



Announcement Wyong Bowling Club

There is some great news on the near horizon for Wyong Bowling Club. The Board of Wyong Leagues Group have agreed to fund a \$700,000 restoration to the Club.

In making this commitment, the Group's Board has acknowledged that the Club and its members have endured difficult times over this past year due to its unexpected closure last December. The closure, which lasted through until February 2023, was brought about by structural issues identified in a routine engineer's inspection. This inspection had concluded that the integrity of the footings of the structure had been compromised largely due to the continual saturation of the unprecedented heavy rain experienced in the early part of 2022. When the effects of lengthy saturation were combined with high water/soil levels inherent in a riverside location it created a very serious issue. The Group acted to eliminate any safety risk to members and staff by making a very tough decision, to close the venue immediately until it was again deemed safe.

As soon as was practicable, remedial works commenced at the site. These works were completed to an accepted safety standard allowing for restricted trade to recommence in early February 2023.

Due to the extensive nature of the works required however, the Club, when re-opened had lost significant trading capacity. On the river side of the building where most of the issues were identified, the venue had to close the popular outdoor deck and much of the Club's restaurant kitchen which led to a restricted food offering. For the Club's Bowlers the Group attempted to minimise the impact on competition, by providing safe access to the greens. As they are located on the unaffected area of the Club, it was deemed safe when the main building and rear areas were blocked from access.

Wyong Leagues Group CEO Ben Coghlan says "The safety of our staff and patrons is always our number one priority. We thank the members of Wyong Bowlo for their patience and understanding during this process and look forward to a safe reopening of the venue in time for this Christmas."

The Group hopes that this announcement of restoration will be accepted as a genuine indication of the confidence it has in the future of Wyong Bowlo, the oldest Bowling Club in the region. Wyong Bowling Club in 2002 was one of the very first clubs to become amalgamated into the WLG, and as such has a special significance for the Group's own heritage as it celebrates its own fiftieth anniversary this year.

Wyong Leagues Group Chairman Robert Pettiford adds "We were always committed to reopening the Club fully, after undertaking extensive engineering studies we are now delighted to be in a place to restore the venue to full capacity."

By Direction of the Board,

Ben Coghlan
Chief Executive Officer