

# DIGGERS MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB

Diggers Memorial Bowls Club, situated off Robinson Street, North Rockhampton has made steady progress since the inaugural meeting was held at Tobruk House on November 11, 1974.

However, for many years prior to that Diggers Bowls Club, a social club without a green, had been working to establish its own playing area.

In those days only returned soldiers were eligible for membership, but that was altered in March, 1973 to enable anyone interested in bowling to become members.

In late 1972 three possible sites were inspected. One was at Cowap Street

on land owned by the RSLA. This was rejected because of the probability that the approaches to the new traffic bridge would encroach on the property.

The second site at Duthie Park was too small for the projected two greens.

The third and present site was selected as the most desirable.

On March 5, 1973 the name of the club was changed to Diggers Memorial Bowls Club and a constitution adopted.

## Committees

Three sub-committees were formed:—

1. Green Construction Committee consisting of Doug Haigh, Len Talbot, Arthur Underhill, Kerrod Larcombe and Roy Chancellor.

2. Debenture Committee, Ray Connor, Cec Marler, Fred Field, Harry Burton and Pat Tartt.

3. Clubhouse Commit-

tee — Ray Fitzgerald, Arthur Underhill, Bert Challands, Ollie McNamara and Gordon Meares.

4. Clubhouse Rules Committee — Col Jarvis, Bert Challands, Ray Bennett, Ron Loram and Bob Hetherington.

At that time Hugh Henderson was President, Hook Anderson Secretary and Ray Connor Treasurer.

## Soil Shed

All of the above mentioned people together with ordinary members and even members and green-keepers of other clubs, and contractors McNamara and Underhill spent countless hours on the actual physical work of building the first green to enable the rolling of the first bowl by World War 1 veteran Ollie Howden on Anzac Day 1975.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed on December 9, 1974 to organise bingo and raffles and cater for bowlers and visitors by preparing and serving meals. A great deal of money was raised by hard work and devotion.

Until the Club was in a position to build its own premises it operated from what is now the soil shed, and on special days were greatly assisted by the Capricornia Silver Band who allowed the club to use their nearby hall.

Plans were made to build our own clubhouse in three stages:— Toilet block; Bar and cold room; Function room and new kitchen.

This work has now been completed, but with present membership at approximately 230 men and

110 ladies thought must be given to further extensions.

A second green and lighting for the established green has now been completed and the club now has the necessary facilities to comfortably conduct large scale interclub competitions and events like the President's Day and Diggers Day of Bowls.

The Diggers Day of Bowls is an annual event to which all old Diggers are invited on a date close to Armistice Day.

On Anzac Day each year a short service is conducted by the Salvation Army in honour of fallen comrades and the club is proud of Remembrance Corner in the main hall where trophies donated by past members of the old social club for interclub play are displayed.

## Presidents

Since the formation of the present club five presidents have held office — Gordon Meares 1975 and 76; Fred Field 1977; Trevor Wigginton 1978; Ron Aldous 1979 and 80; Col Rose 1981.

Secretaries have been — Hook Anderson 1975 and 76; Neville Oberg 1977; Ian Power 1978; Randall Borg 1979; Harold Sherrington 1980 and 1981.

Treasurers were — Joe Gutekunst 1975, 76, 77 and 78; Jack Johnson 1979, 80 and 81.

Further improvements being considered are lighting of the second green, seating and sunshades around the new green.

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