

Bowls Taranaki News

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The on-going rise of Dean Elgar

On the back of an extended period of high finishes in front of the national selectors, Dean Elgar has made the penultimate step to full international honours with his selection in the New Zealand development side for the trans-Tasman series.

The event is being held on Australia's Gold Coast on November 25-27.

Elgar will skip Auckland's Jordan King in the pairs — King won the Dominion pairs in January after beating Elgar and Gerry O'Sullivan in the last four. Elgar will also head the four, which is made up of the Southland duo of Caleb Hope (lead) and Sheldon Bagrie-Howley (third), plus King (second).

Elgar's latest achievement comes after another memorable season. In addition to the pairs semifinal, he skipped an unheralded (at national level) side to the Dominion fours title, captained the North Island to victory over the South Island, and then last month, finished runner-up in the NZ champion-of-champions singles. It is a record that has impressed many, including New Zealand selector, Philip Skoglund junior, who said: "He's had a very good two or three years and probably only



just missed making the development squad earlier this year, and of course since then won the national fours."

The Gold Coast is currently in the midst of being the host of all things world bowls at the moment. After hosting the Commonwealth Games last year, it hosted the Asia Pacific championships in June and will next year be the centre of the world championships.

While it will not be easy for Elgar to break into that five-man side, it is not beyond the realms of possibility, especially in light of his latest elevation.

Neville Elliott — Life Member

The annual meeting of Bowls Taranaki, held in late June at Stratford-Avon, saw Neville Elliott unanimously elected as a Life Member of Bowls Taranaki.

Pictured receiving his badge from Patron, Patty Symes, Elliott has been there and done everything in Taranaki bowls in the last 25 years.

He has served on the Executive, or its successor, the Board, for 23 years, including four years as President, three years as Chairman and five years as Executive Officer.



Vic Blance Development Programme set to roll

Under the chairmanship of former New Zealand representative and coach, John Murtagh, the 2019-20 intake for the Vic Blance Development Programme has been determined. The re-launch of the programme attracted interest from a high number of bowlers, Murtagh said. In tandem with the Revital Fertilisers Taranaki selectors, players have been selected into three groups.

- Group one will be termed as **emerging** players.
- Group two will be **developing** players.
- Group three as **high performance** players.

Players selected to attend Group (emerging) one are as follows: Bruce Lilley, Brendan Anderson, Kelly Hill, Hamish Kape, Gaye Holub, Anne Potaka, Lesley Te Awa and Marlene McArthur.

The initial full day session for group one will be held at the Paritutu Bowling Club on 24 August 2019.

Players selected for Group two (developing) are as follows: Sean Prinsloo, Levi Davis, Laurence Hori, Wayne Hawkes, Cheryl Sharrock, Tina Quilter, Marlene Malcolm and Margaret Lister.

The initial full day full day session for group

two will also be at Paritutu Bowling Club but on the 31 August 2019.

No players have been specifically named in the high performance group. Rather the representative selectors will continue to work with the players on a one-on-one basis.

New Taranaki President, Ian Andrews, welcomed the development programme and believed it would provide a pathway for players keen to develop their skills and progress their careers.

“As a Board we are delighted with this on two counts. Firstly, the level of applicants exceeded our expectations, and secondly, we are thrilled to have John involved, along with the representative selectors. I’m sure many other centres will be envious of Taranaki.”

The programme will be very beneficial for the returning representative selectors, who, per the below, will have greater public scrutiny with two fixtures being played at home.

Vickie Kelly is back in charge of the women’s side for the coming season, while Russell Hardy and Allan Batley return to lead the men’s team.

“We saw a greater interest in players last season, attending the nationals and the like. We anticipate that increasing again,” Batley said.

Revital Fertilisers representative update

The 2019-20 season is shaping up as an exciting one for the Revital Fertilisers Taranaki representative teams, with the sides scheduled to play at home for the first time in many years. But not once, twice!

The eight centres in the bottom half of the North Island have resolved that the old Hexagonal event has become an Octagonal contact and will involve eight centres once more, as opposed to the six that have competed in the last few years. The change necessitated two three-green clubs—one for men and one for women.

“When this point came up at our central region meeting in May, I spoke up quickly and offered our centre as the host,” Chairman Grant Hassall said. “Even though we are in for a hectic four weeks now—the Octagonal will

follow immediately after the men’s and women’s Open fours and the Maori Aotearoa nationals.”

But Hassall said two of the criticisms the Board had received from representative players was that no matches were ever played at home and that the greens often used were sub-standard.

“We are sure that all players will find Paritutu and West End more than adequate.”

The Octagonal will be held on February 14-16.

In addition to the Octagonal, supporters of the Revital Fertilisers Taranaki team will also get the opportunity to see the team in action on November 16, when Taranaki meet Wanganui at the Tower and Hawera Park clubs, in both the senior and under-eight divisions.



Elgar the best in NZ champion-of-champions

Dean Elgar was the best-performed Taranaki player in the recently completed New Zealand champion-of-champions series, finishing runner-up in the men's singles at Naenae, Wellington last month.

Elgar lost the final to Brown's Bay's Tony Grantham, the former Black Jack who has won three Dominion titles, 21-6. Grantham was in fine form to deny Elgar, who until then had given an excellent display.

Elgar won four of his five games in section play — including a 21-7 trouncing of Sheldon Bagrie-Howley — to finish top of his pool. He then accounted for John Haddock (Stoke) 21-18 in the quarterfinals and Bowls3five star Aiden Takarua (Pt Chevalier) 21-16 in the semifinals.

Taranaki's women's champion, Rhonda Adams, was again competitive, making the quarterfinals. There she fell 21-19 to Jo Toogood (Hokonui). Adams finished second in her pool after a nail-biting 21-20 win over Audrey Stevenson (Paraparaumu Beach).

NZ rep Kirsten Edwards (Stoke) won the final from Debbie White (Hinuera).

Both Taranaki pairs failed to qualify in the finals held in Dunedin. Hawera Park's Gerard

Hopkins and Paul Clegg lost all three games—the largest deficit was just four shots, however—in the men's event which was won by Hastings' Mike Isaacson and Tony Terry.

In the women's Val McEldowney and Una Maha managed one win and one draw from five games, which wasn't enough to make the final eight. The event was won by Taupo's Lynette McIntosh and Wendy Green. Green, who has been competitive on the national scene for a number of years, grew up in Stratford, and is the sister of the 1979 Taranaki champion-of-champions triples winning skip, Barry Clarke.

The women's fours, held in Hamilton, saw Fitzroy's Jan Hughes, Gaye Holub, Joan Richards and Marlene Hayes win two games from five. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to qualify. The title went to the Taieri side of Dale Bourke, Lorraine Turnbull, Beth Brown and Jan Barclay.

Taranaki's champion fours, Tower's Brendan Anderson, Clive Phillips, John Roberts and Bruce Phillips, did not compete in the men's finals in Hastings, which was won by Whangarei's Paul Shotter, Steve Smith, Paul Price and Trevor Reader.

Bowls Taranaki updates for the coming season

Following the annual meeting of Bowls Taranaki, where Ian Andrews (President) and Frank Pollock (vice-President) were elected unopposed, the Board chose Grant Hassall as the Chairman for the coming season. The other Board members are Robert Wolfe, Mike Clegg, Eric Foreman and Kevin Gray.

The new Board has quickly found its feet and set three objectives for the coming season: (1) to assist clubs in recruiting 100 first-year players, (2) to re-establish a youth bowls programme, and (3) to increase the profile and promotion of the sport.

New Executive Officer, Peter Scott, and Janice Ropitni are leading the charge on encouraging youngsters and schools into bowls, and

are keen to hear from other enthusiasts.

At its July meeting, and after feedback gathered at the AGM, the Board has resolved to leave the champion-of-champions unchanged for the coming season, with clubs determining the composition of teams for their own events. Incumbent Presidents Gary Lilley (greenkeepers) and David Brunton (umpires) will continue in their roles for the new season, while Moe Kelly has replaced Allan Madgwick as the Director of coaching.

The southern division's Secretary and President's meeting is being held at Hawera Park on September 10, with the northern division on the following night at Paritutu. Both evenings start at 6.30pm.

Bowls Taranaki Programme 2019-20

Oct-19	Sat-Mon	26-28	(M) Men's Open Singles Section/Post Section Play (Brebner Print)
	Sat-Mon	26-28	(W) Women's Open Singles Section/ Post Section Play (Jean Sandel)
Nov-19	Sat		2 (W) Women's Interclub all Divisions (Vospers)
	Sat-Sun	2nd-3rd	(M) New Centre Fours Section/Post Section Play (South Taranaki Club)
	Sat		9 (M) New Centre Fours Finals (South Taranaki Club).
	Sat		9 (W) Women's Interclub all Divisions (Vospers)
	Sun		10 (M) Men's Interclub all Divisions (Paul and Sharon Spiers)
	Fri		15 (M) Entries Close Taranaki Men's Open Fours (\$200)
	Sat		16 M/W Revital representative v Whanganui at Hawera
	Sun		17 (M) Men's Interclub all Divisions (Paul and Sharon Spiers)
	Wed		20 (M/W) Bowls3five (open)
	Sat-Sun	23-24	(M/W) Men & Women's Mixed Pairs Section/Post Section Play (CCRent)
	Wed		27 (M/W) Bowls3five (open)
	Sat		30 (M/W) Men's & Women's Mixed Pairs Finals (Cross Country Rentals)
Dec-19	Sun		1 (M) Men's Interclub all Divisions (Paul and Sharon Spiers)
	Sun		1 (W) Women's Interclub All Divisions (Vospers)
	Wed		4 (M/W) Bowls3five (open)
	Sat		7 (W) Entries Close Women's Open Fours (\$160)
	Wed		11 (M/W) Bowls3five (open)
	Sat-Sun	14-15-21	(W) Women's Open Pairs Section/Post Section Play (Cleggs)
	Sat Sun	14-15-21	(M) Men's Xmas Pairs Section/Post Section Play (Auto City)
	Sun		22 (M/W) Men's & Women's Interclub Reserve Day (Spiers/ Vospers)
Jan-20	Thur-Wed	2nd-8th	(M/W) Bowls New Zealand Nationals (Singles & Pairs)
	Sat-Sun	11th-12th	(M/W) Club Championships
	Mon-Sun	20-26	(M) Bowls Taranaki Men's Open Fours Tournament
	Tues-Fri	28-31	(W) Bowls Taranaki Women's Open Fours Tournament
Feb-20	Sat-Sun	1st-2nd	(W) Bowls Taranaki Women's Open Fours Tournament
	Weds		5 (M/W) Bowls3five (junior)
	Fri-Sun	7th-9th	(M/W) Aotearoa Maori Bowls (New Plymouth)
	Mon-Sat	10th-15th	(M) Clubs NZ Men's Fours (Wellington)
	Weds		12 (M/W) Bowls3five (junior)
	Fri - Sun	14 - 16	(M/W) Octagonal - @ New Plymouth (Revital)
	Sat - Sun	15 - 16	(M/W) Hexagonal (Under 8s) @ Whanganui (Revital)
	Weds		19 (M/W) Bowls3five (junior)
	Sat-Sun	22-23	(W) Women's Open Triples Section/Post Section Play (Abrahams)
	Sat-Sun	22-23	(M) Men's Open Triples Section/Post Section Play (Cleggs)
	Weds		26 (M/W) Bowls3five (junior)
	Thur-Sat	27-29	(M/W) Bowls New Zealand National Fours
Mar-20	Sun-Mon	1st-2nd	(M/W) Bowls New Zealand National Fours
	Sat-Mon	7th-9th	(M/W) Men & Women's Hugh Moss Junior Mixed Pairs (Bayleys)
	Sat-Mon	7th-9th	Rahotu Bowling Club Centenary
	Sat		14 (M/W) Men's & Women's Open Triples Finals (Cleggs/Abrahams)
	Sun	15th	(M/W) Club Championships
	Tues		17 (W) Women's Egmont Shield Playoff (North))Martins Fashions)
	Sat		21 (M) Men's Saturday Shield Final (Radius Health Care)
	Thurs-Sun	19-22	(M/W) National Intercentre (Revital) (Wellington)
	Sat-Sun	21-22	(M/W) First Year Singles (Paul and Sharon Spiers)
	Sat		28 125 Year Jubilee Tower Bowls Hawera
Apr-20	Sat		4 (M/W) Champ of Champ Fours (TCM Ltd)
	Sun		5 (M/W) Champ of Champ Pairs (TCM Ltd)
	Fri-Sun	16 - 19	(M/W) Bowls New Zealand National Interclub
	Sat		25 (M/W) Champ of Champ Triples (TCM Ltd)
	Sun		26 (M/W) Champ of Champ Singles (TCM Ltd)
May-20	Sat-Sun	2nd-3rd	(M/W) Champ of Champ Finals Weekend (TCM Ltd)

Full programme available at www.taranakibowls.co.nz