CITY of MELBOURNE

BOWLS CLUB Inc. (CoMBC)



MEMBERS INFORMATION GUIDE

At the City of Melbourne Bowls Club, every member plays a part in creating a welcoming, inclusive and respectful club. We value friendship, enjoyment, team spirit and fair competition, and expect all members to treat one another, our staff and our visitors with courtesy and respect.

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A Message from the Chair

On behalf of all our members and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the City of Melbourne Bowls Club.

The Club has a very long, rich history. In 2026 we will celebrate our 160th birthday, making us one of the oldest sporting clubs in the country, yet we have our eyes fixed firmly on the future.

Our state-of-the-art building is home to a friendly, welcoming community right in the heart of Melbourne. We are a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of people, young and old, are respected and valued.

I am confident that you will feel welcome here and enjoy both the fellowship of our members and our stunning facilities.

We offer a wide range of formal and informal social activities and - of course - lawn bowls in a variety of social and competition formats.

Members are able to use the rinks for social games of bowls with friends and family, join others in functions such as trivia nights or movie nights, or just enjoy a barbecue in our beautiful garden surrounds.

Our Club competes in Pennant bowls on Tuesdays and Saturdays during the summer season, and in smaller, shorter competitions during winter.

An introductory social bowls session is held on Wednesday evenings from 6pm, when you can join in for fun, get some informal coaching and meet other members.

Club practice times are late afternoons on Mondays and Thursdays, with free coaching available.

Our Club is run on the passion and enthusiasm of our members, and we welcome all newcomers.

If you have any ideas, suggestions, or skills that you would like to contribute, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me or any of the other office bearers.

I look forward to seeing you at the club soon.

Rose Ruban

Chair, CoMBC

Club Profile

Club History

The City of Melbourne Bowls Club Inc. was founded as the West Melbourne Bowling Club on 18 August 1866 at the Sabloniere Hotel, which stood on the corner of A'Beckett and Queen Streets, Melbourne until 1972. The bowling green was adjacent to the hotel. Our inaugural president was Sir Charles McMahon, a former Police Commissioner and Speaker of the Lower House in the Victorian Parliament.

The club moved to the Flagstaff Gardens in 1879. In 1880 we were a foundation club when the Victorian Bowling Association (VBA) was formed. The inaugural president of the VBA was Cr Samuel Amess, one of our bowlers and a former club president, who was also a Lord Mayor of Melbourne.

George W Sims, the first VBA singles champion, was a member of the club (and won a total of 19 championships in his time) and we have produced many state players since our inception.

The club changed its name to City Bowling Club in 1904 and to CoMBC in 1964.

In January 1994 fire destroyed a large part of our clubhouse, decimating our facilities, organisation and records. However, with the tireless support and dedication of club members, the club regrouped and continued to operate and prosper, even with limited facilities.

With thanks to City of Melbourne Council and dedicated Council staff, moving into our new clubhouse in May 2009 marked the completion of a journey which began on that day in 1994.

More information can be found in the publication On Flagstaff Hill: A History of the City of Melbourne Bowls Club, which is available for purchase over the bar.

Where to find us

City of Melbourne Bowls Club Inc.

Flagstaff Gardens, West Melbourne VIC 3003

Phone: + 61 3 9829 0200

www.citybowls.org

TeamApp (available for smart phones and desktop)

"Like" us on Facebook

Board

The club you have now joined has an administration with various committees which perform the everyday functions required to maintain the operational standard that is required in any organisation.

Board of Management



Rose Ruban
Chair

chair@citybowls.net



John Caporaso
Vice-Chair

vicechair@citybowls.net



Tony Brotherton
Secretary

secretary@citybowls.net



David Loader
Treasurer

treasurer@citybowls.net



Colin Membrey



Jason Lawrence



Richard Whalebone



Garry Loughnan

Venue Manager

Amanda Cullen

manager@citybowls.net

Our Greenkeeper is Douglas Agnew

Committees

Bowls Committee

Group email: bowlscommittee@citybowls.net

Justin Murphy (Chair)
Julia Steel (Secretary)
Kelly Membrey (Catering and Uniforms)
James McFadden (Equipment and new member introduction)

Equipment email: equipment@citybowls.net

Uniform email: uniforms@citybowls.net

Match email: MatchCommittee@CityBowls.net

Selection Committee

Group email: selectors@citybowls.net

Lisa Barrett
James Secomb
Michael Beasy
Matt McGowan

Greens Director

Group email: greensdirector@citybowls.net

Keith McKnight

Coaching Director

Group email: coaches@citybowls.net Although there is no Coaching Director this email is monitored by the club coaches

Vacant

Welfare Director

Group email: WelfareOfficer@CityBowls.net

Maddy Scully and FI Cotter

Social Committee

Group email: socialcommittee@citybowls.net

Deb Dowling
Owen Zhang
Wendy Beasy
Josie Caporaso

Child Safe Officers

Board – John Caporaso
Staff - Amanda Cullen

Membership

Membership renewals are in March each year.

Full members are encouraged to join the pennant competition sides and social members to consider upgrading their membership with a view to playing pennant competition bowls.

Full Membership Entitlements

- Change Room swipe card
- Members / bar card
- One free Club shirt and name badge upon commencing pennant competition bowls. Please contact the Bowls Committee uniforms@citybowls.net for further information
- Loan of bowls – bowls may be borrowed for up to 3 months. Please contact the Bowls Committee equipment@citybowls.net for further information
- If available, change-room locker and key

Free coaching – Monday and Thursday afternoons from 5:00pm

Greens

The club has two greens - the Mansbridge carpet green and our Mills grass green.

Four rinks of the Mills Green are available for the 2026/27 season.

Three rinks on Mansbridge carpet green has been reserved for members on Monday and Thursday from 5pm onwards. Rinks can be booked at other times on-line or by contacting the office, if rinks are available.

Access to the greens is permitted year-round between 8am and 9pm. During these times the change room swipe card will gain access through the front gate, if locked upon arrival.

Both greens are floodlit and if required bar staff can activate this lighting.

Normally, rinks are always available for members, with the Mills grass green restricted to members usage only. If in doubt as to which rinks are available, please consult the bar staff.

Other Member Facilities

Members only bar with a carefully selected range of wines and other beverages

BBQ area with two gas fired and a smaller electric BBQs.

Men's and women's change rooms for those who wish to change before / after bowling.

Club Communication

Club communication channels are the noticeboards (left hand side of passage opposite glass cabinets), email and TeamApp.

Content includes: upcoming meetings, minutes, social events, pennant games, intra club competitions, match cancellations, external club competitions, ad hoc information and club photos.

If you do not have an email address, CoMBC will send certain information to you by post: AGM notices, newsletters, membership fees etc. If you require information posted to you, please notify the Secretary.

Club Website - www.citybowls.org

Membership

The Club website provides a range of information. It provides useful information if you or your friends are thinking of using the club facilities for a function or for barefoot bowls.

TeamApp

Set up your profile, including phone number, in TeamApp so you can keep up to date with all pennant and member communication. TeamApp contains:

- Members Directory – full member contact details
- News – Weekend tasks for Saturday pennant, new information
- Ladder – Direct link to BowlsLink for up-to-date ladder results
- Chat – organise transport, share good news, calls for assistance, call for players
- Events – notice of upcoming events, tournaments, intra club nights, training/practice etc
- Sides and Teams – informs you which side and team you are in each week
- Gallery – Photos of celebrations, events and tournaments
- Fixtures - updated at the start of pennant season
- Unavailability – If you cannot play, please let the selectors know ahead of time where possible
- Documents – Bowls Vic Conditions of Play, Tournament timetable, Club Championship conditions of play, Members Handbook.

Social Events

CoMBC is proud to be both a competitive and respected bowls club and a welcoming social club, where members are encouraged to enjoy one another's company before and after bowls and whenever they visit the club.

There are events throughout the year, may include and definitely not limited to:

- Music trivia nights
- Club birthday party
- Restaurant nights
- Members dinners at the club.
- Christmas Party mid-December
- New Year's Eve Fireworks Party

The majority of these are open to members, their families and friends. You will be advised of upcoming events by email, newsletters, website and the Club's TeamApp.

Behaviour

Purpose, Vision, Values and Behaviours

- In 2023-24 all members participated in the development of an agreed Purpose, Vision, Values and Behaviours statement for our club. These were endorsed by members at the 2024 Annual General Meeting.
- Our Purpose: To provide a welcoming, inclusive environment for bowling and gatherings in our community
- Our Vision:
    - Venue: a safe environment for all members, staff and visitors, excellent staff and well maintained facilities
    - Membership: camaraderie among all members to create a positive culture and consistently increase membership
- Bowling: meet the bowling needs of members at all levels of skill and ability, coaching and practice opportunities for bowlers at all levels and success in a variety of competitions
- Our Values:
    - Respect
- Inclusiveness
    - Team spirit
    - Transparency
    - Enjoyment
- See Attachment 1 for Purpose, Vision, Values and Behaviours in detail.

Club Etiquette

- All members will abide by the CoMBC Code of Conduct and CoMBC Child Safe and Wellbeing Policy, both of which are available on the website / on request.
- Respect others' diverse needs and provide a culturally safe environment.
- No foul language or shouting out at players.
- Eating or drinking is not permitted on the rinks.
- Smoking is not allowed within the club boundaries.

Dog/Pet policy

Rules for dogs attending City of Melbourne Bowls Club:

- Only members are permitted to bring their pets.
- All dogs must be on a lead and under the control of their owner.
- No dogs are permitted inside the club house.
- The club has zero tolerance for dogs displaying anti-social or aggressive behaviour.
- Exemptions apply to assistance dogs in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

Attire

CoMBC Club Uniform Requirements

- Summer pennant - Club polo shirt (long or short sleeved), black or bottle green shorts, capri or long pants and flat soled shoes approved by Bowls Victoria are all compulsory. The club bowls jacket or hoodie is also preferred.
- Winter pennant - Club top, either a polo shirt (long or short sleeved) or jacket is compulsory. Casual non-club pants, shorts, skirts etc are accepted. If you prefer, full club uniform can be worn. Approved flat soled shoes must be worn, but can be any colour.
- Uniform shirts are provided under the following conditions:
    - Current full members, playing pennant, will receive a shirt upon commencement of playing pennant.
    - Current playing full bowling members may purchase additional shirts.
- Club polo shirts, jackets, hat bands, bucket hats, are available at the club. Contact uniforms@citybowls.net to arrange to try clothes for size and purchase.

CoMBC Uniform pricing (2026)

Men's Polo Tops (Short sleeved)	$50.00
Women's Polo Tops (Short sleeved)	$55.00 ($5 for extra pocket)
Men's Polo Tops (Long sleeved)	$55.00
Women's Polo Tops (Long Sleeve)	$60.00 ($5 for extra pocket)
Name badge	$13.00
Caps (BA Approved)	$25.00
Beanies	$25.00
Hoodies	$60.00

* prices are subject to change

Equipment

Along with bowls, optional items include bowls bag, bowls cloth, measure, chalk, sunscreen, hat or visor, rain jacket and sunglasses.

Merchandise available at the bar

Items available include: grip, chalk, bowls measure, polishing cloths etc

For any queries regarding the CoMBC branded components of the uniform and merchandise, please contact Uniforms@citybowls.net

Other uniform items, shoes, and equipment can be purchased at the stores listed below or any other bowling store.

Active Bowls Melbourne (Formerly Henselite Factory Outlet) 52 Sparks Ave Fairfield
9488 0478. Open 6 days a week with a good range of clothing which can be checked for size.

Dandenong Club Bowls Shop, 1579 Heatherton Rd Dandenong,
9793 7339. Aero specialists but also stock other brands. Call before visiting to check opening times,

Purchasing online is a good option, if you know your specific requirements and can wait for delivery.

Competition and Fixtures

Pennant

CoMBC enters sides in weekend, mid-week summer, and winter pennant competitions

The main formats are 16-a-side (four teams of fours), 12-a-side (three teams of fours) and 6-a-side (two teams of triples).

Green Fees

Green fees are not applicable for the 2026/27 season as they are presently paid by the club as an additional member benefit.

Competition Bowling

Saturday pennant (official two end warm up starts at 12.45pm, play starts 1.00pm)

- You can have an unofficial warm up before 12.30pm

Midweek Tuesday (official two end warm up starts at 10.15am, play starts 10.30am)

- You can have an unofficial warm up before 10.00am

Ad hoc competitions / tournaments throughout the year

Practice matches (intra / external games)

Wednesday intra club - new member/social and full members (commences 6.00pm)

Team Selection

Be sure to check via the sides tab on Team App for side selection details
Also please add in your unavailabilities to assist the side selectors throughout the season.

Training Days and Times

The rinks are available to use for training anytime within reasonable hours; however rinks must be booked through bookings@citybowls.net or calling the office. Monday and Thursday club coaching and training starts from 5 pm. Bookings not required.

Professional Coaching

Personal professional coaching can be arranged, at the members cost. A good place to start looking for a coach is CoachForce - Bowls Victoria

Tournaments

CoMBC encourages all bowling members to compete in tournaments. The Match Committee will communicate details to members via noticeboards, email and / or via TeamApp.

CoMBC coaches and selectors encourage participation in regional events. Metro West region will publish a syllabus of events for Singles / Pairs / Mixed pairs / Triples / Fours. Apart from the Mixed Pairs, events are gender based, as they have progression to State and National Titles.

Participation in regional events exposes your skills to a wider audience, and offers the opportunity to play on the best prepared surfaces. It also helps to promote and lift the profile of CoMBC.