

# Lawn Bowling News at Montmorency

Summer 2023.

Edited by Peter.

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## Message from Club President

Now that Summer has finally arrived, we now anxiously look forward to the warmer days on the greens. Our clubrooms are almost finished now and waiting for Ausnet to finalise connection of power to us, and our surrounding neighbours too. We are starting to believe that this is now quite imminent, and we could be looking to start our move into the rooms just prior to Christmas, let's keep our fingers crossed for this one.

What our members don't get the opportunity to see, is the hard work and efforts of the members of the board, in keeping in touch with Ausnet and Banyule Council with the progress of all of this. Our thanks to John Herral and Phil Stirling for their efforts. We will keep members informed of any further progress of this.

It is always very pleasing to see both our pennant committees and coach, working hard towards the success of all our sides. Our Social bowls committee does great work in maintaining the running of social bowls during the week. Please give them all your encouragement and support where possible.

2024 will be a challenging year for us in setting up the clubrooms. We look forward to this being a fully functioning sporting club, in environment where all members and visitors can relax and enjoy the company of each other. On behalf of the Board, may I wish you all a very enjoyable and safe festive season. **Bert Wilson**



**Peter's Pencil:** In our newsletter's Spring Edition, I discussed the topic of 'big' and 'small' contemplating 'the bowling head' in our immediate Montmorency environment. I compared 'the head' to our Solar System, as against that of the largest known object in the universe 'Ton 618' which is a Black Hole about 60 billion times the size of our sun. It is quite mind bending to consider that this Black Hole, superimposed over our Solar System would take up at least half of the space between our sun and our nearest neighbouring star 'Proxima Centauri'. So, comparatively, if you were to place this black hole over a Montmorency bowling head, it would expand, not over the fence line of our club grounds, but would also embrace most of neighbouring Petrie Park. When I



was a novice bowler, it was always intrigued by the rigorous **measurements** taken between contending shot bowls to the Jack. Even the mention of the possible use of

cigarette paper was a focus of contemplation... why not just declare the head a draw I thought. I was naturally inclined to just consider the process, rather than result.

In a similar vein, I do have a fascination in the measurement of the effects of living through life. A common sight in summer is the profusion of black garden ants (*Lasius niger*). They are often maligned by humans and quickly targeted as being pests needing elimination. An ant on average is 3mm in length and 1 or 2 grams in weight, is about 35 million times smaller in mass than the average human of 70kg. The sight of a long line of ants can be both disconcerting and intriguing. From tasks such as soil aeration, pollination, and seed dispersement, ants are efficient and useful workers that add biodiversity to the environment as well as the garden. They also feed on small insects such as moth larvae, fruit, will 'farm' aphids, cockroaches, beetles. They have a feast on our crumbs and detritus following a midday break. The ants are themselves eaten by a variety of predators including birds, beetles, spiders, and centipedes. Even members of the same species attack their own kind if they come from a different nest. The black garden ant colony can range from 4,000 to 7,000 which each ant having a lifespan of one or two years.



Ants are a 'small' component of our environment, and today humans, in terms of their effects, are almost certainly, the 'biggest'. We have created 'concrete playgrounds' to service our needs. About 60% of us live in cities and our 'needs' make ravenous demands on the environment. Every time I take a train to Melbourne, passing by Victoria Park station, I can see this panoramic vision of the city. In my eyes it is akin to a huge and long vertical 'ant nest' and I contemplate all the environmental resources that have been taken to create this vista. When one considers the average Australian uses about 5 times more resources than the average human on the planet as a whole, I realise this is akin to the earth servicing a human population of some 40 billion (ie: current world population of 8 billion x 5), (that is, if everyone on the planet was to live according to the same standards that we Aussies expect). **In the past year or two**, after I prepare a cup of tea or coffee, I notice it is becoming increasingly impossible not to spill some the contents, as I walk to a nearby chair to enjoy the contents (no



wonder I like to fill the cup as much as possible). There is no greater joy in winter, than to wrap your hands around a hot cup of tea! As one ages, one is more prone to simple thrills, and **spills!**

It is the same with our planet, which is getting older and getting very tired of the demands we humans are making. If MBC was subject to what Earth has endured in our lifetimes, the club would have to accommodate 3 to 5 times as many members, and play on two greens that should have been replaced decades ago, because they are worn out. Just as we are prone to spillages, so too is the earth.

The earth **‘spills’** in the form of fire, flood and drought.

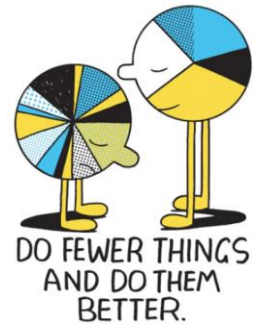


We now know that is primarily the result of what **our generation** has done to the planet in occupying every nook and cranny, taking advantage of all we encounter.

**Our effects** on the planet are worse than a trail of ants on the footpath and the following is a sobering read as summarised in David Attenborough’s 2020 book ‘A Life on Our Planet’:

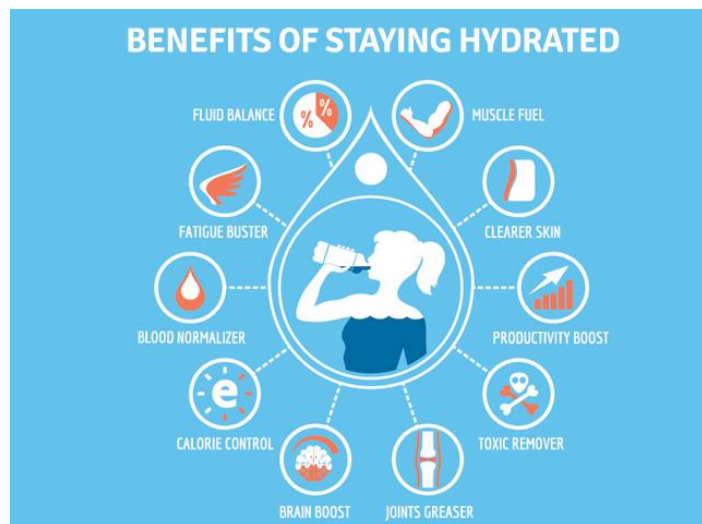
From the book	'A Life on Our Planet' by David Attenborough		
<u>Year</u>	<u>World Population</u>	<u>Carbon in Atmosphere</u>	<u>Remaining Wilderness</u>
1937	2,300,000,000	280ppm	66%
1954	2,700,000,000	310ppm	64%
1960	3,000,000,000	315ppm	62%
1968	3,500,000,000	323ppm	59%
1971	3,700,000,000	326ppm	58%
1978	4,300,000,000	335ppm	55%
1989	5,100,000,000	353ppm	49%
1997	5,900,000,000	360ppm	46%
2011	7,000,000,000	391ppm	39%
2020	7,800,000,000	415ppm	35%
2023	8,090,000,000	<b>420ppm</b>	28%

**Measurement** is the key feature of nature, for example, life cycles are lived according to the seasons, as **measured** out by the sun and the moon in inter-play on annual cycles. When ants walk in a straight line they are following the **measurement** of pheromones laid down to get them from their nest to a food source and return to the nest again in an efficient manner. Bowlers **measure** their success according to the distance of bowls from the Jack and scientists **measure** the myriad of components of our biosphere to ascertain a model paradigm for living. Our club **measures** success according to the level of contribution that members volunteer to bestow. Every goal driven bowler will consider habitually, ‘what can be done to improve my performance?’ Today, in our world many individuals are considering, ‘how can I lessen the effect of my life on climate change?’ In short, and beside the reduction of our human population, the answer lies in reducing all that we consume. We might think that what each of us does is ‘**small**’ yet the reverse is also true as the combined effects of all our individual lives has a ‘**big**’ effect on the planet. James Lovelace’s Gaia hypothesis paints an all embracing theory on how we might **measure** the cycles at play on our earth. Let each of us lead ‘**small**’ lives, limiting where and how we travel, limiting what we purchase, for in the long run ‘less is better’ is a true motto and **measure** toward success. The climate system is reaching a tipping point and the only way to halt this almost inevitable consequence is for **human thinking** itself to reach a tipping point too, and adopt the wisdom in a motto which proclaims ‘less is better’. I always admire the single mindedness of an ant trail. Each individual in the line is working to enhance the life of the colony as a whole. This is what all individuals ought to do, we all need to live with single mindedness with all efforts directed to the betterment of our planet.



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A reminder in this summer season to stay hydrated:  
Hydration is vital because it keeps electrolytes

balanced, blood volume normal, aids in digestion, transportation of nutrients, and kidney functioning. We are all susceptible to dehydration and the risk is also toward **mental confusion**. So everyone, please have a regular drink, from your drinkware, **before** and **during** your play.





**Don't Be a Drip!  
Take A Sip!**



### **Secretary's Report:**

The big topic, from a club administration perspective, is the delay in moving back into our refurbished club rooms. From the limited opportunities I've had to walk through the up-graded areas, I'm impressed – especially with the extra space, which will translate to a more useable facility for both club business and social activities. As many of you would already know, the delay in re-occupation stems from electrical works performed by Ausnet, the bulk of which are now completed and we are only waiting on final connection details to be completed.

The cancellation of the Xmas luncheon was unfortunate but was the only realistic decision to make given the various inputs we were getting. No doubt, we'll have a good party in the new-year to celebrate our renewed premises in fine fashion.

We have now been operating under fairly primitive conditions for almost a year and I must commend everyone for their extra efforts and patience. In particular, Craig Newbegin in keeping up the Bar services. This is an area where we will be seeking some more volunteers in the new year.

At a more basic level, I can report that the 2023-24 club hand-book is finalized. I have managed to distribute it to many of you as I've encountered people at Saturday Pennant games and practice, but I'm afraid that complete distribution will probably need to wait until we get back into our rooms. If anyone has an urgent need for a new hand-book, please let me know and I'll get one to you.

**Phil Stirling**

### **Bowls Directors Report**

#### **Coaching**

Coaching sessions are well attended on Thursday mornings between 10am and 12pm and Thursday afternoons between 3pm and 5pm. These coaching sessions are open to all members who are wishing to improve their game.

#### **Midweek Pennant**

Only 5 teams were entered this season due to lack of numbers for various reasons. Over the last 6 weeks numbers have improved which has meant a rotation system has been implemented to ensure members get a game. After 6 rounds there are 3 teams in the four. The other 2 sides are struggling.

### **Weekend Pennant**

After 6 rounds there are 4 teams in the four.

### **Social Bowls**

Monday social bowls is now running with good attendances. Unfortunately . Thursday night bowls has come to a temporary halt due to power issues.

### **Pennant Officials**

I have applied on-line to be re-accredited as an umpire. John Roberts has responded with the course being conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> December. It would be good to attract more members to do the officials course as this responsibility during games is falling back on only a few of our members every week. If any member is wanting to do a markers/measurers/umpire accreditation course, please contact David Hall and he will advise you how it can be done.

The umpire boxes have been checked by David Hall. They were okay except for 1 long tape which David is attempting to fix and if he cannot then he will purchase a new one.

### **Tuesday Night Pennant**

Gary Wills is the organiser this season with able support from Carl Ryan and Bert Wilson. The season commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. As we do not have power or a clubhouse for the first 2 matches, we have had to transfer games to Greensborough. The season has started well with wins in the first 2 matches.

### **Club Championships**

The Men's and Ladies singles and pairs championships are nearing completion. They are at the final stage with the Ladies pairs being played on 1/12/23 and the Ladies singles, Men's Singles and Men's pairs being played on 10/12/23.

Good luck to all the participants in the finals.

### **Regional Events**

The over 60 regional events are back on after being dropped last month. Entries are done through Bowslink. Entries close on 25/11/23 for the Over 60's pairs with games played in December.

Some of our members have played in the open Men's pairs and have reached the quarter finals.

### **Malcolm Eames. Director of Bowls and Player Development.**

## Recruitment Report

Our Open Days are over for this year, many people enjoyed the opportunity to Try Bowls and also enjoyed the sausage sizzle. A big thankyou to all who helped on the days.

It is disappointing to have had to cancel most of our Corporate Bookings we had to the run up to Xmas. Without our rooms it was impossible. However there is always next year.

I would like to welcome some new recent new members to our club. Diane Blatchford, Alistair and Jeff Hughes, Vicki Martin, John and Lyn McGough, Gary Phipps, Michael Willmott.

We hope you enjoy many happy years bowling with us.

Good bowling everyone

**Jacqueline Ward (Recruitment Director).**

### **How We Joined Montmorency Bowling Club:**

Myself (Roderick Smith) and two friends (Bob and Gill Whiffen) had been members of Rosanna Golf Club for many years (myself 40 years) Bob and Gill (30+20 respectively). We were becoming less enthusiastic and getting less satisfaction from golf after so many years, enthusiasm and enjoyment were no longer the same! Physically it became more demanding so we decided bowls might give us a new interest, along with new skills to learn. So in February this year, we came along to a Sunday morning lesson class, with Bert Wilson, to see if we might give it a go. So after a couple of lessons we decided this would be our new sporting endeavour. Having played a lot of competition sport, including football, cricket, tennis, squash and golf, I thought this new activity would be suitable and less physically demanding, also the social involvement we would enjoy (as we had had at the golf club). We still wanted to be socially involved and now are happily in the progress of establishing new friendships, involved in our new game and attempting to improve it to a competitive level. The bowling members have been particularly encouraging and welcoming while we try to fit in. Most members have been helpful in passing on tips and advice as we try to improve. We are looking forward to the club house renovations/upgrade being finished as we have only experienced the temporary arrangements. We look forward to many years of enjoyable bowls at Montmorency.

Roderick Smith, Gill and Bob Whiffen.





An [Irish grave digger](#) recently joined the ranks of semi experienced and local bowlers...

Skip: Before we start let's get one thing straight, as my lead you know nothing, you say nothing, and you don't talk to the fairies whilst on the green!

Lead: (after a couple of silent ends) "How far short I am I captain? The fairies will be wanting to help me any way they can."



Skip: "You ought to know, you're closer to it than me, and stop talking to the fairies, I'M LOSING IT!"



Lead: "Which is the danger bowl skip?"

Skip: " 'Fairy' Dinkum mate... its the one your holding!"

Lead: "How was that one skipper, me lad?"

Skip: "Apart from the line and length, it was of your better shots."

Lead: Well I am most indebted to you skipper, you have more compliments for me than my former skip (ie: employer) who gave me my recent dismissal... following Ireland's worst air disaster last year... it involved a small two-seater Cessna plane that crashed into my **workplace cemetery** near Dublin...

Lead: "Where do you want me to put it skip?"

Skip: "I'd rather not say."





## Montmorency Bowling Club Newsletter – December 2023 – Summer Edition

The Irish search and rescue workers had recovered 2826 bodies and I suspect that the number had climbed, as we continued the digging well into the night, and when he found out... **my boss** dismissed me the next day!



2 Irish lads were working for the local council. 1 would dig a hole and the other would follow him and fill it in. They worked up along one street and then down the other. They then moved to the next street and did the same, working flat out all day. One lad digging the holes. The other lad filling them in. A passerby saw what they were doing and was amazed at the hard work, but couldn't understand what they were at. So, he shouted over to the lad digging the holes, 'I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only for the other lad to fill it in?' The lad wiped his brow and sighed deeply, 'Well, I suppose it probably does look a bit odd. You see, we're normally a three-man team. But today the lad who plants the trees phoned in sick.'



Seamus opens the newspaper and is shocked to see his OWN obituary.

In a panic, he phones his friend and asks: "Did you see the paper?! They say I died!"

The friend replies: "Yes, I saw it! So, where ya calling from?"

## THE MEASURER & TREASURER'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to measure, but pleaser to be Treasurer.

Early this year, I decided to enrol in the Measurer and Marker Accreditation courses conducted by Bowls Victoria. At the time it seemed a good idea, to develop multi-tasking skills and improve my knowledge of the finer points and intricacies of Lawn Bowls rules and etiquette.

Reality hit home when I was listed as Measurer for Round 5 of Saturday Pennant. Panic buttons were pressed on the Friday evening, resulting in a revisit to the Law Book and Course Manual on Measuring skills and duties. Suddenly what originally seemed a simple and straight forward task to be performed became a daunting prospect. A trip was made down to the Club to check out the Umpires Box and ascertain what equipment was available and when to use the various measurement options available.

On Saturday morning I was trying to focus on the game ahead, but at the same time rehearsing in the mind how I would approach my first measure. Roll ups were completed and we were just about to start our second end when I could hear in the distance someone calling out "Garry". Being in a state of denial, I assumed it was a 'Garry' from another rink being addressed by his Skip. Garry, Garry, Garry rang out several times. No, this can't be true. Am I living in a nightmare? They want me to do a measure. OK, Rule #1 is to establish which bowls are to be measured and secure any that are not lying flat with chocks. Then comes the tricky part. Do I need a large Trammel with large Callipers or a small Trammel with small Callipers, or perhaps something in between. So I decided to take the cowardly approach and instead used a Box Measure which is much easier but slightly less precise measuring equipment. I breathed a sigh of relief when there was a noticeable difference in distance to the Jack between the two bowls. Both sides were advised of the verdict and accepted my decision as to Shot Bowl. I rolled out the Shot Bowl and got up to walk away. As I did, the Monty Skip jokingly said in mock disgust "We are sacking you as Measurer". I was so focused on getting the measure right and making the right decision, that I was not even aware that I had awarded the shot to Eltham. Anyway, the Eltham Skip complimented me on very good sportsmanship and decision making, as you would in those circumstances.

Within minutes of arriving back at my rink, then rolling the Jack and two bowls, I again heard the haunting call of Garry, Garry. I pretended not to hear these calls, but to no avail. By now, everyone on the top rink knew that Garry was the Measurer and they all knew which rink I was playing on. There was nowhere to hide. So off I

trudged to rink 6 to make judgement on shot bowl/s. I am pleased to say that there were again only 2 bowls as candidate for shot bowl. They were both within close proximity to the Jack and it was a simple decision to use the small Callipers and quickly arrive at a decision on shot bowl. On this occasion the decision went in favour of Greythorn who looked quite pleased with the outcome whilst my Monty team mates looked on in bemusement.

Two measures called for in the first 20 minutes. Back to our rink again, thinking third time lucky. So, for the third end, rolled the Jack and two bowls down. You guessed it. Garry, Garry goes the call again and all eyes focused on our rink. I felt like a goldfish in a fish tank. So off I wander to rink 4 to make judgement on shot bowl/s. Again only 2 bowls to be decided in the count. They were both within reasonable proximity to the Jack and it was a line ball decision as to whether I should use the large Callipers to quickly arrive at a decision or to call on the more involved process of small Trammel and Callipers. Fingers crossed, I went for the easier option of large Callipers. It was quite apparent that I needed to widen the Callipers a significant distance, to the point that I was concerned that the large Callipers may not do the trick. I reckon there were only two or three winds left before the Callipers would be fully extended. Fortunately the measure was able to be completed successfully and the decision went in favour of Eltham. Could this be my last game for Monty as I am shown the gate? As I walked back to our rink again for the third time in the first half hour, one cheery soul made the comment “We will be wheeling you out on a trolley and stretcher, the way this is going”.

The remainder of the day went incident free and our rink were bowling the 21<sup>st</sup> End, with my two bowls having been played. The game was a cliff hanger with all our team totally engrossed. By now, Measuring duties were far from my mind, with the two Skips about to play their two bowls each to decide the outcome of our day's work. Out of the blue comes the call “Garry, we need a measure”. No-one had forgotten who was Measurer for the day. This time it was off to rink 7 (normally my lucky number, but not today). Worst was to come, because the two bowls in question were a significant distance from the Jack, but close enough to warrant using the large Trammel and Callipers. So I set about adjusting the Trammel to a suitable length, remembering that the large plate is placed against the bowl secured by chocks and the small plate is placed a short distance from the Jack, to allow Callipers to be used to measure the comparative distances from Trammel plate to Jack. After several winds backwards and forwards, I honed in on the exact distance between the Jack and the first bowl being measured. Quite pleased with myself, I confidently picked up the Trammel and moved to the other side to measure the second bowl. Oh no. Total embarrassment. Just one small but disastrous oversight. I had omitted to screw down

the holding pin in the Trammel to stop the slide moving backwards and forwards. So, after all the fine tuning and adjusting of Callipers width, we had to go back to square one. With a little bit of improvisation, I was able to adjust the Trammel back to its original length, which was not technically the correct procedure going by the book. Bottom line was that the measure was completed successfully and shot bowl was awarded to Greythorn to the satisfaction of both sides, who at this stage were probably just glad to get proceedings over and done with.

### The Treasurer's Measurer Profit & Loss Statement

#### Montmorency Bowling Club

##### Gains

Measures ruled in favour of Montmorency 0

##### Losses

Measures ruled in favour of Eltham 2

Measures ruled in favour of Greythorn 2

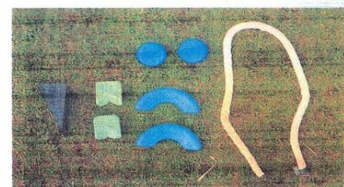
Total measures ruled against Montmorency 4

Net Measuring Loss (4)

On that note, I leave you with the following thought: -

Success is not the key to happiness.

Happiness is the key to success.



**Garry  
Schilg.**  
Treasurer.



*Contemplating choice of measuring apparatus to be used.  
The befuddled Measurer.*

**"Wife ask - why in all marriages girl sits on left side and boy on right side?  
"Husband reply - According to profit and loss statement a/c all income is on right side and expenses are on left side"**





## VALE

Dennis W. F. Jordan

9/8/1920 - 7/9/2023.

Dennis had an English accent and as he aged, he had a gravelly voice.

He was the last member of Montmorency-Eltham RSL to have served in WW2 and was a Spitfire Pilot.

He married Margery Sinclair (1923-1988) in 1948 and was the father of Anne and Robert. Plus 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Dennis and Margery lived in Beewar Street, Greensborough in the 1950s&60s and worked as a speech therapist with Margery as a physiotherapist.

He joined our club in April 1982 and remained a member until 2013, retiring from active bowling before that time.

He was always keen to pass on his bowling knowledge to members saying: “just let the bowl roll off the middle finger”.

He was a very competent bowler, played as a Skip and as well, played for Victoria.

He had a very long life, having outlived his wife, and for years he lived with his daughter in Jocelyn Court, Research.

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**Vale: Jan Stirling** (3/7/1942-21/9/2023) - A club member between 2010-2018 and played some pennant but no championship events.

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**Vale: Joan Haines** (18/03/1932-13/10/23) Joan was predeceased by her bowling husband Eddie, who died on 8th January 2019. Eddie and Joan were married in 1960, and chose to live in Main Road Lower Plenty, both joining our club in 2004. She was aged 91. Both Eddie and Joan retired from bowling by 2017. They were the parents of 5 children, 16 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Joan’s induction into the Club’s Super Veterans group was proclaimed in our February 2012 Newsletter. She was the sister of previous club president Eric Crawshaw.

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## Summer Heat.

Oh, summer's heat,  
In my life it lit;  
In the mind aims to penetrate,  
This moment's flame, how I hate.

Oppressing heat seems eternal,  
Breeze that's cool is but ephemeral;  
Sultry nights embrace you so tight,  
Blinding you in the magic shards of light.

Hell is the summer's day,  
With the sun's burning ray;  
It destroys thy once magnificent lea,  
And turns to mud the beatific sea.

Oh, summer's heat,  
Wane the aches just a bit;  
The puissant heat, wind can't abate,  
This moment's flame, how I utterly hate.

Geraldine Fernandez



Summers of days gone past have changed to those of Summers now:

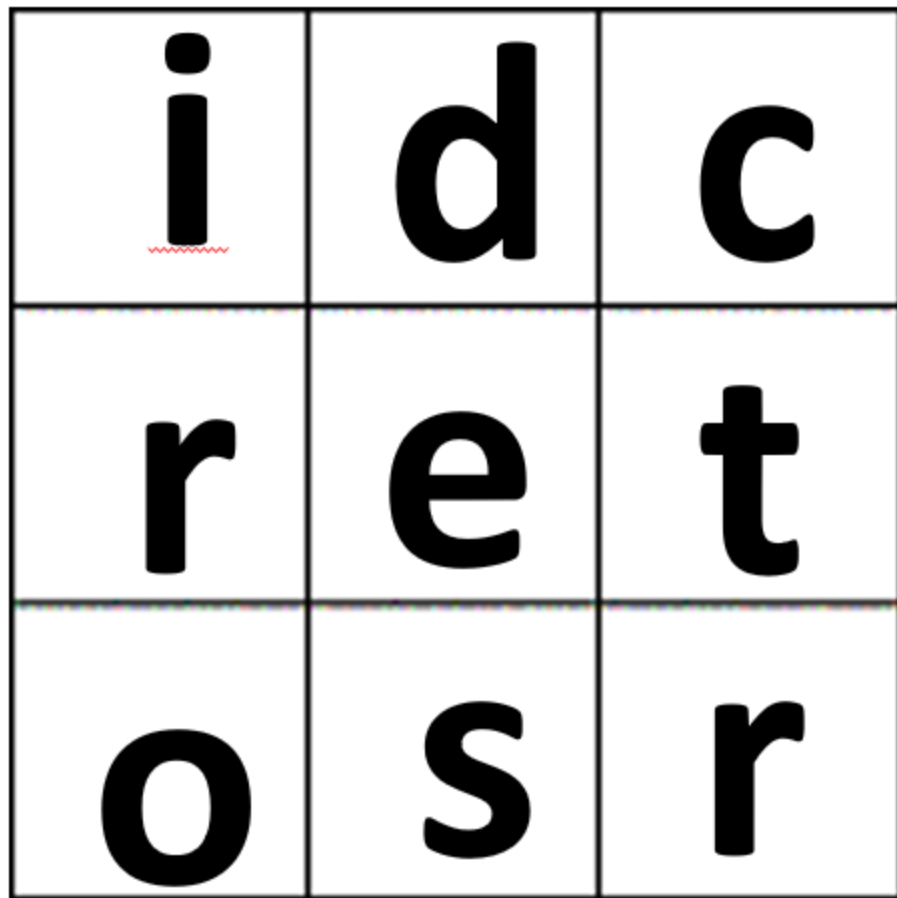
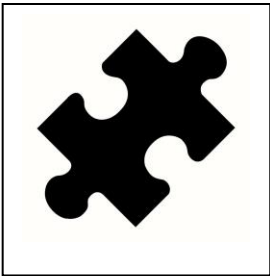
### ***SUBDIVISION***

Where once the summer sun in its descent would pause  
To touch the low-grown native green of bush, and linger  
In the glittering leaves of gums,  
Now its last rays fall on asphalt black, on concrete,  
Cream brick, street-lights, roof-tiles, paling fence,  
Clothes-hoists and T.V. aerials.

And where the moon in its ascent  
By gleaming on bush-clad slopes, would darken  
Gully's depths, in which a small creek ran,  
(Frog-croak, water-ripple, silent leafy-rustle).  
Now it shines down on smoothed-out-ribbon road,  
Cars, courts and crescents.



## Puzzle Ponder...



Can you unjumble the letters above to create a word referenced at our club?

Clue: These are needed for the good functioning of our club.

Unjumble words below (and letters within each word)  
to construct a sentence to assist in solving the word puzzle above:

**bmmeres lrdgeassRe are smoe of of culb terih ehste. iettl one nifdeed as**



Good bowlers are open to learning new things





doors up, in which, on my 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to the laundry I decided to visit. On entering the premises, I was shown into the room of limited space and asked to remove my top and lie down. My massage was going well until the lady masseuse asked me to remove more clothing and before I knew it, she was working on my legs, back and neck, which I must say I was enjoying. As she got up, she asked if she could do anything else for me. When I got home to tell my friends they implied that perhaps that was not her intension. However, I enjoyed the experience and next time brought my modest step ladder with me, which was queried on my arrival. I just said that this time I wanted her to reach my higher tension areas. To which she was most relieved saying she thought I might have been up to something else. Not at all I said, how could you think of such things. I make daily use of my bedroom ladder, I said. How's that she queried? 'At my age, I depend on it to get me up in the morning,' I said. (Contributed by a bowler socially inclined)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Most wrapping paper is not recyclable



Recycled wrapping paper

This year, why not trying one of these alternatives?



Reusable cloth wrapping (Furoshiki)



Old newspaper wrapping

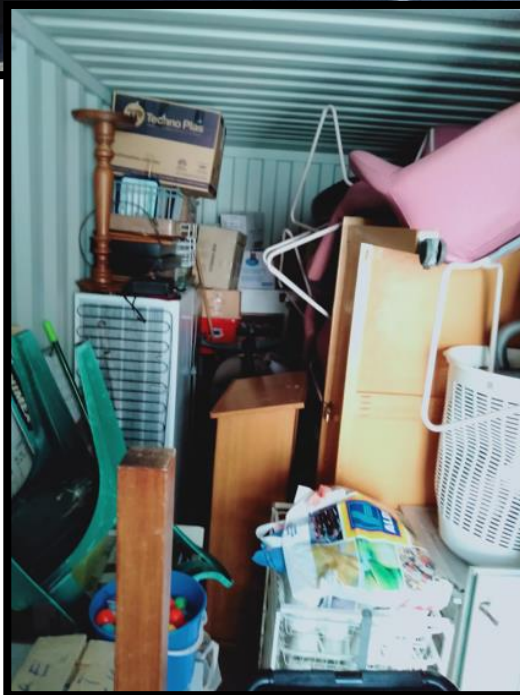


Please enjoy the editor's Christmas Power point reflection: '**Christmas Daze**' which you can download on your computer and enjoy with music, ...from the link below:

<https://www.mediafire.com/file/esv1fculc78rhcx/Christmas+Daze.pps/file>

**Forlorn, but not forgotten....**

Our days roll away like dropped coins.  
Individual moments are continually lost,  
Often never to be reflected upon again.  
But the epochs of a past life still remain,  
Safeguarded by the steel walls of our lockers,  
Waiting for when we are in need of release.



Thanks to Neil Greenwood, for these stored furniture photos, which were 'on-site' outside the front gate, throughout 2023, whilst the clubroom renovations were in progress.

**Our Renovated Clubrooms**

Well the saga continues but we appear to be inching towards a completion. The frustration to all members in not having access to our rooms and being able to operate “normally” is well recognised. While the Board is working to have an impact on making things happen, our effectiveness is limited by the fact that this is an issue between all park tenants, their individual suppliers and the Petrie Park supplier, AusNet.

**So Far**

The actual building side of the renovations was completed several weeks ago, so the co-ordination between the builder, Banyule City Council and MBC has been quite successful and effective. However, the overall project has stumbled at the most basic of final hurdles: getting the electricity turned on. You possibly are aware that we currently have only a very limited supply to the Club, enough for our fridges and internet.

As the situation currently stands, until full supply becomes available and metering issues are resolved, no Certificate of Occupancy can be issued, so we remain locked out.

**What is Currently Happening**

So why does this situation exist? Who is responsible or what has gone wrong I may well hear you ask!

Now, I have to try to summarise matters as accurately as I can, so while the general thrust of the following is OK, some details may not be exact. Happy to field any queries that you have. Hopefully though, the electricity issues will be resolved, and we will all be enjoying our new surrounds.

**Electricity Supply**

Petrie Park is supplied electricity through AusNet. There are 6 tenants in the Park all of whom are metered and billed separately. These entities are

- Montmorency Bowling Club
- RSL
- Pigeon Club
- Scouts
- Pavilion
- Petrie Park Hall



It was determined that MBC's power supply would be converted from overhead to an underground supply and new metering would be required. It was also decided by AusNet that the initial supply of electricity to the park (which is on one title) should be centralised so that for emergency or maintenance operations, the power could be controlled from one location instead of 6 disparate sites.

This decision meant that not just MBC were affected by the supply and metering changes, but all tenants in the park were impacted. All had to carry out work through their electrical contractor and then provide paperwork to AusNet to evidence that the work had been carried out. In the meantime, AusNet have been unable to carry out the necessary supply and metering works as they have not received final paperwork from all tenants.

It is this coordination of each Petrie Park tenant and the obtaining of the paperwork from them and their contactors that has caused the latest hold up. My last advice on the matter is that only one lot of paperwork remained outstanding and once this is finalised and AusNet provided with the completed documents, the next step can occur.

### Conclusion

The members of MBC have been extremely patient through what has been a trying time. We finally can see that faint patch of light that indicates the end of a long tunnel (insert on-coming train joke here). As I pointed out at the start, I'm a bit sketchy on details as I haven't been directly involved in all discussions, but hopefully you get the drift of how we are where we are.

John Herral **Board Administrative Officer**

### **Editor's Research:**

**Underground power benefits are:**

**More above ground safety.**

**Uninterrupted Power Supply.**

**Fewer Resources needed to install underground wiring.**

**Cleaner Look as there are no overhead cables and poles in sight.**

