

# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 108

## A.B.C. BOWLING CLUB COLLECTION

Bowling Clubs, Launceston

### INTRODUCTION

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## INTRODUCTION

The A.B.C Bowling Club was established in 1898 as the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association Bowling Club. The second bowling club in Launceston, the opening ceremony took place on Saturday 29 October 1898.

The Club's annual report for 1899/1900 recorded that rose and black had been selected as the Club colours and jackets, ties and hatbands were available. A new and enlarged pavilion was opened on 13 February 1901 to replace the previous pavilion which had been destroyed by fire, together with its contents comprising records of the Club since its inception, the entire stock of members' private bowls, shoes and club uniforms.

From the Club's early days interclub matches were played with the Launceston Bowling Club, North v South matches were held and visits paid by a team from a Melbourne club. During a 1905 visit from Melbourne bowlers, Mr Charles Wood, president of the Victorian Bowling Association, presented a cup to the Tasmanian Bowling Association to be played for annually by all affiliated clubs, the first club to win it three times to be outright winners. The Club's annual report of October 1909 proudly recorded that the Wood trophy had been won by the A.B.C. Bowling Club.

In 1910 the green was taken over from the Cricket Association and rebuilt by the Victorian expert who had recently constructed the Invermay Club green. At a committee meeting held on 11 November 1910 it was recommended that the Club's name be changed to the A.B.C. Bowling Club (sometimes abbreviated to the A.B.C. Club).

In 1924 the Club moved to new quarters at the northern end of the Cornwall cricket ground, just inside the entrance to the Cricket Association's property in Racecourse Crescent. The weatherboard pavilion, constructed by Hinman, Wright & Manser, was described by *Daily Telegraph* of 20 October 1924 as 'one of the finest and most convenient that graces any of the clubs' quarters in the State'. It included a well-equipped kitchenette. Previously the green had been in the Cricket Association reserve. Club membership was about 60. Over subsequent years additions were made to the pavilion.

Mid week bowling was approved by the Committee in 1935. At a special general meeting of members of the A.B.C. Bowling Club on 24 February 1950 it was resolved that a Ladies' Club associated with the A.B.C. Bowling Club be formed. The 1950-51 annual report stated that the new playing area was to be extended to a full size green. In 1953 a liquor license was obtained for the bar and in 1954 it was decided that Sunday bowls be permitted on the A.B.C. bowling greens.

The men's club and the ladies' club folded in 2001. (*Examiner* 31 October 2001) At January 2007 the pavilion was boarded up and the greens neglected.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in January 2003.

### ***1. Legal Records***

1/1 ABC Bowling Club, *Rules of the ABC Bowling Club*, Launceston, nd

### ***1. Minutes of Meetings***

2/1 NTCABC/A.B.C. Bowling Club, minute book of committee and annual meetings, 29 January 1901-22 May 1911 (includes annual reports for 1899/1900 and 1900/1) 1899-1911

2/2 A.B.C. Bowling Club, minute book of committee and annual meetings, 25 May 1911-29 June 1922 1911-1922

2/3 Minute book of committee and annual meetings, 29 June 1922-20 September 1933 1922-1933

2/4 Minute book of committee and annual meetings, 4 October 1933-22 September 1949 1933-1949

2/5 Minute book of committee and annual meetings, 1 November 1949-11 August 1961 1949-1961

2/6 A.B.C. Women's Bowling Club, minute book of annual meetings 1964-1997

2/7 A.B.C. Ladies Bowling Club, minute book of committee meetings, 6 February 1980-29 August 1990 1980-1990

2/8 A.B.C. Women's Bowling Club, minute book of committee and general meetings, 20 September 1990-26 April 1994 1990-1994

### ***3. Correspondence***

3/1 Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association Bowling Club, letterbook, 5 October 1898-April 1914 1898-1914

### ***4. Financial Records***

4/1 A.B.C. Ladies Bowling Club, members' subscriptions book 1950-1994

4/2 A.B.C. Bowling Club, cash book 1961-1971

### ***5. Miscellaneous Items***

5/1 Tasmanian Bowling Association, *Sixth annual report of the Tasmanian Bowling Association*, Launceston, 1907 1907

5/2 A.B.C. Bowling Club, a number of Bingo tickets nd

## **OTHER SOURCES**

QVMAG, Community History, photograph database, search for A.B.C. Bowling Club

QVMAG, Community History, Documentation series, 2002.P.0197

Launceston Reference Library, Local Studies Collection, news cutting file "Bowls", includes *Weekly Courier* photographs of the A.B.C. Bowling Club

Anne Green, *The home of sports and manly exercise: places of leisure in Launceston*, Launceston, 2006, pp.39-40

John Stoward, ed., *Tasmania 2001-2002: sporting almanac and book of Tassie facts*, Hobart, 2001, p.406