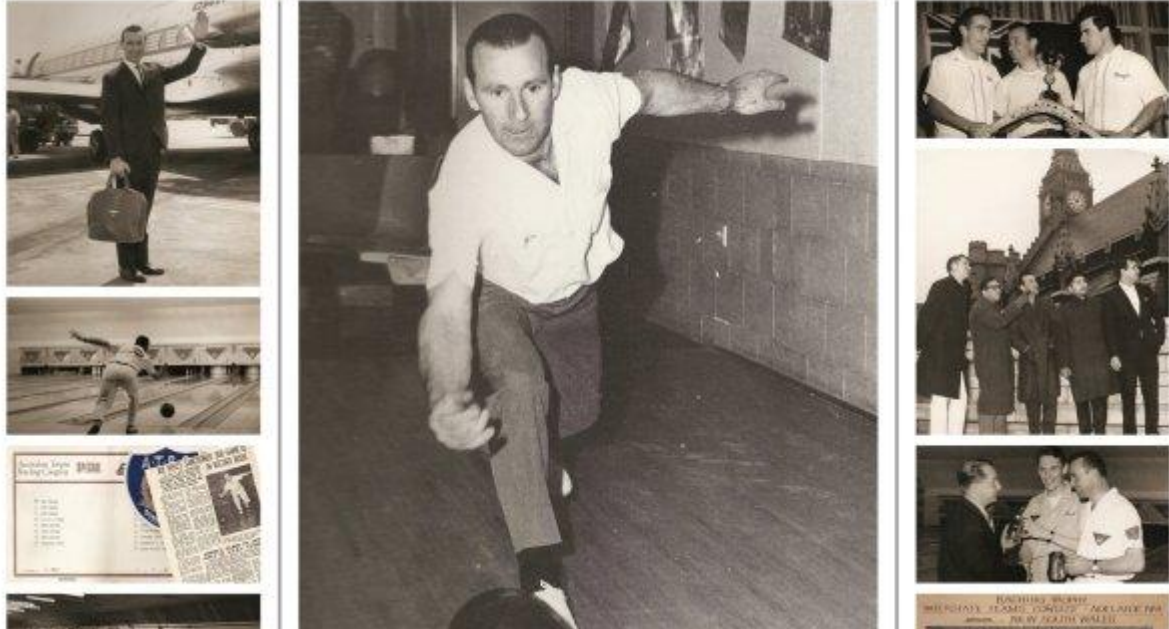




A Milestone in Bowling



Monday 18th March 2013 was a big milestone in Australian Bowling as the sport celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the first 300 game bowled anywhere in the world outside of the United States in 1963.

The historic feat was performed by TBA Hall of Fame legend Joe Velo at Corrimal Bowl in 1963. The game was bowled on Lanes 1 and 2 and during a five-man teams league.

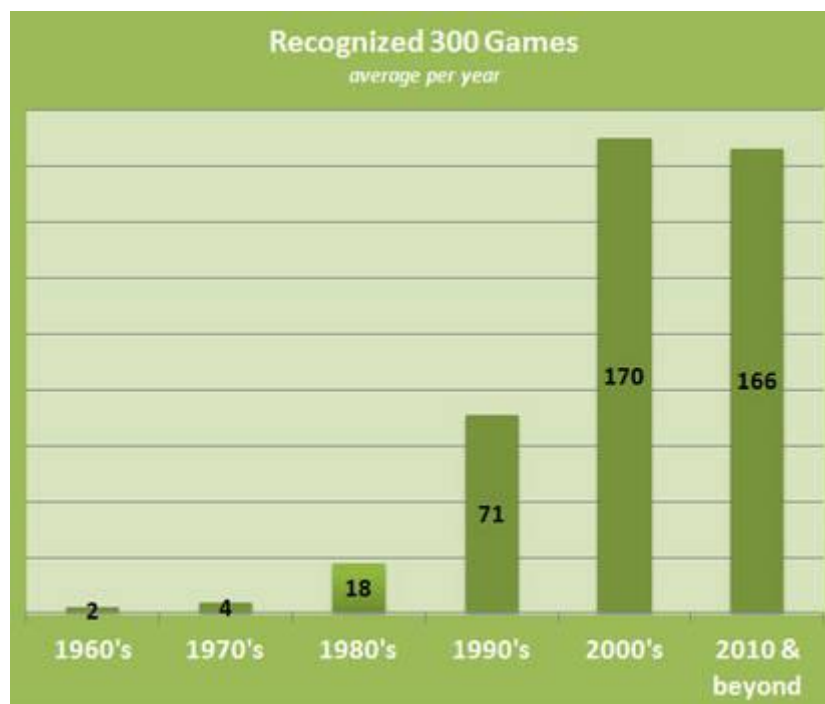


The President and Secretary of the ATBC (Kevin Orchard and Jack Walton) assisted by Tom Fowler and Bill Mercer (Pres. and Sec. of the ITBA) checked the lanes, weighed the pins, checked the foul-light warning devices, tested the accuracy of the pinspotting machine, tested the ball used, and then unhesitatingly gave their official sanction of Joe Velo's feat.

Joe received a **£1,000 cash prize donated by Ampol Petroleum**, together with return tickets to America and other valuable prizes at a presentation function at the Corrimal Bowl, a few days later.

Joe repeated that feat again at Warrawong Bowl on 1st August 1975.

Whilst 300 games are now quite common, it's fascinating to reflect on how just rare it was to achieve the elusive perfect game over the last few decades. The graph below shows the average number of 300 games bowled per year in each decade. In the 1960's, only two 300 games a year were bowled.



Compare that to now, where approximately 170 perfect games are bowled each year in Australia. The first reactive bowling ball was released in 1993 and this resulted in the number of 300 games more than doubling from the '90's to the 2000's.

There have been **11 people** who have bowled back-to-back 300 games. The first person to bowl back-to-back recognised 300 games was Derek Adams in February 2003, at Nerang Tenpin Bowl, in Queensland.

The most recent set of back-to-back 300 games was by Charlie Lindsell at Caboolture Bowl in July of 2012.

Did You Know?

- 300 Games are only recognised if they were bowled in league or an accredited tournament.
- The first person to bowl two recognised 300 games was Chris Batson. The first was on 4th March 1974 and the second was on the 30th June 1975. Both were bowled at Rushcutter Bowl, NSW.
- The first woman to bowl a recognised 300 game was Trish Datson on 14th December 1974 at Rushcutter Bowl, NSW.

- The youngest person to bowl a recognised 300 game was Adam Svensson, who was only 13 years and 4 months, when he bowled the 300 on 12th December 2009, at AMF Cannington, WA.
- The oldest person to bowl a recognised 300 game was John Rapley on 15th April 2003, at the age of 74 years and at Orange Tenpin Bowl, NSW.
- Nine 300 games have been bowled in the Walter Rachuig Trophy Tournament.
- Tracey Madden was first woman to bowl a 300 game during Walter Rachuig Trophy Tournament. This was in 2004 at AMF Forest Hill, Vic, and was Tracey's first 300 game.
- Bianca Flanagan was the first junior bowler to ever bowl a 300 game during the President's Junior Interstate Shield. This was bowled in 2004 at Illawarra StrikeZone, NSW.

300 Games are only recognised and included in TBA records if they were bowled in an accredited league or tournament.

The first recognised 300 games bowled in each State and Territory are:

New South Wales by Joe Velo in March 1963 at Northern Bowl

Queensland by Wayne Sullivan in February 1964 at Mt Isa

Victoria by Bob Hinton, September 1964 at Chadstone Bowl

South Australia by Mark Halls, 9th October 1970 at Norwood Bowl

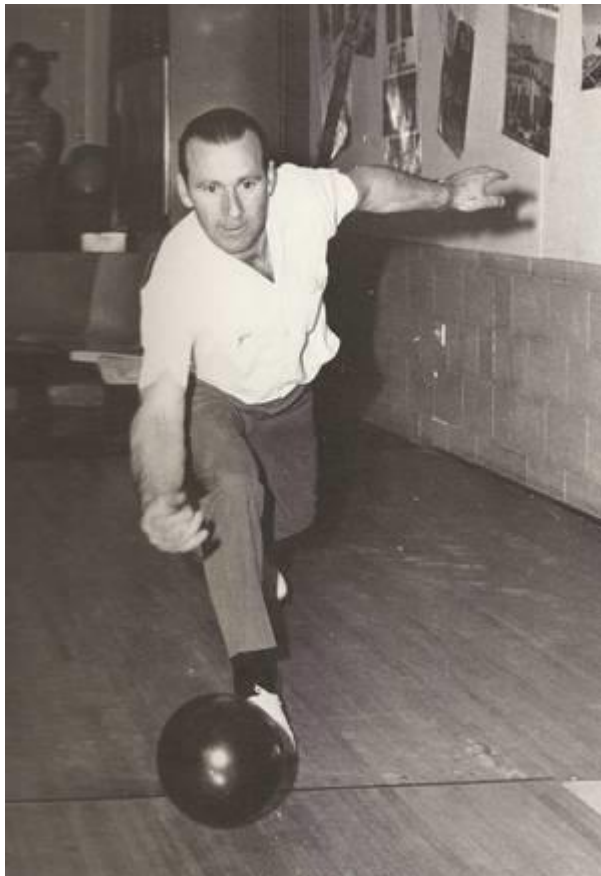
Australian Capital Territory by Alan Jarman, 1st April 1972 at Olympic Bowl

Northern Territory by Kevin Webb, 19th September 1982 at Dustbowl

Western Australia by Gwen Bunting, 29th June 1985 at Fairlanes

Tasmania by Paul Lucock, August 1988 at Moonah Bowl, Hobart.

But back to the beginning and when it all began - **well done to Joe!!** That single game put tenpin bowling in Australia on the world bowling map. Joe had a unique 'wrong foot' delivery (below), but made bowling with the right foot forward look proper.



Additional photos of Joe's bowling achievements and newspaper clips may be found via the following links

<http://www.joevelo.com/300.html>

<http://www.joevelo.com/news.html>