



# NATIONALS PROVE THAT BOWLS IS A GAME FOR LIFE

By Crispin Anderlini

## BEV MOREL

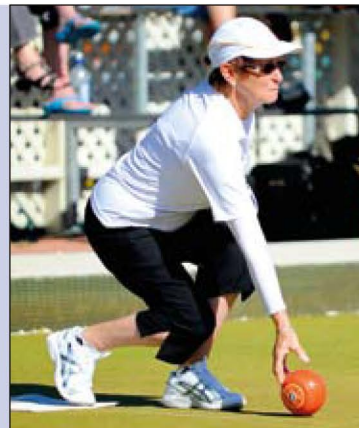
*For almost 30 years Bev Morel has been rolling up and winning titles around the country. In the Elmwood player's most recent competitive outing, the talented bowler once again made it into the finals of the fours at Nationals. Although she missed out on a national title 16-10 to team SLAM, the veteran bowler already holds three national titles, two National Open Fours titles (1995 and 2007) and a NZ Pathways Pairs trophy (2005) - and has played in many more finals besides.*

But Morel isn't in the habit of trumpeting her success, and attributes her 3 national and 30 Centre titles to the "wonderful teams" she's played in. "I've been lucky to play with some great bowlers: like Marie Watson, Raelene Peters and Denise Page. I had a lot of success with those girls, and they gave

me a great grounding in the sport."

With her bowling career still rolling along at a cracking pace, what are some of the highlights that come to mind for the experienced bowler? In Morel's mind, the most significant victory was back in 2007 when she won the national title in the Fours with the help of her sister Theresa Woodham and club mates Pam Phair and Lois Grey. Ordinarily a time for celebration, the win was tinged with sadness as their brother passed away before the team had made the finals. Before he passed though, he made the two women promise to bring back a trophy.

"We had no option but to win," says Morel, "somehow we focused and got through it. It was a really emotional victory and I felt we couldn't lose. It felt great to win because we'd done right by him and kept our promise. It was



amazing really."

Fate, fortune or skill, Morel is too busy rolling through more competitions to worry about the reasons for past successes. There are always more ends to be played. "I'd rather be on the green than at home cleaning, or in the garden. Dad played bowls, my sister plays bowls. We're a sporting family and it's in the blood."

## MANDY BOYD

*Having recently made history as the youngest woman to win a national title, 19-year-old Mandy Boyd is riding a wave of success that began a mere five seasons ago in Napier.*

Now a member of the Johnsonville Bowling Club, the successful young bowler has represented NZ as part of last year's winning Junior Trans-Tasman team, and recently in Merdeka, Malaysia where she came third in the Pairs with Matt Gallop; won four Centre titles and a Kittyhawks trophy (2010); and two Singles Golds in the National Secondary School Championships. Winning the National Fours title with team SLAM at this year's tournament is just more proof that Boyd is coming of age on the bowling scene.

"It was my third nationals and it was really good to play with SLAM. There was a lot of great competition, but in

the finals we all played shots when we needed to. I just followed what Sue [Burnand] told me to do though," Boyd says with a modest laugh.

Currently studying fine art at Massey University, the young artist is proud of her bowling achievements, yet doesn't like to brag - especially about this latest trophy. Playing three in the winning SLAM team seems to have given her a different perspective, and her love of bowling is incorporating more of a team direction than in the past.

"I'm liking Fours a lot more now. It's good having people with you to support you and pick you up, and you can get involved with other players. It's more interesting."

So how did a teenager of 14 catch the bowling bug? Through her sister Angela Boyd, who she followed around



to events that included a winning Singles campaign at the 2001 National Secondary School Championships. Her sister's win made up her mind that she wanted to win the same title some day, and the rest is history. "I started playing bowls because of her, and I think I will play forever. Or as long as I can," she says with conviction.