

**Home Piste,
St. Brigid's
Church grounds
Corner Adair &
Chapel Streets
Maldon**

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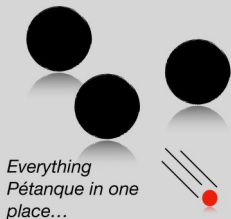
**Community Bank
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Bendigo Bank

Next Games

- March 2
- March 16
- March 30

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Around The Piste

MARCH 2025

NEWS

It has been decided to reschedule our annual triples tournament, the Forster Cup from Saturday the 29th of March to Saturday the 24th of May.

After reading the minutes of the VPCI's February meeting, our committee was alerted to the fact that the date for the Victorian Championship Triples has been changed to Sunday 30 March.

A quick glance at the My Petanque website confirmed that the teams for the 30 March Championship Triples were close to being finalised, and that many of those registered are players who would probably have competed in our tournament.

So what is the likelihood of those players competing in back-to-back tournaments in one weekend, we wondered? Especially when our tournament requires a trip to country Victoria? Our conclusion: we'd have a very slim chance of attracting 72 players on the day.

We have therefore been obliged to postpone our tournament until a later date. This, of course, involves a good deal of unpicking of arrangements that we have already made. The alternative, to go ahead with the tournament with the knowledge that we may not have been able to field 24 teams, would have meant that the event would run at a financial loss.

While the first three regular Sunday game days have been cancelled due to heat, not so the Thursday afternoon practice sessions. Thursdays have mostly escaped the heat and up to 12 players from 3 clubs as far away as Smythesdale have been attending. The sessions run from 4:00pm every Thursday and everyone is welcome.

Mick Ryan and Maxine McHugh from Bendigo together with Gerry Marthe from Smythesdale are regulars at Thursday practice.

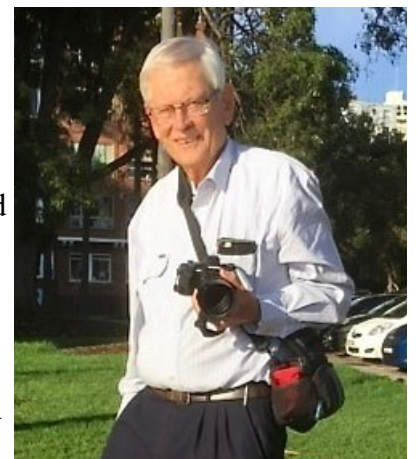


Vale Mike Forsyth.

We have lost another past Club Member, Mike Forsyth passed away peacefully on the 8th of February.

Mike is not remembered as a player but as a keen photographer of our members in action and a scorer at our early tournaments and at club games.

Despite failing health, he would work out the draws, sit in his car with his computer and enter the scores for the Sunday games then take photos of the action until lack of mobility prevented him from continuing.



Heat Policy—No play if forecast temperature for Bendigo is 35 C or more.

To Club Members

We *finally* got to play, the first games for 2025 on Sunday 16th Feb after the previous 3 scheduled games had to be called off because of the excessive heat.

We were joined by players from 4 other regional clubs, so 5 pistes were in action.

At the end of play, the "interlopers" took out first, second and third places - Gerry Marthe from Smythesdale, Esther Bulger from Bendigo and Colin Westhorpe from Mt. Macedon. Maldon players had better lift their games with the Golden Boule Competition coming up!

It was great to see Barry Droney looking good after his major surgery. He's hoping to be back on the pistes in a few weeks.

Last year's Player of the Year, Len Paul, is leaving us to move to Canberra. Our loss, Canberra's gain! Don't forget to pack your boules Len.



Maxine McHugh, Sue Nielsen and Esther Bulger discussing the draw with Phil Hopley



Len Paul is moving to Canberra



Barry Droney looking fit after his major surgery.

The North and West Challenge is set for May 4th on the VPCI Calendar.

This has been a very successful Competition, that our Club takes part in but unfortunately does not include all Clubs in our region.

Our Club's input is sought to discuss a way forward to enhancing this Competition.

1. Does our club have any interest in continuing competing in the North and West Challenge Cup? Yes or No.
2. If No can we provide a reason why, e.g. Distance, lack of interest from members, location etc.
3. Would our Club be interested in having a delegate attend a meeting to discuss the future of the Competition and/or offer suggestions for progressing it in the future? This could be by splitting the region into two, or other various suggestions.

The basic format for the Competition has proved very successful. But our input is required with some fresh ideas.

Beverley Forsyth has volunteered to be our delegate and would be pleased to receive any suggestions you may have concerning this Competition.