



**Title:** South Bowlo Social and Disability Bowls

**Category:** Mental and Social Wellbeing

**Club Name:** South Tamworth Bowling Club

**Entrant:** Sarah Young

**1. Provide an outline of the program, project or cause that addresses each of the following aspects:**

- a. **The program/project/cause objectives**
- b. **The support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?**
- c. **A timeline of activities/events**
- d. **Any developments made since implementation (for example: if the support spans multiple years, how has the program grown? Will the club provide support again? Will the program be enhanced in the future?)**

a. Promotion and inclusion of local residents in the sport of lawn bowls, reducing social isolation and promoting inclusion through the following:

1. Regular social bowls activities.
2. Specific bowls activities for Kirinari and Sunnyfield disability clients including annual trophy presentations.
3. Specific weekly bowls activities for Community Mental Health clients.
4. Vision Impaired Come and Try Bowls Day. Commencing with education and training for coaches from around the Zone, about directing VI Bowlers, in conjunction with Blind Bowls NSW/ACT, and Guide Dogs NSW/ACT. Day 2 was for Vision impaired community members to try the game with the newly trained coaches as their bowls directors.
5. Hosting the Wheelchair Sports NSW Disability Singles Classic.

b. Social bowls prizes (allocated at \$5 per player), 2x bowlers volunteer to run the program each week. The Club provides the use of the greens and access to our Bowls Coordinator, Phil O'Reilly Club facilities, Green fees and bowls use are provided for each of these disability groups. Bowls Coordination in a tournament – Disability Singles.

c. 1. Wednesdays and Fridays each week, Twilight bowls Thursdays during daylight savings.

Saturday and Sunday social bowls outside of competition schedule.

2. Each Tuesday between March and November.



3. Wednesday mornings weekly from April to November.
4. Inaugural event held 3-4 June 2021.
5. Annual event, held 15-17 Nov 21 and booked for 7-9 November 2021

d. This year the program has developed and expanded for South Bowlo to host the Disability Singles Classic. The Club donated the use of the greens, raffle prizes which raised \$1,628 for Wheelchair Sports NSW/ACT, plus 30-40 volunteers. The event attracted media attention. It was so successful that it has been rebooked for November 2022.

South Bowlo will continue to support social lawn bowls and the inclusion of all.

Bowls Coordinator Phil O'Reilly continues to seek out opportunities to expand our bowls program and make it accessible to all.

**2. Provide a brief insight into why this program, project or cause was supported by the club.**

**In your answer, summarise:**

- a. **How the project, program or cause was first presented to the club. For example, did a member present it to the Board or Executive team, was it part of a ClubGRANTS submission, did it come from a local business or the community based on a need, was a survey conducted to identify areas of community need, etc.**
- b. **Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**

a) Lawn bowls is at the heart of what we do. Members volunteer their time to ensure that events run regularly. One of our members is a wheelchair bowler. Our club submitted an Expression of Interest to host the Disability Singles Classic to Wheelchairs Sports NSW. Our club facilities are excellent for wheelchair accessibility. Two other members who have disabilities are now classified, and able to compete in future disability competitions. Following the Vision Impaired Bowls Day a new Vision impaired member joined and plays regularly on Wednesdays. He has since entered the Blind Bowls Association Championships.

b) Inclusion, supporting patrons, mental and physical wellbeing of Members and the local community. For some players it's their only outing of the week.

**3. Provide an outline of the positive impact the club's contribution had on the community.**

The Club promotes inclusion in the sport of lawn bowls for all. An example of this is hosting the Disability Lawn Bowls Singles Classic and the Vision Impaired Come and Try Bowls Day. Both events included television and newspaper media coverage.

We have a variety of lawn bowls members including those in disadvantaged groups such as the elderly and disabled. All members are treated fairly and equally to ensure they are part of our community.



Members report that social bowls are great for physical and mental wellbeing. The events create a social atmosphere which reduces social isolation.

**4. Add any credits here (optional).**

Phil O'Reilly - Bowls Coordinator

Dennis Crough – Wednesday social bowls coordinator

Graham Crocker – Friday social bowls coordinator

Terry Halcroft - Fill in coordinator

Lenny Ward - donates meat trays

Kevin Clifton – Nationally accredited Bowls Coach, and WWC approved, coordinates weekly bowls games and coaching with disability groups from Kirinari and Sunnyfield.

Ken Trow — Organises weekly bowls games for Community Mental Health clients.

**5. Supporting material:**

- *To request copies of the supporting documents, please email [events@clubsnsw.com.au](mailto:events@clubsnsw.com.au)*