



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sports
- 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 4.5 Sports, recreation and entertainment

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

The Bill Walker and R.A. McDonald timber construction grandstands, are simple and elegant examples of the Inter War Utilitarian style. The exterior of the masonry construction entry gates is an attractive example of the Interwar Stripped Classical style. [Criterion 1.1]

Situated on a corner and on the main road, *Bassendean Oval* is a landmark within the town of Bassendean, particularly the McDonald and Walker timber grandstands and the 1929 entrance gates, and the view into *Bassendean Oval* through the gates from Old Perth Road is a significant vista. Its trees and grass banks provide visual amenity to the town. [Criterion 1.3]

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Bassendean Oval* has been in continuous use by the Swan Districts Football Club since 1934, except during World War Two, when *Bassendean Oval* was occupied by the army. [Criterion 2.2]

In 1957 *Bassendean Oval* became the first football oval in the State to be issued a liquor licence, and it was also the first football oval in the State to use a siren for football games, a sound which has become an Australian icon associated with playing Australian Rules football. [Criterion 2.2]

The McDonald Stand was named after Richard A McDonald, an important figure in the Swan Districts Community, who was instrumental in founding the Swan Districts Football Club and establishing the place as a WAFL ground. McDonald was also the inaugural President of the Swan Districts Football Club and served on the Bassendean Road Board as Chairperson.

\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

Swan Districts Football Club was the club of three-time Sandover Medallist Bill Walker (1965, 1966 and 1967), and the Bassendean Stand was re-named in his honour. [Criterion 2.3]

### 11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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### 11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

*Bassendean Oval* is a tangible reminder of the importance sport has played in local communities in Australia, and contributes to the local communities sense of place as a place of recreation, a traditional venue for local and inter-school sports events, and as the home ground of WAFL team the Swan Districts Football Club. [Criteria 4.1 & 4.2]

The McDonald Stand at *Bassendean Oval* is a place highly valued by the local community and the broader football community for its aesthetic characteristics and because of its well-known reputation of the foot-stomping by the Swan Districts Football Club fans. [Criterion 4.1]

*Bassendean Oval* contributes to the local communities sense of place, particularly the two timber grandstands, the McDonald and Walker stands, and the 1929 entrance gates, and its landmark location on a corner and on the main road. [Criterion 4.2]

## 12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 12. 1. RARITY

The Bill Walker and R.A. McDonald grandstands at *Bassendean Oval* are two surviving examples of timber construction grandstand, few of which remain today. [Criterion 5.1]

### 12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

*Bassendean Oval* is fine representative example of a local football ground and a reminder of the way in which football grounds were developed in the Inter-War period. Bill Walker and R.A. McDonald grandstands are fine representative examples of timber construction and clad grandstands. [Criterion 6.2]

### 12. 3 CONDITION

*Bassendean Oval* is in fair to good condition. The grandstands are in fair condition with some deterioration to timber joinery. The ancillary buildings are in good to fair condition with damage in main to fixtures and fittings. The timber grandstands are in need of some work, with some areas in need of some significant upgrading to retain the significance of the stand. Items such as the toilet blocks, perimeter fencing to the playing surface, and site boundary fencing are in fair to poor condition. The grounds, plantings, and playing surfaces are generally in good condition.

### 12. 4 INTEGRITY

*Bassendean Oval* has continued in use as a football playing field since its inception, but has also been used for other purposes such as a concert venue and for school sporting activities. The continued use of *Bassendean Oval* as the home ground for Swan Districts Football Club and other football and

sporting activities will maintain its integrity. *Bassendean Oval* retains a high degree of integrity.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Bassendean Oval* retains much of the original fabric with most changes to the place being the addition of new structures to the oval surrounds. The two timber grandstands have been modified internally with some finishes and fixtures being removed and replaced. The clubrooms retain the least amount of original fabric and have been expanded a number of times. The timber picket fence around the oval playing surface has been substantially replaced as part of ongoing maintenance of the site. Overall the changes have been modest and the place retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

## **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Helen Burgess, Historian and Research Consultant. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths and Brandon Pratley, Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd.

### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

*Bassendean Oval* was officially opened in 1929 and consists of two timber grandstands (1932 & 1938), brick two-storey clubrooms (c1932 & 1972), main entrance gate at West Road (1929) and other entrance at Brook Street (1929 & 1970). The style of the two timber grandstands is Inter-War Utilitarian style, and the style of the West Road entrance gate is Inter-War Stripped Classical Style.<sup>1</sup> *Bassendean Oval* was erected by the then Bassendean Road Board (now Town of Bassendean) for use by the Swan Districts Football Club (SDFC) as their home ground. The land on which *Bassendean Oval* is located comprises Reserve 7401, Guildford Lot 246, vested in the Town of Bassendean, and Reserve 41412, Guildford Lot 236, Crown Grant Trust vested in Swan Districts Football Club Inc.

The local government area now known as Bassendean, located about 10km north-east of Perth, was originally named West Guildford. During the early years of settlement of the Swan River Colony, the West Guildford area attracted more investors than settlers, with the exception of only a few residents and farmers who lived and worked in the area. By the mid 1840s, West Guildford was declining in growth and development owing to the large amount of absentee landlords.<sup>2</sup>

In 1871, the Guildford Town Trust became a municipality, under which West Guildford fell. In 1897, the Bayswater Road Board assumed responsibility for West Guildford, which had succeeded from Guildford. However, this administrative arrangement was short lived when, in July 1901, the West Guildford Road Board was officially gazetted.<sup>3</sup>

The inaugural members of the West Guildford Road Board were all independent business men and high ranking civil servants, and West

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<sup>1</sup> Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, Reynolds, Peter, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, p. 164. Note: Inter-War Utilitarian is not an official style in this guide.

<sup>2</sup> Town of Bassendean 'Town of Bassendean, Municipal Heritage Inventory', October 1996, pp. 9-11.

<sup>3</sup> Town of Bassendean 'Town of Bassendean, Municipal Heritage Inventory', October 1996, pp. 13-15.

Guildford itself developed as an area attractive to the lower middle classes '...who might aspire to a semi-rural life style'.<sup>4</sup> West Guildford also became renowned as a teetotal suburb, and there existed amongst the majority of local residents a pride in the respectable and traditional character of the town, values which were upheld.<sup>5</sup> Residents of Bassendean were also noted as being passionate about their sport, football being particular favourite with a local team playing in Perth Suburban Association (PSA) competition. Participating in sport meant not only entertainment and recreation but also '...encouraged community involvement and identification which, in turn, helped strengthen and enhance social relationships between the residents'.<sup>6</sup>

In line with this attitude, there was a focus on providing for the youth of the area with recreation facilities. In 1901, the Board selected a reserve to be set aside for recreation. Originally, the land selected had been surveyed with the yet unsurfaced Perth-Guildford Road crossing through it. The Board approached the Government and agreed to deviating the road around the reserve '...and that section of the road which traversed the reserve was permanently closed'.<sup>7</sup>

In 1901, Guildford Lot 196, Reserve 7401, was gazetted, having been created from Guildford Lots 126, 128, 129 and 130.<sup>8</sup> Initially set aside for "Government Requirements", in 1902, the reserve was officially changed to "Recreation".<sup>9</sup> On 4 March 1904, the *Bassendean Oval*, which covered an area of 15a 2r 10p, was vested in the Town of Bassendean.<sup>10</sup> After the reserve had been partially cleared, a concrete cricket pitch was laid, followed by tennis courts and a shelter shed.<sup>11</sup>

In 1922, the West Guildford Road Board voted to change its name from West Guildford to Bassendean, in accordance with its own and the wishes of most of the local residents who believed that West Guildford was now '...not only bigger, had more population and infinitely more 'progressive' than Guildford' but also that the district '...should have a distinctive name which reflected its superior status'.<sup>12</sup> In July 1922, the name Bassendean was officially gazetted as the new name for the district. The name Bassendean was chosen '...on the erroneous assumption that Peter Broun's estate was the earliest farm in the area and that the perpetuation of the name would satisfy the traditionalist among the ratepayers'.<sup>13</sup>

In 1924, a Public Plan, compiled by Hope and Klem Surveyors and Draftsmen, shows *Bassendean Oval* - still referred to as the Recreation Reserve - as being

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- 4 Town of Bassendean 'Town of Bassendean, Municipal Heritage Inventory', October 1996, p. 16.
  - 5 Department of Planning and Urban Development (prepared by Naomi Lawrance and Tanya Suba), 'Town of Bassendean Heritage Study', Vol. 1, 1991, p. 48.
  - 6 Department of Planning and Urban Development (prepared by Naomi Lawrance and Tanya Suba), 'Town of Bassendean Heritage Study', Vol. 1, 1991, p. 45.
  - 7 Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 39.
  - 8 *Government Gazette*, 1/1/1901.
  - 9 *Government Gazette*, 31/8/1901 & 25/4/1902, p. 1739.
  - 10 *Government Gazette*, 4/3/1904, p. 639.
  - 11 Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 39.
  - 12 Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 117.
  - 13 Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 120.

bordered by South West Road (now West Road), Surrey Road, (now Old Perth Road), Dodd Street (now Old Perth Road) and Brook Street.<sup>14</sup>

In 1927, the first motions were made towards establishing a West Australian Football League (WAFL) football team at Bassendean, whose home-ground would be *Bassendean Oval*. On 7 July 1927:

...the delegates of the day received their first correspondence from the then Bassendean Roads Board. The request was for information as to on what terms a team using Bassendean Oval as its Headquarters would be admitted to the WANFL. The reply from the WANFL dated July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1927, stated that the time was approaching when consideration would be given to the admission of a team from Bassendean Midland area.<sup>15</sup>

Although, the WAFL competition had been formed in 1885 (originally as the West Australian Football Association changing to West Australian Football League in 1908/09), Bassendean had never had a team competing in this competition.<sup>16</sup> Midland, however, did field a team in the WAFL competition until 1917, but had to withdraw '...when their numbers were seriously depleted because of World War I'.<sup>17</sup> In 1922, Midland applied to the WAFL for re-admission to the competition but were rejected, and for this reason, Midland were to be the strongest opponents to Bassendean being entered into the WAFL.<sup>18</sup>

In September 1927, plans were prepared by Herbert Horsfall, Civil Engineer, for the Bassendean Recreation Reserve.<sup>19</sup> Some of the notes made on the plan included:

- ground to be raised at centre and slope towards edge of oval';
- to have gradual slope from edge of oval to top of bank; and
- bank 25' from fence with 1'' to 1' slope to be formed back with material sufficient to keep grade.<sup>20</sup>

A boundary fence was shown surrounding the oval, constructed of timber pickets with arris rails from 4"x4" section split across corners, and standing 7'3" above ground level. One grandstand was shown on the corner of Brook Street and South West Road (Guildford Road) originally called the Bassendean Grandstand but later to become the Bill Walker Stand. The entrance gates (sometimes referred to as the Heritage Gates) at Brook Street were drawn showing the wording 'Bassendean Road Board, *Bassendean Oval*, Grandstand Reserve', and there were other reinforced concrete entrances.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Hope and Klem, Surveyors and Draftsmen, Public Plan: Oval, Recreation Reserve, prepared for Bassendean Road Board, 1924 [held at Town of Bassendean].

<sup>15</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 44, 1977, p. 36.

<sup>16</sup> David Clements, WAFL Historian.

<sup>17</sup> Moses, S. E. Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth 1974, p. 3.

<sup>18</sup> Moses, S. E. Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 3.

<sup>19</sup> Bassendean Recreation Reserve, plan prepared by Herbert Horsfall, Civil Engineer, Perth, September 1927, [held at Town of Bassendean, series 4-6].

<sup>20</sup> Bassendean Recreation Reserve, plan prepared by Herbert Horsfall, Civil Engineer, Perth, September 1927, [held at Town of Bassendean, series 4-6].

<sup>21</sup> Bassendean Recreation Reserve, plan prepared by Herbert Horsfall, Civil Engineer, Perth, September 1927, [held at Town of Bassendean, series 4-6].

In 1928, a move was made by the Bassendean Road Board and Richard McDonald to raise £3750 for the improvements to *Bassendean Oval*. However, this proposal was rejected by the ratepayers.<sup>22</sup> Later that year, in November, the Executive of the WAFL inspected both Midland and *Bassendean Ovals* for the purpose of deciding which oval would be the headquarters for a team from the district should they be accepted in the League. The subsequent report recommended that *Bassendean Oval* be selected. In August 1929, the Bassendean Road Board and R. A. McDonald again went back to the ratepayers to get the green light to raise the money for works to the oval and were finally successful.<sup>23</sup>

In September 1929, the works for upgrading the Recreation Reserve to become an oval for league football were implemented, and a contract was let for the clearing, grading and fencing of the grounds.<sup>24</sup> The decision was in anticipation that their local Bassendean football team, who were still playing under the PSA competition, would be upgraded to play in the WAFL soon.<sup>25</sup> On 7 December 1929, most of the works at the Recreation Reserve were completed, and *Bassendean Oval* was officially opened by the Hon. Philip Collier, giving the Bassendean football team a home ground and headquarters.<sup>26</sup> The opening of *Bassendean Oval* coincided with the centenary year celebrations of the suburb's foundation.

Cricket matches continued to be played at *Bassendean Oval* during the summer months with the Footballer's Cricket Club. Subsidiary funds were raised for the club from these matches.<sup>27</sup>

As with the rest of the State, Bassendean had felt the effects of the Great Depression years, with many of the local industries being cut back and numbers of workers retrenched. However, in spite of these hard times, during the 1930s Bassendean experienced '...an accelerated round of building projects in the town as well as community enterprises'.<sup>28</sup> The Bassendean Hotel opened (1930), Grandstands and clubhouses were erected on the Recreation Reserve, a new fire station was built (also in Wilson Street), a Trades Hall was built in Broadway, the Bassendean Masonic Lodge was erected in 1934, in 1936 the new Road Board building was completed and opened, and new shops opened up along the Perth Road.<sup>29</sup> It was also during the Depression that the local group, the Bassendean Improvement Committee (BIC) worked towards converting Hay's Swamp into a recreation

<sup>22</sup> Moses, S. E. *Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication*, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 5.

<sup>23</sup> Moses, S. E. *Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication*, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 5.

<sup>24</sup> Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 39.

<sup>25</sup> Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 198; & *Weekend News*, 13 July 1963, p. 15.

<sup>26</sup> Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 39.

<sup>27</sup> Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 42.

<sup>28</sup> Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 182.

<sup>29</sup> Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 182.

reserve for the local community, and it is still referred to as the BIC reserve.<sup>30</sup> Having been built in the 1930s (and in the 1920s), *Bassendean Oval* is therefore part of this modest building boom and is important in demonstrating the effort made at a local level of trying to maintain some semblance of social cohesion and interaction during these hard times. In addition to sporting activities, the Recreation Reserve became a popular meeting place, especially the local boys during the Depression years when there was little entertainment available, for a '...furtive game of two-up or penny poker'.<sup>31</sup>

On 3 February 1932, R. A. McDonald officially opened the three-storey timber and corrugated iron grandstand, (later to be called the Bill Walker Grandstand, (after the former player three-time Sandover Medallist and coach) with a seating capacity of 800. The grandstand cost £2,646. To celebrate the occasion, an A-grade cricket match was played between Mt Lawley and East Perth.<sup>32</sup>

On 4 June 1932, the first PSA game of football was played on Bassendean Oval between Bassendean and Bayswater. Always a strong competitor, in 1933 Bassendean PSA were undefeated, greatly enhancing their chances of finally being accepted into the WANFL.<sup>33</sup>

On 16 October 1933, a meeting was called '...when a constitution incorporating the club title as Swan Districts Football Club was adopted'.<sup>34</sup> (Swan Districts Football Club (SDFC) were also known for a period as the Swan Districts National Football Club (SDNFC) in line with the WANFL competition).

In 1934, Bassendean (PSA) was finally accepted into the WAFL (which had been renamed the West Australian National Football League (WANFL) in 1931) and played their first season in this year as Swan Districts Football Club.<sup>35</sup> (SDFC was, for many years, called the Cinderella team of the league having been the last team to be entered into the WAFL competition until the late 1990s when Peel Thunder was formed.<sup>36</sup>)

On 12 February 1935, the first annual meeting of the SDFC was held in the Bassendean Town Hall.<sup>37</sup> The first Patron of the Club was P. A. Connolly, Esq. and the first President was R. A. McDonald. In his inaugural report, the

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<sup>30</sup> Department of Planning and Urban Development (prepared by Naomi Lawrance and Tanya Suba), 'Town of Bassendean Heritage Study', Vol. 1, 1991, p. 46.

<sup>31</sup> Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 193.

<sup>32</sup> Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 39.

<sup>33</sup> Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 43.

<sup>34</sup> Moses, S. E. Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 10.

<sup>35</sup> Moses, S. E. Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 3; & *Football Budget*, 18 September 1976, Vol. 41, No. 27, p. 4. [790FOO] The first game played by SDFC was against East Fremantle at Fremantle Oval.

<sup>36</sup> *Football Budget*, 18 September 1976, Vol. 41, No. 27, p. 4. [790FOO]

<sup>37</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, Annual Report, No. 1, 1934, in Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 40.

Secretary of the club, J. F. Jenner, commended the support and work done by the Bassendean Road Board:

Your Committee feel sure that you will agree that the facilities at the Club rooms and the condition of the oval, reflects credit on the Road Board. The Board have shown a willingness to fall in with any reasonable suggestion throughout the year and as you know they have proved untiring in their efforts to provide a ground that bids fair to become one of the best in the State.<sup>38</sup>

Photographs taken of *Bassendean Oval* 1935/37 show the Billy Walker (then the Bassendean) Grandstand and the picket fencing surrounding the oval [816B/B4230-4232, 1935-1937].<sup>39</sup>

Coming off the excitement of SDFC making its first finals in 1937, it was not long before a second grandstand was needed to cope with the increasing spectator numbers coming to the oval on football days to support their local team. The SDFC made a request to the Bassendean Road Board that a second be built, larger than the first. Architects, Powell, Cameron and Chisholm designed the stand which initially had a seating capacity of 1000.<sup>40</sup> On 23 July 1938, the new timber construction grandstand was opened, named the McDonald stand after Richard A. McDonald, the former chairman of the Bassendean Road Board, founding member of the West Guildford Masonic Lodge and inaugural President of the SDFC (1934 & 1937). McDonald was also instrumental in getting the club into the WANFL competition. In the first Annual Report of the Swan Districts National Football Club of 1934, McDonald had received high praise:

During the year, and for many years prior to the actual formation of this Club, Mr R. A. McDonald has worked hard in the interests of the National Game and towards the founding of this Club at Bassendean, and it is mainly to his efforts that we owe the fine Oval. He has ably carried out the important position of President, and besides attending every meeting has given the Club much valued support and advice which is appreciated.<sup>41</sup>

It seemed only fitting that a man that had done so much for the club:

...should be honoured in this year with the opening...of the new grandstand which was titled in his honor and has stood to this day as a symbol of the black and white.<sup>42</sup>

The McDonald stand was to become well-known throughout football circles for the '...enthusiastic foot-stomping by Swan Districts' fans on its floor' being one of the few stands in the State with a timber floor.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid, p. 40.

<sup>39</sup> Photographs 816B/B4230-4232, 1935-1937, held at LISWA, Battye Library Pictorial Collection.

<sup>40</sup> Powell, Cameron & Chisholm, Architects, 'Proposed Grand Stand to be erected on the Bassendean Oval for the Bassendean Road Board, January 1938 [held at Town of Bassendean, series 4-7]; & Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, pp. 39 & 40; & Cogan, Morva & Bruce Wroth, *Bassendean and Guildford Sketchbook*, Rigby Ltd, Perth, 1976, p. 46.

<sup>41</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, Annual Report, No. 1, 1934, in Thomas, Alf T., *A History of Bassendean*, compiled and published for The Bassendean Road Board, WA, 1947, p. 41.

<sup>42</sup> Moses, S. E. *Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication*, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 10.

<sup>43</sup> *West Australian*, 7 February 1980, p. 16 c-g.



In 1939, Reserve 7401 was gazetted as a B Class Reserve and the area was amended to 14a 3r 14p with a portion being excised off by the Government for water purposes.<sup>44</sup>

During the Second World War, *Bassendean Oval* was utilised by the Department of the Army, using the McDonald Stand as their headquarters.<sup>45</sup> This move was in response to the Japanese bombing of Darwin in February 1942 which heightened the threat of invasion and caused the local effort to be stepped up after a period of relative complacency. While being occupied by the army, all football matches at the oval were suspended and *Bassendean Oval* became the location of a different flurry of activity:

Local people soon became accustomed to the sight of soldiers training on the oval and using it to assemble and strip army trucks and motor cycles. Amazingly, very little damage, apart from a battered main gate and minor amount of wear and tear to the playing surface, was reported when the Military ceased possession of the ground at the beginning of February, 1943.<sup>46</sup>

Owing to the number of men away at war, the WAFL competition during the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 changed the competition so that clubs could only have teams consisting of players under the age of 18. In 1942, SDFC did not have the numbers to field a side, but competed in the two subsequent years.<sup>47</sup>

In 1950s, sand from local landmark, Success Hill, was being quarried for use at other sites through Bassendean, including *Bassendean Oval*. Bell Brothers were contracted by the Town of Bassendean to quarry sand from Success Hill, some of which was used to build up the banks at the oval.<sup>48</sup>

In 1957, the SDFC became the first WANFL club to be issued a liquor licence:

This project was initiated under the leadership of Mr R. A. Newby in 1953 and his committee of the day...Much grand work and planning was necessary before the first stage was completed and opened in 1957.<sup>49</sup>

The members-only clubroom, built as the licensed premise, was single-storey brick and tile building with a verandah formed by the eaves overhang on the south side, facing the oval.<sup>50</sup> The building was completed in time for the SDFC Christmas party on 20 December 1957.<sup>51</sup> Another first for SDFC was that it was the first club in the State to use a siren for footballs games, which is still used today at all ovals.<sup>52</sup>

An aerial photograph of *Bassendean Oval* taken in 1959 shows the two grandstands, the original single-storey clubrooms, entrance gates on West

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<sup>44</sup> *Government Gazette*, 19/5/1939, p. 871.

<sup>45</sup> Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 239.

<sup>46</sup> Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 239.

<sup>47</sup> David Clements, WAFL Historian.

<sup>48</sup> Carter, Jennie, *Bassendean: a social history 1829-1979*, Town of Bassendean, Perth, 1986, p. 272.

<sup>49</sup> David Clements, WAFL Historian; Moses, S. E. Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 15; & *Football Budget*, 18 September 1976, Vol. 41, No. 27, p. 4. [790FOO]

<sup>50</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, Annual Report, No. 41, 1974, pp. 36-37.

<sup>51</sup> Moses, S. E. Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 1.

<sup>52</sup> *Football Budget*, 18 September 1976, Vol. 41, No. 27, p. 4. [790FOO]

Road, the original entrance gates on Brook Street, and the original picket fencing surrounding the oval.<sup>53</sup> [3061B/1011, 1/5/1959] A 1960 photograph looking west across the two grandstands shows the single-storey toilet block, and still the original picket fencing surrounding the oval.<sup>54</sup> [3061B/1012, 27/1/1960].

In 1960, several alterations and additions were made to the clubroom. The verandah of the clubroom was enclosed; the games room - originally on the western end - was placed on the eastern end, the former games room then being converted into the League changeroom; the bar was also extended into what was the games area.<sup>55</sup>

In 1961, SDFC won their first WAFL premiership and won again in the two subsequent years.<sup>56</sup> The 1960s were the time when Bill Walker became the club's three-time Sandover Medallist (1965, 1966 and 1967).<sup>57</sup>

In 1968 the cantilevered shelter on the west side of the oval was commissioned.<sup>58</sup>

In 1970, a new entrance gate at Brook Street, designed by Margaret Feilman & Associates, Architects and Town Planners, was built which also included a new kiosk.<sup>59</sup>

In November 1971, the Bassendean Shire Council, with the sanction of the ratepayers, agreed to loan the SDFC \$250,000 for further extensions to the clubrooms at *Bassendean Oval*. The importance of this move to the SDFC was noted in its Annual Report of 1971:

In so doing the gateway has been opened to an even greater Swan Districts, not only in providing facilities equal to any in the state, but also their action has identified the bond of unity so vital to any successful club - that between the people of the district and the club....With this type of action and support the district can only advance and it is our most positive aim to advance with it.<sup>60</sup>

In July 1972, the additions were commenced, and temporary accommodation for the football season was established in the McDonald stand. The additions, which involved adding a second storey to the clubrooms, were designed by architects Bradley, Kelsall & Wu and the contractor was Trident Construction.<sup>61</sup> On 15<sup>th</sup> December 1972, the club were able to move into its

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<sup>53</sup> Photograph 3061B/1011, 1/5/1959, held at LISWA, Battye Library Pictorial Collection.

<sup>54</sup> Photograph 3061B/1012, 27/1/1960, held at LISWA, Battye Library Pictorial Collection.

<sup>55</sup> Moses, S. E. *Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication*, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 1.

<sup>56</sup> *Football Budget*, 18 September 1976, Vol. 41, No. 27, p. 4. [790FOO]

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid* p.28.

<sup>58</sup> Stan Moses, fmr General Manager Swan Districts Football Club, 30/4/02

<sup>59</sup> Margaret A Feilman & Associates, Architects and Town Planners, 'Bassendean Oval - Brook Street Gates', March 1970 [held at Town of Bassendean, Drawing 70/5/51].

<sup>60</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 38, 1971, p. 18.

<sup>61</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 39, 1972, p. 16; Bradley, Kelsall & Wu, Architects, 'SDNFC Alterations and Additions to Existing Club Rooms', January 1972 [held at Town of Bassendean, Drawing Series A715, Wi-W14]; & Moses, S. E. *Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication*, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, p. 1.

new completed premises.<sup>62</sup> On 27 January 1973, the new clubrooms (now called the John Cooper John Todd Pavilion) were officially opened by Mr J. Paterson, then President of the Bassendean Shire Council.<sup>63</sup> The opening of the new premises was given a great deal of importance by the SDFC, not just locally but on a national level:

There are clubs in Australia of the national code, who do provide very attractive premises and some do come very close to our standards, but at this stage none exceed the quality of our Rooms. Naturally we have an advantage in having been the last Club to expand, others will come up and even pass our amenities, but to know we are up with the high standard expected of leading football clubs is a comforting feeling within itself.<sup>64</sup>

Memberships doubled in 1973 as a result of the upgraded facilities and the promotion of the SDFC.<sup>65</sup>

The following year, in 1974, further extensions were made to the western end of the new clubrooms, in the form of a dance floor and stage for cabarets and other social functions, as well as a 'match-day bay' in the under-croft on the ground floor also on the western end. On 30 March 1974, these additions, also designed by Bradley, Kelsall & Wu, were officially opened. The new members-only bar in the match-day bay was named the "Tjunguja Bar" which was an Aboriginal word meaning 'meeting place friendly groups' and was where members of both SDFC and the visitor club could '...enjoy a drink while they follow the fortunes of their respective teams.<sup>66</sup> This section of the clubrooms has been named the Percy Bright and Haydn Bunton Lounge; Percy Bright being the longest serving Presidents of SDFC (1960-1967) and Haydn Bunton one of its star players (1960-1964) and Sandover Medallist.<sup>67</sup>

In 1974, work also commenced at this time on gradually improving the drainage and surface of the oval and upgrading the banks.<sup>68</sup>

The Bill Walker stand was officially dedicated and named as such in 1976, prior to that it was referred to as the Bassendean Grandstand.<sup>69</sup>

In 1978, the scoreboard was relocated to its present site with the upgrading of the southern banks.<sup>70</sup>

On 3 February 1980, a fire caused substantial damage to the McDonald stand, mostly to the underneath section where the bar, property and store rooms were located. The fire, which started in the western end of the stand, was reported to have been deliberately lit.<sup>71</sup> By the end of March, the stand was re-opened, with some repairs, costing around \$20,000, having been carried out with the replanking and repainting of the outside and repairs to the seating.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 40, 1973, p. 36.

<sup>63</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 40, 1973, p. 36.

<sup>64</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 40, 1973, p. 36.

<sup>65</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 40, 1973, p. 36.

<sup>66</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 41, 1974, pp. 36-37.

<sup>67</sup> Moses, S. E. Swan Districts 1934-1974: an official Swan Districts Football Club publication, designed and printed by the Commercial Division of the Independent Group of Newspapers, Perth, 1974, pp. 15-16.

<sup>68</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 40, 1973, p. 36; & Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 41, 1974.

<sup>69</sup> Stan Moses, fmr General Manager SDFC, 30/4/02

<sup>70</sup> Swan Districts National Football Club, 'Annual Report', No. 45, 1978, p. 45.

<sup>71</sup> *West Australian*, 7 February 1980, p. 16 c-g.

<sup>72</sup> *East Suburban News*, 7 March 1980, p. 24.

In 1980, the WANFL changed its name back to WAFL and so the “national” was dropped from the Swan District’s Football Club title.<sup>73</sup>

In 1990, an area of Bassendean Oval Reserve was excised and Reserve 41412, Guildford Lot 236, was created and vested in the SDFC Inc. as a Crown Grant in Trust. This area was set aside for the purposes of Club and Club Premises.<sup>74</sup>

In 1991, the McDonald and Walker stands at *Bassendean Oval* were listed in the City of Bassendean’s Historic Study, prepared by the Department of Planning and Urban Development and was noted as having considerable significance.<sup>75</sup> In 1996, the grandstands and entrance gates at West Road were also included in Town of Bassendean Municipal Heritage Inventory.<sup>76</sup>

In 2000, the Bill Walker Stand was in need of repairs owing to significant termite damage and was not able to be used for the 2000 football season.<sup>77</sup> A report was prepared for the Town of Bassendean by Warwick Broomfield, Architect, on the condition of the Bill Walker Stand.<sup>78</sup> An assessment of the stand revealed the following:

The main timber structure has been badly affected by rot at the base of the external columns and in particular on the Northern face of the building with the corner columns being the most affected....Additionally the bottom plate, bottom of the inter-column framing and the diagonal braces are similarly affected by rot at the lower extremities as are the restraint bolts tying the diagonal braces to the main columns which are severely affected by rust.<sup>79</sup>

The main works carried out to the grandstand included:

- the external cladding on the western end was completely removed and replaced and much of the cladding to the rest of the stand was also replaced;
- all asbestos cement linings and ceilings were removed and replaced with Hardies sheeting;
- the steel stairs were replaced;
- new metal column shoes were installed;
- the timber floor was repaired; and
- the roof was repaired as required.<sup>80</sup>

In 2001, the Department of Land Administration (DOLA) resumed a 242m<sup>2</sup> portion of Reserve 7401 for the widening of Guildford Road, near the corner

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<sup>73</sup> David Clements, WAFL Historian. The WAFL competition was to change its name several times more, being the WA State League (1990), WAFL (1991-1996), Westar Rules (1997-2000) and WAFL (2001-current).

<sup>74</sup> *Government Gazette*, 6 July 1990, p. 3281.

<sup>75</sup> Department of Planning and Urban Development (prepared by Naomi Lawrance and Tanya Suba), ‘Town of Bassendean Heritage Study’, Vol. 1, 1991; & Town of Bassendean - Heritage Council, Bassendean Heritage Places Database.

<sup>76</sup> Town of Bassendean, ‘Town of Bassendean Municipal Heritage Inventory’, October 1996.

<sup>77</sup> Letter, from SDFC Inc. to Town of Bassendean, 24/08/2002.

<sup>78</sup> Broomfield, Warwick, ‘Report on the Condition of the ‘Billy Walker’ Stand, Bassendean Oval, Bassendean’, prepared for Town of Bassendean, August 2000.

<sup>79</sup> Broomfield, Warwick, ‘Report on the Condition of the ‘Billy Walker’ Stand, Bassendean Oval, Bassendean’, prepared for Town of Bassendean, August 2000, pt. 1.1.

<sup>80</sup> Broomfield, Warwick, ‘Report on the Condition of the ‘Billy Walker’ Stand, Bassendean Oval, Bassendean’, prepared for Town of Bassendean, August 2000, pt. 3; & quote, Atwell Building company, 12/09/2000 [provided by Town of Bassendean].

of West Road. At the same time, DOLA initiated an amendment to the vesting of the reserve from a 'B' class to a 'C' class reserve as well as to Lot 196, which has been redescribed at Guildford Lot 246.<sup>81</sup>

From as early as 2000, the Town of Bassendean have been considering several sites around Bassendean on which to build a new library, and a proposal was made to build this at the *Bassendean Oval*. A concept design for the new library at Bassendean Oval was drawn by James Christou & Partners Architects and a traffic study was undertaken by Sinclair Knight Merz.<sup>82</sup> In 2001, a report was prepared for the Town of Bassendean based on the information gathered to date and the design by Christou and Partners Architects. This report supported the proposal.<sup>83</sup>

Subsequently, approval was sought from the Western Australian Planning Commission. Advice was then issued from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, which requested that a heritage assessment be carried out for the oval before a decision was reached.<sup>84</sup>

The *Bassendean Oval*, Reserve 7401, is still vested in the Town of Bassendean and the Reserve 41412 is still a Crown Grant in Trust to the SDFC Inc. Although some one-off events have been held at *Bassendean Oval*, including the Big Day Out and other concerts and also inter-school sports, Bassendean Oval has been used continuously as a football ground with its main function still being a football oval and the headquarters of SDFC Inc.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Bassendean Oval* is an oval shaped grassed playing surface designed for Australian Rules Football, established in 1927 as a recreation reserve and upgraded to an oval in 1929 by the then Bassendean Road Board. The buildings on the site comprise of two timber construction grandstands, the R.A. McDonald Stand and Bill Walker (Bassendean) Stand built in 1932 & 1938 respectively in the Inter War Utilitarian style, two storey brick clubrooms built in various stages from c. 1957, 1960, 1972 and 1974, a cantilevered corrugated metal shelter built in 1968 for the SDFC, two brick and tile toilet blocks and three entry gates with the earliest built in 1929 in the Inter War Stripped Classical Style. A score board and advertising boards are located on the top of the earth bank to the perimeter of the oval.

*Bassendean Oval* is located east of the Bassendean town centre. Roads border it on all sides with Guildford Road to the north, West Road to the west and Old Perth Road to the south, which turns north and borders the east side. The site on which *Bassendean Oval* is located comprises Reserve 7401, Guildford lot 246 vested in the Town of Bassendean, and Reserve 41412, Guildford Lot 236, Crown Grant Trust vested in Swan Districts Football Club Inc.

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<sup>81</sup> Brian Reed, Manager Development Services, Town of Bassendean, conversation 12/4/2002 & Letter from DOLA to Town of Bassendean, 27/09/2002.

<sup>82</sup> O'Brien Planning Consultants, 'Application to Develop a New Library at Bassendean Oval, West Road, Town of Bassendean', prepared for the Town of Bassendean, August 2001, p. 4.

<sup>83</sup> O'Brien Planning Consultants, 'Application to Develop a New Library at Bassendean Oval, West Road, Town of Bassendean', prepared for the Town of Bassendean, August 2001.

<sup>84</sup> Brian Reed, Manager Development Services, Town of Bassendean, conversation 12/4/2002 & Town of Bassendean, 'Finance & General Services Committee, minutes, 22/01/02, pt 7.8.

Guildford Road is a busy two-way pair road with a substantial median strip, concrete paths to both sides and housing to the north. The boundary to Guildford Road is a narrow strip between the chainlink fence and road that widens to the east as the road curves north. To the west of the site are the main entry gates which are set back from the boundary providing a crush space in front of the gates. The planting is mainly located on the western half of the boundary and includes Camphor Laurel, Peppermint and Pepper Tree. Most of the built structures on the site are located along this boundary, with the clubrooms on the boundary and the two timber grandstands bordering the playing ground along this side of the oval.

West Road is a dual carriageway with Bassendean Village Shopping Centre to the west. The shopping centre to the west is of contemporary design with a large carpark on West Road. The West Road boundary has a grass verge with a vehicle access point to the north. A chainlink post and rail fence with barbed wire to the top runs along the perimeter of the site with an access gate for vehicles. A brick and tile toilet block is located to the south of the entrance. Street lighting is provided by outreach poles located within the median strip. Major planting along this boundary includes Eucalypt, Acacia, Jacaranda and camphor laurel.

A roundabout, planted with a low hedge, is located at the intersection of West Road and Old Perth Road. The site boundary is truncated at approximately 45° at the intersection and is almost perpendicular to Old Perth Road as it runs east from the town centre. The 1929 entry gates align with this axis which continues through and into the oval. There is a brick paved and grassed forecourt area containing two memorial rose gardens.

Old Perth Road is a wide two lane road with on street parking and housing facing on to *Bassendean Oval*. The housing stock is mixed with elements from federation period to contemporary but generally modest in scale. Old Perth Road continues east along the south of the site and the chainlink mesh fence continues along the boundary. Street lighting is provided by Main Roads type outreach lights fixed to the top of power poles on the north side of the road. Planting along this boundary includes immature Jacarandas, Tuart Gum, River Gum, young London Planes (*Platinus x acerfolia*), Hills Fig (*Ficus Hillii*), Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*), Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*), Tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*), Rottneist Island Pines (*Callitris pressii*), and firs. An entry to the chainlink fence is located approximately halfway along the southern boundary. A brick and corrugated metal toilet block is located to the east of the site along this road.

Old Perth Road turns north and runs along the east of the site and the chainlink fence continues on the site boundary. Planting along the boundary includes Eucalypts, Hills Figs, Silky Oak and a line of Queensland Box Trees (*Lephostemon conferta*) towards the north end of the road. At the north end of the road is the vehicle access to the carpark and clubrooms. The members' entry gates are located south of this carpark. The east side of the road is housing of various periods, but generally of modest scale.

The major organising element of *Bassendean Oval* is the oval itself, formed in 1927 from what was previously the recreation reserve. The playing surface has changed little over the life of the ground and all subsequent structures have been located in relation to the ground. The surrounding buildings and structures are primarily associated with use of the oval for sport. The perimeter of the oval playing surface is delineated by a white timber picket fence. The oval is bordered by a grassed earth bank that extends from the west of the R.A. McDonald around the oval to the south and continues

around until finishing south of the members' entrance. The bank is highest to the south of the oval almost opposite the Bill Walker stand. The scoreboard is positioned on the bank in the south east corner. Signage is located along the top edge of the bank fixed on steel poles approximately 3m high.

The earliest remaining built element on the site is the entry gate to the south west corner built in 1929. These were built when *Bassendean Oval* was still a recreation reserve, which is clearly visible from the lettering over the two central bays. The gates are reinforced concrete with four major openings consisting of two smaller central gates (entrance) and two larger outer gates (exit). The room built behind the west gate is not original it has cavity brick walls and sheet metal roofing. The two small rooms to either side of the gates were change booths the openings to which have been blocked up. The two central bays have been extended with the end of the granolithic finish being the extent of the original building. The gates form part of a vista into the site and are located on an axis that extends from Old Perth Road through the gates and into the oval. The gates are not in service.

The Bill Walker Grandstand was built in 1932 and was initially called the Bassendean Grandstand. The grandstand is a 2-3 storey structure constructed from timber with some structural columns and steel framed roof steel, with a seating capacity of ~800, located along the edge of the oval and approximately 5m off it. The roof is a hipped gambrel roof with a central gable to the south, and sheeted in corrugated zincalume in single lengths with colonial profile gutters. The walls are timber framed and clad with large format smooth rusticated weatherboards. The north elevation is fully enclosed, with timber framed panelled, awning windows and solid timber doors. High level vents are located underneath the eaves across the elevation. A steel and timber flight of stairs central to the elevation leads up into the grandstand. The east and west elevation are partially enclosed as the line of the top of the wall follows the grandstand seating. A steel and timber stair is located on each elevation. A timber door is located to the west elevation under the stair. The southern elevation is completely open with timber grandstand seating facing the oval. Protected seating is provided for the teams and umpires at the base of the grandstand with a low fence to the oval side and a flat pitch skillion roof sheeted with corrugated zincalume. The entrance to the changerooms under the grandstand is located within the centre of the elevation. The roof structure is mainly timber with a large steel beam and curved angle brackets to the full extent of the southern elevation.

The interior of the Bill Walker Stand contains two changerooms to the northern half of the structure with painted brick walls, carpeted concrete floors and painted cement fibre panels to the ceiling. Painted timber screens are located in front of the north exit doors. Shower and toilet facilities are located to either side of each changeroom, with tiles to the floors and walls. Between the two changerooms is the exit to the oval and a small room with similar finishes to the change rooms. South of the changerooms and either side of the oval entrance are storerooms. The western end of stand contains another changeroom, which has been set aside for use by the umpires. The Bill Walker Stand is in fair to good condition. Repair work has recently been undertaken on the stand, refer documentary evidence.

The R.A. McDonald stand built in 1938 is similar to the Bill Walker stand, but larger in all dimensions with a seating capacity of ~1000. The grandstand is a 3 storey structure constructed from timber and steel, located along the edge of the oval and approximately 8m off it. The roof is hipped and asymmetrical, with corrugated, zincalume single length sheeting and colonial

profile gutters. The walls are clad with large format smooth rusticated weatherboards. The eaves to the northern elevation are lined on the rake with a board material likely to contain asbestos. Windows are timber-framed with two highlight fixed panels over and 3 panels under, which are 2 centre pivot panels and 1 fixed panel. Later additions include a bullnosed, corrugated colorbond, skillion roof to the western half of the northern elevation and a lean to, corrugated colorbond, skillion roof to the east elevation. The southern elevation (Oval Side) is grandstand seating with a central entrance between a flight of stairs within a recessed section of the grandstand. The weatherboarding to the bottom of the southern elevation has been replaced with corrugated colorbond sheeting. The roof structure is steel framed with timber purlins, the steel framing may not be original fabric.

The interior of the stand consists of a large central hall like space with canteen and female toilets to the east and male toilets and office to the west. The walls and ceilings are lined and painted. The floor is carpeted. A corner to the west of the hall is partitioned off to create a lounge area. The toilet areas have a lower floor level.

The SDFC clubrooms are located on Reserve 41412, Guildford Lot 236, Crown Grant Trust vested in Swan Districts Football Club Inc., which is the north east corner of the site. It is a large 2 storey building built along the site boundary with brown cavity brick walls and concrete slabs and columns. The edge of the floor slab is expressed in the wall elevations. The northern face has a small number of aluminium windows. The southern elevation has kiosk and cafeteria facilities at ground level and large aluminium windows on the first floor. The roof has a flat pitch with a central ridge and long length metal sheeting, set behind an asbestos fascia.

The western section of the clubrooms is a later addition and is a brick and concrete structure with the major opening towards the oval. The southern elevation is enclosed with aluminium framing and glazed. The roof is single pitch falling to the north with long length metal sheeting falling to the rear with large colorbond fascias to the oval elevation which partially returns around the side. The building provides viewing lounges with gymnasium facilities to the undercroft area.

The clubrooms have developed from a small, single storey, brick building, which was extended westwards and the verandah enclosed, it was extended further and the first floor added and finally the Percy Bright and Haydn Bunton Lounge was built. The clubroom buildings are in good to fair condition. The appearance of the buildings is poor with significant visual clutter to all elevations, including signage, services and poor integration of the architectural elements.

The western toilet block is an older building constructed prior to 1965, with light tan cavity brick walls and roofed with autumn blend, Marseilles pattern clay tiles. It contains male, female and disabled toilet facilities, a later addition. The male and female toilets have rendered single leaf brick screen walls to the entrances. The interiors have rendered walls, rendered brick partitions to the cubicles and granolithic floors to falls. The building is in fair to good condition, the painted render is peeling to the screen walls and the fixtures are damaged to varying degrees. The disabled toilet has been extensively vandalised

The Shelter (1968) to the west of the oval is tubular steel structure that follows the perimeter of the oval with paved terraces. The structure has a low, double brick, perimeter wall with corrugated zincalume sheeting to the remainder of the wall and roof. A steel signboard erected on top of the



shelter is used for advertising. The shelter is in fair to poor condition with corroded roof sheeting and uneven finishes to the paved terrace.

The Guildford Road entry gate is a small brick building housing two entry gates and a ticket office. The building is similar to the western end of the clubrooms in style with brown cavity brick walls and large colorbond fascia to the perimeter of the flat metal roof. The gates are secured by roller doors. The building is in fair to good condition and is the main public entry gate at present.

The south eastern toilet block is a newer building with light tan cavity brick walls and long length corrugated zincalume sheeting. It contains male and female toilet facilities. Brick screen walls are provided to the entrances. The interiors have rendered walls, rendered brick partitions to the cubicles and granolithic floors to falls.

The north entrance gate off Old Perth Road is a simple brick gate structure with two external piers and wider central pier over which spans a brick parapet. A timber lean to shelter structure is fixed to the back of the wall with corrugated zincalume sheeting to the roof. The gates are galvanised steel tubes with chainlink mesh. The floor is a concrete slab with simple turnstiles. This gate is used as a members' entry on match days.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

*Bassendean Oval* is similar to many local suburban ovals with the various grandstand structures, amenities and entry gates in essence, but there are some significant differences. The main point of difference is the timber construction used for the grandstands at *Bassendean Oval*. Most ovals still in use today have masonry construction grandstands and supplementary shelters of steel and cladding like the one at Bassendean. Leederville Oval, one of the oldest grounds in Western Australia, has large masonry grandstands built to the same design as the grandstands at Lathlain Park (Perth Football Club's home ground), and Perth Oval. Claremont Oval, Claremont has a masonry construction stand, but this is a very modestly scaled structure compared to the three grandstands mentioned above.

Victoria Pavilion, Fremantle is an example of a timber construction grandstand that is still in use today. This is a much more elaborately styled than the timber grandstands at *Bassendean Oval*, and mixes masonry and timber construction. The Victoria Pavilion pre-dates the stands at Bassendean. There are 14 grandstands in the HCWA database, of which two, Perth Oval and Kalgoorlie Racecourse & Buildings, are on the State Register.

*Bassendean Oval* is one of the few ovals that retain some of their original or early gates. Perth Oval, which is Registered, is another example where the Inter- War period gates have been retained. Subiaco Oval Gates (1935), in the Inter-War art deco style, is on the State Register.

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### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

A list of the following libraries, collections and organisations were searched for information on the *Bassendean Oval*:

- Battye Library of WA History
- Battye Library of WA History pictorial collection
- Heritage Council WA - 'Town of Bassendean Municipal Heritage Inventory' and 'Town of Bassendean Heritage Study'.
- Town of Bassendean - Plan archives and *Bassendean Oval* files

If additional information should be required, the following could be sourced:

- Oral histories with former members and office staff of the SDFC for more detailed social history of the club.
- Department of Land Administration, Lands files 7920/00 (Reserve 7401); & 1710/990 (Reserve 41412).
- Department of Land Administration, Central Mapping - aerial photographs.