

PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE**15.8 LOCAL HERITAGE ITEM NOMINATION FOR THE ARTARMON BOWLING CLUB – 1A BURRA ROAD ARTARMON**

ATTACHMENTS:	1. IMPLICATIONS 2. NOMINATION FOR LOCAL HERITAGE LISTING OF THE ARTARMON BOWLING CLUB 3. HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT REPORT - ARTEFACT HERITAGE SEPTEMBER 2019 4. REPORT FROM INDEPENDENT HERITAGE EXPERT - ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	CHRIS BINNS – ACTING PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR
AUTHOR:	NORMA SHANKIE-WILLIAMS - TEAM LEADER STRATEGIC PLANNING
CITY STRATEGY OUTCOME:	2.2 – RESPECT AND CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE SITES 5.3 – BALANCE THE CREATION OF NEW PUBLIC ASSETS WITH THE UPGRADE OF EXISTING PUBLIC ASSETS
MEETING DATE:	14 DECEMBER 2020

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to inform Council of the findings of an independent review of the Nomination for Local Heritage Listing of the Artarmon Bowling Club.

2. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the findings of the independent review recommending the Artarmon Bowling Club site be listed as a Local Heritage Item on the basis of its historic, social and representative significance.**
- 2. Note that the independent review notes that the clubhouse building has been modified and lost its integrity and does not demonstrate either aesthetic or rarity significance and that the building has the capacity for further adaptation, extension or modification.**
- 3. Include the Artarmon Bowling Club as an item of Local Heritage Significance in the draft Willoughby Local Environmental Plan for exhibition.**
- 4. Prepare a Heritage Inventory Sheet for the Artarmon Bowling Club and include for exhibition in conjunction with the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan, based on the findings and recommendations of the independent review.**
- 5. Consider the recommendations of the independent review in the refinement of the concept designs for the Artarmon Parklands Pavilion.**

3. BACKGROUND

On 24 June 2019 Council received a report providing feedback from the community consultation for the future use of facilities in Artarmon Parklands. At that meeting it was resolved inter alia that Council endorse the demolition of the former Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse and the development of a community pavilion.

Following this, on 12 September 2019, an application was lodged to demolish the former Artarmon Bowling Club building (DA-2019/254) with the intention to replace it with a community pavilion. By virtue of Council being the landowner and as in excess of ten submissions by way of objection were received, it was submitted to the Willoughby Local Planning Panel for determination.

On 29 October 2019, the Panel approved the DA subject to 2 conditions:

1. Demolition not to occur until development consent has been obtained for a new community facility.
2. A heritage interpretation strategy to be prepared and submitted to Council prior to any demolition occurring.

In March 2020 Council received a nomination for Local Heritage listing of the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse.

This report presents the findings of the independent review of the Local Heritage nomination and indicates their significance for the Artarmon Pavilion proposal and heritage listing.

4. DISCUSSION

A nomination for heritage listing of the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse was lodged in March 2020 (**Attachment 2**), too late for consideration as part of Council's comprehensive Heritage Review, the outcome of which has now been Gazetted. The Heritage Nomination was also received after consent for the demolition of the building had been issued. However, such a listing could be included in the current review of Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

As the building was not listed at the time, the heritage assessment in respect to demolition considered the contribution the building made to the Heritage Conservation Area. This is a different assessment to that undertaken in response to a nomination for listing as a Local Heritage Item which goes beyond the fabric of the building itself and considers a range of other factors such as social significance.

4.1 Previous Heritage Reports regarding Demolition

As the Artarmon Bowling Club is located within the Artarmon Heritage Conservation Area the lodgement of the Development Application for demolition was required to be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS). This HIS was undertaken by Artefact Heritage in September 2019 (Artefact HIS 1) (**Attachment 3**). In assessing the application Council sought an independent peer review (by GBA Heritage) of the submitted HIS and proposed demolition (GBA Peer Review). A condition of consent for demolition required a heritage interpretation strategy. In response to this requirement Artefact Heritage were again engaged and produced an amended HIS (Artefact HIS 2). The findings of these heritage assessments are summarised below.

4.1.1 Artefact HIS 1

Council commissioned Artefact Heritage to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) which was issued in September 2019 and submitted with the DA. The Statement concluded that:

“the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse is a moderate contributory element within the Artarmon Conservation Area (WLEP Item No. C1) due to its high degree of integrity, social and representative value within the local area. However, the proposed demolition of the clubhouse is expected to have a minor physical direct and visual impact on the locally significant Artarmon Conservation Area (Willoughby LEP Item No. C1) and an impact of nil on any potential archaeological resources.”

4.1.2 GBA Heritage

A peer review of the Heritage Impact Statement prepared by Artefact Heritage was undertaken by GBA Heritage in the assessment of the application. This peer review, although disagreeing with the conclusions of the Artefact report generally supports the recommendations stating:

“The recommendations that are aimed to celebrate the fabric, memories and social values of the Club are well founded and should be welcomed by the community. In particular, there needs to be appropriate consultation regarding the future of the Honour Board, currently hanging in the building.”

The peer review concludes that there will be no adverse or unacceptable impacts on the heritage significance of the heritage conservation area arising from the proposal to demolish. It specifically states that a detailed examination of the specific cultural heritage significance of the clubhouse was not required noting that:

“the task of the HIS was not to consider if the remnant clubhouse building might have sufficient heritage significance to qualify for individual heritage listing”

4.1.3 Artefact HIS 2

Following Development Consent for demolition and in accordance with consent conditions, Artefact Heritage were again engaged to complete a Heritage Interpretation Strategy, and a Moveable Heritage Survey and Salvage Strategy in February 2020. A modified version of the Heritage Impact Statement was delivered by Artefact Heritage in April 2020.

The report found the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse to have historic, social and representative values. It concludes:

“This HIS has made the following conclusions:

- The proposed demolition works would result in an overall minor impact to the Artarmon Conservation Area (Willoughby LEP Item No. C1)*
- The proposed demolition works would result in a major impact to the fabric of the unlisted former Artarmon Bowling Club Clubhouse*
- Excavation works associated with the proposed demolition works are not anticipated to result in impact to significant archaeological remains.”*

Community consultation was undertaken to develop a design brief following which the architects engaged for the project developed a number of concept design options. The preferred option was an adaptive reuse of the existing building. Further community consultation will occur in the context of the Development Application for the Pavilion development.

4.2 Current Heritage Report regarding Nomination as a Local Heritage Item

Following approval for demolition of the Clubhouse, the Nomination for listing as a Local Heritage Item was received in March 2020. In light of Council's existing decisions on the building, an independent review of the merits of the nomination was obtained to ensure the matter is assessed with complete transparency. The report produced by the independent heritage consultant having undertaken the review, Architectural Projects is at **Attachment 4**.

As much of the nomination material referred to the club as opposed to the building itself, such as previous members and notable occurrences, the comprehensive assessment undertaken by Architectural Projects considered the clubhouse building, bowling greens and landscaping ('the club'). The significance of the club was assessed against the seven criteria provided by the Heritage Council for assessing heritage significance, being:

- a. Historic significance
- b. Historic associations
- c. Aesthetic or technical significance
- d. Social significance
- e. Research potential or educational significance
- f. Rarity
- g. Representative significance

Only one of the criteria needs to be satisfied for an item to have local heritage significance.

The independent heritage consultant has concluded that the Artarmon Bowling Club ('the club') is worthy of Local Heritage listing due to its:

- Historic significance – it is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history
- Social significance – it has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons; and
- Representative significance – it is important in demonstrating the principle characteristics of a class of the area's cultural or natural places.

The report states that the clubhouse building does not display aesthetic significance having been modified and lost its integrity. It notes that the building does not evidence creative or technical achievement, nor does it exemplify a particular style. It also notes that it is not worthy of listing on the basis of rarity being one of many suburban bowling clubs built in the 1950s. The report, although identifying the club as having representative significance states that the extent of alteration to the fabric of the greens and clubhouse reduces the representative values of the site.

It is clear from the report that the recommendation for listing is not based on the integrity of the built form but rather the previous use to which the site was put. These findings are consistent with the findings of the previous reports a number of which acknowledge its social and representative value but did not require the retention of the building. This social significance is also evidenced in the consent condition requiring a Heritage Interpretation Strategy and the intention to retain memorabilia reflecting the previous use of the site.

Architectural Projects conclude that the building has the capacity for adaptation, extension and modification and that reuse of the upper green should aim to maximise the legibility of its former use.

Further recommendations contained within the report include:

- The Heritage Interpretation Strategy to be revised to address the aspects of significance identified in the report and informed by archives held on site
- The Movable Heritage Strategy should be revised to address aspects of significance identified in the report
- Certain memorabilia relating to the formation and operation of the club 1957-2015 should be preserved and displayed in situ
- An archival recording should be prepared prior to the commencement of works
- A structural assessment of the existing building should be undertaken

Although the clubhouse was originally proposed to be demolished the concept proposal for the Artarmon Pavilion was amended to modify the existing building enabling it to reflect its previous form whilst satisfying current community needs. This is generally consistent with the Architectural Projects report however further consideration should be given to the recommendations of the report in the refinement of the concept design. This would include reviewing such things as materiality, corner elements and openings.

A Heritage Inventory Sheet based on the findings and recommendations of the report should be prepared for inclusion for exhibition should Council support proceeding to Gateway and exhibition for the listing of the Artarmon Bowling Club as a Local Heritage Item.

5. CONCLUSION

Following an application nominating the Artarmon Bowling Club to be listed as a Local Heritage Item an independent heritage consultant was engaged to review the nomination and assess the suitability for listing. The report produced by the consultant concluded that although both the clubhouse and bowling greens have been altered, the club, comprising the clubhouse, greens and landscaping, is worthy of listing for its historic, social and representative significance. The report noted that this does not preclude adaption, extension and modification of the clubhouse building.

It is therefore recommended that the Artarmon Bowling Club be incorporated as a Local Heritage Item in the draft Willoughby Local Environmental Plan covering the whole of the Local Government Area and an accompanying Heritage Inventory Sheet be prepared for exhibition.

ATTACHMENT 1

IMPLICATIONS	COMMENT
City Strategy Outcome	2.2 – Respect and celebrate our history and heritage sites 5.3 – Balance the creation of new public assets with the upgrade of existing public assets
Business Plan Objectives, Outcomes / Services	To support the implementation of improvement to community venues while balancing the importance of local heritage.
Policy	To ensure Council's heritage is protected for future generations.
Consultation	Consultation was not required for this review of a Heritage nomination.
Resource	External consultant employed to undertake review.
Risk	That Council loses an item of Heritage without due consideration of the merits for listing.
Legal	Seeking amendment to the Local Environmental Plan.
Legislation	Assessment of a Heritage nomination for consideration as an inclusion in Council's new LEP under the <i>Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 & Regulations 2000</i> .
Budget/Financial	Consultant employed within existing budget allocation.



The following document has been received by Council as a public submission. The submission has been included in the business paper in good faith to allow full consideration of the matter.

HERITAGE ITEM NOMINATION FORM

This form has been prepared to assist members of the community to nominate items likely to be of heritage significance. Heritage Items are things we want to keep because we believe they make a valuable contribution to our identity and culture. Following a nomination, Council will review the property and may seek to protect its heritage significance by inclusion of the item on a statutory list.

If you cannot complete all parts of the form, complete as much as you can.

Author(s) of Nomination: Anna Greco

Date of Nomination: 06/3/2020

Property Name and Address: 1A Burra Road Artarmon

Real Property Description: (Lot and DP No. if known) Lot 2 DP 856286

Building Type: (residence shop etc) Bowling & Recreational Club House

Building Style\Date: (if known) 1950's (official opening 1957)

Developer\Architect\Builder: (if known) _____

Description of Item: (where relevant include architectural features, type of construction, natural or landscape features, physical condition and any alterations or additions)

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is a part two-storey brick and timber building located between the two former Bowling Green terraces (created by sandstone retaining walls tendered by Eric Nicholls). The main part of the building is roofed with a gable roof with extensive timber-framed window-walls facing west and south. An original flat-roofed entrance foyer was located in the centre of the south elevation, immediately adjacent to a glare-reducing canted window that was removed when the south-west corner of the building was extended. Flat roof additions are located on the south-west, north-east and north-west corners with a low-pitch hipped roof addition at the rear. Under the east end of the building is an area for amenities and storage of green-keeping equipment.

The main interior space of the building is the main hall with a small stage at its eastern end, timber floor and extensive glazing to the north, west and south.

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Photograph: (please attach photograph(s) if available)

Please see attach file called: Brief Women in front Building with supporting documentation for this nomination.

<https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Brief-Women-in-Front-Building-3-1.pdf>



Location Sketch: (when possible, please attach a rough sketch of the site showing the location of any alterations and additions, adjoining properties and the proposed curtilage, ie the area surrounding the item that contributes to its heritage values)

Historical Context:

A Heritage Item needs to be considered in the context of the history of the area surrounding it, it is important to understand the underlying historical influences that have shaped the area. Willoughby Heritage Study (1986) identified six historical themes which aid in an understanding of the forces that shaped Willoughby's development. These are:

- ☐ Pioneer land use
- ☐ Industrial activity
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Suburban residential development
- ☐ Commercial growth
- ☒ Community activity

Please tick any relevant themes

Historical Notes: (Identify any people or historical events known to be associated with the item.)

(The local history section of Willoughby Library is a useful starting point in researching the history and significance of a particular property. Old rate books and the Sands Sydney Directories are invaluable primary sources that can provide information specific to your property, while there are also several local history books which may be useful in establishing a broad picture and may contain information on the property you are researching. Current and previous owners of the property, as well as local community members can provide a wealth of information.)

- The Artarmon Progress Association (APA) president Walter S Reeves in 1946, along with 97 founding members, formed the Artarmon Bowling Club and Walter Reeves became its first president. Grace Warner [Author of Artarmon Past Present and Future] writes of the founding members: "few if any were bowlers at the time."
- Once the Artarmon Bowling Club was formed in 1946, there is little or no evidence to suggest it was a men's only bowling club. In fact, it appears the drive for establishing the club came from the wives of the founding members, unable to do so in their own right for the cultural, social and legislative laws at the time.
- 1952 Burra Rd, Artarmon was found and purchased. Women were instrumental in facilitating the clearing of the land for building. The women wrote about the land "... very rugged and supporting many trees considerable scrub and undergrowth". Men worked on weekends and women provided support with refreshments and the like.
- 1954 Artarmon Bowling Auxiliary [note the absence of the word "Ladies"] under the chairmanship of Mrs AE Williams the Artarmon Bowling Club and its Auxiliary was gender neutral.
- 1955 The Artarmon Women's bowling club was formed by Mrs N Wolinski (NSW women's bowling state NSW WBA president and co founder) and appointed Mrs AE Williams as its first president. Mrs Williams worked with the NSW WBA for 21 years.
- 1957 The new Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse was officially opened, replacing the original "Tin shed." Financed by the community from the women's fundraising efforts.

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- 1965-1985 Artarmon Bowling Club was home to Mollie Dive, Australia's most famous female sporting legend. She was the first Australian female cricket captain to win the Ashes from England in 1948-49 and received the OAM for her contribution to both cricket and hockey. In 1987 North Sydney Council named a grandstand in honour of Molly Dive even though she had never played on the oval.
- 1929 – Present. NSW Women's Bowling Association, NSW remains as the only state with a Women Bowling association in Australia. <http://www.womensbowlsnsw.org/about-us/>

Research Sources used in making this assessment: (written, graphic and oral, please include date of source)

Artarmon Bowling Club House records, pictures and letters

Willoughby City Council bicentenary publication: "Artarmon: Past Present and future" by Grace Warner

<http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library/history-at-willoughby/publications/artarmon-past-present-and-future-/>

"Community: Building Modern Australia" by Hannah Lewi

<https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Community-Building-Modern-Australia-by-Hannah-Lewi.pdf>

Willoughby City Council Reports: Heritage Impact Statement, Heritage Interpretation Strategy, Former Artarmon Bowling Club Addendum Comparative Analysis.

<https://www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au/ArtParkPavDev2020/documents>

Statement of Significance: (state why you feel the subject property should be recognized by Council as a Heritage Item).

An item may be of significance if it is a rare or representative example of any of the following values:

- Historical - important because of its place in our history

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is of historical significance at a Local level because of the facilities expressed the impact of society's broader cultural expectations and of legislation on local women building a community facility that was part of the pioneering movement for gender equality in the game of Lawn Bowls.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is a physical embodiment of the impact the Marriage Bar laws on married women during the 1950's as it demonstrates how married women were affected by the legislation of the time and how they progressed from their role as tea ladies to respected bowlers of equal skill to men. The former Artarmon Bowling Club house is of historical significance at a Local level because it gives an insight into the lives of married women in the 1950's.

The history of lawn bowls' impact on social and cultural history is well-documented. Much less has been documented regarding the history of women's contribution to shaping gender equality in Australian sport through sports such as Lawn Bowls.

The club is historically significant because of its historical association with important local and NSW figures who were members of the Club.

- Aesthetic - important because of its scenic or architectural qualities, or because it demonstrates creative or technical excellence

- Technical/research - important because of its contribution or potential contribution to an understanding of our history

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is of technical/research significance at a Local level as the planning and club house design facilitated the integration of women without transgressing the requirement for registration of women limiting their access to the clubhouse.

- The public bar was built with an auxiliary lounge with a server into the bar.
- A purpose-built kitchen for catering functions and fundraising with a separate entrance by-passing the main hall so the women could cater while the men's games were on.
- A ladies change room, off the amenities as was the custom to society women in bowling.

- Social - important because of its social, spiritual or cultural association with a recognizable community.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club is of social significance at a Local level because long-term members of the local community retain an attachment to the building and place as a social and recreational centre that was used not only for Lawn Bowls but for other community activities, such as yoga, and continues such use through the establishment of the community garden on the upper greens terrace.

(Refer to "Assessing Heritage Significance" a NSW Heritage Office publication. Further assistance is available on their website www.heritage.nsw.gov.au)

See Below for my review based on the Former Artarmon Bowling Club Addendum Comparative Analysis as provided by Artefact.

3.2 Assessment of significance – Artefact my additional information in Blue

3.2.1 Criterion (a): Historic Significance

an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse, as an Inter-War style recreational building with post war elements, is demonstrative of the continued growth and development of the suburb of Artarmon and residents' interest in recreational activities during the time of its construction during the mid-twentieth century.

The item does not meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

I believe the item does meet the local significance threshold under this criterion for the following reasons:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is of historical significance at a Local level because of the facilities expressed the impact of society's broader cultural expectations and of legislation on local women building a community facility that was part of the pioneering movement for gender equality in the game of Lawn Bowls.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is a physical embodiment of the impact the Marriage Bar laws on married women during the 1950's and 1960's as it demonstrates how married women were affected by the legislation of the time and how they progressed from their role as tea ladies to respected bowlers of equal skill to men. The former Artarmon Bowling Club house is of historical significance at a Local level because it gives an insight into the lives of married women in the 1950's.

The history of lawn bowls' impact on social and cultural history is well-documented. Much less has been documented regarding the history of women's contribution to shaping gender equality in Australian sport through sports such as Lawn Bowls.

The club is historically significant because of its historical association with important local and NSW figures who were members of the Club.

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3.2.2 Criterion (b): Associative Significance

an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse does not appear to have any direct connections with prominent members of the local community or any ongoing historic associations with persons of importance to NSW's cultural history.

The item does not meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

I believe the item does meet the local significance threshold under this criterion for the following reasons:

The Stone work done for the terracing of the greens was designed, and tendered, by Eric Nichols, Willoughby Council's architect of the time (Construction, 19 November 1952). He was an architect of note as he worked with Walter Burley Griffin as his architectural partner and took over Griffin's practice when Griffin left for India. Nichols undertook some significant buildings within his own right, many of which are located in the Willoughby municipality.

The Club house honour board records Mary (Mollie) Dive OAM among its membership. She was a resident of Artarmon for 20 years, an active member of the Artarmon Bowling Club, and was arguably Australia's most famous female sporting legend. She was the first Australian female cricket captain to win the Ashes from England in 1948-49 and received the OAM for her contribution to both cricket and hockey. In 1987 North Sydney Council named a grandstand in honour of Molly Dive even though she had never played on the oval.

Mrs N Wolinski who played at Wollstonecraft Bowling Club. Mrs Wolinski was the co-founder of the NSW Women's Bowling Association (NSWWBA). She was instrumental in building the game of women's bowling. Under her leadership by 1957 NSWWBA had 261 affiliated women's clubs supporting close to 12,000 members. Mrs Wolinski was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II coronation medal in 1953 and in 1960 she was appointed MBE.

Mrs AE Williams the women's clubhouse first president worked with the NSW WBA for 21 years. The Artarmon bowling club greens were accepted (c.1975) to hold the state Singles and pairs competitions. NSW remains as the only state with a Women Bowling association in Australia and the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse is representative of women's bowling clubhouse commissioned by women in the 1950's heyday of bowling.

3.2.3 Criterion (c): Aesthetic Significance

an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The former clubhouse takes design elements from both the Inter-War and Post-War architectural styles, and exhibits features that are typical of its type. The building retains its corrugated iron roof and red brick and weatherboard façade; whilst internally, the structure appears relatively intact with c1950s fixtures and fittings remaining within the kitchen and bathrooms, and fixed furniture pieces, and painted timber joinery remaining within the kitchen and changing rooms. The structure does not contribute to the aesthetic quality of the wider conservation area.

The item does not meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

3.2.4 Criterion (d): Social Significance

an item has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The former clubhouse is likely to have social significance for the members of the bowling club and others who have used its facilities, particularly within the immediate vicinity of the site in Artarmon. The community has been involved in the Artarmon Bowling Club since its origins, with the petitions and fundraising efforts of the Artarmon Progress Association and several community volunteers resulting in the development and operations of the club throughout its history. The interior layout of the clubhouse, notably the inclusion of a women's only auxiliary lounge connected to the main bar reflects social attitudes and laws within the post-war period and represents the bowling club as an importance social area attached to women's sport.

The item meets the local significance threshold under this criterion. I add the following:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club is of social significance at a Local level because long-term members of the local community retain an attachment to the building and place as a social and recreational centre that was used not only for Lawn Bowls but for other community activities, such as yoga, and continues such use through the establishment of the community garden on the upper greens terrace.

3.2.5 Criterion (e): Technical/Research Significance

an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

Although the former clubhouse possibly has some research potential to reveal information about former members of the club, it is unlikely this would provide insight that is not already available in historic records and documentation of the area.

The item does not meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

I believe the item does meet the local significance threshold under this criterion for the Following reasons:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is of technical/research significance at a Local level as the planning and club house design facilitated the integration of women without transgressing the requirement for registration of women limiting their access to the clubhouse.

- The public bar was built with an auxiliary lounge with a server into the bar.
- A purpose-built kitchen for catering functions and fundraising with a separate entrance by-passing the main hall so the women could cater while the men's games were on.
- A ladies change room, off the amenities as was the custom to society women in bowling.

3.2.6 Criterion (f): Rarity

an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

There are numerous structures within the immediate vicinity and wider Sydney which exhibit design elements of the Inter-War and post-war periods. These buildings, particularly within the Artarmon Conservation Area, are intact and fine examples of their type and provide a strong contribution to the surrounding area. There are several post-war style structures within Artarmon, which are heritage listed under the Artarmon Conservation Area, that are considered fine examples of their type. The clubhouse also incorporates elements of the Californian Bungalow architectural style, which represents a somewhat rare stylistic choice within the Willoughby Local Council Area and the Artarmon Conservation Area. The interior building layout, notably the separate women's lounge, is typical of recreational clubhouses of this period.

The item does not meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

I believe the item does meet the local significance threshold under this criterion for the following reasons:

Property purchased for the establishment of bowling clubs were historically on the outskirts of town where land was much cheaper. With city expansion, the club sites presented a lucrative opportunity for many developers.

The clubhouse's isolation has been both a blessing and a curse. Nestled among Artarmon's reserve it proved difficult to attract new members and dwindling memberships saw the Artarmon Bowling Club site sold to council on 29 January 2016 with a caveat that it be used by the community for outdoor recreation and not on sold to developers.

The Artarmon Bowling Club may be the last remaining clubhouse in its original environment built inside the reserve it's an example of how bowling club were built in the "worst" end of town.

It provides future generations a unique experience of life in the 1950's and insight into the bowling phenomena in its original bush land context.

3.2.7 Criterion (g): Representativeness

an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places of cultural or natural environments (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The former clubhouse is considered a representative example of bowling club buildings of its period and as a recreational facility central to post-war leisure, sport and social activities. The clubhouse is not, however, important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of recreational clubhouses, and more significant and intact examples exist.

The item does not meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

I believe the item does meet the local significance threshold under this criterion for the following reasons:

The former clubhouse is considered a representative example of bowling club buildings of its period and as a recreational facility central to post-war leisure, sport and social activities.

The clubhouse is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of recreational clubhouses, and more significantly it's design remains unaltered since 1957, showing how women were integrated into the one bowling clubhouse as social equals, without transgressing the requirements for segregation of women in the 1950's and 1960s in game of Lawn Bowls.

The significant clubhouse features are:

- The public bar was built with an auxiliary lounge with a server into the bar.
- A purpose-built kitchen for catering functions and fundraising with a separate entrance by-passing the main hall so the women could cater while the men's games were on.
- A ladies change room, off the amenities as was the custom to society women in bowling.

**To the Nominator**

The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("the Act") came into operation from 1 July 2000. This leaflet is attached to the Heritage Item Nomination Form to comply with the Act.

Information contained in any Nomination Form submitted to Council may be personal information for the purposes of the Act.

However, details of any nomination may be made available to

- officers within the Council for the purpose of assessing your submission;
- consultants who may be working for Council.
- the owner or their appointed representatives.
- people who apply to view Council's file relating to the nomination in accordance with Council's Access to File policy and the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

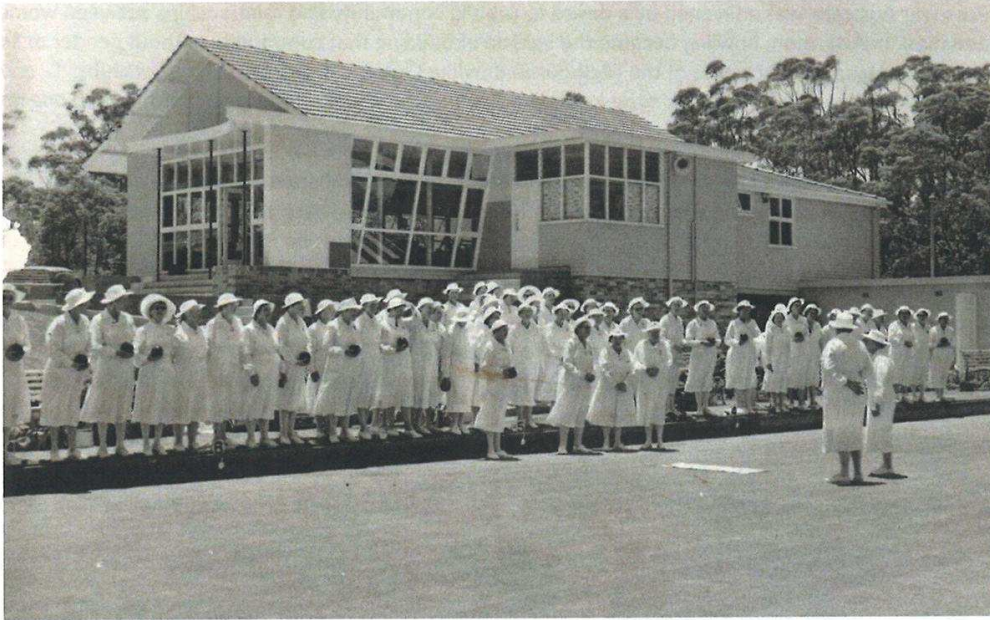
Further, details of any nomination made by you (including your name and contact details) may be included in any report prepared by the Council's Planning Officers or Consultants in respect of the matter. Council reports relating to heritage and conservation matters are public documents.

The supply of the information by you is voluntary.

You may make application for access or amendment to information held by Council.

Council is the agency that holds the information for the purposes of the Act.

Enquiries concerning this matter can be addressed to Council's Privacy Contact Officer.

Women in Front: Building Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse

Who are these women in white standing proud? It is 1957 and the keys have finally opened the door to the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse, 11 years after the club's formation in 1946.

The Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse is nestled on the edge of Artarmon's Reserve, and preserves the most extraordinary story of the life and times of married women in the 1950's.

The Artarmon Progress Association (APA) president Walter S Reeves in 1946, along with 97 founding members, formed the Artarmon Bowling Club and Walter Reeves became its first president.

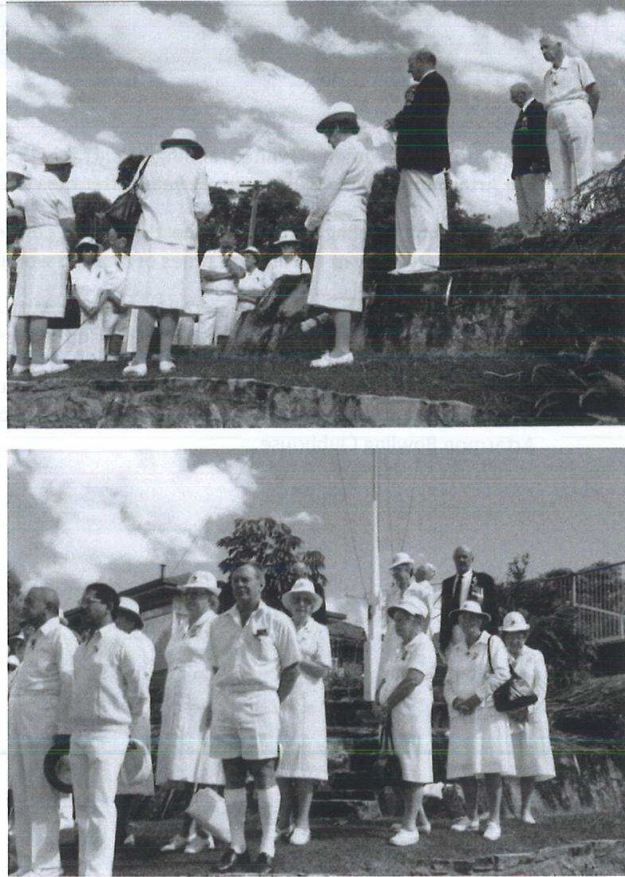
Grace Warner [Author of Artarmon Past Present and Future] writes of the founding members: "few if any were bowlers at the time." This begins the unique story of women's leading role in the building of the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse.

Post War Australia and the Artarmon Bowling Club:

Post-war Australia was enlivened by a desire to rebuild community and relationships between women and men. In Artarmon, bowling became the vehicle of building that community without gender or social prejudice. Hannah Lewi writes of the Melbourne Bowling Club (Australia's first bowling club): *"... a well known doctor could play alongside the local plumber, and people of differing religions, talk to one another as friends"*.

The Women and men of Artarmon Bowling Club acknowledged and were proud of their contribution to the war effort, in protecting Australian values. The Club's first purchase was a flag pole that had to be stored until it could safely be secured on site. [Grace Warner: Artarmon Past, Present and Future]

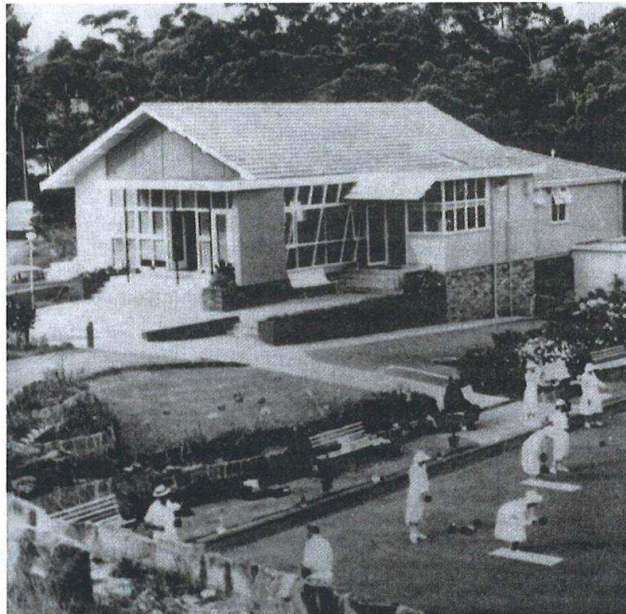
While lawn bowls in Australia embraced mateship without discrimination, women were typically excluded from membership and the game. More progressive bowling clubs that allowed women to bowl built separate and often inferior clubhouses for their women bowlers. However the Artarmon women designed their Clubhouse to allow for social gender equality in enjoying the game of lawn bowls.

The Flag pole view from the Community Gardens**ANZAC Day at Artarmon Bowling Club 1990**

Women Pioneering Gender Equality in Artarmon

The Artarmon Bowling Club was unique, because as early as 1956 women and men were playing as equals on the bowling greens, evidenced by a 1956 photo in the Willoughby City Library archives (See Below).

Noteworthy is that, as late as 2014, mixed-gender competitions were still causing controversy. ABC reporter Rosemary Bolger wrote: "Male lawn bowls players quit in outrage over move from men-only to mixed-gender competition". See sniped article below



Male lawn bowls players quit in outrage over move from men-only to mixed-gender competition

By Rosemary Bolger

Updated 5 Dec 2014, 7:39am

A decision to allow ladies to compete in southern Tasmania's biggest lawn bowls competition for the first time has prompted an exodus of male players.

Supporters of the change said the sport must modernise, but a group of unhappy men is fighting to return to the past, even if it means establishing a rival men-only competition.

Since October, when women were allowed to compete in Bowls Tasmania South's Saturday pennant for the first time, there has been an exodus of about 200 male players.



PHOTO: A turf war has broken out as droves of men refuse to play bowls against women. (ABC News: Janek Frankowski)

Artarmon Women Bowling Nomads

Once the Artarmon Bowling Club was formed in 1946, there is little or no evidence to suggest it was a men's bowling club. In fact, the drive for establishing the club came from the wives of the founding members complying with the restrictions placed on married women in the 1950's. The women energetically took the lead under their husband's legal umbrella, proceeding to fund raise and look for a location for their club.

It would be 11 years before the women and men of the Artarmon Bowling Club had a place to call home. However the women's passion for bowling and establishing their own clubhouse did not waver, their enthusiasm was high as they travelled to neighbouring clubs to play.

Indeed, the result of these travels was that the women developed friendships with very influential women in the game of lawn bowls, particularly Mrs N Wolinski who played at Wollstonecraft Bowling Club.

Mrs Wolinski was the co-founder of the NSW Women's Bowling Association (NSW WBA). She was instrumental in building the game of women's bowling. Under her leadership by 1957 NSW WBA had 261 affiliated women's clubs supporting close to 12,000 members. Mrs Wolinski was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II coronation medal in 1953 and in 1960 she was appointed MBE.

Mrs A.E. Williams (Artarmon Women's Bowling Club first president) worked with the NSW WBA for 21 years and 12 as the official record keeper of the Pennants results.

NSW remains as the only state with a Women Bowling association in Australia.

<http://www.womensbowlsnsw.org/about-us/>



Mrs N Wolinski



Mrs A.E. Williams

PERSONALITIES IN THE NEWS

happy ending to humble start

The honour of Life Membership was recently conferred by Artarmon club on its first President, Mrs. A. E. Williams, better known to her friends in the bowling world as "Willie". She served her club in this capacity for five years.

Mrs. Williams was the Chairman of the Artarmon Auxiliary Committee which was formed on March 19, 1954, for the purpose of raising financial help for the Men's Club to enable them to build a green. By 1955 a considerable sum of money had been raised and, with the

help of voluntary labour, the green was completed and officially opened.

A few months later, permission was granted to the Auxiliary Committee to form a Women's Club.

On November 11, 1955, the then State President, Mrs. N. Wolinski in the "old tin



Mrs. Williams

hut', formed the Artarmon Women's Bowling Club, with a total membership of twenty-six.

It was the beginning of a very happy club. The President and every member worked hard to raise sufficient money to help build a clubhouse, which was opened in January, 1959.

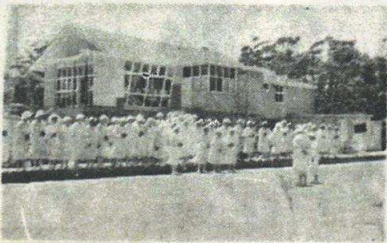
Mrs. Williams has worked with the N.S.W.W.B.A. for 31 years and for 12 years was the Official Recorder of results of Penrith, etc. in the newspapers. "Willie" recently retired from this position and was presented with a memento in appreciation of her long years of serving the Association.

Artarmon Club is still proud to have her as the Club Delegate to the monthly Council Meetings of the Association.

Artarmon . . . then . . .



and now . . .



32 — WOMEN'S BOWLS NEWS — MAY, 1969

Artarmon Progresses from the Old Tin Hut

In a few short years—and after a lot of hard work—the Artarmon Club has progressed from an old tin hut to a modern clubhouse with the most up-to-date facilities.

On March 19, 1954, a committee was formed in Artarmon with the purpose of raising financial help for the Men's Bowling Club to enable them to proceed with the laying of the first green.

The committee was known as the Artarmon Bowling Auxiliary and was under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. E. Williams. It consisted of a

handful of women without a regular meeting place — meetings were held where and how they could — who plodded along, raising hundreds of pounds of the amount required by the men's club.

In 1955, the green, was completed by voluntary labour. It was officially opened by the President of the N.S.W. Bowling Association, and

from that date the Auxiliary was responsible for all the catering for the Club, and numerous amenities.

On September 20, 1955, permission was granted to the Auxiliary to form a Club. On November 11, 1955, the State President, Mrs. N. Wolinski, in the old Tin Hut, formed the Artarmon Women's Bowling Club. Officers were — President, Mrs. A. E. Williams, Vice-Presidents, Mesdames P. Packer and M. Turner, Treasurer, Mrs. D. Lee, Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. Primrose, Assistant Secretary, Mrs. S. McGulgan, Committee, Mesdames G. Doubleday, M. Jacobs, P. Maddock and E. Madsen, Publicity Officer, Mrs. I. Back, and a total membership of twenty-six.

Many enjoyable days took place in the humble but happy home. A small bar was added, a poker machine, and an Axminster carpet to keep bowls shoes clean. The Club has continued to proceed happily and financially, progress having been achieved by all members.

Tin Shed...

Finally, in 1955 a tin shed was built on site to serve as the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse and on 1st October 1955 the lower green was officially opened. Research by Dr Scott Robertson has revealed that the bowling greens were designed by Willoughby Council's then architect, Eric M Nicholls, who was Walter Burley Griffin's architectural partner.

Picture Perfect...

Shortly after, on 11th November 1955, the Artarmon Women's Bowling Club was proudly formed by Mrs N Wolinski, who appointed Mrs AE Williams as the Foundation President. The Artarmon Bowling Club women could hardly contain their excitement as membership rapidly grew and their honorary architect, Ted Fitzgerald, presented the women with a coloured drawing of their proposed new clubhouse. This inspired the Artarmon Bowling Club women to increase their fundraising efforts, some mortgaging their home, to build the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse.

Grand Opening...

By January 1957 the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse was completed and the club president Mr Fred Parker opened the clubhouse. It was a very proud moment for the women of the Artarmon Bowling Club, and the clubhouse is a testimony to their achievement.



**COPY OF LETTER FROM OFFICER OF THE LICENSING
MAGISTRATES & LICENCES REDUCTION BOARD.**

Sydney, 22nd July, 1957.

Mrs. U. Wolinski,
President N.S.W.B.A.
Dear Madam,

I refer to your letter of recent date and have to advise that upon a Club securing registration under the Liquor Act 1912, its premises and amenities must be reserved exclusively for use of the Club members and their guests. Accordingly, where any Women's Bowling Club is making regular use of the premises belonging to the Men's Bowling Club which has secured registration, if that Club's amenities are to be used, it would be necessary for the members of the Women's Club to become members of the Men's Club, either as associate, honorary or some other form of membership, if ordinary membership is not available.

Where the registered Club's premises are used only on very irregular occasions, it is possible that the women may be admitted to the premises as visitors in accordance with rules of the Club, but in such circumstances liquor could be supplied only at the invitation and in the company of a member of the Men's Club.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. L. FITZMAURICE,
Secretary

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Men To Admit Women Bowlers

The Royal N.S.W. Bowling Association recently decided to admit women members to its clubs. The move was decided by an overwhelming majority of members at a special meeting at the association rooms, Clarence Street.

A "lady member" is described as a female member who will pay less than the full annual subscription of her club, and will be ineligible to play in any Association match; and ineligible to be elected to any office or to vote or take part in any debate or discussion at any meeting of a club.

The association's honorary solicitor, Mr. P. G. Truman said: "Clubs may, if they think fit, permit the women members to attend the club at certain hours and certain times only."

"Lady members would not have the right to walk in and out of clubs, the same as the men members, unless the committee authorised them to do so."

Subject to Restrictions

"Lady members would be subject to any restrictions the committee thought fit to impose."

"If any clubs do not wish to admit lady members they need not do so."

Mr. Truman said the matter had previously been discussed by the association.

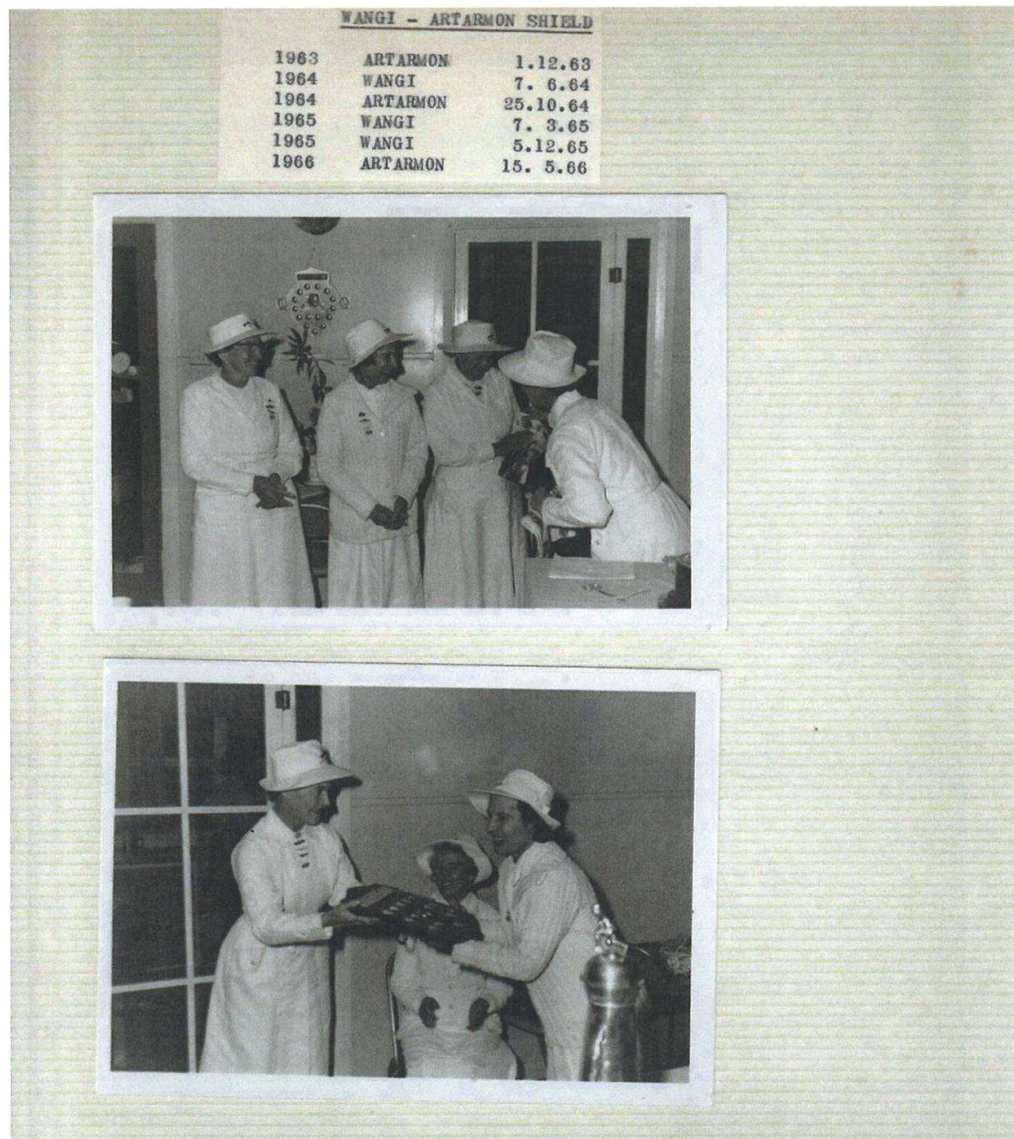
Mr. Truman warned that changes had occurred, particularly in regard to the Liquor Act, and that women bowlers at the moment legally had no right to clubs' amenities.

He said a woman bowler can only be a guest of a member, who shall escort his visitor while she is on the licensed premises.

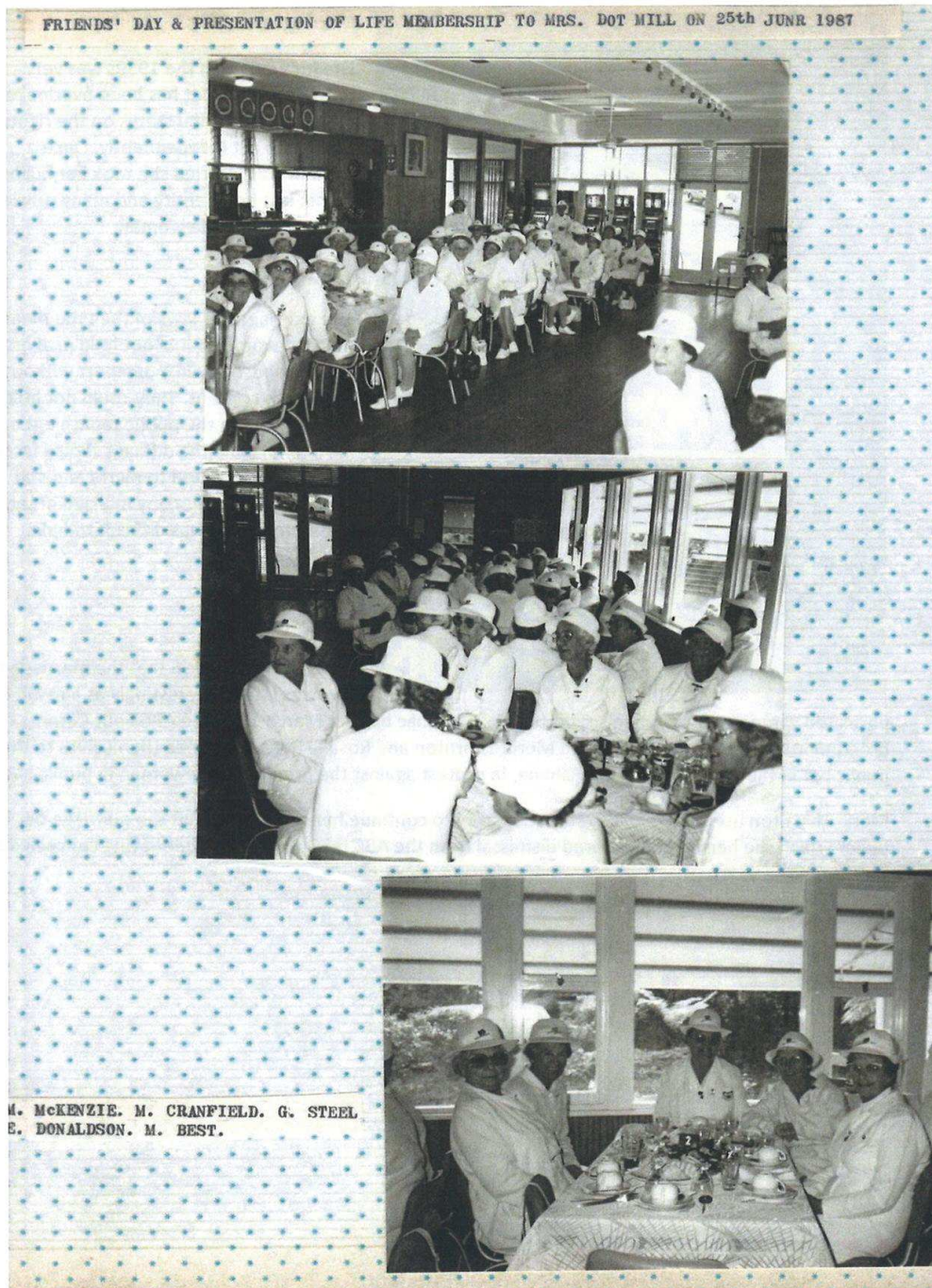
He added the move by country clubs to inflate their membership by admitting women was illegal, especially when the extra numbers were required to obtain a quota for a liquor licence.

Women's Bowls News, September, 1957











Marriage Bar Laws...

Life for women in the 1950s was very different, and what has been overlooked is the effect of marital status on the rights of women to act independently. Once a woman was married she took her husband's name, lost her identity and many privileges she had as a single woman.

The marriage bar laws of the time meant married women could not hold property, or a mortgage, or even a passport without their husband's consent. They could not hold employment in the public service either. It is hard to imagine the difficult choice faced by women who wanted to marry and still remain employed; many married in secret but a pregnancy was difficult to hide.

Independence...

It was not until 1966 that the marriage bar law was lifted, interestingly as a result of an

unrelated campaign for women's right to drink in public bars. In March 1965 the ABC Four Corners program made world headlines when Merle Thornton and Rosalie Bogner chained themselves to the public bar in the Regatta Hotel in Brisbane, in protest against the prohibition of women in public bars.

Merle Thornton used the publicity from the story to continue her campaign to lift the marriage bar laws, under which she herself had suffered dismissal from the ABC mid-pregnancy after having concealed her marriage for 2 years.



Frank Parker

The Artarmon Bowling Club was a stylish modern clubhouse, designed with flair and flamboyancy. Nestled in Artarmon's Reserve its reputation as an exclusive "Country Club" attracted the likes of Frank Parker as patrons.

Frank Parker, a gregarious personality was known as both a "philanthropist as well as a philanderer" [Bridget Griffen-Foley: Sir Frank Parker: A biography].

Locals report: Frank Parker was a regular visitor to Artarmon Bowling Club as it was a short distance from his Channel 9 studios.

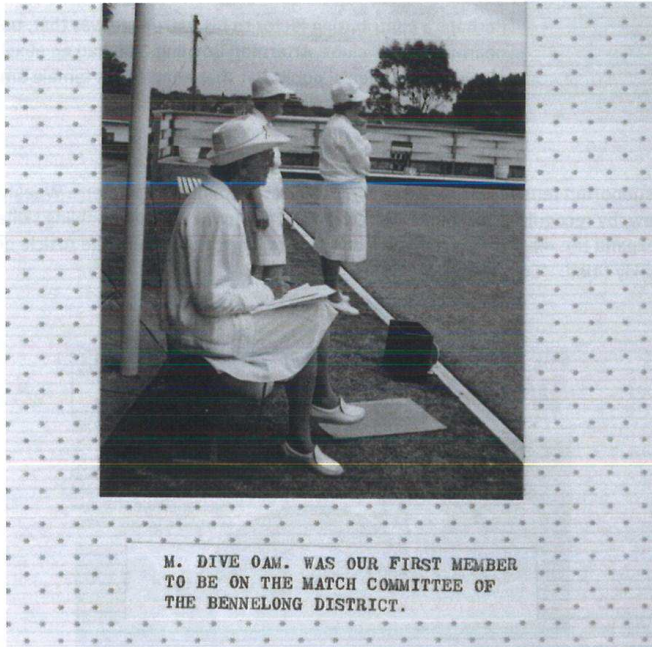
Perhaps a contributing factor to his patronage was that, unlike other nearby licensed clubs, Artarmon Bowling Club had an auxiliary lounge built alongside the men's public bar that enabled his female employees to socialise with their male colleagues as equals.

Frank Parker supported females in his media company, establishing the Women's Weekly in the 1930s, his empire grew, by recognising women's powerful influence in media, and enabling skilled female journalist to expand the magazine to its now iconic Australian status. Notice the Article on the first Women's Weekly titled: "Equal Social Rights For SEXES"



The Honour Board...

The Artarmon Bowling Club was home to many amazing women and men. The honour board records Mary (Molly) Dive OAM among its membership. She was a resident of Artarmon for 20 years, an active member of the Artarmon Bowling Club, and was arguably Australia's most famous female sporting legend. She was the first Australian female cricket captain to win the Ashes from England in 1948-49 and received the OAM for her contribution to both cricket and hockey. In 1987 North Sydney Council named a grandstand in honour of Molly Dive even though she had never played on the oval.



M. DIVE OAM. WAS OUR FIRST MEMBER
TO BE ON THE MATCH COMMITTEE OF
THE BENNELONG DISTRICT.

Sportswoman Honoured

Artarmon Club was very proud when on February 15, 1987, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr. Michael Cleary, opened a stand at North Sydney Oval in honour of Miss Mollie Dive.

Mollie, the club's bowls organiser, has been also an outstanding sportswoman and sports administrator in over 50 years of participation and service. She is a life member of the N.S.W. Hockey Association and is perhaps the first woman in Australia to have a stand at a major oval named after her.

Not only has Mollie been captain of the Australian Cricket team in 1947/48/49 and 1951, but she has represented N.S.W. at hockey, was one of the first squash players in the State and has "had a go at everything."

Members congratulated Mollie on having this honour bestowed on her.

Artarmon Member Honoured

This has been a very special year for Miss Mollie Dive. On February 15, 1987 she had the distinction of having a stand at the North Sydney Oval named after her, so now and forever the stand will be known as "The Mollie Dive Stand". However her crowning glory came in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, when she received the Order of Australia Medal for her services to sport. This is a singular honour and one in which Mollie's friends in the sporting world and in other areas with which she is associated, will heartily endorse. We are sure the many women bowlers who read this announcement will share with pride the Artarmon W.B.C.'s delight in Mollie's honour.



Mollie Dive being presented with a plaque and jersey by North Sydney League Club president Ray Beattie

Molly gets her place among the champions

SPORTING legend Mollie Dive was inducted into the NSW Hall of Champions on August 16 at the State Sports Centre at Homebush.

Molly was finally rewarded for her many years of service to both women's cricket and hockey, receiving an Order of Australian Merit. This coincided with the opening of the "Winning Women" section of the Hall of Champions.

The North Sydney Rugby League Club honoured Mollie at its last home game of the season against Western Suburbs, presenting her with a plaque and a North Sydney jersey and let her address the crowd.

One of North Sydney Oval's grandstands was named after Mollie in 1987.

Mollie has been successful at many sports during her life. She was a top-ranked squash player for many years and is one of the few women to have achieved a hole-in-one in golf.

But of all her sporting achievements, her main triumphs were in cricket and hockey.

She captained the NSW women's cricket team from 1933-51 and was Australian captain from 1947-51. Mollie was also an Australian selector.

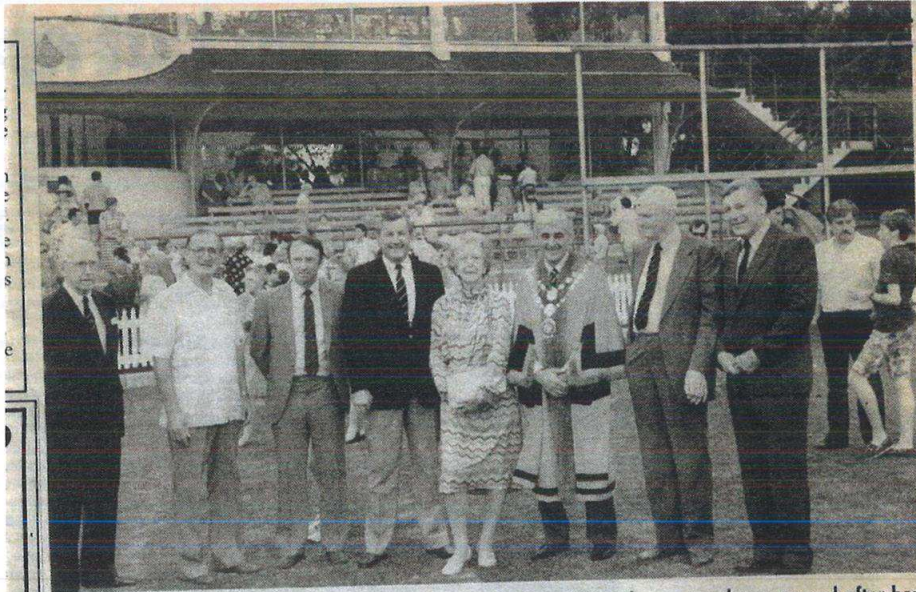
She has been NSW president, vice-president, treasurer and assistant secretary during her career.

Mollie's hockey achievements are just as impressive, especially considering many were at the same time as she was playing test cricket. She represented NSW from 1946-50 and from 1950-77 was a NSW selector. She was an Australian selector in 1958/59.

In 1984, Mollie produced a book "History of NSW Women's Hockey — 1908-1984" and in the same year she became a life member of the NSW Women's Hockey Association.

Mollie Dive has been one of Australia's greatest sports personalities and her contribution to cricket and hockey will not be forgotten for many years.

90 NORTH SHORE TIMES, Friday, September 1, 1995



Sporting heroine . . . Mollie Dive at North Sydney Oval in 1987 when a stand was named after her

Sporting heroine dies

ROSEVILLE'S Mary (Mollie) Dive OAM, who played cricket for NSW and Australia, hockey for NSW, was inducted into the NSW Hall of Champions and had a North Shore grandstand named after her, died on September 10, aged 84.

Mollie's family said last week her efforts towards sport management and administration have no doubt helped thousands of young Australian women play better hockey and cricket.

Mary (Mollie) Dive OAM 1913-1997

Mollie was awarded the OAM in 1987 for services to women's cricket and hockey. That same year a stand at North Sydney Oval was named after her.

Born on June 26, 1913, at Five Dock, Mollie moved to Roseville in 1920, Artarmon in 1965 and in 1985 went to Lourdes Retirement Village, Killara, until she moved to

Milton Nursing Home, Roseville.

Mollie attended Roseville Girls College, Pymble Ladies College and Sydney University.

Her sporting achievements include founding the Graduates Club which formed the basis of the North Shore Women's Hockey Association in 1959,

playing hockey for NSW in 1933 as well as from 1946 to 1949, managing the NSW hockey team from 1950 to 1953, 1959 and 1961, and the NSW touring team to Canada, California and Fiji in 1972.

In cricket, she represented NSW from 1933 to 1951 with exception of two or three years and the World War II years.

She was NSW captain in 1938 plus represented Australia as captain in 1947 to 1949 and in 1951. She also held offices of president,

Time Capsule...

Walking into the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse you will be instantly transported to the 1950s and introduced to the life and times of married women in Australia at that time.

On the right side as you walk in you will see a typical bar that would have prohibited serving drinks to women until 1966. You will also see an auxiliary lounge built alongside the bar with a server into the bar. Here women and men could drink and socialise together without breaking the liquor laws of the 1950s.

You will also see a railing built to house the poker machines that enabled the club to benefit from gaming subsidies, but didn't interfere with the right of women to move freely through the clubhouse.

Other than the auxiliary lounge, which has a spectacular view of the former lower green and into the bushland reserve, the right side of the clubhouse was the "men's" side.

The left side was the women's domain, built with a full catering kitchen as afternoon tea and other fund raising activities were an essential part of the bowling club activities. With a separate entrance, the women were able to move freely into the kitchen and attend to their duties without entering the clubhouse on men only club days.

The ladies' bathrooms have original 1950s fitting and fixtures, with a large change room adjacent to the powder room as was customary for society women of that era

See link to pictures of the clubhouse taken by Artefact forming part of the Moveable Heritage Survey and Salvage Strategy:

<https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Artarmon-Clubhouse-Pictures-Artefact.pdf>

From the archives of the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse, the members have long gone but their legacy shall not be forgotten:

The tide recedes but leaves behind bright seashells on the sand,

The sun goes down, but gentle warmth still lingers on the land,

For every joy that passes, something beautiful remains.

The music stops, and yet it echoes on in sweet refrain...

The Artarmon Women's Clubhouse belongs to all Australian now and for generations to come.



Painting by Alexandra Asovtseff (1958)

The current Willoughby City Council “Have Your Say” is proposing to erase all trace of over 70 years of Artarmon Bowling Women’s history and legacy embodied in the clubhouse.

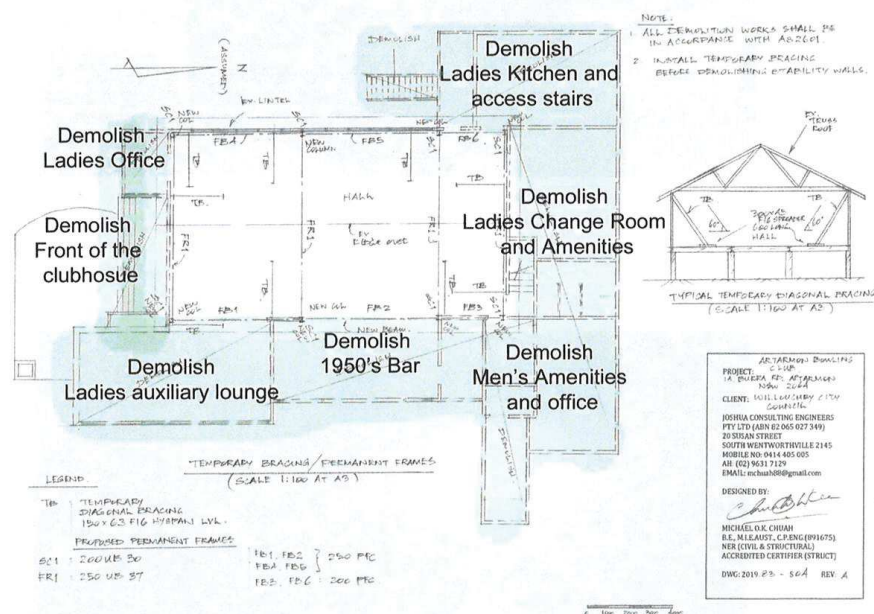
The structural reports included in this march 2020 "have your Say" indicates that all the Heritage value associated with the women building of the clubhouse will be demolished.

The Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse stands for the community and all Australians who respect the legacy of the women and men who founded our nation.

The values embodied in the building of the Artamon Bowling Clubhouse belong to the people of Willoughby City council today and to the future generations – **NOT** to an ephemeral Willoughby City Council.

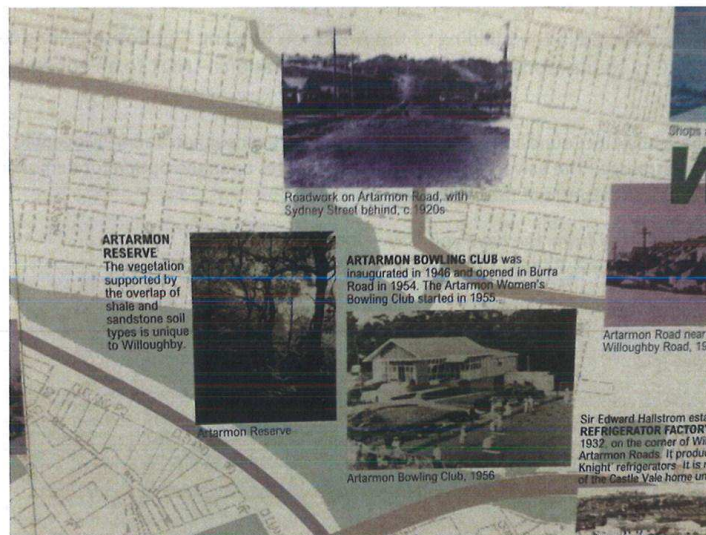
I note Willoughby City Council only commissioned Artefact consultants for a **"Moveable"** Heritage Survey and Salvage Strategy. The Salvage Strategy therefore leaves open the option for demolition of all the heritage significant aspects of the clubhouse.

See below extracted from the have your say – documents list:
 "Preliminary_Structural_Report_Attachment_-_DWG_2019.83-S04_REV" on



Evidence of Heritage Significance in Willoughby City Council Chambers.

The Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse is proudly featured on the wall of Willoughby City Council history map located in the foyer of council chambers: 31 Victor Street Chatswood NSW



The Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse is also featured in Willoughby City Council Bicentennial History Series. Artarmon, Past, Present and future. The author [Grace Warner] writes:

“Let it be our personal responsibility to perpetuate the inheritance provided by the founders of our Club so that we may enjoy the fruits of their labours in a convivial atmosphere.”

The publication can be found at:

<http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library/history-at-willoughby/publications/artarmon-past-present-and-future-/>

Sold to Willoughby City Council (WCC)

The Artarmon Bowling Club site was sold for \$1M to WCC in January 2016. The proceeds were held in trust and followed the members to their new chosen club, thereby injecting much needed funds into the game of Lawn bowls.

The members' sincere wish was that their beloved clubhouse be used for recreation and leisure activities by the citizens of WCC. In a 2016 media release by WCC, the Board of Directors of the Artarmon Bowling Club commented:

“Whilst it is regrettable that we could not attract more bowling membership support, we are proud to have provided a venue that has given a great deal of enjoyment to both members and visitors alike. Our members unanimously supported the decision to offer the Club site to the Council and thereby honour the legacy of the founders of the Club by ensuring the site will be retained for community recreational use in perpetuity.”

It's important to note, the sale of the Artarmon Bowling Club House to WCC was done through negotiations in good faith by the executive members, with the intention of preserving the legacy embodied in the clubhouse building.

Former club members have expressed their disappointment with WCC proceeding with the demolition of their beloved clubhouse, contrary to the spirit of their negotiations for sale.

<http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/about-council/media-releases/2016-media-releases/willoughby-council-purchases-artarmon-bowling-club-site-/>

Willoughby District Historical Society, Paul Storm: Writes of the Aspects of Heritage Recognition In Willoughby and why the members of the privately owned Artarmon Bowling club up to 2016 may not have been in a position to have the Historical Building nominated and registered on: Willoughby City Council Heritage register.

<https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Willoughby-DHS.pdf>

Heritage Protection is Mandated by the Australian Federal Government.

Willoughby City Council is mandated by federal legislation to identify and protect heritage items within its jurisdiction.

<http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Development/Heritage---Conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-areas-a-guide-for-property-owners/>

“Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Council has responsibility for identifying the area’s heritage assets and protecting them through environmental planning instruments.”

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, ensures protection of significant heritage items, in the absence of a formal heritage registration, by mandating responsibility for identification of heritage significance and making suitable provisions for their protection.

Given Heritage significance is highly subjective, it would follow that an independent heritage assessment, of the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse would be one that requires a multi-disciplinary team including heritage architects, historians and archaeologists.

The legacy embodied in the clubhouse is of pioneering women blazing the trail for gender equality in the Australian sport of lawn bowls. Their legacy belongs to our community and to all Australians for generations to come.

It is clear that a reasonable person would conclude in the face of overwhelming evidence provided by the clubhouse records that the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse has significant heritage value and must be listed on the Willoughby Heritage register for its heritage protection.

Sustainability and Resilience:

In addition to the Artarmon Clubhouse’s historical significance, a report commissioned from GML Heritage (Leading heritage consultants in Australia), discusses the environmental impact of demolishing the clubhouse, from the report:

https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/GML_ABC.pdf

It is well recognised that the greenest/most environmentally sustainable building is the one that already exists. The existing bowling club building already embodies a substantial amount of material and energy (consumed in its creation). To demolish the building will generate a large amount of waste, namely material waste and a waste of energy embodied in the structure (that which was expended in the exploitation, processing, manufacture and transportation of the materials used to construct the place, plus the energy used in its construction, and then in its demolition and transportation to a dump site where it will produce CO₂ in its decomposition); the building’s life cycle should be considered. It also represents wasted opportunities for its re-use by the community for whom it was created, by whom it was used and by whom it continues to be valued.

Willoughby Environmental Protection Association (WEPA) Also wrote to Willoughby City Council regarding, the principles of sustainability and recycling/reuse; transparency and accountability in Council processes; and to the role of Council in engaging its residents in local decision-making.

Link to WEPA Letter:

<https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/July-Artarmon-Bowling-Club-WEPA.pdf>

Willoughby Council Citizens support the RETAINING AND RESTORING of Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse.

Councillor Coppock's Naremburn News September 2019:

- **29 January 2016** - Council acquired the Artarmon Bowling Club using funds received as compensation for the loss of open space to the Gore Hill Freeway. The Clubhouse was incorporated into the Artarmon Reserve Master plan and during the consultation process for this, the community voiced support for retention, "rather than the demolition of the former Artarmon Clubhouse."
- **24 July 2017** Council resolved to establish a Citizens Panel to consider the future of the Bowling clubhouse.
- **13 Nov 2017** Council received the Panel's report. The public consultation via the Citizen's Panel **supported 'retain and refurbish'** the Clubhouse with 8 members favouring retention and 2 for demolition.
- **13 Nov 2017** Council resolved to receive a report in March 2018 from the Officers on the suitability of the Clubhouse as a community facility and to provide a preliminary assessment of alternative locations for a community facility in Artarmon.
- **April - May 2018** The "Have Your Say" focused on open space and the results still supported retaining of the clubhouse. There was no option for the demolition of the clubhouse or to build an open pavilion on the site.
- **June 2018** - Council adopted a master plan for the Artarmon Parklands.
- **June 2018** - Council Officers reported to Council that "preliminary assessments of community facilities in Artarmon against the Citizens Panel criteria" (the Officer's words). The Councillors approved the officer's recommendation that "a further report was to come back in 2018 containing a business case and community benefit analysis of the Bowling Clubhouse; Artarmon Kids Cottage and 139 Artarmon Rd (the library), detailing the implications of their use as multipurpose community facilities".
- **November 2018** - Councillors briefed on 'best use' of all the facilities, including the option of a pavilion, but Councillors requested further consultation with the community on the future use of Council's Artarmon community facilities.
- **25 February - 20 May 2019** - Council consultation (the Officer's reported "extensive") including 'Have Your Say' survey which Council states is only relevant for general community consultation. It is alleged by Council that the vote was a 50:50 split in responses (ignoring 104 detailed written comments spanning 7 pages for retaining the club house, as opposed to 82 simple comments over 3 pages for a pavilion). A major community complaint was the "Have your Say" notification was deficient. (This is a complaint made in relation to other HYS issues. Some residents have proven considerable unreliability in the process. It is alleged that the HYS process in its structure is self-serving and always supports the Council Executive's view. This has been asserted also with the Clubhouse survey.)
- **20 May 2019** - the reconvened Citizen's Panel voted 7 in **favour of retaining the clubhouse** and 2 for demolition.
- **24 June 2019** - Council voted to demolish the clubhouse.
- **June- July 2019** - A petition of 707 paper signatures and 91 online signatures supporting the retaining of the clubhouse was tabled at the Council meeting of 22 July 2019. Community actioned for:

"Consistent with the spirit in which the Bowling Club site was given by its members, we the undersigned want the clubhouse retained to provide an indoor space where all the community including the elderly can appreciate the Reserve in all weathers and can take part in educational, recreational and social activities that complement the environmental values of the Reserve."

29 October 2019: Willoughby Local Planning Panel Determination.

Written Submissions: 68 submissions were received against demolition and 2 submissions for Demolition

Verbal Submissions: 6, against demolition and 1 for demolition

Determination prior to demolition:

2b. Heritage interpretation: A heritage interpretation strategy shall be prepared and submitted to Council prior to any demolition occurring. (Reason: **Heritage protection**)

CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY VIEWS

In coming to its decision, the panel considered written submissions made during public exhibition and heard from all those wishing to address the panel. The panel notes that key issues of concern included:

- Timing of demolition and lack of an application for a replacement facility
- Maintenance of community facility for ongoing use
- Social heritage in relation to the former bowling club
- Consultation process undertaken by Council

Heritage Recognition of the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse so far:

State Heritage Nomination was lodged on 3rd July and progressed to a review panel. The matter was escalated to the minister for Heritage and the environment, by the member for Willoughby Gladys Berejiklian MP.

On review the Hon. Don Harwin MLC replied: The nomination for the Artarmon clubhouse did not meet the criteria at a state level however **“the site maybe of local significance.”**

See letter here:

<https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Letter-from-Minister-Harwin.pdf>

National Heritage Nomination: In progress.

A nomination has been lodged and is pending review and presentation to Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment for National Register Eligibility.

The nomination acknowledges the vital contribution of the Artarmon bowling women in shaping; cultural and social values of equality in the Australian sport of lawn bowls. These values are embodied in the clubhouse building.

See letter here:

<https://www.squareboxfitness.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Artarmon-Bowling-Club-Letter-Greco.pdf>

Willoughby City Council Heritage nomination for the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse.**Heritage nomination Lodged: 7 March 2020**


Former Artarmon Bowling Club

Final Heritage Impact Statement

Report to Willoughby City Council

September 2019



 artefact

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Final Heritage Impact Statement and Non-Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment

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Former Artarmon Bowling Club
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artefact Heritage have been engaged by Willoughby City Council to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for the proposed demolition of the former Artarmon Bowling Club (the project).

The former Artarmon Bowling Club is located within the Willoughby City Council LGA in the suburb of Artarmon (Figure 1-1). The former bowling club is located within the Artarmon Conservation Area, which is listed on the Willoughby Local Environment Plan 2012 (Willoughby LEP 2012) as C1.

The proposed works at the former Artarmon Bowling Club would include the demolition of the former clubhouse.

Overview of findings

This Heritage Impact Statement has considered the history and significance of the Artarmon Bowling Club site and the Artarmon Conservation Area. The assessment has revealed that the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse is a moderate contributory element within the Artarmon Conservation Area (WLEP Item No. C1) due to its high degree of integrity, social and representative value within the local area. However, the proposed demolition of the clubhouse is expected to have a **minor – moderate** physical direct and a **minor** visual impact on the locally significant Artarmon Conservation Area (Willoughby LEP Item No. C1) and an impact of **nil** on any potential archaeological resources.

Recommendations

The site is located within the locally listed Artarmon Conservation Area. Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

- During future design and works phases, design excellence and quality should be maintained that is in keeping with the heritage values and significance of the Artarmon Conservation Area, including adherence to the requirements of the WDCP 2016 and WLEP 2012. This includes design that is sympathetic to the significance values of the conservation area, and the new work must relate visually to the scale of adjacent buildings
- A Heritage Impact Statement will be required to assess proposed design for redevelopment of the site – the Willoughby DCP 2016 and Willoughby LEP 2012 state that an HIS is required for all applications to Council for land within a conservation area
- Prior to the commencement of works, a Photographic Archival Recording (PAR) report should be prepared of the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse. The PAR would document the exterior and interior of the existing clubhouse, and its setting within the Artarmon Conservation Area. The recording would be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines for *Photographic Recording of Heritage Items Using Film or Digital Capture*, as prepared by the NSW Heritage Office
- Prior to the commencement of works, a salvage schedule should be prepared by qualified heritage professionals to identify and recover heritage building fabric for salvage and reuse at the site or at another appropriate place within Willoughby City Council LGA

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- There is an opportunity for provision of interpretation measures outlining the history, evolution of the Artarmon Bowling Club, and associations with the conservation area. A Heritage Interpretation Strategy should therefore be considered for the project. This should also include and acknowledge Aboriginal associations and values.
- An assessment of historical archaeological potential was not included within this report. Should in-ground impact be required during demolition phases, an archaeological assessment and methodology should be undertaken prior to works to provide management and mitigation measures for potential impact to archaeological resources. Archaeological relics within the study area are protected by the *Heritage Act 1977*.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

Artefact Heritage have been engaged by Willoughby City Council to prepare a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) for the proposed demolition of the former Artarmon Bowling Club (the project).

1.2 Location of the project

The former Artarmon Bowling Club is located within the Willoughby City Council LGA in the suburb of Artarmon (Figure 1-1).

The former bowling club is located within the Artarmon Conservation Area, which is listed on the Willoughby Local Environment Plan 2012 (Willoughby LEP 2012) as C1.

1.3 Proposed redevelopment

The proposed redevelopment works at the study area will involve the following:

- Demolition of the former Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse

1.4 Structure of this report

- Chapter 1 (this chapter)—Project background and description
- Chapter 2— an overview of the methodology
- Chapter 3—The heritage management framework including the legislative and policy context, and relevant criteria applicable to the proposal
- Chapter 4—An overview of the historical context of the site
- Chapter 5—A description of the site and findings from the site inspection
- Chapter 6—An assessment of significance and impact assessment of the Artarmon Conservation Area
- Chapter 7—Conclusions and recommended measures to mitigate and manage potential impacts
- Chapter 8—References of sources used in the preparation of this report

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Figure 1-1. Study area map



2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Identification of heritage listed items

Heritage listed items were identified through a search of relevant statutory and non-statutory heritage registers:

- World Heritage List
- Commonwealth Heritage List
- National Heritage List
- State Heritage Register
- Willoughby LEP 2012
- Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Registers for Sydney Water, Roads and Maritime, Railcorp, Ausgrid, and Department of Housing
- Australian Heritage Database
- NSW State Heritage Inventory database.

Items listed on these registers have been previously assessed against the NSW Heritage Assessment guidelines (as outlined in Section 2.2). Statements of heritage significance, based on the NSW Heritage Assessment guidelines, as they appear in relevant heritage inventory sheets and documents, are provided in this assessment.

2.2 NSW heritage assessment guidelines

Determining the significance of heritage items or a potential archaeological resource is undertaken by utilising a system of assessment centred on the *Burra Charter* of Australia International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The principles of the charter are relevant to the assessment, conservation and management of sites and relics. The assessment of heritage significance is outlined through legislation in the Heritage Act and implemented through the *NSW Heritage Manual* and the *Archaeological Assessment Guidelines*.¹

If an item meets one of the seven heritage criteria, and retains the integrity of its key attributes, it can be considered to have heritage significance. The significance of an item or potential archaeological site can then be assessed as being of local or state significance. If a potential archaeological resource does not reach the local or state significance threshold, then it is not classified as a relic under the Heritage Act.

'*State heritage significance*', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to the State in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.

'*Local heritage significance*', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value of the item.²

The overall aim of assessing archaeological significance is to identify whether an archaeological resource, deposit, site or feature is of cultural value. The assessment will result in a succinct

¹ NSW Heritage Office 1996; 25-27

² This section is an extract based on the Heritage Office Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics 2009:6.

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statement of heritage significance that summarises the values of the place, site, resource, deposit or feature. The heritage significance assessment criteria are as follows:

Table 2-1: NSW heritage assessment criteria

Criteria	Description
A – Historical Significance	An item is important in the course or pattern of the local area's cultural or natural history.
B – Associative Significance	An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the local area's cultural or natural history.
C – Aesthetic or Technical Significance	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area.
D – Social Significance	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
E – Research Potential	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history.
F – Rarity	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the local area's cultural or natural history.
G – Representativeness	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places of cultural or natural environments (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

2.3 Assessment of heritage impact

This Heritage Impact Assessment has been prepared using the document *Statement of Heritage Impact* 2002, prepared by the NSW Heritage Office, contained within the *NSW Heritage Manual*, as a guideline.

Impacts on heritage are identified as either:

- Direct impacts, resulting in the demolition or alteration of fabric of heritage significance
- Indirect impacts, resulting in changes to the setting or curtilage of heritage items or places, historic streetscapes or views
- Potential direct impact, resulting in impacts from vibration and demolition of adjoining structures.

Specific terminology and corresponding definitions are used in this assessment to consistently identify the magnitude of the project's direct, indirect or potentially direct impacts on heritage items or archaeological remains. The terminology and definitions are based on those contained in guidelines produced by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)³ and are shown in Table 2-2. It is assumed that all direct and potential direct impacts are a result of construction. Indirect impacts are assumed to be operational unless specified as temporary in which case they are related to construction.

Table 2-2: Terminology for assessing the magnitude of heritage impact.

³ Including the document *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*, ICOMOS, January 2011.

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Magnitude	Definition
Major	<p>Actions that would have a long-term and substantial impact on the significance of a heritage item. Actions that would remove key historic building elements, key historic landscape features, or significant archaeological materials, thereby resulting in a change of historic character, or altering of a historical resource.</p> <p>These actions cannot be fully mitigated.</p>
Moderate	<p>This would include actions involving the modification of a heritage, including altering the setting of a heritage item or landscape, partially removing archaeological resources, or the alteration of significant elements of fabric from historic structures.</p> <p>The impacts arising from such actions may be able to be partially mitigated.</p>
Minor	<p>Actions that would results in the slight alteration of heritage buildings, archaeological resources, or the setting of an historical item.</p> <p>The impacts arising from such actions can usually be mitigated.</p>
Negligible	<p>Actions that would results in very minor changes to heritage items.</p>
Neutral	<p>Actions that would have no heritage impact.</p>

2.4 Limitations and Constraints

This report does not include an assessment of historical archaeological potential, or Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values, as in-ground impacts are not expected during the proposed former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse demolition works.

2.5 Authorship

This report was prepared by Jessica Horton (Heritage Consultant) and Ryan Taddeucci (Senior Heritage Consultant) with input and review from Jenny Winnett (Principal, Artefact Heritage).

3.0 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The following section provides an overview of the legislative context for the project and identifies heritage listed items within, and in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

These heritage listed items are summarised in Table 3-1 and illustrated in Figure 3-1.

3.1 The World Heritage Convention

The Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on 16 November 1972, and came into force on 17 December 1975. The World Heritage Convention aims to promote international cooperation to protect heritage that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations. It sets out the criteria that a site must meet to be inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHL) and the role of State Parties in the protection and preservation of world and their own national heritage.

There are no items listed on the World Heritage List located within, or in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

3.2 Commonwealth Legislation

3.2.1 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides a legislative framework for the protection and management of matters of national environmental significance, that is, flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places of national and international importance. Heritage items are protected through their inscription on the World Heritage List (WHL), Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) or the National Heritage List (NHL).

Under Part 9 of the EPBC Act, approval under the EPBC Act is required for any action occurring within, or outside, a Heritage place that has, will have, or is likely to have a 'significant impact' on the heritage values of a World, National or Commonwealth heritage listed property (referred to as a 'controlled action' under the Act). A 'significant impact' is defined as:

"an impact which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context or intensity. If an action is likely to have a significant impact depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment which is impacted, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts."

The EPBC Act stipulates that a person who has proposed an action that will, or is likely to, have a significant impact on a site that is listed on the WHL, NHL or CHL must refer the action to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (hereafter the Minister). The Minister will then determine if the action requires approval under the EPBC Act. If approval is required, an environmental assessment would need to be prepared. The Minister would approve or decline the action based on this assessment.

3.2.2 Commonwealth Heritage List

The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) has been established to list heritage places that are either entirely within a Commonwealth area, or outside the Australian jurisdiction and owned or leased by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Authority. The CHL includes natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places which the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is satisfied have one or more Commonwealth Heritage values.

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There are no items listed on the CHL located within, or in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

3.2.3 National Heritage List

The National Heritage List (NHL) was established under the EPBC Act, which provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. Under the EPBC Act, nationally significant heritage items are protected through listing on the NHL or the CHL.

There are no items listed on the NHL located within, or in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

3.3 State Legislation

3.3.1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) establishes the framework for cultural heritage values to be formally assessed in the land use planning and development consent process. The EP&A Act requires that environmental impacts are considered prior to land development; this includes impacts on cultural heritage items and places as well as archaeological sites and deposits.

The EP&A Act also requires that Local Governments, including Willoughby City Council LGA, prepare planning instruments (such as Local Environmental Plans [LEPs], including the Willoughby LEP 2012 and policies such as Development Control Plans [DCPs], including the Willoughby DCP 2016) in accordance with the Act to provide guidance on the level of environmental assessment required.

Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012

The project will take place within Willoughby City Council Local Government Area (LGA) and must therefore comply with development provisions laid out in the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012 (the Willoughby LEP 2012). The Willoughby LEP 2012 was made on 31 January 2013 and aims to make local environmental planning provisions for land in Willoughby City Council in accordance with the relevant standard environmental planning instrument.

Clauses applying to heritage items, land within the vicinity of heritage items and historic archaeological relics or sites within land subject to the Willoughby LEP 2012 can be found under Schedule 5.10 of the LEP's written instrument.

Relevant items listed on the Willoughby LEP 2012 in and within view of the project are discussed below and summarised in Table 3-1. The former Artarmon Bowling Club is located within one Conservation Area listed on the Willoughby LEP 2012:

- Artarmon Conservation Area –C1

Willoughby Development Control Plan 2016

The Development Control Plan (DCP) provides guidelines for heritage items and conservation areas under Part H. It provides examples of the types of development and how this could affect heritage, and what requirements are needed before development can commence, such as heritage impact statements. Controls are listed depending on what type of development is proposed. Part H – 3.2 provides management policies for the Artarmon Conservation Area.⁴

⁴ Willoughby Council, 2012. *Willoughby Development Control Plan*. Accessed online 9 September 2019, <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Development/planrules/the-willoughby-dcp/>

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3.3.2 New South Wales Heritage Act 1977

The New South Wales (NSW) *Heritage Act 1977* (Heritage Act) is the primary piece of State legislation affording protection to heritage items (natural and cultural) in New South Wales. Under the Heritage Act, 'items of environmental heritage' include places, buildings, works, relics, moveable objects and precincts identified as significant based on historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic values. State significant items can be listed on the NSW SHR and are given automatic protection under the Heritage Act against any activities that may damage an item or affect its heritage significance. The Heritage Act also protects 'relics', which can include archaeological material, features and deposits.

3.3.3 State Heritage Register

The State Heritage Register (SHR) was established under Section 22 of the Heritage Act and is a list of places and objects of particular importance to the people of NSW, including archaeological sites. The SHR is administered by the NSW Heritage Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and includes a diverse range of over 1,500 items, in both private and public ownership. To be listed, an item must be deemed to be of heritage significance for the whole of NSW.

There are no items listed on the SHR located within, or in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

3.3.4 Section 170 registers

The Heritage Act requires all government agencies to identify and manage heritage assets in their ownership and control. Under Section 170 of the Heritage Act, government instrumentalities must establish and keep a register which includes all items of environmental heritage listed on the SHR, an environmental planning instrument or which may be subject to an interim heritage order that are owned, occupied or managed by that government body.

There are no items listed on the s170 registers located within, or in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

3.4 Non-Statutory Considerations

3.4.1 Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) is no longer a statutory list; however, it remains available as an archive.

There are no items listed on the RNE located within, or in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

3.4.2 National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) maintains a Register of landscapes, townscapes, buildings, industrial sites, cemeteries and other items or places which the Trust determines have cultural significance and are worthy of conservation. Items registered on the National Trust are not protected by statutory legislation. However, if an item is listed on the register, it is generally an indication that the item held in esteem by the heritage community.

There are no items listed on the NTR located within, or in view of the former Artarmon Bowling Club.

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3.5 Summary of relevant heritage listed items

Table 3-1 provides a summary of heritage listed items within the study area and its 100 metre buffer zone. The location of these items are shown in Figure 3-1.

Table 3-1: Summary of heritage items in and within view of the study area.

Item	Address/location	Listing and listing no.	Significance	Relationship to study area
Artarmon Conservation Area	Artarmon, NSW 2064	Willoughby LEP 2012 Item No. C1	Local	Within study area

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Figure 3-1. Heritage listed items map



4.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following background has been prepared to provide a historical overview of land use within and surrounding the former Artarmon Bowling Club. It aims to provide context for the significance of the site, as well as the various listed and unlisted heritage items within and directly adjacent to them.

4.1 Aboriginal history

4.1.1 Aboriginal land use and occupation

The Willoughby area, including Artarmon, form part of the traditional lands of the Cammeraygal clan and potentially, the Wallumedegal clan, although territories are known to have been fairly fluid.⁵ Prior to European arrival, Aboriginal people utilised the area's marine environment including Sydney Harbour, Broken Bay, and other creeks, rivers and wetlands which provided sources of food.⁶ In addition, the surrounding bush was rich in flora and fauna. Due to the richness of the Sydney environment, Aboriginal people here did not have to traverse far, but moved within their traditional lands in sync with the seasons.⁷

The arrival of the European settlers in 1788 had a devastating impact on the Aboriginal population within Willoughby and wider Australia. Local clans were denied access to their own lands and resources, fish stocks were depleted, kangaroos were hunted unsustainably, land was cleared and fresh water sources polluted. Aboriginal people were forced into starvation, with their Sydney population reduced by 80-90 per cent. The Cammeraygal clan remained within the Willoughby area until the 1820s, however by the 1860s, Aboriginal people were scarce visitors to the north shore area following disease, displacement and massacre.⁸ The last Cammeraygal encampment within the area is thought to have been located near Flat Rock Bridge (Long Gully Bridge) during the c1880s.⁹

4.2 Non-Aboriginal history

4.2.1 Development of Artarmon

The first land grants within the Artarmon area were provided to soldiers and emancipists between 1794 and 1796, however due to the rough terrain and difficult access to Sydney Cove, the grants were not held long.¹⁰ In 1810, William Gore was granted 150-acres, encompassing the study area (Figure 4-1). Gore had travelled to Australia from Ireland in 1806 with Governor Bligh, who appointed him Provost Marshal. Gore arrested John MacArthur during the Rum Rebellion; and in turn, the Rum Corps sentenced him to two years in the coal mines out at Newcastle. Gore was pardoned and reinstated by Governor Macquarie in 1810, who provided him with his land grant at Artarmon.¹¹

Gore settled on his grant, naming it Artarmon after his family estates in Ireland. From here, the town of Artarmon began its development. Gore's grant included the study area, extending from the present

⁵ Aboriginal Heritage Office, 2019. 'An Aboriginal History of Willoughby'. Accessed online 28 August 2019, <https://www.aboriginalheritage.org/history/aboriginalwilloughby/>; Jessica Currie, 2008. *Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go: Yesterday Today Tomorrow – An Aboriginal History of Willoughby*. Willoughby City Council: Chatswood. p12.

⁶ Willoughby City Council, n.d. 'Flat Rock Gully Walking Tracks'. Accessed online 28 August 2019, <http://www.visitsydneyaustralia.com.au/WalkingTrackFlatRock.pdf>; Currie, 2008. *Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go*.

⁷ Willoughby City Council, n.d. 'Aboriginal People'. *History @ Willoughby*. Accessed 28 August 2019, <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/library/history-at-willoughby/people/aboriginal-heritage/>; Currie, 2008. *Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go*

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Willoughby Council, 2018. *Draft Flat Rock Gully Reserve Action Plan*. Willoughby Council.

¹⁰ Frances Pollon, 1991. *The Book of Sydney Suburbs*. Angus and Robertson Publishers, North Ryde: 6.

¹¹ Willoughby City Council, 1994. *St Leonards – Artarmon*. Willoughby City Library.

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Artarmon Station, along Mowbray Road, to Willoughby Road, with Gore extending his grant from point of acquirement.¹² By 1815, Gore had acquired 12 surrounding farms, in addition to James Williamson's Polmont Farm on the western side of the present-day Pacific Highway, making him the largest land-owner in the district. However, in 1818, Gore defaulted on his mortgage resulting in a large auctioning off of his land, bar a small portion, located near the present-day Royal North Shore Hospital, upon which he had built Artarmon House; where he lived until his death in 1845.¹³

Figure 4-1: Willoughby Parish map, undated, showing William Gore's 150-acre land grant¹⁴



Artarmon House was acquired by Richard Hayes Harnett, Mayor of Willoughby, who resided in the residence for a number of years until constructing his own residence with large gardens adjacent to the property in 1869. George Whiting later took ownership of the property, naming it 'Valetta'; residing there until his death in 1922 (Figure 4-2). The North Sydney Brick and Tile Company took possession, finally demolishing the dilapidated structure in 1939.¹⁵

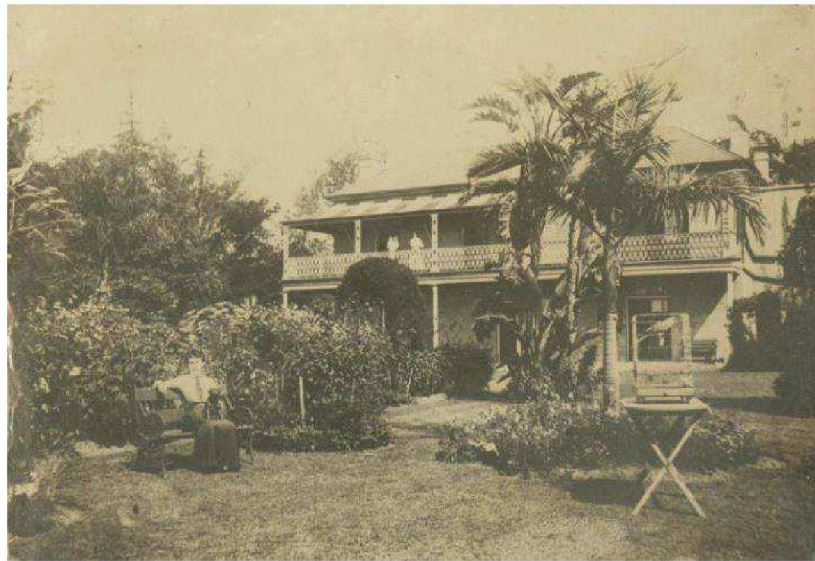
¹² Pollon, 1991. *The Book of Sydney Suburbs*.

¹³ Rachel Fallowfield. 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*. Accessed 29 August 2019, <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/artarmon>

¹⁴ Land Registry Services, n.d. 'Willoughby Parish Map'. Accessed 29 August 2019, <https://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au>

¹⁵ Fallowfield. 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*.

Figure 4-2: Valetta residence, 1907¹⁶



Large areas of Crown land were auctioned off within Artarmon during the c1850s facilitating the settlement of new residents to the area.¹⁷ These newcomers established orchards, market gardens and farms. A number of rough tracks and paths appeared, leading to the development of present-day Mowbray Road, Willoughby Road, the Pacific Highway, Reserve Road and Elizabeth Street.¹⁸ In 1865, the Municipality of North Willoughby incorporating Artarmon, Lane Cove and Willoughby, was proclaimed.

The newly formed municipality facilitated the development of the Gore Hill Cemetery and Cleland Park by the late c1860s; whilst a large tract of land encompassing the study area, previously used for timber-getting and animal grazing, was broken into sites for the development of the Royal North Shore Hospital, Gore Hill Park, Naremburn Park and Artarmon Recreation Reserve. The North Shore railway was developed from 1890, however Artarmon was not provided with a station until 1898. Rather, the suburb relied on the North Sydney tramline to Gore Hill and along the Pacific Highway (formerly Gordon Road). In addition, residents were able to utilise the ferry at Milsons Point to access the CBD.¹⁹

Artarmon Station was constructed 624 metres north of its current position in 1898, however due to train access issues, the station was reconstructed at its current location in 1900. The structure was originally timber but replaced with a standard brick station building (extant) in 1916 (Figure 4-3). The station is located at the approximate centre of William Gore's original land grant.²⁰ The ease of transportation saw the suburb thrive with the introduction and upgrade of electricity from 1896; water services from 1888; sewerage from 1899; and rubbish collection from 1920. In addition, the retail

¹⁶ Author unknown, 6 May 1907. 'Valetta, Gore Hill'. Accessed 29 August 2019, <https://willoughbytest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULLWPAC/ARCENQ/822707/6818658,1>

¹⁷ Fallowfield. 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*.

¹⁸ Fallowfield. 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*.

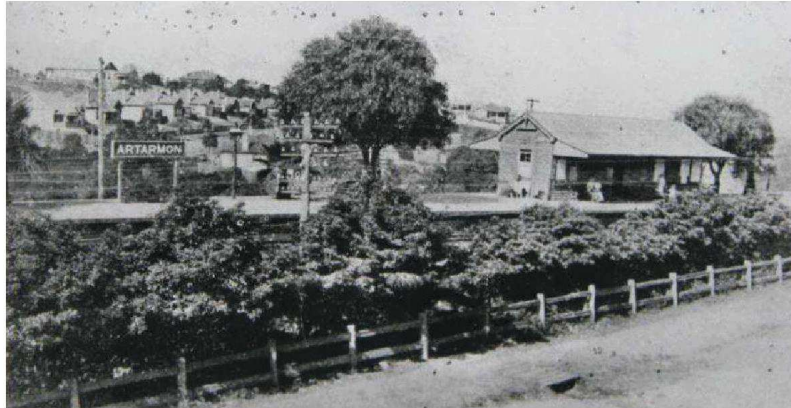
¹⁹ Fallowfield. 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*.

²⁰ Fallowfield. 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*.

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centre developed including the introduction of a post office in 1924; and schools and churches were introduced from the early c1900s.

Figure 4-3: Artarmon Station, 1915.²¹ Sources indicate that Artarmon Station was relocated brick by brick from the abandoned Glenbrook Station in the Blue Mountains²²



4.2.2 Artarmon Bowling Club

The Artarmon Bowling Club is located within the original land grant made to William Gore in 1810 (Figure 4-1). Land auctions within the suburb during the mid-nineteenth century saw large tracts of land within the Artarmon Estate, encompassing the study area, divided for the introduction of a number of community sites including the Artarmon Recreation Reserve, directly south of the study area (Figure 4-4 - Figure 4-5). The study area appears to have remained undeveloped up until the eventual construction of the Artarmon Bowling Club, potentially as an extension of the Artarmon Reserve recreational ground.

By the turn of the century, Artarmon had developed a strong community spirit entrenched in recreational activities including sport.²³ The Artarmon Bowling Club was founded in 1946 by Walter S. Reeves, sponsored by the Artarmon Progress Association, however the club was unable to obtain greens and a clubhouse, having to travel to surrounding clubs to bowl until construction began on the greens and clubhouse at the current site from 1952 (Figure 4-6 - Figure 4-8).²⁴ The first green opened in 1955, shortly followed by the clubhouse in c1957. The construction of the club and greens were heavily funded by the community and had a great level of input from women within the Artarmon area. This input is seen within the design of the clubhouse, which features a purpose-built kitchen, ladies powder room; and an auxiliary lounge with servery attached to the main bar, allowing women to drink alcohol without breaking laws of the time which banned women from drinking in public bars.²⁵ The first game played on the lower green was held on 1 October 1955, whilst the first game played on the top green commenced in January 1961. In addition, the club was one of the first in NSW to allow women to play lawn bowls. One of the club's most notable female members was Mollie Dive, who captained

²¹ Author unknown, 1915. 'Artarmon Railway Station'. Accessed 29 August 2019, <https://willoughbytest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WWPAC/ARCENQ/822697/6810126,1>

²² CC Singleton, 'The North Shore Line', *ARHS Bulletin* No 262, August 1959, 114–121; S Sharp, 'Interpreting Artarmon Railway Station', *Willoughby History Chatters*, Vol 37 No 8, October 2010, 1.

²³ Fallowfield, 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*.

²⁴ Fallowfield, 2008. 'Artarmon'. *Dictionary of Sydney*.

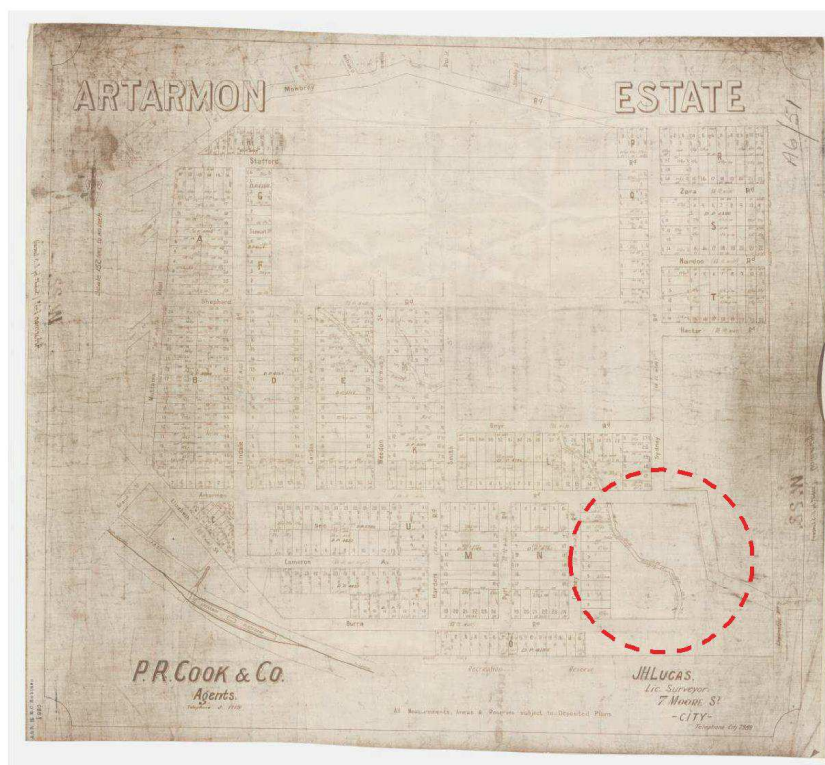
²⁵ Artarmon Community Member, 2019. 'Artarmon Bowling Club Heritage Significance Letter'. Re: *Artarmon Bowling Club*. Message to Michael Cashin, 20 September 2019, Email.

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the Australian women's cricket team during their 1948-49 Ashes win over England. Dive was a lifetime member of the club and has her name on the honour board inside the clubhouse.²⁶

The clubhouse and wider site underwent a number of extensions and modifications throughout its continued use. The Artarmon Bowling Club continued operation as a bowling club up until 2016, when it was acquired by Willoughby Council for redevelopment. The clubhouse was then utilised as a community space for Yoga, dance, fitness, martial arts classes; and an after-school care facility until December 2018, at which point Council began redevelopment works of the wider site including bowling greens began and the clubhouse became disused.²⁷

Figure 4-4: Artarmon Estate, c1880s-90s, showing the study area undeveloped²⁸



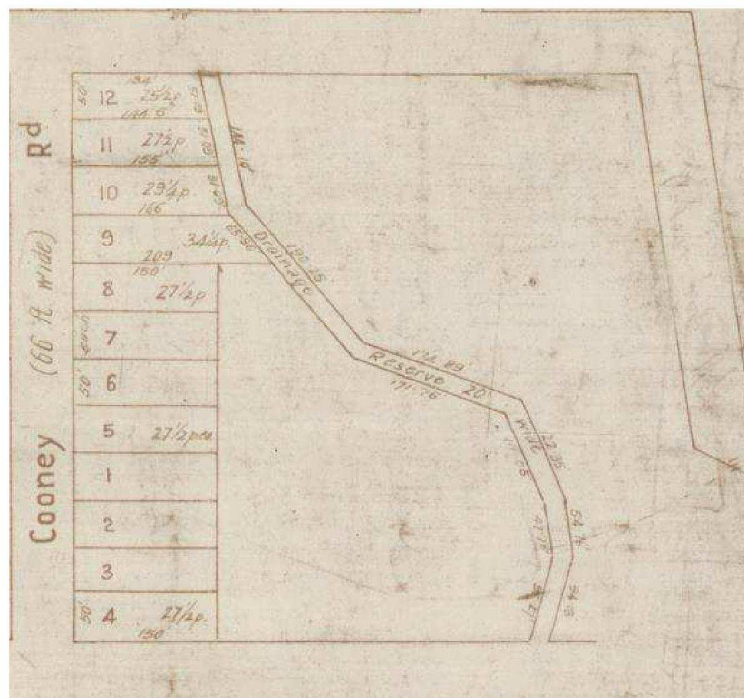
²⁶ Artarmon Community Member, 2019. 'Artarmon Bowling Club Heritage Significance Letter'.

²⁷ Artarmon Community Member, 2019. 'Artarmon Bowling Club Heritage Significance Letter'.

²⁸ Author unknown, c1882-1927. 'Artarmon Estate Subdivision Plans'. Accessed online 28 August 2019, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/35395165?q=artarmon+estate&c=map&versionId=44020009>

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Figure 4-5: Detail of Artarmon Estate map, c1880-90s, showing the study area undeveloped at that time²⁹



²⁹ Author unknown, c1882-1927. 'Artarmon Estate Subdivision Plans'. Accessed online 28 August 2019, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/35395165?q=artarmon+estate&c=map&versionId=44020009>

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Figure 4-6: Artarmon Bowling Club, c1956, showing both male and female bowlers³⁰

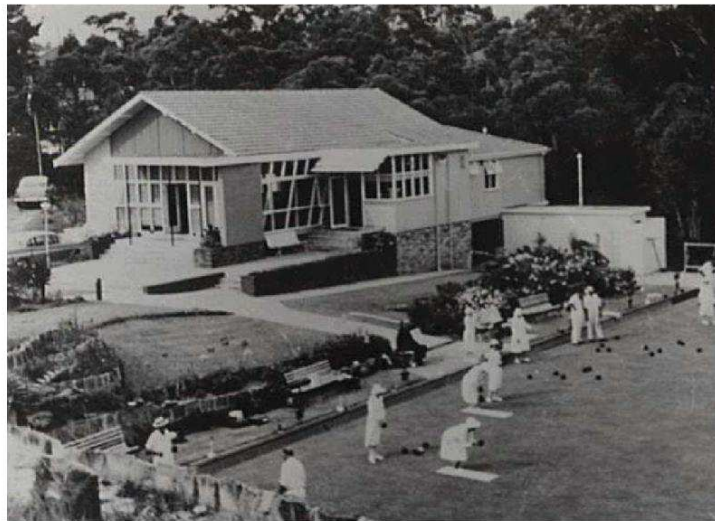


Figure 4-7: Artarmon Bowling Club, c1957 showing extension³¹



³⁰ Author unknown, c1956. 'Artarmon Bowling Club'. Accessed 29 August 2019.
<https://willoughbytest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/ARCENQ/822743/6817344,2?FMT=IMG>

³¹ Author unknown, c1957. 'Artarmon Bowling Club'. Accessed 29 August 2019.
<https://willoughbytest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/ARCENQ/822743/6814872,5?FMT=IMG>

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Figure 4-8: Artarmon Bowling Club members, Artarmon Bowling Club, 1957³²



Figure 4-9: Artarmon Bowling Club, 1981.³³



³² Author unknown, c1957. 'Artarmon Bowling Club'. Accessed 29 August 2019, <https://willoughbytest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/ARCENQ/822743/6816047,10?FMT=IMG>

³³ Author unknown, c1981. 'Artarmon bowling Club'. Accessed 23 September 2019, <https://willoughbytest.spydus.com/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/ARCENQ/840063/6810236,9>

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5.0 SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection was carried out on 4 September 2019 by Ryan Taddeucci (Senior Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage) and Jessica Horton (Heritage Consultant, Artefact Heritage). The aim of the inspection was to identify and/or assess items of heritage significance and evaluate impacts to nearby heritage listed items as a result of the proposed redevelopments.

5.1 Former Artarmon Bowling Club site

The former Artarmon Bowling Club site, within the locally heritage listed Artarmon Conservation Area, is situated within a residential portion of Artarmon along Burra Road, north of the rail line and Artarmon Reserve. A number of one-storey Inter-War California Bungalows have views to the site, particularly along Burra Road (Figure 5-11 - Figure 5-14). The site, which was acquired by Willoughby Council in 2016, has undergone extensive landscaping works (early mid 2019) including the removal of the former bowling greens and the introduction of garden beds, large grassed areas, pathways and children's play equipment (Figure 5-5 - Figure 5-8). The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse, situated directly in the centre of the site, is currently disused and has been subject to wear and graffiti (Figure 5-1 - Figure 5-4).

Figure 5-1. Northeast view of former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse within newly landscaped area



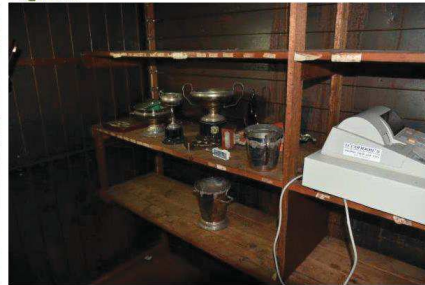
Figure 5-3. Internal view of former clubhouse kitchen



Figure 5-2. Internal view of former clubhouse showing bowling leader board and bar to the right



Figure 5-4. Internal view of clubhouse showing storeroom with trophies and cash register



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Figure 5-5. Southeast view of former bowling green within recently landscaped area

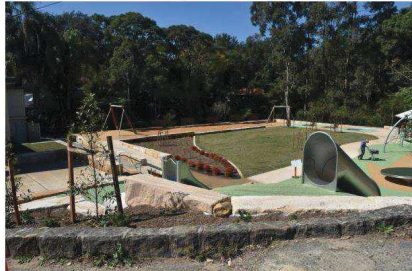


Figure 5-6. Northern view of former bowling green within recently landscaped area



Figure 5-7. Northern view of new children's play equipment and landscaping with former clubhouse in background



Figure 5-8. Southeast view of new children's play equipment and landscaping with former bowling green to the left

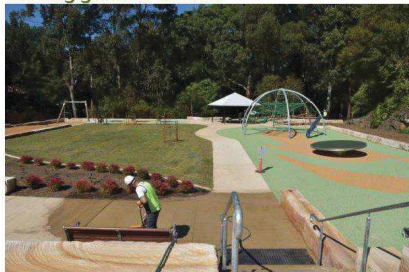


Figure 5-9. Northern view towards former Artarmon Bowling Club from Artarmon Reserve

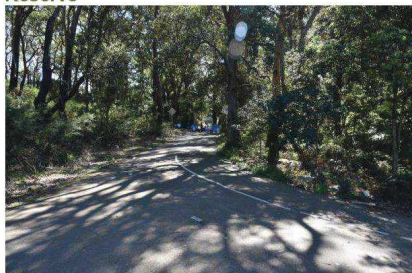


Figure 5-10. Northern view towards former Artarmon Bowling Club main entry from Burra Street



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Figure 5-11: Northern view of Inter-War Bungalow (1 Burra Road) directly adjacent to the study area



Figure 5-12: Northeast view towards the former clubhouse from rear of Inter-War Bungalow (1 Burra Road)



Figure 5-13: Southern view of Burra Road and surrounding Inter-War residences within the Artarmon Conservation Area

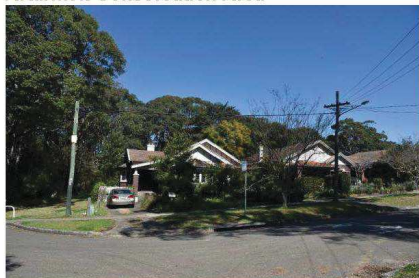


Figure 5-14: Southeast view of Burra Road towards the shared pedestrian-vehicle access road to Artarmon Reserve



6.0 SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Overview of heritage items with the study area

The following section provides an overview description and statement of significance; and impact assessment, of the Artarmon Conservation Area (WLEP Item No. C1). Information for the conservation area has been extracted from the State Heritage Inventory database listing on the OEH website and LEP. In addition, the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse has been assessed for its heritage significance, however it is noted that the clubhouse is not an individually heritage listed item, rather this assessment indicates whether the clubhouse is a contributory element within the conservation area.

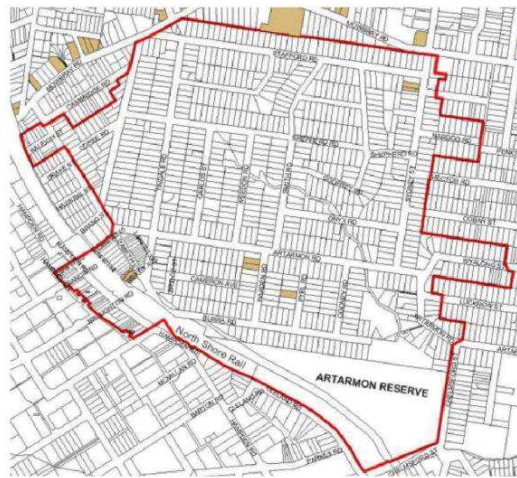
6.1.1 Artarmon Conservation Area

6.1.1.1 Artarmon Conservation Area significance assessment

Artarmon Conservation Area³⁴

Images

Figure 6-1: Artarmon Conservation Area



Description

A rectilinear subdivision pattern has been superimposed on a hilly area of moderate slopes. The key period of significance dates from 1900 to 1940. The regularity of the lot layout is interrupted by several well vegetated drainage reserves flowing across to the remnant bushland of Artarmon Reserve. The original subdivision pattern of narrow carriageways and wide grassy verges (usually planted with mature street trees, such as brush box and jacarandas) prevails, except for Artarmon and Sydney Roads, which have wider carriageways taking the main traffic volumes to and from Artarmon Station and shopping centre. The denser pattern of the settlement near Artarmon Station is a good example of Interwar flat development providing comfortable housing that is well integrated with nearby public transport and commercial opportunities. The well-proportioned flat buildings form a cohesive residential precinct of generally consistent two storey scale, of similar materials and with shared modest

³⁴ Controls for Heritage Items and Heritage Conservation Areas Part H Willoughby LEP 2010; H3-2

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Artarmon Conservation Area³⁴

embellishments, including decorative brickwork. Such characteristics enhance their unity with earlier group of Edwardian commercial buildings at Wilkes Plaza.

Location	Artarmon
Listing	Willoughby LEP 2012 Item No. C1
Significance	Local
Statement of significance	<i>The Heritage Conservation Area is outstanding for its intactness, with few unsympathetic intrusions occurring. The wide range of largely intact California and Interwar bungalows as well as Federation housing in generally good condition, occur in either groupings of consistent styles or subtle blends of successive periods to produce a mix of interesting and varied streetscapes. The area is significant as a harmonious and unified 1910-1920s lower North Shore residential area whose development relates to the development of the railway.</i>
Impact type	Direct impact: Demolition of former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse Indirect impact: Views and vistas

6.1.2 Former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse heritage significance

Section 6.1.2 includes an assessment of the relative contributions of individual components of the clubhouse to its heritage value. This assessment was based on the standard grades of significance set out in the NSW Heritage Office publication 'Assessing Heritage Significance' (2001) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Standard grades of significance

Grading	Justification	Status
Exception (E)	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to an item's local and State significance.	Fulfils criteria for Local or State listing
High (H)	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance. Alterations do not detract from significance.	Fulfils criteria for Local or State listing.
Moderate (M)	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.	Fulfils criteria for Local or State listing
Little (L)	Alterations detract from significance. Difficult to interpret.	Does not fulfil criteria for Local or State listing.
Intrusive (I)	Damaging to the item's heritage significance.	Does not fulfil criteria for Local or State listing.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse located at Burra Street, Artarmon began construction in 1952, opening in 1957. The single storey structure with basement, built in the post-war period, takes its architectural design from the Inter-War California Bungalow style as seen within the surrounding suburb, whilst incorporating original elements of the post-war period including simple metal window frames. The structure, which is sympathetic to its surrounds, comprises original elements including a weatherboard and red brick façade, and corrugated iron roofing; whilst internally, the structure appears relatively intact with c1950s fixtures and fittings remaining within the kitchen and bathrooms.

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original fixed furniture pieces, and painted timber joinery remaining within the function and changing rooms. The structure appears to have had few alterations since its point of construction, and those alterations made, appear minor in nature. The former clubhouse has strong historical links to women within the Artarmon community as one of the first clubs within NSW. The club allowed women to bowl, which influenced the design of the building, which included a purpose-built kitchen, ladies powder room; and an auxiliary lounge with servery attached to the main bar. The auxiliary lounge permitted women to drink alcohol without breaking laws of the time which banned women from drinking in public bars. The structure and site are also associated with former Australian women's cricket captain, Mollie Dive. The former clubhouse is considered a representative example of bowling club buildings of its period and as a recreational facility central to post-war leisure, sport and social activities. In addition, the structure has been an important community space for former members of the Artarmon Bowling Club and subsequent community organisers who have utilised the space for various community activities following the club's closure.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse contributes to the overall heritage significance of the Artarmon Conservation Area and is assessed as an element of **high contributory significance**.

6.1.2.1 Summary of significance

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse is socially significant as an Inter-War style structure with Post-War elements that is demonstrative of the recreational role of Artarmon during the mid-twentieth century and the evolving architectural theory and design in Sydney at the time of construction. The clubhouse has remained an important community space for former members of the Artarmon Bowling Club and subsequent utilisers of the building following the club's closure; whilst maintaining strong links to women within the Artarmon community. In addition, the clubhouse is associated with former Australian women's cricket captain, Mollie Dive, who was a lifetime member of the club. The structure remains largely intact from point of construction, maintaining original c1950s elements including the weatherboard and brick façade, corrugated iron roof, intact internal fixtures and fittings particularly within the kitchen and bathrooms, original fixed furniture pieces and painted timber joinery; as well as the overall layout including purpose-built female spaces. In addition, the structure appears to have had few alterations since point of construction, and those alterations made appear minor in nature.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse has been assessed as a **high contributory element** within the Artarmon Conservation Area (WLEP Item No. C1) due to its high degree of integrity, social and representative value within the local area.

6.1.3 Heritage impact assessment

The proposed works at the former Artarmon Bowling club would involve direct impacts within the LEP listed heritage curtilage of the Artarmon Heritage Conservation Area (WLEP Item No. C1). This would include the demolition of the former c1950s clubhouse building and landscaping which would represent a permanent physical impact.

In the overall context of the Artarmon Conservation Area, the impacts would be relatively localised. Elements of identified high significance including the suburb layout, and California, Interwar and Federation residences would not be directly impacted by the proposed works.

The clubhouse was constructed after the conservation areas key period of significance, c1900-1940. However, the clubhouse maintains a high level of intact heritage fabric, with minor alterations, and is considered a contributing element within the Artarmon Conservation Area due to its sympathetic architectural style. The clubhouse is an element of **high contributory significance** to the Artarmon Conservation Area. Demolition of the clubhouse would be considered a **minor – moderate** direct impact on identified heritage fabric within the Artarmon Conservation Area.

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The proposed works would visually alter the presentation and character of the area immediately surrounding the clubhouse site. The demolition activities would be considered localised within the context of the Artarmon Conservation Area, which covers an area of around 95 hectares. Buildings, landscaping features and plantings of identified heritage significance within the conservation area will not be impacted by the proposed works. Due to the sympathetic architectural style of the structure and the high level of intact heritage fabric, the clubhouse is considered a contributing element within the conservation area and the demolition works would be considered a visual impact on the heritage conservation area. However, as the clubhouse is only visible within its immediate vicinity, demolition of the clubhouse would be considered a **minor** visual impact on the Artarmon Conservation Area.

This report has not included an assessment of archaeological potential as demolition works are not expected to be ground impacting. As such, the impact on potential archaeological resources is considered to be **nil**.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Conclusions

This Heritage Impact Statement has considered the history and significance of the Artarmon Bowling Club site and the Artarmon Conservation Area. The assessment has revealed that the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse is a moderate contributory element within the Artarmon Conservation Area (WLEP Item No. C1) due to its high degree of integrity, social and representative value within the local area. However, the proposed demolition of the clubhouse is expected to have a **minor – moderate** physical direct and a **minor** visual impact on the locally significant Artarmon Conservation Area (Willoughby LEP Item No. C1) and an impact of **nil** on any potential archaeological resources.

7.2 Recommendations

The site is located within the locally listed Artarmon Conservation Area. Therefore, the following recommendations are made:

- During future design and works phases, design excellence and quality should be maintained that is in keeping with the heritage values and significance of the Artarmon Conservation Area, including adherence to the requirements of the WDCP 2016 and WLEP 2012. This includes design that is sympathetic to the significance values of the conservation area, and the new work must relate visually to the scale of adjacent buildings
- A Heritage Impact Statement will be required to assess proposed design for redevelopment of the site. The Willoughby DCP 2016 and Willoughby LEP 2012 state that a HIS is required for all applications to Council for land within a conservation area
- Prior to the commencement of works, a Photographic Archival Recording (PAR) report should be prepared of the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse. The PAR would document the exterior and interior of the existing clubhouse, and its setting within the Artarmon Conservation Area. The recording would be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines for *Photographic Recording of Heritage Items Using Film or Digital Capture*, as prepared by the NSW Heritage Office
- Prior to the commencement of works, a salvage schedule should be prepared by qualified heritage professionals to identify and recover heritage building fabric for salvage and reuse at the site or at another appropriate place within Willoughby City Council LGA
- There is an opportunity for provision of interpretation measures outlining the history, evolution of the Artarmon Bowling Club, and associations with the conservation area. A Heritage Interpretation Strategy should therefore be considered for the project. This should also include and acknowledge Aboriginal associations and values
- An assessment of historical archaeological potential was not included within this report. Should in-ground impact be required during demolition phases, an archaeological assessment and methodology should be undertaken prior to works to provide management and mitigation measures for potential impact to archaeological resources. Archaeological relics within the study area are protected by the *Heritage Act 1977*.

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ATTACHMENT 4



Architectural Projects¹

1934 – Former Artarmon Bowling Club
Review of Heritage Nomination
November 2020



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1934 - FORMER ARTARMON BOWLING CLUB – REVIEW OF HERITAGE NOMINATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

The Former Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse at 1A Burra Road Artarmon has been nominated for Local Heritage Listing.

Architectural Projects PL were engaged by Willoughby Council to provide an independent report in relation to the Nomination. The review requires a thorough review of that Nomination and supporting material and consideration of other preceding reports provided on the merits of the building for retention. The reports provided included the Heritage Impact Statement prepared by Artefact Heritage in 2019 and the GBA Peer Review.

The aim of this report is to assist Council to conclude, with a high level of confidence, whether there is sufficient merit for the former Artarmon Bowling Club to be listed as an item of Local Heritage significance or not. In providing this advice to Council, the brief required that any additional recommendations deemed necessary in terms of the existing Artarmon Bowling Club premises be identified.

Council is currently reviewing the Willoughby Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 to create a new LEP in line with the North District Plan published by the Greater Sydney Commission in 2018 and the Willoughby Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020. As part of this work on the new LEP there is the opportunity to include additional local items which have been proven to demonstrate heritage significance in the new Plan.

Council DA for demolition of the clubhouse

Previously, as part of Council's consideration of the adequacy of the facilities at the Artarmon Bowling Club site, a DA was lodged by Council in 2019 to seek approval for the demolition of the clubhouse. It was proposed to replace the building with a 400m² pavilion-like structure, accommodating toilet facilities, barbeque areas and a community hall available for public hire. No drawings of the proposal were included with the DA submission. As the site sits within the Artarmon Conservation Area, advice was sought from Council's internal Heritage Adviser and a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) was commissioned by Council. The first version of which was delivered by Artefact Heritage in September 2019.

The Heritage Impact Statement prepared by Artefact heritage for Willoughby Council in September 2019 found that the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse *is a moderate contributory element within the Artarmon Conservation Area (WLEP Item No. C1) due to its high degree of integrity, social and representative value within the local area.*

Council's Heritage Adviser reviewed the HIS and based on its research concluded that the building constituted a "moderate contributory element" in the Conservation Area, and that its demolition was "expected to have a minor physical direct and visual impact on the locally significant Artarmon Conservation Area". A series of recommendations were also provided for consideration in connection with the demolition including the provision of a Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

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An independent Peer Review of the HIS report was commissioned by Council and obtained from GBA Heritage. It concluded Council should "have no hesitation, on heritage grounds, in granting consent" to the DA for demolition.

56 submissions responded to the Development Application, 54 of which objected to the proposed demolition of the former clubhouse. The objections to the proposed demolition included responses from recognised heritage experts, GML Heritage and Scott and Jan Robertson.

A much-modified final version of the HIS was delivered by Artefact Heritage in April 2020. This report found that the former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse to have historic, historic associational, social and rarity significance values. Artefact also completed a Heritage Interpretation Strategy, and a Moveable Heritage Survey and Salvage Strategy was undertaken in February 2020.

Willoughby Local Planning Panel

The matter was assessed by the Willoughby Local Planning Panel in October 2019 when it was determined the matter could be approved with two additional conditions requiring that DA consent for the replacement building be obtained and a heritage interpretation strategy be carried out before demolition could occur.

Community concern and Nomination for Heritage listing of clubhouse

Sections of the local community remain committed to retaining the existing Club building and to that end the current Nomination for listing was submitted to Council earlier this year, accompanied by a report which draws on historic material as a means of explaining and establishing the significance and specifically the social value of the former Bowling Club to the Artarmon community. This same material was also submitted to the NSW Heritage Council for consideration of the building for State Heritage listing. The proposal was not supported for listing at a State level but the Committee noted the club was likely to be of local significance (see below).

State Heritage Listing Nomination

In NSW there are different types of statutory listings for local, state and national heritage items. A property is a heritage item if it is listed in the heritage schedule of a local council's LEP or a regional environmental plan (REP); listed on the State Heritage Register, a register of places and items of particular importance to the people of NSW; or listed on the National Heritage List established by the Australian Government to list places of outstanding heritage significance to Australia.

At its meeting of 7 August 2019, the State Heritage Register Committee of the Heritage Council reviewed the nomination for State Heritage Listing of the Former Artarmon Bowling Club. They resolved:

"not to progress this nomination as the information provided does not demonstrate that the item is likely to meet the threshold of state heritage significance. The State Heritage Register Committee considered the likely level of significance of the Artarmon Bowling Club, based on the information provided, to be of local significance."

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Local Heritage Listing Nomination

The Former Artarmon Bowling Club was not nominated by the Willoughby Historical Society, the National Trust, the Australian Institute of Architects or other bodies, and was not identified in the Willoughby Heritage Study.

The report seeks to determine the level of significance of the former Artarmon Bowling Club, and specifically whether it meets the threshold for local listing, through an examination of the significance within the local context. The report examines whether it is important to the heritage of the local area, namely the Artarmon district or Willoughby LGA. The level of significance will be established using the Heritage Council criteria set out in Assessing Heritage Significance

The site is located within the Artarmon Conservation Area. The Artarmon Conservation Area is important because of its topography and vegetation as well as its interwar building stock. The Artarmon Bowling Club was formed in 1946 and realised in the 1950s, and does not date from the key period of significance for the area -the interwar period. However the vegetation and topography of the site contribute to the Artarmon Conservation Area.

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2. HISTORICAL NOTES

2.1. HISTORY OF THE PRECINCT

In the 1880s approximately 57 hectares of land from Burra Road to Gore Hill cemetery was set aside by the NSW Government as a proposed reserve. In 1890 some of the reserve was fenced to restrict trespassers and straying cattle from entering. It took until 1912 for Willoughby Council to take control of a much smaller area that is now known as Artarmon Reserve, and in 1913 it was formalised as an open space for the community to enjoy.

In 1914, community spirit developing in Artarmon was embodied in the formation of the Artarmon and District Progress Association. Responding to local issues such as roads and street lighting, the Association became a watch-dog for civic development. Its main focus was on improving the suburb and in 1926 it initiated the subway under the railway line between Elizabeth Street and Hampden Road.¹

In 1958 the Artarmon Library building in Elizabeth Street and 2nd Artarmon Scout Hall in Hampden Road (Sold to Australian Islamic Education Board in 2003) were completed with substantial involvement from the Association.

2.2. HISTORY OF THE ARTARMON BOWLING CLUB

Plans for a Bowling Club in Artarmon were proposed as early as 1924, when the Sun Newspaper reported:

"Bowling enthusiasts of Artarmon initiated a movement to form a local bowling club in 1924, with a meeting held at the School of Arts on 29 January 1924." ² The group had the support of the Mayor, Ald HW Clarke, however the club did not materialise for another 20 years.

In November 1945, the Sydney Morning Herald and the Morning Bulletin described a boom in bowling, noting that many new clubs had been formed in NSW. Among those, plans for Artarmon were reported: "In the metropolitan area, it is expected that as soon as the manpower is available, greens for new clubs will be constructed at Coogee, Mascot, Auburn, Annandale, Earlwood, Artarmon and Sutherland." The total membership of all NSW clubs was said to be about 16, 000 with 61 metropolitan clubs and 148 country clubs ³

In February the following year, an article stated more greens were needed by bowlers across Sydney. The article identified Artarmon as an area of need and noted Chatswood and North Sydney were contemplating a third green.⁴

¹ Fallowfield, Rachel, Artarmon, Dictionary of Sydney, 2008

² The Sun, Tuesday 29 January 1924, p10 ARTARMON BOWLERS

³ November 1945, The Sydney Morning Herald *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954) Thu 29 Nov 1945, p7 Boom In Bowling In NSW

⁴ The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) Mon 11 Feb 1946, p7 MORE GREENS NEEDED BY BOWLERS

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At a special General Meeting of the Artarmon Progress Association, the president, Walter S. Reeves, called for an inaugural meeting of “all men who may share his interest” in forming a bowling club in Artarmon.⁵

This Inaugural Meeting was held on March 8th, 1946 in the Artarmon Masonic Hall and was attended by 73 persons. Walter Reeves was appointed as President and associated with Fred Packer as Vice Presidents were F. D. Bushwell, Charles Bailey and Frank Ball. Charles Bolton became the club’s first Honorary Secretary. Following the inaugural meeting, 97 men were listed as Foundation members. Grace Warner, author of Artarmon Past Present and Future, writes of the founding members: “few if any were bowlers at the time.”⁶

May 3, 1946 the Club’s first set of rules were drafted.⁷ Notations dated November 15, 1946 record that “Mrs Reeves and Mrs Lewarne have been holding card parties for funds.”⁸ The club history written in 1967 also noted the efforts expended by the women members dating back to the very early fund-raising days of card parties in their own homes.⁹

The first scheme for the Artarmon Bowling Club incorporated three greens in Artarmon Park, south west of the Artarmon Railway Station. An expressway was routed to pass through the area and attention was redirected to Thomson Park on the western side of the railway line.¹⁰

By August 1949, the plans for Bowling Greens in Thomson Park were completed and Walter Reeves retired as President, succeeded in the role by Ted Trollope.¹¹ On the 17th February 1950 L. N. Eakins was appointed as Publicity Officer, and by this time players were visiting many of the neighbouring clubs. Bill Fox the Club’s first acting Bowls Secretary used to install a Notice board on Artarmon Railway Station to advise members of details of the games arranged. Artarmon bowlers would rendezvous at Artarmon Railway Station where Fred Packer would inform the players where they were to play and issue cards. On 28th August 1950 the Club elected Fred Packer as President— a position he was to occupy continuously until 1959. In 1951, Alf Lammcraft took over from Charles Bolton who had served as Secretary from the Inaugural Meetings in March 1946.¹²

The Thomson Park project struck difficulties when the land had to be rezoned and costs escalated. Alan Wren directed attention to “an obscure area of steep rocky and timbered lane” mainly in the rear of residential blocks fronting Cooney Rd, but itself having a short frontage to Burra Rd. The club history notes that the land was owned by Mrs Needham and included a former sandstone quarry and many

⁵ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p2

⁶ Grace Warner [Author of Artarmon Past Present and Future]

⁷ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p

⁸ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p

⁹ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p

¹⁰ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p

¹¹ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p3

¹² The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p

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substantial trees and considerable scrub and undergrowth.¹³ The 1951 aerial photograph shows the heavily timbered site, prior to development as the bowling club.

On 23 February 1952, Members agreed to purchase land. They would build a club house and greens for about half the cost of Thompson Park and the asset would be owned solely by the Club.¹⁴ Fred Packer and Hon. Secretary Alf Lammcraft, realised the purchase of the site for the Club at a cost of 2600 pounds (\$5200).¹⁵

On the 16th May 1952, the Building Committee was appointed, and comprised Fred Packer, Ted Trollope and Fred Board. Land clearing had commenced in Burra Rd in June 1952.¹⁶ On 1st October 1952 a burn off permit was issued to clear land.¹⁷

In November 1952, tenders were called by Eric Nicholls, Architect of Spring St Sydney and Honorary Town Planner for Willoughby Council, for "Site preparation for two bowling greens for Artarmon Bowling Club, comprising extensive excavation in earth and rock and stone retaining walls."¹⁸ Initial improvements were affected by voluntary work. Clearing, initial excavation and filling was done by an outside contractor. The actual construction of the first green then commenced working from plans prepared by Charles Bolton, adapted from plans drawn in the Willoughby Council's Engineer's Office for the abandoned Thomson Park project.¹⁹

In March 1954 approval was given for a temporary shed, subject to its removal in 12 months. In September 1954, approval was given to fence the area.

One of the Club's first possessions was a flagpole – so early was it obtained that it was necessary to store it until they secured our own premises on which to have it erected.²⁰

The first green was opened on 1st October 1955. Club President Fred Packer performed the opening ceremony. Efforts were then directed towards securing a building for a temporary clubhouse. Remote places were visited in a chase to secure buildings, structures and materials. With the shutdown of mining operations in the town of Newnes (near Lithgow), an assortment of buildings and material was gathered from deserted buildings and the first hut was constructed on the club's property in Burra Rd. Sundry extensions were added before the construction of the new clubhouse. The hut and the first green are evident in the 1955 aerial photo.

¹³ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p

¹⁴ Jim Diggle, 1946: Artarmon residents move to establish Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club

¹⁵ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p2

¹⁶ The Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday June 7, 1952 pg.6

¹⁷ Letter, Artarmon Bowling Club, To Mayor, June 3, 1952

¹⁸ Construction 19 Nov 1952, p15 Tenders Called

¹⁹ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p5

²⁰ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p

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By March 18th, 1955 a Ladies Auxiliary had developed, the forerunner to the formation of the Women's Bowling Club. On 1st September 1955, assent was given to the formation of the Artarmon Women's Bowling Club.

Member-architect Ted Fitzgerald was commissioned to prepare plans for the new Clubhouse on 17th August 1956.²¹ A Permit 348 dated 27th May 1957 was issued to Edward B. Fitzgerald. A tender of 6,160 pounds (\$12,320) was accepted for its erection on 21st June 1957. Finance was tight, and many club members contributed to the project. Archie Mitchell supervised water service installation, Fred Lee carried out the electrical work, and Joe Spicer undertook the painting. The green construction was assisted by members Jack Butterworth, Bill Thomson and Andy Crawford.

The new Club House was officially opened in 1957 and the Club was granted a liquor licence. According to a 2019 community submission to Michael Cashin, Willoughby Council Community Life Manager, an auxiliary lounge with servery attached to the main bar, allowed women to drink alcohol at the bar without breaking laws of the time which banned women from drinking in public bars.²²

On August 16th, 1957 forty-eight women bowlers were accepted as Associate Members and on 21st November 1958 the conditions governing their participation in club activities, days of play and allocation of rinks were determined.²³ The harmonious relationship between the men's and women's Clubs was noted in the club history of 1967.

The temporary timber structure was disposed in April 1958.²⁴

Fred Packer's long term of office ended at the Annual Meeting of 15th August 1959. Percy Fulton succeeded him as President, and followed by Ray Sadler who was elected President on 24th August 1959. Sadler held the office for four years, during which time the second green was constructed and opened. It was named "The Ray Sadler Green". The 1961 aerial photograph shows the newly constructed clubhouse and the second green.

In 1963 Arthur Thomas took over the Presidency and at a meeting in February 1964, a resolution was passed to prepare the history of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club. The Historical Committee comprised Fred Packer, Charles Bolton, John Mason.²⁵ The history was based on eyewitness accounts, Club records and Club minute books and was presented in 1967.

The improved parking facilities in the area above the Fred Packer green and at the northern end of the property was made possible by Arthur Thomas securing free fill from a nearby road excavation.

The First Foundation Member's Day was held January 1964.

²¹ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p7

²² Artarmon Community Member, 2019. 'Artarmon Bowling Club Heritage Significance Letter'. Re: Artarmon Bowling Club. Message to Michael Cashin, 20 September 2019, Email

²³ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p8

²⁴ Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday April 02, 1958,

²⁵ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967 p1

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Ray Sadler was again elected president following Arthur Thomas retirement.

In 1965, plans were prepared for Clubhouse extensions providing more bar space, improved kitchen and toilet facilities, additional office accommodation and enlarging of the women's section. Ted Fitzgerald was responsible for the designing and plans and the work proceeded at a contract price of \$14,000 (7,000 pounds).²⁶

Around this time an application for a third green on the southern boundary of the site was rejected by Willoughby Council.

In 1965 Mollie Dive moved to Artarmon and joined the bowling club. Soon after she became the club's bowls organiser, becoming a life member, and she was the first member of the Artarmon Bowling Club to be included on the Match Committee for the Bennelong District.²⁷

A comparison of the historic aerial photographs shows the extent of the additions constructed between 1965 and 1978 on the western elevation, replacing the original canted glass windows overlooking the green. This would accord with the 1965 plans noted above.

In July 1972, the club became a cooperative, with 319 members including 79 social members. Friday night was the social night when 50% revenue was generated. All loans had been repaid and the club was 'riding high'.²⁸

The inflation of the next decade, coupled with the closure of John Sands printing works which markedly reduced Friday night patronage, impacted the club's financial standings. The club's financial difficulty was reported in November 1982, when night lit tennis courts were considered as a form of revenue.²⁹ Volunteers replaced paid staff in order to reduce costs. In 1984 the club structure was changed, so that the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club handled all administration, with the separate men's and women's clubs responsible for bowling matters only.³⁰

By 1992, membership had fallen further, and it became necessary to consider asset sales to fund ongoing activity. By December 1994, membership had dropped from 250 to 100. Willoughby Council agreed to buy club land to add to Artarmon Park after plans to rezone it for residential development were not realized. Competitive and social bowls were played on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays.³¹

In 2015, the Artarmon Bowling Club ceased operation as a bowling club and was acquired by Willoughby Council for redevelopment. The Board of Directors of the Artarmon Bowling Club commented, "Whilst is it regrettable that we could not attract more bowling membership support, we

²⁶ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p9

²⁷ Sportswoman Honoured. 'Unknown newspaper article, Pers. Comms. A. Greco.

²⁸ Jim Diggle, 1946: Artarmon residents move to establish Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club

²⁹ Advocate, November 10, 1982

³⁰ Jim Diggle, 1946: Artarmon residents move to establish Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club

³¹ Jim Diggle, 1946: Artarmon residents move to establish Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club

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are proud to have provided a venue that has given a great deal of enjoyment to both members and visitors alike. Our members unanimously supported the decision to offer the Club site to the Council and thereby honour the legacy of the founders of the Club by ensuring the site will be retained for community recreational use in perpetuity.”

Willoughby Council purchased the Artarmon Bowling Club site in April 2016.³²

Willoughby Mayor, Gail Giles-Gidney said that while it was sad the club would no longer operate due to a declining membership of active bowlers, the fact that the land would remain in public ownership is a win for the local community. “Artarmon Bowling Club has been an important part of the Willoughby community since 1946 and will be greatly missed,” “On-behalf of the Community, I would like to thank the Club for approaching Council and allowing us to purchase the land and retain it for leisure and recreation activities. This is a wonderful legacy that the Club leaves behind”.

The clubhouse was then utilised as a community space for Yoga, dance, fitness, martial arts classes; and an after-school care facility. In December 2018 redevelopment works of the wider site began and the clubhouse was vacated.

2019, extensive landscaping works were carried out in the area of the former bowling greens including the introduction of a community garden on the upper bowling green and a children’s playground on the lower green.

2.3. DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN’S BOWLS

Pollard notes the first women’s bowls match was played in 1881 in Stawell, Victoria, and the first women’s bowls club was established in 1898 in Glenferrie, also in Victoria.³³ The first women’s bowls club in New South Wales was established in Ashfield in 1902, largely undertaken by the female relatives of the men’s club members.³⁴ A small number of women’s bowling clubs were established in New South Wales, but largely in regional areas.³⁵ The New South Wales Ladies’ Bowling Association was created in 1922 with five clubs: Balmain, Leichhardt, Rose Bay, Torpey Place and the Western Suburbs Clubs.³⁶ When the inaugural meeting of the renamed Women’s Bowls New South Wales was held in 1929, an additional seven clubs joined, and 216 female members attended the meeting.³⁷ The original headquarters were located in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney.

On the North Shore of Sydney, the Chatswood Bowling Club hosted the Chatswood Ladies Bowling Club from 1912. Women bowlers played at Wollstonecraft as early as 1928, when several female bowlers were members, including Naomi Wolinski.³⁸

³² Northshore Living, April 2016, pg. 26

³³ Pollard, J., 1968. *AMPOL book of Australian Sporting Records*, p. 167

³⁴ *Ibid*

³⁵ Bowls Australia, n.d. ‘History of Bowls in Australia.’ *Bowls Australia*.

³⁶ Women’s Bowls NSW, n.d. ‘Women Bowls NSW History.’ *Women’s Bowls NSW*.

³⁷ Women’s Bowls NSW, n.d. ‘Women Bowls NSW History.’ *Women’s Bowls NSW*.

³⁸

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Ladies' Auxiliary Associations began in select larger clubs from the mid-1940s onwards (with earlier exceptions), and some totally separate women's clubs were formed. These 'courageous' advances in equality brought women out of the shadows of the club kitchens and onto the greens. Betty Stewart, for instance, dressed in uniform each Saturday and waited expectantly to join play at the Ararat Club, Victoria. She waited for two years until 1954!³⁹

The partial segregation of play and social events was, however, still the norm, and so the acceptance of women often meant the building of separate clubrooms, or additions to the existing in the form of another wing – often to form an L-shaped plan enclosing the greens. In Earlwood, New South Wales, a separate women-only club took over the old clubhouse when the men moved into a new wing. However, access to the central bar remained off-limits to women 'except on special occasions...'⁴⁰ This is in contrast to the Artarmon Bowling Club which combined women and men from the 1950s.

By 1957, the NSW Ladies' (Women's) Bowling Association had affiliated 261 women's clubs with some 12,000 members.⁴¹

In September 1957, shortly before the opening of the Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse, the Royal NSW Bowling Association decided to admit female members to all clubs. However, "lady members" were not able to play in association matches, were ineligible to participate in the politics of the clubs, and required an escort within the premises.⁴² Furthermore, clubs maintained the right to refuse membership to women.⁴³

Women and men were photographed bowling together in Sydney's North Shore at Wollstonecraft in the 1930s. However, this early integration was not adopted across all clubs in the region. Female bowlers were not welcomed at Mosman Bowling Club,⁴⁴ Willoughby Park Bowling Club,⁴⁵ and West Pymble Bowling Club until the 1970s.⁴⁶ Women bowlers had their own clubhouse and green adjoining the Men's Bowling Club at Northbridge from 1957.

At Artarmon, women shared the facilities upon the opening of the clubhouse in 1957, and early photographs show men and women bowling together. The official opening of the clubhouse was attended by Naomi Wolinski. In 1957 there were 50 female members registered with Artarmon Bowling Club.⁴⁷

³⁹ Hannah Lewi P. 154

⁴⁰ Hannah Lewi P. 155

⁴¹ McCarthy, L., 2002. 'Wolinski, Naomi (1881-1969).' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

⁴² Women's Bowls News, September 1957. 'Men To Admit Women Bowlers.'

⁴³ Women's Bowls News, September 1957. 'Men To Admit Women Bowlers.'

⁴⁴ Mosman Bowling Club, 2019. 'About Us.' *Mosman Bowling Club*. Accessed online 28/10/2019 at: <http://www.mosmanbowlingclub.org.au/about-us/>

⁴⁵ NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, n.d. 'Bowling Club House (including original interiors).' *NSW Office of Environment and Heritage*. Accessed online 28/10/2019 at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/levHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2660043>

⁴⁶ West Pymble Bicentennial Club, 2019, 'A Brief History of W.P.B.' *West Pymble Bicentennial Club*

⁴⁷ *Ibid*

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West Pymble Bowling Club did not allow women bowlers until the 1970s. In fact no female amenities were included in the original 1963 building design, which required an extension for women's toilets following female admission in the 1970s.⁴⁸ The addition of the female lounge and bar enabled women to gather and drink liquor in public without breaking the existing laws and social attitudes of the time, which had prevented women from drinking in public bars, considered a male space, following the First World War.⁴⁹

2.4. HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

Ted Fitzgerald

Ted Fitzgerald was recorded as the architect of the clubhouse and of the 1965 additions. He was a club member and was noted as Honorary Architect of the Club. Edward (Ted) B. Fitzgerald was born in 1904 and registered as an architect in 1927, while resident at Hunters Hill. Little is known about his work.

Eric Nicholls

Eric Nicholls is credited with the design of the original retaining walls and landscape at the former Artarmon Bowling Club site.⁵⁰

Eric Nicholls commenced his architectural career in Melbourne in 1916 and five years later he joined the practice of Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin. When the Griffins moved to Castlecrag in 1925, Nicholls was placed in charge of the Melbourne office. In 1929, Griffin initiated a formal partnership with Nicholls to design industrial buildings in residential neighbourhoods for the Reverberatory Incinerator & Engineering Company and later that year he transferred to Castlecrag with his family. Following Walter Griffin's departure for India in 1935, Nicholls assumed responsibility for the Greater Sydney Development Association and designed a number of houses in Castlecrag and elsewhere in Willoughby.⁵¹ He was appointed Honorary Town Planner for Willoughby City Council in the 1940s. He designed the Albert Chowne Memorial Hall and the Willoughby Park Bowling Club, as well as several other community buildings. He also donated his time as honorary architect to the Castlecrag Community Hall, Kindergarten and Library.⁵²

Naomi Wolinski

Naomi Wolinski was born in 1881 at Bendigo, Victoria, and moved to Sydney in 1910 with her husband, Ury.⁵³ Ury was a member of the North Sydney Bowling Club and won his first championship in 1917. In the late 1920s Naomi took up the game in her late 40s, playing at Wollstonecraft Bowling Club⁵⁴ which opened on 22 August 1928.⁵⁵ In 1930 she co-founded the New South Wales Ladies' (Women's) Bowling Association, serving as the inaugural vice-president and secretary in 1931-2, and as president from 1933

⁴⁸ West Pymble Bicentennial Club, 2019. 'A Brief History of W.P.B.C.' West Pymble Bicentennial Club.

⁴⁹ Allen, M., 2016. 'Curfews and lockouts: battles over drinking time have a long history in NSW.' The Conversation. Accessed online 9/4/2020 at: <https://theconversation.com/curfews-and-lockouts-battles-over-drinking-time-have-a-long-history-in-nsw-58220>

⁵⁰ Construction 19 Nov 1952, p15 Tenders Called

⁵¹ Willoughby District Historical Society

⁵² History at Willoughby - Willoughby City Library

⁵³ McCarthy, L., 2002. 'Wolinski, Naomi (1881-1969).' Australian Dictionary of Biography.

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ The Daily Telegraph, 22 August 1928. 'New Bowling Club on North Shore.' Accessed online 24/10/2019 at: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/246806779?searchTerm=22wollstonecraft%20club%22&searchLimits=sorby=dateAsc>

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to 1958.⁵⁶ In 1938 she was made a life member. Wolinski was also the founder and chair of the association journal, Women's Bowls News. In 1946, at the NSW Women's Bowls annual competition, the Wolinski Shield was named in her honour.

Wolinski travelled widely to attend the openings of many new clubs and to organize a zone structure for inter-club play and district championships. In 1955 she formed the Artarmon Women's Bowling Club but remained a member of the Wollstonecraft Bowling Club.⁵⁷

Throughout the mid-1950s she petitioned for equal access to club facilities for women, particularly in retaliation of the so-called marriage bar laws of the time. She wrote letters to the Licensing Magistrates and Licences Reduction Board in 1957 to lobby for rights of women to purchase liquor at the bowling clubs outside the company or supervision of a male member.⁵⁸

Fred Packer

Fred Packer was president of the club from 1950-1959, during the establishment of the Club at Burra Road. In August 1965 Fred Packer was made the Club's first Life Member. In honour of his contribution, the first green bears his name "The Fred Packer Green".⁵⁹ A garden in the South-West corner of the Fred Packer Green was erected to the memory of Mrs Pearl Packer.

Mollie Dive

Mollie Dive was the first Australian female cricket captain to win the Ashes from England in 1948-49. Dive received an OAM for her contribution to both cricket and hockey and in 1987 North Sydney Council named a grandstand in her honour. A North Shore resident for much of her life, Mollie Dive moved to Artarmon in 1965⁶⁰ and joined the Artarmon Bowls Club recreationally. Soon after she became the club's bowls organiser, becoming a life member, and she was the first member of the Artarmon Bowling Club to be included on the Match Committee for the Bennelong District.⁶¹

Frank Packer

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Frank Packer drank at the Bowling Club, being close to his offices at TCN 9 Artarmon, however this has not been verified. Frank Packer was not the president of the Artarmon Bowling Club as noted in the Artefact 2020 report. The connection between Frank Packer and club president Fred Packer has not been identified.

2.5. DESCRIPTION

The Locality

The former Artarmon Bowling Club is located in the south east corner of the Artarmon Heritage Conservation Area, on the western slope of a relatively steep gully of Flat Rock Creek. The site is surrounded by low density residential development to the north and west and the Artarmon Reserve to

⁵⁶ Op Cit

⁵⁷ McCarthy, L., 2002

⁵⁸ Fitzmaurice, J. L., 22nd July 1957. 'Copy of Letter from Officer of the Licensing Magistrates and Licences Reduction Board.' Letter to N.Wolinski

⁵⁹ The History of the Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club March 1967p4

⁶⁰ Sporting heroine dies. 'Unknown newspaper article, Pers. Comms. A. Greco.

⁶¹ Sportswoman Honoured. 'Unknown newspaper article, Pers. Comms. A. Greco.

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the south. The dense canopy surrounding the greens screens views to and from the site. The existing clubhouse building is not readily visible from the Burra Road streetscape due to the setback, the sloping topography and landscape. Artarmon Reserve is classified as 'Bushland' - Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest with a pocket of Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest, an endangered ecological community, on transitional/shale soil to the east.

The Subject Site

The site of the former Artarmon Bowling Club known as 1A Burra Road, has an area of 7,639 square metres and is located at the northern side of Burra Road. Lot 2 in DP 856286 is an irregular lot, bound to the west by lots fronting Cooney Road, to the south by lots fronting Burra Road and by Artarmon Reserve, and to the northeast by Flat Rock Creek reserve, which comprises an open stormwater channel. The site is accessed by a 16.65 metre wide driveway adjacent to No. 1 Burra Road. The site also links through to Artarmon Reserve to the south with pedestrian paths, and a walk to Folly Point via Flat Rock Creek Reserve.

The former clubhouse is sited between two former bowling greens defined by sandstone retaining walls which respond to the topography which falls to the south east. The former bowling greens have been repurposed as a community garden and children's play area. An informal car parking area adjoins the southern boundary of the site.

The Clubhouse was constructed in 1956-7, and underwent significant modifications in c1965. The architect is recorded as club member and Honorary Architect Ted Fitzgerald. The Bowling Club ceased its operations in 2015 and the clubhouse is currently vacant.

The Exterior

This modest building features post World War II modernist features. The original clubhouse comprised a dominant gabled form defining the hall/auditorium, with a flat concrete canopy extending south from the entry and supported by a blade wall which appears to be clad in smooth face stone. The canopy continued around the southern corner over distinctive timber canted windows overlooking the lower green, to roof the bar. The timber windows featured a strong vertical and horizontal divisions which unified the facades. Low steps and a terrace surrounding the building also unified the scheme. The upper level was clad in weatherboard, while the lower level was brick. The roof appears to be clad in tiles. A low pitch roofed wing at the rear housed change rooms, and amenities.

The original building has been extended in a number of phases. The flat roof additions to the south corner (function Room), east corner (office and toilets) and west corner (office), obscure much of the original primary façade which featured angled glazed windows. The additions degraded the original design intent in key views from the entry and lower bowling green. Despite this, the primary gabled roof form remains legible, along with original glazing to the entry and the north western elevation.

The Interior

The clubhouse accommodates a main auditorium/hall, with bar to the southeast, and a function room in the south corner, kitchen, change rooms and toilet facilities. The main auditorium/hall has a small timber stage at the north eastern end, timber floor and extensive glazing to the north, west and south.

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There is also a lower ground level that stores billiard tables and greenkeeper's equipment. The interior finishes are utilitarian and typical of the period.

Moveable Heritage

Artefact prepared a Moveable Heritage Survey which identifies memorabilia relating to the formation and operation of the Artarmon Bowling Club located in the former clubhouse, notably the ABC crest plaque attached to the front façade, plaques, honour boards in the main hall and in storage, a blazer and hat, pennants, commemorative items, trophies and awards. The condition of these items is noted as generally good.

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3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Bowling was a leisure activity for the male elite in the nineteenth century. The first bowling club on the North Shore of Sydney was Manly Bowling Club, established in 1893. Waverton Bowling Club opened in the following year, and additional North Shore clubs were constructed in the 1890s and 1900s, including Neutral Bay, Manly Vale-Calabria, Chatswood, Warringah and Mosman bowling clubs.

Several bowling clubs were established throughout the Willoughby District as early as 1900, when Chatswood Bowling Club was opened,⁶² followed by Mosman Bowling Club in 1927⁶³ and Wollstonecraft in 1928.⁶⁴

Popularity of bowling clubs flourished in the post World War II period with new prosperity, time and resources for leisure coupled with a desire to improve prestige and community. Bowling transformed into a sport for the masses, with women and younger demographics becoming involved in the sport.⁶⁵ Sport indeed became a key motivator in the purchasing of public parklands through the actions of municipal councils, progress associations and sporting clubs.⁶⁶

Bowling greens were often publicly funded facilities that formed part of council initiatives concerned with community health and socialisation. Many bowling clubs also played into the post-war popularity of hotels and bars, which private hospitality businesses at the time were rapidly developing. Bowling clubs often served as an important hub within communities, providing an area for social community functions, and largely continued in their popularity to the end of the twentieth century. The gradual acceptance of women into club activities was another important factor in the need for building expansion plans after World War II.⁶⁷

With so many new buildings and major extensions built during the late 1950s and 1960s, similar styles prevailed across some clubs. Like their predecessors, these amenities were functional and domestic in scale and idiom, with simple rectangular pavilions and low-slung hip or skillion roofs, oriented towards the rectilinear greens. Materials were dependent on vernacular building traditions across different regions and ranged from timber weatherboard and tin in older premises and country towns, to brick or blockwork, tile or corrugated iron, depending on the materials to hand.⁶⁸

Car parking became a dominant consideration as the potential for additional revenue was realised. With few resources, distinctive elements were often reserved for the “trimmings” of buildings: the entrance gates, boundary fences and screen veranda posts...⁶⁹

⁶² Chatswood Bowls, n.d. 'History.' *Chatswood Bowls*. Accessed online 24/10/2019 at <https://www.chatswoodbowls.com.au/history/>

⁶³ Mosman Bowling Club, 2019. 'About Us.' *Mosman Bowling Club*. Accessed online 28/10/2019 at <https://www.mosmanbowlingclub.org.au/about-us/>

⁶⁴ *The Daily Telegraph*, 22 August 1928. 'New Bowling Club on North Shore.' Accessed online 24/10/2019 at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/246806779?searchTerm=22wollstonecraft%20club%22&searchLimits=sortBy=dateAsc>

⁶⁵ Turnbull, A., 2014. 'Bowled over-the changing world of lawn bowls.' Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences

⁶⁶ Hannah Levi P. 147

⁶⁷ Hannah Levi P. 147

⁶⁸ Hannah Levi P. 155

⁶⁹ Hannah Levi P. 155

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In the Post-War period new clubs were opened: Willoughby Park Bowling Club opened in 1953; Northbridge in 1954 and Northbridge Women's Bowling Club in 1957, Artarmon in 1957; West Pymble in 1960.

Willoughby Park Bowling Club and Northbridge Bowling Clubs are particularly comparable to Artarmon Bowling Club because of their date of construction and location within the Willoughby local government area.

Willoughby Park Bowling Club 1953

The clubhouse is listed as a Heritage Item on the LEP. The following notes are extracted from the NSW Heritage Inventory Sheet:

Designed by EM Nicholls, opened in 1953. Women bowlers were admitted in 1971.

Willoughby Park Bowling Club has historical and aesthetic significance as an intact example of the work of noted local architect, Eric M Nicholls. It retains its fine 1950s interior. It is also likely to have social significance for older members of the local community.

Willoughby Park Bowling Club has historical significance in helping to demonstrate the development of Willoughby in the post-war period. Willoughby Park Bowling Club has historical associations with the architect E M Nicholls, who was a significant local Willoughby architect and partner of Walter Burley Griffin. Willoughby Park Bowling Club has aesthetic significance as a good example of the work of architect, E M Nicholls who was a partner with Walter Burley Griffin in Griffin and Nicholls Architects, and who lived in Castlecrag and designed many local houses and community facilities. Nicholls ~ work is almost entirely confined to the Willoughby area. Willoughby Park Bowling Club is likely to have social significance for the members of the bowling club and others who use its facilities. Willoughby Park Bowling Club is rare as an intact 1950s club interior and example of the work of E M Nicholls whose work is almost entirely confined to the Willoughby area. Having been little altered since it was built in 1952 and added to in 1961.

Northbridge Bowling Club 1954 and Northbridge Women's Bowling Club 1957

Like Artarmon, the Northbridge Bowling Club closed voluntarily due to low member numbers in 2015. The site is not heritage listed.

The following notes are from Esther Leslie's "The Suburb of Northbridge- A Community History" 1988. Agitation for a bowling green began in Northbridge in 1924, and again in 1937, however neither funding nor a suitable site was found. The war changed priorities until the late 1940s when Warner Park was considered as a site. A men's club formed in 1949 with (Sir) Edward Hallstrom as patron, and members using grounds elsewhere. In December 1951, Council and the club council licenced and authorised the club to lay out and maintain greens and build a clubhouse and greenkeepers residence which officially opened in 1954, and extended in 1957. As women were not permitted to bowl with the men, the Northbridge Women's Bowling Club was formed in 1957 in the south-west of Warner Park. The women laid the foundations for the clubhouse, a surveyor planned the green and club members planted seeds and grass runners to get the green established. Play commenced in May 1957, and in 1961 the women got a clubhouse of their own. The two clubs continued side by side until they were eventually combined in 2001.

Other heritage listed suburban post World War II Bowling Clubs are noted below with details on their significance from the State Heritage Inventory:

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Mona Vale Bowling Club 1954

Mona Vale Bowling Club is significant for its historical and social values, being in operation since 1954 representing a leisure activity that is central to Australian culture. It is associated with this significant cultural leisure activity and maintains and shows the continuity of this activity that has been contributing to the community's sense of place for the last 60 years.

The Club is of also significant due to its association with Albert Namatjira and Aboriginal culture. The early, large format original photograph of a sacred ceremony outside Alice Springs was placed on the wall of the Namatjira Lounge of the clubhouse to honour Mr Namatjira and has a commemorative value. Namatjira, one of the most important Aboriginal artists in Australia, was an affiliated member of the club and died five years after the club opened.

Although the Club holds strong historical and social heritage values, the clubhouse has modest architectural value as it is a typical suburban clubhouse with simple aesthetic characteristics.

Social significance of the Mona Vale Bowling Club requires a more detailed study to ascertain its value for the local community, however its nomination for heritage listing indicates that it holds strong social values as a recreational facility for the community contributing to the community's sense of place for the last 60 years and for its association with Aboriginal culture.

South Hurstville Bowling Club c1957

29A Greenacre Road (former South Hurstville Bowling Club) is a representative example of a two-storey Post-War Functional style institutional building which is relatively rare within the Kogarah LGA. The place is of importance to a past and present identifiable group within the local community as a social institution, and an important contributor to the historical growth of Kogarah LGA.

Kyle Bay Bowling Club c1950

Kyle Bay Bowling Club is historically significant as it represents a good example of a Post-War international style building.

Other suburban post war Bowling Clubs (not heritage listed) are noted below:

West Pymble Bowling Club date from the post war period.

West Pymble Bowling Club 1960

The West Pymble Bowling and Sports Club was founded in 1960, following the growth of the area in the post-war period. The West Pymble community formed a Progress Association and objected to several industries in the location of Bicentennial Park, instead advocating for the establishment of community services including a school and community hall, which gradually became an indoor ⁷⁰ bowling club. The indoor bowling club was used for several years, however it was soon felt that an outdoor bowling green was needed. The West Pymble Community Centre Bowling Club was formed after a semi-formal meeting in June 1960, and the Council agreed to supply bowling equipment to the club ⁷¹The club continued to operate out of the community centre for two years, until tenders were requested for the construction of the clubhouse. The clubhouse, two bowling greens and a retaining

⁷⁰ West Pymble Bicentennial Club, 2019. 'A Brief History of W.P.B.C.' *West Pymble Bicentennial Club*. Accessed online 28/10/2019 at: <http://www.wpbc.com.au/a-brief-history-of-w-p-b-c/>

⁷¹ Ibid

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wall were constructed by 1963.⁷² The green and the club were officially opened in June 1964 and a second green was opened only 11 months later.⁴⁰ Additional extensions to the club occurred in the late 1960s and 1970s, with the addition of a verandah, ladies' toilets, and a barbeque area which quickly became an important community area.⁷³ In 2007 a new roofed verandah was constructed at the western side of the main building with a glass enclosed area, allowing views of the greens from inside. West Pymble Bowling Club celebrated their 50th anniversary in October 2010. In 2013 the name of the club was changed to West Pymble Bicentennial Club.⁷⁴

Architect Designed Bowling Clubs

The Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse was designed by Member and Honorary Architect Ted Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald has not been identified as an important architect of the period.

Hannah Lewi notes that on rare occasions unique designs for new clubrooms were provided by architects – often club members, and she identifies the following notable examples. Bareena Bowling Club was designed by Geelong architects Laird and Buchan in 1915. Prahan Bowling Club designed by Leslie M Perrott and Partners and published in *Architecture in Australia* in 1962. Orange City Bowling Club was designed by Christian and Gerrett and Loder and Dunphy's designed a club at Peakhurst. Significant architects of the Postwar period designing Bowling Clubs included Ian McKay who designed a Bowling Club at Croydon Park, and Harry Seidler with Colin Griffiths who were responsible for the Canberra Bowling Club, 1959.⁷⁵

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ Ibid

⁷⁵ Hannah Lewi P.157-8

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4. SIGNIFICANCE

The local or state level of an item is determined by using the Heritage Council criteria to assess its significance, as set out in the guideline Assessing Heritage Significance.

An item has local heritage significance when it is important in the local area for one or more of the following criteria:

- a) it is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history – known as historic significance
- b) it has strong or special association with the life or works of a person or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history in the local area – known as historic associations
- c) it is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area – known as aesthetic or technical significance
- d) it has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons – known as social significance
- e) it has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of area's cultural or natural history – known as research potential or educational significance
- f) it possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the area's cultural or natural history – known as rarity
- g) it is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the area's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments – known as representative significance

Only one of the above criteria needs to be satisfied for an item to have local heritage significance. An item is not excluded from having local significance because other items with similar characteristics have already been identified or listed.

An item is not considered to possess local heritage significance if it is not considered as important in the local area under any of the above criteria. There are inclusion and exclusion guidelines for each criteria.

The following Assessment of Significance includes the assessment extracted from the Heritage Nomination Form which comprises an assessment statement attributed to Artefact (in italic) and further assessment provided in the Nomination Form by Anna Greco (also in Italic). The source of quote is not identified. The Architectural Projects PL commentary and assessment is added to each criterion.

Criterion (a): Historic Significance

Artefact:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse, as an Inter-War style recreational building with post war elements, is demonstrative of the continued growth and development of the suburb of Artarmon and residents' interest in recreational activities during the time of its construction during the mid-twentieth century.

Greco:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is of historical significance at a Local level because of the facilities expressed the impact of society's broader cultural expectations and of legislation on

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local women building a community facility that was part of the pioneering movement for gender equality in the game of Lawn Bowls.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is a physical embodiment of the impact the Marriage Bar laws on married women during the 1950's as it demonstrates how married women were affected by the legislation of the time and how they progressed from their role as tea ladies to respected bowlers of equal skill to men. The former Artarmon Bowling Club house is of historical significance at a Local level because it gives an insight into the lives of married women in the 1950's.

The history of lawn bowls' impact on social and cultural history is well-documented. Much less has been documented regarding the history of women's contribution to shaping gender equality in Australian sport through sports such as Lawn Bowls.

The club is historically significant because of its historical association with important local and NSW figures who were members of the Club.

Architectural Projects:

The development of the site as the former Artarmon Bowling Club from 1951 (greens, clubhouse, landscaping) reflects the post war growth and aspirations of the Artarmon community. The former Artarmon Bowling Club has historical significance for its ability to illustrate the rapid growth of lawn bowls as a sport for the masses and the increased popularity of leisure, sporting and community facilities in the post-war era.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club has historical significance for its ability to evidence the growing movement for the inclusion of women in the sport of Lawn Bowls with the inclusion of women members from 1957, and the provision for women in the clubhouse facilities from its original construction.

The site and building have historic significance at a local level.

Criterion (b): Associative Significance

Artefact:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club clubhouse does not appear to have any direct connections with prominent members of the local community or any ongoing historic associations with persons of importance to NSW's cultural history.

The item does not meet the local significance threshold under this criterion.

Greco:

The Stone work done for the terracing of the greens was designed, and tendered, by Eric Nichols, Willoughby Council's architect of the time (Construction, 19 November 1952). He was an architect of note as he worked with Walter Burley Griffin as his architectural partner and took over Griffin's practice when Griffin left for India. Nichols undertook some significant buildings within his own right, many of which are located in the Willoughby municipality.

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The Club house honour board records Mary (Mollie) Dive OAM among its membership. She was a resident of Artarmon for 20 years, an active member of the Artarmon Bowling Club, and was arguably Australia's most famous female sporting legend. She was the first Australian female cricket captain to win the Ashes from England in 1948-49 and received the OAM for her contribution to both cricket and hockey. In 1987 North Sydney Council named a grandstand in honour of Molly Dive even though she had never played on the oval.

Mrs N Wolinski who played at Wollstonecraft Bowling Club. Mrs Wolinski was the co-founder of the NSW Women's Bowling Association (NSWWBA). She was instrumental in building the game of women's bowling. Under her leadership by 1957 NSWWBA had 261 affiliated women's clubs supporting close to 12,000 members. Mrs Wolinski was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II coronation medal in 1953 and in 1960 she was appointed MBE.

Mrs AE Williams the women's clubhouse first president worked with the NSW WBA for 21 years. The Artarmon bowling club greens were accepted (c.1975) to hold the state Singles and pairs competitions. NSW remains as the only state with a Women Bowling association in Australia and the Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse is representative of women's bowling clubhouse commissioned by women in the 1950's heyday of bowling.

Architectural Projects:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club has historical associations with the architect E M Nicholls, who was an important local architect and partner of Walter Burley Griffin. The extent of this association relates to the construction of the greens and retaining walls in 1952, which are not considered a major work of Nicholls. Further, the Artarmon Bowling Club history notes that the design for the first green was prepared by Charles Bolton, adapted from the Thomson Park scheme prepared by Willoughby Council's Engineer's Office some years previously.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club site has historical associations with a number of club members who were instrumental in the establishment and development of the club, yet their historical importance does not extend beyond the club itself. These include the Artarmon Women's Bowling Club President Mrs AE Williams, the architect of the clubhouse Ted Fitzgerald, Artarmon Bowling Club Presidents Walter Reeves, Fred Packer and Ray Sadler, and other active members of the committee.⁷⁶

The connection of Artarmon Bowling Club with Naomi Wolinski, an important historic figure for her role in Women's Bowling, is incidental and not specific to the place as Naomi Wolinski established hundreds of Women's Bowling Clubs, including Artarmon, in the 1950s.

The Artarmon Bowling Club has an association with Mollie Dive, who received the OAM for her contribution to both cricket and hockey. Dive was an active member of the club from 1965 and became the club's bowls organiser and a life member. Dive's association with the former Artarmon Bowling Club has limited historical significance as bowling is not the field in which she achieved excellence.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club has unsubstantiated, incidental connections with Frank Packer.

⁷⁶ FD Bushwell, Charles Bailey, Frank Ball, Charles Bolton, Ted Trollope, L N Eakins, Bill Fox, Alf Lammcraft, Alan Wren, Mrs Reeves, Mrs Lewarne

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The site and building do not meet this criterion.

Criterion (c): Aesthetic Significance

Artefact:

The former clubhouse takes design elements from both the Inter-War and Post-War architectural styles, and exhibits features that are typical of its type. The building retains its corrugated iron roof and red brick and weatherboard facade; whilst internally, the structure appears relatively intact with c1950s fixtures and fittings remaining within the kitchen and bathrooms, and fixed furniture pieces, and painted timber joinery remaining within the kitchen and changing rooms. The structure does not contribute to the aesthetic quality of the wider conservation area.

Greco:

(no comment)

Architectural Projects:

Eric Nicholls had an input into the construction of the greens and retaining walls in 1952, however these are not considered a major work of Nicholls, nor evidence of creative or technical achievement. The clubhouse, designed by Ted Fitzgerald in 1956, was a representative example of Post War community architecture that has been modified and has lost its integrity. The clubhouse does not evidence creative or technical achievement, nor does it exemplify a particular style. The former Artarmon Bowling Club retains much of its original bushland setting which has scenic qualities and visual appeal, but does not meet the threshold for heritage listing under this criterion in comparison with the adjoining Reserve.

The site and building do not meet this criterion.

Criterion (d): Social Significance

Artefact:

The former clubhouse is likely to have social significance for the members of the bowling club and others who have used its facilities, particularly within the immediate vicinity of the site in Artarmon.

The community has been involved in the Artarmon Bowling Club since its origins, with the petitions and fundraising efforts of the Artarmon Progress Association and several community volunteers resulting in the development and operations of the club throughout its history. The interior layout of the clubhouse, notably the inclusion of a women's only auxiliary lounge connected to the main bar reflects social attitudes and laws within the post-war period and represents the bowling club as an importance (important) social area attached to women's sport.

Greco:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club is of social significance at a Local level because long-term members of the local community retain an attachment to the building and place as a social and recreational centre that was used not only for Lawn Bowls but for other community activities, such

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as yoga, and continues such use through the establishment of the community garden on the upper greens terrace.

Architectural Projects:

The site has a long history of community involvement since the purchase of the site by the Artarmon Bowling Club in 1951 with the petitions and fundraising efforts initially of the Artarmon Progress Association, and later the fundraising and volunteer work of Artarmon Bowling Club members, men and women. Bowling clubs served as an important hub within communities, providing an area for social community functions, and continued in their popularity to the end of the twentieth century. As such, the former Artarmon Bowling Club site is likely to have social significance for older members of the local community, particularly members of the former bowling club and others who have used its facilities. In 2015 Willoughby Mayor, Gail Giles-Gidney said "Artarmon Bowling Club has been an important part of the Willoughby community since 1946 and will be greatly missed." The community's high regard for the place is demonstrated in Community Consultation in response to the DA for demolition, and specifically in the submissions received. 54 individual submissions were received against the proposal while only two were in support (notably the Artarmon Progress Association). 18 of these submissions stated the clubhouse had enormous cultural and heritage value. This provides evidence of the active presence of an informed and concerned community. Evidence of the esteem in which the building and site is held in the Artarmon community is embodied in the Petition with 798 signatories presented to Council when the demolition of the clubhouse was proposed.

The site and building have social significance at a local level to the Artarmon community.

Criterion (e): Technical/Research Significance

Artefact:

Although the former clubhouse possibly has some research potential to reveal information about former members of the club, it is unlikely this would provide insight that is not already available in historic records and documentation of the area.

Greco:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club building is of technical/research significance at a Local level as the planning and club house design facilitated the integration of women without transgressing the requirement for registration of women limiting their access to the clubhouse.

- *The public bar was built with an auxiliary lounge with a server into the bar.*
- *A purpose-built kitchen for catering functions and fundraising with a separate entrance by-passing the main hall so the women could cater while the men's games were on.*
- *A ladies change room, off the amenities as was the custom to society women in bowling.*

Architectural Projects:

The original layout of the former clubhouse and the 1965 additions provides evidence of the inclusion of women bowlers in the Club. This is significant in the context of the gradual acceptance of women into club activities in the game of Lawn Bowls in the postwar period.

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The item has limited research potential in this regard due to the extent of alteration to the fabric, and as the information provided is readily available from other sources.

The site and building do not meet this criterion.

Criterion (f): Rarity

Artefact:

There are numerous structures within the immediate vicinity and wider Sydney which exhibit design elements of the Inter-War and post-war periods. These buildings, particularly within the Artarmon Conservation Area, are intact and fine examples of their type and provide a strong contribution to the surrounding area. There are several post-war style structures within Artarmon, which are heritage listed under the Artarmon Conservation Area, that are considered fine examples of their type. The clubhouse also incorporates elements of the Californian Bungalow architectural style, which represents a somewhat rare stylistic choice within the Willoughby Local Council Area and the Artarmon Conservation Area. The interior building layout, notably the separate women's lounge, is typical of recreational clubhouses of this period.

Greco:

Property purchased for the establishment of bowling clubs were historically on the outskirts of town where land was much cheaper. With city expansion, the club sites presented a lucrative opportunity for many developers.

The clubhouse's isolation has been both a blessing and a curse. Nestled among Artarmon's reserve it proved difficult to attract new members and dwindling memberships saw the Artarmon Bowling Club site sold to council on 29 January 2016 with a caveat that it be used by the community for outdoor recreation and not on sold to developers.

The Artarmon Bowling Club may be the last remaining clubhouse in its original environment built inside the reserve it's an example of how bowling club were built in the "worst" end of town. It provides future generations a unique experience of life in the 1950's and insight into the bowling phenomena in its original bush land context.

Architectural Projects:

The Artarmon Bowling Club is one of many new Clubhouses built during the late 1950s and 1960s and is not considered rare. Popularity of bowling clubs flourished in the post war period, with new prosperity, time and resources for leisure coupled with a desire to improve prestige and community of the area. The former Artarmon Bowling Club is one of many suburban Bowling Clubs built in the 1950s. The building is functional and domestic in scale, like the majority of suburban Bowling Clubs of the period.

The siting of Artarmon Bowling Club on the western slope of a relatively steep gully of Flat Rock Creek Reserve, reflects the difficulty of finding a site. Postwar suburban bowling clubs were often located in reserves or cheap, difficult blocks of land. Northbridge Bowling Club is a local example of this.

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The site and building do not meet this criterion.

Criterion (g): Representativeness

Artefact:

The former clubhouse is considered a representative example of bowling club buildings of its period and as a recreational facility central to post-war leisure, sport and social activities. The clubhouse is not, however, important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of recreational clubhouses, and more significant and intact examples exist.

Greco:

The former clubhouse is considered a representative example of bowling club buildings of its period and as a recreational facility central to post-war leisure, sport and social activities.

The clubhouse is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of recreational clubhouses, and more significantly it's design remains unaltered since 1957, showing how women were integrated into the one bowling clubhouse as social equals, without transgressing the requirements for segregation of women in the 1950's and 1960s in game of Lawn Bowls.

The significant clubhouse features are:

- *The public bar was built with an auxiliary lounge with a server into the bar.*
- *A purpose-built kitchen for catering functions and fundraising with a separate entrance by-passing the main hall so the women could cater while the men's games were on.*
- *A ladies change room, off the amenities as was the custom to society women in bowling.*

Architectural Projects:

The former Artarmon Bowling Club including the greens, clubhouse and landscaping are a representative example of a suburban bowling club of the postwar period and as a recreational facility central to post-war leisure, sport and social activities. The extent of alteration to the fabric of the greens and clubhouse reduces the representative values of the site.

The original layout of the former clubhouse and the 1965 additions have the ability to illustrate the inclusion of women bowlers in the Club. This is significant in the context of the gradual acceptance of women into club activities in game of Lawn Bowls in the postwar period.

The site and building have representative significance.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former Artarmon Bowling Club (greens, clubhouse, landscaping), which developed on the Burra Road site from 1951, has historical significance at a local level for its ability to reflect the post war growth and aspirations of the Artarmon community. The former Artarmon Bowling Club has historical significance for its ability to illustrate the rapid growth of lawn bowls as a sport for the masses and the increased popularity of leisure, sporting and community facilities in the post-war era. The former Artarmon Bowling Club has historical significance for its ability to evidence the growing movement for the inclusion of women in the sport of Lawn Bowls with the inclusion of women members from 1957, and the provision for women in the clubhouse facilities from construction.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club site has social significance at a local level for the Artarmon Community. The community's high regard for the place is demonstrated in Community Consultation in

1934 | Former Artarmon Bowling Club

response to the DA for demolition, and specifically in the submissions received, which provide evidence of the active presence of an informed and concerned community.

The former Artarmon Bowling Club including the greens, clubhouse and landscaping have limited representative significance at a local level as a suburban bowling club of the postwar period and as a recreational facility central to post-war leisure, sport and social activities. The original layout of the former clubhouse and the 1965 additions have the ability to illustrate the inclusion of women bowlers in the Club. This is significant in the context of the gradual acceptance of women into club activities in the game of Lawn Bowls in the postwar period.

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Listing

This report has found the former Artarmon Bowling Club comprising the bowling greens, clubhouse, and landscape, to have historic, social and representative significance at a local level.

It is recommended that the former Artarmon Bowling Club site including former bowling greens, clubhouse and surrounding landscaping is included on the LEP as a local Heritage item.

Opportunities and Constraints

The significance of the site is embodied in the historical use of the property as a bowling club. While that use does not continue, the former use can be best interpreted by the built components of the site. Given that the site no longer operates as the Artarmon Bowling Club, any proposal for redevelopment should provide continued community use and provide a suitable interpretation of the former Artarmon Bowling Club. The success of any reinterpretation relates to the sensitive redevelopment of the key components in a recognisable form. Ideally, this would include the former bowling greens, the landscape and the former clubhouse.

The former clubhouse presents opportunities for re-use by the Artarmon community who value it. The building has capacity for adaptation, extension and modification. Ideally, the original 1957 appearance of the building, with distinctive canted windows overlooking the green could be reinstated.

The former bowling greens have been modified, the upper green to a lesser extent than the lower green. Future reuse of the upper green should aim to maximise the legibility of its former use.

The landscape setting of the former Artarmon Bowling Club should be retained and enhanced in future reuse of the site.

Further Recommendations

The Heritage Interpretation Strategy should be revised to address the aspects of significance identified in this report.

The archives of the Club held on site should be reviewed to better inform the Heritage Interpretation Strategy. The Movable Heritage Strategy should be revised to address the aspects of significance identified in this report and only memorabilia relating to the formation and operation of the club 1957-2015 including honour boards, plaques, pennants, commemorative items, trophies and awards should be preserved and displayed insitu.

An archival recording is prepared prior to the commencement of works.

A structural assessment of the existing building should be undertaken.

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7. LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure	Date	Description	Source
Fig 1	1952	Artarmon Bowling Club	Women Bowling News, May 1969
Fig 2	No date	Artarmon Bowling Club - Clubhouse	Artarmon Bowling Club Archives
Fig 3	c1957	Artarmon Bowling Club	Women Bowling News, May 1969
Fig 4	Dated 1956	Men and Women playing together at Artarmon Bowling Club	Willoughby City Council – Local History Digital Collection
Fig 5	1957	Guests at official opening	Willoughby City Council
Fig 6	Dated 1957	Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club	Willoughby City Council – Local History Digital Collection
Fig 7	1958	Painting of Artarmon Bowling Club - Alexander Asovtseff	Anna Greco
Fig 8	1987	Friends' Day and Presentation of Life Membership to Mrs Dot Mill	Artarmon Bowling Club Archives
Fig 9	Pre 1978	Artarmon Bowling Club showing brick and weatherboard extensions	Artarmon Bowling Club Archives
Fig 10	1981	Artarmon Bowling Club	Artarmon Bowling Club Archives
Fig 11	1943	Aerial Photograph	SIX Maps
Fig 12	1951	Aerial Photograph	NSW Historical Imagery
Fig 13	1955	Aerial Photograph	NSW Historical Imagery
Fig 14	1961	Aerial Photograph	NSW Historical Imagery
Fig 15	1965	Aerial Photograph	NSW Historical Imagery
Fig 16	1978	Aerial Photograph	NSW Historical Imagery
Fig 17	2020	Aerial Photograph	SIX Maps

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Fig 1 | 1952 | Artarmon Bowling Club | Women Bowling News,
May 1969



Fig 2 | no date | Artarmon Bowling Club - Clubhouse | Artarmon Bowling Club
Archives



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Fig 3 | c1957 | Artarmon Bowling Club | Women Bowling News,
May 1969

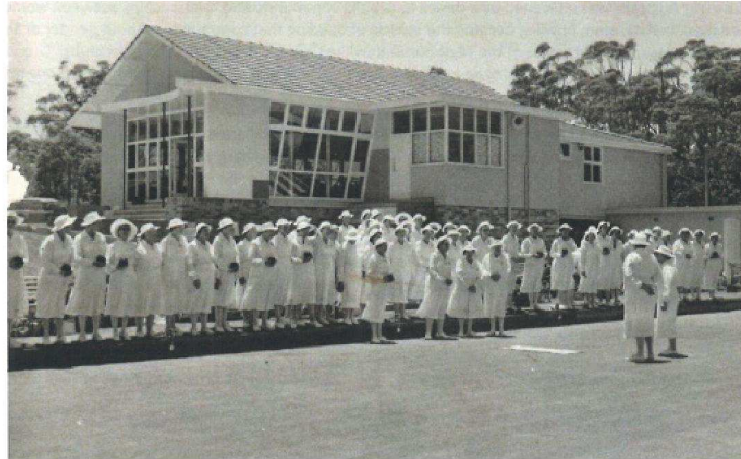
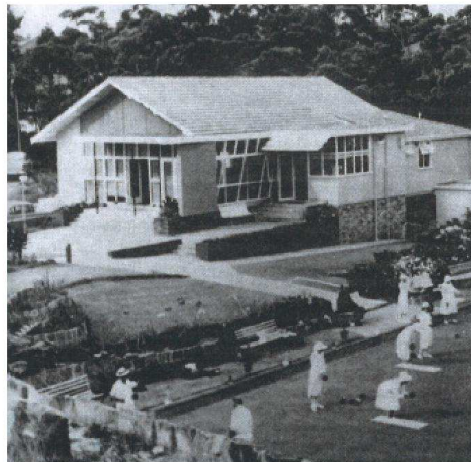


Fig 4 | dated 1956 | Men and Women playing together at
Artarmon Bowling Club | Willoughby City Council - Local
History Digital Collection



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Fig 5 | 1957 | Guests at official opening | Willoughby City Council



Fig 6 | dated 1957 | Artarmon Bowling and Recreation Club | Willoughby City Council - Local History Digital Collection



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Fig 7 | 1958 | Painting of Artarmon Bowling Club - Alexander Asovtseff | Anna Greco



Fig 8 | 1987 | Friends' Day and Presentation of Life Membership to Mrs Dot Mill | Artarmon Bowling Club Archives



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Fig 9 | pre 1978 | Artarmon Bowling Club showing brick and weatherboard extensions | Artarmon Bowling Club Archives



Fig 10 | 1981 | Artarmon Bowling Club | Artarmon Bowling Club Archives



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Fig 11 | 1943 | Aerial Photograph

SIX Maps



Fig 12 | 1951 | Aerial Photograph

NSW Historical Imagery



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Fig 13

1955

Aerial Photograph

NSW Historical Imagery



Fig 14

1961

Aerial Photograph

NSW Historical Imagery



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Fig 15 | 1965 | Aerial Photograph

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Fig 16 | 1978 | Aerial Photograph

NSW Historical Imagery



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Fig 17 | 2020 | Aerial Photographs | SIX Maps



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