

## **Bowls New Zealand Award to Jo Edwards Player of the Year 2011**

It is with great pleasure that we here at Burnside have the opportunity to once again honour you Jo with your Bowls New Zealand Award as **Player of the Year for 2011**. Jo also won this Award in 2009.

Your nomination was sent to Bowls NZ from Burnside and President Neil Cornelius. At that time you and Dave were still members here before your move to Nelson. We still miss you.

The December edition of UPSHOT records your achievements in detail. I want to highlight some of the terms published about you as both a player and a person.

Kerry Clark writes “Jo Edwards’ success at the World Champion of Champions has been a major highlight over the last few months capping off a stellar year for Jo. With her gracious manner both on and off the green, and as New Zealand’s best performing bowler, we can all be proud of her achievements.”

Crispin Anderlini writes “Jo Edwards has become New Zealand’s best ever performing bowler. “

Jo has won

- ✓ her third consecutive World Cup singles title, Warilla 2011
- ✓ the National Singles in Dunedin December 2010
- ✓ The National Pairs title in Dunedin with Val Smith, 2010
- ✓ Was a member of the successful Trans Tasman team in March 2011, Invercargill
- ✓ Won the World Bowls Champion of Champions title in Hong Kong earlier in 2011

- ✓ Has skipped the Pairs and Fours women's team to gold medals in the recent Asia Pacific event held in Adelaide.

That is a fantastic record Jo. It is little wonder that you are the number one ranked player in the World.

What sometimes one can gloss over is the duration of some of these events; the Asia Pacific event was played over 14 days – with no rest days.

Just a few months earlier Jo had won -

The WB Champion of Champions which took 14 intense games to find the winner, Jo nailing the tie breaker 4- 1 in the final.

What courage and determination shows through there?

It is noted that Jo and Val have been selected by their fellow team members to be two of the four leadership group in the BJ team (The others are Richard Girvan and Ali Forsyth.)

Jo comments that

“It's definitely a move in the right direction. We're actually a team, not just a women's side and a men's side. To have open and honest discussions about what we can learn from each other is really nice. It's easy being part of the team. You feel like you have nine other people supporting you when you're on the greens.

That is just another example of the high regard in which Jo is held by her team mates.

Your nomination records the esteem that you are held in locally both at Burnside and by Bowls Canterbury.

They mention your willingness to play with young and junior bowlers, to mix socially and easily with all members and your ability to have time to contribute to your Club and Centre.

Neil Cornelius President Burnside, says

“When you see Jo’s input and involvement at Club level, you realize that Jo Edwards is not only a champion player, but also a champion person”

You have great skills both mentally and physically Jo, but what also makes you such a special athlete is your professionalism both on and off the green. Bowls is fortunate to have such a role model.

Karen Murphy, one of Australia’s top bowlers, names Jo as the toughest competitor that she has played against.

While this is outside the time frame for this Award we note with pleasure that you have been nominated in the Halberg Awards for Westpac Sportswoman of the Year. We wish you well there Jo.

Congratulations Jo – you are a very worthy winner and we are all very proud of you.

CM

December 19, 2011