

BELTANA BOWLS CLUB 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2019

Good afternoon everyone. It is a real pleasure for me and Dick to be here with you today as you celebrate 50 years of the Beltana Bowls Club.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the Mouheneener people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

I would like to acknowledge:

- Peter Hyland, Club President;
- Elaine Hyland, Club Treasurer;
- John Wilson, Patron;
- Diny Priest, Patron;
- and last but by no means least, the sponsors and longtime members who do so much to support the Beltana Bowls Club.

Beltana Bowls Club was established on the 20 February 1969 when 44 people gathered in the Lindisfarne CWA Hall. The meeting established a club administrative arm with the goal of implementing a clubhouse and green.

Plans and specifications were ready by April 1969 and by December construction of the green had started. Beltana's first greenkeeper was Max Moody, a position he held for several years.

The club appointed its first patron, Alec McKay at a meeting in August 1969.

The first official annual general meeting was held on 25 June 1970. Even before construction of the Clubhouse commenced, full membership stood at 51 which was impressive for a club yet to play a pennant game.

Cecil "Snow" Morgan was the builder of the original bowls clubhouse. Snow quoted \$23,000 but said the club could only afford \$17,000 so that's what it was built for. It was built in about four months and opened in October 1970.

The second green was created in 1973. The third green – the Syd Hammond Green – was opened in January 1987, along with extensions to the clubhouse. The club now boasts a membership of over 200 and with the advent of barefoot bowls, more younger players are being enticed to the game

Dick and I are especially pleased to be here today to hear the stories of some of your long-time club members and in particular Cecil "Snow" Morgan. Snow Morgan will turn 100 at the end of March and still enjoys a weekly drink at the club, which certainly shows his dedication, passion and loyalty to the club. He has only recently stopped driving and put his last bowl down about three years ago. He lists socialising, travelling and playing bowls as the keys to a long life.

I will be joining Snow soon as I put down the first bowl of the next 50 years of your splendid club.

I should say at this point that Government House also has a lovely bowls/croquet lawn built in the 1880, beautifully maintained and still used occasionally and I probably should have taken the opportunity of having a little practice there before coming here today.

Thank you.