



# Lidcombe Bowling Club

Celebrating 75 Years  
11<sup>th</sup> June 1936 – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011











## Ode to Lawn Bowls

**Bowls is a science, the study of a lifetime, in which you may exhaust yourself but never your subject.**

**It is a contest, a duel calling for courage, skill, strategy and self-control.**

**It is a test of temper, a trial of honour, a revealer of character.**

**It affords the chance to play the man and act the gentleman.**

**It means going into God's out-of-doors, getting close to nature, fresh air, exercise.**

**A sweeping away of mental cobwebs, genuine reaction of tired tissues.**

**It is a cure for care, an antidote to worry. It includes companionship with friends, social intercourse, opportunities for courtesy, kindness and generosity to an opponent.**

**It promotes not only physical health but also moral force.**



## A History of Bowls

Bowls historians believe that the game developed from the Egyptians. One of their pastimes was to play skittles with round stones. This has been determined based on artefacts found in tombs dating circa 5,000 B.C. The sport spread across the world and took a variety of forms, Bocce (Italian), Bolla (Saxon), Bolle (Danish), Boules (French) and Ula Miaka (Polynesian).

Lawn bowling was a game played by Roman Soldiers, in which stones were tossed towards a target stone with the object of getting as close to the target as possible. Roman legions introduced the game to countries throughout the empire. Over time, the stones were replaced by balls that were usually rolled, rather than thrown. In France, the sport became known as *boules*, from the Latin word for ball, and the English word *bowl* came from that French root.



*The oldest bowling green in the world, in use since 1299 at Southampton, England*

It's believed that the "bias" was introduced inadvertently in 1522 by the Duke of Suffolk. Apparently his bowl split in two after striking other bowls and he took a knob off of a stairway banister post for a replacement. The flat side of the knob caused it to roll with a bias and he experimented by curving his bowl around others. The word spread and bias bowls gradually came into use.

Certainly the most famous story in lawn bowls is about Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada. On July 19, 1588, Drake was involved in a game at Plymouth when he was notified that the Spanish Armada had been sighted. The tale says his response was, "There is plenty of time to win the game and thrash the Spaniards too." He then proceeded to finish his match and the British Navy soundly defeated the Armada.





### **Drake playing bowls on Plymouth Ho as the arrival of the Spanish Armada in the Channel is announced**

Henry VIII was also a lawn bowler. However, he banned the game for those who were not wealthy or “well to do” because “Bowyes, Fletchers, Stringers and Arrowhead makers” were spending more time at recreational events such as bowls instead of practicing their trade. Henry requested that anybody who wished to keep a green pay a fee of 100 pounds. However, the green could only be used for private play and he forbade anyone to “play at any bowle or bowls in open space out of his own garden or orchard.”

Such bans soon passed with the use of firearms and the declining importance of archery in warfare, but the Puritan revolution virtually ended all sports in England, and lawn bowling didn't make much of a comeback even the Restoration of 1660.

The sport flourished in Scotland, however, and the Scots during the 1840's developed a set of standardised rules that have been changed very little. Despite the sport's antiquity, there was no central ruling body in England until 1903, when the English Lawn Bowling Association (EBA) was founded.

In 1864 William Wallace Mitchell (1803–1884), a Glasgow Cotton Merchant, published his "Manual of Bowls Playing" which became the basis of the rules of the modern game.

National Bowling Associations were established in the late 1800s. The Royal New South Wales Bowling association and the Royal Victorian Bowling Association were both formed in 1880. The Scottish Bowling Association was established in 1892, although there had been a failed attempt in 1848 by 200 Scottish clubs.

Today the sport is played in over 40 countries with more than 50 member national authorities. The home of the modern game is still Scotland with the World Bowls centre in Edinburgh.





## A BRIEF HISTORY OF LIDCOMBE BOWLING CLUB

It was in June 1936, as the economic conditions were starting to recover that a public meeting was called in the Lidcombe Town Hall and a committee was formed comprising the Hon. JT Lang MLA., the Hon. JH Gander, MHR., the Hon. SA Lloyd, MLA., CW Phillips, J Cronin, GL Gamble, AR McVicar, MT Guildfoyle, GN Shirt, F Wilson, EA Wyatt and J. Littlejohn.

These men gave their time and effort to form the Lidcombe Bowling club. The original green consisting of 6 rinks was built mainly by relief workers, and materials and filling was carted in drays provided by CW Phillips. Total cost was £1348.6.1. CW Phillips was elected Foundation President. An old Army hut was erected adjacent to the eastern end of the Lidcombe RSL Club. This served as a Clubhouse for the following seventeen years when the basic structure of the Clubhouse as we know it today was opened by Mr. W Carson, President of the Royal NSW Bowling Association in 1953.

During the life of the Lidcombe Bowling Club we have been fortunate to have many of our members as prominent Civic fathers with many well known parks and streets named after them. It would be remiss in compiling this resume if it failed to list some of those members whose names have been perpetuated on the Board of Honour in Council Chambers, Hospitals, and various Clubs throughout the district - N Wyatt, F Wilson, E Norman, A McVicar C Phillips, H Brown, P McLaughlin and T Keegan.

In 1963, the Lidcombe Ladies Bowling Club was formed and Mona Cooper was installed as Foundation President. The Ladies have added a change to the general atmosphere, both inside and out on the green, especially when we look back on the days when it was a men's domain and we played three teams home and three teams away (and no trophies), and the players retired to the Clubhouse for afternoon tea complete with silver candelabra, comprising fresh scones, jam and fresh cream provided by Miss Fell.

Sometime in 1976 a government edict required the various clubs to be formed into a Company; and this required the rewriting of the Constitution and often altering, adding to and deleting and with many "Special" meetings the new Constitution was acceptable to the Licensing Court and the Club became a Company in December, 1982. It was about this time the Club's western boundary was established and the portion of the park was purchased from the Council for the recreation and enjoyment of the citizens of the community.



## A Message from Bowls NSW

On behalf of Bowls NSW I take great pleasure in congratulating the Lidcombe Bowling Club Ltd on surviving for 75 years since its foundation on this day in 1936 and I look forward with much anticipation on attending at the club on this auspicious occasion to join in with members for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Over all these years the Lidcombe Bowling Club has proven to be a valuable asset to the local community in providing a much needed and vital sporting and social venue for the local area which no doubt the generations of residents and bowlers alike certainly would have appreciated.

There would be little doubt that during the past 75 years the Club would have faced many challenges including having to combat opposition larger licensed premises in the area. However, due to the diligence and dedication of the Club's Boards both past and present it has continued to survive and provide much needed facilities to the local community. It has also experienced success on the greens over the years and a number of well accomplished bowlers have tasted success whilst at the Lidcombe Club.

As we are well aware the Club Industry is facing probably its greatest challenge in many years with the Federal Government's proposed gaming machine legislation and Lidcombe will be no exception as the clubs fight for their very survival. However I am confident that if the Club Board exhibits the same dedication and zeal that has been evident in the past then I am sure that the club will survive to provide the same valuable service to the community as it has done for the past 75 years.

Best wishes and good luck go to the Club, its Board and the Members and hopefully everyone will enjoy what should be a marvelous day in the club's proud history.

Ian McKnight  
State President, Bowls NSW







## A Message from the NSW Women's Bowling Association

It is a pleasure to be with you today to share in the celebrations for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lidcombe Bowling Club.

With the help of dedicated members, both women and men, past and present, and good management, your club, like so many others, has grown from very humble beginnings to the successful organisation it is today.

The Club has always had strong community ties and is a force to be reckoned with on the greens, having won many prestigious events in both men's and women's competition, but most importantly it is a club that strongly supports its members and exemplifies all that is good about the sport of bowls.

Congratulations to the women and men of Lidcombe Bowling Club. With your continuing support in these days of major changes and difficult times for our sport, I feel sure the Lidcombe Bowling Club will continue to prosper and bring pleasure to its members.

Jewel Buchanan  
State President  
New South Wales Women's Bowling  
Association Inc.





## A Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Auburn City Councillors, Council Staff & members of the Community may I congratulate Lidcombe Bowling Club, the Board and Members on celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> year serving the Community.

On February 6, 1935 Mayor C.W. Phillips proposed a bowling green be built, in conjunction with the adjoining RSL Memorial Hall on the basis of bowlers using RSL facilities to give the body income. Council agreed the construction of a six rink green and shortly after, approval was given for the work to be carried out under the Unemployed Relief Scheme and completed 11 June 1936.

In the last 75 years, from humble beginnings, the Lidcombe Bowling Club has enjoyed strong membership along with loyal support due to the diligence and dedication of the Club's Boards. Over the years, Lidcombe Bowling Club has supported the local community in providing to generations, a sporting and social venue for the local area.

May I extend my personal congratulations and best wishes on this very special occasion.

Councillor Ronney Oueik  
Mayor  
Auburn City







## A Message from our State MP

I congratulate the Lidcombe Bowling Club Board and members on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Amongst the founding patrons of the club were the former Premier of NSW, Mr Jack Lang, and the foundation president, the Mayor of Lidcombe, Mr Charlie Phillips. The sound structures they put in place and the hard work of ongoing board members have directly contributed to the strength of your club and the contribution it has made to our local community.

Since its inception on June 11, 1936, the club has enjoyed a history of healthy membership and support from the local community. This is highlighted by the fact that, although many bowling clubs have closed, Lidcombe Bowling Club is still a viable ongoing concern. The credit for the club's longevity can be attributed to the dedication of its volunteers and loyalty of its members and they are deserving of particular recognition on this important occasion.

The Australian spirit of volunteering and support for others and the community is evident at Lidcombe Bowling Club. I commend the Board and members for fostering this culture. I value my association and partnership with Lidcombe Bowling Club and look forward to continuing our strong relationship for years to come.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

Barbara Perry MP  
State Member for Auburn





## A Message from our Federal MP

My lingering memory of Lidcombe Bowling Club is its efforts to organise a party for some kids from Barnardo's. It epitomised the quality of the club; friendly, welcoming and community minded.

Lidcombe Bowling Club still possesses what larger club enterprises have lost in the pursuit of edifices and the dollar.

Its Honour Board shows that when established the suburb's leading citizens involved themselves in provision of a sport option for the community. Today it is reassuring that the tradition continues, with a small band of people working cooperatively.

I have also noted on many occasions when I have been at events that Lidcombe Club members undertake promotion of the game during a challenging period. The accomplishment of 75 years existence is indeed a milestone, as so many others have floundered and disappeared in that period.

Laurie Ferguson MP  
Federal Member for Werriwa





## A message from our Chairman



### Board 2010-2011

**Lydia Marshall, Karen Croker, Bryan Foster, Andrew Holt (Chairman),  
Geoff Finn, Maureen Threlfo, Ron Galistan, Wilma Klein**

Welcome to Lidcombe Bowling Club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative booklet and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Since the Club's humble inception on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1936 at Wellington Park Lidcombe, Lidcombe Bowling Club has become well-known in western Sydney as a force to be reckoned with in both men's and ladies' bowls. For a small club, this is no mean achievement. This special milestone anniversary should be a time for our members to reflect and celebrate the proud traditions of the sport of lawn bowls. It should also be a time where we recognize the Club's many bowling successes as well as the many enduring friendships formed not only between our Club members, but also with many other bowlers from other clubs across New South Wales over the last 75 years.

The fact our club has arrived at a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary reflects well upon the wisdom, foresight and generosity of the many officers, members and supporters of the Club in its first 75 years. Without these inputs (which are usually made quietly and without any pomp) we simply would not have the wonderful Club we have today; a Club that our members, our guests and our community enjoy to this day.

Please join with me in celebrating Lidcombe Bowling Club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continuing our great Club's success for many, many years to come.



## ★ A message from the Men's President



**Lidcombe Men's Bowling Club Committee 2010-11  
Grant Bailey, Len McMahon, Anthony Carroll, John Ross (President),  
Geoff Finn, Ron Galistan, Andrew Holt**

I joined Lidcombe Bowling Club a mere 16 years ago, just before we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and my, how bowls has changed in that time and how our club has also changed in that time.

16 years ago, we all wore white shirts and creams, which is still the image that most outsiders have of our sport today. We got our first “coloured” shirts in 1997. Those shirts were still essentially white, but with blue and gold piping on the sleeves and pocket. The shirts being worn in the above picture are our third generation shirts. This year, we have also made the change to blue pants for our pennant players. The change to coloured bowls is another great change that has occurred over the past 16 years. Then, bowls were like Model T Fords – you could have any colour as long as it was black. Today, less than 25% of our pennant players have black bowls.

We have seen similar changes in our Club over those 16 years as well. I was looking at a video of a function held in the club some 10 years ago, and the club is unrecognizable from those days. From the old “wood veneer” panels (the only remnant of that design is around the pool table), green carpet, wood veneer tables and red chairs, we now have a bright, modern club with new furniture and a nice carpet. Our club is now a place where people are happy to come and socialize.

Our club has changed a lot over the past years, and we must continue to change if we are to survive into the future. So many clubs around us have disappeared over the years, with many other clubs only surviving after being taken over. We are part of a dying breed – the small independent club, and we owe our success to the many members over the years who have donated so much time and energy in support of our club. I thank you all, and I am proud to have been your President in this, our 75<sup>th</sup> year.



## A message from the Ladies' President



**Lidcombe Women's Bowling Club Committee 2010-11**  
**(Back) Chris Nicholas, Joyce Thomson, Betty Mayo, Karen Croker, Shirley Hines (Front) June MacAllister, Norma Nolan, June Sinclair, Marie Whitbread (President), Maureen Threlfo, Wilma Klein, Verlei Smith**

Lidcombe Women's Bowling Club was formed in 1963 by the late Mona Cooper with the support of 14 ladies. We are proud of the fact that after 48 years we are still a very happy and competitive club.

Over the years, the achievements have been many, winning their sections in all grades. 2010 was our greatest result as we made the State Play-off in grade 3, coming 4<sup>th</sup> in the State.

Since joining City west District in 2004, we have won the Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours many times, and also the James Wall Shield, Wolinski Shield and Headquarters trophy. We have also been selected in representative matches in inter District games.

The Grand Slam of our Club was first won in 1982 by the late Nell Tibbles, and to date, she still holds this prestigious honour.

To Lidcombe Bowling Club Ltd and to Lidcombe Men's Bowling Club, we congratulate you on your 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Thank you to all the Board Members and Men's Club, past and present who have worked for our Club and will continue to work for the future of Lidcombe Bowling Club.

To each and every one of the members of Lidcombe Women's Bowling Club, I thank you for your support and commitment to our Ladies Club and to me as your President



## Honour Boards

Presidents	
36-40	CW Phillips
40-45	HT Brown
45-51	AR McVicar
51-54	MT Guilfoyle
54-55	AT Sweeting
55-57	MT Guilfoyle
57-62	Wally Cooper
62-65	Victor Robertson
65-66	Harry Leo
66-67	<b>Keith White</b>
67-69	Harry Leo
69-70	Geoffrey Cooper
70-73	Harry Leo
73-79	Jack Wilson
79-83	Stan Smee
83-84	Bill Baker
84-85	<b>Bryan Foster</b>
85-86	Jack Wilson

Men's Presidents	
86-88	Jack Wilson
88-91	John Attwill
91-93	Jack Wilson
93-96	<b>Ron Hague</b>
96-98	Ray Verne
98-00	<b>Jim Shanahan</b>
00-03	<b>David Taylor</b>
03-05	<b>Col Pendergast</b>
05-08	<b>Ron Evans</b>
08-11	<b>John Ross</b>

Life Members	
FW Davies	
Wally Cooper	
R Veitch	
EW Turner	
EW Thornley	
EG Stone	
C McReady	
Harry Horam	
A Turner	
<b>Keith White</b>	
JJ Poole	
Ray Fello	
Fred Acons	
Bill Baker	
Jack Wilson	
<b>Bryan Foster</b>	
Geoffrey Cooper	
Stan Smee	
John Klein	
Alan Death	
Geoffrey Rayner	
Ray Verne	
Joe Eldridge	
Bobby Crisp	
<b>Dot Baker</b>	
Nell Tibbles	
Ursula Poole	
<b>Wilma Klein</b>	
Gordon Craig	
Marie Threlfo	
<b>Jim Shanahan</b>	
<b>Ron Hague</b>	
<b>Patrick Noone</b>	
John Attwill	
<b>Betty Mayo</b>	
<b>John Ross</b>	

Chairmen	
86-88	Jack Wilson
88-90	Joe Eldridge
90-93	<b>Bryan Foster</b>
93-96	<b>Keith White</b>
96-97	Terry Edmondston
97-98	<b>Keith White</b>
98-00	<b>Gary Moroney</b>
00-02	<b>Betty Mayo</b>
02-08	<b>Patrick Noone</b>
08-11	<b>Andrew Holt</b>

Ladies Presidents	
63-66	Mona Cooper
66-68	Ruby Johnson
68-71	Ida West
71-74	Ursula Poole
74-77	Joan Crisp
77-80	Ursula Poole
80-83	<b>Wilma Klein</b>
83-86	Beryl Millen
86-89	Nell Tibbles
89-92	<b>Gertie Cooper</b>
92-95	<b>Marcia Shanahan</b>
95-98	<b>Betty Mayo</b>
98-01	Marie Threlfo
01-04	<b>Chris Nicholas</b>
04-07	<b>Marie Whitbread</b>
07-10	<b>Wilma Klein</b>
10-11	<b>Marie Whitbread</b>



## Chairmen of the Board



**Andrew Holt 2008-11**  
**Keith White 1993-96**  
**Betty Mayo 2000-02**  
**Bryan Foster 1990-93**  
**Patrick Noone 2002-08**

## Men's Presidents



**David Taylor 2000-03**  
**Ron Hague 1993-96**  
**Jim Shanahan 1998-2000**  
**John Ross 2008-11**  
**Keith White 1966-67**  
**Bryan Foster 1984-85**

## Ladies' Presidents



**Betty Mayo 1995-98**  
**Marie Whitbread 2004-07 & 10-11**  
**Marcia Shanahan 1992-95**  
**Wilma Klein 1980-83 & 2007-10**  
**Marie Threlfo 1998-2001**  
**Chris Nicholas 2001-04**

## Life Members



**Patrick Noone, Jim Shanahan,  
Marie Threlfo, Keith White,  
Betty Mayo, Wilma Klein,  
Bryan Foster, Ron Hague**



# Foundation Meeting

## Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1936 Attendance Book

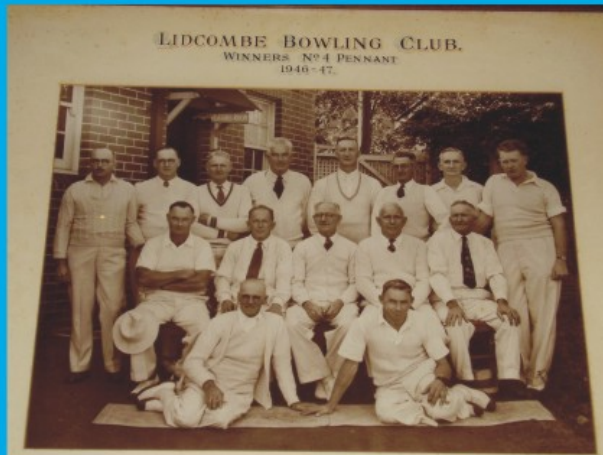
*Foundation Members.*

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	REMARKS
	<i>W. Williams</i>	<i>William St Lidcombe</i>	<i>President</i>
	<i>Roy Lamb</i>	<i>54 Margaret Rd Lidcombe</i>	<i>Nice</i>
	<i>Arthur Deane</i>	<i>35 Joseph St</i>	"
	<i>William King</i>	<i>Bank all W. Lane</i>	<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>
	<i>M. J. Sutcliffe</i>	<i>75 Joseph St.</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
	<i>John Smith</i>	<i>38 Dudley St Lidcombe</i>	<i>Committee</i>
	<i>George Hooper</i>	<i>Dalhousie and St. Luke</i>	"
	<i>John White</i>	"	"
	<i>W. Kain</i>	<i>100 John St Lidcombe</i>	"
	<i>E. Broughton</i>	<i>25 Burke St Lidcombe</i>	"
	<i>J. Cameron</i>	<i>12 Joseph St Lidcombe</i>	"
	<i>Joe &amp; Kathleen</i>	<i>24 Bridge St Lidcombe</i>	"
	<i>Frank Wilson</i>	<i>48 Carr St Lidcombe</i>	"
	<i>G. D. Duvic</i>	<i>1 Yarragraw St Lidcombe</i>	<i>Green Captain Hon Auditor</i>
	<i>Seawood</i>	<i>Ton Hall Lidcombe</i>	"

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	REMARKS
	<i>Ralph</i>	<i>3 Hanson St Lidcombe</i>	
	<i>A. Sweeney</i>	<i>67 Victoria St Lidcombe</i>	
	<i>A. Birnie</i>	<i>"Mokura" Jellies St Lidcombe</i>	
	<i>J. McGrath</i>	<i>91 Grand St Lidcombe</i>	
	<i>T. Steinhilber</i>	<i>Conry St Regents Park</i>	
	<i>St. J. P. Andrews</i>	<i>8 Railway St Lidcombe</i>	
	<i>J. Cameron</i>	<i>19 Joseph St Lidcombe</i>	
	<i>J. G. Corbett</i>	<i>3 Boorua St</i>	<i>Lidcombe</i>
	<i>J. G. Smith</i>	<i>1 Conbridge St</i>	<i>Lidcombe</i>
	<i>H. Y. Brown</i>	<i>17 Henry St</i>	<i>Lidcombe</i>
	<i>J. Hill</i>	<i>5 Matthew Rd</i>	<i>Lidcombe</i>
	<i>W. J. Kates</i>	<i>Dane St S. C.</i>	<i>Suburn</i>

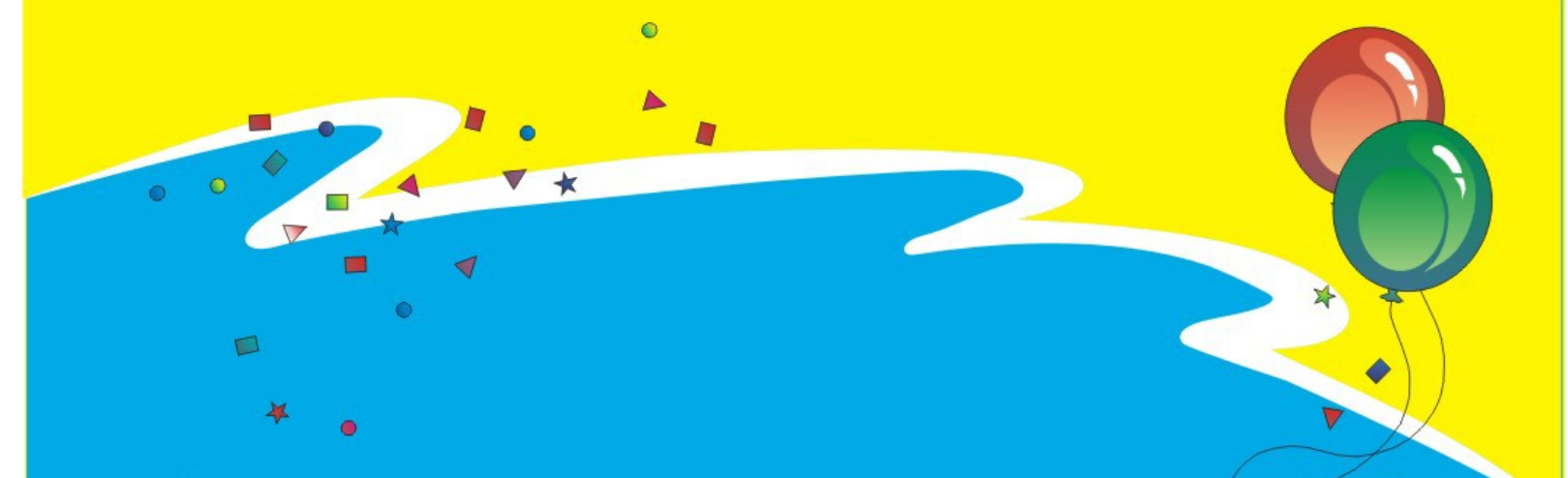
Congratulations to Lidcombe Bowling Club on reaching your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 Thank you for your support in the past and look forward to the future  
 Jenny & Peter, DJ's Trophies, Unit 2, 12-18 Victoria Street East, Lidcombe 2141  
 9643-2201 [djstrophies@optusnet.com.au](mailto:djstrophies@optusnet.com.au) [www.djstrophies.com.au](http://www.djstrophies.com.au)





This space reserved for 2011





<p>Congratulations - "75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Lidcombe Bowling Club Ltd Aim for the 100<sup>th</sup>! - John and Betty Mayo</p>
<p>Congratulations to Lidcombe Bowling Club on reaching your 75<sup>th</sup> Best wishes to all of our members. Lydia and Andrew</p>
<p>Congratulations on Lidcombe Bowling Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. From Lynette, Shirley and Marie in memory of Nell Tibbles</p>
<p>Congratulations to Lidcombe Bowling Club on reaching its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Best wishes for today and a prosperous future. Mark and Maureen Threlfo</p>
<p>Heartiest congratulations to Lidcombe Bowling Club on your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Best wishes for the future. From Billie, Ann and Robyn Klein and families</p>
<p>It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Best wishes to all of the members from John Ross and Sally Bromley</p>
<p>Verlei, Joyce and June would like to congratulate Lidcombe Bowling Club on their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As new bowlers, we have enjoyed our time at the club and find everyone very friendly and pleasant.</p>
<p>Best wishes to Lidcombe Bowling Club for your 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It has been a pleasure to become one of you. Bill Brookfield</p>
<p>Congratulations Lidcombe Bowling Club. We wish you well for the future. Patrick and Bridie Noone</p>
<p>All the best to our "Wee Club" on your 75<sup>th</sup> from Morag and David Taylor Congratulations to Lidcombe Bowling Club on your 75<sup>th</sup></p>
<p>Best wishes from Brian Duke</p>
<p>Best wishes to everyone at Lidcombe Bowling Club. Congratulations on 75 years. Grant Smith</p>
<p>Best wishes and Congratulations for 75 years of the best in the West. Patron Marcia &amp; Jim Shanahan</p>
<p>Congratulations on Lidcombe Bowling Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brian &amp; Norma Nolan</p>
<p>We are proud to be involved with our Club's celebrations June and Anthony Carroll</p>
<p>Best wishes for the best of all celebrations. The Evans family It is an honour to be involved with the Club. Best wishes. Sherry and Aiman</p>
<p>Best wishes to the Number 1 Club in NSW. Bryan and Jean Foster The women members wish to congratulate Lidcombe Bowling Club on reaching its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is also a special year for us as we won the District Grade 3 Pennant. Lidcombe Women's Bowling Club</p>





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