

Opening Day - 13 Sept 2025

Well folks, it's official — the Tokoroa Bowling Club has rolled into the 2025–2026 season! Saturday, 13 September dawned fine, but let's be honest — it was the kind of cold that makes you wonder whether we should be handing out bowls or hot-water bottles.

Before we braved the elements, we gathered for a short ceremony with Bowls Waikato Board Chairman John Mead, who kindly presented certificates from the Centre Champ of Champs events. It turns out we've got quite a talented bunch in our midst:



- **Tina Jakes & Russ Murphy** – Runners-up in the Mixed Pairs
- **Tina, Gwen Dwane & Maia Wilson** – Runners-up in the Ladies Triples
- **Tina again** – Runner-up in the Ladies Singles (we're thinking of getting her a permanent seat on the podium)
- **Bruce Lourie** – Runner-up in the Men's Singles
- **Megan Pohe & Alana Nicholas** – Winners of the Under 5 Ladies Pairs Champ of Champs
- **Megan again** – Winner of the Under 5 Ladies Singles Champ of Champs

Once the applause (and hand-warming) was over, we moved to the green for the traditional first jack and first bowl of the season. Life Member Ann Bernard rolled the first jack, and our guest John Mead followed up with the first bowl... which landed as a *toucha*! Not a bad way to introduce yourself.

Next came the all-important **Spider** — bowls flying in every direction toward the lure of a \$20 note in the centre. The winner? None other than Megan (again!) who's clearly got a magnetic connection to both money and trophies.

We then kicked off with Progressive Bowls — two games of fun, friendly, and occasionally competitive rolling. By lunchtime, the temperature had plummeted, and we were well on our way to forming the first human popsicle club in Tokoroa. Match Committee Convenor Maia wisely called it a day before frostbite set in, which was met with universal approval.



The day wrapped up with scratchie cards for the winners: **Cath Sullivan, Aaron Murphy, Megan Pohe, and Larry Sullivan**. With luck, someone will hit the jackpot and be shouting the bar next week.

Cold or not, it was a brilliant start to the season — full of laughter, good company, and a reminder that nothing (not even Antarctic winds) can keep a bowler off the green!