

AUCKLAND YOUTH BOWLS TOURNAMENT

Q: What has 800 legs, smiling faces and laughs a lot?

A: 400 secondary school students playing bowls for the first time as part of an Auckland Bowls initiative introducing new participants to our sport.

Auckland Bowls held an introductory secondary schools bowls tournament on the 7th of March. The tournament involved 400 students from 20 schools, and was held at Henderson, New Lynn, Pakuranga, Remuera and Mt Albert Bowling Clubs.

The purpose of the tournament was to introduce the students to the sport in a casual and fun way, and it certainly achieved that. Club members were on hand to give the students advice and coaching tips, and it was great to see students taking on their expertise to improve their game. There were also a couple of Secondary School Nationals participants from Howick College who took their peers in hand, and showed them how it's done.

The tournament was also a great opportunity for Auckland to identify new bowling talent. Auckland Bowls Coaching and High Performance Manager Howard Sandler was on hand to see which students showed real potential to excel at the sport. Several students were offered the opportunity to receive coaching and some will participate in a Squad 6 programme, and the interest in continuing to play the sport has been overwhelming. Congratulations to Auckland Bowls and volunteers for a fantastic effort.

Squad6 Underway

Increasing the opportunities for youth to play bowls is a focus for us and Squad6 is the key participation initiative to achieve this. Through a partnership between Auckland Bowls, Bowling Clubs, Schools and Bowls NZ a number of sessions have been run in various locations around Auckland with more in the pipeline.

Howard Sandler has coordinated successful sessions at Henderson, Papakura, and Papatoetoe-Hunters Corner in Auckland.

Taranaki has seen 2 sessions of Squad6 run at New Plymouth and Hawera Park Bowling Clubs.

Further in Wellington, a number of clubs have run Squad6 including at Silverstream Bowling Club.

Through the Dunedin Youth Bowls Group; Balmacewen Bowling Club, Andersons Bay Bowling Club and Kaikorai Bowling Club have partnered with 10 schools to bring Squad6 to Dunedin.

Thank you to all the clubs and volunteers who have made a positive impact on our sport through Squad6.

Your club can be involved in building a legacy for bowls through Squad 6. Contact your local CDO (page 13) or Rob Pidgeon for info.

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