

# Springwood Bowling Club, Springwood Sports Club

Source: Extracted from: Blue Mountains Local Studies

During the few years after 1936 the Blue Mountains Shire Council developed Buckland Park and created a children's section, bowls section, club house, tennis courts and a park in front of the tennis courts. The tennis courts were actually built in 1939 and the bowling greens completed in 1937 with officers for the Bowling Club being elected in July of that

The Council made available a piece of land on lease and further assisted with the finance in the form of a grant and a loan for the purpose of erecting a Club House at a cost of approximately one thousand pounds.

The first full committee was elected for the 1938-1939 year and was headed by: Patron - Sir Thomas Buckland; President - O H Little; Vice-Presidents - R G MacIntyre, DD CMG; and E J Baldwin ITO; Secretary - A Gaskill and Treasurer - W Cheadie.

The original Club House was constructed of a timber frame with a tiled roof. Efforts by Members and wives in the promotion of dances, card parties and other social functions resulted in the raising of finance for furnishing the Club House and the laying down of the two greens.



Springwood Bowling Club 1972

A critical period was suffered during the years of World War Two and on numerous occasions the existence of the Club was in doubt.

A Club badge was designed in 1948 based upon the spring from which Springwood derived its name.

The Club was granted a Liquor Licence in 1955.

Growth of membership resulted in a need for extension of the Club House and such extension was officially opened in July 1966 followed by yet another extension which was opened in April, 1970. At that time membership had reached 540 and once again further extensions to the Club House were instigated for opening in 1974.

In 2000 the Club purchased the adjoining tennis courts and changed its name to Springwood Bowling & Recreation Club. As part of the purchase agreement with the Blue Mountains City Council, the Club built additional courts in Spring Street, for the Springwood Tennis Club at a completed cost of \$950,000.

Due to the rapid increase in population in the Lower Blue Mountains and the resultant growth in membership of the Club it became obvious that the existing facility could not house the amenities dictated by an enthusiastic population. As a consequence they searched for their entertainment and catering requirements outside the Lower Blue Mountains area.

With funds available to purchase the previously closed premises of the Springwood & Districts Community Club (formerly the Springwood RSL Club) in Lawson Road, Springwood, the Springwood Bowling & Recreation Club relocated whilst its original building in Macquarie Road, Springwood was demolished to make way for a new state-of-the-art Club House. The purchase cost of the Springwood & Districts Community Club was \$870,000 with the transaction being completed in 2006.

Tenders were called with the Reed Group being the successful construction company. The Development Application was lodged with the Blue Mountains City Council on April 11, 2004 and officially approved almost four years later with the first sod being turned on October 31, 2007 and construction commencing on November 12, 2007.

Whilst construction proceeded on the new Club, the relocated Club began trading at a healthy profit regardless of the fact that it was located in an industrial area remote from public transport. This in itself engendered even greater enthusiasm and assurance for the Directors to give their all to what was obviously going to be a tremendous boost to the Club's Members and the Blue Mountains as a whole.

The management consultants engaged to assist the Directors throughout the various facets of pre and post opening operating stages strongly advised the Club be renamed in keeping with the modern era where younger generations consider a bowling club to only cater for 'oldies'. Hence the initiative to rename the Club the 'Springwood Sports Club'.

The new Club took 67 weeks to build at a cost of \$9.6 million.

At 9.30 a.m. on Friday, March 6 2009 the Club opened its doors to its Members and the



general public. The Club was densely crowded throughout the day and became even more so from early evening to the point where the Club could not handle the volume of enthusiastic community. The front door had to be closed and, as people left, the same numbers of people were permitted to enter. Well over estimated numbers continued to frequent the Club and membership just prior to the Official Opening reached over 9,000.

Whilst the Club was opened to Members and the general public, construction work continued to a minor degree together with landscaping. It was also necessary to build an outdoor Gaming Room for smokers and this building was completed on July 3, 2009 bringing the overall cost of the Club, including landscaping, to over \$10 million.

The Club was officially opened on Saturday, July 25, 2009 by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales

Following financial problems in 2016, the Sports Club amalgamated with Mingara Recreation Club on the Central Coast. The premises served as the region's evacuation centre during the October 2013 bushfires. The club logo utilises the Springwood Crest designed by Norman Lindsay.

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*The above article was extracted from "Blue Mountains Local Studies, Walking Through History - Springwood Town Centre Thursday, June 28, 2018"*

**Blue Mountains Local Studies**

*The full "Walking Through History - Springwood Town Centre" article can be found at:*

<https://bmlocalstudies.blogspot.com/2018/06/walking-through-history-springwood-town.html>