

Hi *IFName!*, welcome to the 16th edition of 'One Up/One Down' the newsletter of the Melbourne Bowling Club for the 2018-19 season, keeping you up to date with what is happening around the club.

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One Up ...



... One Down

VOL 155 Melbourne Bowling Club Newsletter No:16

20 September 2018

<http://melbournebowlingclub.com>

**“Bear” larger than life in our memories!
Rest in peace.**



R.I.P. Chris O’Meagher

This man was different wasn’t he! There was something special about him that you gravitated to. There was an aura that just couldn’t be denied. Was it his stature? Was it that distinct voice? Was it that calming energy that oozed from him? Was it the life experiences and stories he shared? Or was it that you just really wanted to find out what it would actually feel like to be hugged by a real life Bear...? It was probably all of the above wasn’t it! But then once you knew him it went further than

that... Somehow, he had a special way of making you feel like you were the most important person in the world and that you were the only person on his mind. He didn't achieve this by knocking others, as he was respectful. It didn't happen by him talking about himself, as he was humble. This was achieved by him lifting you and your spirits as high as he possibly could whilst listening intently to you because he was genuinely interested in your life.

There's a famous saying about being present that says "Wherever you are, be there!" And that's exactly what you got every single time you were fortunate enough to spend some time with this mountain of a man more affectionately called "BEAR". He was always "present". He gave you every bit of his concentration because he cared what you were saying. He gave you every part of his being because he cared what you were thinking. Quite simply, he cared! Whether it was to encourage you with your bowls, assist you with some work issues, cheer you up if you were having a bad day, or simply laugh about the dumb stuff. He was right there in your corner. He wasn't distracted and never let the stresses or drama in his own life get in the way of his time with you. He was there with you, and there for you. And amazingly, he was in everyone's corner making us all feel the exact same way all of the time. What a truly amazing man.

Perhaps this stemmed from the wonderful and beautiful family he so openly shared with us. His adoring wife Shirley, his fun, supportive, loveable brothers Michael, Neil, Andrew and Eli, along with his gorgeous sister in law Monika, and just the most amazing parents in Filo and Geoff. The O'Meagher clan is incredible and we're all so fortunate to have been introduced to them.

From Chris's early days working as a notorious bouncer in the toughest bars and nightclubs in Australia, to then taking on the high end world of I.T. and of course being the gentlest of souls out on the bowling green, this man did it all. For the record folklore says that he was equally as successful and revered on all these battlefields. But that's how he rolled wasn't it. He immersed himself in whatever the situation was and found a way to succeed. In recent times we've been fortunate at the Melbourne Bowling Club to witness the vast skills set that helped him achieve such success. His on-green prowess saw him make 3 club singles championship finals in a row winning the first of his 3 attempts, and in a club so rich in talent this was no mean feat. His bowling talent also saw him become a vital member of the recent Premier Division Premiership and State Pennant Champion teams. Later, his team mates would say he wasn't just a great player and a team mate, he was their spiritual leader. He was a power on the green far more than just his excellent shot making. He was the ultimate team man. He wore the club shirt with such pride and when he walked onto a bowling green wearing that mighty blue and red shirt you just knew he wasn't going to leave a single ounce of energy or effort in the tank. Like every other aspect of his life, he gave it his absolute all.

His work around the club as a club coach and subsequent board member was second to none also. He thought innovatively without rest about the different ways he could drive our beloved club forward to a brighter and more successful future. The list of lives he touched is endless and the legacy he leaves behind will be appreciated and respected for generations to come. It's a legacy of excellence and it's a legacy we should all learn from and strive to emulate. His preparation was flawless as he believed that was the key to success. To have made such an impact and leave such a footprint on the oldest club in Australia which was already so rich in history speaks volumes about his efforts.

Through all of this he was probably the most humble person you could ever hope to meet. Everything he stood for was positive, and he always operated from a place of love and respect. He really was the gentlest of giants with a heart of pure gold and his legend will live long that's for certain! We are all so much richer for knowing this great man and we should all be really proud of what our beloved friend achieved. Let's be proud of him for the inspirational fight he fought. Let's be proud of him for the sustained awareness that he created for Pancare. Let's be proud of him for the selfless way he went about raising money for Pancare to help find a cure for the terrible disease that was taking him, and eventually did take him from us. Let's be proud of the way he was a mentor to so many and just the best team mate and club man you could possibly ask for. Let's be proud of him for being the loveable, supportive, caring gentleman that he was. And let's all be incredibly proud to have been able to call this man a friend.

I'd like to share the most profound story that's been shared about the selflessness of this incredible man. He actually told one of his premiership team mates that he was thankful that it was him that had this horrible disease. When he was asked why, he responded "because based on the statistics if it wasn't me it'd be one of my team mates, family members or friends and there's no way I'd want any of them to go through this". That was the level of selflessness he demonstrated and should never be forgotten.

Bear, no doubt you'll be dominating the greens in heaven before too long and have a premiership team of angels around you hanging on every word you say the same way we did. We just hope that one day we all get to have another roll with you somewhere in the future.

So long big fella, you'll be sorely missed xo

(Shane Fordham)



Three courses for "Horse"
Thursday 27 September
(prior to GF Friday holiday)
at **Melbourne Bowling Club**



A fundraiser to assist Grant Hopwood and his family

Grant has recently been diagnosed with terminal bowel cancer. This terrible disease is causing an incredible strain both emotionally and financially on his young family. The Club is hosting a fundraiser on September 27 (night before AFL public holiday Friday), to raise funds to assist Grant and his Family and really hope that you can join us.

**Bookings essential and need to be made
NOW**

[book & pay here and/or donate](#)

Individual/group bookings including table of 8 at \$80 per person (\$45 goes to the fundraiser)

Grant started bowling at 3 on our back greens while his father David tended the greens. He is one of our most decorated members with over 100 appearances for Victoria and a member of five of our premier division titles. He was the initiator of the design of our club top. One of the truly iconic uniform designs in bowls and clearly identified anywhere.

Watch him when as a 16 year old in 1988 he competed in the very first Australian Junior Singles title.

[Click here](#) to view it on Youtube

The night includes:

3 course meal, Tributes to Grant, Live & silent auctions, Raffles with the bar open till late.

Queenscliff weekend away

On the weekend of 14-16 Sep our boys and girls went away to Queenscliff to take on the reigning Geelong/Ballarat premier league champions.

They played 2 games for a total of 25 ends, in extremely wet and windy conditions. One in the morning which unfortunately saw them just go down by a few shots but in the afternoon they redeemed themselves and claimed the chocolates.

A big thank you to the Queenscliff bowling club for having us, good luck for the year.

A couple of special mentions, Ash Harvey for being our chef and Shane Fordham for

the help behind the scene. You guys did an awesome job.

As one of our great members say **DEE DEE UP**



Practice Matches Saturday 22 September

***** Practice on Tuesday and Thursdays *****

Meals being served on Thursday from 6-8pm a-la-carte menu

Practice game schedule

Sept 22nd - Moonee Valley 4 rinks at Melbourne and St Kilda 4 rinks at Melbourne
All others playing internal matches.

Sept 29th - AFL Grand Final

Sept 30th - Sunday social game at Melbourne

Try Bowls Day & Gigantic Garage Sale --- Sun 21 Oct ---

Donations of goods needed NOW

This day will be a fundraiser where members can **donate goods** for a gigantic garage sale (state wide organisation) and a free try bowls day as part of BV Bowls Month.

We **need goods** (books, glassware etc, **anything that is in good nick** that you don't want but you think could raise some money for the club.

Bring it in and place it next to the ATM. We'll take it from there.

Kini is in charge of the overall organisation and **Jacko** is looking after all the recycled and unwanted goods being donated.

It's a day for members to get behind and contribute

show the heart and spirit of THE CLUB

The garage sale allows the club and our members to let go of anything they no longer need by the club selling it on the day and making a \$\$ or more for the club.

*** AFL Grand Final day at the Club Sat 29 Sep ***

Game on the big screen

Opens 11am. Free sausage sizzle from 1pm

Drink specials: includes Mega Jugs (6 pots) at the price of normal jugs (4 pots).

Book now at the bar for tables of eight

Spread the news, Friend and family welcome



Jack Attack starts Wed 17 October

Registrations now open.

2 games of triples per week.

Team members can be substituted out/in as desired during the game.

Results online

Email Kate at: manager@melbournebowlingclub.com

- **Jack Attack** goes for **6 weeks**. 5 weeks of comp and last week (21/11) for finals for all teams
- Playing for the prestigious "**Busted Nut perpetual trophy**".
- **\$30 per week** per team or **\$150** (\$30 discount) when **paying in full** prior to first week .
- **BBQ**- sausages, onion, bread condiments **provided**.
- Drink specials -- **Mega jugs** (6 pots at a special discounted price)



Spread the word to beginner, social, barefoot bowlers.

6 for 6:30pm start. Maximum of 16 teams

Encourage your non-bowling friends to enter a side.

The Ron Cross Two Bowl Triples

Sunday 4 November 2018 - 9:30 for 10am start

Sponsors:



Real Estate: 9230 2100

The day will consist of 3 games of 15 ends

The winner will be determined by the most games won and shots up.

Entry fee is \$75 per team

Entry fee includes Lunch

Total prize money of \$2,250 made up of:

Winners \$1,200

Runners up \$600

Best of each game \$150*

(* not being either the overall winner or runner up)

Entries close at 11:59pm Tuesday 30 October 2018.

All entries to be via online. *(Help at club to enter if required)*

[Click here](#) to enter

Around the club

Need uniforms

Kini Meadows will be at the club on **Tuesdays from 5pm to 7pm** for anyone who wants to buy any uniform items. New members receive a Melbourne shirt as part of their coming to the club.

Upcoming events

Put the following dates in your Diary

1. Thurs 27 Sep 3 Course for Horse

2. Sat 29 Sept - AFL grand final day at the club

Watch the grand final on the big screen at the club on 29 Sept

3. Thurs 4 Oct - New members night

4. Sun 14 Oct - Club ladies and mens club singles round 1 and 2

5. Wed 17 Oct - Jack Attack start -- going for 6 weeks.

6. Sun 21 Oct - Garage Trail & Try Bowls Day -

7. 70's Night - Mon 5 Nov

70's night to be run on the eve of Melbourne cup. The night will be a stand up not a sit down event. Traditional 70s inspired canapés will be served. Either a DJ or a band will be playing appropriate 70s tunes. Everyone is encouraged to dress up for the evening. More details closer to the date.

Club Singles entries ** NOW OPEN **

Refer to notice board to enter.

Umpires and measurers required

The club is still looking for members to take on the umpires role for the club. Spread the load become an umpire or measurer. Contact club secretary **Byron** or **Ewen** for the registration form. The club pays the expenses for doing the course.

Vic Open 16 -23 November

Entries for the Victorian open are now open. It is being held in the Greater Shepparton Region. Over \$50,000 in prize money. Entries close 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 10, 2018

[Register Here](#)

For general website information click here www.vicopen.com.au

Approaching birthdays

Date	Member	Date	Member
21 Sep	Barry McGreggor	30 Sep	Kate Limond
22 Sep	Grahame Fraser	2 Oct	Angelo Cardemone
24 Sep	Craig Elder	7 Oct	Kevin Lehane
26 Sep	Byron Coonerty	11 Oct	Neil Kelly



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