

CLAREMONT WOMEN'S BOWLING CLUB



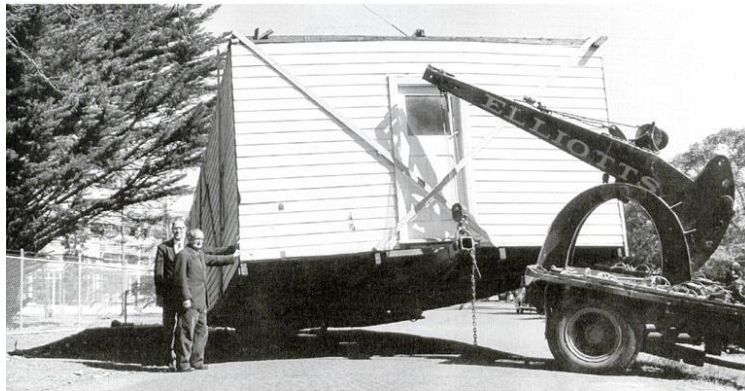
THE BEGINNING

In the late 1950's the idea of having a Bowling Green on Cadbury's Estate was conceived by Mr Alec Mills who was then Secretary of the Claremont Golf Club and at the same time Cadbury's Estate Manager.

The purpose was to supply a sporting facility for golfers who were not consistently playing golf in the summer months and for Cadbury's employees desiring to take up the game of Bowls. The idea was given wide acceptance by all parties concerned and planning commenced.

Cadbury's donated a building previously used as a Library at the factory and transported it to land adjacent to the Golf Club. A closed in veranda was added to the old building and this became the first bowling pavilion for the new bowls club.

The specifications for the playing area of the green were mainly taken from a booklet issued by the NSW Bowling Association.



Cadbury hall (library) being moved to its new use as Clubhouse for Claremont Bowls Club

A great deal of levelling for the playing area was necessary and in one corner which sloped away to the river, 30 feet of filling had to be provided, consisting mainly of ashes from the furnaces at Cadbury's.

The Club first participated in the 1960/61 pennant season. At this time membership was restricted to men but it was obvious from the numerous requests from women for membership, that the Rules would be amended and women were accepted as from the next season. The first Patron was Cadbury's Managing Director, Sir Peter Lloyd, and the first President Algie Rothwell.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Until 1968 the administration was a combined golf and bowls set up with the use of the Golf Club bar and catering facilities. However, it became obvious that this was no longer a practicable working arrangement and the Bowls Club applied for a separate licence. This necessitated raising finance for an extension to the clubhouse which was completed in 1968.

In 1972 Cadbury's offered various properties for sale to tenants and the Club was able to buy the existing Bowls Club property plus additional land for a second Green, which was opened some years later.

Further extensions to the Clubhouse have been completed and these have given the opportunity to provide magnificent views of the Derwent River and the area surrounding it.

In 1995 Cadbury's donated further land to the Club for a third Green and fund raising for this started.

THE FIRST ASSOCIATES

The Members Committee of the Claremont Bowls club had permission to go ahead with the formation of the Associates Club – the membership for the present was to be 24.

A General Meeting of the newly formed Claremont Bowling Club for Ladies was held on the 19th October, 1960 for the purpose of electing a Committee and drawing up Rules for the Club. 22 members were present.

The original office bearers were:

President	Mrs A. C. Rothwell
Vice President	Mrs J. L. Willey
Secretary	Mrs C. E. Best
Treasurer	Mrs R. J. Livingston

Committee: Mrs R. H. Barnes, Mrs R. S. Poke and Mrs D. Bridges.

Match Committee: Mrs. A Rothwell, Mrs A. Mills and Mrs T. Westbrook.

The help of Mrs Rothwell, the only experienced bowler, was greatly appreciated.

In 1961 application was made to the STWBA for our Club to become affiliated and a letter was received from the TWBA (Tasmanian Women's Bowls Association) (Southern Division) informing us that our affiliation was granted unanimously – Fee £1/1/-.

On the 5th October 1961 at 2.30 pm Mrs. Reid opened the Club and presented the club with a cheque for £2/2/- to be used for trophies for team winners. On our 25th (Silver) anniversary, Miss M. Donnelly opened the season and presented us with a brass bell.

SEPARATE AND TOGETHER



In 1961 Associates were invited by the members to the Official Opening of the Bowling Club, followed by a mixed Bowls Tournament. The Opening was performed by Mr J.P.D. Lloyd (pictured), Patron and visitors were welcomed by the President and his wife, Mr and Mrs A. C. Rothwell.

For many years the Associates held their Opening during the week following the members Opening and invited an official of the STWBA or another VIP to open the Green. It was felt that this showed our appreciation of their untiring work in administration and enabled them to meet Associates. Visitors from all Clubs were invited and a game played after the Opening. These days were thoroughly enjoyed and made a great start to the season.

Full schedules of championships, association and state games made it difficult to organise mixed games but from the 1991/92 season, Associates were invited to join in the Cadbury Fours, a social game played each Monday afternoon.

The 1995/96 season saw a number of changes. A joint Opening of the Green, with the Associates President, Mrs Joan Cooper, putting down the Kitty and Members President, Mr Clem Hoggett, putting down the first bowl. This was followed by a very enjoyable mixed game. Mrs Margaret Lowry was invited to join the Members Match Committee which had helped in determining progress.

The Associates have always been ready to help with fund raising for improvements to the Clubhouse, including extensions to the kitchen, refurbishing of Rest Rooms and provision of vertical blinds for the main area. Assistance for installation of a watering system for the Greens was our last project and in the future will be working for the third Green.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

On one Opening Day, shortly before visitors arrived, a load of sewerage was dumped several yards from the Number 2 Green. After frantic phone calls, nothing could be done and so with apologies and embarrassment we played – no complaints – and after a Sherry or two later in the Clubhouse, all was forgotten. We believe this is the site of the new Green so the grass should grow well.

A group of players decided to hold a luncheon at the clubhouse. We had been given a stove, not new, and were keen to try it. Freshly cooked bread rolls, ham and salad were suggested for lunch and we were given a demonstration on how to make bread rolls during the morning. We were well organised with one batch of rolls cooked at home, another rising and a third batch in the making. During the cooking and without warning the oven door fell off and had to be held in place by a series of ladies until the rolls were cooked. It was a great lunch and a great day.

One season the selector of division 3 promised to dance on the table if they won the Pennant – they won by 29 points. The selector danced and the teams did a lap of the Green cheered by the spectators. Sadly most of us missed the frivolity but a precedent has been created.

THE PEOPLE INVOLVED

We all owe a debt to our dedicated administrators and players who have made their mark such as:

Mrs Molly Coleman, foundation member, Life Member, Patroness and treasurer for 19 yrs. (Right Molly & Dudley Coleman)

Mrs Gwen Best, foundation member, Life Member, Secretary for 17 years and a member of the State Team.

Mrs Alice Tomlin, Life Member of the TWBA, Treasurer of the TWBA, and a member of the State Team.

Mrs Marie Rothwell, foundation member, first President in 1960 and the first bowler from Claremont in a State Team.



Then there are the other winners in our history – the various committees, the hard working umpires, the quiet achievers giving their time and energy, with high standards, courteous, loyal, observing rules and etiquette at all times.

PENNANT AND STATE CHAMPIONS

STWBA "A" Grade Division 2	1963 – 64
Team – Mrs K. Murphy, Miss J. Winney, Mrs D. Winney, Mrs E. Onn, Mrs L Willey, Mrs E. Bridges, Mrs G. Searl, Mrs M. Frost, Mrs G. Best, Mrs M. Poke, Mrs M Rothwell, Mrs M. Barnes.	
TWBA Southern section Division 1	1964-65
	1966-67
	1974-75
(This followed a playoff against Rosny Park as there were equal points)	
TWBA southern section Division 3	1977-78
STWBA Division 3	1995-96
(Reinstatement to A grade after 7 years)	

STATE CHAMPIONS

1965 B Grade Singles

1967 Open Fours

1968 B Grade Fours

1970 Open Fours

1980 Master Pairs

1982 State Mixed Pairs

Mrs A. Tomlin

Mrs M. Rothwell, Mrs M. Poke,

Mrs K. Murphy, Mrs L. Willey

Mrs J. Wagner, Mrs M. Lloyd

Mrs R. Milbury, Mrs P. Ward

Mrs K. Murphy, Mrs G. Best

Mrs A. Tomlin, Mrs B. Barwick

Mrs L. Willey, Mrs G. Best

Mr A. Schofield, Mrs A. Tomlin

(Right Alan Schofield)



In 1995-1996

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Mrs Joan Cooper

Mrs Margaret Milburn

Miss May Backhouse (pictured)

Mrs Pat Hanlon



Number of members - 38 Playing, 7 Social Playing

Divisions 1995 – 96 Divisions 3, 5 & 7

1996 – 97 Divisions 2, 5 & 7

(We don't know who prepared this report, but it is a priceless historical document)

To finish off this history we have a few photos of our ladies.



This group of 4 photos were taken about 2006-2007





1996 - 97 STWBA PENNANT CHAMPIONS
DIVISION THREE

BACKROW: W. NICHOLSON, R. RUNDLE, M. MILBURN, C. WHELAN, M. LOWRY, V. PERKINS.
FRONT ROW: M. GARRETT, Y. KEANE, J. COPPER, J. HAWLEY, S. HOCKING, B. HARRISON.



DIVISION 3
MITSUBISHI FOURS 1998/1999
Skip, ZENA MILLER, ROSEMARY COOPER, PAULINE RUNDLE, VAL PERKINS



DIVISION 3
MITSUBISHI FOURS 2000/2001
ROSEMARY COOPER, SANDRA HOCKING, ZENA MILLER, PAULINE RUNDLE,
Skip.