



Indoor Bowls Centre Construction Diary

"A new chapter in the history of the Howrah Bowls Club"

It started with an idea. With the need to replace the existing synthetic green in the near future and significant ground works needed to fix problems with the underlying base, the question was asked, why not build an indoor green? So with the blessing of Club members a committee was set up to persue this idea.

Now after many years of tireless work by the IBC Committee, the dream of an indoor bowls green at the Howrah Bowls Club became a reality, when at their November 2015 meeting the Clarence City Council approved the tender from Hutchinson Builders for construction of Stage 1 of the centre.

Construction would begin in January 2016, with a completion timeframe for the main building of mid June. Further work would then be undertaken by The Club to construct the timber floor and lay the playing surface.

"Goodbye Synthetic Green"

Prior to the builders commencing, several working bees were held where Club members worked to remove the old synthetic surface. Some of this would be kept to be reused on the surrounds of the new centre.



From this...



to this...



to this...



and finally to this



The carpet and underlay were cut into manageable strips



It was hard and hungry work!

"A Reality At Last"

On Monday the 18th January 2016, Hutchinson Builders established a construction site and work on the Howrah Indoor Bowls Centre began. Early work would include the installation of sewage and storm water pipes that would run down the eastern bank of the grass green, as well as digging up the old concrete base and surrounding banks.

On Tuesday the 19th January Clarence Mayor, Ald. Doug Chipman along with Club and Hutchinson representatives, performed a "turning of the sod" ceremony. [Read the Council's media release here.](#)



Part of the Recreation Centre carpark has been fenced off to establish the construction site



The excavator rolled in to begin ground works



The "Turning of the Sod" ceremony. L to R: Howrah Bowls Club Patrons Alan Beardwood & Bernice Archer, Hutcinson Builders' Contract Administrator Victoria Logan, Clarence Mayor Ald. Doug Chipman, Club secretary Mick Matthews and site manager Wade Allan



Club Vice-President Bernard Knight and Ald. Chipman each said a few words charting the history of the project from the Club's and Councils perspectives

Update 8th February 2016



The sewerage line down the eastern side of the



Removal of the old base and ground works

Grass Green is now complete.



continue.



The first concrete footings along the western & northern perimeters have been poured.

[↑Top](#)

No longer just a hole in the ground!

update 1-3-16





Walls!!!

[↑Top](#)

The first pour of concrete
update 5-3-16



[↑Top](#)

Something to stand on

update 14-3-16



The northern and western banks are complete



Preparations for the southern and eastern walls and banks continue

[↑Top](#)

A Roof over our heads...well almost

update 7-4-16



The first steel sections of the roof structure go up



The amazing thing is there were only about 4 blokes doing all this!

[↑Top](#)

The darkness before the light

update 2-5-2016



The floor of the viewing and admin area is complete



The roof of the playing surface is almost finished



The concrete base for the playing area is ready to be poured



The external cladding on the southern end is going up

[↑Top](#)

Nearly there

update 25-5-16



Just 5 weeks to go before the building is handed over to the Club for fit out and installation of the playing surface.

[↑Top](#)

Hand over

update 19-8-16



The building was handed over to the Club from the builders on July 15th 2016. With all external work complete it's time to begin the internal fitout and installation of the playing surface.



An 'artist's impression' of what the finished playing surface will look like.

[↑Top](#)

The interior fitout continues

update 8-9-16



Concrete grinding of the slab in preparation for the playing surface.



Timber framing for the offices and reception counter.



Painting begins on the northern & western concrete walls.