

# MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB

Mulgrave Country Club is known in the area as “Your Friendly Community Sporting Club” and is a club entirely owned by its members.

Some far sighted people who foresaw the growth of the area and the need for a meeting place formed the Mulgrave Country Club in 1961. From a humble beginning, it has grown to a licensed club with excellent sporting and recreational facilities and ever increasing social activities.

In 1961 the present site of approximately 2 hectares was purchased, the land was cleared, the original clubhouse built and the first bowling green constructed.

The present Club building was opened in April 2004 and extended in 2012. It now includes three function areas (the Mulgrave Room, Panorama Room and Heritage Brassiere), the Country Bistro (open 7 days), Wellington Room, two Outdoor Lounges, Sports Café, Legends Room, Members Lounge, Punters TAB and convenient underground car parking.

The Club now comprises three bowling greens (two under lights), four squash courts, three tennis courts (with lighting), cricket teams, social golf, snooker, darts and indoor carpet bowls ... catering to a very large membership.

Sports facilities and competitions are well organised, and new members along with visitors are made most welcome.

All Club activities and news are reported in a bi-monthly club newsletter. Information is also available on our website ([www.mulgravecc.com.au](http://www.mulgravecc.com.au)).

Mulgrave Country Club prides itself on its contributions to the local community and supports many local charities, sporting clubs and schools.



*Photo of original clubhouse circa 1961*



*Your Club*

# MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB

## HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION

- Dec 1960 Meeting called for 14/12/1960 for the purpose of discussing the purchase of 5 acres in the Mulgrave/Wheelers Hill area on which Club rooms for social and recreation entertainment, bowling greens, tennis courts etc. would be erected.
- 14 Dec 1960 Eighteen people attended the Meeting and there were three apologies. Councillor Les Allen was appointed Founding Acting President and Mr Jim Boucher was appointed Acting Honorary Secretary / Treasurer.
- 9 Feb 1961 Three separate properties of approximately 5 acres including our present site were put forward for consideration.
- 18 Apr 1961 Memorandum and Articles of Association adopted. Decided to purchase 5 acre property on the Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads.
- 19 May 1961 Master Plan for Club House submitted for discussion - £6400. Decided to add a kitchen, estimated cost £750 extra. Clubhouse plan to be redesigned.
- 28 Jul 1961 Construction of Bowling Green to proceed. Dandenong Club to be thanked for assistance in preparing draft articles. The Department of Local Government approves Site Use for a Club.
- 29 Mar 1962 Report to the General Committee that Club is a long way from being able to pay for the proposed Clubhouse and/or the bowling green.
- 25 May 1962 First Annual General Meeting - Election of Office Bearers. Membership was 62 with 47 Associates.
- 8 Aug 1962 Membership as a Contributing Life Member created. To be granted on payment of not less than 12 years annual subscription. To preserve a Mulgrave identity, adopt as the Club colours the Navy Blue and Maroon of the Mulgrave Football Club ("The Panthers").
- 4 Oct 1962 Articles changed to allow the club to be licensed and to allow for Associate members.
- 21 Nov 1962 First Associates elected. Mesdames Eves, Boucher, Stringer, B. M. Allen, Mary Allen, A. P. Williams, Belcher, Gardner, Ajani, Muir, Burrows, Begg, Mitchell, Lower, Lucas, Cleary, Lancaster, Byers, Collins and Goodman.
- 16 Dec 1962 Clubhouse to be extended to allow for Locker Rooms for members and Associates and for Committee Room/Manager's Office.



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## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

- 14 Mar 1963 Bowling Green ready for play. There were 55 members and 32 Associates. Saturday bowling from now on – informal dress but bowls shoes essential.  
Club incorporated as a Company and registered as such.  
Secretary authorised to apply to Licensing Court for grant of Registration as a Licensed Club.
- 7 May 1963 Annual General Meeting decides to have an Official Opening Night on 22 June 1963. To take the form of a barbecue tea, with films and variety entertainment. Ladies to bring a plate.
- 22 Jun 1963 Official Opening Night – 140 attended - Donations for furniture for the Clubhouse exceeded cost of the night by £77.
- 31 Jul 1963 First Associates meeting held.
- 12 Sep 1963 General Committee authorises Associates to join VLBA.
- 19 Sep 1963 Enquiries reveal our Licence Application is 6th on the list and should be heard about April or May of next year.
- 21 Sep 1963 First Official Bowls Opening - followed by the Associates on 25th September 1963.
- 14 May 1964 Annual General Meeting. As a result of the Licensing Court suggesting that sporting facilities in addition to Bowls be provided, it was decided that Billiards, Squash and Tennis should be investigated.
- 3 Jul 1964 Articles amended to allow for Sub-Committees to run various sporting activities and thus meet RVBA requirements in lieu of having a Mulgrave Country Club Bowling Club.
- 9 Jul 1964 First Bowls Sub-Committee formed with Bill Donnelly, Chairman.
- 8 Aug 1964 Bar trading commenced.  
Bowling members entered their first RVBA Pennant team of 16, and the Associates entered a team of 12 to compete in the VLBA Pennant season.
- 13 Aug 1964 Sub-Committee appointed to investigate establishment of Squash courts.
- 10 Jun 1965 Approval given for two Bowls Pennant Sides for 1965/66.
- 17 Nov 1966 Building of Squash Court to proceed subject to approval of the Licensing Court.
- Mar 1968 The Associates win their first major Pennant flag in Division D3.
- 9 May 1968 Second Bowling Green to be completed.
- 24 Oct 1968 Commencement of Northerly extension of Clubhouse, toilets, locker rooms and squash galleries.
- Jul 1970 The first Mulgrave Country Club newsletter issued.



## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

- 12 Aug 1971 Second Squash Court approved.
- 1972 Club membership had increased to 300. Birth of MCC Newsletter.
- 31 Oct 1974 Extension of Clubhouse on East end, kitchen, furniture, and carpeting approved.
- 1996 - 1997 Building extension completed at a cost of approximately \$88,000.
- Mar 1977 Mulgrave men bowlers defeat North Blackburn for the Grand Final Pennant.
- 8 Jun 1977 Construction of car park approved.
- 9 Aug 1978 First Club Manager appointed.
- 8 Feb 1980 Master Plan for extensions to clubhouse and facilities to be progressively attained is approved by members. Not to exceed \$300,000.

The following is an extract from the book "The First One Hundred Years of the Royal Victorian Bowls Association", published in 1980 to celebrate the centenary of the RVBA.

**MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB:** Founded December 14, 1960, Les Allen the president, John Boucher the secretary. In the late 1950s a group of local businessmen who gathered nightly at the local pub decided to form a men's club. On April 14, 1961, they purchased five acres (two hectares) of land at the corner of Jells and Wellington Roads for \$20,000. When the greens were laid, hessian bags were used for mats, tennis balls for jacks, and old bowling balls were borrowed. Today the club has two greens, two squash courts, a well-appointed spacious licensed clubhouse and kitchen, directly opposite V.F.L. Park. Members number 600, including 150 bowlers and 200 ladies.

## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

- 1981 Howard Dyer and Geoff Maskell win the prestigious Annual Legacy Pairs competition.
- Mar 1982 Geoff Maskell becomes first Mulgrave CC bowler to be selected in a Victorian Side – playing as a second in the Vic Number 3 Side.
- 23 Nov 1982 Tender accepted for new Eastern extension to Clubhouse.
- 1983 Weekly Bingo started – was the financial saviour for the Club at the time.
- Mar 1984 Annual Melbourne High School Old Boys bowls tournament commenced at Mulgrave, founded by Harold Roberts.
- 1984 Green 3 constructed.
- 1985 Host Club to the Australian Ladies Bowls team for the World Bowls tournament being held in Melbourne.
- 1985-1986 Inaugural Ladies Invitation Classic Fours held.



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## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

Mar 1986 Men's Side 1 win their Section and are promoted to Division 1 for the first time.

Introduction of the Equal Opportunity Act created far reaching changes – not popular with all (male) members.

Bowls Section wins their first City of Waverley "Waverley Wheel" annual competition.

1987 The first Mixed Bowls Committee formed.

Molly Simpson becomes Mulgrave's first lady National Umpire.



Club President Ken Armstrong speaking at the VLBA President & Guests Day (1987 ?).

## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

1987 - 1988 Major building extensions, costing \$225,000, completed. These are expected to satisfy the needs of the Club for decades.

At the West end, additions included a Sportsman's bar, enlarged change / shower rooms for squash, a sauna, separate kitchen for sporting sections, a ladies rest room, and a disabled toilet. At the East end, a new entrance was provided, plus an office for the manager and an assistant.

Apr 1989 Full-time greenkeeper employed as a member of staff.

1990 Molly Simpson & Barbara Doggett become Mulgrave's first lady National Coaches.

Nov 1991 At the Half yearly meeting of the Club, members vote almost unanimously to proceed with installation of poker machines.



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## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

- 1992-1993 Gordana Baric becomes the first Mulgrave lady bowler to be invited to attend the VLBA State Trials for selection in the State Side, and was selected to play in Queensland for her first State outing. Side 2 in Saturday Pennant is undefeated for the season until losing to SOC in the Division 2 semi-final.
- 1993 - 1994 The advent of poker machines saw \$700,000 being spent to give the Club an excellent gaming room, a fine entrance / reception area, additional dining room area, enlarged administration area, a meeting room, and a completely sealed car park. The "Wellington Room" gaming venue was officially opened on 16 June. The Ladies Number 1 Side won the A1 Division flag, defeating a more fancied and experienced City of St Kilda Side.
- 1994-1995 VLBA introduces Groups to assist with overall administration. Mulgrave is in Group 18, with Molly Simpson elected as President of the Group. Mulgrave entered nine Sides in RVBA Saturday Pennant this season. In round 3, all nine Sides won.
- 27 Apr 1995 Motion passed at AGM to introduce a coloured shirt for bowlers for next season.
- Dec 1995 The Club purchases life member Perce Burdeu's property to allow for future expansion of the Club. (Note: Green 3 and the Greenkeeper's shed are now located on this property.)
- 1997 Bowls Australia announces the National Merchandising Program, which will require all Pennant players to wear clothing displaying the Bowls Australia logo. From April 2000 it will be compulsory on all clothing that is clearly visible on the green (e.g. shirts, jackets, trousers).
- 1997 - 1998 First season playing Night Pennant, using South Oakleigh as the home ground – 2 teams entered.
- 1998 - 1999 Ladies Masters Singles held for the first time – entrants had to have won a Club Singles championship or better.
- 20 Mar 1999 Ladies Bowls Novice Competition, involving neighbouring Clubs, held for the first time.
- May 1999 Lights installed on Green 1
- 1999 - 2000 First season of Night Pennant playing at home – 4 teams entered.
- April 2000 Coloured jackets introduced for bowlers.
- 2004 Major redevelopment of the Club premises, stage 1 of planned expansion. Green 3 moved to its current location, and a new two storey building erected at the corner of Wellington & Jells Roads, with Green 2 bordered on two sides by the new building.



## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

- 26 Nov 2009 Meeting to discuss and vote on unification of VLBA and RVBA, and the amalgamation of our own Bowling Sections, Ladies, Men’s, and Mixed, into one section for the future.
- March 2010 Mulgrave Men’s, Ladies, & Mixed Bowls Sections officially merged into a single Bowls Section.
- 2012 Completion of Stage 2 of the building expansion started in 2004. New squash courts added, the members area revamped, and first floor function rooms expanded. A new underground carpark under Green 2 meant the loss of this green for 18 months while a large hole was dug, the carpark constructed, and then a new green established on top of the carpark.
- Sep 2012 Coloured pants & shorts introduced for bowlers.
- Mar 2013 The Club’s Board approves the Bowls Section request to recruit a paid bowls coach.
- April 2013 Bowlers approve a new design for the showerproof bowls jackets, to be available for the start of next season.
- July 2013 The Bowls Section appoints the Club’s first paid bowls coach, Barrie Lester, an Australian international player.
- 18 Oct 2014 All ten Sides in Saturday Pennant won their matches. This was the first time that such an achievement had been recorded, and it even got a mention in the “In Black & White” section of the Sun-Herald newspaper.  
To commemorate the achievement, a plaque was created and placed in the Member’s area.

Side	Skip	Third	Second	Lead	Roll	Adjusted
MULGRAVE 1	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 2	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 3	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 4	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 5	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 6	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 7	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 8	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 9	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24
MULGRAVE 10	A. Williams	S. King	A. Williams	A. Williams	15	24

- Feb 2015 Nine of the ten Sides in Saturday Pennant qualified to play in the Sectional finals, with seven finishing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> and hence qualifying for a home game in the Section semi-finals. As the Club could only host five home games, two Sides played their semi-finals at Burden Park.
- 2014-2015 The Midweek Women’s Only Pennant Side 1 was invited to join the Premier Division for Season 2014-2015, having finished as Division 1 semi-finalists the previous season. After finishing a creditable 4th at the end of the regular season, they then won their three finals games to take out the Premier Division flag.
- 2017-2018 After 5 years with Mulgrave Country Club, Barrie Lester decided not to renew his coaching contract, looking for opportunities elsewhere. The paid coaching position continued with lower profile coaches.



## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

2020-2021 The COVID-19 pandemic, which began sweeping the world in late 2019, saw major disruptions to the Mulgrave Country Club operations as community lockdowns and restrictions were implemented during 2020 and into 2021. Lawn Bowls was affected, with the cancellation of Divisional finals in March 2020 and a delayed start to the 2020-2021 season. Due to the delayed start, the Pennant competitions were reduced from the normal 18 rounds to 14 rounds. Within Divisions, the Sections were also reduced from ten teams to eight teams, and only the bottom team was to be relegated. The 6-a-Side competition was also split into a Spring and a Summer format, with Sections of 6 teams playing over 5 rounds followed by finals.

Bowls Victoria also introduced a Midweek Thursday 7-a-Side Pennant completion, with teams playing two games of Pairs and one game of Triples. As with the 6-a-Side completion, it was organised on a Spring and Summer season format, with Sections of 6 teams playing five rounds followed by finals.

2021-2022 The ongoing effects of lockdowns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic saw the start of the Lawn Bowls season again delayed. Bowls Victoria decided to keep Premier Division and Division 1 as 10 team sections, with an eighteen round season, while maintaining the remaining Divisions as 8 team sections. However, they also announced reorganisation for the 2022-2023 season, with Divisions 2 and below being reduced from 10 sections to 8 sections each.

The Thursday 6-A-Side format changed to a 14 round season. March 2022 saw the Club's first synthetic green laid on Green 1, with the official opening on Sunday 3 April.

2022-2023 A Pre-season 9's competition was introduced, being held over 3 Saturdays in September.

The format for section finals in both Midweek and Weekend Pennant was changed from 1 v 4 and 2 v 3, with the winner of each going to the grand final. The new format was 1 v 2 and 3 v 4, the winner of 1 v 2 going straight to the grand final, with the loser playing the winner of 3 v 4 for the second spot in the grand final. Section finals therefore required three days to complete rather than two days.

The Thursday 6-A-Side went back to separate Spring / Summer competitions, with sections of 4 teams playing each other twice, but section finals retained the old format.



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## **HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE CLUB & THE BOWLS SECTION**

2023-2024 Reorganisation of Metro Pennant was completed for this season, with Premier Division being reduced to eight Sides, but with the addition of a second tier Premier Division. Division 1 was also reorganised to four sections of eight Sides.

# MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB

*“Your Friendly Community Sporting Club”*

## MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB VISION:

To be the leading community based sporting, social, recreational and hospitality club by being pro-active in the commitment to excellence through continual improvement

## MULGRAVE COUNTRY CLUB MISSION:

- enhance the value & prestige of membership
- provide the best possible sporting, social & recreational facilities
- supply fine hospitality services to its members
- support & recognition of our place in the local community
- to conduct a professional & ethical business

Mulgrave Country Club strives to promote high levels of player participation in well managed events at all levels of sport to ensure that we are regarded as the pre-eminent sports club in Melbourne’s eastern suburbs.

By virtue of our first class facilities, we attract a broad demographic of visitors to the club which presents a prime opportunity for sponsors to raise their profile in the community and gain highly visible brand exposure.

We welcome expressions of interest from potential corporate sponsors to aid us in our ongoing support of the local community.



**Mulgrave Country Club**

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