

Bowls Taranaki News

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Bowls set to Light up Festival

One of Taranaki's great tourist attractions, the famed Festival of Lights at Pukekura Park, will have a strong bowls presence this summer. Paul Spiers, Neil McNeil and Matt Fleming, plus others from the Fitzroy club, have been instrumental in establishing a portable rink, with dimensions based on an indoor mat, in tandem with the project sponsor, Bunnings Warehouse and the New Plymouth District Council.

Bowls have been covered to allow them to glow in the dark, adding to the experience. The rink will operate on New Year's Eve at between 8pm-10pm at the Fred Parker Lawn, Pukekura Park.

"We think that this is a great way of reminding the public about bowls and to provide the first engagement with our sport for many people," Spiers enthused.

The rink is portable meaning there are many other future prospects with it. "There are so many community events, such as gala days, where organisations are always looking for entertainment options. This rink has the potential to move into this space and to become an excellent advertisement for our sport."

Each night the rink will be managed by bowlers to ensure those playing know the basics

and have an enjoyable introduction to the sport.

Bowls Taranaki President, Brien Bennett QSM, fully endorsed the concept and encouraged as many bowlers as possible to offer assistance.

"Paul, Neil, Matt and the rest of the Fitzroy crew have done a magnificent job bringing this to fruition," Bennett said.

Ultimate ownership of the rink will rest with Bowls Taranaki, and while there is a cost associated with it, this has been much reduced due to sponsorship.

"Special thanks to Bunnings for kindly sponsoring the materials used to manufacture the rink."

Refer to this link for further information and updates: <https://www.festivaloflights.nz/whats-on>



Positive endorsement from visitors as men's Open numbers climb

Bowls Taranaki Executive Officer Neville Elliott has announced that the 2019 Taranaki men's Open fours will be the largest field in four years.

Elliott said that 168 teams have entered, which is 12 more than last season, for the event which kicks off on January 21, 2019.

"We are delighted with the positive affirmation we have received from visitors," Elliott said.

There are 98 visiting teams in the competition,

an impressive increase of 17 more than last season. Taranaki teams, however, are down five to 70.

"We have to continue to work hard collectively in Taranaki bowls to ensure that we continue to give so many of the traditional bowlers what they want – 25 end matches, in a relaxed atmosphere, with good hospitality, greens and competition."

The women's fours, which starts on January 29, is down slightly to 48 teams.

Impressive results from Revital Fertiliser Taranaki reps

Wanganui proved a happy hunting ground for the Revital Fertilisers Taranaki representative teams on November 17, with the province claiming both the men's and women's quadrangular competitions. Taranaki narrowly took out both senior sections, the under-eights women were also victorious, while the under-eights men were third.

In the senior women, Taranaki finished on 16 points to head off Manawatu and Wanganui (both 15) and Wairarapa (14).

Cathy Andrews' four of Val McEldowney, Bev Robinson and Susan Cottam continued their terrific record together, posting three wins from as many games. Sue Winter, in the first singles, had two wins, while the second pair of Sue Edwards and Shar Healey had one win and two draws. Chris Commane, in the second singles, had one win, while the first pair, Ann Duggan and Maree Gadsby, lost all three games.



Stampa shines in pairs win

Hawera Park's Kristin Stampa picked up her third Taranaki mixed pairs title on her home green on Saturday. Stampa, who recently made the quarterfinals of the Victorian open singles in Australia, was teamed in the Cross Country Rentals-sponsored event with West End's Grant Hassall. The composite combination defeated Don Christensen (Paritutu) and Cheryl Sharrock (New Plymouth) 18-1 in the final.

In the semifinals, Stampa edged out Paritutu's Barbara Batley and Darren Goodin 18-15, while Christensen defeated Fitzroy's Ian and

In the senior men's, Taranaki and Wanganui both finished on 20 match points, but the former had a superior shot differential.

Dean Elgar had three wins in the first singles, as did the second pair of skip Steve Walker and Aidan Zittersteijn, who impressed on debut and continues to develop. Darren Goodin's new four of Jordan Linn, Adam Collins and Scott Roberts were also emphatic with three wins. Craig De Faria, in the second singles, had one win, while the first pair, Brendan Anderson and Gerry O'Sullivan, lost all three.

Margaret Lister and Lesley Te Awa in the eight-years-and-under pairs set Taranaki up for victory after they won three times. Taranaki finished on 13 to see off Wanganui (10), Manawatu (9) and Wairarapa (4). The four of Anne Potaka, Frances Busby, Faye Hill and Jill Dyett gave an excellent account with two wins and one draw, while singles player Gaye Holub had one win.

Taranaki came out on the wrong side of a tight eight-years-and-under men's event. Manawatu squeaked home there with 11, followed by Wanganui (10), Taranaki (9) and Wairarapa (6). Steve Sabine and Kelly Hill had two wins and one draw, the four of Tobyn Hori, Wayne Hawkes, Bruce Lilley and Danny O'Sullivan won twice, while Nigel Berry lost all three in the singles.

Rhonda Adams, the husband and wife pair to go the furthest, 17-13.

Entries were well ahead for this year's event with 70 pairs in the field, compared to 48 last season. However, the first two day's play were significantly blighted by rain, with the qualification criteria reduced to one win from two games. That resulted in 51 qualifiers.

Later round results of post section play:

Quarterfinals: B Batley (Paritutu) 20 K Barber (Paritutu) 16, K Stampa (Hawera Park) 16 P Robertson (New Plymouth) 8, D Christensen (Paritutu) 18 S Walker (West End) 17, I Adams (Fitzroy) 23 D Johnston (Hawera Park) 20. Semifinals: Stampa 18 Batley Goodin 15, Christensen 17 Adams 13. Final: Kristin Stampa (Hawera Park) and Grant Hassall (West End) 18 Cheryl Sharrock (New Plymouth) Don Christensen (Paritutu) 1.

Paritutu reclaim the Bill Smee Trophy, as Oakura step up

Paritutu are back on top of Taranaki men's interclub bowls.

The city club secured the Bill Smee Trophy for the fifth time in six years after scoring two wins from three games in the final round, which was played at Stratford-Avon.

That took Paritutu to 40 match points to emerge as a clear winner. Tower picked up three wins against the previously second-placed West End Blue to take second prize in the TSB Realty-sponsored competition. It finished with 36, while West End White and West End Blue ended on 35 apiece.

In a significant change, Aidan Zittersteijn, who continues to grow in confidence, was handed the singles role. He responded well, winning six games from nine, while the pair of Don Christensen and Darren Goodin impressed, winning eight games. Ian Andrews' four included Mike Walsh, Neville Elliott and Rodger Hassall, while John Zittersteijn and Allan Batley were also involved in the earlier rounds. Hawera Park were placed 10th and have been relegated for next season.

Its place in the top flight will be taken by Oakura who dominated the second division. With Adam Collins in the singles, Bob Anderson and Jim Priest in the pairs, and a four of Wayne Robinson, Bruce Jackson, Steve Muller and Allan Bridgeman, Oakura won its section with a round to spare. In the playoff against Fitzroy, Oakura posted wins in both the singles and the pairs to step up to the big time.



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Scoreboard — final interclub points

Final standings in the TSB Realty-sponsored Taranaki men's interclub competitions:

Division 1 (Bill Smee): Paritutu 40, Tower 36, West End White 35, West End Blue 35, Inglewood 25, Fitzroy 22, New Plymouth 21, Vogeltown 18, Stratford-Avon 18, Hawera Park 16.

Division 2 amber: Fitzroy 27, New Plymouth 24 +53, Coastal 24 +30, West End 21, Paritutu 20, Hawera Park 19, Lepperton 17, Tower 16.

Division 2 black: Oakura 28 +114, Inglewood 18 +30, Manaia 16 +23, Waimea 16 -56, Stratford-Avon 12 -17, Fitzroy 10 -16, Hawera Park 8 -78.

Division 2 final: Oakura 2 Fitzroy 1 (singles, Oakura 25-11; pairs, Fitzroy 22-17; fours, Oakura 16-12).

Division 3: Waitara 22 +52, Vogeltown 15 +8, West End 11 +2, Inglewood 11 -39, Tower 10 -14, Paritutu 9 -9.

Final standings in the Vospers Funeral Home-sponsored Taranaki women's interclub competitions:

Division 1: West End 28 +44, Tower 25 +28, Paritutu Green 24 +77, Paritutu Gold 23 -49, Opunake 20 +13, Hawera Park 17 -22, Vogeltown 11 -76. Congratulations to West End.

Division 2: Fitzroy 25 +111, Inglewood 25 +104, Lepperton 18 +46, Tower 9 -49, New Plymouth 7 -94, West End 6 -118.

West End succeed at first go

In their first attempt at the Vospers Funeral Home-sponsored Taranaki women's division one title, West End came up trumps to deny their more illustrious opponents. Having only won promotion to the top echelon at the end of last season's event, West End finished with 28 points. Tower were second on 25 and Paritutu Green third on 24. West End got excellent value from Susan Cotnam in the singles and its pair of Jackie Moeahu and Trish Howard. Both disciplines won six games from seven. Completing the West End side was the four of Jill Dyett, Sue Winter, Jan Johnson and Janice Ropitini.

First year player update

At the start of the season, Bowls Taranaki launched three different goals, one of which was to attract 100 first year players. As business house and twilight events get underway here are the current statistics:

Fitzroy	9	Okato	3
Hawera Park	6	Lepperton	2
Manaia	6	Oakura	2
Opunake	5	Pihama	2
Paritutu	5	Rahotu	1
Tower	4	Stratford-Avon	1
Urenui	4	West End	1
Vogeltown	4	Awakino	0
Waitara	4	Patea	0
Inglewood	3	Waimea	0
New Plymouth	3	Total	65



"We believe that the target of 100 is well within reach," said Bowls Taranaki President, Brien Bennett QSM. "We hit 76 last season, so we are well on track to exceed that."

"We are delighted with the response from most clubs to this exercise, with an increased emphasis on finding new bowlers. Our game needs them."

Post-Christmas is a busy time for newcomers, especially in March with the Classic Carpets-sponsored Hugh Moss junior pairs and the Paul Spiers-sponsored first-year singles.

Fitzroy return to the top flight after countback win

After an extended stay in the second division, Fitzroy will return to the eight-team first women's first division for the 2019/20 season. A powerful final day proved the difference as Fitzroy came from behind to pip Inglewood. The two clubs were completely dominant in the event, both winning 12 and drawing one game from the 15 played. Final standings in the women's Division 2 interclub competition: Fitzroy 25 +111, Inglewood 25 +104, Lepperton 18 +46, Tower 9 -49, New Plymouth 7 -94 West End 6 -118. The winning Fitzroy side pic-

tured left to right: Joan Richards (fours lead), Rhonda Adams (singles), Vickie Kelly (fours second), Faye Gecse (fours third), Gaye Holub (pairs lead), Maree Gadsby (fours skip) and Nellie Hewson (pairs skip).

