Background
The Mt Wellington Bowling Club in Auckland had a green which was superfluous to requirements and decided to join forces with Panmure Pioneers Petanque Club, making the green available for Petanque.

Andrew Mailei, Panmure Pioneers Petanque Club President approached Geofabrics New Zealand Ltd in 2012 regarding support for this community project. Geofabrics were proud to be involved and they agreed to donate geotextile to the construction of the terrain.

Finally in November consents were obtained, funds dispersed and construction was underway. Troy Wheeler Contracting were involved in the earthworks. A terrain generally consists of equal sized designated playing areas called ‘pistes’. The required international sized piste is 4 metres wide x 15 metres long. For public and club terrains multiples of 3 metres x 15 metres pistes can be used.

To convert the bowling green to a petanque terrain required removal of grass and the surface scraped, taking care not to disturb the subgrade. It is important to ensure adequate drainage in any sports field application. A trench deep enough to create a fall from the terrain to the outlet was required with drainage pipes, then a cover of gravel and back fill of top soil.

Geofabrics donated a roll of bidim® A14 non-woven geotextile (roll 6m x 250) to cover the area of 1225m2. Bidim® geotextiles used extensively for drainage, filtration and separation.

A base course of AP20 was laid and compacted with a mechanical compactor to a finished depth of 100mm. A loose gravel surface (depth of 10-20 mm) was applied as it tends to stop the boules from rolling. Some terrains use of 10-20mm of cockle shells although “metal fines” make for an excellent alternative as different surface layers add to the challenge.
Andrew Mailei commented “Geofabrics New Zealand Ltd” played an integral part with the construction of our Petanque Terrain. Their extreme generosity of the bidim® A14 meant that the appropriate drainage would limit the contamination of the subgrade and AP 6,7,20 and 40 and therefore created an international standard playing surface. Jos Johnson (Business Development Executive) provided professional and sound advice which in our opinion demonstrated Geofabrics genuine care for communities alike. We are proud to have this establishment as a major sponsor and would highly recommend their services. On behalf of the Panmure Pioneers Petanque Club we would like to extend our thanks and look forward to this ongoing relationship.”

A community open day was held on Saturday 18th January and the Panmure Pioneers Petanque terrain was officially opened.

Geofabrics New Zealand Ltd are proud to be involved in this and other recent community projects eg: Bike Northland and Mangawhai Bike Track, Volunteers for Motutapu.

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How bidim® works.

bidim® geotextile is widely used in civil engineering projects across many infrastructure applications, such as within roads and railways, landfills and mining projects. bidim® has been made in Australia for over 25 years and continues to be the Australian market leader because of its range, durability and technical performance.

Bidim® geotextiles perform a variety of functions, including separation, filtration, protection and reinforcement. To ensure correct specification and selection of the bidim® geotextile, engineers consider the function that their application requires.

In a separation layer application, bidim® geotextiles prevent the various soil and aggregate layers within a road or rail formation to intermingle. This increases the life span of the road or rail formation by allowing the aggregate layers to perform as designed for longer.

In a landfill or tailings dam, bidim® geotextiles are used as a protection layer, acting as a cushioning barrier between the lining system and the drainage layers or waste. This protects the lining system from puncturing and leaking. There are bidim® geotextiles specifically designed for this application. bidim® is made from polyester, is highly UV stable and is available in roll form up to 6m width, increasing the installation rates and efficiencies.

Specification and design advice, quality assurance manuals and installation tools are all available. Geofabrics also supports bidim® geotextiles with the Geosynthetic Centre of Excellence, a customer oriented R&D centre.