

## The Brief Story of Pelican Waters Bowls Club

(The following is a précis of information obtained from Annual Reports, "The Foundation Years of the Golden Beach Bowls Club" by Thelma Osborn and from reports written by Snow Woollett and other Club Members on the various stages of Club development)

### How the Club was formed:

During the 1970's there was great interest in building a Bowls Club in the Golden Beach area but there was difficulty in getting a suitable site.

In 1980 Snow Woollett, then President of the Progress Association, approached Bevan Henzell who was developing an area west of Nelson Street near the Telecom building. Part of this development was zoned for park and recreation.

After several meetings between Snow Woollett and Bevan Henzell it was decided that a Tennis Club would have the land next to the Telecom building and that Bevan Henzell would freehold the site next to the Tennis Club for a Bowls Club if Snow could get a Club established. This generous offer of a freehold site suitable for up to 3 bowling greens was agreed to with a handshake.

With knowledge that land was available, the Progress Association wasted no time in recruiting support from bowlers in the area and calling a public meeting on 1 Oct. 1980 to form Steering Committees. The Steering Committees took every opportunity to inform the local residents and to seek their support. The interest shown by the public was very encouraging. A further public meeting was called on 14 Nov. 1980 with the aim of forming the Club. Over 120 attended and the interest was tremendous. The Steering Committees were wound up and the men's Golden Beach Bowls Club was formed with Patron Bevan Henzell, President Noel Batch, Vice Presidents Fred Hirn and Henry Gatfield, Secretary Arthur Horman, Treasurer Colin Mackay, Councillors Thomas Williams, Cecil (Snow) Woollett, Leslie Thompson, Walter McLachlan, Arthur Evernden and Arthur Horman.

At the same time the Ladies adjourned to another room to form the associate club to be known as the Golden Beach Ladies Bowling Club. The elected officials were: Patroness Judy Henzell, President Yvonne Hirn, Vice Presidents Nessie Evernden and Edith Woollett, Secretary Beatrice Gatfield, and Treasurer Dot McLachlan.

The first members to join the Men's and the Ladies Clubs are listed on pages 22 and 23. One month later, 13 Dec. 1980, a "Get to Know You" party was held with more than 100 attending. At this party Bevan Henzell presented the title deeds of the land to President Noel Batch and expressed the wish that the Club become known as a "Friendly Social Club".

### The Bowling Scene:

When the Club was formed it had a membership of well over 100. Many of these members were new bowlers eager to learn the fundamentals of the game.

As the greens at Golden Beach would not be ready for at least a year, other arrangements had to be made.

West Caloundra Memorial offered to provide coaching services. The late Bill Woodhouse and the late Ian McLean, both members of West Caloundra, were accredited



Bevan Henzell (Right) hands over the deeds to the land for Golden Beach Bowls Club to its President Noel Batch on 13 December 1980

coaches and they willingly offered their services. For many weeks the new bowlers met at West Caloundra Memorial to receive coaching and they will be forever indebted to Bill and Ian for this assistance.

Bill continued with the coaching for many years after the greens at Golden Beach came into service. He was made an honorary member of Golden Beach in appreciation of the services he provided.

Palmwoods Bowls Club also came to the rescue by offering the use of their greens and facilities to the Golden Beach members each Thursday.

Once a week Golden Beach bowlers packed their lunches and bowls and travelled to Palmwoods to play social bowls in a picnic atmosphere. It was not unusual to have in excess of 75 players on the greens particularly in winter when the southern visitors arrived.

Palmwoods allowed Golden Beach to retain half of the green fees and to run any raffles on the day.

The Club will be forever grateful to both West Caloundra Memorial (now Caloundra RSL Memorial) and to Palmwoods for their assistance during this period.

### Fund Raising:

Finance was required to pay for the construction of the greens and to establish equity for a bank loan for the clubhouse. Syd Lingard solved most of the problem by generously offering a \$40,000 interest free loan. A further \$30,000 was raised by issue of members debentures. With these finances in place and with freehold title of the land the Club was able to get a \$60,000 loan from the ANZ Bank for the clubhouse.

Every means of fund raising was explored including applying for grants. In 1982 the Club received its first Govt. Grant of \$12,153.

However over the initial years the Club raised a lot of its capital through members debentures. In some cases the debentures were raised to pay off bank loans in the late 1980s when the interest rate was 18%.

Both the Ladies and Men's clubs were very active in raising funds to repay the Club's commitments. Meat tray raffles were held in the Golden Beach shopping centre each Saturday morning. This was an excellent fund raiser and continued for many years.

Other activities were: operating stalls with homemade products such as jams, cakes etc. bingo, garage sales, "buy a brick", produce stalls, social evenings, Christmas parties, Pokies Express and later the Friday night dinners prepared by the Club members.

Two unusual methods were ginger picking and selling photos.

The ginger pickers spent two days in the hot sun picking ginger. Tired and blistered they earned the princely sum of \$120 for their efforts. However they also gained lasting friendships which in turn created a good club spirit.

The photo selling episode occurred when the Anro Asia, a container ship, ran aground on the northern tip of Bribie Island on 29 Oct 1981. Jack Gatfield, Junior Vice President of the Club, arranged a flight in a helicopter to take photos of the stricken vessel. These photos were sold with the proceeds going to the building fund.

The ginger picking and Anro Asia photos show how the members took advantage of every opportunity to raise funds for the Club.



The "Ginger Pickers" Members picking ginger to raise money for the Club

### Greens and Clubhouse:

#### Greens:

In 1980 the site was described as rugged, low lying and swampy. Clearing and burning started early 1981. Once the site was levelled the Soil Shed was built by voluntary labour using concrete blocks (seconds) from Caloundra Blocks. This was followed by the construction of the first green. It was named the Bevan Henzell green as a token of appreciation of the generosity of the Henzell family. The area was levelled, filled with approx. 350 cubic metres of screenings for drainage, the ditchboards put into place and the green top dressed. Syd Lingard made his truck available throughout to transport drainage pipes to and from the site and to cart the turf clippings to plant the grass.

The Tift Dwarf clippings were planted by volunteers starting work at 4.30 am on 12 Jan 1982. They spread the grass clippings and quickly covered them with hessian to stop them from blowing away. Sprinklers were set up and a light shower fell giving the grass an excellent start. Work was finished by 7.30 am and the volunteers were thanked with a champagne breakfast.

The first game was played on the Bevan Henzell green on 15 April 1982 when 53 members and 8 visitors played mixed social bowls.

The second green was opened in 1983. It was officially named the Syd Lingard green in recognition of Syd's generosity and dedication to the building of the Club.

The estimated cost of the two greens was \$60,000.

#### Clubhouse:

The clubhouse was supplied by Monarch Modular Homes Pty. Ltd. in kit form and was erected to the lockup stage in 12 days in March 1982.



Volunteers clearing and burning the site which was to be the Bevan Henzell Green