



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

PERMANENT ENTRY

1. **DATA BASE No.** 7403
2. **NAME** *Bassendean Oval* (1927, 1929, 1932, 1938, 1957, 1960, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974)
FORMER NAME Bassendean Recreation Reserve, Bassendean Grandstand (Bill Walker Grandstand)
3. **LOCATION** Guildford Road, Bassendean
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Crown Reserve 7401 being Lot 246 on Deposited Plan 220760 and the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3116 Folio 635.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Town of Bassendean
6. **OWNER AT PERMANENT REGISTRATION**
State of Western Australia
(vested in the Town of Bassendean)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Registration 17/04/2003
Permanent Registration 17/10/2003
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 31/10/1996
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bassendean Oval, a grassed playing field, with two timber and masonry construction grandstands, three entry gates with the earliest built in 1929 in the Inter War Stripped Classical Style, a mature eucalypt, and a white timber picket fence around the oval playing surface, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the Bill Walker and R.A. McDonald grandstands are rare as extant examples of timber construction grandstands. The McDonald Stand has a well-known reputation for the foot-stomping of Swan Districts Football Club fans, achievable due to its timber floor;

the Bill Walker and R.A. McDonald timber construction grandstands, are elegant and graceful 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;

the place demonstrates the importance sport has played in local communities in Australia, and contributes to the local communities sense of place as a traditional venue for local and inter-school sports events, and as the home-ground of Western Australian Football League (WAFL) team the Swan Districts Football Club;

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

the place is associated with prominent football identities Richard A McDonald, the founder and inaugural President of the Swan Districts Football Club, and three-time Sandover Medallist Bill Walker, who won the medal in 1965, 1966 and 1967.

Other built elements of site are of little significance, including the Eastern Old Perth Road and Guildford Road entry gates, curved cantilevered corrugated-metal shelter, player dug-outs, toilet facilities, skateboard facilities, advertising signage, ancillary buildings & plantings, and street trees. The brick Swan Districts Football Club clubrooms are not included in the curtilage of the place. One eucalypt in the north-east corner of the ground has significance as a landmark, while most other trees have little significance, but provide visual amenity to the landscape. The fabric of the white timber picket fence around the oval playing surface is of low significance as it has low authenticity, but the fence marks the location of a timber fence present since 1927.