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$75,000 Clubhouse for Aussie Rules

THE Southport Australian Rules Football Club is sporting a brand new $75,000 clubhouse.

And, members are delighted.

The new clubhouse is the first of its kind on the Gold Coast to be granted a full liquor license.

Unlike other football clubhouses which are restricted to certain hours the new Southport Australian Rules Football Clubhouse is open seven days a week from 10am to 10pm.

Located within the Owen Park Southport Showground complex, the clubhouse was officially opened yesterday.

Secretary manager is Bill Ryan, who was one of the top players on the Gold Coast last year.

The clubhouse is the result of many years planning and lots of hard work by members of the Southport Australian Rules Football Club.

The ultra-modern clubhouse was designed by David Raby and built by Bob Webb, both members of the long established Southport club.

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The clubhouse offers patrons the opportunity to watch a game of football while enjoying a few drinks and a meal inside the spacious lounge.

And, spacious it certainly is.

Ideally situated on the western side of the football ground, the clubhouse has a mass of sliding window walls in the lounge and bar area.

The lounge has comfortable seating space for over 200 and is plushly carpeted with ceiling fans and colour TV.

The bar area is separate to the lounge.

A feature of the sandstock brick bar is the unusual handmade perspex inserts which signify all the Victorian football clubs as well as the club's own Magpie symbol.

Soft spotlighting floods the bar at night and adds a warm glow to the pine and sandstock brick feature walls.

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Adjoining the spacious lounge is a separate dining alcove which, on special club social nights, doubles as a dance floor.

The club holds regular dances every Friday night in the clubhouse.

Other features of the clubhouse include a modern ceramic tiled and stainless steel kitchen and a separate canteen.

The canteen is fully equipped and located on the southern side of the clubhouse and opens out to the sporting fields.

For the convenience of players, the clubhouse is situated right next door to the council-built changing rooms.

Parking, also is no problem.

Spectators and players can virtually drive right down to the front door from Queen Street in Southport.

Both spectators, visitors and members are welcome to use the sparkling new clubhouse which is open seven days a week from 10am to 10pm.

With Sunday being the big sporting day for the club it is planned to introduce counter lunches and teas within the next few weeks.

Club membership gains momentum

GONE are the days when the Southport Australian Rules Football Club had to congregate in an old green shed for social gatherings.

Today, they can meet in a sparkling new, ultra modern clubhouse thanks to the tremendous drive and energy of the club's officials, members and supporters.

The Southport club has come a long way since the days it was first founded by a handful of members in 1961.

The first call for players was made from Bill and Maws Wood's fruit shop in Scarborough Street, Southport.

Bill, who was the inaugural president of the Southport club, is now a life member as are several other original founders.

With just a small committee and a handful of dedicated followers, the club fielded its first team.

In those days, the first matches were social ones played against Redwitch, Canungra and the Wacol Army Camp.

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Home games were played at Labrador and social gatherings usually followed afterwards at the old Southport Hotel which was demolished to make way for the new Gold Coast Bridge and Sundale.

The licensee of the hotel, Bob Haddrill, was also the club's first patron.

Several years after the club was founded, the Southport club was given its own home grounds in Owen Park.

As they form part of the showgrounds, the playing field is fully floodlit and night games form an important part of the club's schedule.

Today Southport is one of the strongest clubs on the Gold Coast, fielding four junior and three senior football teams.

The club has over 350 members and the number is growing all the time, especially with the completion of the new clubhouse this year.

In fact, new membership has been so hectic in the last few months that the club had to order a new batch of badges to meet the demand.

Over the years, the club has also experienced a lot of success on the field.

They have won a total of five premierships and three of those were in a row.

The club also boasts several State representative players, two of which are still playing with Southport.

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There have been a lot of changes since the days when Ken McDonald coached the first Southport team.

And, the momentum doesn't look like slowing down as the club prepares for what they think will be their best year ever.

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