



Bowls club greens 'go green' to lower costs and give back to community.

Bulimba Memorial Bowls Club

Located in the heart of Balmoral, in the inner-South-East of Brisbane, Bulimba Memorial Bowls and Community Club is a central hub of leisure for the local community. Now in its 56th year of operation, the Club was established in 1966 as the Balmoral Heights Memorial Bowls Club and changed its name in 2005.

The club is a fantastic location for all types of patrons, offering a lively, casual bar and dining area as well as a popular bare-foot bowls option for events and groups of family and friends to enjoy. With two high-quality greens, the club also hosts inter-club bowls competitions as well as intra-club competitions.

The challenge:

The meticulous upkeep of bowling greens requires regimented and resource-intensive irrigation. Similarly, the welcoming and casual nature of the club allows customers all year round, requiring consistent upkeep and management all months of the year,



compared to other sport clubs which have off-peak seasons. As a result, Bulimba Bowls Club spends thousands of dollars a year on water and energy costs, money which could otherwise be spent on their patrons and the community.

The solutions:

With a goal to significantly reduce their operating costs, the club has been exploring simple solutions and 'quick wins' to implement immediately, as well as smart investments to grow savings for the club's future.

Quick wins (free or low cost actions)

Installing bar tap timers:

After engaging in a behaviour change campaign encouraging staff to turn the bar taps off at night, Bulimba Bowls have gone one step further and installed timers onto their bar-taps, following recommendations from the Program action plan. Turning the bar taps off at night will reduce unnecessary energy consumption.

Fill half-stocked fridges fully:

An onsite energy audit showed the club that cold rooms, fridges and freezers was contributing to a large portion of their bill. This means small changes like fully stocking fridges and freezers can have a big impact on their electricity bills.

Adjust turf sprinkler heads:

Some sprinkler heads on the club's irrigation system were angled down towards the ground. This flooded the turf below the sprinkler head and starved the other grass of water. Adjusting these was a simple fix which resulted in a better lawn and more efficient water use.

Bigger improvements, bigger savings

Wireless rain sensor:

A wireless rain switch and sensor will Bulimba Bowls sprinklers from activating in the rain when it's not needed. It costs around \$300 and will significantly contribute to Bulimba Bowls' water bill saving in the wetter seasons.

Energy monitoring system:

As part of the program, the club received an energy monitoring system, providing the club with the ability to monitor energy consumption in real time. This helped club operators find energy 'leaks' in the club resulting in product upgrades and staff behaviour changes to optimise energy consumption.

Solar PV system:

The club received a 15kW Solar PV system with installation funded by the Program. Not only has this dramatically reduced the club's electricity consumption and bills, but they are now also receiving approximately \$50 a month off their bill from solar import tariff payments.

"Energy and water use is a significant part of our costs. The introduction of solar energy reduces our reliance on the energy companies... we can reinvest that into the club to benefit the community" - Rod Jackson, President, Bulimba Bowls.

The results:



**63% saving in energy:
36,950kwh**



**14% saving in water:
698,200L**



**Annual cost saving of:
\$8,820**

These energy savings will reduce Bulimba Bowls carbon footprint by approximately 26.2 metric tonnes annually. This is saving approximately the same amount of carbon emissions emitted by driving from Brisbane to Perth 24 times!