



## Is it too Soon?

Having checked facebook every three minutes and emails every five.  
 Downloaded/bookmarked hundreds of recipes from the internet, that will never get used.  
 Made three square meals a day, not including snacks and cheese boards they are extra  
 Decluttered the house and emptied the wardrobes of no longer used clothing and gear.  
 Completed all the jobs on the wife's to do list, so she has added to it  
 Binge watched hours of Netflix.  
 Joining the hongs of locals out each day for a walk.  
 Opened the home bar whenever felt like it.  
 Learnt having to use new technology....."Zoom"  
 After three weeks of lockdown we are all starting to feel like Kermit the frog..... is it too soon to put the Christmas tree up yet?  
 Persevere a while longer as we will all benefit for the short term boredom and yes it is to soon to put the Christmas tree up..... Christmas is eight months away!!.

## Reset Button

TRAFFIC is gone, LONG QUEUES are gone, except at Pak & Save.  
 GAS is affordable, BILLS extended.  
 KIDS are at home with their FAMILIES, PARENTS are home taking care of their CHILDREN.  
 FAST FOOD replaced by HOME COOKED MEALS, hectic SCHEDULES replaced by NAPS.  
 The AIR seems CLEANER, the WORLD QUIETER.  
 PEOPLE are conscious about HYGIENE and HEALTH again.  
 WE finally listen to authorities and head home when they say so.  
 MONEY doesn't seem to make the WORLD GO ROUND anymore.  
 And WE now have TIME, finally, to STOP and SMELL the ROSES.  
 Is this a reset button for humanity?.

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**Healthline:** Free health advice and information, anytime – 0800 611 116

*If you or anyone you know is struggling with the lockdown you can call or text 1737 – free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – to talk with a trained counsellor.*

**Green Care Back**

After nearly three weeks of been banned under the government's lockdown rules sensibility has won. Green Keepers are finally able to get back onto the greens although in a limited capacity but enough to ensure our greens stay in good shape. From Tuesday 14th April urgent maintenance of turf and care for plants in nurseries will be permitted under Alert Level 4 restrictions. Maintenance providers should adhere to the following guidance. In doing so, operators and owners will need to form a judgment as to: (1) how best to apply the guidance to their particular circumstance; and, (2) which of their maintenance activities are genuinely urgent. Operators are expected to minimise maintenance during Alert Level 4. Further details and information can be found on Bowls New Zealand's website "Greenkeepers Guidelines, 14 April". Thanks must go to Bowls New Zealand's for ensuring we are able to at least maintain our greens in this time of uncertainty.

**Dealing with the Shutdown**

By Sandy Cleghorn

Hi to you all - I hope you are all well and obeying the lovely Jucinda's recommendations and are still sane. Here is how I'm dealing with it: I've just been talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking a beer, and all of us agreed that things are bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron calmed me down as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The vacuum cleaner was very unsympathetic...he told me to go suck it up. The fan was more optimistic and said it would soon blow over. The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and the curtains told me to...yes you guessed it...pull myself together. Stay safe and look after yourselves.

*Editor's note: Sandy has been holed up in Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village for the past four weeks. Sharron, his wife, is praying for the lockdown to finish soon.*

**Keep Safe**

Received from Ray Smythe (4/4/20)

Hi this weekend was to be our much looked forward to yearly sojourn to the Birkenhead seafood tournament. Sadly circumstances have dictated otherwise. Hopefully we can make up for this in the future. In the meantime we wish all at Birkenhead a safe and healthy time over this trying period. Keep safe. Ray Smythe, Deb Salt, Brian+Di Calvert.

**Scottish Shortbread**

Those trying their hand at a spot of baking during the lockdown here is BNH Centre President Maureen Taylor's mother's Shortbread recipe.

6oz Butter (recipe says unsalted but I don't mind salted)  
 2oz Caster Sugar  
 Cream ingredients together then add:-  
 6oz Plain Flour – sifted  
 2oz Semolina - sifted  
 Mix to a stiff dough like consistency, turn out onto floured board and either roll out (or I use my hands) to flatten it. I use a small scone cutter for mine.  
 Bake in cool oven – 150 – 160°C for about 30 minutes.  
 I use baking paper to put them on.



Just out of the oven, sprinkled with caster sugar

*Editor's note: having given up on baking after numerous failed attempts during the lockdown, this recipe raised a smile as it came out so good I actually baked this twice!.*

**Keep Safe**

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-rupp miller

# "The Dog House"

The second instalment of our weekly "lock-down" column by Mike Cartwright.

I thought I had seen a bit of life at 35....but then I joined a bloody bowls club. I left New Zealand when I was 18, travelled the world, spent 12 years working for the police in London and Auckland and nothing was going to surprise me...well I was wrong. Joining Browns Bay was like being cast back into the dark ages and it bought me screaming back down to earth when I realised, that these pockets of our community still existed.

My second week at the club had me scratching my head when I had just finished a two-hour practice session and was sitting on my own having a beer. A few of the old heads of the club, who will remain nameless were propped up at a leaner putting the world to right. As I was about to take another sip of my Speight's Dark there was a knock at the glass door and there stood a diminutive old lady who had a petrified look on her face as if she was about to be read her last rights. The lads on the table looked at her and then returned to their drinks. The old dear stood outside and I wondered what the heck was going on. I got up and staggered over to the door and opened it. "Do you want to come in" I said. She glanced at me and then over my shoulder at one of the guys at the leaner. "Oh no its okay" she quivered "I'm just here to pick someone up". The poor old thing waited outside for 10 minutes until one of that "leaner" crew, finished his beer, got up and walked out to the car with her. It was an eye-opener for me but as I found out later that was pretty much the "norm" for bowling clubs in the 90's.

I ignored the "leaner" mentality at Browns Bay, I just made sure I didn't sit on someone's stool otherwise I was going to be banished with that old lady to the "Doghouse". Talking of the Doghouse they did me pretty well on 21 second star-weed greens. Phil Corric was a master of looking after them and it was a pleasure to go down there after work every day for two hours of practice, even though my aim point was about three rinks either side. At the time Browns Bay was a flourishing club with one of their senior highlights being their Invitation Pairs in January. Tony Stratton (Taddie), Ray Menzies and co use to run it and they somehow ended up with a total prize pool of \$20,000. That prize pool had guys coming from all over the place, including Australia. One player, Lou Newman, came with a particular reputation and with his son Adam went on to win it. Lou was to become a good friend of mine a few years later and effectively taught me how to play bowls.... but that's for later.

I had a bit of junior success at Browns Bay. I teamed up with an ex-cop by the name of Mike Crawford. I met Mike a few years earlier when I was working at the Department of Internal Affairs managing the pornographic videos at your local Video Ezy store. He was a DI in the Auckland Vice Squad. Mike had joined a year earlier and took me on as a lead. Our arch enemies were Bruce Shand and Alf Smith who had joined the same year as Mike. Both took great delight in taking the piss out of my old bowls.... back then you were useless if you didn't have a set of ABT 2000's in your hand. It's safe to say that Bruce and Alf tended to get the better of us, but we did steal a couple of pairs and fours championships off them. We eventually teamed up with them in their last year as juniors as none of us could go on and win a centre junior title. We ticked that box by beating a young Bart Robertson.

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Mike Cartwright enjoying a bit of relax time during the lockdown with old friend Jimmy Beam.

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Continued from previous page

My first centre event, if you can call it that as they don't count, was the junior champ of champ singles. I don't remember much because my dementia is starting to take a grip of me, but I think I had the unenviable task of having to play a young Rod Mahon from that arch enemy of Browns Bay, Birkenhead. He gave me a bath but much to my disgust he was nice with it, which meant I had to shake his hand. That was my first meeting with Rod and although our paths didn't cross that often I remember that first meeting fondly, so did he, as he kept reminding me of it. I got the better of Rod a few years later when I beat him in the last 16 of the Auckland Premier singles....at Birkenhead I might add. Another stalwart of Birkenhead I met during my early years was old Roy Parker. Roy was working in the Fraud Squad and knew Mike Crawford well. Roy got me into police bowls, when there was police bowls, and took me under his wing as a young lead. The photo here was taken at Henderson after we played an Auckland Rep side as some sort of training outing for them. Some pretty good players there, except for the junior at the far right.

I enjoyed my first four years as a junior but eventually time and attitudes played a part in me pulling the pin. It all came to a head after one practice session. I used to take my daughters down with me while I practiced so to give the wife a break. I had finished and was up at the bar when I was approached by Laurie Brownhill who had this embarrassed look on his face. Mike, he said, some of the members are complaining about your daughters being at the club. Some of



Police Bowls - The junior Mike Cartwright standing far right

them don't like it and have asked that you don't bring them down. Well that was pretty much the nail in the coffin for me at Browns Bay and I decided to give bowls away until it moved in the 20th century and my kids were old enough to look after themselves.....the problem was that I was to return 8 years later. To be continued.....

### Spotlight on Club Partners

This week we spot the spotlight on Ryman Healthcare's Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village. Ryman Healthcare having been sponsoring at the club over the past six years. Now days focusing on the Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village situated just down the road from the club in Birkenhead

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