

Bowls North Harbour Inc

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ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Welcome to a summary of another year of bowls in the Bowls North Harbour area. It has been another year of wonderful bowling experiences with the weather generally playing its part and especially in the tail end of the season as we moved through the Champ of Champs series of events.

The annual meeting last year was held at the very fine premises of the Takapuna Bowling Club and concluded with the usual awards ceremony which followed. This was noted as being the 24th anniversary of the awards, so this year becomes special in that the awards reach the quarter century mark of 25 years.

Three new members were elected to the Board – Sue Rossiter (vice president), and Mark Batley and Jan Harrison as members of the Board. Returning members Neil Connell (president), Tony Popplewell and Hanaan Shawan were joined by Greg Yelavich who was a sitting member. Tony Popplewell was elected chairman of the Board following the annual meeting.

During the season Hanaan found it necessary for family reasons to resign her position and she was succeeded by Sheryl Wellington who was co-opted onto the board in the last few months of the year.

Events during the season have been completed successfully and the few interruptions with the weather were negotiated to find the winners of the events. The success of the Mairangi Bay club in winning both the men and women inter-club events was rather unique, and to cap that off the club also won division two of the same event. The two Mairangi Bay teams went on to the National Inter-Club finals finishing fourth for the men and fifth for the women in their respective sections.

The completion of the second covered green at Orewa Club is a significant milestone for that club. This will no doubt pave the way for many more events of significance to be held there in the future. The recent New Zealand Open Arm bowling tournament is an example and the finals of all our Centre Champ of Champ events has provided an ideal venue for these events to finish on a high.

A contributing factor towards obtaining grants for such development works rest with the Bowls North Harbour Facilities plan developed and maintained by Freeman Associates. Bowls North Harbour accepts the cost of this work as a benefit for all clubs in our Centre and once again covered the cost of the updating of this plan during the year with the objective that its value will be for assisting clubs with the funding when significant club projects are envisaged.

A new bowling club was incorporated this past season and applied for membership of Bowls North Harbour and subsequently to Bowls New Zealand for affiliation. This is called the Barracudas Bowling Club and although we do not expect them to be dominant on the greens in the short term, it does bring our count of bowling clubs in the North Harbour Centre to 20.

Recently the Board has been considering a “Pathways Development Programme” to link promising younger bowlers with mentors, aiming to progress development of future players in the Centre. This project will deliberately be set small and developed over the years if it is seen to be successful.

REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES: Early last season the Centre decided on a step forward for the representative season by appointing a Representative Team Director (RTD) to overview development of the representative teams across Premier, Development and 1-5 Year. The appointment of John Walker, an experienced and longstanding member in Bowls North Harbour area, was seen as a welcome step towards formalising the approach to the representative season.

Unfortunately John decided not to continue on in the role, although it needs to be acknowledged the fantastic job he did in setting up the basis for the season. The Board were sorry to see John not continue. The respective management/coaching teams established for the representative teams worked well throughout the season although the untimely death of Bob Telfer, who was in charge of the women's premier team was a hiccup not entirely expected at the time.

The management teams appointed were –

- Premier men - Murray Mathieson, Colin Rogan
- Premier women - Bob Telfer, Rona Turner, John Walker
- Development Men - Charlie McDonald, Peter Nathan
- Development Women - Grant Keats, Adele Ineson
- 1-5 year Men – Dave Vince, Warren Seeque
- 1-5 Women - Greg Taylor, Keiko Kurohara, Judy McSweeney.

The major representative feature of the season was the National Inter-Centre event which was hosted by Bowls New Zealand at clubs across Auckland and North Harbour. Our teams competed well with the men finishing in second position in their section and qualifying for post section play in the quarter final. The women finished in fourth position in their section.

COACHING: Besides the hosting of Centre events, Bowls North Harbour is also pleased to be able to provide a winter coaching skills clinic. This series of Saturday mornings coaching runs through the month of July at the wonderful Orewa Bowling Club's facility and provides players the opportunity to join in the Saturday afternoon play under the roof of the covered carpet greens. Guest speakers regularly appear at these coaching sessions which are led by a number of experienced bowlers and qualified coaches.

The Centre also has a growing register of bowlers who have qualified as Foundation Coaches and with the assistance of Bowls Auckland a number of these coaches are progressing towards becoming Development coaches.

FINANCE: The final result for the year was a small surplus of \$1,800. The significant impact to our finances this year was the loss of the major sponsor, The Grove, which impacted our income, but the balancing factor was the fact that the Inter-Centre event was Auckland based, thus saving considerable travel and accommodation costs for our representative teams.

The year ahead is looking bleak, however, as the major sponsor for our New Zealand Masters tournament, Metlifecare, has decided not to continue for the coming season. There is no ready or quick answer to replace the income lost by these two sponsors, although the Board is considering options to make headway in this area. This coming season the National Inter-Centre event is in Dunedin and the associated air travel, accommodation and local travel will add considerably to the expenses for the next financial year.

STAFF: The Board has engaged two persons who carry out the day-to-day operations of the Centre. Our manager, Garth Partridge, is on a contract basis and fulfils an enormous amount of work in completing all the requirements in the administration of the Centre including both events and administration as well as normal functions of Secretary to the Board. While his hours are limited under the contract, he has no hesitation in extending these to ensure the smooth functioning of the Centre business and we can be very thankful that is possible and achievable. The treasurer, Raewyn Thomas, is also an extensive worker for the Centre managing the finances. Her ability to complete grant applications and be successful with a number of them is a great help to the Centre and also to the clubs that seek her assistance. Our finances would be looking a lot worse if it was not for her diligence in this area. Thank you to you both.

OPERATIONS: Our centre championships remain the cornerstone of our competitive calendar, attracting high-calibre fields across all disciplines. The execution of these events was made possible by the excellent presentation of our host clubs' greens, alongside the meticulous administration of our match committees and technical officials.

Operationally, a significant milestone this season has been our deliberate transition to the BowlsHub platform for tournament entries and results tracking. We have actively encouraged our local clubs to utilise the system for membership and competition management, creating a more integrated regional database. This digital evolution is particularly vital as it feeds directly into Bowls New Zealand's newly launched Bowls+ player ranking system. By ensuring our centre results are promptly logged in BowlsHub, our local players are able to accurately accumulate national ranking points and track their performance statistics. We remain committed to supporting our club administrators as we continue to embed these combined platforms into our weekly operations.

A major highlight of our tournament calendar was the Metlifecare NZ Masters, which once again proved to be an outstanding success. The event drew a fantastic field of experienced competitors across both the 60–74 and 75-and-over age brackets. It was highly rewarding to see strong local success, highlighted by clinical title-winning performances from Harbour mainstays including Colin Rogan, John Walker, Bart Robertson, Elaine McClintock, Judi Farkash, and Jan Calcott. The high standard of play and camaraderie displayed throughout the week reinforced the Masters as a premier event on our schedule.

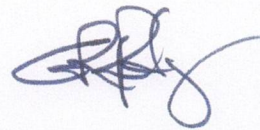
On the representative stage, our squads contested various inter-centre fixtures with determination. The Men's open squad delivered a highly commendable performance in their opening fixture against Auckland. While both the Men's and Women's premier teams ultimately missed out on deeper post-section success at the National Inter-Centre tournament, the campaign provided valuable high-performance benchmarks. Additionally, our local champion sides fought hard at the National Sevens play-offs in Wellington, with the Mairangi Bay teams finishing a respectable fourth in their sections.

Following these campaigns, the Match Committee has initiated targeted strategic reviews to refine our high-performance frameworks and training structures for the coming season.

We express our sincere gratitude to our commercial partners, club administrators, and volunteers. Your unwavering support ensures that Bowls North Harbour continues to operate at a premier standard, fostering growth and competitive excellence in our bowling community.



Tony Popplewell, Chairperson
Bowls North Harbour Inc.



Garth Partridge, Centre Manager
Bowls North Harbour Inc.

May 2026