



April 2019 Newsletter

Editorial

Welcome to your first 55+ Association Newsletter for 2019. In the previous Newsletter, you were advised that the Association has established a new website to promote its activities to Members, so please make sure you have time to visit the new website at [//55plus/](http://55plus/) if you haven't already done so. The new website was planned to be active from the end of September 2018, but this had to be advanced, because the previous website was closed down about 2 months early. While updating of some items on the website has still to be done, our President, Preston Epplert, has put a great deal of effort in managing the establishment of our new website. Well done Preston.

Since the Waitakere Tournament, New Zealand has unfortunately experienced terrorist attacks on two Mosques in Christchurch, which makes Christchurch the worst affected city in New Zealand over the past 10 years, with the devastating earthquakes that hit the city in 2011 and 2012.. I attended Canterbury University Engineering School from 1959 to 1961 and in 1961 I lived in Deans Avenue just up the road from where the Mosque is located and to help keep fit, I used to regularly run around Hagley Park. The only thing that I didn't like about Christchurch was the freezing winter weather, with heavy frosts that made staying upright on my bicycle when riding over frosty tram tracks and dense fogs that prevented being able to see to the other side of a road. This made crossing a fog bound road on a bicycle like dicing with death, but I am still here nearly 60 years later. For Christchurch Members we wish you a much more peaceful existence in the future.

As you can see from our Tournament Director's report below, our Tournament Director and her husband, Lorraine and Trevor Heath, have now become Rotorua residents and we wish them both good living in Rotorua.

Presidents Corner

(This is the President's report that was presented to the 2019 AGM held at Waitakere).

55+ continues to thrive and it is great to have been able to welcome you to Waitakere for the celebration of our 20th birthday. We are indeed indebted to those who started the association all those years ago.

So another year has passed and 3 more successful tournaments have been held.

It was great to be able to go to back to Invercargill after a gap of many years.

This year has been a challenging one with the need to urgently get our new web site operational. As in many IT changes we had our problems and worrying moments. But many hours later and quite a few dollars we have now almost finalised our site. A couple of tweaks to go but in general it is working well. A further enhancement will be to obtain all member email addresses if they have them. Then with a few key strokes we will be able to mail all members or if needed just the members in one region.

I would like to thank Chris Clare and Colin Reid for putting up their hands to assist with ongoing Website maintenance.

55+ is in great heart and continues to be a very special organisation where we can enjoy bowling, Long term friendships and fellowship.

For any organisation to be successful it needs the dedicated few who give of their time and talents.

We owe a very special thanks to our Tournament director, Lorraine who does a fantastic job, sometimes in quite trying conditions. Lorraine was retiring, but generously gave us a further 12 months.

We also need to thank our Secretary/treasurer, Judy, as well as Shirley and Benny for their work at tournaments.

Our delegates are our link to you our members. They are also responsible for co-ordinating lane marshals and the check in and raffle tables when a tournament is held in their centre. So I also thank them for all their work.

We should also recognise the work of Dave Hercus who is the editor of our newsletter.

On Saturday night we will celebrate 20 years. I hope everyone has their Hollywood costume.

Financially the Association is sound but we always face the potential of increasing charges. Our raffles are an integral part of funding and I thank you for your continued support and those you

I have enjoyed my three years as President and wish the Association every success in the future.

Preston Epplett

From Our Tournament Director

Tournament Directors report from Waitakere Competition

Well everyone this weekend turned into quite a long Friday, unfortunately with the closure of lanes 5 and 6 we were down two lanes and had to move people around and I apologise for this and would like to thank all those that were affected by this.

For the 20th Anniversary tournament of the Association, we had 121 bowlers and normally we only get 85 bowlers at Waitakere tournaments, so were caught unawares by the number

of entries and I did not want to go to an extra day as I knew many centres had booked flights and accommodation.

Anyway we got through and I am sure everyone had a great time. I hope you all got home safely

Saturday was another great night and apologies to those who did not get mains, and those who did not get dessert. I have since spoken with Manager at the RSA and this is being looked into as I believe two other Ladies also complained to management with the possibility of a refund so that's great news.

Finally to top the weekend off I owe a huge apology to Judy Sinclair from Tauranga a new Bowler. Judy should have been in the final playoff as Ladies Handicapped winner I can make no excuses for this as it was solely my fault, A Trophy will be presented to Judy at the next Tournament at Rotorua. Also to Barb Nonu who was 3rd in Ladies all events Handicapped

Finally hope to see many of you at Rotorua and I am hoping for a smoother Competition as I will by then be a Rotorua resident myself as Trevor and I move there on 14th March

Lorraine Heath, Tournament Director

From Petone

Greetings to all our Members from Petone.

What a great tournament that Waitakere hosted, it was certainly very fitting for a 20th Anniversary. Thank you to all the Waitakere members for making us feel so welcome and for all the hard work they put into running the Tournament and for the Saturday night dinner.

Petone only had a 5 member team representing our centre but we all enjoyed ourselves very much and it was especially great, (and a total surprise,) that I managed to win one of the Commemorative badges. We had a very pleasant trip home with a stop overnight in Taupo, where I managed to leave behind my reading glasses, fortunately the very helpful Motel owner posted them back to me. Alan, Elaine and I managed to win enough on the "Pokies" in Taupo to pay for an extra special lunch on way home.

We are all looking forward to the next Tournament in Rotorua and already "Thinking Pink", not too hard for me as half my current wardrobe is pink.

See you all in Rotorua, Regards Cecilia, Petone.

From Tauranga

Hi, this is Jenny from Tauranga.

What a great weekend we had in Waitakere for the Association's 20th Year celebration and with a record number of players.

I was pleased to hear lots of positive comments from players and supporters.

I am proud of our Tauranga team of 6. We did very well with all taking home medals except me but that's ok as I am recovering from injury.

We are especially proud of Judy Sinclair. She has just joined 55 plus and I am sure it won't be her last tournament. Judy played her first tournament in Hawkes Bay Champs with me last November and is now hooked. Judy has played in several leagues in Tauranga over the years.

She made several new friends and also came home with several medals. 1st mixed doubles, 3rd Mystery pairs and 1st all events Handicapped Ladies.

Unfortunately to miss calculation and error in the final scoring she did not get to play off in the Champion of Champions. I am sure she would have given Judy O'Rourke a run for her money.

We have another 3 to 4 players wanting to join so that will bump Tauranga up a bit for membership and welcome them aboard.

Looking forward to the Rotorua tournament in June.

Take care and everyone travel safe.

From Porirua

Like many Members who attended the Association's 20th Anniversary Tournament at Waitakere, Fran and I stayed at the Lincoln Green hotel, but this time we flew to and from Auckland, and then caught a taxi to the Hotel and when we booked out of the Hotel on the Monday morning we used the same taxi. It only took the taxi about 30 minutes to get to the Hotel from the airport in the middle of the day that day before the Tournament started, so we asked the driver what time we need to leave the Hotel to get to the airport by 11.00 am on the Monday and we were advised to leave the hotel by 9.00 am. In fact the road traffic was reasonably light on the Monday and it only took our taxi 35 minutes to get to the Airport, so we had a couple of hours to wait for our flight back to Wellington. Still it was better that way rather than miss our flight home.

As for the Hotel, we were disappointed on what they provided this time, compared to what was provided on previous times we have stayed there, such as a room discount because we were bowlers.

We had intended to be at the Saturday night dinner at the Henderson RSA, but I needed a present to go with my Hollywood uniform, so after we got back from the bowling centre on the Saturday afternoon I decided to walk down to Pack-n-Save on Lincoln Road. At the time the weather was quite warm and I couldn't find what I needed at the supermarket, so I then walked back to the hotel and my walking got slower and slower because of the heat and I just made it back to the hotel suffering from heat exhaustion. I was then escorted back to our hotel room and the decision was made not to go to the social. However I then slowly recovered as the evening progressed and was able to walk OK to the bowling Centre on the Sunday morning, but I didn't need to bowl on that day.

Lorraine Heath, in her Tournament Directors report for this Newsletter, makes reference to the large number of entries for the tournaments and we had 2 events to bowl per day on the

Friday and the Saturday, which, for older Members of the Association, is really too much to expect and I would suggest that for any Association Tournament, Members should only expect to have to bowl twice on only one day of a tournament.

Finally, as I am now approaching 80 years of age and I have experienced a few health issues recently, I will be shortly resigning as the Porirua Delegate, which is a position I have held since late 2007 and which I have really enjoyed doing.

Dave Hercus

Information from Peter Smith

Peter has lived in both the Auckland and Porirua areas during his bowling career and at one stage while at Porirua, he contacted throat cancer from which he survived and then moved back to Auckland to be closer to his relatives. Once back in Auckland, he joined up with the now closed Panmure bowling centre and sometimes made Panmure contributions to the 55Plus newsletters.

With the closure of the Panmure Centre, Peter has now retired from tenpin bowling at the age of 81 years.

Upcoming Tournament Events

TOURNAMENT DATES

Rotorua

13th to 16th June 2019, Closing date for entries, 12th May 2019

Rotorua Playing times: Thursday and Friday, 8.00 am to 5.30 pm; Saturday, 8.00 am to 4.00 pm and Sunday 8.00 am till noon. 12 lanes are available.

Porirua

Sept 13th – 15th 2019

In addition there will be Memorial Tournaments at Kapiti and the Gil Evans Memorial Tournament at Porirua later this year and hopefully the dates of these tournaments will be published in the next Association Newsletter.

Hastings

February 2020 dates 27 Feb to 1 March

New Plymouth

June 2020 2nd weekend dates to be confirmed

Palmerston North

September 2020 dates to be confirmed

Waitakere

February 2021 to be confirmed

Petone

February 2022 to be confirmed

Dave Hercus, Editor