

History – Club

Formation of the Bowls Club [by K.W. Stuckey] *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Golden Jubilee of the Club in 1986)*

[The information about the formation of the Club has been obtained from the files of the Beaudesert Times newspaper.]

13th September 1934

A meeting was convened in the Imperial Theatre by the Chairman of the Beaudesert Shire Council, Cr Joe Hopkins, to discuss the possible formation of a Bowling Club at Beaudesert. It was reported that about 45 persons attended, and the meeting was chaired by Cr Hopkins. Following general discussion on the matter, it was agreed that a Sub-Committee be appointed to investigate the matter and report back to a further meeting.

November 1934

A further meeting was held with Cr Hopkins again presiding and a good attendance of enthusiasts being present. Reports were presented on the results of the investigations to date, and a motion eventually carried that the Beaudesert Bowling Club be formed, and that an Executive be appointed. 24 Members enrolled at that stage and the election of Officers proceeded.

Those elected were:

President	J. Hopkins
Vice Presidents	J. Plunkett and H. Ebeling
Secretary	E. Lancaster
Assist Secretary	W. Lupton
Treasurer	W. Hickfuss
Auditor	H. Syme
Committee Members	M. Smith
	S. Callanan
	H. Lahey
	H. Syme
	W. Schmidt

The first meeting of the newly formed Executive decided to lay down a full-size green.

1935

Newspaper reports during 1935 indicate that most of the year was taken up with organizing a lease of the land from the Council, the raising of funds by the sale of Debentures to Members, interest on Debentures being payable at 4%, and the construction of the green which was carried out by Day Labour with some advice from experts from Brisbane.

During the year some visits were made to other Clubs by Members of the Beaudesert Club, most of these visits being to Brisbane Clubs, but it is interesting to note that one such visit in June 1935 was to a green at Eagle Heights, Tamborine Mountain, for the opening of a green there.

December 1935

A general meeting of the Club was held at which the lease was finalized and a recommendation from Committee was adopted that the Club obtain an overdraft not exceeding £300 for which nine guarantors were required, and these were obtained. The Club also adopted a set of rules which were presented for consideration, and adopted the plan for the construction of the Clubhouse.

February 1936

A working bee of Members was held on a Saturday afternoon, the work carried out including cutting of the lawn on the green and the banks, rolling of both and the clipping of the edges.

22nd February 1936

The first two rinks of the green were used for the first time, the players involved being T. Enright, J. Boyle, C. Goodwin, F. Hodgson, J. Grier, D. Weakley, R. H. Taffs, S. Dauth, M. Blunck, P. Finemore, J. Aldridge, E. Lancaster, M. Upham, F. Day, J. Klumpp and W. Lupton.

7th March 1936

The first official game of Bowls took place with five rinks being used. It was also reported that several ladies played on the two unoccupied rinks not used by the men players, and it was anticipated that a Ladies Club would soon be formed.

16th May 1936

Official opening of both the Bowls Green and the Clubhouse took place.

The green was officially opened by the President of the Queensland Bowling Association, Mr M. R. Hornibrook with official visitors including Mr A. G. Muller, M.L.A., and Mrs Muller, and Mr T. F. Plunkett, M.L.A., and Mrs Plunkett. This was then followed by the official opening of the Clubhouse which was performed by Mr A. G. Muller, M.L.A.

The newspaper report of the official opening was quite extensive and referred to most of the speakers involved.

Luncheon was served by Members of the Beaudesert Ladies Bowling Club and was followed by Bowls in the afternoon.

In the evening a dance was held in the Technical Hall.

The Club has been associated with the Gold Coast-Tweed District Bowls Association (GCTDBA) since 1951.

History of the Clubhouse [by Gordon Bontoft] *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Golden Jubilee of the Club in 1986)*

The original Clubhouse was built by Mr E. Boswell and has seen many changes in fifty years. Originally the facilities were on the opposite ends of the clubhouse to which they are today.

The men's rooms and lockers were on the western side and the bar and kitchen on the eastern side.

Toilets those days for both ladies and men were outdoor, requiring quite a hike. The bar was rather small with a small household refrigerator for cold drinks, soft mostly.

Beer was in a small keg on the end of the bar kept cool by a wet hessian. Much later after small modifications and repairs the foundations were replaced and a change around occurred, the kitchen moved to western side, men's rooms to the eastern end. With the modifications a cold room was installed with a completely new bar. This seemed to be of such enormous proportions, but was soon to be too small. Toilets for both ladies and men were incorporated in the new building at this time. A little later an addition on the southern side of the building gave much needed extra space.

This was the last major work carried out until the recent complete rebuilding enlarging and redecorating was completed.

A new cold room was installed with the old one relegated to the back room and still working most efficiently. All this adds up to a beautiful and most useful clubhouse of which all members can be proud.

The Bowls Club Through the Years [by A.E. (Toby) Gannon] *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Golden Jubilee of the Club in 1986)*

A. E. (Toby) Gannon, oldest playing member at 81 years and eleven months, became a member in 1940 and served as Secretary for 6 years (1946-52) and President in 1956-57. He gives some of his memories during his 45 plus years as a member of the Club (Ed.).

In the early years as a member I recall the keenness of many of the old Bowlers; men like Dr Beet, Frank Hodgson, Tom Enright (a very generous donor) Sep Dauth a regular attender for a game of bowls, Jack Aldridge a Greens Director and an enthusiastic bowler, Sid Callanan, George Dauth, Bill Lupton who with Ernie Lancaster won the Country Pairs Championship - Ernie was our foundation Secretary and for many years our Patron until his death last year. Then there was Peter Ebeling another enthusiast.

There were many others whose names I'm afraid I can't recall and there is no doubt that I have missed many old friends; however, the passage of time and my memory will have to be my excuse.

In my forty-five plus years as a bowler I shall never regret my decision to join the Club and become a bowler, the friends I made during this period and the company of all bowlers I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy.

Although I was not a Foundation Member, missing by a year, I did know all the Foundation Members and followed with keen interest the building of green and the first Club House. I recall one of the things that concerned the members before and after I joined was that the Club was on its own, that is, not affiliated with any association or with any other Club, this position continued until the end of the World War II.

It was then decided to make application to the Gold Coast Bowls Association for affiliation; the application was successful, and the Club became number seven in the Association.

One competition which was played among members was a fours game played along similar lines as today's pennants. It was played by eight teams over a three-month period and played each Saturday, it was called the Enright Rose Bowl, (after the trophy donor).

One of the early day problems was only having one green. As this had to be top dressed it meant closing the green for four or five weeks with no bowls at home, for that period. This was rectified in the year 1945 when the second green was built.

A practice which showed the keenness of the bowlers of the period was placing the mats and having a half an hour roll up while waiting for the cards to be called. After affiliation with the Gold Coast Bowls Association we then entered teams in the pennants competition.

Over the years the Club has innovated many things for the betterment of bowling. One of these I recall is the Mother's Day all day mixed carnival, it only lasted for three years as other participating Clubs decided to conduct their own day. One day comes to mind, the day when Corinda Bowls Club came down with eight teams to play in the competition.

During my era I recall some of the famous Bowlers who played here at Beaudesert they include Jack Gordon, Australian Singles Champion; Harris Cocks, Queensland Singles Champion; Bert Balm, Australian Pairs Champion; Bob Lewis, Australian and Queensland Champion; and Fred Bowley a Queensland Champion.

The Beaudesert Club has prospered over the years and will, I am sure, continue to do so for many years to come, particularly with the increase in younger members joining and playing.

In conclusion I hope and feel sure that all members will experience the same pleasure with their bowling as I have and hope to continue to enjoy.

The First Fifty Years of Ladies' Bowling in Beaudesert, 1936-86 [by Betty Markwell] *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Golden Jubilee of the Club in 1986)*

From early records, it is evident that the thirteen (13) enterprising women who attended the inaugural meeting in the Technical Hall (now the "Times" office) on 16th March 1936 were very enthusiastic about forming a Ladies' Bowling Club in Beaudesert. Especially as the Q.L.B.A. had only been formed in 1930.

The first Club in Queensland had been New Farm in 1922.

At their first meeting they decided to write to the Men's Club for concerning fees, etc., and what days would be available for play, but at the second meeting they decided to write to the Shire Council for approval to have their own green.

However, owing to their small numbers, at the next meeting they decided against their own green and accepted the men's offer of the use of the green on Wednesday for their playing day.

The first meeting of foundation members was chaired by Mrs Ebeling, who was then elected their first President.

Mrs Hodgson elected vice-president, Mrs Taffs elected secretary, Mrs Klump elected treasurer, Mrs Dauth, Mrs Hankey, Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Aldridge, Mrs Schmidt, Mrs Benstead, Mrs Doyle, Mrs Dahl, Committee. Mrs Collins of Nindooibah accepted their invitation to be patroness, a position she held until this position was abolished in the early 1940's owing to the war situation. This position was re-established in 1959.

The Ladies' first big day was to help the Men's Club at the opening of the first green on 16th May.

By July membership had increased to sixteen (16) members and Mr J. Aldridge donated a gold brooch for their competition. To win this trophy outright, the bowler had to win three (3) times in succession or five (5) times in all.

In November they had their first visitors, being four rinks from the Annerley Club, who won the game, and voted that the dinner that the ladies had provided was a success. Catering was a trial in those days with no mod cons.

In January 1937 it was decided to affiliate with Q.L.B.A. and two pounds two shillings was to be drawn out of the bank and members were to contribute one shilling each. Card parties were held to raise funds and the balance at Christmas was £10.14.9d.

A social was held for the first birthday and each member was to bring a friend, refreshments, and a tea towel for the Club. Mrs Fisher made the birthday cake and members of the Men's Club were invited.

The first mention of a badge comes from minutes in 1939 when it was decided to order fifty (50) blue and white badges.

Some members might remember about this time, before the green was top dressed. It was decided to hold a dance on it. Who can remember doing the Palais Glide and the Lambeth Walk under the full moon?

Prices from these olden days are always interesting and some mentioned being, stamp 2d, phone call 6d, card 6d, tin dish 2/3d, % lb tea 1/3d, butter 1/8d, bread 6d, bottle metho 1/5d, bottle of soft drink 4d, these had to be cooled in a tub of ice

In 1940 play was 6 pence per afternoon and members paid another 6d to employ an afternoon tea lady, to serve afternoon tea, wash up and wash the table cloth and at times the floor.

At Christmas time she got a bonus of 5/-. Prior to this, members had all brought something to eat and one member had to wash the tea towels and another the table cloth. For this they were given a bar of crown soap per month.

Meetings in these early days were often held in members' homes with quite a few being held at Coleman's Cafe and in the Grand Hotel Ballroom. Although only a small band of ladies, they not only worked hard for their club, but right through the war years. They organized card parties and socials to raise funds for patriotic organizations and charities.

In 1942, due to the war, a special meeting was held to consider the future of the ladies' club, the response was disappointing with only the committee attending, however they decided to carry on for the time being.

A sign of the times was that each member was to bring a teaspoon of tea and Mrs Aldridge offered to bring the milk. What did they do for sugar?

Mrs Fisher donated a trophy for the most regular attender for the year and Mrs Taffs offered a trophy for the one who introduced the first new member to the Club and it seems it took a year for this to be won.

About this time there was a special ceremony when Mr W. Schmidt unveiled an Honour Board which he had

made and donated.

Gradually furniture was purchased for the clubhouse including a piano for £16.10.0d which is still in use today. Ladies also assisted with painting the room and the seats, etc., and with catering for visitors.

After the war the club attended carnivals and visited all metropolitan clubs and took part in the Twanley competition.

They appointed a city bowler as their delegate to Q.L.B.A. and this position has been held by Mesdames, Cushing, Hughes and Moulard, respectively.

When the late Mrs Selwyn Smith became president in 1956, she attended Q.L.B.A. meetings herself and successive presidents were also delegates until 1974, when Mrs Joy Allardyce of Norman Park was appointed, and she is still filling this position. Joy has given outstanding service to the Club and is also our official coach, many new players have benefitted from her experience.

The first "President's at home" was also held during the late Mrs Smith's term and she had members of the Q.L.B.A. executive as her guests. These days the Q.L.B.A. officials are only able to visit country clubs every second year.

An interesting snippet from 1950 was that their financial position at the beginning of the year showed a credit balance of 2/5d and the year closed with a balance of £4.2.9d after donating £10 to the Men's Club. A "bring and buy" raised £7.13.0d.

In the early 1950s some country members joined the Club one of them was Mrs Thelma Dredge, who was well informed about Ladies' Bowling Clubs, as her mother Mrs Gold was a Past President of Q.L.B.A. A position Mrs Dredge was to attain herself in due course.

At the time she had left Beaudesert and was a member of Nundah. Another member, who started her bowling career in Beaudesert and eventually became a Q.L.B.A. President was the late Mrs Selwyn Smith. Mrs Smith had been president of Beaudesert and had been Patroness from 1959, and in 1962 in honour of her Q.L.B.A. Presidency she was made life member of Beaudesert.

Mrs Dredge encouraged some of her neighbours to join her amongst the "White Leghorns" as they were called in those days, with their long white dresses and white stockings, which weren't abolished until 1970.

One of these ladies was Mrs May Ferguson, who was elected honorary secretary in 1953, a position, except for one year, she was to hold until she resigned in 1980, by which time the membership had grown to forty-seven (47) members. What a record and what a debt of gratitude the club owes to May's efficient organization of many and varied activities during this time. May was conferred with life membership as a reward for her outstanding service.

In 1953 Mrs May Dauth, was made a life member in recognition of her service to the club as she had been a president for seven years. In those days most presidents held office for two years and except for the late Mrs Selwyn Smith, 3 years, this continues today. Mrs Dauth was a great ambassadoress for the club and represented Beaudesert on many greens.

Through the years the Club has been indebted to many members and friends for their generous donation of trophies for club play and championships. For many years our two (2) main financial days have been known as "Plum Pudding Days" when all the trophies have been plum puddings, in various sizes made by members, two members who have been experts in this field are Mrs Mary Gannon and Mrs Thelma Russ. Another expert in her own field is our cake icer Mrs Olga Bell but as well as these ladies all members have been very generous to the Club.

The ladies have always assisted the Beaudesert Bowls Club and all money raised goes toward improvements to the Club house which has been enlarged and renovated several times through the years.

In 1982 we started playing Bingo each fortnight and with the profit from this we have furnished the enlarged ladies' room and provided amenities in the kitchen and as well President Edie Taylor was able to donate \$4,000 to the B.B.C. from the ladies in June 1985.

The Honour Board shows club competitions have been held each year and in 1978 Mrs Doll Fields won the

Q.L.B.A. trophy given each year to the winner of the club singles with the closest margin. In the early 70's Mrs Rayma Southern won the "B" grade one year and the "A" grade the following year and this feat was repeated by Mrs Joyce Greenwood in 1983-84.

In earlier years Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Hazel Teese were successful in obtaining their umpire's certificates and carried on these duties for the Club. In 1983 Mrs Thelma Hale and Mrs Coral Brown were also successful in this examination and still hold these positions in 1985. Mrs Marlene Dedecker passed the coaching examination in 1983.

The first "Friendship Day" when members invite husbands and members from other clubs to join them, was held in 1960 and after twenty-five (25) years it is still popular today.

In 1954 Auchenflower adopted Beaudesert as a sister Club and in 1976 we became country cousins to the Springwood Club and through the years there was always a special friendship with these clubs.

For very many years Beaudesert has always supported Tamborine in their Rose Bowl competition and Canungra in their Wall Plaque.

The Beaudesert Ladies Bowls Club has obviously been built on strong foundations laid by those pioneer women of another era and, after fifty (50) years it is good to take time to pause and reflect on the foresight of those who have gone before. Today, we have fifty-eight members and five (5) associates. The life members have been; Mrs May Dauth (decd.), Mrs M. Selwyn Smith (decd.), Mrs May Ferguson, Mrs Jean Ferguson and Mrs Thelma Buss, our present Patroness.

Vic Scells – the First Greenkeeper [by Betty Markwell] *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Golden Jubilee of the Club in 1986)*

Mr Vic Scells the first Greenkeeper now 92 years of age, can recall vividly scenes from the early days when they depended on Spring Creek for water. During a dry time, Vic had to be at work at daybreak to get some water before the Chinese gardener wanted his share and one time some small fish got through the pipes on to the green and you can imagine the smell as they decayed in the sun.

Eventually Vic dug a well and got good fresh water, however the pump had to be placed twelve (12) feet down from the top when the power was connected to the Clubhouse, all the switches were grouped together in the kitchen and Vic chuckled as he recalled one day he was down the well, working on the pump and someone switched on the pump. Vic grabbed the pipe and luckily the belt came off but not before Vic had lost most of his shirt and a lot of skin. The switch was moved to the pump shed the next day. Vic also remembers the moonlight dance and said although they raised 60 pounds it took a fortnight to repair the green.

Club Incorporation *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Diamond Jubilee of the Club in 2011)*

In 1985 the Men's Club put forward a motion that the club become incorporated. Mr Lou Landsberg followed by Mr Keith Stuckey did the hard yards to present the format of the new constitution, which included model by-laws for the inclusion of junior bowlers. This was presented to the members at the A.G.M. in 1988. The members agreed that we proceed with incorporation under the Association Incorporation Act 1981.

In December 1988 we became the Beaudesert Bowls Club Incorporated, and Mr Merv Jackman became the first secretary of the Incorporated Club.

In 1992 the Ladies Club agreed to amalgamation and a committee was formed to formulate the required constitution for club integration. Keith Stuckey assisted by Paul Newton and Errol Lorkin once again headed this committee along with D. Markwell, E. Williams, E. Walker and C. Brown acting on behalf of the ladies.

The new amalgamated constitution was presented to a Special General Meeting in June 1993. It was

approved and adopted. The first General Meeting of the combined Beaudesert Bowls Club Incorporated was held on 5th September 1993. At this meeting nominations were accepted for the first Board of Management Committee. The first Board of Management Committee Meeting was held after the General Meeting where nominations were called for specific positions on the Board.

Clubhouse Activities and Development *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Diamond Jubilee of the Club in 2011)*

Throughout the years the Beaudesert Bowls Clubhouse has been a place for the community to celebrate birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, business meetings, agricultural courses, A.G.M.s and a venue for local business functions and Christmas parties. Renting out our facilities and catering for events has continued since the establishment of the club.

Our members, over the past twenty-five years have celebrated Christmas parties and presentations. We have seen a couple of years of line dancing, 1994-96, dinner dances, theme nights, rock and roll bands, Friday night "Happy Hours" and it has been a place to relax and enjoy the company of friends and fellow bowlers.

The clubhouse is also a place for post-mortems of games won and lost and a place for the occasional whinge, especially during the pennant season, which is fine as long as it doesn't get too personal.

We extended the clubhouse in 1984 to cater for your needs. As membership increases future Boards of Management, which could include you, must consider future needs and facilities for members to keep this great club growing and remaining viable, unlike some who are struggling due to diminishing membership and lack of funds.

In 1986 we saw a move from hopper windows, if you remember what they are, to sliding windows on the northern side of the clubhouse.

It is always fine in hindsight, but we received a quote in 1989 of \$14,000 to brick veneer the northern and western sides of the club. Already carrying a great deal of debt, we unfortunately could not see our way clear to take on any more.

The inside and outside of the club was painted by volunteer members in 1990. This was done again in 1999 with paint donated by one of our members. Again, in October 2006 a quote was accepted to paint the clubhouse and outside shed.

1993 saw the introduction of the electronic raffle machine and six poker machines. We hoped the poker machines would raise our revenue, however over a 2½ year period they proved unsuccessful and after a \$1500 jackpot was paid in 1996 an application was made to have them removed.

In January 1996 our resident builders, Rowan Stuhmcke and Charlie Goldie, to try and counteract the expansion and contraction caused by the clay subsoil, carried out major repairs to the floor foundations. This was an extremely difficult job considering the confined space below the club and our resident snake population.

A pool table was purchased in 1997 but didn't last too long as we had difficulty keeping it level due to the problem just mentioned.

In late 1999 a Grant was obtained to purchase office equipment and by the end of the year Paul Williams constructed a new office where it stands today, however it wasn't long before it became too small and the office was extended in 2004. Over this period a new computer, fax and photocopier were also purchased.

In 2001 a new public announcement system was purchased, and a Please Refrain from Smoking sign placed above the bar. The ladies' locker room was also modified. 2001 also saw the purchase of a new kitchen freezer, however the whole kitchen needed extensive renovations to comply with Local and State Government regulations.

This was started in 2002 with a new stainless-steel benchtop and an application was made for a Community Benefits Grant to help with the upgrade. Professional plans were drawn up for the new kitchen with an estimated cost of \$60,000 for the work. However, the new kitchen was completed in December 2004 for

approximately \$40,000.

The club became a smoke-free zone from 1st November 2002; it's quite ironic to think members complained of a lack of ashtrays in earlier years and Harry Buss donated ashtrays to the club. Also in 2002 blinds were put up on the southwestern windows as glare hindered viewing of overhead projections when meetings were being held.

Over the years the clubhouse has been broken into on numerous occasions. Thieves never stole anything of great value but damage to windows, doors and tills led to increased insurance premiums. This forced us to erect security grills and to install the alarm system we have today.

In 2008 we purchased a new barbecue and Rowan Stuhmcke and his band of volunteers built a servery area under shade cloth on the northern side of the clubhouse. It is in this area where smokers, hecklers and spectators congregate, and morning teas and barbecues are held.

The furniture, that is the chairs, tables and stools we currently have in the clubhouse were purchased from the R.S.L. after the Kingfishers Rugby League Club went into liquidation. The tea and coffee servery cabinet was built by one of our members, Phil Armstrong. It has proved popular and takes pressure away from the kitchen workers.

We have a vision of a completely covered area for entertainment, barbecues and a social area spanning most of the north-eastern side of the clubhouse to enjoy outside conditions. We have applied twice for a Jupiter's Grant, but have been rejected. Not giving in, we have reapplied.

Lights on the bottom green would be the icing on the cake. This would allow more flexibility for the greenkeeper and allow us to increase the number of Mercantile Teams which Noel Brazier nurtures. This would bring in a valued financial return.

However, once again we have submitted two applications for a Sports and Recreation Grant but have been unsuccessful, we will try again. We feel that with the horrific flooding being experienced throughout Queensland, funds will probably dry up for Sporting Grants, which is understandable. We will persist and hopefully achieve our goals one way or another.

The Hard Years *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Diamond Jubilee of the Club in 2011)*

After the major extension of the clubhouse in 1984, the club was left with considerable debt to the bank and club members who were kind enough to take out \$1000 debentures. Any improvements to the greens and clubhouse were achieved through a very tight rein on finances.

At times it was extremely difficult to keep our head above water as we were paying kitchen staff, bar staff, cleaner and greenkeeper.

Membership numbers fluctuated and there was a 20 - 30% drop in the last half of the 90's. Things became so desperate that a committee was formed to look at the possibility of amalgamating with the clubs that use Selwyn Park (Tennis, Soccer and Cricket Clubs) with the intention of developing our clubhouse as The Sports Centre. In hindsight, the lack of government support for this project was probably a good thing. Imagine a combined board and fighting for funds to maintain our greens and facilities.

With Local, State and Federal grants, sponsors and determination along with the building, electrical and plumbing skills of our volunteers, we managed not only to survive but improved our facilities for the betterment of our members. At times the tunnel seemed endless, it took sixteen years before we became debt free in June 2000. Even then we were confronted with GST, higher insurance, license fees, increased bar purchase prices and rising greens and maintenance costs.

It became evident that we could not afford to pay staff in the kitchen and the bar, and from 2002 the only people paid were the contract cleaner and the greenkeeper, which is still the case today.

Through increased membership over the past few years, shrewd handling of finances by the Board of Management and innovations, today the club unlike many others, is in a fairly strong financial position. Thanks must be given to the hard work and support of members and the dedication of all volunteers.

Development of Greens and Surrounds 1985-2010

(an Extract from the publication issued

for the Diamond Jubilee of the Club in 2011)

In the late 1980's we had problems with the drainage on the bottom green and it was decided to put in the herringbone drainage system that exists today.

A new greenkeeper's shed was erected by members in 1990.

Until 1993 both greens were watered using hand shift irrigation pipes, a very time consuming and arduous task. During prolonged dry periods the quality of the bore water becomes unsatisfactory with high levels of minerals present, which is detrimental to the greens. A plan was developed to put in new water mains so that greens can be watered using the town water supply. This was followed by a fully automated watering system, which came into place in 1993, partly financed by the Ladies' contributions. Grants also enabled us to install lights on the top green in the same year, which was raised at a meeting by Paul Newton in 1985. The new watering system reduced labour input and the lights opened opportunities for increased revenue.

Both have been very successful, and no time was lost when the Wednesday night Mercantile Event was introduced by Noel Brazier in 1993 and still continues today. The winners of the first Mercantile season in September 1993 were East Coast Woodchip. The Mercantile and Friday night social bowls have brought in invaluable income over the years.

The hedges around the perimeter have been removed and new fences erected. In 1992, we commenced renting advertising fence space, the proceeds raised to be used for event sponsorship.

The hardest challenge for greenkeepers over the years has been the greens foundations, which unfortunately are clay, unlike the sandy loam foundations on the Coast. The excessive movement of the western side of both greens has also been a nightmare. Annual laser levelling over the last few years has helped to maintain a reasonable playing surface, but it is an ongoing problem. Without a \$250,000 miracle we will just have to live with it.

As the old umbrellas would blow all over the place, a government grant enabled us to replace them with shade cloth. This has been updated three times, the latest in 2004. In September 2004 the unisex toilet and shower was constructed adjacent to the greenkeeper's shed. Cold-water dispensers were installed adjacent to both greens.

With the extended drought and the rising costs of town water we managed to obtain a grant for water storage facilities. Five tanks were installed in 2007 with a storage capacity of 93,300 litres. New six-inch mains were laid from the clubhouse to the tanks to enable us to harvest rainwater, which would otherwise run to waste.

In 2008 another main was laid from the storage tanks to connect with the Selwyn Park bore, which is a bore with better water quality than ours. We can still use our bore, but it is mainly used for watering the greens surrounds.

Another \$25,000 has been spent on new concrete ditches on the top green.

Our resident builder and a working bee erected the outside bar servery area under shade cloth in 2008. This area has proved very popular for spectators.

Over the past three years a grant and the extreme generosity of our members has seen the old wooden, high maintenance seats replaced with the modern, powder coated metal seats that we have around the greens today. Small plaques acknowledging the donors are displayed on the end of the seats.

Storage areas within the clubhouse are fairly minimal and the men's locker room and toilet were becoming very cluttered, it was almost to the stage of having to take a number to enter. The Board decided to invest in a shipping container; we weren't sure whether it was the new toilet facility!

The greenkeeper thought it was to ship off a few of the noisy lady bowlers on a Thursday. Joking of course! But it did relieve a bit of the pressure in the men's facilities.

The container was placed between the greenkeeper's shed and the old storage shed. A contract painter was employed to rustproof and paint the container to blend in with the colours of the existing sheds. He did a good job but unfortunately whilst spraying the container he didn't realize that there was a slight spray drift. This deposited teeny-weeny specs onto four vehicles parked about five to eight metres away. Hopefully, all's well that ends well.

A roof was placed over the container between the two sheds and with the barbecue now housed in the container, this provides a handy place for setting up the barbecue during inclement weather.

This converted area was originally used for holding soil for top dressing of the greens. We have since built a Besser block bunker more centrally located to hold the soil for top dressing both greens. The bunker has been covered to keep the soil dry.

Past 25 Years of Ladies Activities *(an Extract from the publication issued for the Diamond Jubilee of the Club in 2011)*

With the approach of the Golden Jubilee in 1985, the Committee decided to celebrate the fiftieth birthday in 1986, by running a 2-day carnival. This was a big undertaking for a small club; members had been to a few carnivals but didn't know the intricacies of running the show. We studied the brochures of other clubs and sought bowlers' advice and eventually took the plunge and decided to call it the Plum Pudding Festival. In those days we had two Plum Pudding days during the year, one in April and the other in September so we combined these days to one carnival.

The venture was a financial and social success but the ladies who worked in the kitchen took a lot of convincing to repeat the event, but the majority prevailed and it has been held every year since. Ours has always been very successful but a few other clubs have tried and folded after a few years. I feel that our Plum Pudding Fiesta is so successful that it will continue well into the future now. It includes a concert and a fork dinner on the Monday night now and everyone looks forward to it.

We always had quite a few comedy skits on our breaking up day and these have been transferred to the Monday night of the festival now and other clubs are invited to add to the program so everybody enjoys a good laugh.

In the early nineties we performed a comedy skit called "The Seven Dwarfs" and we were invited to a "Pink Faces" night at the Golf Club to raise funds for a defibrillator for the local ambulance. With our faces covered with an oversize hat so that we couldn't be recognized, and our faces were painted on a bare stomach, you can imagine it brought the house down.

We were classified as an Independent Country Club and as such we couldn't join in any Pennant games so around 1987 we decided to try to apply to play pennant in the metropolitan region. There was a push on to split the city region into four divisions by using the river as a boundary and then dividing the city with an imaginary line north to south and thus we could fit onto the south-western corner. Well, nobody wanted to travel to Beaudesert for a pennant game, so it didn't happen.

The Men's club was already affiliated with the South Coast division but the ladies for some reason couldn't play there so that was how the Shire Shield was born. On 14 October 1992 it was suggested a competition be conducted under nearly the same conditions and this competition has thrived for nearly twenty years. In August 1994, Fosseys, a local store, agreed to sponsor our competition and this continued for the first few years and then they sold to Target and in May 1998 the Beaudesert Shire Council provided sponsorship. All the clubs in the Shire are invited to partake. With the advent of the amalgamation of the councils the Boonah ladies club was included, but Harrisville being a small club, declined the invitation. The game is played as a Round Robin style with Beaudesert entering three divisions, with the first and last games played at Beaudesert. The winning teams are displayed on a Shield, donated and made by Don and Coral Brown on our clubhouse wall.

On 16 May 1996 the Presidents of the A.W.B.C and Q.L.B.A. were both present at our 60th Birthday celebrations. This was the one and only time that both of their respective flags would fly from our flagpole

because with the amalgamation of men's and ladies' clubs both Australian Women's Bowling Club and the Queensland Ladies Bowling Club were made redundant.

At the A.G.M. on 20 August 1998 Beryl Krarup suggested we have a competition between neighbouring clubs and so the Beaudesert Challenge became another competition when clubs affiliated with the Gold Coast Ladies Bowling Association are invited to Beaudesert to send three teams of four players to play against three teams of Beaudesert ladies. Seven clubs accepted the first invitation. Many friendships are formed in this way. The winning club is given a painting of a local landmark; many of these are painted and donated by our talented bowlers. However, the first one was painted by Margaret Dennis and donated by our Delegate of the time, Joy Allardyce from Tarragindi Club. Joy was our delegate at the Q.L.B.A. meetings from 1974 until we joined the Gold Coast Tweed District Ladies Bowling Association, (G.C.T.D.L.B.A.).

In 1994, with the amalgamation of the men's and ladies' clubs, pennants once again came up for discussion and in April 1999 we played our first games against the Gold Coast clubs. We were able to pay for a chartered bus and still only pay \$10 per player. How prices change! In May 2003 we reached the finals and lost by only five points. We still haven't won a flag but that doesn't stop us from trying. One of these days!

In February 1999 with joining the Gold Coast our delegate to Q.L.B.A., Joy Allardyce's position disappeared and she was made an Honorary Member for services rendered over 25 years. In 1996 Doll Fields and Glad Dauth were honoured with life membership. In that year Thelma Buss resigned as our Patroness and Ev Teese accepted the position. This position has now been abolished, as Barry Dauth is the Patron of the combined Club.

At a committee meeting on 24 June 1999, unification reports were read by the secretary Marion Barrett and delegate Margaret Stibbard reported on the recommendation of the district. The members then voted "Yes" for a continuation of the unification proposal of men's and ladies' clubs at both state and national levels.

With the changing conditions the uniform has also changed from the old white dress thirteen centimetres below the knee worn over a double fronted petticoat. No see throughs in those days! A coloured shirt was worn for the pennants in 1999 but before that shorts, pedal pushers or three-quarter pants, culottes and maroon track suits all made their appearance. Now it is the shirt with sponsors advertising and white or maroon shorts or slacks. In 2009 with the joining in Super League a new uniform is required ??? Super League?

Along with the inevitable changes games have also changed. We used to have a Friendship Day, Patroness Pairs, Logan Valley Fours, Medley Day and play for the Snow Star. The club also had a week of playing bowls during the Horse and Country Festival for a few times. We also decorated a float to take part in the procession a couple of times.

In October 1999 Pat Stuhmcke offered to get computerized photos of Past Presidents to display on the wall, as previously there were no photos of the lady presidents. An album had been started a few years ago but it had not been kept up to date. This was agreed to and nearly all past presidents are displayed.

In 2000 with the approach of the Olympic Games in Sydney, we were proud that one of our members, Pat Stuhmcke, was chosen to carry the torch for a section in the Olympic Torch Relay when the replica torches were carried around Australia.