

# History - Bateau Bay Men's Bowling Club

Bateau Bay Bowling and Recreation Club Established 19th January 1961 - Foundation President Stan Robson



Painting of original Club House 1964

## The How and when of the Bateau Bay Bowling Club

On the 7th May 1960 the Progress Association was addressed by a Mr Dave Pratt (Patron 1965-69) with the idea of forming a Bowling Club in the area. This meeting after a lengthy and lively discussion nominated a committee consisting of Stan Robson (first President), Frank Edmonds, Jack Jenkins, Jim Mansfield, Vic Marr, George Leaver, Tom Wells and Fred Mahler to endeavour to obtain a site and form the nucleus of a committee to establish a Bowling Club in the area.

The first meeting of the group was held on 3rd June, 1960 at the Sun Valley Caravan Park, and was chaired by Stan Robson. It was moved and carried that all present donate Two Pound and Ten Shillings each to establish a bank account. It was also moved and carried at this meeting that a letter be sent to all those known to be interested in establishing a Bowling Club in the district to attend the next meeting set for Sunday 3rd July, 1960.

A letter was sent to Wyong Shire Council requesting a meeting from a deputation of three representatives to discuss the approval of a suitable site on Sutton Reserve for the proposed Bowling Club.

In June, 1960 Wyong Shire Council approved this site but it was later rejected by the Minister for Lands. This was blow to the committee who had worked so hard and faced a hostile group within the community which had vowed to fight the promotion of a Bowling Club tooth and nail, plus the never failing "knockers" who said, "I told you so, this area will never support a bowling club".

In July, 1961 after many months of discussions the first draft of the clubs constitution was printed at no cost to the club by Frank Edmonds for submission to club member. It is worthy to note the credit balance in the bank at this time was One hundred and eighty five pounds, five shillings and sixpence.

The battle to maintain interest in the formation of the club was being maintained, for apathy had set in, no doubt because repeated applications and letters re an alternative site were unanswered.

It was not until August 1962 that advice was received regarding a hearing at Maitland for a site of 2.5 acres at a rent of One hundred and eighty four pounds per annum. This area was eventually granted to the club on special lease and the first trustees were the Harry Byatt (First President-1965) , Jim Mansfield and Frank Edmonds(Patron 1976-81).

As would be expected interest in the club revived and the applications for membership started to build up. In October, 1962 it was decided to issued debentures, Sixty pound for men members and twenty pound for lady members.

In December, 1962 the club accepted a tender from Stan Robson to clear and level the designated area for building a club to be free of all liabilities.

An annual meeting held of Saturday, 29th December, 1962 at which 34 member were in attendance. A lengthy report by President Stan Robson was outlined and indicated the enormous amount of work to be done before any start on a green could be envisaged ie search and establish water supply, plan site and position of any greens, buildings, parking area and negotiate with council for access roads as this was all bush land in 1962. As well negotiate with banks and other lending authorities. The Club then had a bank balance of five hundred and ninety pounds.

In April, 1963 Mr K. Downes, a consulting engineer was engaged to supervise the laying of No 1 Green at a cost of one hundred and sixty pounds and H.C. Shean P/L were in instructed to proceed with the construction of ditches at a cost of around one thousand pounds.

The club's finances at this stage had a credit of one thousand eight hundred and eight pounds. May-June saw the levels being taken and 3,500 cubic yards of filling being required and again a request to council to access the site.

October, 1963 saw the erection of a shed for housing the water pump and associated equipment.

In April, 1964 turf was purchased from the National Park Bowling Club, Newcastle, and the following nine months was spent in back breaking work, mostly by voluntary labour. A majority of this work was done by Dick Johnson and Alf Hilley.

Application was also made to the New South Wales Royal Bowling Association for membership, which was granted.

Thus was the beginning of the Bateau Bay Bowling and Recreation Club later to be named Bateau Bay Bowling Club.  
(information collected from the estates documents of F.E. Edmonds & Herbert Hextall and collated by Tony Hegyi)

Bateau Bay Bowling and Recreation Club renamed Bateau Bay Bowling Club 1965

Bateau Bay Bowling Club became a Limited incorporated Club 21st November 1972



Second Club built 1972



Current Club built 2001



Club amalgamated with Canterbury 2005 and became the Bay Sports Club.

Bateau Bay Men's Bowling Club is housed in the Bay Sports Club and is one of a few Clubs on the Coast who can boast achieving a flag in all grades of Men's Pennants since 1972, they have in the No1 Pennants - 3 flags, No 2 Pennants - 5 flags, No 3 Pennants - 3 flags, No 4 Pennants - 2 flags, No 5 Pennants - 7 flags, No 6 Pennants - 6 Flags and No 7 Pennants - 1 flag. (They also have a number of State flags).

The membership of the club has fluctuated from over 600 members in its hay day and boasting four green to currently around 320 members and three greens