



Wangaratta Bowls and Sports Club Inc.

Bringing People Together

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Wangaratta Bowls & Sports Club Inc established in 1899 was relocated to 20 Park Lane in 1985. Comprising of 4 greens with the clubhouse and workshop facing Greens 1 & 4, the club has functioned as Wangaratta's premier bowling club since that time. The closure of the Ovens Bowling Club saw an influx of new members and due to some fresh ideas, the club engaged a contract greenkeeper to improve the quality of the 3 grass greens (1,2 & 3) with the aim of attracting more regional and State events.

The location of our club is central to the 25 bowling clubs competing in the Ovens & Murray Bowls Association. Over 1,800 registered bowlers travel around the region each week from Corryong to Swanpool, St James to Bright and Mulwala to Mansfield and many towns in between. With 4 good grass greens, Wangaratta will be very well placed geographically to host many of the State and regional events being played each season, and we currently host all O & M meetings. Our aim is to be the premier bowling club in north-east Victoria.

We have a policy of being all inclusive, providing opportunities for people of all abilities to play bowls, some of them at no charge. We have a couple of disabled bowlers playing competitive bowls and we participate in a "GR8 for Brains" initiative which benefits returned Vietnam Vets.

A Priority Projects plan was undertaken in 2019/20 with the aim of attracting funding for projects which the club wanted to undertake. A review of the Priority Projects was undertaken in November/December 2021. The amendments and reasons behind the amendments are set out below:

It was determined to have our focus on the two front greens facing the clubhouse as they already have lights, our priority being to have two operational greens, under lights. Our previous plan was for 4 greens under lights and while this is still desired, it is no longer our priority. As Green No 4 is a synthetic green which is worn out and until it is replaced, we only

have 1 useable green under lights. The benefits of having two greens under lights are that we can attract more community members to our barefoot bowls program which runs during November and February each year, and is so popular we only promote this to our current mailing list. With 2 greens under lights we can offer other night-time competition matches and tournaments. The O & M Pennant is this year trialling night pennant games and is expected to be a popular concept, especially with the warmer summers we are experiencing.

Once Green 4 has been replaced, we plan to install shade shelters allowing for east/west bowling. This initiative will allow for better recovery of the greens, especially during adverse weather conditions and heavy use. Replacing the lights on Greens 1 & 4 with LED lights and installing solar on the clubhouse is our next priority, saving money on electricity costs. We will then progress the renovation or refurbishment of the clubhouse including providing external access to the toilet facilities. The club has been seeking support from Council for external toilets in College Street since 1992 however, we now believe with 2 useable greens at the front of the clubhouse, and external access to the toilets from the clubhouse, the need for the external toilets in College Street would then be reviewed. The clubhouse itself is a good size and functions well, and with some refurbishment and modernisation will be a very good community facility within the sporting precinct, very useful for social functions as well as workshops, meetings and seminars. The renovations/refurbishments include:

- a new front entrance/foyer;
- toilets painted or upgraded providing external access;
- extend the back verandah to provide more viewing/outdoor seating;
- refurbishment of the office with new cabinets/shelving; and
- painting and some external modification to modernise the building.

Our long-term plan is for a synthetic green with a permanent shade cover and consideration of lights for the remaining greens.

How We Plan to Make this Work:

These upgrades will require the support of the local, State and Federal Governments to achieve our aims.

The Club has considered 3 stages of funding:

- **Stage 1** being for immediate improvements to replace the worn out synthetic green with tifdwarf grass which will provide two operational greens, under lights, in the front of the Clubhouse. We will also engage

a qualified architect to draw up a Concept Plan for our bowling club and then apply for funding for shade shelters to allow for east/west bowling on all 4 greens.

- **Stage 2** deals with replacing the lights on Greens 1 & 4 with LED lights and a solar system fitted to the clubhouse roof. Then the renovations to the club house, car park and surrounds as per the Concept Plan and reviewed Park Precinct Masterplan through Federal, State and Local Government support; and
- **Stage 3** seeking funding for a synthetic green with a permanent shade cover and lights for remaining green/s.

Stage 1 - Urgent Improvements

Priority	Project:	Cost:	Funding Status:	Timeline/s:
1.	Engage a suitably qualified architect to prepare a concept plan for the renovation of the existing clubhouse and surrounds	\$ 10,000	WBC: \$10,000	Jan/March 2022
2.	Replace worn out artificial surface on Green 4 with Tidwarf Grass	\$ 32,590	WBC: \$17,500 confirmed Federal:\$15,000 TBC	Feb - May 2022
3.	Shade Shelters for east/west bowling	\$ 50,000	\$50,000 from the Cancer Council	June/Dec 2022
4.	LED lights to replace the lights on Greens 1 & 4 and a solar system installed on the clubhouse roof	Lights - tba Solar - \$15,000	State/Local Gov	
	Stage 1 TOTAL FUNDING:	\$107,590	\$107,500	

Stage 2 - Further Development

- Clubhouse and surrounds development in conjunction with carpark construction.
- Renovation of Clubhouse and construction of paving as per Concept Plan.

5.	Renovation of the Clubhouse providing external access to toilets, a front entrance/foyer, upgrade of toilets and office area, extension of verandah, and modification/painting of building to modernise the structure. These works will be done in consideration of the to be revised Parks Precinct Masterplan.	TBA		
6..	Construction of paths and access points in-line with the carpark and roadways as per the reviewed Parks Precincts Masterplan.	TBA		
	TOTAL:			

Stage 3 - Future

Consideration of synthetic surface and permanent shade cover and lights for remaining green/s.