

Club History

Avoca Beach Women's Bowling Club

Avoca Beach Women's Bowling Club came to fruition on 13th May, 1961 with its inaugural meeting held in the CWA rooms at Avoca Beach with 27 foundation members in attendance. Guests present on the day were C.C.D President, Mrs. P. Ford and Secretary, Mrs. J. Gallagher who gave helpful advice. Also present from the Avoca Beach Bowling & Recreation Club, formed in July, 1960, were the President, Mr. H. Jeffrey and the Secretary, Mr. S. Taylor.

The first Clubhouse and green were ready for use in 1961. This Clubhouse has had a few extensions to what it is today. Two other greens were built over the years so that there are now three grass greens.

The Avoca Beach Women's Bowling Club was affiliated with New South Wales Women's Bowling Association in July, 1961. The first year there were 75 members. In 1971 it had risen to 164, then 238 in 1981 and a waiting list was started. In 2017 it was 90 members and in 2019 it is 81.

In the early years the women bowlers' uniform was white. In recent years clubs have had uniform in their Club colours. In 2015 Avoca Beach wore navy pants/skirts/shorts with a Club shirt for competitions and Pennants and official occasions. On social days and carnivals the women can wear coloured attire. At the beginning of the 2016 Pennant Season Avoca Beach Women wore their new Club Shirts, mainly of a light blue background with a watery scene including an outline of a shark. From 2019 the blue shirt is worn with light royal blue under-waist garment. The club also brought in blue and white hoodies.

The first official umpire in ABWBC was Elsie Lawrence in 1963. Many other ladies have been official umpires over the years. The women's club now has four umpires. These days the umpire wears a bright pink and navy shirt when on duty.

Over the years, Avoca Beach Women's Club has had representatives on the Central Coast District Women's Bowls Association. This Association also has a coloured shirt. If players are chosen for District teams there is a coloured shirt for them to wear.

Avoca Beach WBC has had a few women and men coaches over the years. Thanks to their lessons the bowlers compete in Club Championships, District Championships and Competitions, many carnivals and charity days. The Club has had District Winners and Runners-up, Regional Winners and State Winners. The Club has won many District Pennants including Grade 1 Pennant in 1967-68, 1971-72, 2014, 2016 and 2017. The Club also has had representatives play in District and Country teams, also in State and Australian Competitions.

Avoca Beach Women hold a variety of Carnivals each year. Since 2017 some of the carnivals have been mixed events with the Avoca Beach Men's Club.

The Avoca Beach Men have run Retirement Village Days, where teams from local Retirement Villages compete for a Trophy. The Avoca Beach women have helped out on these days.

Avoca Beach Women play Terrigal for the Vera Peyton Friendship Trophy annually. They also play for the A.B.B.T. Trophy against Terrigal and Bateau Bay annually. Avoca Beach WBC has won these two Trophies at different times over the years. The women with the Avoca Beach Men's Club enter teams in the Wyong Rugby Leagues Club Group Bowling Clubs Annual Challenge. 2016 was the first

year for the TATE's Shield which Avoca Beach Women competed for against teams from Terrigal W.B.C. and The Entrance W.B.C.

Avoca Beach WBC has had many supporters. One memorable one was our Patron at the time Jean Hickel who passed away in 2007. In her memory her son, Robert, donated a Trophy to the Women's Club for competition each year for ten years. Other supporters are our Patron and Life member, Heather Riley and Life Members Gloria Nixon and Gina Marston.

In 2011 Avoca Beach WBC celebrated 50 years holding a successful Golden Anniversary Carnival.

Other supporters are our sponsors who we thank very much. They are Wyong Rugby League Club Group, Creightons Funeral Service, Tyrepower, Flooring Xtra, East Coast Self Storage, Living Choice Retirement Villages and Tuxco Website Builders.

Membership in the club keeps changing. The Club has lost members for many reasons but it has continued gaining new members and transferees.

Since January, 2013 all draws and scores for Avoca Beach Women's Championships and Carnivals have been done by computer. Our website is www.avocabeachwbc.bowls.com.au

There is a television set running in the Club with photos of Championship winners and runners-up, winners of our carnivals and advertisements for our sponsors.

In 2016 Avoca Beach member, Margaret Smith, won the NSW State Singles Championship. Margaret appeared on the front cover of the October-December 2016 edition of the Women's Bowls N.S.W. magazine, "Bowls Matters". Margaret was nominated for N.S.W. Bowler of the Year. Margaret also accepted a position on the State Selection Committee.

Through the years the Club have given donations to a lot of local charities. In 2018 the Club held a bowls day to raise money for Yarran Early Intervention Services Inc. Each Christmas party the ladies donate toys and other items to the Salvation Army to help with their Christmas appeal.

For a few years now two local High Schools have brought students to the club for an hour on different days to learn the basics of Lawn Bowls. Members of both the women's and men's clubs supervise.

To promote the club we purchased black shopping bags with the club's name and a big yellow bowl on the bag. This was in answer to cutting down on the number of plastic bags that are starting to be a nuisance to the environment.

Women's Bowls N.S.W. runs a website, and a facebook page. They also send out a fortnightly email called the "Roll-up" to members who have registered to receive it. They also have an online bowls shop.

In 2018 Women's Bowls N.S.W. introduced a Summer League to commence in October to December. It is a Triples game to provide an "out of hours" competition for affiliated members who find it difficult to play weekdays. Play is any day after 6p.m or at the weekend. Teams are self-selected and can be a mix of players from the one District.

Then in 2019 Women's Bowls N.S.W. has introduced a Weekend Pennant. A self-selected team of four from the same club may enter. Play starts in July for 10 weeks. The games are played at the weekend. This is to provide competition for members who cannot play mid-week pennants.

Avoca Beach Women's Bowling Club has a facebook page.

