

# **OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE KINGBOROUGH BOWLS CLUB – INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE**

**3.00pm SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012**

The \$1m investment by the Kingborough Bowls Club, reached fruition today with the Official Opening of the Centre by one of the Club's Life Members and benefactor Donald Robert Hazell MBE.

The Centre will be known as the Donald Hazell MBE Indoor Bowls Centre.

The official opening sees the culmination of many years of hard work by a dedicated team of Club officials and members, who have persevered through a series of financial rejections from several tiers of government, principally the Federal and State Governments, to achieve a financially viable outcome for the Club, and a facility of which they can all be proud.

The first competition on the new green will be a 4 end team event, between teams skipped by Donald Hazell MBE and Mark Strochnetter, a champion Tasmanian bowler and Australian representative.

The Kingborough Council, which saw the benefit of providing a recreational and social venue for bowlers and the wider community during the winter months, has made a loan of \$350k to the club repayable over 15 years with no interest payable for the first 2 years. The Council has also assisted with the waiving of some fees. The ANZ Bank has also approved a loan of \$300k again repayable over 15 years. The Hazell Trust has provided a significant funding package and together with fundraising by the Club, the end result has been achieved. The state government, through the Premiers fund made a grant of \$10k towards the project.

The opportunity for major sponsorships of the facility would certainly help with debt reduction, which will be a priority for the Club in future years.

The Club has recently appointed Jason Fowler to act as co-ordinator for the Centre, and one of the roles of the co-ordinator will be to promote the use of the facility to gain maximum revenue. Apart from providing a winter bowls programme, the Club is desirous of investigating the feasibility of fostering a school competition, as part of the student curriculum.

Apart from the initial site works carried out prior to Christmas, the Club wishes to acknowledge the splendid work that has been done by the engineers Aldanmark, civil contractors Hazell Bros, building construction Bison Construction, playing surface, Dales Sports Surfaces and Berry Bowling Systems, electrical Don Hasell, roofing Independent Roofing and glazing Hobart Glass & Aluminium. These contractors together with club volunteers have worked in co-operation to have the facility up and running within 5 months, which has been a tremendous effort.

With the closure of the Hobart Indoor Bowls Centre, Kingborough Bowls Club has the only full size 8 rink indoor bowling green in southern Tasmania. With accreditation from Bowls Tasmania and Bowls Australia, the club is keen to offer the facility for Australian and possibly international competitions.

The club has developed an interim winter programme and considerable interest from bowlers has been most encouraging. No doubt within time, this programme will be refined and altered to suit client requirements.

Social bowls is a low impact, enjoyable but competitive sport, and as it is not gender or age specific, anyone can play and being indoor, the competition is not weather dependent,

Corporate Bowls competitions enables teams from the work-place to enjoy a social activity outside their work environment, and set challenges between individual team members and other teams.

The Centre is also available for private corporate functions as an adjunct to staff development/training programmes or conferences. We are available to discuss any proposals that you may have.