



The 'Cliff Club News

December 2009

Hello and Welcome to the Queenscliff Bowling, Tennis & Croquet Club latest newsletter.

This Newsletter intends to inform members of current news and people, past history of the Club, and other pieces of interest to you – the member.

If you would like to submit an article for inclusion in future newsletters, please put your news in an envelope and address it to “The Cliff Club News”, or email newsletter@queenscliffbowling.com.au

Wishing members success on and off the greens & courts! Go Cousta's Go!

Board Chairman's Message – Robert Merriman.

The month of October saw a turn around in our financial situation, mainly assisted by the excellent performance and entertainment provided by the Lighthouse Theatre Group and their Casting Capers.

In November we have also hosted the Music Festival After Party and Congratulations to the organizers of the event, and I particularly thank the volunteers who assisted on the Sunday evening.

All of the sporting sections are enjoying plenty of activity and we are particularly pleased that the Tennis Section has attracted over 40 new members!

As we come to the Christmas period we wish everybody a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to everyone enjoying good hospitality and fellowship.

Yours,

Bob Merriman
Board Chairman

Queenscliff Ladies Bowls Committee:

Next Ladies Committee Meeting Monday 7th December at 1:15pm.

Completed Events:

Ladies Open Day 16th October

A successful and enjoyable day, 32 teams (128 Players) under perfect conditions, greens and weather. Thanks to all Members involved.

Sponsors: Hepner Funeral Parlor & Geelong Bowls Shop, Ripview Bistro & Queenscliff Fruits (Annie & Paul).

Executives Day

Hosted by Barwon Heads 22nd October. President, Secretary and Vice President attended an enjoyable day.

Guest Day 28/10/2009

30 Guests and 14 Queenscliff Ladies played. Favourable Comments & an enjoyable Day.

Queenscliff Hosted the Bellarine Shield

120 Players, Thank You to all Ladies for the Team Effort with Catering.

The Annual Hoppen 2 Bowl & Consistency (100 up) Handicap still not completed.

Please Ladies, watch events Calendar on the Ladies Room Board & Duty Roster.

DECEMBER

As season nears half way through & Christmas is only weeks away, I wish you all a Happy & Healthy Christmas. Good Health & Good Bowling for the Balance of the Season.

God Bless

Betty Springall

(President, Ladies Section)

MANAGERS REPORT – Rod Wayth

After a very lean winter and a relatively slow start to the season proper our hospitality operations have finally started to improve. The commencement of daylight savings is always a time of year where trade increases and the Lighthouse Theatre Group shows during October were important in initiating the turnaround in trade. Whilst there has been a little less going on trade wise than we would have liked, there has been plenty going on behind the scenes and through the sections of the club.

The temporary repair of the tennis courts received an eleventh hour funding injection from the Board to convert the resurfacing to a full plexipave surface. This along with the installation of lights, additional fencing, and improved umpires chairs has created a first class tennis facility for Queenscliff. Already there has been a clear increase in the activities of the tennis section with some 30 – 40 new junior members signing up for the new “Couta Tennis” development program and a number of new family memberships also taken out. Well done to Andrew Kidd and the rest of the tennis section committee for their efforts in this area.

The decision to construct a synthetic green in place of number three green is an indication of the positive attitude being adopted with regard to future strategic planning. Much work has already been put in attempting to procure drought relief funding for the project and at this stage it is anticipated that there will not be any issues in delivering this project on time and budget come May 2010.

These two projects mark the first significant capital investment in the sporting surfaces of the Club in some time and are in line with the overall planning for the site the Club occupies, this planning includes further projects to improve the Croquet operations of the club as well, however these works are dependent on the netball courts being relocated to their preferred position.

The other item that has taken a lot of time and work has been the continued transition of the Victorian gaming environment from an operator model to a venue ownership model. As has previously been reported there has been a lot happening on this front and I am pleased to be in a position to finally confirm that the Club will be able to continue to operate the same number of gaming machines in 2012 as it does currently. Recent ministerial directions regarding regional caps and municipal limits have finally removed the confusion over this particular issue and the Pre Auction Club Offer was made and accepted in full for 30 gaming machines at a pre determined price.

We now look forward to a strong summer season as we get things back on track after winter, and we had the perfect kick start to this period by hosting a very successful music festival after party at the end of November. There will be some changes made by Denice in the Bistro for the summer and plenty of activities for members and tourists alike to get involved in so keep an eye out for what is coming up.

I take this opportunity to wish all members a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Rod Wayth - MANAGER

Member Profile: - Laurene Richmond



Laurene joined Queenscliff Croquet Club in 2001.

Since then, Laurene is, or has been, Golf Croquet Captain, Referee, Coach and Club Handicapper for Golf Croquet games.

Highlights of her Croquet career include the wonderful atmosphere in the Club, the many friends she has made, Laurene is a keen competitor and has learnt a lot since starting.

“The Club works well together” Laurene believes, having won 2 Pennant’s in 2 years, it must!

In a previous life, Laurene worked as a Nurse. Her future aims are to see the Club grow, hoping to improve her own game and try and reduce her handicap, and that of others.

Laurene has a Son and Daughter, is married to Roger (another keen member), and has 2 Granddaughters

MONDAY NIGHT – MEMBER’S DRAW – FRIDAY NIGHT – RAFFLES!

The recent Jackpot did go off – congratulations to our worthy winner!
The Weekly Members Jackpot continues each Monday night, so come along and see if you are going to be lucky. Members enjoy the hospitality and fellowship of others on these nights, some stay for the discounted meal in the Ripview Bistro (thanks Denise), and others also try their luck in the gaming room.

It is a fun night, along with the Friday night raffles and nibbles, so make sure you keep coming back to the Club to enjoy the facilities and services provided.

Tennis Club News:

With the completion of our wonderful tennis courts, on Thursday 10th December we are holding an OPEN COURTS from 5:30pm. All are welcome – just bring your racquets.

There are two junior teams in competition with Section 7 and Section 30 both competing well. Children from the Borough of Queenscliffe have just completed 4 weeks of coaching with 36 enthusiastic children in attendance. An 8 week Round Robin competition is in progress, continuing in the New Year. A big thank you to Andrew Kidd.

The Mid-Week Ladies had 2 teams competing, one of which reached the second semi-final before being defeated. Well done both teams.

Tennis Courts Resurfaced!

Members who have looked out the Windows of the Clubrooms southwards recently, would have noticed a marked bit of Colour appearing in the Club!

Yes, our mighty bitumen Tennis Courts have been replaced, with the latest and greatest technology surface – thanks to the Tennis Club and Board support.

The Tennis Courts now are in superior Colour – on a surface that is world recognized! Congratulations to all our Tennis players, who have taken to the courts, especially our Juniors, who are learning the art of the game!

Below are some photos taken recently, of the Courts in daylight – don't forget, we also now have state-of-the-art Lights, so Tennis can be played Night or Day – a great innovation this year for Queenscliff Tennis Club!

If you would like to become involved in the Tennis Club, or find out more information about the Club, please contact us on 03 5258 1773.



Member Profile: Ray Lawrence



Ray Lawrence has become a part of the furniture at Queenscliff Bowling, Tennis & Croquet Club, joining the Tennis section in 1969.

Ray played actively on the Tennis Courts, from 1969– 1996, when unfortunately, his hamstring snapped in the Grand Final that year. Following this, Ray decided it was time to take up Bowls, rather than test his hammy again next season!

During his Tennis years, Ray was involved in 5 Premierships, won 5 Club Championships, Coached the Junior Squad for 25 years, President of the Club for 10 Consecutive years, was Chaiman of the Board for 2 periods, once for 3 years, and later for another 2 years. In his time at the Tennis Club, over \$100,000 was raised through their fundraising team, a great effort & result for the Association.

Over his 40 years at the Club, Ray has been very much a “Hands On” man, assisting in the building, creation, or working on, many capital works, some that stand the today. Some of these include the Building the BBQ area and shed, and paving this area, Constructing the Tennis Court Perimeter fences (behind C green), Building the Entrance to the Car Park in 1992, Paving the Ramp beside the Pokies entrance, and when our last Greenkeeper, Bill, was ill, helping keep the greens in good order.

In the Bowls arena, Ray is no slouch either. He has been Runner Up in the Club Championship, a Winner of the State Over 60’s Pairs with Barrie Close, Runner up in the State Fours last year with Steve Sullivan’s rink. Ray has been leading for 11 years, and is happy to be playing.

Ray Has had a great time at the Club, and with his Spouse, Barbara (who joined the Tennis Club 5 years after Ray) they have 3 boys (1 dec.) Paul was Club Champion twice. They also enjoy being Grandparents to twin boys and a Granddaughter.

Thank you, Ray, for your contributions and efforts in the past 40 years, long may it continue in the future!

Mens Bowls Section

Pennant is going well with two teams on top and the others in the middle. There has been a lot of players unavailable so far which makes the job of selection even worse than normal. Again if some ladies had not helped many players would not get a game.

Club games are well on the way so members please keep up. Don't be frightened of being beaten. Play your games.

The Olympic Pairs was conducted and Benitos is underway. Numbers are down but this is a trend all over. Hope we improve during the year.

December 3 is looming as a big day for the game. Unification is still a very hot subject and is no certainty to get up. The decision is far from certain as its success elsewhere is being questioned. The majority voted yes and naturally that is how we will vote.

Members please be reminded of December 20. We know it always a busy time of the year but it is considered that a Club Xmas function is appropriate.

Generous sponsored prizes will be awarded for the different events. The three games of pairs will be seeded into sections to make for more even competitions. The special traditional Xmas dinner is a first with a big roasting oven being hired. We are confident that it will be a winner.

For the day to be good we need the members to support .

Queenscliff Bowling Club Mens Section
President

When was the last time you tried Denice's succulent Mixed Grill, or the mouth watering Garlic Prawns, Flathead Tails or other delights on offer?

If you would like to reward your taste buds with delight – then look no further than the Ripview Bar & Bistro, located upstairs (or by lift) at the Queenscliff Bowling, Tennis and Croquet Club.

Say "Hello" to the chef and staff, and enjoy a pleasant lunch or dinner – special \$12 two course lunch – and enjoy the surroundings and view from this well established and well respected dining experience!

Get along to the RipView Bar & Bistro – tell 'em the COUTA BOYS sent you!

**Phone: 03 5258 1773.
118 Hesse Street, Queenscliff VIC 3225.**

NOTICE TO MEMBERS – Croquet Club

Dates to Schedule in your diary:

DECEMBER

2nd (Wednesday) – 9.00am for 9.30am start

Cliff N Dale match. Play will be all day and 8 players are needed for QCC so put your name down on the list. This is our third match against Drysdale Croquet Club and the race will be on to win back the shield !!!

We will need to provide afternoon tea so volunteers needed (whether or not you are playing)

5th (Saturday)

Christmas Lunch at Ripview Restaurant. Laurene has been busy organising this event and invites have been sent out to members of the Drysdale Croquet Club to join us for play in the morning then onto lunch at the restaurant. Full details will be sent out to members in due course but we need to confirm numbers no later than 1st December so put your name down on the list in the clubhouse as soon as you can.

PRESIDENT'S POSITION

By now most of you will know that I am moving to Queensland in January 2010 and although I will still be commuting between Qld & Point Lonsdale to meet my commitment to the club and the QBTCC Board till the AGMs in May 2010, we are on the lookout for a replacement President as well as someone to take over my position on the QBTCC Board.

Alan & I have already purchased our new home in Noosa Waters and our home in Point Lonsdale has been sold with settlement on 1st December 2009. All our furniture etc is being uplifted on 18th November and we are flying to Noosa on 19th November and returning on 28th November. We will be residing in our trusty caravan while back here and our plan is to spend most of the summer here in the Ocean Grove area.

My involvement with the Board over the past 18 months has proved beneficial to the Croquet Club and it would be a shame if we lost this representation when I leave. Board Meetings are held once a month and generally there are no other duties outside the monthly meetings.

If any member would like to know what is required in both of these positions, I would be only too pleased to talk to you about it. Needless to say I will lend my ongoing support to the incoming President and/or Board Member.

Yvonne Crofts
PRESIDENT QCC

**Queenscliff Bowling Tennis and Croquet Association Special General Meeting
Friday October 30 2009**

The meeting was opened by Board Chairman, Robert Merriman, who thanked all for attending, and called for apologies.

Apologies received and approved, the Chairman then proceeded to outline the history of recent developments, and potential future planning as seen by the Board.

1. Historically, we have had a wonderful past 3 years, with revenue increasing well.
2. Most recent 3 months have been equal to the worst on record with poker machines.
3. History of Gaming Machine Legislation given, with recent amendments making it viable to continue as we are. \$28000 per machine, rights to 30 machines, and gradual scheme of payments for all machines, to 2012.
4. Currently, Association is operating without a renewed lease. Council has presented some proposed leases, rejected due to unreasonable increases in fees/rates and conditions.

Presently, Board argues old expired lease is still in operation, until new agreement is reached.

5. Development of future plan outlined.

Currently look at future income streams. To assist in the ongoing improvement of this matter, a synthetic green would replace Green #3 by May next year, to help members play all year round, and support the Club.

In a couple of years, it is expected that the 33% income currently going to Tabcorp and Tatts Pokies, for gaming machine revenue, will revert back to the Association.

Once the Council determines the future of the Recreational Plan, and the Netball Courts are relocated, we will determine use of that area, for Tennis or Croquet development/enhancement.

In line with future developments, it is proposed to build cabins near the synthetic green area, to enhance the flow of income. Whether we control this income, or sell the rights to lease income, is still being determined. Council factors contribute to this decision.

Future projections show that, based on last year's figures, it is expected that Income will increase greatly by 2015/16.

Queenscliff Meats &



Do you often wonder “what am I going to have for tea tonight?”

Do you have a craving for fresh meat, seafood, and deli items, prepared “just right”?

By now, most of you would have sampled the fair of Queenscliff Meats, through the regular Meat Raffle prizes they supply. Now you can enjoy these great foodstuffs all the year round!

Queenscliff Meats, a family owned and run business in the heart of Hesse Street shops, offers a wide range of food, from fresh meat and fish, to other deli and speciality items.

As well as getting your regular Meat and Fish there, you can also pick up the Queenscliff Herald and Rip Rumour, to satisfy your quest for knowledge.

The affordable and fantastic range of produce in the store, entices the knowledgeable shopper to return time and time again. People don't return if the product is poor, and Queenscliff Meats supply is second to none!

So if you need a good butcher or specialty supplier, and shop in the area, please try Queenscliff Meats – their reputation they stand by, and satisfied customers with the quality of food and service – speak for themselves.

Go on! Give them a try, you will be pleased you did!