



ELTHAM BOWLING CLUB

Newsletter – October 2018 Editor: Steve Veitch



President's Report

Not a lot to report, teams are back on the Green, for real now, so play well and enjoy each other's company.

Club championships are under way, so put your name down and the date in your calendar. Remember, it is a good practice ground, for pennant and a chance to play some different formats.

We have a couple of events/activities coming up. Two Open Try Bowls Days on the 21st & 28th of October between 2 & 5 pm. So if you know of anyone who thinks they might like to have a go, please let them know, and if you are going to be around and could assist, please let Jenny, Jayne or I know.

Cup Day starts at 10.00am, so get your name down to ensure they keep a filly for you and you don't have to jockey for a position on the day.

Regards,

Carol

Dates For Diary

Wednesday Social Bowls Each Wednesday for a 10:30 start
Meat Tasting Fundraiser(see noticeboard) 18th October 2018
Men's Century Handicap Entries Close 18th October 2018
Women's Singles Championship Entries Close 18th October 2018
Melbourne Cup Day event (see noticeboard) 6th November 2018
"Saturday" Pennant Round 10 on a Sunday 9th December 2018
N.B. Round 9 on the previous day

The Club On-Line

The club's website is <http://elthambowlsclub.com.au/>

Visit us and like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/elthambowlingclub>.

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ALMONER'S REPORT

The almoner keeps the club informed of members who are ill, injured or who have passed away. The almoner can put notes on the board by the back office when other members advise me re someone's illness or injury with the sick person's permission.

The almoner also advises the Club secretary of the details of any member who has passed away. The Secretary then disseminates the details of the funeral arrangements to the club members.

The almoner also sends sympathy cards to the bereaved family on behalf of the Club.

And other cards as deemed suitable.

The job relies a lot on shared information, so many thanks for those who help me do the job.

Regards to all.

Riekie Sloggett



Eltham BC Board

The EBC Board of Directors is made up of 11 people: the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, assistant secretary, 5 committee members and the past president.

Unfortunately this year, we are currently operating with only 9, as we have neither an assistant secretary nor past president.

Meetings are held generally once a month (with a “break” over Winter), where we discuss and make decisions about matters in relation to keeping the club running, hopefully smoothly and financial.

Often, we are discussing and ratifying matters, that other committees are proposing and we are kept abreast of such things, by reports we receive from these committees.

Sometimes the decisions can be quite weighty, such as what new “Green” to install at a cost of \$120,000. Some are very important, like ratifying new members applications and many are routine, but necessary, to ensure the club continues to operate.

I have been on the Board on and off over my 15+ years at the club and will say, that the monthly meeting, which used to run quite long, are now much more contained thanks to technology and Meryl’s input to ensure we get most committee reports to read and digest before the actual meeting starts. This means any matters requiring discussion are more robust, as the committee members have had time to research, enquire and form thoughts as to achieving productive outcomes, by the time the meeting is actually held. Where actions are required, a motion is put to the table and where necessary discussed further then voted on. As we are a democratic club, majority rules.

I believe it is very much a team effort and I am very lucky with the team I currently have, who all understand that while their individual opinion is valuable to ensure most facets of an issue will be discussed, it is the overall group decision that is implemented and backed.

For those that aren’t aware, a short form “minutes” of each meeting is available at the club for any interested member to read. They are kept in a labelled folder in the meeting room for you to read while you are at the club.

Clubs are only as strong as their members and especially their volunteers, so don’t think you have nothing to offer, as it is our mixture of life experiences, skills and knowledge that ensure the Board, the committees and consequently the club continue.

Current President EBC Carol Schilling-Collins.

Garden Committee Report 8th September

The committee would like to thank all those who have helped us improve the appearance of the club surrounds by attending the working bees and a special thanks to Virgel who has trimmed the climbing plants on the creek and SES fences.

Previous garden committees worked hard to establish the garden on the Susan Street bank. It now looks great and just requires annual trimming to keep it looking good.

Over the next few months we would like to continue our work and see the following tasks as areas needing further work.

- Removing the climbing geranium from the SES fence as it is unsightly and also it shields the recently planted coreas and croweas from the sun.
- Revamping the garden between the grass green and the SES.
- Making the Susan Street verge more attractive. Theoretically this verge is council responsibility but over the years they have obviously done little to maintain its appearance.

The car park garden will be left as is for the moment as any attempt to establish a garden would be negated by parents of junior footy and cricket backing up to the garden and having their kids running around to the back of the car to get gear out.

Peter Osborne for the Gardening Committee

Note see page 18 for pictures of the 23/9 working bee to start the above.

Leon Sinnott - Reaccredited Coach

Since returning to the Eltham Bowling Club I have successfully completed the reaccreditation process as a Club Coach. This reaccreditation process wasn't completed when the EBC Handbook was printed so my name is not listed alongside the other Club Coach in the handbook. The purpose of this paragraph is to inform members that I am available to coach both current and new members.

If I can assist in a coaching capacity, please speak to me at the Club or phone me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who have welcomed me back to the Eltham Bowling Club.

Leon Sinnott.



Our New Synthetic Green

The Choice

There are three types of synthetic greens that dominate the market in 2018.

1. Needle Punch. This surface is still being installed in Victoria but this was our first synthetic green and in view of our bad experience was not seriously considered as an option. It is also more expensive than the alternatives.
2. Sand Filled Grass. Artificial grass is filled with special sand. Greens at Vermont, Croydon and Montmorency are excellent examples of a modern sand filled green. Another local green is a less successful example. The speed range and bowling characteristics are very good. This was serious option for Eltham.
3. Woven Fabric. Installed at Lilydale, Melton and Deer Park as well as a number of clubs around Geelong. Known for its true draw and consistent speed.

The sand filled surface generally has a longer life expectancy (12-13 years) than the woven surface (9-10 years) but requires regular watering and constant maintenance to keep it at its best.

A large number of clubs that had recently installed a synthetic green were contacted. We were interested in what type of surface they had chosen, why they had made that choice, who had installed the green and whether they were happy with their choice. All clubs were very willing to share their experience. A number of Eltham members were invited to bowl on examples of the synthetic greens under consideration.

Based on the information gathered, three installers were invited to quote on installing a sand filled or woven green at Eltham. The quotes covered a wide range of prices.

The choice came down to a NSW company, KCL that had excellent references from Vermont, Croydon and Montmorency and Tiger Turf that had strong references from every club they had installed for in recent years.

One major factor was the uncertainty about the condition of the base under the old synthetic green. Provision for significant restoration work on the base was included in the quotes from KCL and Berry Systems. Tiger Turf, the installer of the original green had the most confidence in the condition of the base. Tiger Turf had taken laser readings that confirmed that there had been almost no movement in the base and their quote offered a significant saving on either a sand filled or woven surface.

Directors who were members when Tiger Turf installed the first synthetic green had severe reservations about choosing Tiger Turf, despite the cost saving. The mood was we cannot afford to take any risks with the new green and an attitude of “over our dead body” greeted Tiger Turf when negotiations started.

We learnt that the Tiger Turf business had been sold not long after the first Eltham installation and all of the senior management had changed. Glowing references from clubs that had done business with the “new” Tiger Turf in recent years also reassured us.

Finally the Board unanimously decided to ask Tiger Turf to install a woven fabric, believing that the woven fabric was a slightly superior bowling surface to the sand filled alternative and the feeling was that after the past ten years, we wanted the best surface money could buy.

The Club had been putting aside thousands of dollars each year for the past ten years to provide for the replacement of the old synthetic green and the new green has been paid for out of those savings. No money has needed to be borrowed to pay for the green and the new equipment.

The Installation

The old fabric and underlay were cut into strips, rolled and removed. We were surprised to find that there was no apparent explanation for the notorious “runs” in the old green. When a long straight aluminium bar was dragged across the green to identify any high and low spots, the area on the north end of the green most associated with an unpredictable draw was very even and flat.



Checking levels with an aluminium bar

The base under the green is made up of layers of gravel of decreasing size. The layer immediately under the fabric is around 20 mm of fine gravel that was carefully re-leveled. A special bonding agent was applied that resulted in the final base layer feeling like concrete.

This same process would have been used in the last green and I suspect that over time the bonding agent breaks down allowing some movement of the fine gravel in very heavy rain, even though there was little clear evidence of this. It might explain the squeaking sounds some people heard when walking on the old green.

The timber plinths around the edge of the green were found to be in poor condition and had to be replaced. I watched the crew using a spirit level and concreting tools to make sure the edges were all level to eliminate the lip that was on the previous green.



The new fabrics were stitched together by unrolling one layer over another, running a mobile “sewing machine” down one edge and unfolding the top layer. The underlay and top fabric each took an afternoon to stitch and fix.



The Result So Far

Most members seem happy with the speed and the draw. The forehand and backhand draw are fairly equal.

Bowlers using rink 3 have noticed that narrow bowls tend to draw sharply and wide bowls tend to go straight and on the first Saturday with sunshine there was some bubbling along all of the seams.

Tiger turf will be back soon to slightly tighten the fabric which does tend to expand in warmer weather. Our green was installed in cold weather and the installers were deliberately cautious because it is so much easier to tighten the fabric than loosen it. The fabric is likely to move slightly as the tension across the green evens out.

Maintenance

A new back pack blower has been purchased to remove leaves and twigs prior to play. This will make the task much faster than the hour it was taking with the hand held blower.

A new vacuum unit has also been purchased to remove fine debris and pollen that can promote fungal growth in the fabric. The new unit has an attachment to suck leaves out of the ditches.



Until the green has stabilised, we have been advised not to mark semi-permanent lines in case the green moves and the lines are distorted so the greens crew is having to mark the lines every week with chalk which is a time-consuming chore

Green keeper Phil plans to spray fungicide on the new green every month to ensure it stays stain-free but bird droppings will be a constant task. Bird poo contains uric acid which can bleach the fabric and damage the fibres. A spray bottle of dilute detergent is in the "bowls shed" to treat the droppings. The detergent will neutralise the acid and everyone is invited to use this bottle to give the green a squirt.

Conclusion

After some years being known for our unpredictable synthetic green, I hope we will quickly earn a reputation for having an excellent synthetic green.

Brent Arnott

STOP PRESS The club applied to the local Bendigo Community Bank for help to buy our new back pack blower and Billy Goat vacuum. We have just learnt that Bendigo has agreed to pay the total cost of this essential new equipment. Thank you Bendigo. More details later.

Green Directors Report- September 17th 2018

SYNTHETIC GREEN

The new synthetic green is settling in. Please be patient if the lines are not very clear as they are temporary until the surface settles in. Once settled we will be marking more lines north and south as well as east and west lines.

Please note the direction of play - either North South (i.e. away from the car park) or East West (from the shelters between the greens) as noted on the notice board on the left hand side of the main clubroom entrance. The purpose of this is to get an “even” wear of this green. In time there will also be directions regarding the east west play on the Grass green.

GRASS GREEN

As many of you will see the Greenkeeper has lightly scarified the green, in particular areas to try to promote grass cover.

Also spraying the green to “knock-out” the Poa annual grass.

Line marking will become more regular once the weather is warmer and the grass start growing.

Once this happens I will be asking some more people to help with the rolling of this green. We will also be running sessions on how to use the roller for those who don't have any experience doing so.

If you are interested in learning a new skill and are happy to go onto the rolling roster, then contact me on 0409 962 930 to arrange a time.

In the meantime, please check the notice board (large whiteboard) for those of you who have already made themselves available to see if your name is down to do the rolling pre-pennant & practice matches. The roster has been put together by Sue Arnott and it shows who is rolling the green and who is using the blower on the synthetic green.

Also note, that the shelter rooves on the north end of the grass green will be put back when the weather becomes warmer (around mid-October)

Noel Spargo (Greens Director)

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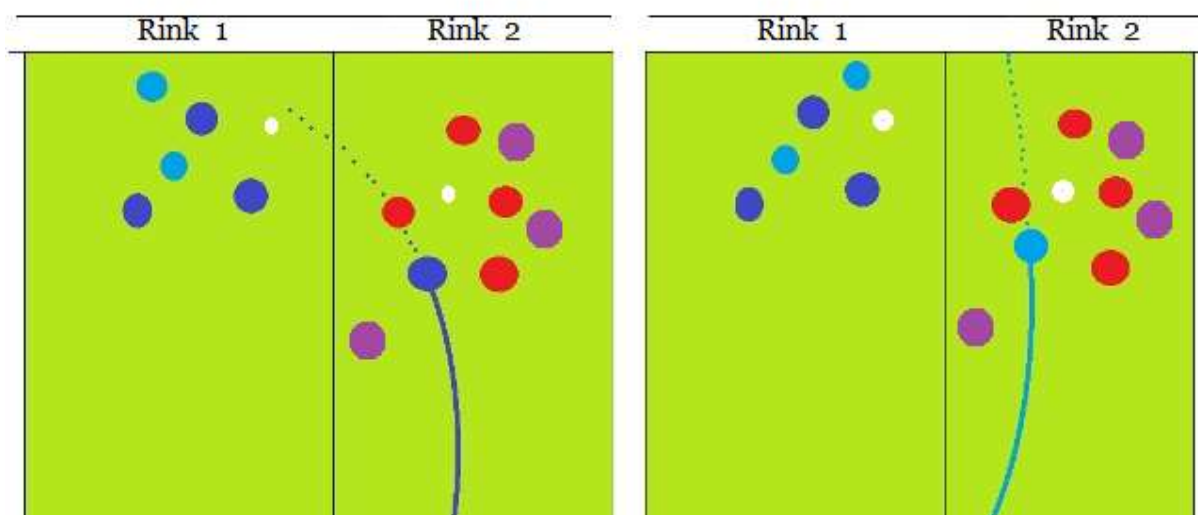
Umpires Corner

This situation came up a few weeks ago in a practice game at Eltham:

If a bowl from a neighbouring rink looks like hitting a bowl on your rink then anyone in charge of your head may either stop the bowl before it hits or lift the bowl at rest to let the other bowl pass.

A player from the other rink may also stop the bowl before it can hit the bowl at rest but must not touch any of the bowls on your rink.

If the bowl that was stopped looked like it would have re-entered its own rink then the player may have it back to redeliver. If it was a wrong bias or did not look like it would have re-entered its own rink then it will be a dead bowl and placed on the bank.



This blue bowl looks like it would have re-entered its own rink so if stopped can be returned to the bowler to be replayed.

This light blue bowl would not have re-entered its own rink so if stopped it would be a dead bowl and not returned.

RULE 37.6 Bowl displacement by a bowl from a neighbouring rink

37.6.1 If a bowl at rest on the rink is in danger of being moved by a bowl from a neighbouring rink, any player at the head must choose whether to:

1. lift the bowl at rest to allow the other bowl to pass and then replace it, as long as this action would not influence the outcome of the head; or
2. stop the bowl from the neighbouring rink.

37.6.3 If a bowl that has been stopped was in its original course and was delivered on a bias that would have taken it back into its own rink, it must be replayed.

Mid-Week Committee Monthly Report

The practice matches have all been done and dusted and now for the real stuff.

The number one side played against Doncaster and came away with win by six shots at Doncaster.

The number two side travelled to Moonee Valley and had a very exciting draw. A really good performance considering that nobody in the side had ever been or played at Moonee Valley.

The number three side played Ivanhoe at home and after a close tussle all day went down by six shots. A really good performance considering that it was Ivanhoe's number two team and they had a couple of their division one players from Saturday playing.

The number four side travelled to North Balwyn and were beaten but not disgraced. An honourable loss considering it was their second side.

The fifth side played at home against Doncaster and had a really good win.

It's was nice to our secretary Meryl out playing again and having a good day.

A really encouraging start to the year.

Just another thing Mike Theodore is unable to drive anymore so we are looking to arrange somebody to pick him and drop him off after pennant. Mike lives in Collendina Crescent Greensborough. If you live out that way and could help on either Tuesday or Saturday could you give him a call on 9434 1271.

From Peter, Di, Treenah, Reikie and Rob

Mid Week Selection Committee.



Editor's Note

Please email any suggestions for layout and content to stevejveitch@yahoo.com.au. Photos of club activities will be greatly appreciated.

Please encourage other club members to write an article on their outside volunteering and similar interests. We all need a bit of a push for this.

LARGE METAL TOOL BOX FOR SALE

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Price - \$50.00 O.N.O.

This is currently near the gate to the SES depot.

Contact Meryl Spargo



Swap and Sell

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Men's Singles Championship 2018/19 – Form Guide

The draw has been done for the first Group One event for the year the Men's Singles Championship. A field of 26 have entered for this year's event. Well up on last year's entries. Obviously with a new track this year interest is keen to see who will have their name inscribed on the wall for a lifetime.

The field, their odds and the form have been carefully studied and appraised and put to paper.

Odds and comments.

- 2/1- Paul Hickey** has been killing them in the practice matches. Has been to the big dance before and is smarting from that loss. Bye first round. Get on early the price won't last.
- 5/1- Graeme Abblitt** last year's winner. Knows what to do on the big stage. Has a tough draw but loves the big occasion.
- 6/1- Wayne Byrne** previous winner refreshed after big winter in Queensland. New bowls, great suntan, he is raring to go. Could be an interesting second round clash.
- 7/1- Ernie Richards** what more can you say. You name it Ernie's done it. Runner up last year took a magic bowl to beat him. Keep safe still, bowling well this year.
- 8/1- Brent Arnott** another previous winner. Loves playing singles and if he gets those calibrations right lookout.
- 9/1- Hugh Robertson** two time winner, last year's pairs champions. Keep him safe especially if there is a mention of a game for a dollar.
- 9/1- Joe Bartolo** coming back from injury. If finds his fitness big chance at odds.
- 10/1- Steve Spargo** son of Noel, impeccable breeding. Ready to step out of his dad's shadow. Could be a big year for the S.O.N & M.
- 10/1- Graeme Lewis** has been knocking on the door for a long time could this be the year for the popular clubman.
- 10/1 Bruce Irvine** always very competitive in this format. Could be the dark horse previous winner at Heidelberg Golf.
- 11/1- David Hosking** one of the young guns of the club. Learning every year could be the Smokey.
- 12/1- Rick Allen** another of our rising stars. Already has a Century Handicap under his belt. Tough first round against the master.
- 12/1- Glen Hudson** the new wonder boy taken huge steps in his first year and this year keeps getting bigger. Put in your little black book still eligible for Novice event.

- 13/1- Wayne Harvey** one of our new members. Form a bit clouded in this type of event. Bowling well in practice.
- 14/1- Peter Toovey** is always thereabouts doesn't quite get the job done. Maybe later on.
- 15/1- David Neal** interesting chance. Comes from strong club has played at the highest level definitely a chance if he gets on a roll. No exposed form.
- 16/1- Rob Harris** I think it is Rob's first try in the event should be better for the experience.
- 17/1- Nev Pawley** had a very tough year with his football team if he can recover from the heartache could cause a few surprises.
- 18/1- Eric Butcher** another previous winner. Could cause a bit of carnage along the way. Pairs runner up last year. Still got a lot of bowls left in him.
- 19/1- Bruce Goodman** the old silver fox. Another player who thrives in singles has taken some big scalps over the years. Player to watch at good odds.
- 19/1- Brent Blackwell** just starting to mature as a bowler previous club pairs champion. New bowls this year so could make all the difference.
- 20/1 Greg Lambert** not the ideal preparation for the big event arriving back from overseas on Friday. First round bye should help has a mixed triples under his belt.
- 20/1- Wayne Wilson** interesting entrant if he concentrates and stays focused could take a couple of scalps along the way.
- 25/1- Luke Ryan** another player with no exposed singles form. If he gets that arm swinging right, watch out.
- 26/1- Neville Jenkins** another first time entrant. Will be better for the experience and will only improve for further events.
- 27/1- Gary Kelly** first year bowler. Will be better for the experience will be a big chance in the novice event.

That's the form for years event.

Get your bets in early and don't forget to gamble responsible.

Upcoming events.

Novice singles entries close on 11th October.

Women's Championship Singles entries close on 18th October. A few entries more would be good. The. Blue ribbon event for the ladies. So put your name down and have a go it is just another game of bowls you will enjoy it.

Men's Century Handicap entries close on 18th October.

Regards Dr T.

(Editor's note. We are hoping for Dr. T.'s guidance again once the Ladies Draw is announced)

(Editors note – this is a reprinted poem composed c. 2008 on the occasion of the replacement of the former grass green by the first synthetic green. This first synthetic green has just been replaced.)

The (Old) New Green

Amongst the scrubby country natives, of green and mudbrick brown
The many tree lined streets and bush blocks, much famed of leafy Eltham town
A place of finer skills, of artists, teachers, a few poets, and some writers
The well known home of Montsalvat, of Marshall, Knox and Withers

No monstrous shopping giant places, no tasteless main street malls
Just friendly little shopping strips, and crafty Sunday market stalls
Fine wine and dining is a local art, fine living not for want of trying
Sport is noted more for who, (lives here), than banners won and flying

Nestled in amongst this near idyllic place, is a friendly little sporting club
For the many local members here, a celebrated games and social hub
Lawn bowls it is, and though much maligned, a game of tactics, skill and touch
A common active sport of older folks, but yet its played by youngsters near as much

This pleasant little club is now the setting, for a tale of angst and hope
Set up by selfish peoples more worldwide, and an earth that couldn't cope
Forced upon our club by chance and fate, no reasons here for blame or fine detail
Suffice to say that when it gets real tough we hope good senses will prevail

We had the best grass greens around, and were we proud to say
The best bowls games are played on grass, it should be here to stay
Expertly cut and rolled and marked, a picture card each match
Whether won or lost all games we found, on grass it is a joy to watch

Until the day the earth cried foul! “you silly people, it really is a pain
This global warming's done me in”, and promptly stopped the rain
Now it isn't really rocket science, the facts would hardly raise a blush
It takes a lot of precious water, to keep the greens so fine and lush

What could we do to keep our grass, stage four was looming fast
Without all that extra water now, our club could be of tenses past
A tank was sought and placed to catch, what rain would come our way
That's it they said, just needs to fill, we're done, we've saved the day

But then a senior brain was heard to ask, “do you know how much it held?
That tank wont last two weeks at most”, to us he all but fairly yelled.
The numbers game was then played out, and it proved the fellow right
Lets think again, we must prevail, for our greens we need to fight

And then it came, from far away, a rescue package fair and sound
A grant was on, the grapevine said, some money could be found
This help it seemed was just and right, for it was not of our creation
The way the earth was shaping up, is now a burden for the nation

Our bent grass was a thirsty type, so what could we plant instead
Tift dwarf's the go at many clubs, could be for us, the way ahead
It's tough and fast, plays well enough, for many months until the frosts set in
And could help to make our game so sound that at home we'd be odds on to win

But wait! What's this, no dinkum grass allowed? it's a national water saving scheme?
And as it must now be forever water free, a new grass green is just a dream.
We have no choice, we've prayed enough, the winter rains are all but done
The storage dams are now so very low, that we all must share the load as one.

We toured the greens, both old and new, and bowled on two or three.
Then home again to thrash it out, the surface type we must agree
The doubters all could have their say, but there really was no choice
Acceptance of that grant now meant, the pro-grass lobby had no voice

So the choice was made, the samples shown, that's it, this is the one, we're told at last
It looked to me more like a scouring pad than a green that runs so true and not too fast
But they say its good, and will need no water ever, surprise? wasn't that the grant's
 express intent
And we can also bowl all year at home, a great result for money wisely spent

The contract's done, and now the work begins, it really is a very moving sight
To see what was a lovely bent grass green so dug and trashed does not look right
All those years we mowed, and rolled and swept, and the many hours of tender loving care
For the few who really put the effort in, it must truly be a very sad affair

Well its mid July, and we have yet to see any hint of green in place
They've scraped and dug, and tested all the clay that forms the base
But its still a sad and sorry sight, not the one that we'd been sold
And those plans we had for winter bowls, sad to say, are very much on hold

But how they've worked, through broken pipes through rain and soft frail soil
So it looks like now the base is done and the end is near from all the toil
We can only hope it will be all right and we triumph come what may
Then we'll show the world that we still care, at this year's very special opening day

Frank Camera
August 2008

N.B. see photos of the installation
on the following pages



Photos of Construction of the Previous Synthetic Green c. 2008
(courtesy of Frank Camera)

The old grass green



Digging the green up



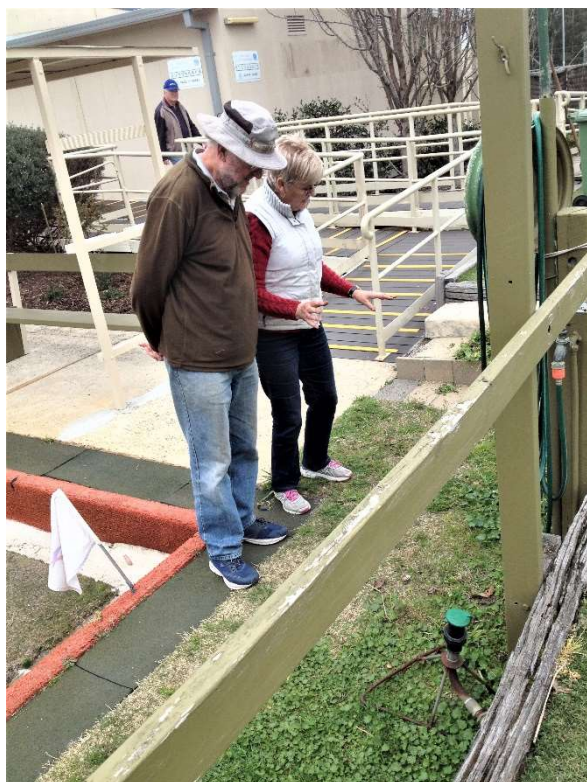
Laying the green initially in the wrong direction (North-South)



But redoing in the correct direction (East-West)




Photo of Garden Working Bee on the 23rd September





Your success
is our bias.



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Phone: (03) 9877 2068
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