

Our Wonderful Patrons

Mr Reginald and Mrs Eileen Long



On behalf of Dora Creek Woman's Bowling Club

February 2015

I had the honour of sitting down with Reg for a interview, I must say it was the most enjoyable interview I could ever have hoped for

Where it all began ...

In 1964 twelve men decided to form a bowling Club at Dora Creek Workers Club.

One original member, was our Reg Long.

Dora Creek workers Club did not have a green, so Wangi Wangi Bowling Club allowed Dora Creek Bowling Club to use one of there Greens.

They formed teams to play in the pairs, triples and four's tournaments.

The game was so popular in 1968, that Dora Creek Workers Club allowed them to install a bowling green at the club with the help of only volunteer labour.

Reg was one of these volunteers, before and after work he would drive truckloads of chitter, ash, from Martinsville soil and washed gravel from Teralba to fill the bowling green.

Reg would continue to do this run once every morning before work and twice every afternoon after work; with the help of other volunteer's also.

After the base was down Reggie would then drive the truck to Teralba four times a week to bring back the couch grass for the green.

This all took twelve to thirteen volunteers six months of hard manual work using shovels and forks, to finally make the best green for Dora Creek that any club could ever have wished for in the district.

The green was finally ready to use in 1969.

Reg first began his bowling career in 1959 at Morisset RSL Club and sometimes playing at Morisset Hospital.

Between 1964 to this current day Reg has coached thousands of up and coming bowlers in his career.

Reg and Eileen's son, Michael Long actually began his apprenticeship at Dora Creek Workers Club Bowling Green under Green Keeper Joe Parker.

At this stage there was a total of thirty consisting members of the club. Every September it would take Michael, Reg plus six volunteers a whole day to top dress the green with soil.

Reg would help as a volunteer to complete the upkeep on the green.

Back in those day's to obtain a cool beer they would have to send the beer to the bottom of the creek to cool it.

Unfortunately someone poisoned the beautiful green in January 1974.

The last known recorded game for that year on the green at Dora Creek was 3rd March 1974. During this sad time many members left to join other club's. A core of dedicated volunteers stayed to restore the green, which did not re-open until July 1977.

Reg maintained the machinery free of charge for the green from 1980 to 1990.

In 1990 it was decided to replace the grass with a synthetic "Super Grass" green which was used until it finally wore out and was replaced with another "Super Grass" green in 2000. the green was eventually replaced with another different synthetic "Dry Max Pro" green in October 2009.

Before 2010 Reg would rotary brush the green twice a week and roll it once.

Reg would mow the outside of the green (where the pavers are now) while holding a sheet of metal roofing in one hand so that the clipping's would not shoot out of the mower back onto the synthetic green.

Reg loved working on the green.

Before every match Reg and two helpers would hand water the green, then wait one hour and roll the green. Reg decided that this was hours of work before every match and purchased a four sprinkler watering system; with the help of a plumber they placed the lines around the green to save time. This idea worked wonderfully.

Reg then retired from the work force in 1986 and to this day, still after 28 years of retirement; he cannot sit still.

Some wonderful memories ... by Reg Long

“Playing singles in the 80’s on the grass, just to keep the lawn going because members numbers was down.”

“In our early wild day’s at pennants there was no booze bus; so a drink was necessary before, during and after a game. There was ninety clubs back then and the main Newcastle Club closed down after the breathalyser was introduced; after that my lovely wife Eileen would drive us everywhere.”

“I represented Morisset RSL Bowling Club back in the 70’s, whatever you wanted was supplied back then; drinks, food and smokes.”

“Once we had a big Gala Day Event with Dora Creek and Catherine Hill Bay and all won a Turkey each.”

“We won the Five Grade Pennants tournament back in 84/85, at mayfield Diggers Club and no one could find the flag; we all laughed it off and no one returned to Dora Creek sober.”

“Won Sixth grade Pennants tournament in 1970, we played against Sulphide Club now as Club Macquarie at Raymond Terrace. They invited us all back to their club stating they had two keg’s for us all; we all wanted to go back and join them. Our president at the time, Neville Thomson stated that everyone was waiting for us back at Dora creek to celebrate, so we went home.”

“Once we returned to Dora Creek, everyone was there to congratulate us and enjoy in the celebrations. This is what makes it all worth while.”

“Morisset RSL had ‘Sick Parade’ every Sunday. Reg Fitzsimmon’s and I would go every Sunday and play. We won that many prizes there, that they wanted to give us a handicap. The pair of us would leave Morisset and go to Wangi Wangi for an afternoon game there.”

“Morisset RSL Club would have trips to Sydney Clubs, Cloveley, Hornsby RSL etc. They would supply lunch and afternoon bowls.”

“Another bowls regular outing was with the Sydney/Newcastle Steam Train Flyer. Everyone would be dropped off at different locations for their bowls day out, on the line to Sydney/Newcastle Steam Train Flyer.

I remember cutting through paddocks to get to the green and they would have tin sheds with iron bins full of ice and beer.

This was provided at 11.am, bowls would not begin until 1pm, after bowls the Newcastle District train would pick us all up at different locations to bring us all home.”

“I have met some great blokes at bowls and pennant tournaments and I have enjoyed a good yarn and a nice coldie with them all.”

Reg speaks of his beautiful wife Eileen ...

“We have had 64 wonderful years of marriage together and loved every minuet of it.

“Since I retired, we both have been organising and helping with the luncheons for bowling gala day’s, patrons day’s, Christmas functions etc.”

“We have fed and washed dishes for players up to 80 plus people, for the last 27 years.”

“ We both feel it is time to step down from this and allow others to take over the luncheon preparation and dishes, I mean; not our Patronage”

Bowling History - Winning Accomplishments

Mr Reg Long

1964	Major Juniors	Wangi Wangi Bowling Club
1966	Major Seniors	Wangi Wangi Bowling Club
1970	6th Grade Pennants	Dora Creek
1977	Pairs	Dora Creek
1977	Triples	Dora Creek
1979	Pairs	Dora Creek
1982	Fours	Dora Creek
1982	Fours	Dora Creek
1984	Major Singles	Dora Creek
1984	5th Grade Pennants	Dora Creek
1984	5th Frade Pennants	Dora Creek
1985	Major Singles	Dora Creek
1988	Fours	Dora Creek
1990	Pairs	Dora Creek
1990	Triples	Dora Creek
1996	Triples	Dora Creek

1996 Fours

Dora Creek

Reg also became a LIFE MEMBER of Dora Creek Men's Bowling Club in 1998.

(I am positive that Reg has accomplished much more than I have listed.)

Bowling History - Winning Accomplishments

Mrs Eileen Long

Became affiliated with NSWBA 9th December 1969.

Transferred from Morisset RSL to Dora Creek Woman's Bowling club on 12th November 1977.

Eileen became a LIFE MEMBER of Dora Creek Women's Bowling Club on 4th November 2008.

1987	Pairs	Dora Creek
1987	Fours	Dora Creek
1988	Fours	Dora Creek
1989	Minor Singles	Dora Creek
1989	Fours	Dora Creek
1990	Triples	Dora Creek
1990	Major Singles	Dora Creek
1990	Fours	Dora Creek
1991	Triples	Dora Creek
1999	Pairs	Dora Creek
1999	Triples	Dora Creek
2000	Triples	Dora Creek
2003	Pairs	Dora Creek
2003	Fours	Dora Creek
2004	Fours	Dora Creek
2005	Fours	Dora Creek
2010	Pairs	Dora Creek
2011	Pairs	Dora Creek

Positions Held at Dora Creek Women's Bowling Club

1993 - 2000	Match Committee
1993 - 1994	Vice President
1994 - 1998	Delegate
1994 - 1997	President
1996 - 2003	Purchasing Officer
1997 - 2000	Vice President
1997 - 2002	Social Committee
2000 - 2003	President
2000 - 2003	Delegate
2004 - 2005	Delegate
2005 - 2015	Purchasing Officer
2005 - 2015	Social Committee
2004 - 2006	Match Committee
2004 - 2006	Vice President
2007 - 2015	Patron
2009 - 2012	Vice President
2013 - 2015	Vice President
2013 - 2015	Selection Committee

On behalf of Dora Creek Women's Bowling Club, we cannot thank you both enough for all your consistent hard work, your friendship and kindness over the years.

Without people like you both, Dora Creek Women's and Men's Bowling Club's, would not be the great Club's that they are today.

Thank you.

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(All information contained in this document was provided by Reg Long and D.C.W.W.B.C.)

