

# The Latest and Greatest in Greenside Shade

Determined to continue their efforts in making the venue he and wife Colleen have turned into a national treasure and showpiece for their sport, Broadbeach Bowls Club boss Barry Gilbert was recently forced to venture outside the square. Their amazing venue needed to replace its well-worn 15-year-old greenside sun shades after hosting April's hugely-successful Commonwealth Games.

Trouble was, time was not on their side as Gilbert looked a wee way down the track to the Blue Opal

Singles, Blue Diamond Pairs and Australian Open the club was preparing to host barely a month after it was returned to their hands after the Games.

'What we had planned had never been done before,' said Gilbert. In the back of his mind, Barry knew what he wanted. He was the ideas man while Colleen had colours firmly in mind.

'I was keen for a beachy/wave look to fit in with the coastline which is so close to the club and very much part of what we have always sought to achieve.



• Spectacular under lights - Broadbeach during the Commonwealth Games bowls competition.

'We knew we needed to have some of the shades designed to be retractable to allow the sun on the green and also placed in a way that they would not block viewing from the clubhouse.'

All good ideas but where to look to find someone not only capable of turning that into a reality but within such a short time frame?

'We knew all along that after the Commonwealth Games we were going to have to replace and upgrade.

'It was something we had planned to do ourselves but we approached the Gold Coast City Council who agreed to come on board as part of the agreement we had with GOLDOC to return the club

to the same state it was before the Games.

'The council, understandably, wanted three quotes. They all came back pretty much the same but one stood out.'

Enter Dave Furneaux from Gold Coast-based Shadex Industries. No Johnny-cum-lately in the shade business, this was still a

challenge despite being able to point to a long list of clubs - at the last count around 1500 - who had benefitted from the Shadex expertise over these past 30 years as they supplied and, in many cases, installed sun protection at bowling clubs across Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada.



• Post-Games, Broadbeach restored to its former state.

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• Dressed to thrill - spectacular Broadbeach after the Shadex team installed the innovative new greenside shades to all four greens.

'Barry (Gilbert) knew what he wanted and how aesthetic it needed to look. Colleen knew what colour would set it off.' The result? A stunning transformation in an 'out with the old, in with the new' approach which left

all parties happy. 'It is unbelievable how quickly the job was done,' said Gilbert. 'The requirements for Worlds Bowls (in 2020) will not be as great as the Comm Games, but if they want to follow that lead and take all the

shades down we will be able to that and, most importantly, have no bolts or trip hazards sticking out of the ground.' Furneaux was under no misapprehension as he quoted for the \$120,000 challenge.

'We were invited to quote on March 26, but we couldn't really access the site until May 4. We were very aware of what was coming up at Broadbeach and how tight the time frame would be.'

Once the contract was signed Furneaux employed extra staff and immediately went to it.

'It was the biggest job we have ever undertaken in perimeter shading and a real challenge. 'Barry and Colleen knew what they wanted. They wanted the new Riviera design and Colleen adamant on what colour she wanted, even though their design and colour was not in our range. 'We knew we were the only Company that would produce the best shades for this job.

'We wanted to showpiece Barry and Colleen's magnificent effort at the club and showcase our shades as fitting tribute.'

But they had to be not just pretty to look at, they had to be functional and long-lasting.

These shades are Australian Design Engineered and Certified, the fabric has a high UV rating of 94%, are flame proof and the entire project comes with a Shadex Industry-leading seven-year shade warranty.

'With shade fabric, black has the highest rating at 96% while other



• Broadbeach boss Barry Gilbert and Dave Furneaux from Shadex inspect the bright new look of the Commonwealth Games venue.

colours are as low as 90%. We wanted to ensure as high a rating as possible given the sunny conditions on the Gold Coast,' said Furneaux.

They are in a position to understand such conditions given

their factory is a mere 10km from Broadbeach.

Furneaux, English-born but living in Australia 'for most of my life' apart from a time in Christchurch, New Zealand, has never played



• The latest and greatest in greenside shades from Shadex offers the ultimate in protection from the sun to spectators and bowlers alike.



• Shadex technicians ensure every aspect of the installation adheres to a strict best practice criteria.

bowls but has owned Shadex Industries since 2001, using his engineering background to good effect and improving the shade design and longevity.

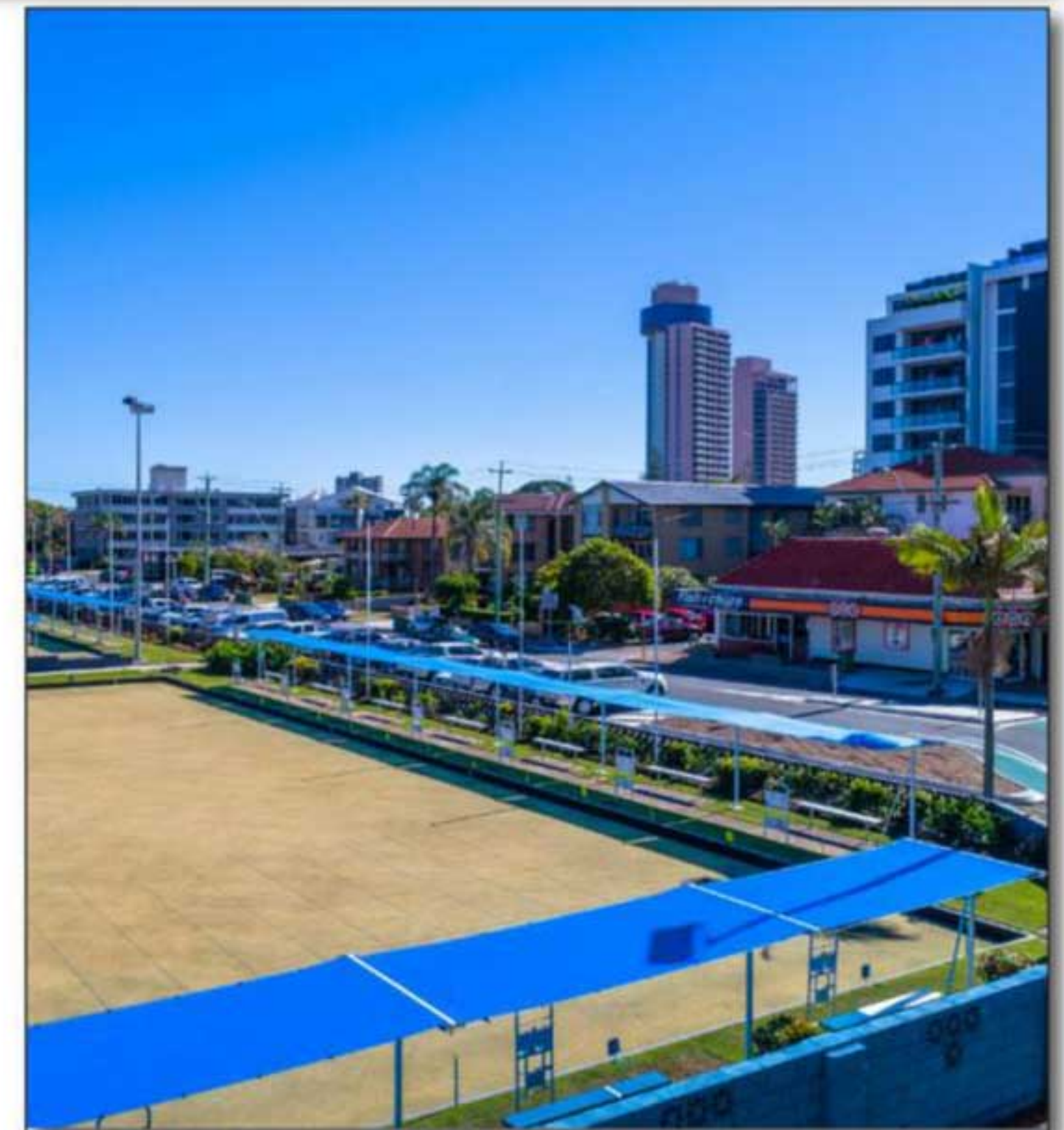
'I am an extremely pedantic guy, but Clint (his right-hand man of 16 years) is even worse than me. He is a perfectionist and certainly the right man for the installation job - as all clubs he has worked at will testify!'

They needed to be just that plus some in meeting such a deadline. 'We were just four hours past the desired deadline in finishing this project, that's after four weeks of working 12-hour days, six days a week, starting from scratch and working with what was to be brand new and unique design.

Unlike other designs, the whole lot of these shades here can be taken away with nothing left protruding out of the ground - a safety and aesthetic feature of the design - to be easily reinstalled. 'All the posts, baseplates, ground plates, bolts and welds are stainless steel. The frames are each primed and undercoated prior to powder-coating in gloss bright white. All fabrics are made from heavy grade 325gsm material for superior sun protection and longevity,' said Furneaux.

To produce something both functional and easy to look at, a total of 102 canopies using 124 posts were installed by Shadex, who worked closely with Tim of

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• A combination of stand alone and retractable shades positioned around the perimeter of the Broadbeach greens.



• The Shadex 'Riviera Coastal Range' provided a stunning transformation to the world-renowned Broadbeach Bowls Club on Australia's Gold Coast.

Edge Consulting Engineers, Rick from Aspect Awnings and Russell at Coastal Powder Coating to produce the shade canopies on time.

In 2006, shade fabric production moved overseas and most fabric is now imported into Australia, no longer having access to the product they previously used, Shadex now have their own fabric range specifically made to the company's strict criteria and quality.

'Everybody is impressed with what we were able to come up

with in the timeframe.

'Without doubt, we are very proud of this project and it is a credit to my staff for the way in which they got behind it all making sure we met the deadline – and with a very high quality product that exceeded our client's expectations.'

And, as a gift from Shadex to the club in of respect for the Gilberts' achievements, the rampant bull logo of the Broadbeach Bulls has been laser cut into the gusset of each of the centre piece Riviera shades.

The last word came from Barry Gilbert who also paid tribute to the role played by council.

'Everyone says the club looks fantastic. I have had people who live in high rises across the road saying just how good it all looks and just how well it sets off the club.

'It is something we are all very happy with, while Dave Furneaux and his Shadex team have a showpiece they can be very proud of indeed.'

- Terry Maddaford

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the Riviera coastal  
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