Hire of Club House (Reach & Belong) - \$63,093 against last year \$39,011.
- Grants - \$65,921 against last year \$3,969.

Net surplus from all sources before depreciation, \$131,482 against last year \$34,478.

Depreciation of fixed assets \$40,058 against last year \$38,778.

Total Net Operating Surplus for the 17 months:

- \$91,424 against last year a loss \$4,300.

The Club Capitalised \$136,141 over the past 17 months. Major assets being the Social Deck, replacement shade for the West Green and Kitchen refurbishment.

By way of background over the past 4 years:

- Year ending 31/1/2021 (COVID) Gates and Clubhouse closed most of the year. We recorded a loss of \$34,791 (before depreciation). Bank balance \$69,938.
- Year ending 31/1/2022 (COVID) Gates and Clubhouse closed 4 months. We recorded a Loss of \$9,806 (before Depreciation). Community Hub income \$1,950 Received proceeds from Southern Indoor Liquidation \$216,014 Bank balance \$262,401.
- Year ending 31/1/2023. We recorded a surplus \$10,127 (before Depreciation) Community hub (Reach & Belong) Income \$23,185 Bank balance \$259,753.
- Year ending 30/6/24 See above. Bank Balance \$251,919.

It is pleasing to see the continuing improvement in our Club operations particularly:

- Corporates - Support the Club with green fees, bar and dinners
- Donations - From Members \$14,935
- Sponsorship - Our Deck and refurbishment costs of our Club House of \$17,700
- Hiring of our Club House (Reach & Belong) \$63,093 has enabled the Club to push ahead with a number of projects.
- Grants from Federal and Victorian Governments plus Monash Council total \$65,921 which has enabled the Club to complete the Deck, new shade for the West Green and smaller projects mentioned elsewhere in the annual report.

The Committee of Management continue to review our Strategic Plan the benefits of which can now be seen. Our involvement with the local community particularly Reach & Belong has proven to be an outstanding success.

- Income from Southern Indoor has enabled the Club to fund the \$32,517 for the Social Deck without needing to draw on other Club's funds.
- Repair of the bar equipment \$2,400 and cool room \$4,500.
- Kitchen refurbishment \$8,700.
- Cost associated with a new television and partitions in Dining room - total cost over \$5,000.
- Entrance to the Clubhouse upgrade \$4,500.
- Purchase of small bowls for students and members with small hands \$5,000. Local schools use our facilities to teach their students how to play bowls.
- Local community groups and sporting clubs are finding our facilities useful for their presentation nights.

It is worth noting that these projects have been completed using either Southern Indoor funds, Community Hub (Reach & Belong) income and or specific donations from our members. Funds accumulated over many years from our members' subscriptions and other Club income were not used for these projects.

We monitor our expenses monthly however are finding that increased costs across the board are the norm particularly energy costs and consumables. Monash Council have also ceased their Covid subsidy of our lease fees.

Our soft point remains our Membership numbers, particularly our full bowling members (now down to 80 members). Our strategy moving forward must be to develop and implement plans to rebuild our membership base.

Cash Position

Our cash position at 30 June 2024 remains strong with \$251,919 (last year at 31 January 2023 was \$259,753). Overall, our net cash position after 17 months is down \$7,834. A remarkable position bearing in mind what has been achieved during this time.

Operations:

After providing for non-cash depreciation of \$40,058, the Club recorded a net operating surplus for the 17 months of \$91,424 (last year a loss of \$4,300). NOTE We have capitalised \$136,141.

The items making up this variance are shown in the attached Expenditure report. The following are the key areas:

Bar:

Net Income from Bar trading was \$32,947 (against last year \$30,930 a positive variance of \$2,017) Tap Beer has been removed with only bottled beer being offered now. We found particularly over the winter months, our kegs had past their used by date whilst still half full. This change has been well received by our members and visitors.

Membership:

Net income \$47,255 (against last year \$48,763 down \$1,508 despite increasing fees by 6%). We need to develop plans to increase our Membership base.

Corporates:

Net Income \$15,754 (against last year \$15,769) Our Corporate activity continues to grow. We currently have bookings through to March 2025. NOTE. Corporate income does not include income from the Bar, currently running at around 45% of Bar income.

Community Hub (Reach & Belong):

Net income \$63,093 (against last year of \$39,011). Our involvement with Reach & Belong has expanded as the year unfolded and now represents the most significant income earner for the Club. We have now maximised the time available for Reach & Belong to use our Club House. We expect their income for 2024/25 to settle around \$50,000.

Grants:

Grants received for capital items \$65,921. Our Grants have been received from Federal, State governments and Monash Council. These funds have been used towards our Social Deck, West Green shade and smaller grants for additional small bowls for students and new bowls and bowling arms for members to use in practice.

Expenses.

Repairs and Maintenance:

Total expenses incurred \$25,193 (against last year \$23,651). Mainly used to keep our scheduled maintenance up to date and in good order. The Centre Green, bar and clubhouse (kitchen health and safety issues) are in need of regular maintenance.

Gas, Power, Water and Council charges:

Total expenses incurred \$18,557 (against last year \$17,127). Inflation is keenly felt in these four areas. We can expect these charges to continue to rise during the coming 12 months.

Club Consumables and Cleaning:

Total expenses incurred \$4,465 against last year \$2,991. Kitchen cleaning to meet health requirements and consumables for clubhouse cleaning will need to be watched.

We continue to monitor our expenses and where appropriate look to reduce their impact by seeking second quotes.

On balance we have had a very busy and successful past 17 months with our emphasis on refreshing and refurbishing the Clubhouse, completing our Social Deck and improving the shade for the West Green.

I take this opportunity to thank Richard Coleman as our Accountant, for his patience in fielding my many questions and in making sure our financial accounts are well managed and meet our legal responsibilities.

**Peter McDonald,
Treasurer.**

COMPARISON TABLE FOR THE PAST 17 MONTHS OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

	LAST YEAR	12 MONTHS	5 MONTHS	17 MONTHS
	1/2/22 TO	1/2/23 TO	1/2/24 TO	1/2/23 TO
	1/31/2023	1/31/2024	6/30/2024	6/30/2024
NET INCOME FROM CLUB OPERATIONS	-11,584	-22	2,490	2,468
NON BOWLING OPERATIONS				
HIRE OF CLUB HOUSE	20,982	36,145	26,948	63,093
GRANTS	296	61,921	4,000	65,921
TOTAL NET OPERATING SURPLUS	9,694	98,044	33,438	131,482
LESS DEPRECIATION				40,058
NET SURPLUS FOR 17 MONTHS PERIOD				91,424
CAPITALISED NEW ASSETS	10,399	120,034		136,141