

## Heritage Citation



### Booroodabin Bowls Club

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 126 Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead, Queensland 4006
<b>Type of place</b>	Sportsground
<b>Period</b>	World War I 1914-1918, Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Stripped Classical
<b>Lot plan</b>	L503_SL5658
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — June 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Face brick

<b>People/associations</b>	B.C.M Wrightman - extension (Architect); H. Hill - Clubhouse (Builder); N. Arthur and C. Walker - extension (Builder); Richard Gailey - Clubhouse (Architect)
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<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (G) Social
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The former Booroodabin Bowling Club, now Booroodabin Bowls Club, was formed in 1893 following the amalgamation of the Brisbane Bowling Club (formed 1879) and the Breakfast Creek Bowling Club (formed 1888). The Hon B.D. Moorehead became the first club president and Lord Lamington the first patron. The club was originally a gentleman's club with membership restricted to doctors, solicitors and other gentlemen of high social standing within the community. J.W. Carey, the first greenkeeper, designed the original wooden clubhouse. It was later replaced by a larger 1915 wooden building designed by Richard Gailey. Though the core of the building remains, it has been altered and extended over time. This included in the 1920s and then the 1950s when the front of the building was covered with a brick facade.

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## History

The Booroodabin Bowling Club was formed in 1893 as a result of an amalgamation of the Brisbane Bowling Club and the Breakfast Creek Bowling Club. The Brisbane Bowling Club had formed in 1879 and utilised a green in the Botanic Gardens near Government House. This ground was eventually required for another use and the club moved to another green, near the then Roma Street Markets. However this was later resumed for use by the railway.

The Breakfast Creek Bowling Club was formed in 1888 and is claimed to be the oldest bowls club in existence in Brisbane. Lawn bowls had originally come to Queensland when a club was formed in Maryborough during the 1870s.

A grant of reserve land, originally given to the Booroodabin Divisional Board in 1887 by the state government, together with £50, was given to the newly formed Booroodabin Bowling Club by the Divisional Board. The Divisional Board had planned to obtain further land reserves to establish other supporting venues such as tennis was close to this site. The new green was established at a cost of approximately £310. Turf for the green had been obtained locally, being taken "from the river bank at Newstead".

The opening ceremony was attended by the Mayor (Alderman W.M.Galloway) and other local prominent citizens. The club was associated with a number of important people of the day. These include the Premier, Sir Thomas MacIlwraith and Lord Lamington, who was patron of the club.

At the opening ceremony it was stated that it was expected that membership would increase now that the club had a permanent home. Photographs dated circa 1900 and circa 1907 clearly show that a new pavilion had been erected during this period.

By 1915 the club had grown and the decision was taken to extend and improve the pavilion. Richard Gailey had been employed by the club to erect a wood and iron clubhouse. The contractor was listed as H. Hill, of Bell St,

Hendra. The 1915 annual report mentioned that the “club pavilion and fixtures had been valued as at 30 June 1915 at £600”.

This work, which was undertaken by Gailey, must be viewed as work completed on a structure that had evolved over a period of time as the bowls club obtained the necessary funds. Gailey was renowned as an important and influential architect in Brisbane, being responsible for such buildings as the Regatta Hotel and Brisbane Girls’ Grammar School.

The next extension was completed during 1922. The architect at this time is given as B.C.M. Wrightman<sup>1</sup> and the contractor was N. Arthur & C Walker of Annerley St, Toowong. Although ditto marks appear in the entry in the Building Registers under an earlier entry of “Nature of Notice...New Building” it is highly unlikely that in just under seven years after the extensions were done, that a new pavilion had been constructed. Evidence indicates that this work was again an extension and improvement to the pavilion.

There appears to have been little attention to the structure of this building between the 1920s and the early 1950s. A 1929 report in the *Brisbane Courier* described the Booroodabin Bowling “At Home”;  
*Asparagus plumosus festooned the lights, and fell in long trails from them, and the front of the club house was banked with palm fronds. The supporting posts and veranda rails were entirely covered with red tinsel paper entwinnings of Asparagus plumosus.*

This entry in the regular feature “In the Social Sphere” suggests that the activities of members of the club were seen to be of significance in Brisbane’s social milieu.

A 1928 Detail Plan shows an outline of the pavilion similar to the building’s outline in 1998. Photographs taken in early 1950 reveal that the verandahs existed at that time. The Booroodabin Bowls club submitted two applications for extensions to the pavilion in 1956 and 1957. These extensions coincided with the formation of the ladies bowls club. It is most likely that the present facade was built at this time. A further application was submitted in 1971 to remodel the bar and toilets at a cost of \$6000.00

In 1988 the Booroodabin Bowls Club celebrated its centenary. Such is the prominence of this club that the centenary was attended by the then Governor of Queensland, Sir James Ramsey. As with many sporting clubs, poker machines were installed to obtain revenue when they were eventually permitted by the state government. The club and its members have played an important role in the social, leisure and sporting activities, of not only the Booroodabin area when it existed, but also that of Brisbane City.

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## 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:

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## Historical

### CRITERION A

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

as an example of a club pavilion/sporting facility built in 1915 that has evolved to embrace the social and sporting needs of the local community.

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## Social

### CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

the association of the site with the Booroodabin Bowling Club since the late 19th century.

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## Supporting images

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## References

1. Please note that the name is hand written in the Building Register and is barely legible
2. Brisbane City Council Properties on the Web
3. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
4. Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland Certificates of Title.
5. Brisbane City Council Building Cards
6. Brisbane City Council Surveyor's Notebook, 24 May 1913; updated 14 Oct 1926
7. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plan No 233, 20 June 1928
8. Brisbane City Council Building Registers, 1915, 1922.
9. Queensland Post Office Directories
10. Booroodabin Bowls Club photos and records, courtesy Mrs Trail
11. Queensland Women's Historical Association, Booroodabin: *A sesquicentenary history of Breakfast Creek, Bowen Hills, Newstead and Teneriffe 1823-2009*, QWHA, 2nd and revised ed, 2009, pg 64
12. Queensland Women's Historical Association. *A Look Back in Time: A History of Bowen Hills - Newstead and 'The Creek'*.

Breakfast Creek: QWHA, 1996

13. Watson, Donald and Judith McKay. *A Directory of Queensland Architects to 1940*, University of Queensland Library, St Lucia, 1984, pg 89
14. Watson, Donald and Judith McKay. *Queensland Architects of the 19th Century: A Biographical Dictionary*. Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
15. *Brisbane Courier*, 1893
16. *Brisbane Courier*. 8 July 1929, p.18

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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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