



### **Bowls keeps you young.**

Edna Harling celebrated her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday in Shepparton with many friends and family highlighted by best wish videos from Eddie Maguire, Steve Glasson and Matt Flapper.

Edna was born Edna House in Kerang on 28/10/1914.

She married Chris Harling a school teacher (Lieutenant in WW2) and moved around Victoria teaching. She commenced bowling aged 42 with the encouragement of Dot Jenkinson at Red Cliffs Bowling Club, after tennis and basketball she found bowling easy and soon excelled and won the Club Singles.

After spending some years in Sunraysia the family moved to Mirboo North and there she won the State Singles and was selected in the State Team. She bowled for the State for 22 years. Edna bowled with likes of Norma Massey, Una Holt, Lorna Lucas and Mavis Meadowcroft. Edna played at Red Cliffs, Sommerville, Castlemaine, Kerang and Sale. Finally, Chris and Edna retired to Shepparton where their daughter Jenny lives.

They founded the Kialla Bowling Club some 35 years ago. The Shepparton Bowling Club relocated to form the sporting complex of Shepparton Park which now host the Victorian Open Bowls Championships. Edna continued bowling and winning. A highlight was the State Pennant Final in 2005 skipping Shepparton Park to victory.

She was awarded a Life Membership of the club in 2013 and was also incorporated into the Goulburn Valley Hall of Fame in 2016. She still enjoys watching the Open and mid-week Pennant. At the age of 103 she moved from her Unit in the Kialla Gardens Retirement Village into the aged care facility.

She does not use a walker and goes on fortnightly day bus trips up to the Murray River Clubs. Saturday lunch at the Peppermill is a highlight of the week. Cards, exercising and bingo fill up her busy week. More amazing than her bowling achievements is her age together with her good health. She was an excellent memory and carries out an intelligent conversation She is a well-known resident of Shepparton.

*Author: Chris Harling.*