



50 YEARS OF BUSINESS AND BOWLS

By Ray McKenzie



Our Club started a new era with the restructure of the composition of a club which comprised principally of a Men's Committee full members, and the Ladies Associate members, similar to a golf club structure.

Guided by a professional consultancy group and members of the existing committees led by the then President Ron Brown and myself as Treasurer, the club became integrated with men and women equal and running the game of bowls with an overall Board of Directors formed to engage the task of financial success and stability, which still exists today, although the original Board of 10 is now 8.

The decision to expand to a third grass green, which is another story on the sometimes heated debate on grass or synthetic, but grass prevailed. It meant an outlay of \$222,112 in October 1994. The result is the club's success on many occasions filling with 160 bowlers with the then Melco Fours, and the District and Winter Carnival, showing support due to our ability to accommodate so many on the greens.

It became obvious the club house extension was necessary to generate income but we had just taken on a \$250,000 bank loan to build the third green and our net profit was some \$58,000. The major task was financial growth until affordable. There had been some \$300,000 additions to the dining area in 1991 and we had to "make do" for a time.

The efforts of the Board at the time, particularly the Treasurer Joyce Ryder, brought about the expansion of gaming machines with careful control of its valuable income and absolute dedication to control expenses and preserve capital.

In 1997 a major internal "make over" costing \$425,000 was followed by the installation of lights to No 1 green in 1998, then an expansion to accommodate an increase in the number of poker machines, full air conditioning in the club house, new furnishings and all of the greens perimeters were shaded, costing a further \$118,000. Expansion to the western side of the club house provided perhaps the best DOSA (Designated Outdoor Smoking Area) at a cost of \$48,000, and an outdoor Aussie BBQ area was established which is proving very popular.

A "Courtesy Bus" was purchased in 2008 to serve members and the community. Up until then we did have a modest 12 seater, but demand was so great and popular that another bus was purchased in 2010 and has now become a seven day service which has proved a winner.

One of the key strategies that the club adopted was to realise not only expansion of playing numbers, but essential to our success was community involvement. Our strong financial support to local schools and charities has resulted in some 4000 locals seeing this as their club.

The success our club has enjoyed has been greatly contributed to by our long serving and loyal staff, some being with us for twenty years.

In summary, the club's achievements have been gained not by one particular act or individual, but an ongoing contribution by many, all starting from the initiative of the original 9 gentleman founders and continues today.



**Experienced Administration Staff
Faye McLaren and John Barnett**



2013/14 Board of Management, with plans to refurbish the interior of the clubhouse, commencing early next year.

L/R: John Barrie, Director; Graeme Sargent, Treasurer; Jack Smith, Vice Chairman; Ray McKenzie, Chairman; Liz James, Secretary; Rob Hanson, Director;