

17th Feb '92

ANOTHER MILESTONE PASSED WITH GREEN REOPENING

THE Golden Beach Bowls Club passed another milestone in its twelve year history with the re-opening of its No. 2 green - The Syd Lingard Green - last Sunday.

The green was originally built by club members eight years earlier, but was dogged by drainage problems which they hope have now been rectified by increasing the height another two feet.

The official opening of the re-vamped green was watched by many Golden Beach residents who remember the site as a marshy swamp and vividly recall the hard toil and mateship that went into establishing the bowls club.

In fact, it could be said that the birth of the club was the forerunner to the rapid development of



the area which began in the early 80's and is continuing.

And it was precisely this forecast by a group of far-sighted citizens in the Golden Beach Progress Association which encouraged the developer, the late Bevan Henzell, to allocate 1.041 ha for a social bowls club in 1980.

At that time, a new area at the western end of Nelson Street was being opened up and the president of the Progress Association, Snow Woollett, argued that the allocation of an area for a bowls club would attract new home buyers.

It was a last-ditch attempt to acquire some land, having been rejected on two previous occasions by the then Landsborough Shire Council.

However, along with the land came a gift which none expected - the freehold title deeds to an area large enough to provide three greens, a club-house and off-street parking.

The generous gesture laid the foundations for what has become known as the 'Friendly Club', with members working and playing side-by-side.

● Above, the site before the Golden Beach Bowls Club began their working bees to turn it into the present popular club. Below, RQBA past-president and staunch club supporter Syd Lingard MBE (left) with club patron Roy Henzell and his wife Elizabeth, at the re-opening of the Syd Lingard Green on Sunday.



In two short years - as well as playing as a club at Palmwoods, where they had been allocated Thursdays as 'their' day - the Golden Beach bowlers had transformed virgin swamp land into their own sporting venue.

One of the first newsletters set a tongue-in-cheek requirement for new members which is just as applicable today, with plans to build up the first green - the Bevan Henzell Green - at some time in the future.

"The only qualification is the need to make good friends and the ability to lay ditch boards, plant trees or grass, spread manure, go lawn-grub hunting or indulge in any other exotic adventures that will assist in the formation of the club-house, greens or the surrounds".

That requirement proved to be no deterrent, even to the women, and it was not unusual to see them raking gravel, laying pipes or planting seed, while their sister

members provided morning teas.

The Golden Beach bowling population has steadily increased over the years and undergoes an influx of holiday visitors during the winter months of June, July and August, when the southern greens are closed.

A long term plan for the club is to provide a third green to cater for the increasing popularity of the sport and to keep abreast of the holiday crowds.