

# RSL closes down Swan bowls club

By **KATHY SUNDSTROM**

ANOTHER Sunshine Coast bowls club is closing its doors.

The long-established Swan Bowls Club in Anzac Ave, Maroochydore, will shut down for good on October 29.

Members will be redirected to the Maroochydore Beach Bowls Club in Cotton Tree, another club which has been financially struggling because of a decline in membership and the rising cost of greens maintenance.

Maroochy RSL general manager Harvey Fewings said the Swan Bowls Club members would merge with the Maroochydore Bowls Club members.

The Maroochy RSL has been financially supporting the club.

Mr Fewings said the not-for-profit community RSL club could not continue to support the significant loss of about \$20,000 a month.

"From January to August alone, the club has run at a \$240,000 loss," Mr Fewings said.

Maroochy RSL has committed to provide financial assistance to the merged clubs in the first year to ensure the process is a smooth transition for both membership bases.

Mr Fewings said Maroochy RSL

would work with the clubs to ensure there were no job losses as part of the merger.

"I can ensure you that we have not made this decision lightly," he said.

"However considering the club's significant loss each month and declining numbers, we strongly believe the merger of the two clubs is the only way forward to provide ongoing greens and facilities for our members.

"We believe merging the two clubs together will provide a positive and working solution and will create one strong club that has a healthy membership base and financial support to move forward.

"Simply put, this move will save both clubs from closing their doors altogether."

Mr Fewings denied rumours that Maroochy RSL planned to sell Swan Bowls Club.

"Our first priority is to ensure the amalgamation is a smooth transition and members are accommodated at their new location," he said.

"After October 29, we will provide security and regular maintenance to the club to ensure it's looked after and then we will review and determine the best way forward."