

## Tranmere Needs a CEO

Winter is commonly the time of year when many members take off for the warmer climes of northern Australia, Europe, Asia or North America, for a welcome holiday break. That includes some of our committee members. But, not all and despite it being the winter break between pennant seasons, the Tranmere Bowling Committee has been busy planning the season ahead and bedding down several key initiatives.

### C Green Lighting Upgrade

The recent upgrade to our lighting on the A and B Greens has been extremely well received by our night-owlers. They're now keen as mustard to be drawn on the front greens. The lighting also allows consideration to be given to club events, such as tournaments and club championship rounds, to be held as day/night fixtures on balmy summer evenings.

Financial considerations prevented the upgrade of the C Green lighting as part of the initial stage of the project. That's now been sorted out with grant funding from the state government, the Campbelltown City Council and a bequest from the late Steve Barrett, enabling us to proceed with this final stage.

### Are You The CEO We're Looking For?

We are looking for a person(s) interested in taking on the role of our club CEO. No, no. Not chief executive officer, but **Cosmo Events Organiser**. We run three Cosmo tournaments during the season; October Labour Day, Australia Day and Adelaide Cup Day. If you'd like to take on the leadership role of organising these events, we'd love to hear from you. Just let Mike Porter know and you can talk it through with him to find out exactly what's involved.

### From The Archives

Who delivered the ceremonial first bowl to open the 2014-15 pennant season?

### We're Also Looking For a Gardener

If you'd like to join our gardening squad of Di Born, Dino De Corso and Darryl Stanton to help maintain our gardens and club surrounds in excellent presentation, you'd be most welcome.

### Upcoming Events

Wed	27 Jun	<b>Boccé at Campania Club</b>
Tue	17 Jul	<b>Parliament House Visit</b>
Sat	1 Sep	<b>Opening Day Season 2018-19</b>
Mon	24 Sep	<b>Ladies Medley Skins Tournament</b>
Mon	1 Oct	<b>Labour Day Cosmo Triples</b>
Mon	22 Oct	<b>Mens Medley Tournament</b>

### Rate Relief

At a recent Campbelltown Council meeting the council agreed to waive the Tranmere Club's requirement to pay council rates. Thanks to Mike's lobbying and to our local councillor's advocacy, the council decision is a substantial cost saving to the club.

### Well Done, Mike Porter

Mike won't like these accolades from committee members being so publicly declared, but credit where credit is due.

"Your networking diligence and tireless pursuit of funding opportunities, to benefit the club and its members, is outstanding." – Claus Schonfeldt

"Well done, Mike! You're lobbying sure pays off. You are a legend." – Greg Lawson

"Awesome news. This is super exciting." – Anne Lippis

"The work that Mike does quietly and behind the scenes is invaluable to our club." – Sue Sanders



### Stephen Briffa

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## Player Profile - Pat McGirr

Patrick was the second eldest of nine children born in 1953 into a devout Catholic family in Parkes NSW. He arrived only a few hours prior to his twin brother, Paul. Growing up on a farm, he often fondly recalls the shenanigans that he and his brothers got up to. Sadly, two of his brothers tragically died at the ages of 20 (Chris) and 25 (Robert) following a road accident on the Australia Day long weekend in 1977. Chris had only joined Patrick in Adelaide four days prior.

To say Patrick is naturally talented and multi-skilled is an understatement.



At the tender age of about 12, he won a new bike for being the best and fairest in football. At school, he was also a cross-country and mile champion. As a young lad, he was chuffed!

At 17 he took up horse racing as a jockey. Not

many can lay claim to having ridden a Melbourne Cup winner, but Patrick can. He was apprenticed to Jim McCurley, a very successful trainer of the time, who trained for Sir Frank Packer, among others. Patrick got many good rides, including on Baghdad Note, who came over from NZ to contest the 1970 Melbourne Cup. He was stabled at McCurley's yards and, OK, it was only in trackwork leading up to the Cup that Patrick got to ride him, but still, it was a contribution to success. His few years spent as an apprentice jockey in Sydney came to an end after a fall from a horse. Although sustaining injuries which saw him being in a wheelchair for a time, he was very lucky.

Patrick decided to travel around Australia but only got as far as Adelaide. While working at Coles, he met his future wife, Julie, a schoolgirl check-out chick. Fast forward and the family grew from two children, Kylie and Christopher, to two grandsons, Brodie and Jack. Patrick's gene



pool continues down the line, with Chris, Brodie and Jack actively participating in triathlons, basketball, football, soccer and lacrosse just to name a few.

Patrick, Julie and the two young children lived at the Quarantine Station on Torrens Island for about 10 years where Patrick, a commonwealth government quarantine officer, cared for horses, alpaca, cattle, goats, etc., held in quarantine. During this period, Patrick's athletic prowess came to the fore. As an Enfield Harriers athlete he ran in many cross-country events. He ran the Jubilee Golden Mile down King William Street in a winning time of 4.06

minutes as well as winning a gold medal in the mile

at the Asia Pacific Masters Games in Queensland. He finished a credible 4<sup>th</sup> in the City to Bay, running the 12km in 36 minutes, only about 20 seconds from the winner who finished with a race record time for the event that year. Patrick represented the state in the Australian cross-country championships where he competed against the likes of Robert De Castella.

One day on holiday a little over 20 years ago, Patrick accompanied his



mother, Dorothy (a highly-skilled bowler in her own right), to her bowls practice on the Gold Coast.

Enthusiasm for bowling took hold and he honed his skills through coaching from Des Moran and dedicated practice. He enjoyed initial success with Walkerville, winning the handicap singles in his first year. Two years later he joined West Lakes, playing at Premier level and winning his first club singles championship. Then followed many years playing at Premier level with the Adelaide Bowling Club.





It was the prospect of being a couple with Julie at the same club that drew Patrick from Adelaide to Tranmere. Julie had been encouraged to come out to Tranmere and give lawn bowls a go by Judy Brooks, who lived next door to the McGirrs. Julie loved it and joined the club not long after. Patrick then decided to follow her and both he and Julie have immersed themselves into club life in several roles.

Patrick is passing on his skills by coaching (along with Mike Porter and Colin Whyte) the Tranmere women bowlers, a role that was acknowledged, by Mary Feddersen on Presentation Night, as contributing to the success of the women's sides last year.

Prior to retiring, Patrick was a maintenance manager for a retirement company. He's very much a handyman, not only a tiler (by trade) but pretty much anything. Just as well, as he can't seem to sit down for more than five minutes without going outside and doing something.

But his talents don't stop there! He's also an artist as seen by some of his work on the previous page.

And finally, why do you hear his wife Julie call him Shane? As a youngster he didn't like being called Paddy, so when coming to Adelaide he referred to himself by his middle name, Shane. However, over the past 20 years or so since taking up bowls, painting and moving house he's reverted to his birth name, Patrick.

## Congratulations

Earlier this year Geoff Thomas was nominated, for twenty plus years of community service, as the Campbelltown Citizen of the Year for 2018.

Geoff has been running quiz nights to raise funds for various organisations for 22 years. At last count, 176 of them, from which over \$500k has been raised. He has umpired and coached netball for 10 years. He's coordinated night-owls at Tranmere for 11 years. He's held various committee positions and has been awarded life membership of both the Campbelltown Tennis and Netball Club and the Tranmere Bowling and Tennis Club.

Geoff has volunteered at the Salvation Army Thrift Shop for two days a week over the past 6 years, and, as you know, continues to raise funds for Kids For Cusco through scrap metal contributions from far and wide. To date he's raised \$8,750.

Geoff was joint runner-up for the award, but, nevertheless it was a great honour for Geoff to be recognised for his community service.

## If It Saves One Life . . . . .

On 22 May a group of Tranmere bowlers gathered at the club to undertake first aid training in CPR and the use of a defibrillator.

Groaning hips and creaking knees were put to the test as participants practised CPR techniques on each other by being the "dummy" as well as the first-aider.

The importance of learning how to use a defibrillator was dramatically accentuated by a recent incident at a junior Tea Tree Gully football game.

A junior footballer whose heart stopped when he collapsed on the field is thankfully alive after trained first-aiders used CPR and the football club's defibrillator to save his life.

Having completed 3 hours of training and successfully passing a practical as well as a written assessment, Tranmere now has 15 accredited first-aiders. Thank you and well done to all the participants.

Mary D-Feddersen



Julie McGirr, one of our trained members, with the first aid kit and defibrillator, located in our office.

## National Bowling Arm Championships Are Coming To Tranmere in 2019

## Survey on Selection Processes

Thank you to every one of our members who responded to the survey about the selection processes and player performance feedback used during the 2017-18 pennant season.

The bowls committee is continuously reviewing every aspect of club life and the facilities provided to allow you to get the most out of your membership and enjoyment of the game of lawn bowls. Your opinions and suggestions matter. A return of 92 survey responses from 151 pennant playing members is an excellent response. It reflects a healthy club culture and the keen interest our members have in contributing to improving the way we manage and do things.

The responses were representative of the gender balance in the club and of the various levels at which people play. This is very important and allows the results to be differentiated, potentially offering the possibility of adopting a varied approach to the selection process and performance feedback in the higher and lower sides, rather than a single approach at all levels.

On the selection panel process, there was an even split overall between those who thought it was effective and those who did not. However, there was a difference in response between those who played at the higher levels, who were more favourably disposed to the panel system, and those who played at the lower levels, who were less favourably disposed to it.

Nevertheless, while there were some strongly expressed views in favour of individual side selectors, overall two thirds of respondents were in favour of retaining the selection panels rather than having individual side selectors. This was consistent across gender and level played. Importantly though, there was a critical condition associated with that support, namely that the members of the selection panels should be more representative of the sides under their ambit, rather than all playing in the same side.

Responses to questions about the player performance feedback slips (PPS) were mixed. Respondents were evenly divided on whether they liked using the PPS. Surprisingly though, two thirds were happy to retain a PPS system, albeit with an overwhelming view that a broader rating basis should then be adopted. At the same time, it was recognised that the PPS is but one means of providing insight into player performance and should not be relied upon to the exclusion of other means. Many comments were received that more emphasis should be placed on feedback from skippers.

The most common comment received related to the impact of seemingly endless changes to teams and sides, even

allowing for player availability and the rostering-off policy. There was a strong plea for more settled sides and teams.

As customary with these things, it is impossible to please everyone. The job of the committee now is to consider the feedback, both from the survey responses and the selectors themselves, and to use that to establish selection processes and a player performance feedback system that help to achieve improved results next season.

Information sessions, at which the committee will present the outlook for the 2018-19 pennant season, will be held in conjunction with the internal trials. Discussion will focus on the club's objectives across the three competition days, the selection processes, player performance feedback, trial matches, practice sessions, and coaching, which together are the framework for success.

A key is that all players recognise the role of each element of that framework and of their own contribution to its successful implementation.

## Claus' Conundrum

Solution to last month's conundrum: Sylvia had 7 biscuits.

Just how observant are you? The hats below belong to two of our club members who regularly participate in pennant, winter bowls and tournaments. Obviously, the cap on the left is not an official hat that can be worn in pennant matches, but it is seen in winter bowls and tournaments. The hat on the right is seen in all three. To whom do these hats belong?



## From The Archives (Sep 2014)

'We were delighted to have Natalie von Bertouch, an ambassador for the Little Heroes Foundation, attend and deliver the ceremonial first bowl. And, what a bowl it was. **A wrong bias!** Well, we set her up a bit and, of course, another dollar went into the wrong bias pot.'