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# A labour of love and longevity

CONSTRUCTION of the bottom green began May 19, 1916 by W. Rolfe & Son. Before this members travelled to Bowral and Sydney to learn to play. A tennis court and croquet lawn were built, but no longer exist. A second reconstruction was undertaken by the new greenkeeper, Alan Davis two years later.

The original clubhouse plans were designed by an architect from Sydney, Mr Kenwood, and although the club had been in existence for four years prior, it was officially opened on February 27, 1918 by the state president, Tom Spence.

Club members decided to present Mr Kenwood with an illuminated address, and inducted him as the first life member of the bowling club for his contribution.

Construction of the top green began in 1951 and was officially opened in 1952.

A block of land on the southern side of the No. 1 green was the club's next purchase, as this was the only land around the clubhouse not surrounded by houses.

This led to a discussion of whether to demolish the old club house and rebuild on the new land, or to retain the original clubhouse and build a half green on the new land.

The old clubhouse was kept and the new half green was completed in November,

1960.

In 1953 the bar was remodelled.

It went from being a cordoned-off section of the room to a modern facility that had beer chilling and a plumbing system.

The first stage of the new clubhouse was built by local builder Jock Munnoch, a past president, in September of 1967.

The debate to air condition the clubhouse began in 1968, but did not eventuate until the mid-1970s.

In 1975 the first secretary manager Harry Wilkinson was appointed.

Before this the club was run by a combination of voluntary and casual labour. In 1976 the club almost relocated to South Nowra.

Five and a half acres of land were negotiated and a deposit was paid, however, the ambitious plan was dropped by the members at a special meeting.

Instead, two houses were purchased along Osborne Street that helped further cement the club in the heart of Nowra.

In 1994, the board decided the facilities needed improvement.

There was no off-street parking available, limited space, and the club had a dated atmosphere.

The carpet and furniture were roughly 30 years old, and had not been updated since the previous renovation in 1967.

The club had a \$1.5 million refurbishment in 1999.

Improvements doubled the existing floor space and added a new restaurant, modern gaming facilities, new bar, and car parking space.

Two housing blocks were demolished to construct the car park, and the under-utilised half-green was removed in favour of a new main entrance and 90 seat restaurant.

The gaming room now occupies the space that was originally the greenkeeper's shed and storage facilities.

This renovation led to a 25 per cent increase in membership during that year alone.

Other renovations made from 2004-2006 included the dining room being expanded to seat 150, a new men's locker room with a viewing pavilion, new toilet amenities, and an expanded kitchen.

New services such as a courtesy bus, Keno, and Tab were added during this time.

These updates have seen an increase of members to nearly 4800.

In 2012, an outdoor gaming area was also added to the club.

As the club continues to be a part of the local community, more renovations will see it stay relevant and meet the needs of its patrons.

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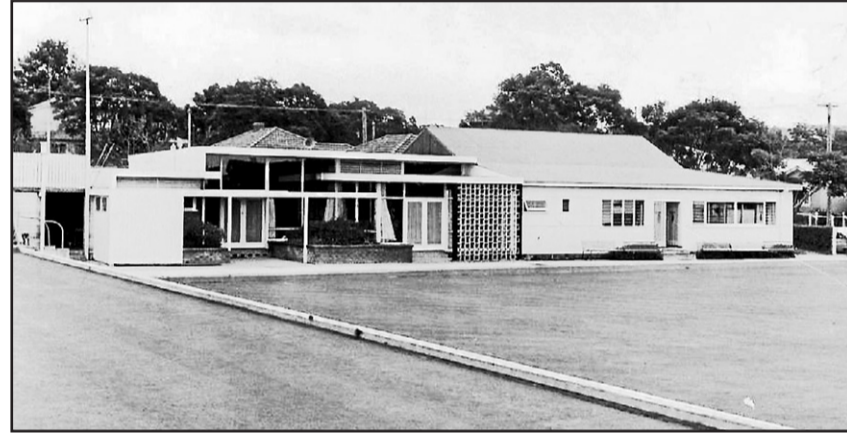


Congratulates the Nowra Bowling Club on their Anniversary



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The original club exterior (above) and the exterior today (below). It has undergone several changes throughout the years.



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Ian Jorgenson Electric & Data would like to congratulate Stuart and his team on their 100 year anniversary. Thanks for the ongoing support.



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