

# CLUBS & COMMUNITY AWARDS

## Clubs & Community Awards (C&C 2019)

Heart of the Community

# Summer Nights on the Green



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## Entrant details

Position Name | Functions and Marketing Coordinator

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## Entry details

Club Name | Harbord Bowling & Recreation Club

### 1. Provide an outline of your program/project that addresses each of the aspects noted to the right:

Our project, Summer Nights on the Green was held on Saturday 2 March 2019 at Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club, nestled in the back streets of the beautiful suburb of Curl Curl.

Driven by our mission to be a “focal point of our local community in providing a safe and family friendly atmosphere of harmony and belonging”, this fundraising event was a special moment in our Club’s history and demonstrated Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club’s commitment to the local community in which we operate and also to its people.

As a result of an incredibly rare condition, Archie Innes was born without any eyes and was subsequently diagnosed with several other health difficulties. Summer Nights on the Green was a unique fundraising event for Archie and his family with the aim to raise enough funds to enable Archie’s family to purchase a new wheelchair-accessible Volkswagen Comfortline Multivan.

Around 200 people attended on the day, inclusive of thirty teams of four who participated in a fun and relaxed barefoot bowls competition. Each team donated \$200.00 in order to enter the competition and were also judged on the day to determine who had the most outrageous bowling attire.

Summer Nights on the Green extended well into the evening, with a \$25 social ticket providing access to food and drink, live and silent auctions, a raffle, and live music generously provided by ROCKBOX.

A highlight of our project was the involvement of 2GB radio presenter, Ben Fordham. Ben immediately agreed to support our project by promoting Archie’s story and our fundraising event on his show, in addition to encouraging his listeners to donate to the cause.

One such listener was 95 year old Marjorie and we are thankful she was tuned in to Ben’s show on the day he spruiked our Summer Nights on the Green fundraiser.

Ben invited Archie, his parents Steve and Fiona and his sister Alba into the studio for an incredibly special surprise. Marjorie phoned the studio whilst Archie and his family were present, to make an unbelievably generous donation of \$39,000 towards the cost of purchasing a new Volkswagen Comfortline Multivan.

During her live conversation, Marjorie said to Fiona, "What I give to you I give with much pleasure".

It was this funding, along with the bowls team entry fees, auction sales and other donations that enabled Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club to successfully raise over \$70,000 to assist Archie and his family.

Discussions have already taken place regarding hosting another successful Summer Nights on the Green in 2020.

## **2. Provide an insight into why this program/project was supported by the club/individual.**

This project was the suggestion of our Functions and Marketing Manager, Mish Miller. As a Northern Beaches local herself, Mish knew about Archie and his family by following his incredible journey on social media.

Recognising the support they required and with an idea that Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club might be able to help, Mish arranged to meet with Archie's parents, Fiona and Steve. She went to their house to explain her idea for a fundraiser and Fiona and Steve were instantly amazed by Mish's generous offer.

When she met with Steve and Fiona, Mish had the opportunity to learn more about Archie and his health struggles.

Archie was born on 6 January 2017 with a very rare condition called anophthalmia, causing him to be born with no eyes. He is actually one of a very small number of children born in the Sydney region to be 'black blind', which means he has no light perception at all.

Following Archie's birth, he was further diagnosed with Sox2 Syndrome, which affects just 1 in 250,000 births. His particular mutation is so rare that there is only one other recorded case in the world.

Since his birth, Archie has experienced additional complication associated with his syndrome, including:

- A diagnosis of neurosensory mild/moderate hearing loss, requiring him to wear hearing aids/
- Respiratory infections requiring high flow oxygen.
- Requiring a nasal gastric tube to feed.
- The identification of several brain abnormalities likely to affect his development.
- Severe motor delay which causes Archie difficulty in lifting his head.

Despite a myriad of health issues, Archie continues to amaze his family, Fiona, Steve and Alba with his ongoing strength, courage and resilience. Anyone who has the opportunity to meet Archie is instantly captured by his beautiful smile and gorgeous personality.

Archie requires constant care and whilst this is lovingly provided by his parents, it understandably causes them a great deal of stress to juggle multiple medical appointments and therapy. Fiona is unable to work full time because of the ongoing nature of Archie's care and Steve is also required to take time off work.

Because of this, Fiona and Steve face financial pressures that are no fault of their own and this is why it was important for Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club to offer to assist.

In asking Fiona and Steve what they needed most, Mish discovered that a new vehicle with wheelchair access for Archie would make a huge difference in their lives by making it easier to get around. Archie and his family gained a wonderful new friend in Mish, who returned to the Club and immediately began organising Summer Nights on the Green – a fundraising event for Archie and his family.

Mish was certainly proactive in identifying a local family worthy of support and in need of support. In successfully executing this fundraising event in 2019, Mish was diligent in building relationships with the many stakeholders involved in the event to ensure that their support could be counted on in the future.

## **3. Provide a brief summary of the support that your club/individual provided to this program/project.**

Summer Nights on the Greens simply would not have occurred without the support of Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club and Mish Miller. Naturally, the clubhouse was provided free of charge, as was the use of our four bowling greens.

Mish approached the sub-clubs of Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club seeking in-kind support and this was provided in the way of donations, products and team registrations for the barefoot bowls competition.

Board Members were available to assist in the running of the barefoot bowls competition, teaching the competitors the correct technique and assisting with the scoring process. The male and female bowling members of the Club volunteered to assist in registrations, raffle ticket sales and judging of the 'best dressed competition'.

In addition, the donations process was facilitated through the Club's website, which enabled bowling teams to register for the day and also which enabled others to purchase social tickets and make donations.

In many ways, this fundraising event was a first for the Club in that we had not organised a fundraiser of this size before. A proud moment in the Club's history, it was pleasing to see Board Members, management and staff, members and other volunteers all pitching in to ensure the success of Summer Nights on the Green.

**4. Provide a summary of the outcomes this program/project achieved and how the club's/individual's contribution helped in this success. Where possible, please quantify your response.**

There were two notable outcomes achieved in the organisation of Summer Nights on the Greens:

- 1) Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club demonstrated its capacity to successfully coordinate and execute a large scale fundraising event which had not been done before; and
- 2) The fundraising target was exceeded and enabled Archie's family to purchase a brand new Volkswagen Comfortline Multivan.

Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club employs two full time employees in its office, Mark Slattery, CEO and Mish Miller, Functions and Marketing Manager.

It takes considerable resources to organise a fundraiser, particularly the size of which was organised for Archie's cause. It is a testament to Mish and Mark's hard work and their commitment to assisting a family in need that Summer Nights on the Greens was such a great success.

Clubs have the resources, the staff and the contacts to facilitate important events such as Summer Nights on the Greens and this was certainly showcased by Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club.

When she met with Fiona and Steve, Mish learnt that they hoped to purchase a brand new Volkswagen Comfortline Multivan. Accommodating of Archie's wheelchair, this vehicle would provide Archie's family with greater ease in getting him to and from his many appointments and more generally, to travel as a family.

Summer Nights on the Greens raised in excess of \$70,000, which well exceeded the target amount.

**5. Provide a summary of how the community responded to the project. Please provide examples to support your answer.**

Harbord Bowling and Recreation Club has worked hard over many decades to cement itself as a hub in our local area and when the time came for us to ask our community to assist, they were ready and willing to do so. The community response to Summer Nights on the Greens was absolutely overwhelming!

In addition to the hundreds of people who turned up on the day to participate in the various events on offer, we received further support from the following business and organisations:

- Adam Yip Photography
- Adrenalin
- Aluminium Warehouse Brookvale
- Ben Fordham and 2GB
- Bendigo Bank Freshwater
- Bill Buckle Volkswagen Brookvale
- Blackmores
- Bracton Industries
- Budgy Smugglers
- Carlton & United Breweries
- CAV
- Curl Curl Long Boarders

- Dave Gibbons Photography
- DiversARTY
- Escape Room Eight
- Escape Room Manly
- F45 Training
- Flight Centre
- Freshwater Probus
- Govindas
- Hampsons Homewares
- Harbord Bowling Club Fishing Club
- Harbord Womens Bowls
- Harbord Mens Bowls
- Ironbark
- KIKOFF Harbord
- Manly Beachfront Boutique Paradise Motel
- Manly Surf n Slide
- Oliver Hire
- Ripple Marketing
- QStation Manly
- Rockbox
- Sanjula
- Schwarz Real Estate Freshwater
- Skater HQ
- Spicy Broccoli Media
- State of Escape
- Taronga Zoo
- TVSN
- Villeroy & Boch
- Virtual Reality Room

Without the extensive ties we have developed within our local community, we would not have been able to get everyone involved in the way that we did which made our event such a huge success.

#### **6. Add your credits here:**

Mish Miller - Functions & Marketing Manager  
 Mark Slattery - Chief Executive Officer

#### **You are encouraged to credit all members of the team that contributed to this entry.**

Please be sure to spell names correctly and get titles correct.

You may also use this space to credit any contributing organisations. Email addresses are not required but may be used to arrange delivery of award certificates.

Upload your clubs logo here (min 1MB)



We have read the Terms & Conditions of the awards and agree | ✓

We declare that the information presented in this entry, is to the best of our knowledge, accurate and true in every respect | ✓

We confirm that the nomination/submission has been approved by the Club President or Secretary Manager | ✓

Name of President/Secretary Manager | Mark Slattery

Title | CEO - Secretary Manager

Date | 2019-05-10

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Log in to [clubsandcommunityawards.awardsplatform.com](https://clubsandcommunityawards.awardsplatform.com) to see complete entry attachments.



Archie and Famil... 4.3 MiB



KIKOFF TEAM.jpg 5.8 MiB



50 Shades of Gre.. 6.6 MiB



Curl Curl Longbo... 8.5 MiB



Las Bochas Team.. 1.1 MiB



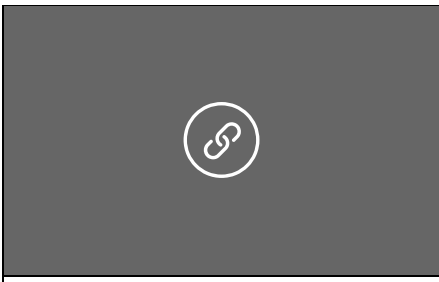
The Traditionalis... 1.7 MiB



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SUMMER NIGHTS. 354 KiB



Attachment name

<https://drive.google.com...>