

Lawn Bowling News at Montmorency

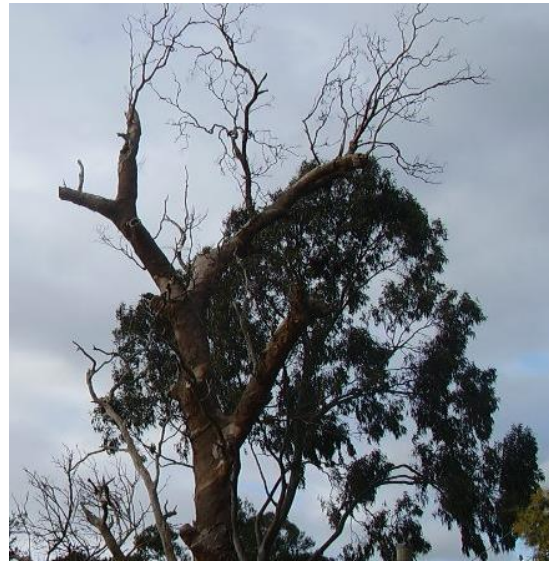
Autum 2024.

Edited by Peter.

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Peter's Pencil: Our Indigenous Australians have lived in Victoria (and therefore Montmorency) for at least 40,000 years. Of their routine habits in Montmorency very little is known (ie: recorded) but one can assume they camped by the Plenty River, hunted and gathered their food, and



moved on after several days to fresh ground. Oral tradition has it they had a 'sacred tree' at 17 Price Avenue (where a our members Janice and Ron reside). It is said the bark 'spiralled' up to the ancestor heavens. The tree was an Eucalytus melliodora (Yellow Box) which died in 2018 and was about 250 years old. *(These two photos of the tree were taken in 2014 by the editor, where tree holes were in the proud residence of several sets of cockatoos and galahs).* Earliest European residents of the area, Edward and James Willis, made their camp behind today's Lower Plenty Hotel, residing there (for three or four years) from Saturday, 22nd April 1837. Of the local natives ability to harvest food, the only comment the Willis Brothers made was: "all kinds of wild animals (save the wild dogs) being scarce owing to **the enormous appetite of the natives**. Opossums are rarely seen." (Cf: 'A PIONEER SQUATTER'S LIFE' by James Willis in the Historical Records of Victoria. Volume Six). So, the natives were extremely efficient in gathering for their needs and leaving little behind. An article in The Argus, page 7, 8/12/1908 recounts: **The black** *on examining the bark of a tree could determine at once whether the marks made by the opossum's claws were fresh or not, and whether it had been ascending or descending. If he considered it was up the tree he would climb to where it was and with his stone tomahawk would soon cut it out of its hole.* The Willis Brothers had to leave our local environs, as the government was to sell the Crown Land on which they were squatting.

Stuart Alexander Donaldson (who later became the first Premier of NSW and was a public speaker of considerable power) bought the 925 acres for £1179 7s 6d in February 1840. A month later the land was up for sale in the *Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser* of Wednesday 25 March 1840, page 3. It was advertised as ‘The **Montmorenci** Estate’. Where this name came from is unknown, was it the name

Donaldson gave the property, or was a name allotted by the Australian Auction Company who were charged with disposing of the land? Who knows, no one has ever been able to find any concrete evidence of how or where the name came from. Today it is commonly stated that ‘*Montmorency*’ is named after a suburb of Paris. It was James Donnithorne (retired judge who served in India) who purchased **Montmorenci** from Donaldson. It was he who had the following advertisement placed in the Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser of 31 August 1840, page 2: “*all Persons found trespassing either by cutting or removing timber, or depasturing stock of any kind on the Estate of Montmorenci, situated on the River Plenty, and sold at the February Government Land Sale as Lot No. 2, will be prosecuted to the utmost rigour of the law, and any person giving information thereof will be liberally rewarded.*”

Timber was a treasured resource and was needed for the supply of heating and building materials for the burgeoning town of Melbourne, it was a major and potential source of income. Donnithorne engaged John Stone to construct a post and rail fence at Montmorenci. Stone’s rent was £30 per annum and he is the first-known tenant of Montmorenci. Margaret was his wife and the couple had three daughters: Ellen born in 1842 on the Darebin Creek, with Susannah and Margaret being born on the Plenty River in 1844 and 1846 respectively. Owner Judge Donnithorne would not pay his share of local road levy, which were set by the community for the main road to Melbourne and for a bridge crossing at Lower Plenty. Consequently, Stone was not a popular settler and he decided to leave for Gippsland a year or two after the birth of his third daughter. Life was not easy in those times. Stone was even threatened at gun point by an insane man at the ‘Travellers’ Rest’, along the road to Melbourne, in August 1845. Stone died at Alberton, Gippsland, Victoria, on 26th June 1855 aged 55. **So**

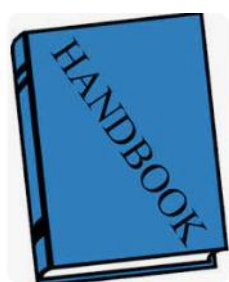
bowlers, these are sobering tales of the early days of Montmorency. It was difficult to find food, it was difficult to work as everything was done by hand without the support of electricity, you had to **build your own hut** and you had to keep away from those who wanted to take advantage or revenge of you. It would have been beyond comprehension or measure the things that we take for granted today eg: smartphones, the internet, space travel, genetic engineering, advanced medical treatments, electric cars, and many more. In our next newsletter will return to days of old and discuss William Seville, who followed John Stone in settling ‘Montmorenci’, which will eventually lead me into discussing the first record I can find c1860, of what sport was conducted in these grounds that we take for granted today. Peter. To reminisce and enjoy living in a **Bark Hut**, **download link at:** https://www.mediafire.com/file/hq013h945uylk6p/Song_The+Old+Bark+Hut_John+Kane_2000.pps/file

Secretary's Report:

It is a great relief to say that we are moving closer to the time when we will be able to re-occupy our clubrooms. The last few months have been particularly painful for everyone, especially when we could see that the major works had been completed and we were only awaiting on the relatively minor step of reconnection of electricity by Ausnet – who appear to have no sort of connection with end-users.



Nonetheless, with much patience and perseverance, we have moved the seemingly immovable and Council have indicated March 5th as the probable hand-over date. We'll no doubt celebrate. [*Editor: Hand-over date has transferred to April*]



On a more mundane matter, the latest hand-book has been available for many months and lots of members now have the new booklet. For those still to acquire one, they are available from the temporary office beside the lower green, in trays packed alphabetically. If any problems, let me know.

Our summer season of Pennant bowls is now drawing to a conclusion, but with some months of fine weather ahead, we have the opportunities for enjoyable Social Bowls – Cheers, together with our new facilities.

Hope to see you on the green. Phil



Green's Director Report

It's now a full year of operating our club without a clubhouse. Now many months behind schedule it's impacted every program the club runs. That includes management of Monty greens. Now in January 2024 both greens have issues so more than past years rink rotations are more important than ever. Top green has to be brushed every three weeks, regardless of opinions. Volunteer helpers with this task is most appreciated.

Once the club house is complete, progressively over the next year our pathways and several green edges will be replaced to maintain safety standards.

The bottom green poles project has finished the install phase. Now working on drilling the handle holes to secure rake handles by David Whiteman. A full set of new bowls rakes has recently been purchased. Installation estimate for use will be close to end of pennant season. Best we can do.

Top Green was double brushed mid-January thanks to Frank Phillips & Phil McMahon, excellent finish achieved.

Greens equipment has been taking a pounding due to age and volume of work. Thankfully Ron McDonald has been of great assistance keeping most petrol items running. Recently we had 2 electric cord blowers donated that can be used as back up when petrol items won't start. Important to have backup as greens cleaning must occur at dedicated times regardless.

Next project is to attack our surrounds, mainly the hedges, as all are overgrown. Helpers in this area are always welcome as plants continually grow!!!!

Neil Greenwood

I proudly showed my son, "**Check this out! Bought a new shrub trimmer today!**" He shrugged and replied, "**That's great, dad.**" I continued... "It's cutting hedge technology!"



I hired a private investigator but he spent two days staring at my hedges... It turned out he was a privet investigator.

I'm saving up some money to plant bushes for my backyard. That's...my hedge fund.

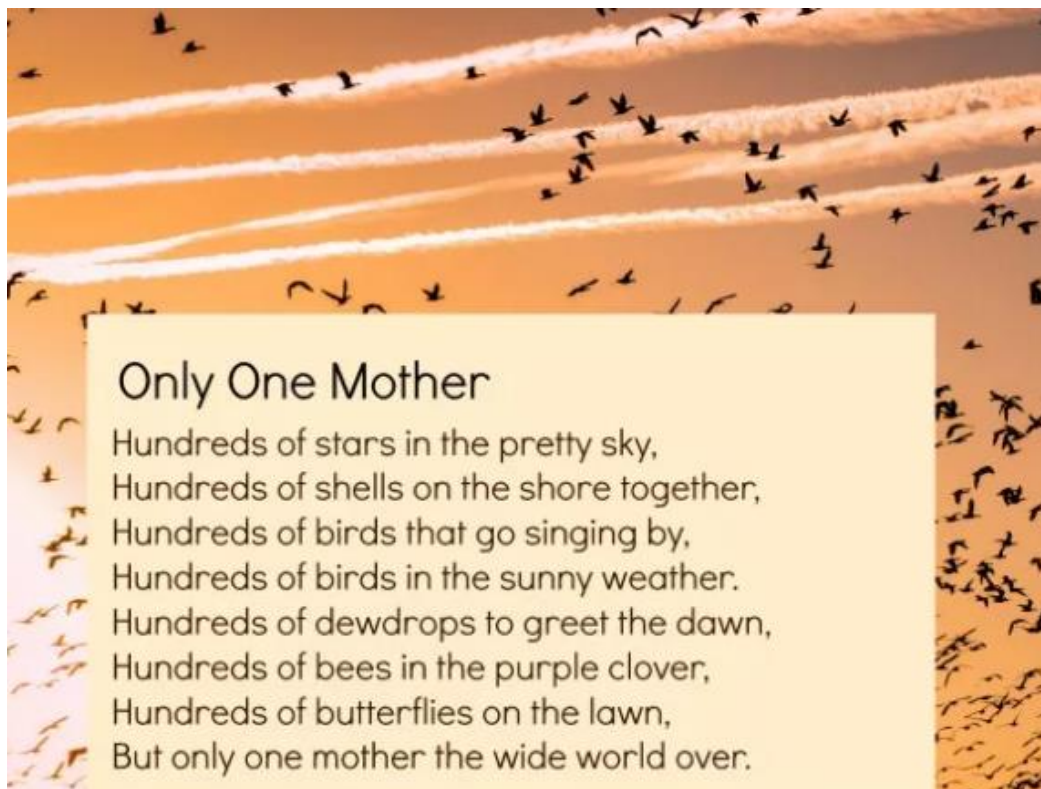
VALE

John Harford 31/10/1941-03/01/2024

John's career centred on the grocery business, starting as a shelf stacker, to owning his own store in the Oakleigh area and then reaching the level of Senior Purchasing Officer for the Jewel Food Stores Group (who were a rival to Franklins). In 1995 'Jewel' were acquired by Davids Holdings, which later became Metcash. John had a lifetime



love of camping, was a staunch Essendon supporter along with a love and interest in greyhounds. His greatest asset was his ability to treat others with fairness, co-operate with them and in turn, his ability to enlist others into assist him when a job needed to be done. When he retired, he received tributes and accolades from all his many suppliers in the grocery trade. It was at this time that John and Lyn made the move to Eltham North, John joining our club in 1995, becoming our President for two years, beginning in 2001. Joining the club gave John a new interest and enthusiasm for life and he very much enjoyed the Friday Happy Hour along with the number of meat raffles he won. So much so that wife Lyn would say 'please don't win the raffle this week the fridge is overloaded'. He was a club member for 29 years till his death on January 3rd this year.



Bowls Directors Report

Coaching

Coaching sessions on Thursday were well attended over the 2023-24 seasons. The time and effort put in by Ray has been well appreciated by those members attending. Over the entire season attendances have been on average 40-50 members each day which has been very pleasing to both Ray and to the match committees.

Midweek Pennant

2 teams of the 5 teams made the finals of their respective sections. Unfortunately, side 5 was eliminated in the first final. Side 5 won their first final quite easily and now advance to the preliminary final on Thursday 29/2/24. Congratulations to all teams on a well fought out season and good luck to the finalists.

Weekend Pennant

3 teams of the 6 weekend teams made the finals. Side 2 finished strongly to make 4th position. Unfortunately, they too, were beaten in the first final.

Team 5 finished on top of their section, won their first final and advanced to the grand final.

Team 6 finished 2nd, lost the first final, won the next and have advanced to the grand final this Saturday 2/3/24.

Congratulations to all teams and good luck to the finalists.

Both matches are being played at Rosanna. If you are free Saturday 2/3/24, roll up and support your fellow members and encourage them to a victory.

Social Bowls

The 1st April, has been discussed and the entry form has been posted on the notice board. We have raised the prize money by \$180 to \$930 to make it a little more attractive in an endeavour to get more players on the day. As we do not have a sponsor this year, we are only having the Monday bowls day. Hopefully we can get back to the Saturday and Monday as we have in the past.

This is a mixed triple event nominated and selected. Get your teams in or your names down early. This event is being run to keep this event a yearly event with the endeavour to attract good numbers. The more participants the better the result for the club.

Unfortunately, we will not have a clubhouse for this event but



How does an Easter chick dress for our Easter Monday Bowls Competition?
Im-peck-ably.

the organiser will be doing their best to make it work. Put your names down to support this event.

Pennant Officials

We are short of pennant official. Anyone who is interested in being an umpire, measurer, or marker, contact David Hall and he will assist you in applying for these courses. These duties have fallen on too few.

I have spoken to John Roberts, who is an international umpire, and have asked him if could attend our club, to cover the rules of our game and to answer any queries anyone may have on rules or on how to become an official. His attendance will dependent on his availability and again, on when we are in our newly renovated club room.

Tuesday Night Pennant

Montmorency BC finished fourth in the top section of the night bowls. They played the first final and won 56 to 49. They advanced to the preliminary final and unfortunately, they were beaten by Bundoora. A good effort overall.

Club Championships

The following club championships are in progress:

Open Triples

Mixed Pairs

Presidents Handicap 100up Men

Presidents Handicap 100up Ladies

The Ladies triples event was cancelled due to not enough entries.

Congratulations to Vienn Willmott on winning the minor singles and to Rob Dick who was runner up.

It has been more difficult this year to collect the entry money for these events. Could those who have not paid endeavour to pay me at your earliest convenience.

Regional Events

Members have been playing in various Regional Events lately which is good. I think the club needs to encourage more members to enter these events as it enables members to play different opponents of different standards and, also to play at different venues. I think it can only be of benefit to all and it can be a good learning ground for members.



General

Considering our club room situation, I congratulate all our committees for the work they have done this season. A task well carried out under difficult circumstances. To those who report to me thanks for your understanding and support throughout the season. We all try to do what is right and, as everyone knows, it is hard to please everyone.

To all our volunteers, again a job well done and without them the club would not be what it is today without your hard work and dedication.

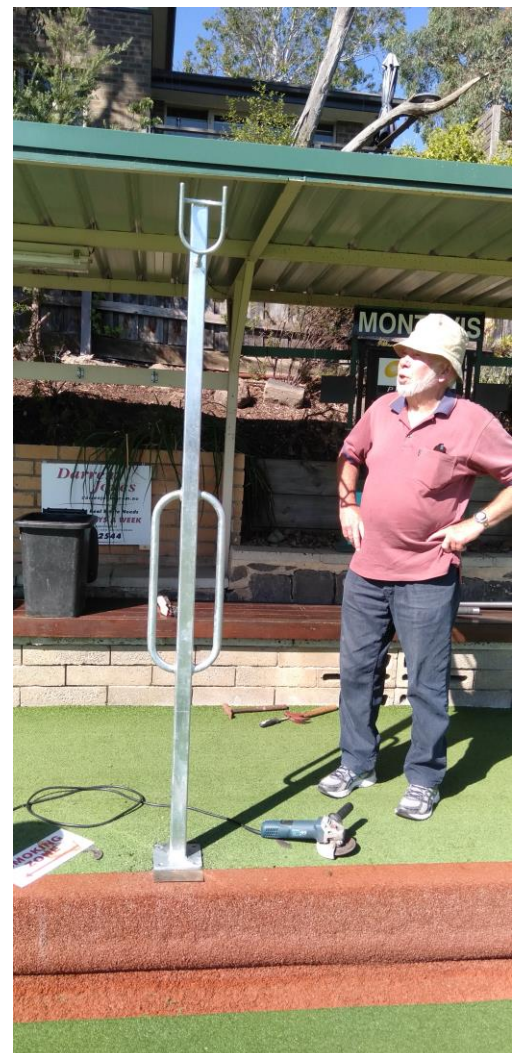
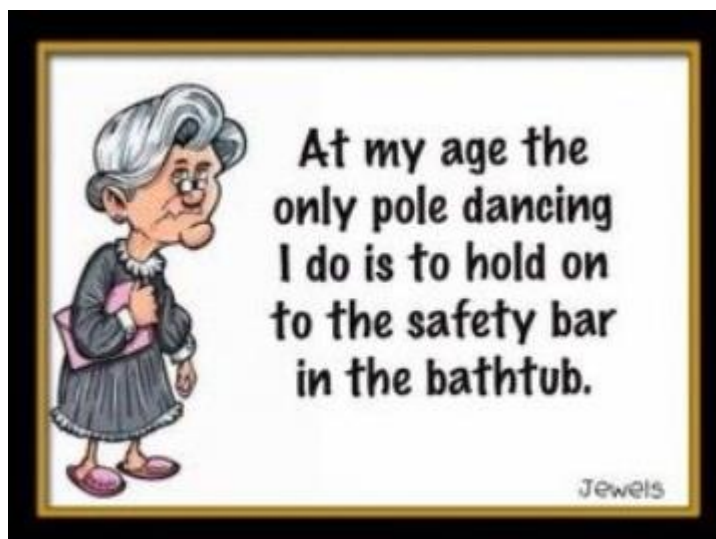
Let us look forward to a far better season on and off the green in 2024-25. Do not be afraid to put your hand up to assist in the running of the club. The saying is that many hands make light work.

Go Monty.

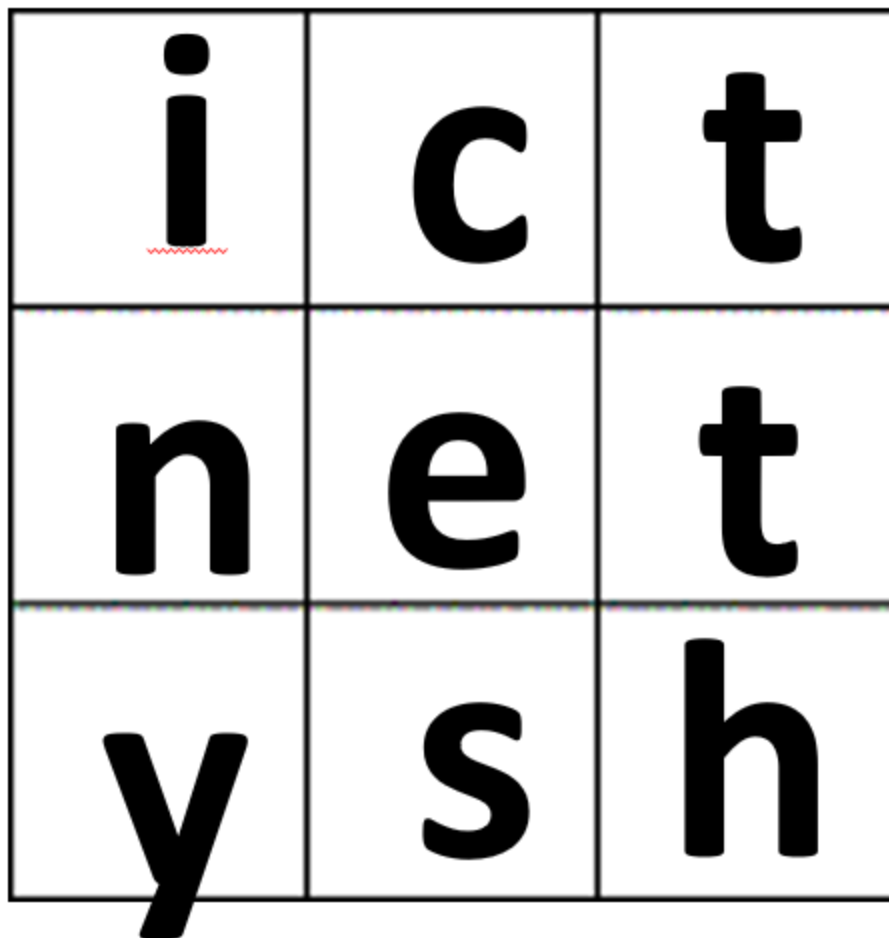
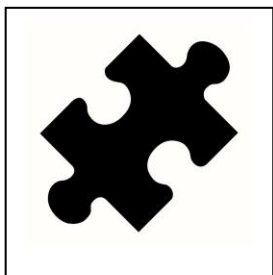
Malcolm Eames

Director of Bowls and Player Development

What's this new thingy for ➔
Why or how did it arrive?
More news (hopefully) in the
Winter Edition of our newsletter.



Puzzle Ponder...

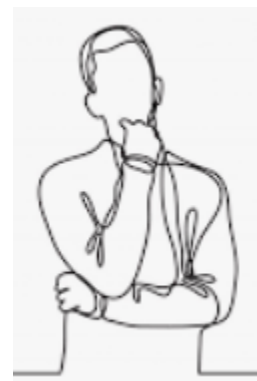


Can you unjumble the letters above to create a word pertaining to items at our club?

Clue: These are needed for the ease of all bowlers.

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

as escnesray to hvea these termaials for seae dna it
darger we yaTod rou cnoevience.



A world-class electrical engineer dies after a long and happy life:

When he goes to be judged at the Pearly Gates, Saint Peter accidentally screws up his papers and sends him to hell. Satan is more than happy to have him, as he doesn't get many people of such high calibre and could put this offering to great use.

With the engineer's help, Satan makes renovation after renovation and increases the efficiency and quality of all the workings of Hell beyond what he ever dreamed. Hell's clubrooms were out of this world and even made full use of the free roasting energy available in this eternal megalopolis.



Meanwhile, God is checking over all of Saint Peter's paperwork and realizes this mistake with the highly qualified electrical engineer. So, he goes down to Hell to fix the problem and gets the engineer to where he belongs.

Satan, however, won't let the man go. His contributions to Hell are unparalleled and Satan is sure that the man will continue to be an asset for the eternity to come. God gets mad and threatens to sue Satan, to which he laughs and says, "Good luck mate. All the good lawyers are down here with me, and their charges are beyond measure... they charge like hell!"



In our recent Summer newsletter mention was made of our local ant population. A ghost writer was asked to tell **the story of our local 'ant bowling club'**. Here it is:

In the heart of the garden, there's a unique lawn bowls club, the Ants' Arena, with an entire membership of some 240 ants. Every week, the club's selection committee, a group of wise and experienced ants, faces the monumental task of maintaining six-member teams for regular inter-colony competitions.

the
Ant Arena



The committee meets under the shade of a large mushroom, their tiny gavel echoing through the undergrowth. The air is thick with anticipation and the scent of frost-laden artificial grass. The committee pores over the list of members, their antennae



twitching in concentration. Every ant has a story, an excuse, a reason. “I can’t play this week, I’ve got aphid-herding duty,” says one. “I won’t play with Ant Fred, he always hogs the sugar lump,” complains another.

And then there are those who are always lobbying for a spot in the higher-level teams, their eyes gleaming with ambition. Some are always complaining of the long travel trips in playing against such teams as the Hurstbridge Haulers, the Eltham Meat Grinders, The Heidelberg Hill Crests, The Were Street Wanderers, The Mountain View Marauders and the Diamond Creek Crawlers. They much prefer playing against the Petrie Pathfinders, the Railway Steelers, the RSL Soldiers, the Monty Scout Pack and the Foraging Pigeons. At least fewer excuses and reasons are proffered for player absences when playing the more local teams.

The committee deliberates, debates, and sometimes even quarrels. They consider each ant’s skill, commitment, and team spirit. They strive to balance the teams, to ensure fair play and camaraderie. It’s a juggling act of personalities and preferences, a puzzle that needs to be solved anew each week.

They constantly look to their new and recent coach, Rae of Sunshine, who last year cajoled most teams in the Ant Arena to reach regional or state finals. Rae’s dedication and true interest in lawn bowls sees her playing in State Finals and even on occasions playing against such National teams as the Foraging Fire Ants, the Sydney Stalkers, the Canberra Raiders and on one occasion the Top End Diggers of Darwin. Despite the challenges, the committee perseveres.

‘They really have an easy job’, said one social ant who never plays in competition, and just watches the unending line of excuses and complaints that arrive at the Selection Committee Door, in order to evade various rules, regulations and expectations that exist in club ‘Ant Arena’.

The Selectors understand that every ant, no matter how small, has a role to play. They know that the strength of the team lies in each ant, but the strength of each ant lies in the team. And so, week after week, the ‘Ant Arena’ thrives. The sound of laughter and cheers fills the air as the ants come together, united by their love for the game. The tale of the ant selection committee is a testament to their dedication, a story of unity, perseverance, and the indomitable spirit of the ants. They have inspired all with their following ode:



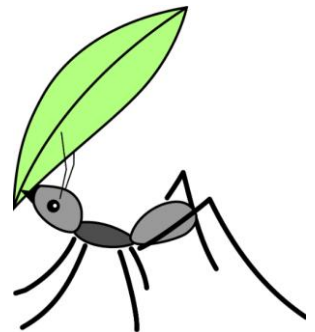
Ode to our recently proclaimed Ant Queen Mary:

In the realm of the tiny and the many,
reigns our new queen, known to all, as Mary.
She is indeed is an ant who sets herself apart,
and once hailed from the distant parts, that is, of Hobart.
Her kingdom now, a newly renovated anthill, stands tall and grand,
sited in the heart of Montmorency,
And bordered with offcuts of synthetic grass.
with a crown unseen, but presence felt,
under her rule, our ant colony has recently grown so well.
Queen Mary, so admired, rules with grace,
in the bustling, energetic ant world, she holds her place.
Her subjects, loyal, to their queen,
believe in her love and inspiration, which she does so freely give.
So here's to Queen Mary, long may she reign,
in her tiny kingdom, devoid of disdain.
A queen among ants, a marvel to see,
in our intricate and local world of the Ant Arena family.



Also being inspired by the mention of ants in our previous MBC Summer Newsletter, Phil Stirling sent in the following list of definitions and words that end in ‘ant’.

1. 5 ants + 5 ants = Tenants.
2. To bring an ant from another country into yours = Important.
3. Ant that goes to school = Brilliant.
4. Ant that is looking for a job = Applicant.
5. A spy ant = Informant.
6. A very little ant = Infant.
7. An ant that uses a gun = Militant.
8. An ant that is a specialist = Consultant.
9. A proud ant = Arrogant.
10. An ant that is cruel and oppressive = Tyrant.
11. An ant that is friendly and lovely = Coolant.
12. An ant that has changed from evil to good deeds = Repentant.
13. An ant that accumulated so much food in summer for use in winter = Abundant.
14. An ant that isn't willing = Reluctant.
15. An ant that keeps financial account = Accountant.
16. An ant that occupies a flat = Occupant.
17. A huge ant = Giant.
18. An ant that is important = Significant.
19. An ant that has big legs = Elephant.
20. A sarcastic ant = Mordant.



21. An extremely fast ant = Instant.
22. A noisy ant = Rant.
23. An ant that doesn't keep moving = Constant.
24. A dirty ant = Pollutant.
25. An ant that annoys = Irritant.
26. An ant that lacks knowledge = Ignorant.
27. An ant that can take anything without complaining = Tolerant.
28. An ant that wastes resources = Extravagant.
29. A very careful ant = Vigilant.
30. An ant that maintains good odour = Deodorant.
31. An ant that finds it hard to move = Adamant.
32. An ant that refused to move = Redundant.
33. An ant that is into business = Merchant.
34. A Political ant = Aspirant.
35. An ant that sues someone to court = Complainant.
36. A happy ant = Jubilant.
37. An ant that is patient = Tolerant.
38. An ant that does not cooperate = Recalcitrant.
39. An ant that doesn't agree easily = Reluctant.
40. An ant that runs away from school unjustified = Truant.
41. An ant that lives permanently in a foreign country = Immigrant.
42. An ant that is energetic and cheerful = Exuberant.



What do you call two ants that run away to get married? **Anti-lopes**

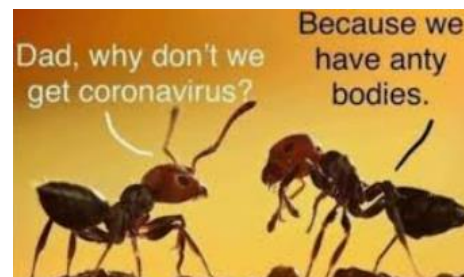
What do you call an ant who lives alone? **Independant**.

What kind of ant loves mathematics. An **accountant**.

What do you call a fancy ant? **Elegant**.

How may ants are needed to completely fill a rental apartment? **Tenants**.

What do you call an ant that does not go away? **Permanant**.



If you wish to contribute to the Winter edition of our Club Newsletter just send it to the editor by May 31st.

The Taylor Swift Era Tour Extravaganza

Now, let's shift gears to the world of music and spectacle, something most of us have completely missed out on:



1. **Swiftmania:** Taylor Swift, the global pop sensation, embarked on her **Eras Tour**, a chameleonic journey through her albums. Melbourne, a city ablaze with Swiftmania, witnessed a quarter of a million fans flocking to the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) for her concert.
2. **Swift's Impact:** Swift's concerts are seismic events. Fans cheer, sing, and even engage in **Taylor-gating**—gathering outside the stadium to listen and sing along. The Eras Tour, the **highest-grossing concert tour of all time**, has captivated audiences worldwide and Australians have spent \$320m in early 2024.
3. **The Eye-Popping Spectacle:** Swift's show is an **engrossing three and a half hours** of pure joy. She weaves through her albums, each represented by distinctive outfits and personalities. From the dreamy hues of *Lover* to the gritty edge of *Reputation*, Swift delivers a visual feast that leaves fans spellbound.
4. **Friendship and Healing:** Thousands of strangers become instant friends inside and outside the show. They swap handmade friendship bracelets, compliment each other's elaborate outfits, and find healing in the shared experience. It's more than a concert; it's a return to girlhood, a celebration of fandom.

And do we replicate the experience here at Monty Bowls?



The Green Awaits ...

Beyond the clubroom, the greens stretch—a canvas for dreams and strategy. Bowlers step onto the turf, their bowls poised, eyes on the jack. The sun warms their backs, and the breeze carries whispers of technique and camaraderie. The desire to roll that perfect draw shot, to feel the bias guide the bowl—it's an itch that only the green can scratch.

And so, the hysteria at Montmorency Bowling Club is not just about the game; it's about connection, the laughter, and the complete thrill of sending that bowl on its graceful journey. The desire for more lawn bowling is contagious, spreading from the clubroom to the greens, where every roll becomes a story waiting to be told.

