Local Heritage Places

Heritage Citation

Moora Park

Key details

Addresses	At 65 Park Parade, Shorncliffe, Queensland 4017
Type of place	Park, Pavilion
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Lot plan	L1_SL5333; L2_SL5333
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — November 2002
Construction	Structure: Timber
People/associations	Hubert George Thomas - The Bandstand (Architect); The Sandgate Town Council - The Bandstand (Builder)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association

Moora Park is important because it survives as a remnant of the development of the Sandgate and Shorncliffe area during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The remnant of the bandstand is highly significant as both a focal element of the Park and as a tangible element of Shorncliffe's tourist past. Moora Park is a highly scenic area of parkland, which provides elevated sea views framed by trees.

History

The Moora Park Band Rotunda This part of the foreshore fronting Flinders Parade was the hub of the Sandgate ‘seaside experience' from as early as the 1880s. The Sandgate Town Council erected a two-story timber combined kiosk and band rotunda in Moora Park in 1897, also approving a similar one on Flinders Parade.

The structure was designed by Brisbane architect Hubert Thomas, who shortly afterwards moved to Sandgate and designed a number of local buildings. A unique feature of the structure was the covered band rotunda. The Sandgate Town Band was formed around the same time, and performed in the rotunda on public holidays and special occasions.

In 1932 the timber kiosk was replaced with a brick and stucco structure designed by the City Architect, A. H. Foster. This was located on the embankment overlooking the Shorncliffe Pier. The new kiosk operated until the late 1960s when poor patronage forced its closure. It remained abandoned until 1974 when the Brisbane City Council had it demolished.

The band rotunda was retained when the old kiosk was demolished, and was mounted on a low brick and concrete base.

It has been restored in recent years. The rotunda remains the only remnant of Sandgate's seaside entertainment area, which at its peak, included swimming baths and an open air picture theatre.

Description

Moora Park is part of the extensive foreshore parkland that extends from Shorncliffe to Brighton. The Park occupies part of the elevated Shorncliffe bluff and enjoys extensive views across Moreton Bay and to the Redcliffe Peninsula.

The park comprises extensive lawns, shaded by large mature trees. At the southern or highest end of the site is a carpark. The site falls steeply via heavily vegetated embankments to a levelled area beside the water. Structures in the park include an 1897 bandstand, a 1990s replica bandstand, a 1970s picnic shelter and a large 1950s amenities block below the embankments at the northern end of the site. This complex serves the “bathing enclosure” formed by the Shorncliffe Pier and the breakwater to the south of the Pier.

Note: The extent of this site report does not include the foreshore components of the park (Lots 414-416 on SL 11521) and therefore excludes analysis of the breakwater and the Shorncliffe Pier.

The Bandstand

The most significant structure in the park is the remnant of an 1897 bandstand and kiosk, designed by H.G.O. Thomas. This is located in a high open area at the southern end of the park and enjoys commanding views of the

sea. The bandstand itself is an important focal element in the park. Only the upper level of the original 2-storey structure survives. The octagonal pavilion now rests on a brick and concrete base, (which is largely concealed by a hedge). The ornate timber posts are encircled by a bench seat, except where a set of timber steps provides access to the concrete plinth. The bench seat is supported from the posts by elaborate cast iron brackets. The posts support a perforated ring beam, which in turn supports a corrugated iron roof.

Other structures

Picnic shelter

This flat-roofed shelter with brick semi-enclosed seating areas is located below the bandstand.

Replica bandstand

This hexagonal pavilion stands to the east of the original. With its perforated fascia and chunky seat brackets, it attempts to evoke the architecture of Thomas' bandstand.

Amenities block

This brick, flat-roofed amenities block accommodates toilets and changing rooms.

Paths and driveways

Vehicular and pedestrian access to the foreshores is provided by a number of paths and driveways. On steeper parts of the site they are supported by stone retaining walls.

The park has evolved to reflect the decline of Shorncliffe as a bathing and scenic destination. Substantial structures such as A.H. Foster's 1932 kiosk have gone and the Park is primarily a green, passive recreational space. However the Park contains spaces of great scenic value and its avenue of mature trees provides a shaded alternative to the foreshore path below. The Bandstand, though severely truncated, remains a valuable and scenic remnant of Shorncliffe's past. A visual inspection of the bandstand reveals it to be in good condition.

The whole of the site is significant with the exemption of the picnic shelter, replica bandstand and amenities block.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014.* It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as a remnant of the development of the area during thelate nineteenth century.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as an expression of a once popular form ofentertainment in parks.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as a surviving example of Victorian-style Bandstand inits original park setting overlooking Moreton Bay.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a green open parkland with extensive views to the islandsof Moreton Bay.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as a work of Brisbane architect, and Sandgate resident,Hubert Thomas.

References

1. Brisbane City Council - City Assets Branch *Conservation Management Study* Stage 1 Report. November 2002

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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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