

Congratulations

Well done to all the sides who competed in the 2021 Women's and Open Gender BCiB State Pennant Finals! Congratulations to the following winners and runners-up:

BCiB Women's State Pennant Finals

Grade 1

Winners – Cabramatta
Runners-up – Charlestown

Grade 2

Winners – Munmorah United
Runners-up – Bomaderry

Grade 3

Winners – Tuncurry-Forster Sports
Runners-up – The Rules Club Wagga

Grade 4

Winners – Tathra Beach
Runners-up – Ingleburn

BCiB Open Gender State Pennant Finals

Grade 1

Winners – St Johns Park
Runners-up – Engadine

Grade 2

Winners – Merimbula-Imlay
Runners-up – Merrylands

Grade 3

Winners – Sawtell
Runners-up – Narrandera

Grade 4

Winners – Sawtell
Runners-up – Hazelbrook

Grade 5

Winners – Manning Point
Runners-up – Marrickville

Grade 6

Winners – Cabra-Vale Diggers
Runners-up – Gresford

Grade 7

Winners – Walcha
Runners-up – Ocean Shores



BCiB WOMEN'S
PENNANT
FINALS

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BCiB OPEN
GENDER
PENNANT
FINALS

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Pennants Special Edition



Dawn Hayman creates history as the first ever woman to win the Open Gender Grade 1 State Pennant title

Welcome to the special 'Pennant Edition' of the Bowls NSW Newsletter!

In this issue, we will provide you with a wrap-up from all the 2021 Women's State Pennant and Open Gender State Pennant finals, including results and photos of all winners and runners-up. Over the last two weeks, we have had 1,764 players representing 166 sides across 121 clubs compete for one of eleven State Pennants.

After the disappointment of postponing events in 2021 due to COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdowns, it has been incredible to see so many bowlers back on the greens competing in our most prestigious event.

Bowls NSW would like to thank all our wonderful host venues, their staff and volunteers for their help in running the events and creating a fantastic atmosphere for players and spectators alike.

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2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Women's Finals

Women's - Grade 1

Cabramatta are Grade 1 State Pennant champions after securing their fourth title in six years in a hotly contested final with Charlestown.

A mix of upsets and strong starts headlined the first day of the 2021 Women's State Pennant finals. Cabramatta made the perfect start to their campaign recording a strong 17 shot win over Springwood in the morning before battling past a persistent Cudgen Leagues side, prevailing 55-37.

In Section 2, Port Macquarie City provided the biggest upset win of the first day, defeating a strong Raymond Terrace outfit 48-34. They consolidated that result with another win in the afternoon, beating Belrose. Charlestown also recorded two wins on the day to sit first on the ladder

courtesy of winning every rink across their two matches.

After the dust settled on Day 2 of the finals, a surprise contender has emerged as favourite to qualify for the final. Charlestown led Section 2 with one round to play after defeating Port Macquarie City in a cracking match 45-41. In Section 1, Taren Point and Cabramatta enjoyed another successful day on the green, winning both of their matches and remaining unbeaten throughout sectional play. This meant they would face-off in a final round thriller to determine who progresses through their section into the final.

On the final day, both Charlestown and Cabramatta won in the morning to secure their spot in the final. Throughout the final, all players put



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Grade 1 Winner Cabramatta



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Women's Finals

Women's - Grade 1

on an absolute show for the crowd, gripping them from start to finish. Keen to continue their great run of form, the Charlestown side jumped out to a 16- 5 lead courtesy of some fantastic play from Kay Shuttlewood and Gayle Gannon. Undeterred, the classy Cabramatta side clawed their way back into the match, eventually leading 30- 29 after 33 ends.

What followed in the final ends were world class bowls, fitting of a Grade 1 State final. Both teams traded blows, desperately trying to claim the lead. But as the old adage goes, there can only be one winner, and on this occasion it was Cabramatta. Regardless of the result, both sides can be proud of the way they conducted themselves on the green.



Grade 1 Runner-up Charlestown

2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Women's Finals

Women's - Grade 2

Fourteen Grade 2 sides took to the Greens at Forster Bowling Club in search of a State Pennant title, and after three days of play Munmorah United stood firm as the only undefeated side, beating Bomaderry in a quality final.

Munmorah's route to the final was anything but easy, having to overcome both Cabramatta and Engadine in their section. They did so in emphatic fashion, getting the better of both sides. Special mention must go to Connie Goddard's rink who finished their sectional matches

with two wins and a +40 margin.

South Tamworth also stormed through their section, winning all three games without dropping a rink. Tuncurry Beach and Bomaderry rounded out the section winners, with both of those sides also going through undefeated.

Both semi-finals proved to be cliff-hangers. The matches featured countless lead changes on the master board and quality bowls from start to finish. In the end, it was Bomaderry and Munmorah United

who were able to hold firm against South Tamworth and Tuncurry Beach respectively to book their place in the final.

The final was a close affair the whole way through the game, with neither team more than 10 shots ahead on the master board until the final ends of the match. Munmorah United in the end were too consistent for Bomaderry, taking out the match 43-30 to be crowned the Women's Grade 2 State Pennant champions.



Grade 2 Winner Munmorah United



Grade 2 Runner-up Bomaderry



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Women's Finals

Women's - Grade 3

Hometown heroes Tuncurry-Forster Sports have won the Women's Grade 3 State Pennant finals, beating The Rules Club Wagga 53- 36.

On the first day of play, Tuncurry-Forster Sports had a tough first round loss against East Maitland 45 - 29. Winners from Sections 1 and 2 were Brunswick Heads, Wyong and Parkes, the latter two teams claiming victory by a slim one shot margin. The Rules, Majellan and Merimbula Imlay also enjoyed first round wins.

Day 2 saw sectional rounds completed, and the semi-finalists confirmed after all four sections went

down to the wire. GyMEA, Tuncurry-Forster Sports, Rules Club Wagga and Merimbula-Imlay all did enough to top their sections and make the knockout rounds. Incredibly, all four sections had at least two teams in contention for a semi-final berth heading into the final round. It wasn't until all matches had finished that the four semi-finalists could be determined.

In the semi-finals, Tuncurry-Forster Sports were too good for GyMEA, winning both rinks in a strong 48 - 24 win. The Rules Club Wagga had a tougher time against Merimbula-

Imlay, but still managed to secure both rinks, winning 43- 29.

The afternoon final was a see-saw affair. For the first three quarters of the game, very little separated the two sides with the lead changing multiple times. The quality of bowls put down by both sides was incredible, entertaining the rink-side crowd. The pivotal moment came with six ends to go, when both Tuncurry-Forster Sports rinks picked up scores of four and five to catapult them into a ten-shot lead. From there, they stormed home to claim a 53- 36 victory, and the first Women's State Pennant in the club's history.



Grade 3 Winner Tuncurry-Forster Sports



Grade 3 Runner-up The Rules Club Wagga

To watch our live streamed matches please go online to the Bowls NSW Facebook page or www.bowlsnsw.com.au

2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Women's Finals

Women's - Grade 4

Tathra Beach, who had not competed in a Women's State Pennant final since the 1961-62 season, are now the Women's Grade 4 State Pennant champions some 60 years later. Their solid 60 - 20 win over Ingleburn in the final was the perfect reflection of how the side continued to improve as the event went on.

Tathra's campaign began with two tight wins over West Pennant Hills and Hazelbrook, both by just two shots! In the third round they accounted for West Dubbo, winning by 16 shots to top their section undefeated.

Yamba qualified through Section 1 despite losing their last round against Bomaderry - their perfect 10 points from the first two rounds virtually guaranteeing them a spot in the semi-finals. Ingleburn and Figtree Sports also went through their sections undefeated, overcoming some tough opposition in the process.

A special mention must go to the Delungra side from northern NSW, who had all eight of their women's club bowling members participate in order to take part in the finals. They even had a Tuncurry-Forster Sports

local act as their team manager! The side played admirably, and did their club and their town proud.

In the semi-finals, Ingleburn dominated Yamba, winning both rinks in their 48 - 29 victory. Things weren't as easy for Tathra Beach, who were made to work by Figtree Sports. Tathra jumped out to what appeared to be an unassailable lead before Figtree Sports edged their way back into contention. It proved to be just too difficult for them as Tathra Beach held on for a 47- 37 win to book their place in the final.



Grade 4 Winner Tathra Beach



Grade 4 Runner-up Ingleburn

The Tathra Beach side saved their best performance for the big stage, with both rinks jumping out to a commanding lead against Ingleburn and they maintained that dominance throughout the final, cruising to a win. Ingleburn played admirably, but in the end were outclassed by the Tathra side.

Well done to all competing sides, and congratulations Tathra Beach on a well deserved win.

2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Women's Finals



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2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 1

St Johns Park are State Pennant champions once again, winning the 2021 Bowls NSW Open Gender Grade 1 State Pennant final over Engadine.

Sectional play matches included some surprise results, with Charlestown coming through their section undefeated, beating a trio of quality sides in Soldiers Point, Warilla and Merrylands along the way. Raymond Terrace, Mount Lewis and Cabramatta also topped their sections, winning all three matches. Engadine, Warilla, Belrose and St Johns Park all finished in second place in their sections to qualify for the quarter-finals.

All four quarter-finals were incredible, with no match being decided by more than nine shots. Charlestown continued their winning form, accounting for a valiant Belrose side 65 - 56. Raymond Terrace won two of three rinks to take the win against a star-studded Warilla side, and it was a similar story for Engadine who defeated 2019 semi-finalists the Mt Lewis Lions. The fourth quarter final proved to be the match of the round with powerhouse clubs St Johns Park and Cabramatta going head-to-head. After 62 tough ends, St Johns Park found themselves needing three to

tie and force an extra end scenario.

Holding one with two bowls to play, Saints skip Ben Twist drew a toucher three inches off the ditch with his first bowl to make two, then followed it up with another toucher to trail the jack into the ditch for three with what has been described by many as one of the greatest bowls they have ever seen! That three forced a three end tie-break which St Johns Park won to progress to the semi-finals and end Cabramatta's quest for a fourth-straight Grade 1 State Pennant.

In the semi-finals, St Johns Park



Grade 1 Winner St Johns Park



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 1

overcame a fast-starting Raymond Terrace outfit to win 59 - 56 in a nailbiter. A 23- 12 win to Ben Twist's rink accounted for two narrow losses on the other rinks to see the Saints through to the final. It was a very different story for Engadine, who jumped out to a huge lead against Charlestown and never let up, eventually winning 80- 33. All three rinks recorded solid wins against their Newcastle based opposition, and despite the loss the Tigers certainly did their club proud.

The final was played in tough, wet conditions with the Saints jumping out to an early 18- 1 lead over the Cougars, courtesy of an 11- 0 start from the Sean Baker skipped rink. From there, they maintained a comfortable buffer throughout the final despite some push back from Engadine. The performance was clinical not only from start to finish, but across all positions, proving that the 80- 42 victory was a true team effort. Engadine did not play badly by any means, they simply came up

against a St Johns Park side in red hot form.

Congratulations to St Johns Park on a well deserved win, and to all sides that competed in the Open Gender Grade 1 State Pennant finals.

To watch our live streamed matches please go online to the Bowls NSW Facebook page or www.bowlsnsw.com.au



Grade 1 Runner-up Engadine



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 2

Merimbula-Imlay are the 2021 Bowls NSW Open Gender Grade 2 State Pennant Champions, following a thrilling and hard-earned win over Merrylands in overcast and often wet and windy conditions at Club Dubbo.

In Friday's and Saturday's sectional play, Sections 1 and 2 were held at Club Dubbo, and Sections 3 and 4 were played at Dubbo Macquarie.

Section 1 (Club Dubbo)

Armidale City, North Sydney and Raymond Terrace each had two wins

and a loss in their qualifying rounds. However, it was North Sydney and Armidale City that progressed, with Raymond Terrace losing out on percentages.

Section 2 (Club Dubbo)

The strong Austral team had three solid wins in Section 2, easily moving into the quarter-finals with Merrylands, who had 2 wins and a loss. The local West Dubbo side started in a promising fashion, but ran out of steam, losing their last two games.

Section 3 (Dubbo Macquarie)

With only three teams in this section, a bye for each team gave them extra practice. Ocean Shores won both their games and progressed, along with Engadine, whose crucial victory over Gwandalan ensured they moved into the quarter-finals.

Section 4 (Dubbo Macquarie)

Merimbula-Imlay won Section 4. Both they and Cabramatta went through, with each team losing a game along the way. Forster and



Grade 2 Winner Merimbula-Imlay



Grade 2 Runner-up Merrylands

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2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 2

Kempsey Macleay RSL suffered critical losses at the wrong time meaning that they missed out on reaching the quarter-finals.

In windy conditions at Club Dubbo, at the half-way mark there was nothing in the quarter-finals. North Sydney was matching it with their more fancied rivals, Merrylands, whilst Austral were being sternly tested by Armidale City. However, as both matches entered the second-half, the pressure became obvious. Merrylands put the foot down and bolted away to defeat the Bears 79 to 46. On the other green, Austral

proved too steady for Armidale City, eventually winning 66 to 51.

Meanwhile at the Macquarie Club, Engadine and Merimbula-Imlay were locked in a fierce battle for the whole match. It got down to the last end with Merimbula prevailing 58 to 55. In the other quarter-final Ocean Shores was matching it with the strong Cabramatta outfit, only to be edged out over the last couple of ends 60- 50.

In the first semi between Austral and Merrylands, Merrylands maintained a slender lead throughout, but could not quite shake a determined

Austral side. Austral got to within six shots with five ends remaining, but could not maintain the comeback, going down in the end 67 shots to 54.

The second semi-final saw Merimbula-Imlay establish an early lead over Cabramatta, which they maintained throughout the match. Despite their best efforts, the Bullants could not find their range, with the Merimbula Dolphins prevailing 60 to 39.

In the final, Merimbula maintained a slender lead throughout most of the match, but this was reduced to just five with two ends to play. Merrylands picked up two shots on the penultimate end, and held a match-winning five on the last end with just one bowl left. Steve Douglas stepped up for the Dolphins and played an on-shot that disturbed the head and left Merrylands holding an agonising two shots, one short of a play-off.

Their exciting and gutsy 59 to 58 victory was played in a strong cross wind, which made bowling difficult, even for the most skilled players.

Bowls NSW representative, Brett Duprez, was glowing in his congratulations to both Club Dubbo and Dubbo Macquarie, in the professional manner they ran the event. All players, officials and spectators were well looked after, and the staff and volunteers of both clubs are to be congratulated.



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2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 3

Northmead and Toongabbie Bowling Clubs hosted the Bowls NSW Open Gender Grade 3 State Pennant finals from 25th - 27th March and what a magnificent job they did.

All competing sides arrived early on Friday morning eager for play, some travelling long distances

to participate. After the opening ceremony, players took to the greens in wet and windy conditions.

During Friday and Saturday, sectional play was filled with top quality bowls despite the difficult conditions. It was particularly encouraging to see many female members competing

alongside their male teammates. Throughout all of the sections there was much camaraderie with games being played in great spirit.

At the completion of sectional play, Narrandera, Malua Bay, Denistone Sports and Cabra Vale Diggers all won their sections. In Section 3, just



Grade 3 Winner Sawtell



Grade 3 Runner-up Narrandera



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 3

two points separated first placed Denistone Sports from Orange City in third, with Sawtell scraping into second spot by a mere 1.5 points.

Due to the inclement weather, the quarter-finals and semi-finals were reduced to 45 ends in order to guarantee matches could be finished. What wasn't reduced for these matches was the quality of bowls, with sides producing several high quality matches. Sawtell accounted for Cabra-Vale Diggers and Denistone

in the semi-final to win their way through to the final. In the other half of the draw, Narrandera defeated Singleton RSL and a solid Malua Bay outfit.

With rain persisting, the final was an amazing match that started at 3pm and finished about 8pm under lights due to weather interruptions. Despite these delays, both sides persisted and Sawtell eventually triumphed defeating Narrandera 62 - 42. There was some incredible

bowling throughout. Congratulations to both teams on the way they handled the tough conditions.

The presentation of medals and flags was carried out by Bowls NSW Board Representative, Sue O'Keefe and Northmead club representative Keith Smith.

Thanks must go to the umpires and volunteers who all did such a great job. Without them the event would not have been as successful as it was.



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 4

Before a bowl was even put down at the Grade 4 State Pennant finals, teams were treated to a spectacle of sportsmanship and camaraderie that defines our bowling community. At a team managers meeting prior to play, the terrible plight of the Lismore floods was brought home when South Lismore's manager described the devastation caused to his own club and the amazing efforts

which could see their members back on the greens in 3 weeks. In a show of solidarity, the Merimbula managers immediately contributed funds which were to be used towards entertainment expenses to help South Lismore with their recovery. More discussion ensued with the aim of getting support to the town, and other generous contributions were made. It was great to see bowlers

uniting to back each other in times like this.

Day 1 of competition arrived with a terrible 4-day weather forecast. Despite the forecast and some overnight rain, Friday began in perfect windless conditions, and on beautifully prepared greens the standard of bowling was exceptional. It was obvious that all these teams had earned their right to be



Grade 4 Winner Sawtell



Grade 4 Runner-up Hazelbrook



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 4

representing at the State Pennant finals.

After two rounds of play, the crucial Round 3 matches commenced on Saturday morning with the weather again looming as an important factor. In Section 1, three teams remained in contention for a place in the quarter finals while section 2 was a battle for top spot between Sawtell and Temora. Rain was already falling when play commenced and the teams were called off after only a few ends had been bowled. The players went back out after a short break and fought it out in terrible conditions including heavy rain and strong gusty winds.

At the completion of the round Temora prevailed over Sawtell while in Section 1 East Cessnock, Inverell and Merimbula all finished with 2 wins each, with Merimbula just missing the quarter finals by a single point. In Section 3, Hazelbrook finished on top with Edgeworth two points behind in second, while in Section 4 Wiseman Park Wollongong City went through undefeated to qualify for the quarter-finals.

The afternoon quarter-finals saw East Cessnock against Sawtell, and Inverell against Temora, still with rain and wind persisting. Both games were close hard fought matches early with very little separating the sides in the first half of the contest. Sawtell slowly managed to gain a slight lead over East Cessnock as the game went on but had to earn every single shot with pure determination, eventually managing to grind their way to a 71 - 56 victory.

In the other match it looked like Inverell may do the same to Temora, opening a 9 shot lead after 36 ends, but Temora clawed their way back

to turn on a tense and exciting finish with a 58- 52 win.

Hazelbrook edged out St Johns Park by four shots, and Edgeworth proved too good for Wiseman Park, winning all rinks in a 76- 50 win.

The Sunday morning semi-finals had Temora in a rematch with Sawtell, and the 2 qualifying teams from the Maclean playoffs, Hazelbrook and Edgeworth, meeting again in the steady rain.

Edgeworth got away to a handy lead early in the game but Hazelbrook hit back to gain a narrow advantage in the latter stages, which was soon overhauled, and after 60 ends with the three teams having their last end left to play the score was 54 each. A nail-biting finish saw Hazelbrook scrape in by 3 shots.

The other semi-final was every bit as hotly contested but Sawtell managed to hang on to claim the win over a valiant Temora and the reward of a place in the ultimate final.

The rain had started to ease in the second half of the morning game and prayers were answered when it stopped completely prior to the start of the final.

The exceptional quality of the bowls played in wet and windy conditions went up to another level right from the start. Sawtell jumped out to a 19 shot lead approaching the halfway mark but Hazelwood began to grind their way back into the game and started applying pressure to narrow the gap to 10 shots after 40 ends had been completed. The large crowd in attendance gave lots of vocal support and excitement mounted as Hazelwood showed great fighting spirit to mount a challenge, but the Sawtell teams held their nerve and

responded perfectly to grab back the ascendancy and go on to a convincing victory and take the crown as the Bowls NSW Open Gender Grade 4 State Pennant Champions.

Enormous credit must go to all the teams which competed in this event. They played on in horrible conditions without a word of complaint, showed fantastic sportsmanship and camaraderie and the atmosphere within the bowling clubs was electric throughout the competition. Kudos also to the clubs green staff for managing to keep the greens in such great shape despite the endless bucketing the area received and the organisers who made things run so smoothly.



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 5

Manning Point Bowling Club has just 34 members and one pennant side but after more than half a century since foundation they emerged victorious in the Grade 5 State Pennant finals at St Georges Basin Country Club.

In one of the biggest boilovers in recent State finals the small Zone 11 club recovered from a convincing 75-58, two rinks to one loss in their

opening match, to win five straight matches and claim the biggest prize in club bowls.

Manning Point completed their 'Cinderella run' with a gripping 63-58 triumph over a spirited Marrickville in the final.

Not only did Manning Point clinch its first State Pennant flag, but it was the first time at the State finals in its 53-year history.

"It'll take a while to sink in but never in our wildest dreams did we expect this to happen," said Manning Point Side Manager Ian Woollard.

"We're a fairly chilled group and pretty diverse and experienced with most of our side aged 60 to 70.

"We took most things in our stride including the loss in the first game. We didn't look too far ahead so we



Grade 5 Winner Manning Point



Grade 5 Runner-up Marrickville

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St Georges Basin

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2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 5

didn't feel too much pressure. Game by game we played better and the next thing we knew we were in the final."

Following a first up 75-58 loss to Lawson, Manning Point –based about 30kms from Taree – beat Dubbo City 81-61 and then edged out Kempsey Macleay 59-53 to secure second spot behind Lawson in Section 1.

Lawson (19 points) and Manning Point (18) finished on two wins/one loss with Lawson earning top spot after winning one more rink over the three games.

Manning Point then beat Ettalong Memorial 59-47 in the quarter-finals, before reversing their fortunes against Lawson in the semis with a stunning 58-49 win, spearheaded by skip Philip Ruprecht and partners' 27-10 rink win.

In a very tight final which was locked 48-48 after 48 ends, Manning Point won 63-58 with Ruprecht beating Dermot Minihan 21-16 and Grant

Boyd beating Ben Whipp 26-24.

There was little between any of the three rinks with Boyd's brother Gavin beaten 18-16 by Marrickville's James Warburton.

Despite falling one win short of the flag, Marrickville BC were magnificent in just their second State Pennant finals after making the Grade 7 finals in 2014.

The inner Sydney Zone 13 club is one of the oldest in NSW having been established in 1905, with around 60 male bowling members and 20 female members.

With 39 clubs to compete against in Zone 13, side manager for the Grade 5 team Clyde Collier said it was a tremendous achievement making the grand final.

"We played our hearts out and gave it everything," Collier said.

He said it was a particularly special effort for the "backbone of the club" Peter Lange who has battled through

some tough times recently and been part of the club for more than 20 years.

Both finalists were impressed with the facilities at St Georges Basin Country Club and the Grade 5 Final's co-host Nowra BC and despite a few delays due to persistent showers the event went ahead without a hitch.

Grade 5 finals Event Coordinator Bruce Goldsmith says three months of preparation from both hosting venues went into getting ready for the three days of finals.

Goldsmith also noted that having the Grade 2 finals in 2019 at St Georges Basin Country Club was a big advantage and having the Finals on the South Coast was great in showcasing the region.

"Ideally, we love people to come here and want to come back. And we can play our part through this event and publicise the region as a holiday destination," Goldsmith said.



Photo credit- Ben Krikstolaitis



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 6

Cabra-Vale Diggers have won the 2021 Open Gender Grade 6 State Pennant finals after defeating Gresford 59- 55 in a high quality final at Club Maitland City.

The Zone 12 side started their campaign in barnstorming fashion, dropping just 2.5 rinks across their three sectional matches, defeating The Hills District, Harbord and

Kingscliff. It was a similar story for Gresford in Section 2, dropping just 2 rinks in their wins over Quirindi, Taree Railway and Corrimal. In the two remaining sections, Sawtell and Nelson Bay won their way through to the quarter finals, joined by Camden, The Hills District, Quirindi and Engadine.

Club
Maitland City



Grade 6 Winner Cabra-Vale Diggers



Grade 6 Runner-up Gresford



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 6

All four section winners continued their hot form in the quarter-finals, beating the four second-place qualifiers to make it through to the semi-finals. In the semi-final between Gresford and Sawtell, two of the rinks were inseparable as they both recorded draws. The difference proved to be Brett Pratten's rink who recorded a strong 25- 7 win to guide the small club to a State Pennant final. In the other semi-final, Cabra-Vale Diggers were too strong for Nelson Bay, winning two rinks and recording a draw in the third.

The final between Gresford and Cabra-Vale Diggers was a classic. Both sides played amazing bowls across the 63 ends, and while Gresford showed great fight it was ultimately Cabra-Vale who prevailed 59- 55 in a tight contest. Both clubs can be incredibly proud of their sides for the ability and camaraderie they displayed throughout the final.



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 7

Tiny Walcha Bowling Club took their place among the giants of NSW Bowls with their first State Pennant triumph following a brilliant victory in Grade 7 at Warilla Bowls.

The Northern Tablelands-based club has 30 registered bowling members and one pennant side but stormed to a comeback 67-63 victory over Ocean Shores BC in the rain-plagued final.

"It's a day you dream of," Walcha Side Manager David Clare said.

"We are a very small club but a win like this will encourage more people from the town to hopefully take up bowls. It shows anything is possible."

With half the team aged over 60, Clare said it was a "year to year" decision who rolls up to play each pennant season but winning a prized maiden state flag is a huge lift for the club.

Walcha BC was formed more than 60 years ago with its best previous state pennants result in 2005 as runners-up in Grade 6.

The team and supporters made a nine-hour coach trip to Warilla hoping to be among the contenders and ended up playing the final against an Ocean Shores side which beat them by a shot, 52-51 in their round three sectional decider.



Grade 7 Winner Walcha



Grade 6 Runner-up Ocean Shores

2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

Open Gender - Grade 7

Walcha then beat Kurri Kurri 68-35 in their quarter-final, followed by a 72-44 win over Lowlands in the semi-finals.

Having won Section 3, Ocean Shores edged out Blacktown Workers 54-49 in their quarter-final and sealed a place in the final with a tight 56-51 victory over Warilla, who were playing on their home green.

In the final Walcha skip Kyle Goodwin had a 25-19 win over Ocean Shore's David Pyne, while Stephen Goodwin (Walcha) and Brad Hay drew 21-21 and Ocean Shore's Stuart Brady edged out Robert Kerr 23-21.

The finals were dogged by rain which forced the second day to be played on Warilla's indoor carpet while the finalists played through persistent drizzle and one very heavy shower to ensure the decider was completed.

Ocean Shores tasted state pennants glory in 2018 winning the Grade 2 flag and claimed the Grade 4 crown in 2006.

The club has 150 bowling members with four pennant teams in 2021. Team manager Geoffrey Collins said the Grade 7 side was formed mainly from its Friday social bowls competition.

"For all of us it's the first time in a state final which is a tremendous achievement," Collins said.

He added that some members of the team were still coming to terms with having lost almost everything in the recent catastrophic floods.

"Guys have lost property, their cars, even their homes so coming to a place like this to play bowls is just what we needed.

"Everyone has been so helpful and accommodating. Warilla have a fantastic facility and it's been a great weekend."

Finally, even allowing for the continuing wet weather the Grade 7 finals was a perfect showcase for Warilla Bowls and their newest facility – Lagoon Street Bar and Dining Piazza.

Lagoon Street featured two alfresco dining outlets, a cocktail bar, and a children's playground and proved

especially popular with around 250 bowlers and supporters at Warilla for the Finals.

Congratulations to Walcha, Ocean Shores and all the participating sides in the Bowls NSW Open Gender Grade 7 Pennant finals.



2021 BCiB Pennant Special - Open Gender Finals

