

**Annual Report  
2022-2023**



Patty Whorlow



John Snell

**LEGENDS**

## **EASTERN RANGES BOWLS REGION**

Email: [secretary@easternrangesbowls.org.au](mailto:secretary@easternrangesbowls.org.au)

Website: [easternrangesbowls.org.au](http://easternrangesbowls.org.au)

Facebook: Eastern Ranges Bowls Region

ABN: 19 191 627 075

Incorporated Association Number: A0055892A

### **Contents**

EASTERN RANGES BOWLS REGION.....	2
CLUBS IN EASTERN RANGES BOWLS REGION .....	3
ERBR BOARD MEMBERS 2022-23.....	4
ERBR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022-23.....	4
PRESIDENT'S REPORT .....	5
.....	7
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM JULY 2022 TO 30TH JUNE 2023.....	7
.....	7
Receipts & Expenditure.....	7
Balance Sheet.....	7
AUDIT REPORT .....	8
COMMITTEE REPORTS .....	9
Region Championship Results 2022-23.....	9
Junior Development .....	10
Night Pennant.....	12
Laws and Umpiring (LU) .....	14
Region Sides.....	15

## CLUBS IN EASTERN RANGES BOWLS REGION

The Eastern Ranges Bowls Region comprises 33 Clubs with a total 2,775 members with playing rights.

NOTE: Eastern Ranges affiliation fees are based on the number of members with playing rights. Clubs have a responsibility of maintaining a current list of their members in BowlsLink

CLUBS	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Ashburton	45	60	58	89	95	102	0	0
Bayswater	75	99	83	104	116	120	134	134
Bennettswood	43	53	60	56	56	56	79	95
Berwick	195	221	248	264	251	244	233	282
Blackburn	90	86	131	120	139	158	166	184
Blackburn North	47	46	44	46	46	52	49	59
Boronia	73	73	112	107	116	108	121	118
Box Hill RSL	50	65	83	70	69	77	89	113
Burwood District	47	64	64	0	0	0	0	0
Cardinia Waters	43	60	49	0	0	0	0	0
Chirnside Park CC	74	65	75	86	134	129	112	157
Churchill Waverley Golf	44	57	65	64	77	84	94	96
Cockatoo & District	0	0	28	28	25	23	23	23
Croydon	109	116	118	131	109	106	109	113
Eastwood Golf	59	51	48	83	72	88	94	100
Ferntree Gully	158	175	179	183	151	147	192	189
Glen Waverley	112	121	138	202	213	204	206	265
Healesville	38	53	67	64	70	69	72	76
Heatherdale Recreation	60	86	94	111	119	129	141	166
Heathmont	136	148	151	151	162	164	168	173
Lilydale	142	151	172	255	194	205	254	240
Mitcham	104	95	88	158	104	112	220	146
Monbulk	73	73	79	118	149	134	131	126
Mooroolbark	148	157	177	164	178	182	187	196
Mount Waverley	64	73	121	120	133	142	160	172
Mulgrave CC	158	167	222	207	270	240	272	308
Pakenham	87	97	86	0	0	0	0	0
Ringwood	77	90	89	104	160	211	204	160
Upwey-Tecoma	92	78	89	75	72	70	75	84
Vermont South	188	201	170	254	206	231	247	255
Warburton	53	47	54	48	48	59	51	60
Yarra Glen	66	81	76	84	70	62	60	73
Yarra Junction	25	25	26	23	26	28	44	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2775</b>	<b>3034</b>	<b>3344</b>	<b>3569</b>	<b>3630</b>	<b>3736</b>	<b>3987</b>	<b>4205</b>

2015/2016

Not counted

Marysville	4
Waterford Valley Lakes	9

Cockatoo numbers too low - no charge

## ERBR BOARD MEMBERS 2022-23

President	Gordon Baker (Yarra Glen)
Deputy President	Maria Giramondo (Eastwood Golf)
Treasurer	Richard Sluggett (Mount Waverley)
Secretary	Tony Buckingham (Mulgrave)/ Jenny Holmes (Monbulk)
Member	Bruce Aumann (Chirnside Park)
Member	Paul Dodd (Heathmont)
Member	Lyn Baker (Yarra Glen)



## ERBR COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022-23

**Championship:** Bruce Aumann (Chairman – Chirnside Park)  
Lyn Baker  
Doug Whorlow

**Junior Development:** Richard Sanzin (Chairman - Blackburn)  
Liz Bower (Ringwood)

**Laws & Umpiring:** Doug Whorlow (Blackburn)/Adrian Goldsmith (Chairman – Mulgrave)  
Gordon Baker and Lyn Baker (Yarra Glen)  
Rodney Bates  
Peter Bowman

**Night Pennant:** Garry Pickering (Chairman – Heatherdale)

**Region Sides Men:** Gordon Baker (Side Manager – Yarra Glen)  
Troy Stafford (Croydon)  
Rod Nicholson (Lilydale)  
Shane Manifold (Yarra Glen)

**Region Sides Women:** Lyn Baker (Side Manager – Yarra Glen)  
Maria Giramondo (Side Manager – Eastwood Golf)  
Patti Whorlow (Blackburn)  
Trish Cullinane (Heathmont)

**Website and Communications:**  
Jim Toal (Heathmont)

## President's Report

Four years ago, I accompanied Lyn to the Eastern Ranges AGM and left as the new region president and those years have flown by!

Wow, another year has gone by... first official thank -you to our board, even though we had some changes we have got through some challenging times. Jenny Holmes took over from Tony Buckingham as secretary and Lyn Baker came on to fill a casual vacancy.

As for our committees they have still had some catch ups after COVID slowed them down but steady as you go, they went through the season.

This year the region aimed to maintain their position in the gold tier at the region sides event. We were able to do this with both the men's and the women's teams. Thank you to all that participated- players, managers and selectors.

Players from the region that were selected in state sides must be congratulated-

Women's Open- Jess Wallace (Lilydale)

Senior Men's- Nick Dawe (Heathmont) and Colin Veenendaal (Mitcham).

Senior Women's- Carol Protopapas (Heathmont)

Para Team- Shirley Ivanovic (Lilydale), Annette Ruffle and Lucas Protopapas (Heathmont).

Under 18's- Will Mays (Heathmont) and Amity Bickley (Berwick).

Congratulations also to Mathew O'Brien (Yarra Glen) winning the state men's singles.

October 2022 saw a Heathmont team of Olivia Slade, Louise Whitehead, Carol Protopapas and Karen Barton represent Victoria in the women's fours at the Nationals where they placed second...well done.

Big thank you to Doug Whorlow, who has stepped down from the position of chair of the Umpires and Laws committee, he will be sadly missed. However, we have every faith that his replacement will be able to continue Doug's work, welcome Adrian Goldsmith.

Also thank you to Warren Griffin for his support as our main RBM.

We must give Jim Toal a great big thank you for his tireless work on our website and for his work throughout last season on the region championships.

This year a lot of work has been done on our constitution to get it updated, subcommittees terms of reference and job descriptions for directors. A new region strategic plan has also been developed and implemented.

Jenny has been very busy putting out a region newsletter and it is up to edition 3. We as a board are hoping members are receiving these, club secretaries are responsible for the distribution in clubs.

This year for the first time we have named trophies for the winners of the region singles events. They are named after two well-known region identities. The winner of the men's singles, Mathew



O'Brien, received the John Snell trophy. Carol Protopapas won the women's singles and received the Patty Whorlow trophy.

Another role the board plays is presenting over 80's badges on behalf of Bowls Victoria. This year I think we have given out about 200 badges as it was catchup due to COVID. Congratulations to those members who received them or are about to. Well done.

This year has seen some big changes on the Bowls Victoria front, from moving offices to Bundoora, changes in staff and responsibility to when and where different bowls formats for various events would be played including over 60's carnival at Barham, Novice events to be played as a carnival and region sides to be played in January in Ballarat. At all times we have represented this region in meetings, both formally and informally, to express our point of view.

Also, good luck to all the new coaches at various clubs throughout the region, there has been a big change happening.

Last of all, I would like to thank all the clubs in the region for their support over the last four years. I have made a lot of friends and acquaintances during my tenure as president, for me it has been a pleasure.

Gordy

Gordon Baker



## Financial Statements from July 2022 to 30th June 2023

### Balance Sheet

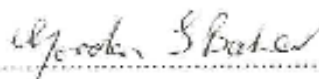
<b>Assets</b>			
Term Deposit	Invested to 22 October 2023 @4.2%		\$15,778.10
Inventory ERBR Uniforms			\$5,898.00
Cash at Bank			\$10,278.09
	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$31,954.19 TOTAL</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Members Equity			\$34,928.89
Adjustment (after allowing for non cash charge shown below)			-\$2,974.70
	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$31,954.19 TOTAL</b>

### Receipts & Expenditure

<b>Receipts</b>			
	BV Region Sides Contribution		\$2,800.00
	Eastern Eagles		\$968.80
	Regional Accomodation & Gear		\$1,998.00
	Regional Levy @\$6.50		\$18,292.00
	State Championship Event Entries @\$15		\$11,250.50
	Term Deposit Interest		\$212.83
	Grant Subsidy		\$2,000.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,522.13</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	Bank fees		\$6.20
	Club Subsidy -Cham/ship events		\$5,070.00
	Computer & Website		\$919.41
	Consumer Affairs Victoria		\$61.20
	Eastern Eagles		\$0.00
	Green Travelling expenses		\$2,350.84
	Hon. Sec & Championship		\$1,750.00
	Insurance		\$825.00
	Opening Night/ Catering		\$1,142.50
	Post Office Box Rental		\$0.00
	Postage & Stationary		\$0.00
	Region Accomodation		\$5,182.00
	Region - Bowls Victoria		\$1,416.00
	Region Sides expenses		\$2,082.58
	Regional clothing		\$2,693.20
	State Cham/ship Prize Money		\$5,500.00
	State Championship Week		\$2,000.00
	Training Programs		\$319.00
	Trop.,Gifts & Presentations		\$204.50
	Misc		\$0.00
			<b>\$31,522.43</b>
		<b>Total Receipts over Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,999.70</b>
		Less non-cash adjustment (write off old ERBR Uniforms)	<b>-\$3,025.00</b>
		<b>Net amount</b>	<b>\$2,974.70</b>

### Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Inc

In the opinion of two Executive members of the Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Incorporated, and as set out in the attached Financial Statements, comprising a Balance Sheet and a Receipts and Expenditure Statement, are drawn up to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as of 30 June 2023.

  
.....  
Gordon Baker, President, ERBR Inc


21 August 2023

  
.....  
Richard Sluggett, Treasurer, ERBR Inc

21 August 2023

### Audit Report

I have examined the Eastern Ranges Bowls Region Financial Statements comprising a Balance Sheet and a Receipts and Expenditure Statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. This was undertaken by sample of the material and review of the accounting procedures maintained by the Region during the period. Based on this sample and review, in my opinion the Statements present a true and a fair view of the accounts for this period. This is not an audit or a review for the purposes of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, but merely an independent check and verification of the accounts as presented and therefore should not be seen as being in accord with those legislative obligations.

  
.....  
Anthony Allan, FCPA

Honorary Auditor

1 September 2023



Richard Sluggett



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Region Championship Results 2022-23

			Number of entries		
Event	Winner	Club	2022-23	2021-22	2018-19
<b>Champion of Champions</b>					
Men's	Josh Sanders	Lilydale	28	28	26
Women's	Olivia Slade	Heathmont	19	22	18
<b>Open Singles</b>					
Men's	Matt O'Brien	Yarra Glen	78	50	69
Women's	Carole Protopapas	Heathmont	30	24	27
<b>Pairs</b>					
Men's	Stephen Bentley & Geoffrey Van Vugt	Pakenham	46	46	39
Women's	Nicole England & Vicki Hudson	Heathmont	24	14	19
<b>Over 60 Pairs</b>					
Men's	Leon Verkuyl & Nick Dawe	Heathmont	43	32	39
Women's	Carol Klooster & Patricia Thompson	Berwick	17	10	19
<b>Over 60 Singles</b>					
Men's	Henny Cortenbach	Mooroolbark	56	35	69
Women's	Jennifer Bainbridge	Pakenham	13	10	22
<b>Triples</b>					
Men's	Will Mays, Earl Mathison & Darren Mays	Heathmont	26	18	24
Women's	Carole Protopapas, Louise Whitehead & Karen Barton	Heathmont	15	11	13
<b>Fours</b>					
Men's	Simon Jeffery, Nick Dawe, Rod Macgregor & Earl Mathison	Heathmont	16	12	13
Women's	Kirsty Day (Yarra Glen), Jan O'Regan (Lilydale), Trish Cullinane (Heathmont) & Vicki Smith (Lilydale)	Composite	9	8	12
<b>Mixed Pairs</b>					
	Ethan Mills & Karyn Mackie	Berwick	47	34	37
<b>Novice Singles</b>					
Men's	Cameron Roberts	Mitcham	15	6	15
Women's	Lee-Anne Atkinson	Heathmont	2	1	11
<b>Total</b>			<b>484</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>472</b>

## Junior Development

It is disappointing to report that the Eastern Eagles Junior Development squad remained dormant for the past financial year.

After the success of past years, two years of disruption due to COVID-19 restrictions, and several squad members attaining 18 years of age, the Committee struggled to get the junior participation rate to a level where the squad could compete at various junior events. Factors impacting this situation include:

- The inability to schedule regular junior training clinics due to the disparity of matches played in the 2022-23 Metropolitan Weekend Pennant competition. With Premier and Division 1 clubs playing an 18-game season, with some weekends incorporating double-header matches, lower divisions played a 14-game season.
- With many Clubs involved in a 14-game season, Clubs took the opportunity to fill the void by reintroducing tournaments after two years of interruption to bowls operations.
- Bowls Victoria introduced fixed scheduling for Region Championship events held on weekends, with subsequent Region matches played midweek.
- Reluctance of Clubs to promote junior activities, including school sports, due to the demands on volunteers to staff these events, impacting the pathway for juniors wishing to pursue the sport.

Notwithstanding the above limitations, some Clubs have successfully invested in junior development. Examples include:

- Glen Waverley, Mount Waverley and Ringwood regularly host School Sports Victoria events:
- Berwick and Heathmont, both successful Division 1 clubs, have juniors playing in their respective #1 side
- Ringwood hosts several schools as part of their respective school sporting activities.

Undoubtedly, there will be other examples of junior engagement across the Region, however these are unknown to the Junior Development Committee. Consequently, these juniors are not involved in the Eastern Eagles Junior Development squad and are being deprived of a pathway into the sport.

Additionally, squad members have not only come from Eastern Ranges Bowls Region. Other Regions situated in the outer east metropolitan area (eg Sandbelt and Peninsula) have also contributed juniors to the squad enabling players of a similar age to compete and benefit from a junior development environment.

Following are the major highlights of junior squad members participating in Club, Region, State and National events during the financial year:

- Club Championships – Amity Bickley (Berwick) and Olivia Slade (Heathmont) winning their respective Club's Open Singles Championships;
- ERBR Men's Triples Championship – Will Mays (Heathmont) member of winning team;
- ERBR Champion of Champions – Olivia Slade, Winner;
- U18 State Championships – Amity Bickley winner Girl's Singles, Will Mays finalist Mixed Pairs, and Will Mays semi-finalist Open Triples;

- U18 State Squad – Amity Bickley and Will Mays selected to represent Victoria;
  - 2023 Club Tweed Junior Nugget – Amity Bickley, winner Girl’s Singles and Will Mays invited to compete in Boy’s Singles; and
- 2022 U18 National Championships – Amity Bickley runner-up in Girl’s Singles and Will Mays winner Boy’s Pairs.

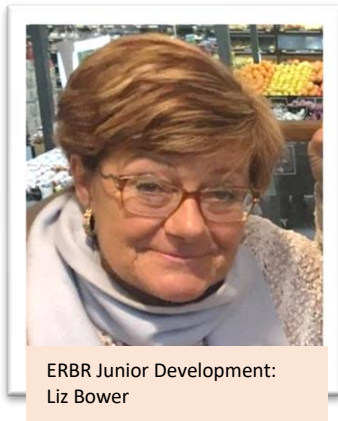
A request for expressions of interest for Junior Squad members has been forwarded to all Clubs in an attempt to revitalise the squad. To date, response to this request has been slow. Should this request prove fruitless, it may be necessary to abandon the squad altogether.

Any Club wanting to increase its numbers with juniors should approach a member of the Committee who would be happy to assist with additional coaching opportunities.

Eastern Ranges Junior Development Committee

Richard Sanzin (Chairman)

Liz Bower (Ringwood)



## Night Pennant

# ERBR Night Pennant Report – June 2023



This season saw 293 players compete in the Night Pennant competition. This was comprised of 16 sides from 11 Clubs who entered teams, spread across Tuesday and Wednesday nights. A breakdown of the age groups who play Night Pennant shows a higher percentage of players in the under 60 age group than the equivalent ERBR numbers.

Night Pennant			ERBR Playing Rights
Age Grouping	# of Players	% of Players	% of Players
Aged <18	3	1%	1%
Aged 18-39	27	9%	4%
Aged 40-59	96	33%	13%
Aged 60-74	111	38%	35%
Aged 75+	56	19%	47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

At the completion of the 10 Sectional rounds, Lilydale finished on top of the Tuesday section with 168 points, followed by Mitcham 1 with 154 points, Heathmont 1 with 115 points and Ferntree Gully with 107 points. In the Wednesday section, Mitcham 3 with 158 points followed by Burwood District with 113 points, Mooroolbark with 96 points and Blackburn 2 with 88 points.

The Tuesday semi-final was played at Lilydale Bowls Club on the 21 February. Lilydale defeated Mitcham 1 by 15 shots (81-66). The Wednesday semi-final was played at Mitcham Bowls Club on the 22 February. Mitcham 3 defeated Burwood District by 11 shots (80-79).

The final was played at Heathmont Bowls Club on Tuesday 28 February 2023. Lilydale defeated Mitcham 3 by 20 shots (88-68). In a replay of last year's final, the result was reversed. Well done to both teams for a great game.

A survey was run at the end of the season to seek feedback on the competition and any improvements that could be made. Clubs that responded provided the following feedback and responses to questions have been received:

1. Change the start time to 7pm so games finish earlier.
2. Night Pennant Green Fees. Review how fees are managed and collected by Clubs.
3. Finals series amongst top 4 teams in each section
4. Better grading of teams

Response to survey results:

- While there was strong interest in bringing forward the start time the majority of clubs voted to keep the start time as 7:30pm. This will remain unchanged next season.
- Green Fees - The majority of clubs voted to align green fees to the same approach as weekend and midweek pennant, this will be adopted next season.
- Finals format – The finals series amongst the top 4 teams will be adopted. Details to be worked through once team numbers in each section are known.
- Better grading of teams – This is a challenging item, given the small numbers of sides it is difficult to establish an effective grading of sides. Each club uses night pennant for different reasons, from fielding the strongest side possible, a way of introducing new bowlers into a pennant style competition, trying players in skip positions, etc. This will be looked at once entries for next season are finalized.

The feedback on the Wednesday night competition has been mixed, some clubs really liked the Wednesday night as it allowed midweek pennant players to participate, however, three clubs struggled with player numbers this season. Given the limited number of teams for the Wednesday night competition it is uncertain if it will run next season.

If clubs want Wednesday night to continue next season, then they need to provide an expression of interest, this will allow us to confirm if it will run next season (a minimum of 6 sides are required).

Thanks to the clubs and team managers for their support throughout the season, without your help the competition would not have continued.

Thanks

Garry Pickering  
Night Pennant Convenor



ERBR Night Pennant  
Garry Pickering

## Laws and Umpiring (LU)

It is with pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the Laws and Umpiring (LU) Committee.

As incoming Chairperson of this committee, I'm delighted to follow in the footsteps of the tireless **Doug Whorlow** who has served the group/region for 29 years on this committee, as Chairperson for the past 14 years. Our most sincere thanks and appreciation goes to Doug for his commitment to training, assessing and reaccrediting hundreds of officials over this time. On behalf of the ERBR committee, clubs and members and especially those umpires, measurers and markers whom you've had the opportunity to work with over the years – we thank you Doug.

With the worst of COVID now behind us, the committee has been working over the past 12 months to catch-up on accrediting new umpires, measurers and markers and reaccrediting those caught up in the pandemic delays. These processes continue as we head into the 2023/24 season with courses for new officials and reaccreditation sessions being planned for September and October 2023.

**In summary, the year's work and achievements were as follows:**

1. Training courses for new Technical Officials were conducted as follows:
  - a. At Mulgrave Country Club and Pakenham Bowls club in October 2022. Thank you to both clubs for the use of their rooms and greens.
  - b. At Mulgrave Country Club in May/June 2023. Thank you again to Mulgrave for their facilities.
  - c. At Yarra Glen Bowls Club in June. Thanks to Gordon and Yarra Glen for running/hosting this course.
2. An on-green accreditation/reaccreditation session was held at Mount Waverley Bowls Club in October 2022. Thank you to Mount Waverley for the use of their greens.
3. In total, over the past year, the Committee has achieved the following outcomes:
  - a. Umpires – 17 new, 8 reaccredited
  - b. Measurers – 8 new, 1 reaccredited
  - c. Markers – 2 new, 1 reaccredited
4. For aspiring new officials, there are extensive training resources on the BV website and information on how to register as a new official. Some of the theory work can now be completed online via Bowls Australia's online programs, with on-green testing undertaken to complement the learning and enable accreditation. The ERBR LU committee continues to recommend in-person training and testing. Based on feedback from some recent candidates who have completed the online components, the in-person experience offers far greater benefit in developing officiating knowledge and skills.
5. Reaccreditation continues to be via a two-part process:
  - a. After registration candidates are emailed an exam paper to completion as an open book exam. The candidate is asked to return their completed paper (preferably by email) for assessment.
  - b. After assessment of the exam paper, an on-green assessment is arranged to complete the process.
6. The committee continue to communicate with new applicants and those due for reaccreditation to promote planned sessions and book people in to a suitable session(s).

The members of the LU committee are Gordon Baker, Lyn Baker, Rodney Bates, Peter Bowman, Doug Whorlow. I thank them for their assistance over this past year as I assume the responsibilities of Chairperson.

**Adrian Goldsmith**

Chairperson ERBR Laws and Umpires Committee



## Region Sides

### Women's Side

A team of fourteen women were selected to represent the ERBR at Echuca/ Moama for the BV Region Sides Championship. This task was completed in March 2023 and the team was published in April. The delay was due to the fact the men's team was not finalised.

*Practice Match:* A practice match was held on May 4 at Mitcham Bowls Club. This was against the Yarra Region and was played in good spirits on a heavy green. Thanks to Mitcham for their hospitality.

*Event:* Several changes to the team occurred and Kirsten Day (Yarra Glen) played second to Jess Wallace and Karyn Mackie (Berwick) attended as the emergency. The Championships were played at Moama and Echuca with regions alternating each day between the clubs.

Eastern Ranges played their first two matches on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at Moama.

The first match was won by Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Region 37-22. The second ERBR defeated Ovens & Murray 39-26. Both matches indicated the standard of the competition with both teams playing off for the gold tier winner. Ovens & Murray went on to win the overall tournament which meant our team played well.

Day 2 was at the Echuca Bowls Club in very cold and windy conditions. The results were:

Round 3- beaten by Goulburn Murray 36-25

Round 4- beaten by Yarra 47-22

Round 5- beaten by Northern Gateway 39-20

Day 3 back to Moama and it was very cold and wet!

Round 6- won against Strzelecki 36-29, played on grass

Round 7- won against Sandbelt 31-30, played under cover on synthetic.

The transition between surfaces on Sunday was very noticeable, however, the team dug deep and went on to win to ensure the regions spot in the gold tier in 2024.

Due to a player being ill Karyn Mackie played a match on Saturday and performed very well.

Jess Wallace was appointed team captain and she was able to inspire the team and encourage them prior to matches.

*Travel Grant:* ERBR received \$1248 from the Victorian Government Travel Assistance Program. This was to help offset costs associated with this event.

*Accommodation:* Like 2022 was at the Murray River Holiday Park at Moama in twin share cabins.

*Meals:* Friday night the team had dinner at the Border Inn at Moama.

Saturday night a barbeque at the Holiday Park

Lunches were provided at both clubs @ \$15 per head. Echuca once again provided very good lunches while Moama was a slight improvement on 2022.

*Comment:* Since BV decided to hold both the men's and women's region sides event at the one venue this region has worked hard to develop the concept of one team with two sections. The players mix well and support each other throughout the competition. Thanks must go to Gordon Baker and Tony Buckingham who established this concept. They believed in supporting the players and this ensured Eastern Ranges are one team. It was interesting to see other regions following some of the ERBR ideas. All players selected talked about the privilege it is to be selected and represent the region.

*Future:*

- The women's team to have a trials day where 20-24 players are invited to trial.
- Selection Policy has been rewritten following the event.
- The competition within this event is a lot stronger than previous years.
- The women's team to meet as a group, prior to the event to get to know players better and therefore develop more comradery.
- Hold a specialist training session for skips and thirds as 'the ability to read a head needs to be developed'.
- People attending such events being mindful that players overhear the negative comments, and they are concerned and 'bowlsvine' becomes very active!!



### Men's Side

The men's region side went to the Bowls Victoria event with the goal of staying in the gold tier and were able to achieve this. The event was held at Echuca/ Moama from May 26 to 28 2023. At the end of 2022 Bowls Victoria announced the changes to this event where regions would be divided into gold and silver tiers. This division was made based on the previous two years' events. Further



changes would be made to the event in 2024. For 2023 regions were instructed to select their best teams and this should be unconditional. From 2024 the event would be part of the pathways system of state selection.

## RESULTS:

### Day 1 was held at Moama.

The first match against Bendigo Campaspe Goldfield saw a win 38 to 25.

In the second match Ovens & Murray were beaten 37 to 24

### Day 2 at Echuca.

Match 3 saw a loss to Goulburn Murray 31 to 29

Match 4 another loss this time to Yarra 39-29

Match 5 a win against Northern Gateway 37-16.

### Day 3 at Moama.

Match 6 was a loss to Metro West 34-19. (winners of the event)

Match 7 another loss to Sandbelt 37-22.

Overall Eastern Ranges finished third in the gold tier.

All players did their best in very cold and wet conditions. Shane Manifold came off the bench on Friday to assist with the wins on that day.

Full details of results were published in the region newsletter that was sent out after the event.

Once again both our men's and women's teams came together as one, supporting each other and this was very pleasing to note.

