

Combined clubs set for a big year

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MAROOCHY Beach Bowls Club is gearing up for a big year in 2012 after joining forces with the Maroochy Swan Bowls Club.

Following Maroochy RSL's decision to close the existing Swan site for financial reasons, the members have joined Maroochy Beach to take the club's bowling membership to 500.

Marketing co-ordinator Richard Horton said the move was a great result for all involved and the it was full steam ahead into the new year.

"It gives us our greens full six days a week now and we have got Keno coming on board," he said.

"It is a social club down here and a real community club - we get the people from the caravan parks who are travelling through and we get our winter guests from down south every year."

He said the club had a huge competition calendar scheduled for 2012, beginning on New Year's Day.

"The New Year's Day tournament is a big one with \$12,000 in prize money up for grabs," he said.



COMBINING FORCES: Art Styles, Bob Standen, Brian Titter and Brian James; and (right) the foursome walk the green.

"And then of course we have the Maroochy Swan Holiday Prelude Lawn Bowls Carnival, which we will host at the beach this year.

"Then it is into the Sunshine Coast Winter Bowls Carnival."

Sunshine Coast Destination Limited CEO Steve Cooper said bowls was an important tourism driver and attracted a special type of visitor to the region.

"The Winter Bowls Carnival is a long-running tournament and it brings bona fide

tourists from outside the region," Mr Cooper said.

"It's one of those events that goes under the radar but is highly valued.

"The bowls clubs are an institution around Australia in terms of community and values, and as a meeting point for people."

He said the tournament gave the Coast great exposure and he vowed to work with council to increase the Coast's appeal for participation-based sports events.



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