

In 2013 the Nowra Women's Bowling Club celebrated its 65th anniversary.

### Women welcomed to the rinks

BY May 1917, there were 60 members of the club. It was decided then that women would be admitted as members and this would enable them to play croquet and tennis.

The first four women to be admitted as bowling members to the club joined in 1935. On April 8, 1948, the first meeting was held to form the Nowra Women's Bowling Club,

with 12 members. The first president of the club was Mrs Phyll Ellison, and the first secretary/treasurer was Miss Joyce Howlett (later Mrs Joyce

Johnston). Both women were elected patrons of the club in 1953.

In a tragic turn of events, one

foundation member, Mrs Newton, died in a car accident on the way home from this very meeting. Although Mary Munnoch was the

NOWRA BOWLING CLUB CELEBRATING

first female life member, there was another woman bowler integral to the club's success. 'Robbie' Robertson, who held the

titles of president, vice president, and secretary over a period of 10 years, was honoured with life membership by the South Coast District Women's Bowling Association.

The SCDWBA, which was formed in 1959, held its first carnival at the Nowra Bowling Club.

Over the years, the Nowra Women's Bowling Club has represented the club with great pride and proficiency.

### Hooked on fish IN 1998, the Fishos were formed as a part of the club.

This self-funded social club focused on bringing those together who share a love of fishing. Many annual outing days are dedicated to Fishos who have passed away, which ensures their love of the sport and support they showed their social club is remembered.

The finances for this group are mainly raised by the monthly raffles held in the club by volunteers, and their efforts have ensured the Fishos still exist today. The Crab's Kitchen, an initiative of the Fishos' club, became a reality in 2003.

It provides a barbecue area for not only the Fishos, but for the entire club and outside organisations.

### Family fun for all

A FREE family fun day will be held at the Nowra Bowling Club to celebrate its 100 year anniversary.

On Sunday, March 2 from 10am everyone is welcome at the club on the corner of Junction and Osborne streets for a day full of fun and festivity. There will be games on the green to

suit young and old, like barefoot bowls as well as entertainment. Prizes are on offer and there will be

plenty to eat with a free sausage sizzle at lunch.

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We are proud to be associated with Nowra Bowling Club and congratulate them on this milestone

Fun facts ub's official green. Surprisingly there were no injur

- During the club's official opening on February 27, 1918, club member Mr. J. Canavan was presented with a set of bowls to commemorate his title as the first club champion.
- In the late 1920s and early 1930s the finances of the club were extremely low and a Mr Percy Herne, who was a member at the time, kindly paid the local government the club rates out of his own pocket.
- In 1981, the bottom green became a temporary car park, when an out of control Volkswagen crashed through the fence on the half green, traversed it, and bounced over the retaining wall to come to rest on the bottom

there were no injuries and the greens were only slightly damaged. The only real casualty was the newly mangled fence, which had to be removed. At one time, a game of

- At one time, a game of cricket was held on the bottom green. It took place the night before the green was to be renovated. Fortunately, there were no windows smashed in the clubhouse, although one beer glass was shattered by an errant shot.
- The Tall Timbers day, an important event on the club's social calendar, is so named after the tall timber lighting poles that were originally erected to illuminate the bottom green and half green.

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## A club that cares about community

IN 2000, ClubsNSW awarded Nowra Bowling Club with an Award for Excellence.

In 2007, the club received two Awards for Excellence: Best Club Development or Innovation for a Small Club, and People's Choice Award for Community Service.

The club was also a finalist for two other awards in the small club category: Best Club Gaming Venue, and Tooheys Club of the Year.

Charity work and community involvement are core values that drive the Nowra Bowling Club. Across the range of events and days held at the club, the aim varies.

Disaster relief, support for sporting teams and venues, wishing trees for the less fortunate, health awareness and support, sponsorships, and donations to community organisations are a few

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Congratulations Nowra Bowling Club on achieving the 100 year milestone.

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#### examples of the work performed by the club in the local area.

The club receives many requests from the general public for donations or support, and it is always prepared to meet the needs of those wherever it can.

Organisations the club has helped over the years include Camp Quality, Legacy, Jeans for Genes, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (via NWBC), Movember, and more services

Movember, and many more. In 2009, The Nowra Bowling and Recreation Club participated in the Business Advantage Program.

During this time the club introduced measures that aimed to save water and energy with support from the NSW Government Climate Change Fund, such as waterless woks in the restaurant, and LED downlights throughout the club.

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