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Bowls Gr8 for Brains – Annual Report summary October 2021- October 2022

Groups in operation

Location	Sessions	Attendees	Exception reporting/Lessons learned	Volunteer hours at groups
Albury	26	464	Group originally started at Lavington Panthers – who decided to charge attendees more than barefoot bowlers and did not provide any club support. Commercial Club Albury offered to support groups with the use of one full green every week if chosen. No reportable incidents	234
Boolaroo/Lake Macquarie	8	92	Covid lockdowns impacted heavily on groups numbers – groups recommenced 19 April 2022. No reportable incidents	72
Shoalhaven Heads	12	73	Officially Launched 6 November 2022 – inclement weather has impacted heavily on groups. No reportable incidents.	108
Deniliquin RSL	2	46	Club Politics and conflicts between volunteers has created issues for this group. The President of the club failed to support the groups and has obtained an NSW Mental Health Grant without the permission of Bowls Gr8 for Brains - Opportunity exists to move the group to a new location. No reportable incidents	16

Other volunteer hours

Travel – 59, Conference – 54, Administration – 1040

Total volunteer hours – 1909, Total all attendances at sessions this year – 675

Groups in construction

Group	When	Available \$\$	Details	Volunteer hours to date - est
Chirnside Park Country Club	23/10/2022	TBC	Combined Veterans and Families fun day	110
The Albert Bowling Club – Gympie	22/01/2023	TBC	Combined Veterans and Families fun day	86
Bowls ACT	TBC	\$7500	ACT Government Grant to run 4 x Veterans friends and family's fun days Information has been forwarded to Bungendore Bowls Club	108
Cockburn Sound WA	TBC	TBC	Iain Thomas – 30 year Veteran and former WO1 has been operating identical groups independent of the BG4B without having knowledge of the BG4B program and has indicated a strong desire to join the team and rename his groups. Iain will be away in the United Kingdom and will formalise the process in late January	Unknown
Wangaratta	TBC	\$2000	Plans to run their 2 nd Veterans, Families, and fun day in January 2023 – Grant funding from the Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch is currently sitting in the club account.	8
Caboolture/Beachmere	TBC	TBC	Currently in preliminary plan	24

Other agencies involved

- Open Arms
- Wellways

- NSW Retired and Former Police Association
- Albury City RSL Sub-Branch
- Invictus Australia
- Bowls Australia
- Henselite
- NSW Lake Macquarie Mental Health
- Lifeline
- Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch
- Bowls ACT
- Clear Lifestyle Support
- Victoria – still need a summary
- Qld – still need a summary
- Shoalhaven Heads RSL Club
- Caboolture RSL Sub-Club

Presentations given to:

- The Hon Sussan Ley (MP) x 2
- Lion's Club Albury
- Border Big Give
- Uniting Care Albury

Politicians who have been briefed:

- Justin Clancy MP – Member for Albury
- Sussan Ley MP – Federal Member for Farrer
- Fiona Phillips MP – Federal Member for Gilmore
- Aaron Violi – MP – Federal Member for Casey

Mainstream and social media

- 2AY
- Border Mail
- Deniliquin Pastoralist
- Shoalhaven Heads local community radio
- Livestreaming by Boyd 'The Happy Bowler' at numerous bowls events
- Bowls Gr8 for Brains Facebook Page

MOU's

- Wellways
- Bowls Australia

Special events – First Annual Bowls Gr8 for Brains conference hosted by Bowls Australia

Testimonials received - 6

Known interventions - 3