

The Korumburra Bowling Club have much pleasure in congratulating one of its Life Members Bruce Peters in celebrating 60 years of this Club's membership.

Bruce joined the Club in September 1958, with Ansell Biggs, Tom Lewry and Cam McQueen Bruce was the youngest member at this time, only 27. The new foursome were proposed, accepted and warmly welcomed into the Bowling Club.

The dress code at the time was very strict for members being creams, white shirts, dark tie and sports blazer. A strict code which was always adhered to. The newcomers wearing smart and neat attire.. Their subs weren't required until they tried the game out for a few months. They were shown the correct way to stand on the mat and deliver a bowl. Etiquette and discipline played a huge part of the game at this time. Throwing the jack was an important part of being a lead, it had to be watched until it landed hopefully within a foot of the skipper. Bruce was a lead for about 5 years after he started.

The new awesome foursome would meet at the Club every evening after work and have a practice. The boys would place a shilling each on the plinth for the winners.

Some of the senior members would come and watch the youngsters and not at all approving of the small wager they had placed until Mr. A. N. Alp, one of the founding members said the only thing wrong with their little games was he wasn't allowed to play.

When Bruce and his friends started playing in 1958 the South Gippsland Bowling Association comprised of Korumburra, Leongatha, Wonthaggi (the three original Clubs) Mirboo North and Foster.

Bruce spent 13 years as a Tournament Secretary and had a very successful run

during this time. This position was a stand alone one elected at the annual A.G.M. immediately after the Office Bearers and the Bowls representatives;. Bruce also introduced the Monthly triples at a later stage and these events are still very popular at most Clubs.

Bruce served over a period of time several years on the General Committee at various times. He also served as a selector for the Club on separate occasions. Bruce won a Club Championship in the 70's and then won the S.G.B.D. champion of Champions.

After being at a Traders night at Phillip Island several years ago Bruce suggested that Korumburra try this out as a money raiser but was rejected and said if you organise it Bruce you can run it. Finding this a challenge he couldn't refuse Bruce did so managing to get some helpers on board with wheelbarrows of refreshments being offered to visitors playing etc.

Also another event being the Skins which was explained to Bruce by Graham Mansfield. It was experimented throughout the winter until the wrinkles were ironed out.

There was also room for some fund raising with the suggestion of starting Counter Teas at the Club. Bruce suggested to Jan McLaren and they were offered Monthly and very popular at the time and still going strong.

During the 1980's Division 1 was very strong. Over the time they won 7 Division 1 Premierships Bruce skippered 5 of those Premierships and at one stage played two years undefeated. Trevor Scott from Inverloch can remember that time well. There was also the extra challenge back then with all bowls being black and no Club stickers on them. Extra concentration and a good memory was a must for those days.

During the 1970's Frank Hawtin proposed to purchase Crockers property and replace the croquet rinks onto the block. The Bowling Club would expand

onto the croquet club land. Another proposition was to purchase the Korumburra Water Board land (now Blue Gum village) but was rejected by the Water Board.

There were considerable extensions carried out in 2000 at a cost of \$205,000.00 The Club had \$70,000.00 in the bank and the balance was funded by Debentures from various members. The principal and interest was repaid over about 5 years. That's why revenue from events such as Triples, Trader nights, Skins and various Tournaments are so important.

Bruce has expressed his journey has been a wonderful experience and he has met some wonderful people. When our Club was at its strongest there were 160 men and 80 ladies and there was a waiting list and a joining fee.

The Korumburra Bowling Club wishes Bruce all the very best and again congratulates him heartily on this huge achievement.