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River red gum tree in the corner of Alphington Park. This tree is hundreds of years old and sadly, is the sole remaining river red gum from pre-white settlement in the park.

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Alphington Bowling Club acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation as the traditional owners of this land on which we meet, play and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. The Alphington area bordered by the Yarra River and Darebin Creek is the traditional country of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people who are part of the Woi Wurrung clan of the Kulin Nation and are traditional owners of the country from west of Melbourne along to the Darebin Creek and to outer eastern Melbourne. **1835** Hoddle comes to Melbourne to survey the new town.

When Hoddle started mapping & surveying the land; the indigenous peoples living on the local Yarra flats were 'moved on' to settlements in other areas. Many went to stations established specifically for the Wurundjeri people and members of other Kulin (Victorian) tribes who were forcibly displaced from their traditional lands years earlier.

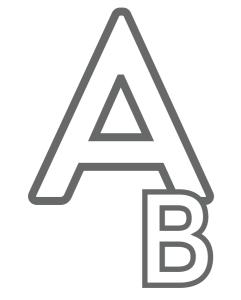
1840 10th June Land released in

Jika Jika parish for sale.

1854 Manning offed up 130 lots for sale.

1869 Knockando farm on cnr of H'berg Rd and Chandler Hwy belonged to Dr Allan Randal McDonald.

1879 Dr McDonald died and property (approximately 30 acres) was leased.





1883 The executors of the will of Dr McDonald's offered the property for sale.

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1883 Albert Miller (1845 - 1915) owned lots 118 & 119.

Property was then **subdivided**.

1887 Knockandot estate auction of 58 villa lots.

1896 Edith Maud Bancroft was the owner of approx. 11 acres in lot 119.

1900s Formation of the Ivanhoe and Alphington Progress Association

1908 Association promoted that Alphington had a navigable river, good fishing an excellent public hall and tennis courts.

Search began for a suitable site for a recreation park.

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1910 Lady Wrixon, Albert Miller's sister sold 23 acres provided it was to be used for a recreation ground for the residents of Alphington.

1911 19 acres of the original sale was transferred to the

President, Councillors and Ratepayers of the City of Heidelberg.

1915 Albert Miller passed away after a short illness.

1919 The Australian Paper mills bought the Woodlands farm Estate.

Digging out of Alphington swimming pool commenced and finished in 1924.

Captain Percy Lay bought Lucerne and small accompanying farm.

Paper mill opened for production.

1921 First Archibald prize won by Alphington Artist/resident William McInnes who later became a long-term resident of Alphington.

ABC opened. Front green only with four rinks.



Ladies attending the official opening of the Alphington Bowling Club in 1921.

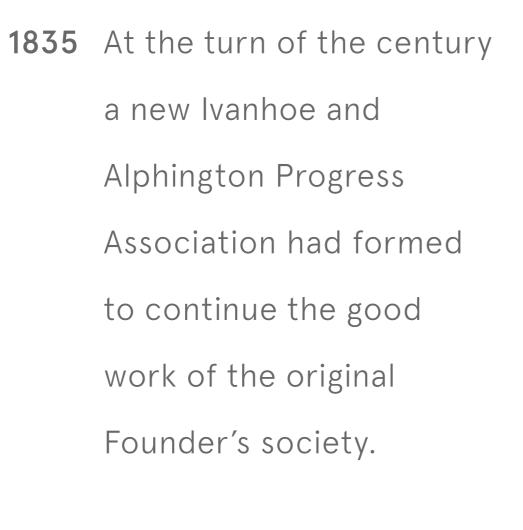
Formation of Alphington Ladies Bowling Club.

Clubhouse burns down in fire.

1972 Land transferred to the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of the City of Northcote.

Land transferred to Yarra City Council.

ABC's Centenary year.



Their priorities included: establishment of a State Primary school, land for a Recreational reserve, efficient



Alphington Memorial Carnival Parade 1921. Believed to be in Parkview Rd with Heidelberg Rd power poles in the background.

rail parcel service, beautification of streets with tree planting, sealing of streets, care of the river bank and provision of recreational picnic area along the river among many other items discussed.











Alphington Park established - land had been bought and handed over to the Shire of Heidel 1921 berg for the purpose of a recreational use.

The rail line which had been extended from Princes Hill to Heidelberg was electrified in 1921. Construction of a swimming pool down on the Yarra (by volunteers) had begun and was com pleted in 1924.

The Woodland farm on the

corner of Heidelberg Rd and Chandler Hwy was bought in 1919 by Australian Paper Mills and production commenced in 1921.

Adams quarry was in full production, a new subdivision on the





Northern side of

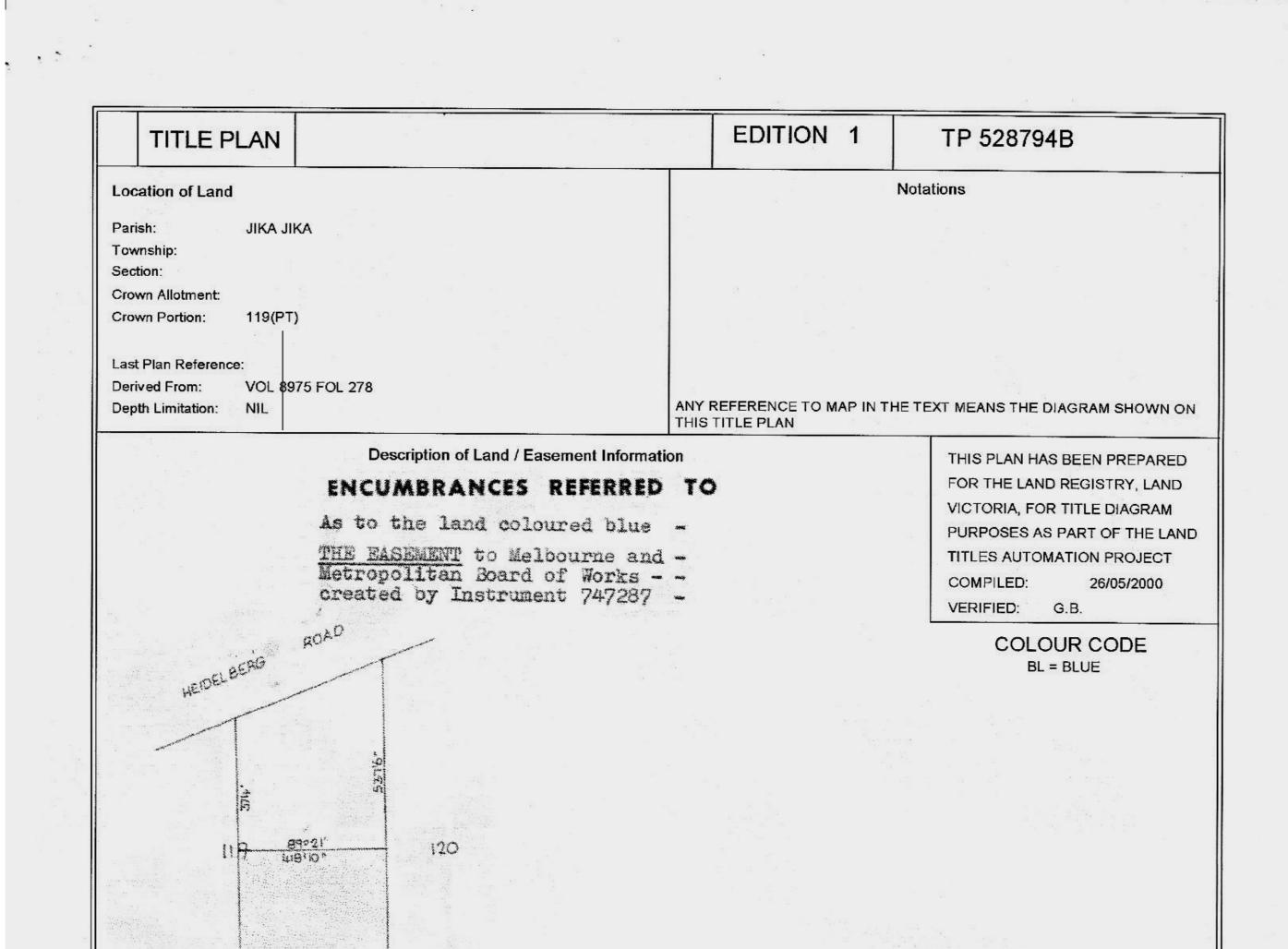
Alphington Memorial Carnival Parade 1921 from Alphington Park (paper mill chimney in background)

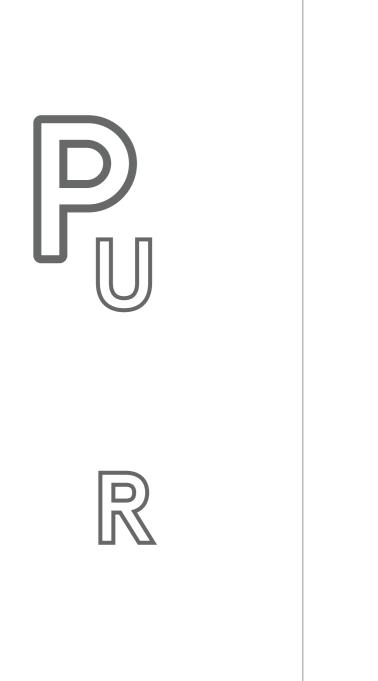
Alphington had been

opened up in 1917 and many housing lots taken up by returning soldiers.

St Jude's Church of England Community, Wesleyan Church (Methodists) and St Anthony's church were active communities.

Alphington still had much open land and farms, a school, a few more houses, not many cars and several shops along Heidelberg Rd.....It was time for Bowls!





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Extract of the original title for the land purchased for the establishment of Alphington Park in which Alphington Bowling Club is located.



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Alphington Park with its Bowling Club is one the most picturesque sites in all of Melbourne.

Ivanhoe and Alphington residents set up a committee to establish a park in such a position that it

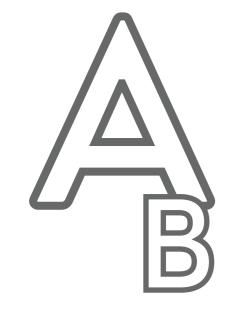
would serve both places. The council endorsed the action of the Alphington committee, and floated

a loan of £3000-£15000 each for Alphington and Ivanhoe parks. Four acres of land along Heidelberg

road were sold for building blocks and the money raised paid for the land purchase with a £700

profit.

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The Alphington



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The orignal ABC badge and logo from 1921.

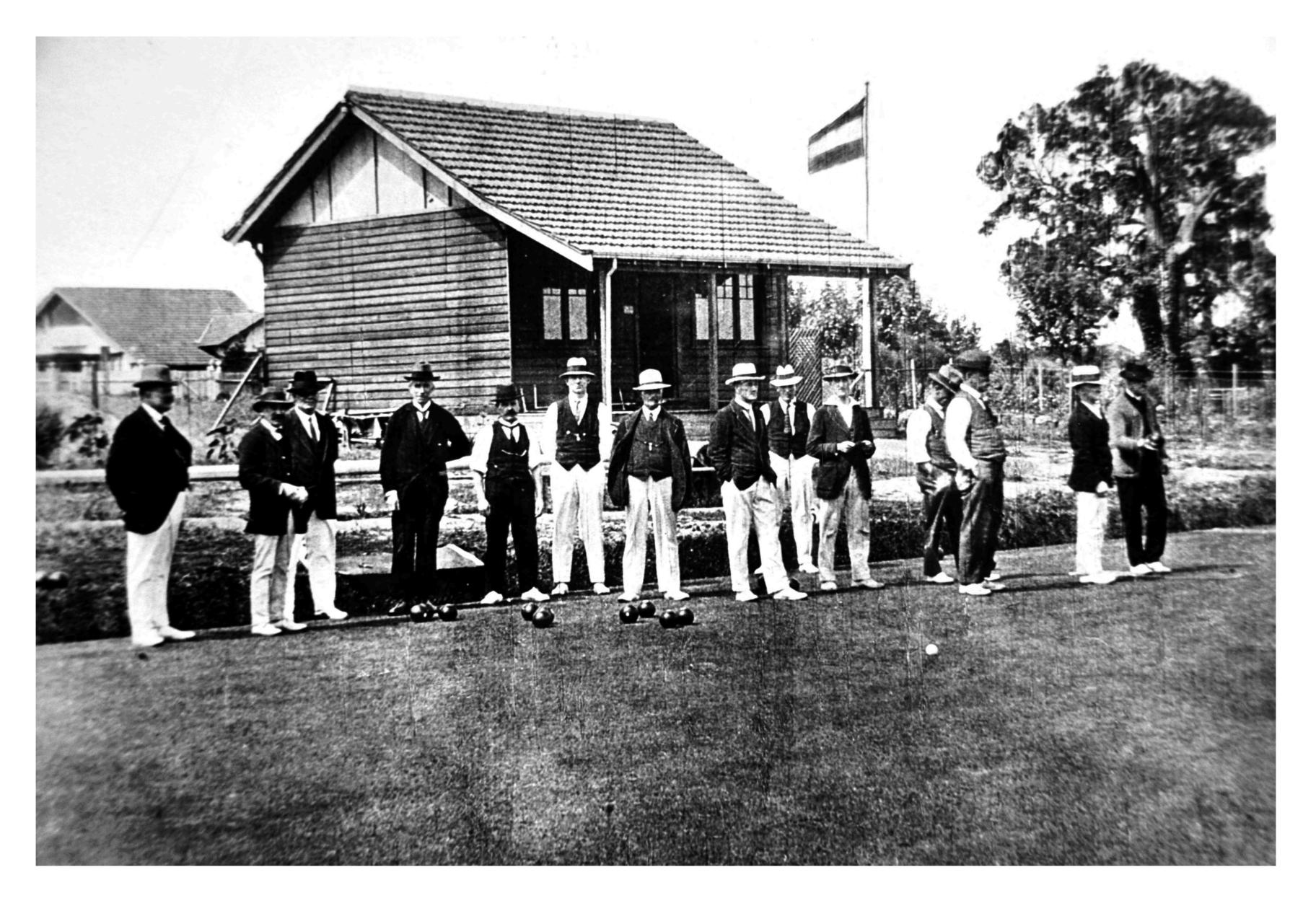
Bowling Club
was also officially
established
in 1921 with an
original
membership subscription of
one guinea (one
pound and
one shilling), a
considerable
sum for that
period.

Com Tictorian **Bowling** Association Results of Lennant Matches. ach "A" PENNANT PLAYED AT alphington 1924 ON alphington Scored 110 Hawthom CLUBScored_ Versus 70 Rink Leader No. 2 No. 3 Captain Score Leader No. 2 No. 3 Captain Score 1 A. Rothwell gParken mmckenon W. Jancaette 19. 37.31 Cloigg J. Jodd Raby a.P. Dredge 19 2. Farmer 9 Schober Amouro J. Trevena F. abbott 2 Allarmen 17. Hastie Paterson 3 (Munolas + 8 March Ryoung Seffery getoget & aylor Charkin F. Mitchell Atamillon Decear At Selia 16 J. Laylor Sahem a Jostes Wharron adreage Vaylor 18 alphington 9th February "B" PENNANT PLAYED AT 1924 ON alphington 70 5 126 Camberwell Scored. . v. Scored Tancaster Rhnight I. adams & Kells 28 97 17 12 24: Hood querin Parker magregor aderfull Adama Hamilton Orders a Helm King Skings Rev. W.a.sh 1.2 ho Cutober Fawcetto getaynes J. Thomson gloenner 15- Bromilow norris Hocking J. Thannon A "C" PENNANT PLAYED AT 192 ON Scored Scored v. THIS RETURN MUST BE FILLED IN and forwarded to V.B.A. Office 243 Collins St., Melbourne, within 3 days from date of playing the Match. BOWLING CLUB.





An early scorecard circa 1924.



Official opening of the Alphington Club in 1921 (note the River redgum in the background).

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Les Hamilton Victorian Singles Champion, By John P. Monro.

Leslie Charles Hamilton, who won the Victorian Singles Championship on Tuesday of last week, was born at Collingwood on 24th May, 1897, and his age is, therefore, 41 years 8 months. He commenced his bowling career at Alphington in September, 1922, in the C team, and since then he has won many prizes, from the lowly Novice Handicap of the club up

His entry into the big things in

Page Two-"BOWLS"-February 10, 1939.

semi-final of the Victorian Fours 1935; Elsternwick District, East Kew, Championship.

He has had many successes in club competitions; but his greatest series of victories was in the open fours tournaments conducted by the various clubs. Since 1933 an Alphington four, in which Les. played as No. 2, has won thirteen of these tournaments (Glen Iris in 1933; Carlton, Thornbury and City of Hawthorn in 1934; City of Hawthorn, and Carlton Consolation in



and Bendigo Consolation in 1986; Melbourne, Carlton and Shepparton in 1938; and Melbourne in 1939). He was also a member of the four which won the East Camberwell tournament in 1930-31.

The merit of his performance in winning the Victorian Singles Championship is enhanced by considering the quality of the nine men he defeated, and the margins between the scores. At Kew on 28th January he met Reg. Erlandson (Caulfield Park), and won by 22-11; then he ran into Mat. Shelley (Carlton), a former winner of the Singles, and beat him by 21-17; and his third victory that day was over H. K. McCleery (Coburg), whom Les. defeated by 21-14. Resuming at Elwood on Monday, 30th January, Les. met Bert Murton (S.M.C.C.), and won by 21-8; then, transferring to the South St. Kilda green, he ran into L. Orford (Moreland), who succumbed at 22-6. In the next round he beat H. Hansen, of Kew, by 21-14; and his fourth win that day was at the expense of Geoff. Crocker (Camberwell), the scores being 21-14. In the semi-final at Meibourne on Tuesday, 31st January, Les. had to meet and defeat Jack Geggie (Oakleigh), and he did so by 21-12; and in the final of this classic Les. Hamilton met Norman Lusty (Canterbuiy), who won the title in 1936, and



Les Hamilton, ABC's greatest bowler.

Les Hamilton

is arguably ABC's greatest ever bowler. He joined ABC in 1922 ,commenced bowling in 1924 and never played for any other club. He held positions including Vice President, Club Delegate, Selector, Greens Supervisor and sat on many committees for over 30 years. But he was famed for his achievements on the greens including winning 14 Club Singles Championships, State Singles & State Fours Championships (twice), State Mixed Pairs Champion with his wife Myrtle and also played for Australia and Victoria (35 times). He won the Returned Soldiers Electric Light singles (4 times), the Echuca Open (3 times), the Richmond Union Triples with Alf Birchall and Bill Dwyer and was runner up in the Richmond Masters.









Mrs L. Hamilton (Myrtle) VLBA President, Vic Champion of Champions 1950-51 and 1951-52. ABC Club Champion 14 times.

Myrtle Hamilton

won the ABC Ladies Singles Club Championship on 12 occasions, a two-time Vic Champion of Champions and held the position of VLBA President. Myrtle was a member for 29 years and served with distinction.

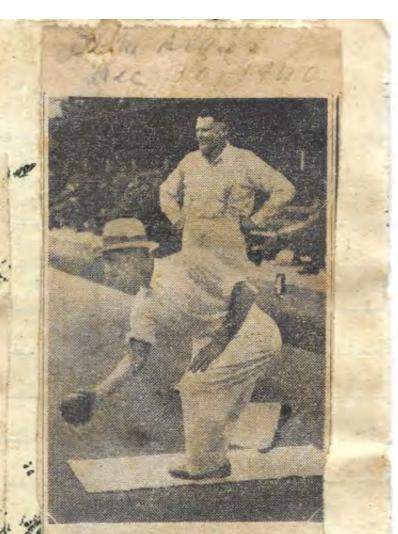
Between Les and Myrtle, they won ABC Club Championships on 36 occasions! Both Les and Myrtle are ABC Life Members.

Samuel Hamilton

was instrumental in establishing Alphington Bowls Club and formed a dynasty of bowling achievements. His first taste of bowls was at Mac Robertson's private green at Fairfield in 1915. In 1921 he became ABC's first Secretary after coaxing a number of fellow residents to become founders of Alphington Bowls Club.

THE "FATHER" OF ALPHINGTON CLUB

As a bowler he has some fine performances to his credit, the principal one being the rink championship of Victoria, which he (with George Paterson, Les. Hamilton and Arthur Dumas) still holds. Sam led in that rink. Then he won the Alphington club championship in 1933, defeating his son, Cliff, in the final. In 1929 he was runner-up for the championship to Les., another son. He played in the Alphington team which . last season secured the Centenary pennant. He has always played in the Alphington A pennant team. Sam has won many trophies at Alphington, but has not yet succeeded in winning the president's, although this year he is undergoing a rigorous course of training for the event. Last season was, perhaps, Sam's best bowling year, for, in addition to the successes mentioned in the fore going, the rink he played in was i the last eight of the Centenary rink championship. He was among the las 32 in the V.B.A. single-handed cham pionship, and he won the vice-presi dent's prize and the "Century" Struggle" at Alphington.





SAM HAMILTON. A willing and useful worker in the interests of the game.

Mr. S. Hamilton

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Sam Hamilton, the subject of this sketch, played his first bowl twenty years ago on Sir MacPherson Robertson's green at Fairfield, and he was the secretary of the Fairfield Bowling Club in 1921, when Sir MacPherson decided to cut up and sell the land on which the bowling green was situated. But Sam was badly bitten by bowls; and, living in Alphington, he initiated a movement for the establishing of a bowling club in that suburb. So, on March 7, 1921, he convened a meeting of "men of girth and 1'irth," and the Alphington Bowling Club was formed, with the late Thomas Adams as first president, and. with Sam Hamilton as first secretary. ince then he has occupied every office in the club-excepting that of presideut, which he declined to accept Many hundreds of bowlers are grat ful to Sam for ' introduction of them to the anci oyal, and agreeable pastime.

Sam Hamilton has been a delegate from Alphington to the V.B.A. for nine years, and he has been the proposer of many schemes to the association. Always a strong advocate of grading, Sam has used his pen and voice in furthering the cause. He has been press corresp ndent to "Bowls" for many ye: and for the last decade he has kep is doings of his club well record in the local paper, "The News," for which he writes under the name of "Jack High."

He is very popular among bowlers, and particularly among his own club meml rs, for whom he has done a power of good in initiating, and in carrying to fruition, many schemes for the benefit of the game.

Sam and his two sons, Cliff and Les., are all first-class bowlers, and would be prepared to play a triples match against any other family trio in Melbourne.

Intensely keen upon the game, Sam gets quite carried away by enthusiasm when playing, and this seeks expressiva in bodily contortions. Francis Charles must have had a prevision of Sam Hamilton when, in 1635, he wrote:--

"See how their curved bodies wreathe and screw Such antic shapes as Proteus never knew." CONCENTRATION.—A. Dumas and C. Hamilton competing in the Victorian Bowling Association champion pairs at Carlton green.

MILDURA. 1941

 QUARTER-FINALS (12 ends).

 R.C. S.

 Hazel, Hogan, Tollner, Moore
 14

 Troon, Haymes, Crook, Rogerson
 5

 N. M.

 Bussau, Ransom, Lyell, Orr
 17

 Powell, Tierney, Ward Gugger
 5

 Maxwell, Gray, Taylor, Hamilton
 13

 Page, McLaughlin, Hookway, Hansford
 8

 Munden, Shore, Lowe, Plotkin
 9

 Tregellas, Carlyle, Rowles, Dawson
 7

 SEMI-FINALS (12 ends).
 18

 Hazel, Hogan, Tollner, Moore
 18

 Maxwell, Gray, Taylor, Hamilton
 13

 Page, McLaughlin, Hookway, Hansford
 9

 Tregellas, Carlyle, Rowles, Dawson
 7

 SEMI-FINALS (12 ends).
 14

 Hazel, Hogan, Tollner, Moore
 18

 FINAL (21 ends).
 13

 FINAL (21 ends).
 14

Samuel and Cliff Hamilton circa 1941.

Cliff Hamilton, **Wally Hamilton** and son in law **Keith Smith** also played with ABC, with Cliff alongside Les as runners up in the Vic Charity Fours and Wally winning the Club Pairs Championship twice and also receiving Life Membership.

The main green at ABC is named the `Hamilton Green' in honour of this great family.

On the 30th October 1928 a general meeting was held of the Men's committee of the Alphington Bowling Club, with the object of the meeting being to decide on the 'advisability of forming a Ladies' Section of the Club'. There were many visitors from other Ladies' Bowling Clubs in the region in attendance. They each spoke `outlining the game of bowls from a ladies point of view'. The proposition was passed unanimously. The President of the ABC, Mr S Hamilton suggested that ladies' rinks be included in the `electric light' games and asked the ladies to bring as many players to the next game. The committee was formed as part of the Victorian Ladies Bowling Association (VLBA). All ladies were Associate members of the Alphington Bowls Club.

President: Mrs Campbell Secretary: Mrs White

Vice President: Mrs McCutcheon

Treasurer: Mrs Hickey

While the Ladies Section in formed in 1928, they were not accepted as full and equal members of

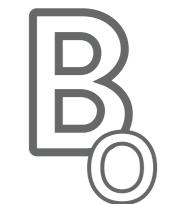
the Bowling Club. This well illustrated in the following excerpt from the 1972 constitution.

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A lady Associate member shall be a lady over the age of a) twenty-one years who has been duly nominated and approved by the Officers and Members of the Ladies' Section and accepted by the General Committee of the Club. She shall not be eligible to hold office in the Club nor have any voice or vote in its management except in regard to matters pertaining to the ladies' section as defined by the General Committee of the Club. The maximum number of lady Associate Members will be determined by the General Committee of the Club.

Ladie's Bowling Constitution.



The club has been one of the Darebin region's most successful clubs winning many Division trophies and boasting both Victorian and Australian representatives. They were also involved in both the Regional and State Associations. They hosted many state events at the club, held numerous Gala days and President's days. Off the green the Ladies were active organising many social activities including



bus excursions to other clubs, fashion parades, card evenings, picture nights, pokie trips

They were major contributors to the raising of funds for the club. These monies were handed over to the men's club on a regular basis. All purchases of equipment and use of the greens for events other than Pennant had to be agreed to by the Men's committee. Alphington Bowling Club, in the 1980s was a little more progressive than others, allowing `single' lady members to join and being one of the first clubs to welcome women players on Saturday pennant. The Ladies' and the Men's clubs were amalgamated in 2010/11.





1935 Pennant Winners.

"BOWLS PAVILION LOST IN FIRE"

ALPHINGTON BOWLING CLUB MEMBERS salvage their charred bowls from the ruins of their clubhouse, which was destroyed by fire early today. - Firemen fought the blaze for more than an hour. Damage is estimated at £6000. The club president. Mr H. W. Naismith, said that damage to bowls was about £600. Trophies and plaques destroyed were irreplaceable. A city bowls manufacturer had offered to supply bowls to keep them In the pennant. Cause of the fire is not known. Women bowlers had a picture night at the club last night and left at 11.30. The fire was reported at 2.45 a.m." Herald, Melbourne

TUMBLE-DOWN BOWLS SHACKS, MONUMENTS OF COUNCIL NEGLECT, By R. T. HARRISON

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"When the curtains of night were pinned back by the stars, and the beautiful moon leapt the skies; when the dew-drops of Heaven were kissing the hose," an old wooden shack, known as the Alphington Bowling Club pavilion went up the pole. This Guy Fawkes night mystery followed an evening where joy was unconfirmed and revelry held full sway, as befits a "ladies' night," for such it was. It serves to remind us that "on the waiting list" are scores of such tumbledown shacks that the golden sun might benevolently extend the "warmth" of its patronage to, with advantage. In days of materials plenty, 60 to 80 of the clubs around Melbourne failed to provide themselves with houses fitting their dignity and necessity. Admitting that "dry" clubs are poor, because of principle, the fact remains that where there's stringency there's struggle, and where there's booze there's boodle-and boodle makes the mare to go. About 400 bowls were lost at Alphington, and it would be a good suggestion for members to take their playing material to the safety of their homes in future. TINDER BOXES Such edifices as Fairfield, East Camberwell, City of Hawthorn, Ascot Vale, Newport, Heidelberg, Richmond, Brunswick, Burwood and 50 others, are all tinder boxes and dwelling houses for spooks and spiders. The bulk of Sydney pavilions are a contrast to those of Melbourne, but a visit to St. Kilda and Melbourne (Windsor) would surprise Sydney. These progressive, if "wet" rendezvous for 700 dodgers of domestic discipline, are more than abreast with the times, and embrace on their executives men of artistic and constructive calibre. Clubs need experts and energetics of the Arthur Conquest (Wind-



sor) type; not drones who live for themselves, work for and pick themselves, and are content with

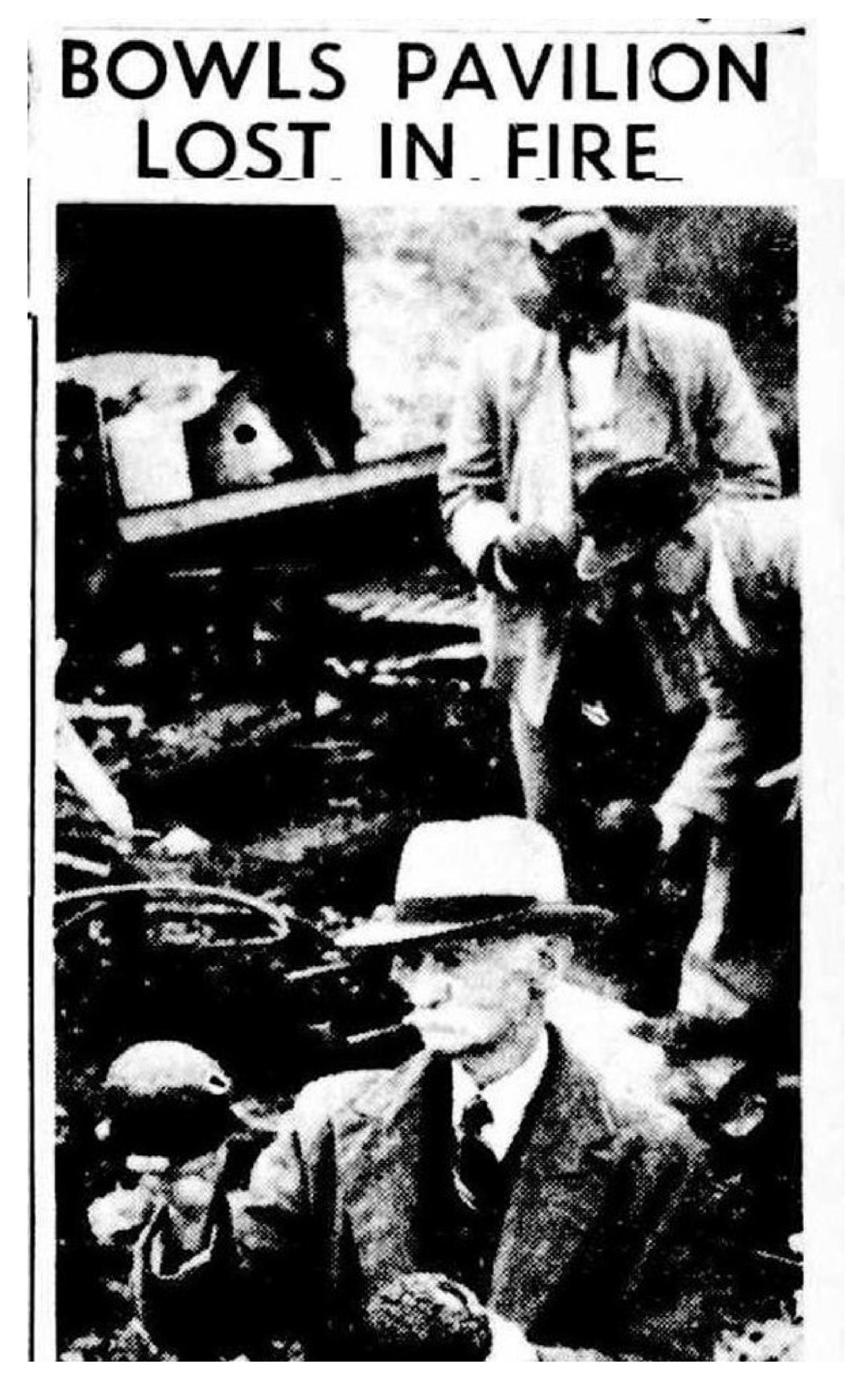
any old habitation as long as they can keep rivals at bay. The comfort of a good club, "where the

queer and the bandy blokes play," is one of the blessings we so often fail to count. ..." (and so on!)

Sporting Globe, Melbourne



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Snippet from a newspaper article.

Bowling uniforms have been very conservative. Dress rules were regulated by the Royal Victorian Bowls Association (RVBA) and Victorian Ladie's Bowls Association (VLBA). This organization has had several name changes over the past 100 years is now named Bowls Victoria. There have been what we now think were amazing regulations.

One example is the ladies were instructed to phone RVBA headquarters and ask permission to remove their hats at lunch time, another when it was pointed out that women were wearing slacks with `legs that were too skinny'.



1923 Alphington and Australian bowlers at ABC.

Another incident occurred in 1934 when an ABC lady bowler was threatened with disqualification for wearing a bowls frock with a V-shape cut six inches down her back. One of her opponents sympathised and kindly gave her a jumper to wear while she finished the game.

In spite of this conservatism, bowls uniforms have changed considerably over the past 100 years.



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The following photos are examples of

these changes.

1930s Mrs R.M. Strevens, ABC's first Ladies Life Member and President 1933 / 34.





1950 Winners Rink Championship A Grade Royal Victorian Bowls Association.



1975 Premiers Division B3 RVBA.



2021 Current uniform.

As we `raise the bat' acknowledging Alphington Bowling Club's century, we reflect on the grand and rich history of our club which has lived through World War II, Korea & Vietnam, the nuclear bomb, the creation of communist China, the invention of the silicon chip, had 24 Prime Ministers come and go, and seen man land on the moon.

The world continues to change with the COVID19 pandemic, global warming, indigenous and social debates, advances in humanitarian and health areas and of course technology. Like many other bowls clubs, ABC has experienced the highs of the early to mid years and the lows of the late 20th century, where our future was in doubt and survival was paramount. ABC has been able to respond and keep its place as the hub of the community.



Change in the bowls world is also continuing with the younger generation leading the charge (bowls is not that daggy anymore). In the last decade ABC has risen as a bowling club. Previously competing at Division 5 and 9 level, we are now playing in Divisions 2 and 5 and with other ABC teams competing at all levels - we have come a long way!

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Locally, the Alphington community is rapidly changing and growing in population. ABC and our neighbour Australian Paper Mills were both established in 1921 and have long links with the local community. With the closure of the mill in 2010 and 5,000 new residents planned to settle in the Yarra Bend housing development being constructed on that site, ABC has become the oldest surviving 'resident' in the Alphington community. When ABC was formed in 1921 the population of Alphington was about 2,000. It grew to 5,080 in 2016 and is forecast to increase to 10,000 by 2031.

In recognition, City of Yarra have been working with ABC and the community on a redevelopment plan for the club environs in Alphington Park. Detailed concept and architectural activities are now nearing conclusion and at this stage ABC is hopeful that the rebuild will occur within two years.

ABC will continue to offer and expand our bowling and social activities along with our community,



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schools and AAA bowls programs and provide a safe and friendly community meeting place for visitors from nearby and afar.

With many other local bowling clubs and institutions closing their doors over the past 10 years, we are intending be here for the next generation of Alphingtonians.

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Current Club Members.