

## **GOVERNANCE UPDATE BY BRONWYN THWAITES STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

- As part of its strategic plan, Bowls Victoria (BV) has made structural changes to regions in the State to streamline governance and grow and support the sport of bowls. The number of regions remains the same at 16.
- Under the plan, existing divisions within regions are being removed, creating one level of governance.
- For Gippsland, this means that over the next seven months, work will be done to dissolve the existing East and North Gippsland divisions and create one amalgamated region to administer bowls in Gippsland.
- This work is being overseen by the Gippsland Region Board, which is also developing the new Constitution, Regulations and Rules of Competition.
- The new Region will be in place by 1 July 2021.
- Two steering committees have been established – Governance responsible for the Constitution and Regulations and Rules of Competition responsible for pennant, Region and State events.
- The Governance Committee comprises Chris Sherrin and Jeff Amos (North) and Nigel Plunkett and Peter Huntley (East).
- The Committee has met three times to date and made significant progress, focusing first on the new Constitution, to be followed by the Regulations.
- The Committee has been working from a template Constitution developed by Bowls Victoria, adapting it for the Region's specific needs.
- A key element of the new Constitution will be the composition of the new Region Board. The Committee is proposing a nine-member board, with the President, Secretary and Treasurer positions to be elected along with six directors.
- Other key considerations are terms of appointment, timeframe for nominations for elected positions and delegates.
- The draft Constitution is very well advanced and we expect to finalise it at the Board meeting.
- Next steps:
  - 14 December - start work on the Regulations
  - 25 January - submit draft Constitution to BV
  - 22 February - Region Board hosts a Special General Meeting to adopt the new Constitution which is then lodged with Consumer Affairs
  - 26 April - Board finalises new Regulations and refers to BV for review
  - 21 May - nominations open for Board positions
  - 28 June – Region Annual General Meeting.