

## BOWLS IN AUSTRALIA

### First Game In 1845

ALTHOUGH the game of bowls dates back to 1299 in England and Scotland, there is no evidence that it was played in Australia until the middle of last century. Various enthusiasts have endeavored to prove that it was known here in 1805, but this claim has not been substantiated.

The first official record of a match in Australia is that between T. Burgess and F. Lipscombe in Hobart on January 1, 1845.

In the Mitchell Library there is an engraving showing a game of bowls in progress in the grounds of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel at Botany in 1854. By 1869 there were three bowling greens in New South Wales, all at Parramatta.

In 1876 a club was formed in Sydney to play on a green made by Charles Moore, curator of the Botanic Gardens. This, however, had to be uprooted very shortly after to make room for the Exhibition Buildings. In 1878 John Young (known as "the father of bowls in Australia") formed the Kentville Club. It was he who persuaded the Victorian Clubs to send teams to Sydney, and on April 12, 1880, the first intercolonial match was played. Victoria won.

In England there was no central body through whom arrangements could be made for an international match until John Young persuaded Lord Jersey to form the International Bowling Association. The sequel to this was that in 1901 a combined New South Wales and Victorian team visited England, where they played 22 matches, winning 11, and drawing 1.

In April, 1911, an Australian Bowling Council was formed to manage interstate and international games, and under its auspices the first Australian bowling carnival was held in Melbourne in 1912.