



Birkenhead Branch  
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## That Poem

At the 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee Gala Dinner last Sunday evening invited guests Bowls New Zealand CEO Mark Cameron, Bowls New Zealand Community Development Officer Martin MacKenzie, Co-Jubilee Platinum Partners Pete Taylor and Tim Preston, Birkenhead Licensing Trust Vice Shane Prince and our very own President John Croy all gave glowing speeches congratulating the club on reaching 75 years. Chairperson Colin Barrow stepped outside the box and recited a poem he had composed for the occasion. Here is that poem.

### THE BAND OF MEN

– by Colin Barrow

*It was early in the year of 43-- when The Band Of Men-- met at the Forester's Hall.  
Fat Man-- had not yet been deployed-- and the Harbour Bridge -- was still a dream.  
Tired they were- - from the trudge up the hill-- made the need to split-- from Waitemata  
their call.*

*Osborne The Mayor- -inspired them all-- and the meeting approved a scheme.-- Birken-  
head Bowling Club- is formed.*

*Land was bought -- a plan was hatched --the dream of a green evolved.*

*The band of Men-- with no time to lose- -attacked the land-- with picks and shovels -- dig-  
gers and graders.*

*Their need was great-- the land succumbed --the green complete-- opened November 44.  
The Band of Men --took a sip- -then rolled a bowl- at the Head-- and smiled.*

*It was in the year of 68-- The Band of Men-- take time to celebrate.*

*25 years had soon rolled by- -The Harbour Bridge-is- about to double in size.*

*TV now--takes pride of place--in homes throughout the land.*

*Clubs have spread--across our shores—Thousands of Bowlers-- now congregate.*

*Bowls as a Sport- is riding high-and numbers continue to rise.*

*Our club now-- has 2 greens – and the clubrooms are alive.*

*The rattle of bottles--and the song of the till--is music to the ear.*

*Stories are told-- of games that were played.-- Cigarette smoke-- fills the air.*

*Work goes on--things can improve-- the club will surely grow.*

*The Band of Men—looked down--then rolled a bowl- at the Head--and smiled.*

*It was in the year of 93--The Band of Men--take time to celebrate.*

*50 years --had now rolled by--the World Wide Web is born--and mobile phones take hold.  
Bowling numbers-- had reached their peak-- and were slowly starting to wane.*

*Sandy Cleghorn- runs the show—Keith Burgess- is there as well—Our Club was in good  
hands.*

*The clubrooms expand --to fill the need.—an upstairs lounge is formed.*

*Work continues on the greens-- they both have been renewed.*

*New plant is bought--irrigation installed—improvements are being made.*

*Players flock-- to play the Bass—the clubs reputation is high.*

*The song of the till- is loud and strong - yarns and laughter- into the nights.*

*The Band of Men—looked down--then rolled a bowl- at the Head--and smiled*

*It is the year of 20-18-- The Band of Men -take time to Celebrate.*

*75 years have quickly rolled by –The pace of life is swift—social media becomes the fad.  
It's been 9 years -- since Woman players- first graced our greens- Social Members  
abound.*

*Mixed Teams –are now the norm--Jaunty uniforms –and coloured bowls –add eye appeal  
to the scene.*

*For the Purist—the grass will still get manicured—and the games remain the same.*

*Carpet greens- and covered stadiums—Quick fire games—in a national league--is what  
the future holds*

*Amalgamation- - consolidation-- the writing is on the wall.*

*Our Club will adapt –and survive—we owe it to those Men*

*The Band of Men—looked down--then rolled a bowl- at the Head--and smiled.*

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**NEW WORLD** Birkenhead  
180 Mokoia Road, Birkenhead  
Open: Mon - Sun 7.00am - 10.00pm

**Sunday 8 April Super Rugby - 9.40am Jaguars vs Crusaders**

**On The Greens**

Wednesday 4 April 10am Club Day (AC, Single Entry)  
Friday 6 April - 1pm 2-4-2 Pairs (OACP 2-4-2)  
Saturday 7 April - 9am "Wheels On Wairau" Seafood Tournament (OACF) - day 1  
Sunday 8 April - 9am "Wheels On Wairau" Seafood Tournament (OACF) - day 2  
Wednesday 11 April - 10am Club Day - Ross "Trust Me" Murray Tournament (AC, Single Entry)

**Inside This Weekend**

**Friday 6 April - Club Night**  
Raffles, Happy Hour, Membership Draw, Joker 500  
Sky Survivor - Winner presentation and two lucky draws  
Racing - Palmerston North (Thoroughbreds), Alexandra Park, Addington (Harness). Addington, Wanganui (Dogs) and racing from across Australia  
NRL\* - 8pm Sharks vs Roosters  
Super Rugby\* - 7.35pm Hurricanes vs Sharks

**Saturday 7 April**  
Racing - Te Aroha, Riccarton (Thoroughbreds) Invercargill (Harness) and racing from across Australia, including Randwick - Australian Derby, Doncaster Handicap.  
NRL\* - 5pm Tigers vs Storm  
- 7.30pm NZ Warriors vs Cowboys  
Super Rugby\* - 5.15pm Sunwolves vs Waratahs  
- 7.35pm Chiefs vs Blues

**Sunday 8 April**  
Racing - Pukekohe (Thoroughbreds), Rangiora (Harness), Manukau (Dogs) and racing from across Australia.  
Super Rugby\* - 9.40am Jaguars vs Crusaders  
NRL\* - 4pm Titans vs Sea Eagles  
- 6.10pm Eels vs Panthers  
*\* viewing selection is determined by the members.*

**Club Membership Draws today \$50 & \$400**

**Jubilee Review Coming**

Due to time restraints and that the Bee is plain tuckered out, we are unable to review our 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebrations for this week's Bee Express. Watch out for next week's Bee Express for all the results, photos and reviews of the five days of our 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebrations.

**"Wheels On Wairau" Seafood Tournament (OACF)**

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 April are two days that should not be missed in your bowling calendar. Two days of Open Any Combination Fours competition, seafood morning tea and seafood lunch provided each day, over \$3,000 in seafood prizes. For the food alone this is a bowling tournament not to be missed. Enter on the white board in the club or phone Sandy 0272 006696

**BNH Centre Event Closing Dates**

All Centre event closing dates stated below are with the Club Secretary.  
Men's & Women's 1-5 Year Centre Pairs closes Sunday 6th May 2018  
Men's & Women's 1-8 Year Centre Fours closes Sunday 27th May 2018



**BELIEVE IT OR NOT?**  
QUIZ EVENTS

**7.00pm @ Birkenhead Bowling Club**  
**Thursday 12 April**  
**Come join in**

**THURSDAY NIGHT IS QUIZ NIGHT**