DONVALE BOWLS CLUB INC.

ABN: 77 009 442 832

Association Registration Number: A0016490J

ANNUAL REPORT

SEASON 2025/2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 3:00PM, 7 JUNE 2025

At The Clubhouse

Committee of Management Report

Your Committee of Management and sub-committee delegates throughout the year and at date of report are:

Chairman:	Ian Bramstedt
Vice-Chairman (Membership):	John Chandler
Secretary:	Debbie Goldfinch
Assistant Secretary:	Robert Stephenson
Treasurer:	Frank Smit
Greens Director:	Gary Brady
Committee (IT):	David Blyth
Committee:	Peter Corr
P&CCC Delegate:	Ken Eldridge
NP&SC Delegate:	Jeanette Baker
Fundraising Coordinator:	Anna Brady
Sponsorship Coordinator:	Jurgen Schnabl
Website/Newsletter Support:	Jan Meehan
Major Projects Management:	Mal Shield

The Committee of Management is pleased to present this annual report for the 2025/26 year.

For several years we have spoken about the exciting future of Donvale Bowls Club. This year, that future began to become reality. The commencement of works on our new covered synthetic green marks a significant milestone in the history of our Club and represents the beginning of a new era for bowls and community participation at Donvale.

This achievement has only been possible through the extraordinary generosity of the late Bruce Hallman, together with the valued support of Manningham Council and the dedication of many members and supporters who have worked tirelessly over many years to help bring this vision to life.

Our new covered green will transform what our Club can offer — providing an all-weather facility that supports pennant bowls, social bowls, community events and broader participation throughout the year. More importantly, it positions our Club strongly for future generations.

While our facilities are evolving, the values that define Donvale Bowls Club remain unchanged. We remain committed to being a welcoming, inclusive and community-focused Club built on respect, sportsmanship, volunteerism and friendship. As our Club grows and attracts new members and visitors, maintaining this culture will remain one of our highest priorities.

This period of transition also presents new opportunities and challenges. With the continued support, patience and goodwill of our members, we are confident that the Club will emerge stronger than ever.

Before reflecting on the year that was, we sincerely thank everyone who contributes to making Donvale Bowls Club such a vibrant and welcoming community. Whether as players, volunteers, sponsors, coaches, committee members, Councillors, Council Officers, politicians, or visitors, your efforts continue to shape the success and spirit of our Club.

MEMBERSHIP

During the past year, we made a deliberate decision not to conduct a full membership drive, including the usual distribution of thousands of flyers to local residents promoting a New Members Open Day. This was primarily to give our wonderful volunteers a well-earned break and to allow our membership numbers to stabilise while construction of our new covered green was underway.

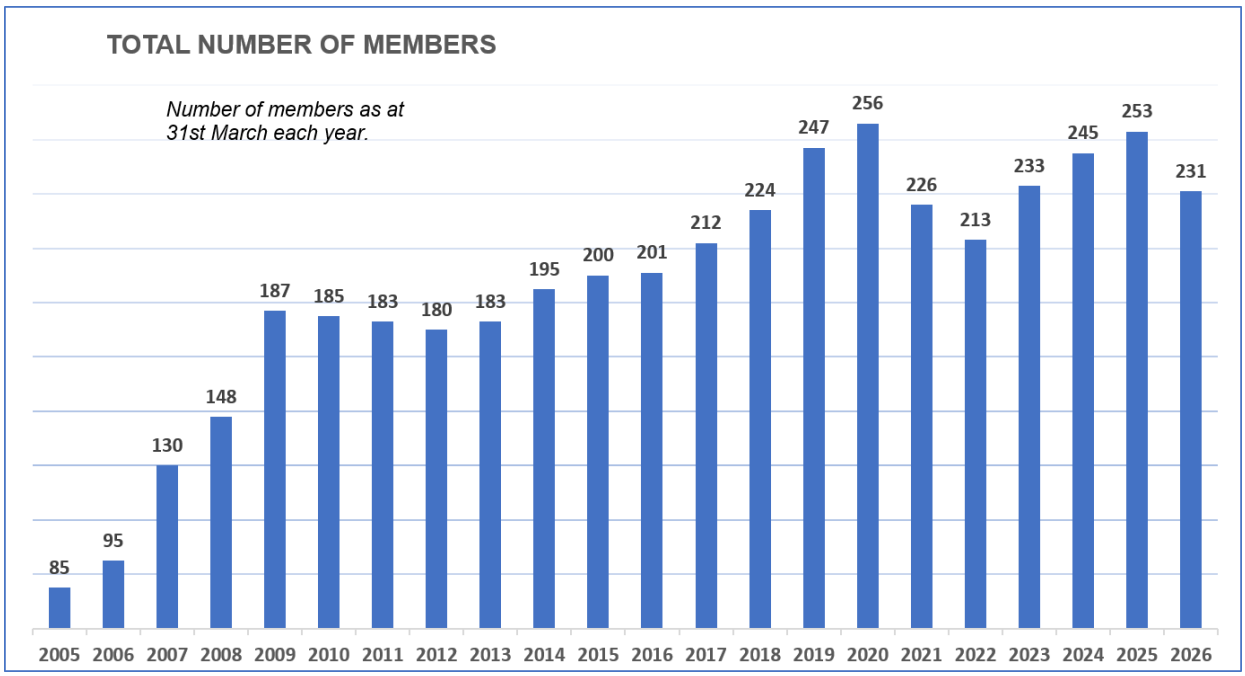
Despite this, we successfully hosted a couple of **"Come & Try Bowls"** events as part of **Seniors Week**, which attracted strong interest. A big thank you to **Ross Taylor and Peter Corr** for organising and running these events.

While our "Come & Try Bowls" days brought in a good number of new members, along with a steady influx throughout the year, our overall membership has reduced to **231**. Even so, the Club remains in an enviable position, having consistently maintained a strong membership of well above 200 over the past ten years.

This long-term membership success has been driven by our New Members Days, the U3A program, Twilight Bowls, our extensive coaching programs for both newer and competitive bowlers, and our wide range of social and bowls activities. Sincere thanks to everyone involved in delivering these programs, and to all members who help make new members feel so welcome.

Once our new covered green is completed and in full use, we will be closely monitoring membership trends. We anticipate membership numbers and participation will increase significantly, and our membership catchment area will broaden. Our goal is to decrease the average age of our members, and to increase the percentage of women members.

Importantly, our objective is not to attract a large influx of members from other bowls Clubs, but rather to continue building sustainable growth by welcoming new participants to the sport and to Donvale Bowls Club.



By Category	
Full Membership	143
Life Membership	15
Social Bowler	57
Dual Registration	2
Junior Membership	1
Associate Membership	13
TOTAL	**231**

By Age	
1 to 21	1
22 to 39	2
40 to 49	1
50 to 59	8
60 to 69	46
70 to 79	88
80 to 89	83
90 to 99	2
TOTAL	**231**

Average Age: 75

By Suburb	
Doncaster East	63
Donvale	56
Templestowe	33
Warrandyte	25
Templestowe Lower	12
Doncaster	9
Box Hill	4
Ringwood	4
Bulleen	3
Croydon	3
Nunawading	3
Vermont	3
Blackburn	2
Park Orchards	2
Other	9
Total	**231**

By Gender		
Male	150	65%
Female	81	35%
TOTAL	**231**	

PARTICIPATION

Our participation levels continue to be very high, particularly by our strong core group of competitive bowlers.

Below is a summary of the number of times someone came to our Club to play or practise bowls in an **organised or programmed event.** It excludes the times members and visitors play in a casual roll-up. We thank Ron Gibbs, Life Member and former Treasurer for 17 years, for continuing to compile this valuable data.

Note: Excludes ad-hoc roll-up's and practice		Total for 2020/21	Total for 2021/22	Total for 2022/23	Total for 2023/24	Total for 2024/25	Total for 2025/26
COMPETITIVE BOWLS EVENTS							
Pennant (Weekend, Mid-week, Night)		626	2839	3124	2232	2619	2452
Pennant Practice games		461	334	335	194	758	1047
Club Championships		176	233	272	358	377	419
Summer: Wednesday Triples		271	246	289	278	135	114
Winter Bowls:	2/4/2	43	306	510	605	478	633
	Wednesday	32	269	383	394	529	548
	Saturday	54	401	439	553	712	812
Sunday bowls		0	161	355	445	337	515
Other Events (Mentors, Marshall White etc.)		0	110	126	106	53	0
Total Competitive Bowls		**1663**	**4899**	**5833**	**5165**	**5998**	**6540**
ALL OTHER PROGRAMMED BOWLING							
Coaching:	Pennant practice	1355	740	1019	806	1332	1429
	Other (Friday, Development etc.)	239	84	597	456	843	831
	Special player sessions	0	0	0	231	0	0
Twilight		376	379	758	871	951	697
U3A		0	43	212	172	78	206
New Members Day		0	0	70	104	50	0
Opening of greens		0	38	57	55	52	0
Other Members Events (Including Social events & Ba		42	75	156	337	177	55
Other Non-Member Functions (Barefoot/Corporate)		0	40	125	237	180	38
School Programs		0	0	46	273	118	0
Total Other Programmed Bowls		**2012**	**1399**	**3055**	**3542**	**3781**	**3256**
TOTAL BOWLING		**3675**	**6298**	**8888**	**8707**	**9779**	**9796**

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to express our gratitude to all our wonderful volunteers who have contributed so much to the Club's success throughout the year.

10 Reasons Why Donvale Bowls Club Values and Recognises Its Volunteers

1. **Supporting Club Needs** – Volunteers often understand what the Club needs and help ensure our programs and activities remain relevant and effective.
2. **Skills and Experience** – Volunteers contribute a wide range of skills, knowledge and expertise that strengthen our Club.
3. **Stronger Club Engagement** – Volunteers increase participation, encourage engagement, and build a genuine sense of belonging and ownership.
4. **Building Friendships** – Volunteers help create a welcoming and friendly environment that supports member satisfaction and retention.
5. **Reducing Costs** – Volunteer support reduces Club expenses, allowing funds to be invested back into facilities, programs and improvements.
6. **Positive Community Image** – A strong volunteer culture reflects well on our Club and encourages new members and wider community support.
7. **Developing Leaders** – Volunteering provides opportunities for members to build confidence, responsibility and leadership skills.
8. **Fresh Ideas and Innovation** – Volunteers bring creativity, new ideas and practical solutions that improve how the Club operates.
9. **Helping Deliver Special Projects** – Volunteers assist with important projects and initiatives that benefit all members.
10. **Increasing Club Capacity** – Volunteers provide the extra hands needed to deliver more activities, events and programs for members.

Our Volunteers Make the Difference

By recognising and valuing the enthusiasm, skills and dedication of our volunteers, **Donvale Bowls Club will continue to grow, thrive, and serve our members well into the future.**

FINANCIALS

As outlined in the Treasurer's report, and the Annual Financial Report, our Club remains in a strong financial position, with a total bank balance at the end of March of $477k, which is after paying a $950k contribution towards the Covered Green project. Our net profit for the past year was $37k, compared to $1,204k the previous year, which included $1,151k from the bequest.

Highlights of the key changes in our financials compared to the previous year are as follows:

Revenue:

- Membership fees up by $9k, mainly due to last year including an accounting entry to adjust out the pre-paid component.
- Non-Pennant green fees down by $3k, mainly due to a drop in Twilight numbers.
- Fundraising down by $1k, which includes a reduction of $4k in parking from Warrandyte Market due to lower partnership distributions (for capital reasons), offset by an increase of $3k in charity events.
- Corporate functions down by $5k and net profit down by $3k.
- Sponsorship up by $4k due to increased and additional sponsorship agreements.
- Interest income down by $8k due to lower average bank balances.
- Pavilion Operating Distributions down by $9k because last year included two years of distributions and this year was impacted by break-in repairs, painting, and large fixed asset replacements.
- Donations and bequests down by $1,148k.

Expenses:

- Purchase of uniforms up by $13k due to uniforms provided free of charge to our players.
- Overhead expenses down by $4k mostly driven by $8k lower repairs & maintenance, as well as lower coaching and insurance, but offset by higher audit fees, donations (Charity events), depreciation and training.
- Membership expenses up by $3k due to higher Bowls Victoria affiliation fees.
- Greens maintenance down by $2k.
- Prize money down by $3k mostly driven by change in allocation of 50-50 Club prizes from Prize Money to Raffle Expenses.
- Raffle Expenses up by $4k mostly due to change in allocation of 50-50 Club.

Once again, I reconfirm our confidence of being able to meet all our financial and other obligations resulting from the new covered green. The savings in maintenance of a grass green, increased revenue from higher membership and participation in additional events, and other opportunities, will more than offset the extra maintenance costs for the cover and the long-term replacement costs for the cover and synthetic.

Our Club is indebted to Frank Smit in the Treasurer’s role. Frank’s dedication and commitment have been outstanding. Frank and I thank Anthony Aspridis from Quality Financial Solutions for providing audit services again this year. This firm specialises in services to not-for-profit associations, and they once again provided good advice and service in a very timely manner.

PAVILION OPERATING ACCOUNTS

As everyone would be aware, we have a relatively unique sharing arrangement of the Clubhouse with the Doncaster Hockey Club. It is unique because we are both large Clubs that share all year round. To help make this arrangement work, the Clubhouse pavilion and bar operations are managed by a joint committee of Hockey and Bowls members. This arrangement is very beneficial to both Clubs. It enables sharing of costs for power, cleaning, security, facility upgrades, and other overheads. It is also looked upon very favourably by the Council, resulting in very low rent and a greater likelihood of our submissions for improvements and maintenance issues being approved.

Highlights of the year are as follows:

- Bowls bar sales grew by 12% with Hockey increasing by 46%.
- Both Clubs annual bar sales were very similar at around $43k each.
- Bowls was 70% card and 30% cash, with paying by cash continuing to decline.
- The overall bar gross margins increased from 48% to 54%, which is back to the 10-year average. Mostly driven by Hockey's higher selling prices.
- We set up an accurate split of purchases and stock commencing in April 2025. This has enabled accurate allocation of purchases to each Club, so we can better monitor and control our own sales prices and margins.
- Utilities were down by 45% thanks to the solar panels and battery.
- Repairs and maintenance costs were $3.9k due to break-in repairs and painting costs.
- Fixed asset purchases were high at $14.5k due to the new bar fridges, bar dishwasher, CCTV, and kitchen fridge/freezer.
- Excluding fixed asset costs, the total net surplus was very healthy at $24k or 29%, compared to ten-year average of 16%. And that was after the high costs of repairs.
- The net surplus distribution to Bowls was $3.5k.
- Sharing the Clubhouse does have some challenges, but financially it has been very beneficial, saving our Club about $12k per year over the last 3 years. Plus, we have only paid 50% of fixed asset improvements, which saved Bowls $7k just last year.

We sincerely thank Ron Pretto, Jules White, and the team of bar assistants, for their invaluable support in running the bar and all the related tasks. Their friendly and welcoming nature makes a big contribution to the success of our Club.

Below is a 5-year summary of Pavilion Operations accounts up to September 2025.

PAVOPS FINANCIALS SUMMARY

(Financial years ending September)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024 Growth
BAR REVENUE						
Bowls - Cash	12218	21462	24921	20892	13435	-36%
Bowls - Cards	410	2750	12120	17804	29838	68%
Bowls Total	**12628**	**24212**	**37041**	**38696**	**43273**	**12%**
Bowls Share	62%	55%	64%	57%	51%	
Hockey - Cash	2512	4333	2726	0	0	
Hockey - Cards	5249	15168	18191	29058	42328	46%
Hockey Total	**7761**	**19501**	**20917**	**29058**	**42328**	**46%**
Hockey Share	38%	45%	36%	43%	49%	
TOTAL BAR REVENUE	**20389**	**43713**	**57958**	**67754**	**85601**	**26%**
Growth	-15%	114%	33%	55%	126%	
Cost of Sales	-10290	-17060	-24891	-33973	-38182	12%
Card Fees- Bowls	-142	-210	-351	-763	-477	-37%
Card Fees- Hockey	-210	-405	-423	-465	-677	46%
Gross Margin	**9747**	**26038**	**32293**	**32553**	**46265**	**42%**
GM %	48%	60%	56%	48%	54%	
Grant Revenue	3031					
Interest	85	55	211	308	135	-56%
Operating Expenses	-11241	-17670	-22282	-26698	-21967	-18%
Net Operating Profit	**1622**	**8423**	**10222**	**6163**	**24433**	**296%**
NP %	8%	19%	18%	9%	29%	

Excluding Capital Purchases, & transfers to/from Maintenance Reserve.

Fixed Asset Purchases	1160	2951	0	4585	14554	
Net PavOps Surplus	**462**	**5472**	**10222**	**1578**	**9879**	
Distribution to Bowls	2378	4969	10389	2224	3533	59%

Net of capital purchases and transfers to/from Maintenance Reserve.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

A great deal of work has again gone into improving and maintaining our Club facilities, and I would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Mal Shield, who has continued to project manage our major improvement projects and act as our principal liaison with Manningham Council.
I also extend sincere thanks to the skilled and reliable team of volunteers who continually give their time and expertise to ensure Donvale's facilities remain well-presented and functional. I particularly thank David Mattiazzo, Rito Bettiol, Wally Cerato, Peter Corr, Tim Corr, Ron Pretto and Russell Breadmore. Your contributions are both valued and essential to the ongoing success of the Club.

FRONT COVERED GREEN PROJECT

Once again, we acknowledge with great appreciation the significant bequest left to the Club by Bruce Hallman. Combined with the support of Manningham Council, this has enabled our long-awaited covered green project to finally commence construction.

While the current delays in construction have been both disappointing and frustrating, we remain confident the upgrades will be completed in time for the commencement of the Pennant season in October 2026.

Thank you to all members for your patience and understanding throughout this construction period. The inevitable short-term disruption will be well worth it once we are able to enjoy a true all-weather facility, available day and night.

This once-in-a-generation development is already generating a renewed sense of optimism across the Club and in the community. We look forward to beginning preparations for an official opening event.

TOILET FOR BACK GREEN

The need for a toilet to service the rear green remains an ongoing priority, but the project has continued to be subject to significant delays. Although the Club has offered to fund and install the toilet, Council has advised that as the facility would be on Council land, the project must be managed through Council processes.

The delays have been driven by several factors, including gaining agreement on an appropriate location, which has been determined to be outside our current leased area and will therefore require a revised lease, and Council's requirement that the project be included within its long-term capital works planning. Council has indicated that, even if our Club agrees to contribute a major portion of the cost, the potential timeline will extend well beyond ten years.

In addition, due to the Council's procurement, tendering, and project management process, the Councils estimated cost is $200k to $250k. This is substantially higher than what our Club would be willing to pay. Our estimated cost is approximately $60k if we were able to source and install the facility directly.

We are currently in active discussions with Council to pursue a more practical solution, including approval for us to install a prefabricated toilet facility, with Council responsible only for the final connection works (new lease arrangements would also need to be finalised).

IMPROVED LIGHTING FOR BACK GREEN

The upgrade of the floodlighting on the rear green has also been a frustrating process. Our lighting has now been audited on three occasions, and has failed each time due to inadequate uniformity. Council has acknowledged the findings, and their consultant has supported the results of Mal's previous investigations.

It has been confirmed that simply replacing the existing lights with LEDs on the current eight low poles will not guarantee acceptable lighting standards. The preferred solution requires LED lighting installed on four new higher poles.

Council has committed to a program of funding new lighting as part of their broader LED rollout program across sporting facilities. However, due to the scale and complexity of our upgrade, our project has not yet been scheduled. We will continue to actively lobby Council to have this matter prioritised.

The expectation, at least over the short-term, is that once the covered green is operational, demand for night use of the rear synthetic surface will reduce.

BACK GREEN SURFACE ISSUES

Council has acknowledged that rectification works relating to pavement movement and sub-soil instability will be their responsibility. However, Council has indicated that they are unlikely to undertake major works until the existing synthetic surface is closer to the end of its usable life, currently estimated at two to five years.

We will continue discussions with Council regarding timing and ensure they remain aware of the issues and the frustrations caused by the uneven playing surface.

CLUBHOUSE EXPANSION AND RENOVATION

During the year, our Bowls Club and the Doncaster Hockey Club made a joint submission to Council outlining the need for an expanded Clubhouse, including improved meeting spaces, storage, and additional facilities. Council has acknowledged the increasing pressure created by two large Clubs sharing the current building year-round.

The submission was well received, and the project is likely to be included in Council's long-term Capital Works Program. Unfortunately, current indications suggest the project may not be scheduled to commence until at least 2039.

We will continue to advocate for this project and pursue grant and funding opportunities that may assist in bringing the timeline forward.

A DEDICATED CLUBHOUSE FOR BOWLS

There has been increasing discussion regarding the long-term need for the Bowls Club to have its own dedicated Clubhouse. Some Council officers have agreed that both Hockey and Bowls have now grown to a size and level of year-round activity that could justify separate Club facilities, particularly with the addition of our new covered green.

While a formal submission has not yet been lodged, Mal has agreed to help us prepare preliminary plans and cost estimates to support a detailed proposal. This submission will outline our long-term vision for the Club over the next 5 to 10 years, and the facility requirements needed to support that growth.

Our strategy remains to continue advocating for all key facility priorities and to position the Club strongly for future Council and grant funding opportunities. Even if a separate Clubhouse is not supported in the short term, we will still pursue the existing expansion proposal and other essential improvements, including the additional toilet facility.

PENNANT AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pennant bowls remains at the heart of Donvale Bowls Club and continues to be one of our key strengths. Our Club has a long and proud history of being competitive across many divisions, and this season again demonstrated the depth of talent, commitment, and spirit that exists within our membership.

Thank you to every player who represented Donvale throughout the year, and to those who supported their teams through practice, preparation, and encouragement. Pennant success is never achieved by players alone, and we are extremely fortunate to have a strong network of people supporting our Pennant players. My sincere appreciation goes to the Pennant Committee, selectors, coaches, umpires, greenkeepers, linesmen, gardeners, and our bar and kitchen staff, all of whom contribute greatly to the smooth running of each week's competition.

As highlighted in the P&CCS report, the season produced excellent results. Having 8 of our 13 teams qualify for finals is a fantastic achievement, and it was especially pleasing to see both our Weekend Side 5 and Midweek Side 3 teams secure Section flags. These results reflect not only skill, but also teamwork and the strong culture of camaraderie and sportsmanship that Donvale is known for.

Our coaching and practice programs again provided a wide range of opportunities for bowlers of all levels to develop their game. The Club is extremely grateful to Senior Coach Denise Huender, Coaching Co-ordinator Jeff Grant, and all our Club coaches for their dedication and ongoing support of player development across the season.

Finally, congratulations to all Club Championship winners and award recipients. These honours are always hard-earned and reflect both consistent performance and determination. All winners should take great pride in their achievements and in continuing Donvale's strong tradition of competitive bowls.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND NON-PENNANT BOWLS

One of Donvale's other great strengths continues to be the vibrant social side of our Club. Over the past year, our Non-Pennant & Social Committee, supported by an outstanding group of volunteers, delivered a diverse program that kept members connected throughout all seasons — particularly across the winter months when our bowls activities remain a real highlight.

The breadth of events conducted again demonstrates the depth of commitment within this group. The consistently strong participation across both our social outings and winter bowls competitions is a clear reflection of the enjoyment members gain from these activities and the welcoming culture of our Club. They provide not only competition and recreation, but friendship, inclusion and a strong sense of belonging.

A special highlight of the year was the success of our two charity events, Pink Australia Day Charity Bowls Day, and a Trivia Night. Through the generosity of members and the tireless work of volunteers, we were able to make meaningful contributions to two very deserving causes — the Warrandyte Pink Ladies in support of the McGrath Foundation, and our local CFA Bushfire Appeal. Our members generous donations also provided a contribution towards the Bowls For Your Lives

Charity round. Supporting our broader community remains an important part of who we are as a Club.

My sincere thanks and congratulations go to the Non-Pennant & Social Committee and all those who assisted in planning, organising and running these events. Your commitment ensures Donvale remains a vibrant Club where members and visitors alike can enjoy bowls, friendship, and a strong sense of community.

SPONSORSHIP

We sincerely thank our Sponsorship Sub-Committee, led by Jurgen Schnabl and supported by Jeanette Baker, for their excellent work throughout the year.

The committee achieved outstanding results in 2025/26, securing two new sponsors and negotiating an increased contribution from an existing sponsor. These efforts helped deliver a record sponsorship revenue result of $13k, providing valuable support to the ongoing operations and development of our Club.

With another new sponsor already confirmed, and the added appeal of our new covered green, we are optimistic that sponsorship revenue will continue to grow further in 2026/27.

On behalf of the Club, thank you to all our valued sponsors for their continued support. I encourage all members to support and promote our sponsors whenever possible, and to remain alert to any new sponsorship opportunities that may benefit Donvale Bowls Club.

CONCLUSION

On behalf of all members, I sincerely thank all members of the Committee of Management for their dedication, hard work, and ongoing commitment to improving our Club for the benefit of both members and visitors. Donvale's continued success depends on members being willing to contribute their time and skills in the management of our Club, and that involvement will be especially important over the coming years as we adapt to the opportunities and changes that lie ahead.

This year feels like a genuine turning point in our Club's history. For some time, we have spoken about major improvements being future plans and long-term aspirations. Now, progress is visible, momentum is building, and what once seemed ambitious is moving steadily from aspiration to delivery. This shift has created a renewed sense of optimism, pride and anticipation throughout the Club, and a growing sense of ownership in what we are building together.

Donvale is well positioned to strengthen and grow across the four key areas in which we serve our members and the wider community:

- **Competitive Bowls –** Pennant and major tournaments
- **Social Events and Activities –** supporting connection and enjoyment for our members
- **Corporate, Social and Community Bowls –** introducing new participants to the sport
- **Non-member Functions and Events –** maximising the utilisation of our facilities

With the addition of our new covered green, we will be able to overcome long-standing capacity constraints and unlock further potential across all areas of Club activity. At the same time, we will remain mindful of managing growth responsibly, ensuring we maintain the strong volunteer culture that underpins everything we do.

The challenges ahead—whether it be governance, succession planning, refining Club structures, strengthening key relationships, or ensuring our volunteers remain supported—are in many ways good challenges to have. They are the result of a Club that is active, respected, and continuing to grow.

As we reflect on the year, I encourage all members to take pride in what we have achieved together. Donvale Bowls Club continues to be a place where community, friendship, and sporting excellence come together, and our contribution to the broader Manningham community is something we can all value highly.

We look forward to the future with genuine confidence and enthusiasm, as we continue laying the foundations for the next generation of Donvale bowlers.

Ian Bramstedt
Chairman, Management Committee

Treasurer's Report

The 2025/26 Financial Year has been interesting and very unusual.

Apart from the Opening of the Club, it has never before embarked on a project as important as the Covered Green which is now being constructed.

It began with a bequest of around $1.15million from the late Bruce Hallman in late 2024, followed by a lot of work and the payment of our portion of the cost, being $950,000 between July and November 2025. The Manningham City Council is paying the balance of the $1,900,000+ being spent on the project.

The Accounts therefore show a prepayment of $950,000 (in Assets) which will be transferred to Leasehold Improvements, when the completed project is handed over to the Club. The asset will then be amortised (subject to audit review).

On the Income side,

The normal running of the Club has also been financially successful, showing an Operating Surplus of $36,621 for the year, compared with $22,202 last year.

Membership receipts this year were $34,673 compared to $26,079 last year.

The total surplus last year was $1,203,531 which included a bequest of $1,151,329 and about $30,000 extra interest.

The cash in bank decreased by $915,913 compared with the previous financial year. Taking the $950,000 prepaid for the Covered Green into account, it would have increased by $34,807.

Because there were a few washouts during the year, the Pennant Green Fees are $27,154 (last year: $30,558), and the Non-Pennant Green Fees are $27,345 (last year: $28,012).

Our Fundraising this year was about the same as last year, with parking at the Warrandyte Market contributing $6,654. Thank you to all the volunteers who help there.

The Club received $3,533 from the Pavilion Operating Committee this year.

All figures in the accounts are shown exclusive of GST because the Club is registered for GST.

The new uniforms distributed free of charge reduced this year's profit by about $15,000. We have no regrets, as it was a service to our Pennant players.

On the Expenditure side,

The Club donated $3,282 from special fund-raising events to the Warrandyte CFA and Warrandyte Pink Ladies cancer appeal.

Repairs and Maintenance is lower this year but may increase in the 2026/27 year because of the expected changes due to the covered green.

Notice of Motions:

"That the Club appoints Quality Financial Solutions as its Auditor for the 2026/27 financial year."

Moved: Frank Smit, Treasurer. Seconded: _____

"That the Treasurer's report and the Financial Report be accepted."

Moved: Frank Smit, Treasurer. Seconded: _____

Frank Smit, Treasurer

Sponsorship Report

Two new sponsors have been gained over the last 12 months, and both committed to sponsoring the Club for a period of two years. They are:

- Lumia Care &
- Doncaster East Car Repairs.

Thanks must go to Rob McNally for introducing Lumia and Geoff Smith for providing the introduction to Doncaster East Car Repairs.

The relationship with Applewood Retirement Village and DKB Transformations Physio & Pilates has remained strong, and we will be working with them to continue their sponsorship for another two years as the current agreement expires later this year.

During the year the relationship with Brenton Linmeiers of Marshall White Manningham was re-established with better defined points of contact and process. We look forward to his continued support of the Club.

As part of our partnership with the Warrandyte Riverside Market, Michael Meehan and his fantastic team of volunteers continue to provide parking services during the market days. This partnership generates a considerable amount of revenue for the Club, so we are very happy to promote the market to our members and visitors.

Unfortunately, during the year, Smokin' Joe's Pizza and Grill and Monumental Metal Roofing decided not to renew their sponsorships.

However, just as I am typing this report, an in-principle agreement has been reached with Opal HealthCare to be a major sponsor of the Club for a two-year period. More information will be provided via Newsflash once the agreement has been formalised.

Ian Bramstedt has been influential in having the below listed sponsors continue to sponsor the Club.

- Nicole Werner MP
- R J Legal
- Sonia Terpstra MP
- Nunawading Panels (with continued assistance of Bill Duggan)
- Bendigo Bank

Sponsorship opportunities are expected to increase once the dome over the front green is completed, and we will actively pursue those opportunities. One issue we will resolve once the dome is completed is where to place the sponsorship signs. The new facilities are expected to increase membership and participation so our sponsorship revenue should reflect that, however, we will need to continue to provide our sponsors with good value in our partnerships.

Please continue to support our sponsors and let them know that Donvale Bowls Club recommended their services. If any members are approached by potential sponsors, please refer them on to me.

Jürgen Schnabl

Sponsorship Coordinator

Fundraising Report

Well done to all members of the Club who were involved in Fundraising activities at the Club during the last 12 months. The total amount raised was $26,240, which includes fundraising, raffles, and Trading Table. Highlights of the individual activities are as follows.

WARRANDYTE COMMUNITY MARKET CAR PARKING

The Warrandyte Community Market car parking activity raised a total of $6654 (including a one off $5k participation fee from the Market Committee). Michael Meehan and his team of volunteers, in particular Ray Heller, Gerry Kearney and the enthusiastic volunteers.

Initially our involvement was related to car parking, @ $2 per car, later increased to $4 per car, at the Forbes Street entrance to the market. There were 12 market days over the year, with two market days in December and no market in January.

This was not only a great opportunity as a fundraising activity, but also good exposure for our Club in the Community.

Again, well-done Michael and his team of volunteers.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

The Container Deposit Scheme, which recycles specific drink containers, and allocating the proceeds to our Club, successfully raised $1,492 for the year. John Caruso has been diligent in managing this activity, particularly during the pennant months when volume is high. Well done John and his team of volunteers.

TRADING TABLE

Barbara Drew has again managed the operation of the Club Trading Table, which consisted of secondhand uniforms, bric-a-brac, preserves, and a large volume of books. Except for the books, the Trading Table is only set up during the daylight-saving months when we have control of the Clubhouse.

For the last year, Barbara and her assistants raised $778 for the Club. Well done Barb !!

As we move forward, it has been decided, with Barbara's support, to reduce the type of items which will be sold via the Trading Table to books, preserves, and second-hand uniforms (pants, shorts etc., but not playing tops as the old tops are now redundant).

50/50 CLUB

Congratulations to all members who have been successful in winning prizes so far in the 50/50 raffle draws. This raffle continues over the 12 months of the year so there are still plenty of opportunities to be successful. One can feel the anticipation rise when Sheldon arrives with his trusty raffle machine in hand.

The total fundraising profit for the Club over the reporting period is $3,878. Well done Sheldon and those who support this raffle.

MANNINGHAM COMMUNITY RAFFLE

The annual raffle was drawn in July 2025 at Templestowe Bowls Club. Thank you to Katie Taubert for organizing our Clubs participation in the raffle, with a net return to our Club of $1,410. One of our Club members, Mary Adey kindly bought tickets for her family, and her son John was lucky to win a Coles voucher prize. Well done Katie and well done Mary !!

I understand that Katie has recently placed an order for more books for this coming year, so we look forward to supporting this great Community Raffle.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Many thanks to all the Club members who supported the Christmas Hamper Raffle and congratulations to all the prize winners. Due to the kind donations from Club members we were able to raffle 26 hampers. I am always overwhelmed by the outstanding generosity and support from the Club members.

Also a special thank you to our team who help with the raffle, Jan Meehan for the artwork for the covers and notices, Kim Hemburrow and Virginia for assisting with the tickets etc., and Frank for the funds management. The raffle this year raised $2,613.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

This year we conducted two Community Fundraising Activities, coordinated in conjunction with the Social Committee, plus we raised money during a Pennant Charity round.

We held an Australia Day function to raise funds to contribute to the Pink Ladies Cancer charity. A great day was held by everyone, and it was well supported by local pollies. $1,337 was raised on the day plus the Club contributed a further $240 to reflect bar takings.

A Trivia Night, again in conjunction with the Social Committee, was held on the 27th of February with $1,505 from the night raised and donated to the Warrandyte CFA.

Our members also generously made donations of $200 during the Pennant Charity Round which was donated to Bowls For Your Lives.

It is pleasing to see our Club contributing to the community, and at the same time having a good time together.

PERSONALISED DRINK BOTTLES – NEW OPPORTUNITY

We have a new Fundraising opportunity with Personalised Drink Bottle. Cost per bottle is $25, with $5 from each bottle returned to the Club. Please contact me if you are interested. Further information is available on the noticeboard at the Club or in the monthly newsletter

If any Club members have any new Fundraising ideas for the future, please feel free to discuss those opportunities with me.

ANNA BRADY, FUNDRAISING CO-ORDINATOR

Pennant & Championship Committee

Our Club fielded 7 midweek and 6 weekend teams in the 2025-26 season.

Congratulations to all our players!

We have had a very successful year, with 8 of our 13 sides making it into the finals — one more than last year.

One side made it to the semi-finals but no further, five sides made it as far as the preliminary finals, and two made it into the Grand Final.

Weekend Side 5 and Midweek Side 3 both won their Grand Finals and took the section flags.

Well done to all players involved.

Our Coaching Program has played a significant role in the success of our Pennant season this year, and I thank all coaches for their contribution.

Finals Results

Our Weekend teams:-

Side – 1 /Semi- final Defeated Eltham 1 / 80 -59

Preliminary finals Defeated by Rosanna 1/ 84 -82

Side -2 /Semi- Final Defeated by Vermont South 2 / 75- 70

Preliminary finals Defeated by Bundoora 83-75

Side-3 / **Semi- Finals** Defeated Greythorn 1/ 88 -48

Preliminary finals Defeated by Lalor 3 / 92- 52

Side-4 / Semi- Finals Defeated by Glen Waverley 3 / 89- 76

Side-5 / Semi- Finals Defeated Rosanna 4 / 82- 71

Grand Final Defeated Diamond Creek 3 / 94 - 60

Our Midweek Teams:-

Side 1- Semi- Finals Defeated Monbulk 1 / 55-51

Preliminary Finals Defeated by Whittlesea 1 / 67 - 39

Side 3- Semi- Finals Defeated by Eastwood golf 1 / 62 -41

Preliminary Finals Defeated Yarra Junction 1 / 75-55

Grand Final Defeated Eastwood Golf 1 / 63 - 51

Side 5- Semi- Final Defeated Greythorn 1 / 110 -35

Preliminary finals Defeated by Hurstbridge 60 -47

Set out below are the final ladder positions for this year

Pennant Ladder 2025-26

Weekend after round 14				**Midweek** after round 14			
Side	Div	Section	Ladder	Side	Div	Section	Ladder
1	2	4	3	1	1	3	3
2	3	6	2	2	2	3	5
3	5	4	3	3	4	5	2
4	6	4	3	4	4	6	5
5	7	4	1	5	5	4	3
6	7	7	8	6	5	5	8
				7	6	4	8

Recognition of Volunteers

Running Pennant each year involves a number of volunteers and once again I would like to thank them all.

Thank you:-

:- **To those Committee members -**

'Pennant Bowls & Championship Section' - Jill Simpson, Pat O'Meara, Keith Williams, and [Helen Milner representing the Selection Committee]

'Selection Committee'-Michael Meehan, Helen Milner, Brian Dunn, Julie Wilkins and John Goldfinch.

'Championship Match Committee'- Robyn Ham, Liz Bill and Tim Corr.

Thank you:-

:- Debbie Goldfinch for all the Newsflashes.

:- Jan Meehan and Leanne Sullivan for our Club Newsletters.

:- Ian Bramstedt for your update on the Ladders and Ladder Summaries.

:- Head Coach :-Denise Huender for her coaching program which has contributed greatly to our successful Pennant season.

:- Volunteer Coaches :- Maurie Vickerman, Brian Dunn and Peter Henderson, Barry & Julie Wilkins and all our new coaches that have assisted this year.

:- Coaching Coordinator: Jeff Grant.

:- Bar Staff -Ron Pretto, Jules White [Jules passed away on the 7th May 2026 and will be sadly missed], Ian Heap, Ray Heller, Gary Brady and other helpers.

:- Catering:- Jan Shield.

:- Kay Chandler with the help of others for organising "Food after Saturday Pennant".

:- Those on Kitchen Duty and Liz Bill for organising the rosters.

:- Gerry Kearney for your assistance with Pennant selection statistics.

:- Greens Director: Gary Brady and those members who assisted.

:- Garden volunteers.

:- Duty Rink: All those Pennant players who assisted on Pennant days.

:- Side Managers and Umpires and Measures.

:- Photographers: Ross Taylor and John Goldfinch.

:- Tuesday Night Pennant: Mal Shield

Sorry I couldn't name everyone and apologise if I've missed anyone.

Retiring :-

Championship Match Committee :-Special thanks to Robyn Ham for her assistance over many years.

Championship Match Committee

The CMC once again has had a busy year, starting in mid-September and finishing in late April.

This year we extended our season to reduce the number of games played per week during Pennant season and it seems to have been successful.

Unfortunately, this has made it more difficult to organise our Presentation Night at the Club, as Hockey has priority during this time.

The Championship was run as a programmed event with fixed dates. Consideration was given to changes as long as the match was completed prior to the next round and fitted in with Social and coaching events.

We held 10 events and have managed to complete 151 matches compared to 143 last year.

BowlsLink was used again this season allowing quick access to Championship results and changes to match times.

For those Members not able to access information on our Website we posted that information on our noticeboard in the alfresco area.

We have completed this year's Championships on time and on budget.

Presentation Night Report:- TBA

Club Championships Results

Women's Singles :-

Winner:- Fay Giules

Runner up:- Leanne Sullivan

Men's Singles

Winner:- Lindsay Ridgwell

Runner up:- John Poulton

Women's 100 Up

Winner:- Jan Meehan

Runner up:- Pat O'Meara

Men's 100up

Winner:- Graeme Morrison

Runner up:- Lindsay Ridgwell

Women's Minors

Winner:- Joanne Truman

Runner up:- Jill Simpson

Men's Minors

Winner:- William Tan

Runner up:- Peter Corr

Women's Pairs Champions

Winners - Jeanette Baker / Denise Huender

Runners up:- Jan Meehan / Helen Milner

Mixed Pairs

Winners:- Jeanette Baker / David Mattiazzo

Runners up:- Dennis Johnson / Leanne Sullivan

Men's Pairs

Winners: - Craig Gathergood / Sheldon Lipschitz

Runners up:- Kelvin McMahon / Geoff Smith

Open Triples

Winners: – Gerhard Blum / Ian Bramstedt / Reg Broad

Runners up:- Lindsay Ridgwell / Jeff Grant / Barry Wilkins

Pennant awards

Individual Pennant awards - To be announced at the Presentation Night

Margaret Pepper Midweek Pennant Most Valuable Player Award 2025/26

John Pepper Weekend Pennant Most Valuable Player Award 2025/26

Jim Gibson Midweek Pennant Most Improved Player Award 2025/26

Bernie Henderson Weekend Pennant Most Improved player Award 2025/26

Pennant Sectional winners - Team awards

We acknowledge the success of our sectional winners with a memento of their win.

Presenting those who attend Presentation Night with a framed photo of their side taken on the day of their win.

Midweek Donvale 3 Division 4

Ray Halliday, Peter Gillett, Ian Heap, Jeanette Baker, Anna Brady, Robert Stephenson, Ray Heller, Jurgen Schnabl, Richard Davis, Gary Brady, Ross Taylor, Grame Morrison.

Weekend Donvale 5 Division 7

Keith Williams, Jay Meanger, John Chandler, Gillian Town, Bob Mann, Garry Tibaldi, Barbara Drew, Garry Glenister, Daryl Drew, Debbie Goldfinch, Kim Hemburrow, Colin Gamble, Tolik Tkatchenko, Brian Roberts, Cheryl Clarke, Adrian Town.

Ken Eldridge

Chairman - Championship Match Committee

Coaching Coordinator report

As reported elsewhere in the Pennant and Championship report, the 2025/26 pennant results were outstanding, probably our best season ever. I believe much of this success can be attributed to our Head Coach, who developed and implemented a range of innovative coaching sessions designed to improve both individual and team performance. Sessions were conducted in pre-season and during the season proper. Good member attendance at the sessions was also a major factor in our success.

Denise also helped eight of our players gain coaching accreditation during the year, all of whom contributed to individual and team success.

Coaching of new and potential bowlers is also very important for the future performance of our Club. In this respect we are blessed to have ongoing sessions for this purpose. My sincere thanks to Julie & Barry Wilkins, Maurie Vickerman and others who conduct sessions at Twilight Bowls, and to Brian Dunn and Peter Henderson for the U3A-type sessions on Friday mornings. These will undoubtedly be major contributors to future success.

Finally, I am pleased to advise that Denise has agreed to be our Head Coach for season 2026/27. Denise has a range of new initiatives to help grow individual and Club performance.

I look forward to season 2026/27.

Jeff Grant

Coaching Co-ordinator

Selectors Report

Challenges:

60 % turnover in selectors composition

Introduction of 'New scoring / Rating System'

Restricted access to the 'Selectors Room'

Having to manage various Pennant issues – proposed changed midweek start time, introduction of new scoring application for team 1, provision of more umpires / measurers, revision of Duty Rink duties list, etc.

Loss of four (4) team one players

Successes:

5 Saturday teams and 3 Tuesday teams into the finals.

Two teams into the grand final and promoted.

No teams being relegated.

Implementation of the Laser measuring system.

Successful integration of several experienced players from other Clubs.

Assisting the Coach in the provision of more Club coaches.

Michael Meehan

Chairman of Selectors

Tuesday Night Pennant

We fielded 2 teams of 9 players per team for Tuesday Night Pennant. We had 18 regular players and about 8 emergencies at the start of the season. Later we found that some regular players listed decided they could not play so we lost about 4 regular players before the season started. This put us under the pump to field teams, but we had some players who were prepared to play both Tuesday day and night, as well as a couple of more players who were prepared to play night pennant. We were able to field full teams due to the assistance of these people. We had one absence who did not inform me they were injured and we were one person down for one match.

The teams were more competitive this year and we won one match and won several rinks. We were still nowhere near finals but the intention with night pennant is to have players who cannot or don't want to play day pennant to have a nighttime option. It is also good for encouraging newer bowlers who are reluctant to play day pennant to have a go at night pennant where it is less serious.

Next season they will be changing the team numbers to 12 per team so we are likely to be able to only field one team. I recommend that we don't include emergencies that are also emergencies

for day pennant. Emergencies are usually only going to play once per day. I usually ask newer people at the Club that are not listed to play day pennant and encourage them to play night pennant if needed to have enough players to fill the teams.

DBC will likely have an influx of players when the front green is finished. This may fill up the maximum numbers for day teams (8 teams in total) in the next year or two. It is therefore important that we offer nighttime pennant for working age members and to also offer pennant to the members if they cannot be included in day pennant teams.

I will not be running night pennant next season so will recruit someone to take over. I will school them how to do it until they are OK.

I would like to thank Rob Stephenson for taking over for me during the season when I was injured. It was much appreciated.

Mal Shield

This coming season we will see a big change at our Club with the installation of the covered area [Dome] and synthetic green, which will give us more certainty when organising events.

Good Luck and Good Bowling!

Ken Eldridge

President: Pennant Bowls & Championship Section

Non-Pennant and Social Events Committee

President.	John Chandler Retired Feb 2026 Jeanette Baker accepted Caretaker Role.
Vice President:	David Blyth
Secretary:	Virginia McGuinness Retired April 2025 Robert Stephenson appointed April.
Assistant Secretary:	Ray Heller
Treasurer:	Kim Hemburrow
Catering Manager:	Jan Shield
Welfare Officer:	Kay Chandler
Committee:	Adrian Ryan Retired May 2025, Pat Ryan Retired May 2025, Katie Taubert, Pat Taylor, Adrian Town, Gillian Town.

COMMITTEE

The Non-Pennant and Social Events Committee is responsible for staging non-pennant bowls events, and social functions, throughout the year to support and enhance the overall operations of the Club.

I would like to record my appreciation and thank every committee member for their support to me, their enthusiasm, and their efforts in fulfilling their tasks so successfully over the past year.

The Committee has had a very busy year in organising games and events for members. Following is a summary of the events and social functions conducted over the past year.

WINTER BOWLS PROGRAM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER

A combined total of **2508** attendees participated in our Winter Bowls Program across all events this represented an increase of **452** over our previous year. A summary of each follows.

Sunday Bowls

This event proved very popular resulting in **515 (Last year337)** members attending over the period. All attendees enjoyed a free sausage sizzle at the conclusion of each game. I would like to thank David Blyth, Terry Morison, Jeanette Baker and all the cooks and helpers that contributed their time to make these events successful.

Tuesday 2 4 2 Game

Peter Hanslow again conducted this very popular game which achieved **633 (Last year478)** members attending over the season. I thank Peter for generously giving his time and expertise which ensured a very successful season.

Wednesday Scroungers

This is a popular innovation by Ron Pretto. The members enjoyed these new rules for bowls competition. The events attracted a total of **548 (Last year 529)** attendees over the season. I thank Ron and his assistants, Kim Di Marzio and Ian Heap, together with Leanne Sullivan and Kim Hemburrow, for providing refreshments on the day to make this such an enjoyable event.

Saturday Triples

Again, Ron Pretto and his crew (Kim Di Marzio and Ian Heap) conducted this very popular team game, attracting **812 (Last year 712)** members over the season. Another big thank you goes to Ron, Kim and Ian, together with Kim Hemburrow and Leanne Sullivan for providing refreshments on the day.

Twilight Bowls - September to April

These events were held every Wednesday night and included coaching, a team game, and a barbecue meal. They proved very popular with **697 (Last Year 951)** members attending throughout the season.

In addition, lucky door prizes and raffles were conducted to raise funds for the Club. On the opening night members were treated to entertainment by Zoe Stephenson and partner

There are many people to thank for making these events so enjoyable for members. A special thank you to our cooks on duty and Jan Shield, our Catering Manager, who was there most nights organising meals for everyone. A big thank you also to Pat Taylor, who organised our cooking roster. Further appreciation and thanks go to the bar staff, Jules White (deceased) and team, Phil Dick, who collected the entry fees on the night, our Club coaches, our Club band, and Julie Wilkins for selecting teams.

Social Events

Our committee all worked diligently with enthusiasm in staging the following events over the past year.
Yarra Valley Race Day
Theatre Outing "My Fair Lady"
Theatre Outing "Grease"
Templestowe Hotel Luncheon prior to Pennant
Manningham Monster Raffle
Crazy Whist Night

Xmas in July luncheon
Melbourne Cup Day function in Club rooms
Theatre Outing "Gypsy"
Clean Up Day at the Club
New Members Day
Xmas Spit Roast Break up
MCG Visit
Luncheon Fountains Restaurant
Opening of "Twilight" Zoe Stephenson
Charity Day (Warrandyte Pink Ladies)
Trivia Night

In closing, I would like to thank all the committee, especially David Blyth, my Vice President, for the support given to me throughout the year.

John Chandler, Retiring President, together with our Caretaker President, Jeanette Baker.