

**KILLARA BOWLING AND LAWN TENNIS CLUB**




**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

**PREPARED ON BEHALF OF**

**KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL**

**REVISED ISSUE – SEPTEMBER 2021**

## 1. SITES' LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS AND ZONING:

Address	Lot & DP	Owner	Map
6 Arnold Street, Killara	Lot 3 DP 817195	Killara Bowling Club Pty Ltd	
6 Arnold Street, Killara	Lot 2 DP 817195	Killara Bowling Club Pty Ltd	
Werona Avenue, Killara (Right of Way)	Lot 11 DP 1083606	Killara Lawn Tennis Club Pty Ltd	

6 Arnold Street,  
Killara

Lot B DP  
380305

Killara Bowling Club Pty Ltd



8 Arnold Street,  
Killara

Lot 11 DP  
1083606

Killara Lawn Tennis Club Pty Ltd



### Zoning - R2 Low Density Residential

**Land Use Permitted with Consent** - Bed and breakfast accommodation; Boarding houses; Building identification signs, Business identification signs; Centre-based child care facilities; Community facilities; Dwelling houses; Environmental protection works; Exhibition homes; Flood mitigation works; Group homes; Health consulting rooms; Home-based child care; Home businesses; Home industries; Hospitals; Neighbourhood shops; Oyster aquaculture; Places of public worship; Pond-based aquaculture; Recreation areas; Respite day care centres; Roads; Secondary dwellings; Tank-based aquaculture

**History of Zoning** – The site has been zoned for a residential use since the 1960s.

- County of Cumberland Planning Scheme 1961 – site was zoned 'Living Area'
- Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance 1971 – site was zoned Residential 2(c2).

When the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 was prepared, the residential 2(c2) zone was translated into the equivalent under the Standard Instrument, being R2 Low Density Residential.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Killara Bowling and Lawn Tennis Clubs are located within the Springdale Conservation Area. The statement of significance for the Conservation Area is as follows:

*The Springdale Conservation Area has historic significance as part of the Jane Bradley's 1839 160 acre land grant whose boundaries are evident through the following streets: Karanga Avenue, Locksley Street, Roseberry Road and Stanhope Rd. The area has aesthetic value for the high number of intact Federation and Inter-war buildings, as well as significant twentieth century development. The area is characterised by medium to large lots with well-established gardens. The houses are almost exclusively detached residences, with only few exceptions. Architectural styles present include Federation Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts and Bungalow, and Inter-war Old English, Spanish Mission, Mediterranean, Californian Bungalow and . Many houses retain period landscape features including sweeping drives, borders of mixed shrubberies and planted out beds.*

The significance of the Springdale Conservation area has been previously associated with significant architectural styles and residential allotments only. Whilst the significance of this Conservation Area will be adjusted to include the significance of the Killara Bowling and Lawn Tennis Clubs, this heritage assessment also considers the significance of the Bowling and Tennis Club sites within their own right.

The adjusted statement of significance will be as follows:

*The Springdale Conservation Area has historic significance as part of the Jane Bradley's 1839 160 acre land grant whose boundaries are evident through the following streets: Karanga Avenue, Locksley Street, Roseberry Road and Stanhope Road. The area has aesthetic value for the high number of intact Federation and Inter-war buildings, as well as significant twentieth century development. The area is characterised by medium to large lots with well-established gardens. The houses are almost exclusively detached residences, with only few exceptions. Architectural styles present include Federation Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts and Bungalow, and Inter-war Old English, Spanish Mission, Mediterranean, Californian Bungalow and . Many houses retain period landscape features including sweeping drives, borders of mixed shrubberies and planted out beds.*

*A significant landmark within the conservation area, the Killara Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club sites have strong links to the historical development of the area, notably the work of J G Edwards. They also represent a continued and historic use of the land for recreational purposes.*

### 3. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The subject site comprises of four allotments addressing three street frontages, Locksley Street, Arnold Street and Werona Avenue and comprising the Killara Lawn Tennis Club and the Killara Bowling Club. Collectively, the sites contains a small concentration of buildings located along the common boundary with the tennis building facing east to the tennis courts and the bowling club complex orientated to the bowling greens to the west. The history of both sites provides more information in relation to the evolution of the built fabric and landscape elements on the site.



Aerial photograph of the Killara Bowling and Lawn Tennis Clubs (Source: E Craig Miller).

Despite an inspection of the sites being carried out by Council Staff on 13 April 2021, photographs were not taken due to a children's sport event occurring at this time. Covid-19 restrictions permitting, a further and forensic analysis of the site's built and landscape fabric should be undertaken to determine any heritage significance that exists beyond what is identified in this report. Some images of the club houses, bowling greens, tennis courts and other built fabric contained within the sites, provided by community member Mr E Craig Miller, have been included as appendix 1.

#### 4. HISTORY OF KILLARA LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The following history of the Killara Lawn Tennis Club has been provided by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, written by Elizabeth Dokulil (*The Historian* Vol 45.1 2016, pp 43-46):

*The area where the Killara Tennis Club now stands was covered with tall trees on the banks of a watercourse.<sup>i</sup> By 1893, J G Edwards an enterprising developer, had acquired the whole 160 acres of the Springdale Estate and proceeded to subdivide them into residential blocks. Edwards realised, to the benefit of Killara, that the site bounded by Locksley Street, Werona Avenue and Arnold Street was unsuitable for subdivision, so set it aside for a park, or recreational purposes.<sup>ii</sup>*

*Edwards attempted to form a company to clear and drain the site, but as there were no takers. He proceeded to cut a channel to carry away the water, shored it up with timber and bricks, removed trees and stumps and cleared the area. This indefatigable man proceeded to form three tennis courts, again attempted to float a company with no success, so he refunded all money and completed the project himself. By 1910 Edwards had fashioned six tennis courts, a croquet lawn and bowling green, built a small wooden clubhouse and thus his vision of the Killara Recreational Club was born.<sup>iii</sup>*

*At first the courts were little used by the residents until 1913, when five enterprising Killara gentlemen, Messrs Lovegrove, Shannon, North, Blackett and Wilkes banded together, took over the project for a nominal rent and established a large popular tennis club with to ten or eleven courts.<sup>iv</sup> A piece of grass on the western side was left aside for bowls or croquet, but there was little interest in Killara for anything other than tennis. Rather than the green deteriorate, Edwards maintained and leased it to the Tennis Club for £12 a year. The tennis players took advantage of the arrangement and it is recorded that some played both tennis and bowls on the same day.<sup>v</sup>*

*In 1916 three men, newcomers to Killara from Marrickville, joined together to form the Killara Bowling Club. Until 1919, the bowlers took over the lease, rented the green from Edwards but remained affiliated with the Tennis Club who also owned the clubhouse. As a direct consequence the tennis players enjoyed being members of both the Tennis Club and Bowling Club.<sup>vi</sup> The clubs functioned happily alongside each other until 1919. With growing membership the Bowling Club decided to secede from the Tennis Club and stand alone. In 1920 Killara Bowling Club became the Killara Bowling Company with its own Constitution. To be a viable club they needed two greens so commenced to negotiate with J G Edwards to buy his green plus the court that faced Arnold Street and belonged to the Tennis Club, at a cost of £1,185.<sup>vii</sup> The Title Deed included the 'Rights of Carriageway', with its freehold to be retained by the Tennis Club.*

*In 1910 the first clubhouse was little more than one room divided into two by a single dividing wall down the middle and owned by the Tennis Club. Each side was approximately 24 feet by 9 feet (7.3m x 2.7m) with a verandah on their fronts, 6 feet by 9 feet (1.8m x 2.7m), with the tennis section facing east and the bowlers, west. When the Bowling Club became a Company, they arranged to buy their side of the joint clubhouse from the Tennis Club. Both clubs embarked on improving their space and it is interesting to note that even though each has been rebuilt, the original back or dividing wall remains and is still the boundary between the clubs today. The affiliation has ceased, but the friendship still remains.<sup>viii</sup>*

*From old photographs taken in the mid-1920s, both clubhouses appear remarkably similar. As the bowler's improvements are on record, but as none are known for the Tennis Clubhouse, it is these that have been used in this history. By mid-1920 at a cost of £1,250, the size of each clubhouse*

was increased to 59 feet x 27 feet or (17.9 x 8.2m) and the small verandah on either side was enlarged to 32 feet 6 inches x 12 feet or (10m x 3.6m). <sup>ix</sup>

The tennis clubhouse faced Number 5 court and unfortunately their verandah was not sheltered from the elements. In the 1930's the verandah floor of the tennis clubhouse became 'cupped', or very uneven with many bumps and dips. <sup>x</sup> However, with the world in Depression the club's members were not prepared to give funds to fix the problem, so it remained in that state for twenty years. <sup>xi</sup>

This verandah was the scene of many convivial Killara gatherings until it was demolished in 1953. An early photo dated 1919, depicts the ladies in long white dresses, possibly made of muslin, with wide brimmed hats and presumably gloves, enjoying afternoon tea on the new clubhouse verandah. The women in the photo may not have had a game, but came to socialise with friends and neighbours, bringing the sandwiches, biscuits and sponges as well. The three gentlemen in the picture are in 'whites', the required tennis dress of the day, two wearing dark jackets or blazers, but no sign of any hats. <sup>xii</sup> In 1919, no man ever went without a jacket and their dress code followed cricketers' attire, of cream shirt and trousers. Men's tennis trousers were fairly narrow, always with a cuff and held up with a brown belt. A close inspection of the above mentioned photo shows the men wearing white sand shoes with black socks. Later the socks were changed to cream. <sup>xiii</sup> The bowlers next door also wore whites but with waistcoats and either straw hats or boaters. <sup>xiv</sup> There is a photo of M Lovegrove who won the men's tennis singles in 1918 -19 and in 1920-21 wearing a white shirt, white trousers, white sandshoes, black socks and brown belt, but no hat, so maybe hats were not worn by tennis players. <sup>xv</sup>

Tennis developed into a popular recreation in Killara and the centrally located clubhouse became the venue for meeting friends and neighbours after a game, or other convivial occasions. From 1913 until 1928-29 there are no women listed on the dark, brown Honour Board situated halfway up the clubhouse staircase. The first lady is recorded in 1930 with Z Edmondson as the first Women's Singles Champion. <sup>xvi</sup> This is surprising. Tennis was not only considered a suitable sport for ladies, but a social attribute. History records that Mary Queen of Scots played tennis at Hampton Court in 1528. <sup>xvii</sup> As well, one should also not forget that in 1884, the first Women's Singles Title was competed for at Wimbledon. <sup>xviii</sup>

The club had strict rules. Afternoon tea on the verandah saw, in the early thirties saw the women taking their tea at one end, with the men at the other. <sup>xix</sup> In 1936, after receiving verbal complaints, presumably from neighbours, the committee arranged that all games for ladies and men be played on separate courts and absolutely no mixed doubles played without authority. This segregation continued on into afternoon tea time, which indicates an entrenched attitude of the Tennis Club towards any mixing between sexes. <sup>xx</sup>

The early Constitution of the Killara Tennis Club stated that the players wear white as did the Royal Sydney Tennis Club, not that the club followed their edict as regards dress. This ruling remained firm until 2009 when the club allowed players to wear coloured clothing. Until that date, spare white shirts were kept upstairs in the clubhouse for any men who arrived wearing ones that were not all white. The correct women's attire in 1930 was a knee length pleated skirt, white blouses with white stockings.

After WWII the acceptable men's attire was tennis shirts and shorts in white or cream. The women were also all in white and could wear a dress, skirts or shorts with a shirt. The white stockings had been discarded in favour of white socks with white sandshoes. The stringent dress requirements

remained at Killara but by 1975, some members felt the white ruling was out of date and wished to introduce some pastel shades. Wimbledon, where the 'all white' rule still reigns supreme in 2016, experienced small objections against this, as when in 1949 Gussy Moran wore a daringly short dress with lace trimmed panties. The advent of the 'mini' saw the length of the women's tennis skirts or frocks rise but in the Committee Minutes of December 1975 and February 1977 the vote was for predominantly white or cream gear with a coloured trim, but no tracksuits. However, the thorny problem would not lie down. On 2 April 1979, the committee met but could not reach a decision on the matter so they deferred the decision to the next meeting that was held on 21 May. It was a stormy meeting but the vote for pastel won. It is recorded that the meeting closed at 10.10 pm but was reopened one minute later at 10.11pm. Apparently the vote on pastel was queried, so another vote was taken and this time white won and pastel lost. However not for long, as soon after, pastel but not coloured clothing, was permitted on the courts. Some members suggested that after frequent washing, colour faded to pastel but the idea fell on deaf ears. <sup>xxi</sup>

Because of their stringent colour edict, from 1979 to May 1986, neighbouring clubs were sent letters advising them that no coloured clothing was permitted on Killara's courts. To enforce this, players arriving in coloured gear were given white shirts or shirts to change into from clothing pool of old tennis clothes kept by the club who charged \$4.00 for their laundering. <sup>xxii</sup> In 1988 further letters were sent out to clubs, again advising them of the rule. A letter to Killara from Manly Tennis Club in 1990 requested that their Badge players be allowed to wear aqua blue when playing at Killara. The committee debated this request and asked for a sample shirt before making a decision. The request failed, the colour was too aqua. <sup>xxiii</sup> In 2009 Killara decided to accept coloured clothing, but it is interesting to note, that in 2016 99% of the members still only wear white. <sup>xxiv</sup> Maybe this is because white clothes are still the most appropriate clothing worn in hot weather. One only has to travel to India to realise this.

As the tennis dress improved, so did the racquets. Early racquets were made of laminated white ash and strung with cat gut. Their size was limited by the strength and weight of the wooden frame which had to be strong enough to hold the strings and stiff enough to hit the ball. Later manufacturers started adding non-wood laminates to wood rackets to improve stiffness. In the 1930s the pale blue Cressy 'flat top' and Spalding's 'Top-Flite' were the most popular but the £5.00 cost was prohibitive, as at that time it was more than the basic wage. <sup>xxv</sup> Jimmy Connors in the 60s used a steel racket. This superseded the one made of aluminium and produced a larger and lighter racquet. Graphite replaced aluminium in the eighties and this lighter and stiffer racquet allowed players to hit the ball harder. However, today graphite is used, often mixed with tungsten, titanium and carbon fibre.

<sup>xxvi</sup>

During the Depression of the 1930s, the Tennis Club fell on hard times and was forced to sell courts nos six, seven, eight and nine, for £1,550 or \$3,100. Money from their sale allowed the club to reduce their mortgage, pay creditors, clear the overdraft and re-construct court No 6 adjacent to No 5. The cost of the new court was a bargain at £186 or \$372, as the builder needed the work to keep his business afloat. <sup>xxvii</sup> The tennis club had lost land, but could afford to retain their six grass courts.

<sup>xxviii</sup>

On 24 February 1936 the committee incorporated the club. This permitted them to apply to the Rural Bank for a mortgage of £180 at 3% for 10 years on 3 March 1936. A little snippet from the Club Minutes of 11 November 1937 records, that all unfinancial members were referred to the aptly named debt collector, R G Dun & Co. <sup>xxix</sup>

*In 1936 the club installed hot showers in the ladies' and men's dressing rooms. The cost of £25 10s 0d was met by Mr John (Jack) Shand KC, a noted Sydney criminal barrister, with a passion for the club and where he met his wife Judith. <sup>xxx</sup> He was Club President from 1933- 59 and waved all fees for any litigation that involved the club. He died in 1959, still in office. A bronze plaque, placed on the wall to the right of the bar counter, honours this dedication. <sup>xxxi</sup>*

*Sydney Badge, the oldest tennis competition in the Sydney Metropolitan area has multiple grades on offer and caters for over 1200+ players of all ages, levels and abilities. Games are played at either the competitor's home court or at other NSW Member Clubs across the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area. Killara had very successful Badge teams and after the war Killara's top Badge team kept its one-one status up until the 1960s. <sup>xxxii</sup>*

*Several Metropolitan Badge Clubs held Open Grass Championships and in 1914 Killara decided to hold their own championship. From that year until 1957 the club organised the Northern Suburbs Lawn Tennis Championship each February. It became an important fixture and often drew either a Davis Cup player, or one of equal ranking. Names on the honour board, on the landing of the staircase, indicate how the club has been the foundation of many great Australian Tennis Players, such as Ken Rosewall, Lew Hoad, Fred Stolle and Neale Fraser. <sup>xxxiii</sup> After 1957 this competition faded from the scene, as players preferred to play in overseas tournaments. <sup>xxxiv</sup>*

*Over the years some members won the Men's Singles Championships several times. Dr Granville Sharp won the club's champion four times, both the NSW Singles and Doubles titles between 1903 and 1906, and in 1909 was the only NSW player chosen for the Davis Cup team. <sup>xxxv</sup> During WWII there were no club competitions and these were not resumed until 1946. Perusing a list of winners of the Men's' Singles Championship, some won the title several times. Bill Wallace, both President and Captain, won it ten times with the Epstein brothers, C Balcombe and A Anderson also winning multiple times.*

*Fred Stolle won the Singles championship in 1955, 56 and 57. <sup>xxxvi</sup> He went onto win the French Championship in 1965, the US Championship in 1966 and is remembered as the only male player in history, to have lost his first five attempts at winning a Grand Slam Singles Final. In other Grand Slam Championships he succeeded magnificently by claiming ten Doubles and seven Mixed Doubles Grand Slam Championship titles. Today in 2016, Fred is their Patron of the Killara Tennis Club and the club bar bears his name. <sup>xxxvii</sup>*

*During WWII, Killara extended a welcome to eight US Army servicemen to play on Saturday and Sunday. Two courts were also made available for use on Wednesdays, for those stationed at the RAAF Base at Bradfield Park. In appreciation of this gesture the RAAF presented Killara with a Pennant in 1944. <sup>xxxviii</sup> After the war Killara enjoyed an insurgence of players, old and young, seeking sport and social relaxation in their suburb. In the weekend, all courts were occupied. After a game, the players would shower and change, to be ready for a drink at the Bar, which was continuously kept open during the weekend. To cope with demand, it is reliably reported that Jim Carson the barman, who was vertically challenged, slept overnight in the men's change room. As the courts were closed at Christmas for the groundsman to sprig the courts with new grass runners, the clubhouse became an ideal venue for Killara residents to hold functions. <sup>xxxix</sup>*

*Between 1930 and 1950 all gear, including tennis clothes, were brought into the clubhouse in long, tennis cases. Players took pride in their cases which were often made to measure. The cases were very necessary, as in the days before the prevalence of car ownership, a player did not arrive in*

tennis gear, but brought it to change into at the courts. After the game, players would shower and change once more, before repairing with their case to the bar for a drink and a match post mortem. The club has recently painted the dressing room, installed new showers, mirrors and a thick green carpet. The lively atmosphere generated by players vigorously showering and towelling down has been lost. Today, players arrive already changed and depart the same way. <sup>xi</sup>

Killara demolished the old clubhouse in September 1953. As the club could not possibly function without poker machines and a bar, the solution was to install both in the shed beside court No 6. During its short merry life, the shed became known as a den of iniquity. <sup>xii</sup> The Tennis and Bowling Clubs rebuilt their clubhouses at much the same time, on either side of the old party wall, or boundary, which remains. During the renovations, the Tennis Club allowed the Bowling Club to buy a strip of land 19 feet (5.9m) x 15 feet (4.9m) on its southern side. This benefitted both, one providing one with much needed funds and the other with a bigger club room. <sup>xiii</sup>

The 60s saw the Tennis Club became the hub of much social interaction between Killara's younger set. Formal dinners, wine tastings, Melbourne Cup and Christmas luncheon parties were held. To entice new members, the club instigated a coaching program. Unfortunately licensing laws forbade any juniors near a bar which was situated in the open area of the clubhouse. The forced the committee to screen off the bar; a most unsatisfactory arrangement, as it prevented junior and senior members from socialising together. When the laws changed there was a sigh of relief, as without the screen all could mix again in their large room. <sup>xliii</sup>

Early in the 1970s, the committee realised an upgrade of the bar was essential. The problem was its counters were difficult to serve from, and with no cool room, a half empty beer keg could not be kept fresh overnight. After much deliberation, the committee agreed to arrange a bank loan and employed a member, Don Whitnall a structural engineer, to redesign this important facility. The result was gratifying. The bar sales improved, beer was kept cold, the loan was quickly repaid and the Fred Stolle Bar retained its important position in the social side of the club. <sup>xliv</sup>

From 1930 the women were very much part of the club. Some were very good tennis players as recorded by D Keys and J Connolly, both winning the Singles Championship eight times. Those who won the Singles title more than once, include E Dickenson, A Farrally, C Goddard and J Hickey. Many women's lives centred on the club. For example Beryl Turner played tennis continuously for fifty-one years. Molly Brown joined the club as a school girl in the 1920s, was Women's Captain for 28 years, Chairman of the Ladies Committee for a further 20 and was honoured with Life Membership in 1954 for her dedication. Helen Anderson who played tennis at Killara for 50 year, noted as the last to serve underhand, was honoured with Life Membership. She is remembered as being behind the bar after ladies' Badge matches pouring only doubles and was a member until the 1980s. Coral Hatty was Captain for four years from 1988 and organised the re-furnishing of the clubroom in 1991. <sup>xlv</sup>

Grass requires endless maintenance and due to frequent top dressing over the years, the height of the courts gradually increased. All six courts required re-levelling by the 1970s, so the problem was tackled by removing as much as 30cm in depth from all. This drastic treatment resulted in Killara enjoying excellent surfaces for the next 24 years.

There was a drop in membership in the eighties because many wanted to play all year round. This was impossible because three months had to be set aside for restoring the grass. As a consequence the bar takings were down, but more seriously, promising juniors shifted to clubs with a modern

surface. On 14 July 1986, a special meeting was called to discuss the issue of grass versus synthetic. By 68 votes to 32, grass won. Whether it was due to its grass or high fees, top players continued to avoid Killara. 1994 saw an influx of juniors compete in high Badge Grades which helped Killara regain some of its former status, but they continued to struggle. Finally in 2005, the club capitulated and all courts became synthetic. <sup>xlvi</sup>

On 16 September 2008, the Killara Bowling Club next door informed their members that negotiations had been initiated re a possible merger with nearby Killara Golf Club. Two days later Peter Roach, the President of the Killara Tennis Club, wrote to the Bowling Club for verification. Peter stated that if the problem was the predicted demise of the number of bowlers, surely it would be more beneficial and easier for the side by side clubs to merge and outlined three advantages.

The first was to keep the original intent of Edwards, for people to play their sports in perpetuity. So far this had meant only bowls and tennis, but in the future could include a health club, fitness classes or even a swimming pool. Peter pointed out this could never be achieved by either club in isolation. Secondly economies of scale would result from having one bar, one kitchen, and one administration. Finally, tennis players contemplating a move to bowls would feel comfortable to do so, having already met and mixed with the bowlers next door. Nothing came of either merger, so both clubs continued on happily as before, side by side. <sup>xlvii</sup>

In 2012 the Tennis Club submitted an application to Ku-ring-gai Council to install lights on four of their courts. The request was vigorously opposed by neighbours, so the application was referred to the Land and Environment Court. Only after an appeal to the High Court was the decision made in the club's favour. The club now awaits approval in 2016 to install lighting on its remaining two courts. <sup>xlviii</sup>

Today the club has 125 members, offers one of the finest club facilities for North Shore tennis with six quality, well drained synthetic grass courts in the heart of Killara. The licensed bar/café is open daily, a social program runs on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons as well as mid-week mornings for ladies and night tennis. The club has a strong focus on competition tennis and enters teams in autumn and spring Badge Competitions as well as the Northern Suburbs Tennis Association mixed doubles competition. An important focus for the club is the professional coaching available to foster juniors and improve the standard of play. During term time and school holidays, ANZ Tennis Hot Shots, runs an excellent children's program.

Killara Lawn Tennis Club has a great history of providing social and competition tennis for the North Shore. The Honour Board in the clubhouse has names of such illustrious players as Jack Crawford, Ken Rosewall, Llew Hoad, Neale Fraser and Fred Stolle. After celebrating 100 years in 2012 it continues to be an operating tennis centre of excellence on the North Shore in Sydney. By day the courts are thronged with players of all ages, while at night the pok, pok, pok of the ball delights passers-by, who delight seeing workers or housebound wives actively enjoying a game.

## 5. HISTORY OF KILLARA BOWLING CLUB

As noted by E L Sommerlad in *Bowls at Killara, the history of Killara Bowling Club 1916-1990*, 21:

*The earliest surviving records of Killara Bowling Club are the Rules adopted on 31 October 1916. The Club, it was noted, was "affiliated with the Killara Tennis Club".*

The following history of the Killara Bowling Club has been provided by the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, written by Elizabeth Dokulil (*The Historian* Vol 44.1 2015, pp 72-77). The footnotes have not been copied from the original article however are relevant to the extract below and must be used for reference purposes.

*The Killara Bowling Club, No 6 Arnold Street, is situated on land on land between Locksley Street and Arnold Street with Carriageway to Werona Avenue. It was original part of the Springdale Estate.*

*JG Edwards proceeded to subdivide the Springdale Estate by realised the area where the Tennis Club and Bowling Club now stand was unsuitable for subdivision. It was a low-lying, sloping block with a creek running through it from a spring in Marian Street. He decided to set it aside for a park and recreation area.*

*Edwards attempted to form a company to underwrite the scheme but there was little interest and the scheme failed. Undeterred, he dug a channel to drain the block and shored it up with timber and bricks. With the area drained he formed three tennis courts and again attempted to float a company. Few shares were taken up, so Edwards refunded the money and set to work to complete the scheme himself. It appears that in 1910 there were six tennis courts, a croquet lawn, bowling green and small clubhouse.*

*The idea languished until 1913 when Messrs Lovegrove, Shannon, North, Blackett and Wilkes banded together, took over the project and for nominal rent established a larger popular tennis club. A At that time there was little interest in district for bowls, so Edwards maintained the strip of turf he had set aside, kept it playable and leased it to the Tennis Club for 12 pounds a year. During those early years the tennis players would often play both tennis and bowls, sometimes on the same day. Thus the Killara Recreational Club was really only a tennis club, the bowlers or croquet players used the green kept in order by Edwards. There is actually no record of any croquet being played there.*

*The first clubhouse was a simple weatherboard structure of one room with a party wall down the middle, each side being about 24 feet x 9 feet. Each was completed with a small verandah about six feet wide. The Tennis Club looked east towards their courts while the Bowling Club faced west in front of their one green. In 2015, both clubhouses still face the same way with their boundary being the wall on the boundary line of the two properties.*

*W R Elston spoke of the early beginnings of the Bowling Club on the occasion of him being made a Life Member on the 19 July 1948:*

*This club is really an offshoot of the Marrickville Club. Three of us came to live here in Killara in 1915, Alf Gill, G D Wheelan and myself, looking for bowls. To our dismay we found there was no Bowling Clug, although there was a green. We collected Frank Rudd, Steve Drummond and some others and rented the green from J G Edwards.*

*Those three encouraged thirty other residents to sign a document and thus form the Killara Bowling Club on 31 October 1916. The first President was J Neale Breden and solicitor A C Gill, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. J G Edwards consented to be their Patron and remained so for many years.*

*Between 1916 and 1919 the membership was small. There was no entry fee, a small subscription and very little outside help. In 1916 the initial subscription was 4 guineas, plus a capitation fee and green fees. In the same year the club became a member of the Royal NSW Bowling Association.*

*The club functioned happily alongside the Tennis Club during its early years. However, by 1919 as its membership grew, the club felt they should stand on their own.*

*At the Annual General Meeting in 1920 the members next felt it was imperative to own their land so the Killara Bowling Company began negotiations with J G Edwards and the Tennis Club. On the 21 January 1921 the Company bought from JG Edwards the Torrens Title lands (the present day No 2 green), the tennis court that faced Arnold Street, an area of approximately half an acre or 2,023.43 square metres in size, at a cost of £1,185.*

*AC Gill an inaugural member and solicitor, was mainly responsible for the incorporation of the Killara Bowling Company on 8 August 1919.*

*The Company's Articles included:*

*...to promote all or any of the following games, bowls skittles and other athletic sports, recreations and pastimes...*

*...to lease to the Killara Bowling Club the lands or any property of the Company.*

*The Title Deed included the 'Rights of Carriageway', the freehold retained by the Tennis Club, which it still does to this day. The 'Rights' were the entrances to the Bowling Club from Arnold Street and the laneway behind No 2 green to Werona Avenue.*

*The Company next turned their attention to the ten year old clubhouse, used by both bowlers and tennis players. Until 1920 both clubhouses were the property of the Tennis Club and in that year the Killara Bowling Company Ltd bought the western facing side, plus a small piece of land to the south. It is interesting to note that the back wall of each clubhouse is the boundary line between them. The affiliation ceased between the two clubs, but the friendship has remained.*

*Alterations to the clubhouse were completed by mid 1920 at a cost of £1,250. The extension increased the size of the clubhouse from 24ft x 9ft to 59ft x 27ft. The small verandah was enlarged from 6ft x 9ft to 32ft 6 inches x 12ft. (ft = feet, Imperial measurement).*

*A bank overdraft from the Commercial Banking Company and the issue of 35 debentures solved the immediate financial problem. Donations and a carnival raised £70 which was used to buy furniture and crockery.*

*By the time of the AGM in 1921 the Killara Bowling Company Ltd owned two greens and a comfortable clubhouse and had 70 members.*

*In 1921 the former tennis court had three rinks and was known as No 1 green. Top dressing had to be applied before it was playable. The lower green, the one first constructed by JG Edwards over*

*his drainage channel, was first a three rink green. In 1920 it was enlarged to six rinks and known as No 2 green.*

*More rink space was needed for the increasing membership, so in 1926 the club extended No 1 green by removing eight feet from No 2 green and building a retaining wall in between.*

*Previously there had been a rockery between the two greens. They removed it to the north of No 2 green and the same time raised the level of No 2 green by two feet due to drainage problems.*

*Some fascinating asides come from reading the original documents. These include:*

*For the opening of the remodelled green in 1922, the President provided the Hornsby Railway Brass Band that marched down Arnold Street to the club. It was considered an important event for Killara, so bunting was strung up, flags flew, the men were in whites with black waistcoats, the Mayor was present and invited ladies wore their wide brimmed hats.*

*In 1923 electricity was connected to the clubhouse, replacing the hanging kerosene lamps.*

*The green keeper's pay was four pounds five shillings a week. Instructions were given to umpires or markers to 'Take no notice of remarks and questions by spectators'.*

*An application was made for the first telephone in 1925. A second telephone was not installed until 1954.*

*The club was warmed in the winter in 1925 by the donation of a radiator. It came with instructions it only be used in winter.*

*The same year it is recorded that cider was the drink of the day.*

*Also the purchase of a flagpole costing 13-10s-6d was postponed due to lack of finance.*

*In 1926 burglars got away with cash and stock to the value of 18. It was the first of many recorded burglaries.....*

*In 1927 JG Edwards, the Club's first patron, died.*

*...*

*On 27 February 1927 JG Edwards spoke the following words at an address to the Community Service Club.*

*What we wished had happened. The ground is used and will be employed for recreational purposes, but costs of making it what it is today have been exceedingly heavy and the whole thing represents a loss to the originator.*

*In 1920 the clubhouse was enlarged, the lower green extended and the upper green built. To maintain the grounds the members gave not only money but also time. Mowers were borrowed; private gardeners loaned, in order to keep the greens and gardens in good condition. Card parties, picture show nights and concerts raised extra funds. The result was a popular club, proudly maintained by its members.*

*...*

*In June 1922 the Club registered its colours, a dark bottle green and gold. The blazer was green with piped edges with the KBC monogram on the pocket in gold. Not until 1935 was a badge adopted.*

*In 1916 with one undersized green there were approximately 25 members. By the 1950's [b]owls had become such a popular activity in Killara that the club had to limit the number to 215, as the capacity of the greens and clubhouse was unable to accommodate any more.*

*Members were elected to the committee by ballot. They came from many walks of life and were always known to each other by their Christian names. Killara has always been known on the Upper North Shore as the 'Friendly Club' Even in 2015 there is still a particular camaraderie among them, which remains to this day.*

*As mentioned earlier there was a garden at the northern end of No2 Green but it disappeared when No 3 Green was built. Due to a severe drought in 1941 an underground well was dug under No 2 green, its water coming from the original drainage channel constructed by JG Edwards. During another drought in 1957 it was decided to test this water. Unfortunately it was found to have a high alkaline content, so was only used sparingly.*

*For bowlers the green is of paramount importance. However, grass culture is not a simple matter. The vagaries of weather, general wear and tear from members, makes maintenance of the greens not a simple matter. Killara found that conscientious green keepers were not always easy to find especially as by the fifties there were many clubs vying for such men. In April 1951 greens, Nos 3 and 4, each with four rinks were opened. This brought the total number of rinks to 22 and provided accommodation for a maximum of 176 players.*

*From the beginning the greens were sown with Bent, a high maintenance grass. It produces a wonderful playing surface but requires lots of water, a continuing problem, not only during droughts. After much investigation the committee introduced Greenless Park Couch to greens No1 and 2 in 1972/73. This grass was in great demand by other clubs and Killara actually profited by \$2,000 from selling their grass shavings to other clubs. In 1977 No 4 green was changed to Greenless Couch followed by No 3 in 1984.*

*From the initial 25 gentlemen who formed the Killara Bowling Club the membership grew as the game became popular, indicated by the following table*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Ordinary Members</i>
<i>1916/17</i>	<i>25 approx.</i>
<i>1919/20</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>1921/22</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>1926/27</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>1936/37</i>	<i>88</i>

*The early members who signed the first Rules of the Killara Bowling Club were –*

*AC Gill, SJ Channon, Oliver Harley, F Clifford Darby, EA Wells, F Drummond, WR Elston, J Neale Breden, PV Ryan, HL Davis, AW Cornish, AE Spriggs, F Morley, F Rudd, AGH Gardner, WA Gullick, Norman J Wells, ECH Mathews, W J Holmes.*

*Sixteen of the above lived in Killara and four in Lindfield and four were still members in 1961. Members were elected by ballot by the committee and limited to males under the following categories:*

*1-Life, 2-Ordinary, 3-Special, 4-Provisional, 5-Associate, 6-Country, 7-Social, 8-Visiting,*

*Some with a long connection with the Club were given the honour of Life Membership. They include Frank Bower, Keith Harris and Cyril South. Others, as they became less active, maintained their association by becoming Social Members. Death was often the only way that their membership ended.*

*One who joined in 1921 and maintained his membership until his death in 1955 was George Gissing. He was Honorary Secretary from 1921 to 1923, President for 11 years, and Patron for 12 years. For his Golden Wedding Anniversary the Club presented him with a 'very chaste boudoir clock', an ebony brush and a wallet stuffed with notes. George and his wife kept the clock and the brush, but gave the notes back to the Club. This money became the George Gissing Presentation Shield Trophy, a Singles Handicap competition. On his death his family erected a brick fence on the Arnold Street frontage as a further memorial.*

*The structure and management of the Killara Bowling Club (1916) and Killara Bowling Company Ltd (1919) existed side by side. The capital of the Company was £2,000 in 200 shares of £10 each and were offered to Killara residents. There was a proviso to shareholders that anyone wishing to transfer their shares had to first offer them to the Club for the above value, or a lesser amount. There were 148 shares taken up, 139 in the first month. In 1923 amendments to the rules allowed the Club to progressively acquire shares. Some were donated and others given back in lieu of the annual subscriptions. By 1927 the Club had the controlling majority. By 1951 only 10 were not in the Club's hands with the added problem that deceased estates held some. It wasn't until 12 March 1976, that the Club had complete ownership. On 25 June 1951 the Club decided to convert the Bowling Company Limited to the Killara Bowling Company Proprietary Limited. Today it is a non-trading company with no income or expenditure but owns all its land and buildings.*

*From its beginning Killara was a men's club and women were only welcomed on social or special occasions. Such was the case of Saturday 1 January 1921, when Mrs Ryan the wife of the President 'was invited to send down the first bowl'. Not until 27 April 1944 were women again invited to participate in what was reported as 'a most enjoyable function'. So, apart from some missed bowls held at various times, Killara firmly remained a men's club.*

*This attitude remained so until a meeting by the 'General Committee of the Killara Bowling Club Ltd on 18 October, 1977 decided to call an Extraordinary General Meeting for Friday 2 December, 1977. At that meeting it was recommended that women be admitted and to form Killara Women's Bowling Club'. Before that decision in December, an unsigned document was circulated that cited some of the pros and cons in regard to the admission of women. They included:*

*The continued existence of the club depends on maintaining a satisfactory level of membership.*

*The present tendency is for a husband and wife to belong to the same club.*

*A mixed club could mean increased membership of men as well as of women.*

*A mixed membership could increase the social life of the club.*

*Women would never have use on Saturdays, as Saturday is exclusively men's day.*

*Men's committee would retain control of staffing of bar and kitchen.*

*But a much more trenchant attitude can be felt by these comments.*

*The club can survive financially as a male club.*

*The social life of the club as it exists at present is preferable.*

*The admission of women will disrupt, alter and affect the traditional nature, activities and tone of Killara Bowling Club.*

*Then on regarding accommodation for women:*

*If such rearrangement militated against comfort and efficiency, the plan should not be implemented.*

*Use of Club House:*

*Strict control would be necessary to police the times allowed for the women on Tuesdays and Fridays (until 4pm).*

*And on the effect on present members :Killara could lose members who feel they are losing atmosphere and tone they expected on joining and have enjoyed.*

*Eight days after the meeting mentioned above, and at the request of Vice President Bob Finlay, Ray Hatton the President on 26 October 1977 typed out a 'recapitulation of the various points raised'. He wrote:*

*Where would the Treasurer and Secretary be accommodated if there area were allocated to women?*

*Only the above space given to the women and any furniture required be funded by them.*

*The men should not forgo any of their present privileges.*

*There was no indication that wives of the committee wished to join.*

*Women could only play on Tuesdays and Fridays till 3.30pm, but with unrestricted access on Sundays, be sufficient.*

*A majority are in favour of the admission of women, but a number do not favour this idea.*

*He ended with the following:*

*'I have voluntarily committed myself to the preservation of the existing character and spirit of the Club...I must not lose sight of the right of every member to enjoy what he was led to expect when he joined'...*

*However, despite all objections the inaugural meeting of the Killara Women's Bowling Club was held in the clubhouse on 24 October, 1978 and the following office bearers were elected:*

*President: Mrs N Nettlebeck*

*Vice-Presidents: Mesdames J Wilson, B Wiltshire, J Winkle*

*Hon Secretary: Mrs N Noble*

*Committee (6): Mesdames B Harding, E Maynard, S Stanbridge, N Williamson, E Conde, M Wright.*

*Hon Coach: Don Grant*

*By 10 November 1978 the women had become affiliated with the NSW Women's Bowling Association, opened a bank account, chosen their club colours of green and gold, and ordered badges and name bars.*

*Their first playing day was on 16 January 1979 by which time the Club had 28 Full Members, 5 Associates and one Social Member.*

*During that first year the women participated in mixed Twilight Bowls during daylight saving and the Mixed Bowls held on alternate weekends and their numbers had increased from the original 16 to over 40.*

*Margaret V Wright, one of the Vice-Presidents, at a luncheon on 26 October 1979 related some of the events on that first anniversary of Killara's Women's Bowling Club:*

*It was on 24 October last our inaugural meeting was held. I, personally felt like a new schoolgirl and was so relieved to see another prospective pupil, at the gate, who was feeling the same way. She was consoling herself with the fact that her husband had said she could always leave if she wanted to! However a few friendly faces helped break the ice, until the awful truth dawned that the 12 present out of the 16 Foundation Members would all have to form a committee! Nora the first to weaken was elected President and subsequently the rest of us were pulled into line. The men set up the Constitution for us and put through any necessary paper work and thus our Club was set on the road to affiliation which occurred on 10 November 1978... The next traumatic event for the eight beginners was to learn the art of playing bowls. The great day eventually came when we made our debut after a luncheon on 16 January 1979, our first social event, and were allowed to play on No 1 green.*

*She then asked all to be upstanding and drink to the future success of the Killara Women's Bowling Club.*

*By 1981 the women were able to enter three pennant teams in the District Competition, held several card days, some raffles and many charity days for 'Bowls for Others'. Their unofficial motto was:*

*'The sacred ties of Friendship are paramount'.*

*This attitude of friendship and concern continues to this day in 2015.*

*It is interesting to read their Annual Reports as they concern details such as:*

*The beautiful table decorations*

*Lovely salads*

*Much admired flower arrangements*

*Number of Lucky Door Prizes left by the giver, before she left for overseas*

*Those on the 'sick list'*

*And who played the piano.*

*In the women's Half Yearly Report of 1995, it was reported:*

*'...that there was an experimental period in the running of the Twilight Bowls in November.'*

*To cut down on work, there was a BBQ without dessert and paper plates to cut down on washing up. The trial was not successful as the men missed 'their pudding'.*

*Due to the Killara Bowling Club reaching 100 years in 2016, and with much written in those intervening years., this article has only touched on the early days of the Club. However the momentous time when the women were admitted had to be included in this article.*

*Today the club is depleted in numbers, especially with the women, but is still financially viable. There has been much discussion in 2015 as to its future, but in the words of the Chairman, Dale McBean, 'The club will always be here'.*

*Over the years a club so closely tied to its community must have had its ups and downs. This article finishes with an aside which illustrates this:*

*...In 1959 six members wished to play Bowls on a Sunday afternoon. Despite disapproval by the majority of members six men who became known as the 'Sunday Six', enjoyed their afternoon Triples for five years. After an unofficial approach the 'Sunday Six' did consent to confine their games to No 2 and 3 greens, so as not to disturb St Martins church members and the general community.*

*Such is the spirit of the Killara Bowling Club, ready to comply with convention in the pursuit of enjoyment, but maybe not always.*

#### The Bowling Clubhouse

*The following history of the Clubhouse has been extracted from Bowls at Killara, the History of Killara Bowling Club 1916-1990, 27-29.*

*The 1921 Clubhouse served adequately for many years and was progressively improved and extended. Some of it still stands, for example the old party wall with the Tennis Club but it is mostly concealed by later additions. The Annual Reports refer to improvements costing several hundreds of pounds in each of the years 1893, 1935 and 1944. Sewerage was connected in 1932 at a cost of £150 . After obtaining a liquor licence in 1947, the club spent £527 on improvements in order to comply with the Liquor Act.*

*Membership was increased after establishment of No. 3 and 4 greens and better Clubhouse accommodation became necessary. In 1951-2 major alterations were made, with improvements to the Canteen and the layout of facilities, at a cost of £4500. The locker room was separated from the bar and lounge room.*

*At this time too, the purchase of additional land was negotiated with the owner of No.11 Locksley Street. An area 36 feet by 12 feet at the rear of the block was bought by the Club to be used for*

storage. (in 1981, when No. 11 Locksley Street was in the Club's ownership, a further subdivision was made, adding 20 feet to the Bowling Club property for future Clubhouse extensions).

When the tennis Club built its new brick Clubhouse in 1953 the Bowling Club negotiated the purchase of a strip of land 19 feet by 12 feet at the rear of the block was bought by the Club to be used for storage. (In 1981, when No. 11 Locksley Street was in the Club's ownership, a further subdivision was made, adding 20 feet to the Bowling Club's property for future Clubhouse extensions).

When the Tennis Club built its new brick Clubhouse in 1953 the Bowling Club negotiated the purchase of a strip of land of 19 feet x 15 feet on the southern side of our [sic] Clubhouse which was then extended to provide a card room and lounge. This space is now occupied by the President's table.

The year 1954 saw completion of further improvements including a new toilet and washroom, opening from the Visitors room, and a new change room and hot shower for the greenkeeper. The flight of steps was built at the northern end of No.1 green in 1958. Under plans prepared by Colin Brewster and Brian Wells the kitchen was modernised and extended, and the canteen and toilet accommodation further improved.

The Annual Report declared in that year, "The opinion is now held that our Clubhouse is probably one of the most comfortable Clubhouses in New South Wales". The outside clock on the Clubhouse gable was a gift from the Committee in 1959.

Following celebration of its Jubilee, the Club undertook another building programme in 1967 at a cost of \$16,000. The locker room was enlarged, the verandah was enclosed to make the roll-up room, and a second floor built on the northern end to provide offices and a locker room for visitors. A toilet for indoor staff and a new liquor storeroom were provided. Two hundred steel lockers were installed as well as furnishings and notice boards for the new rooms.

In 1968-9 the bar was renovated and modernised, usable counter area being increased by 30%. New beer plumbing and bar equipment were installed.

The upstairs facilities were used by women members when the Women's Club was formed in 1979 but were soon inadequate for their needs. Through the generosity of members Doug and Kay McGregor a major extension of the ladies' area, providing additional amenities, was carried out in 1984 at a cost of \$26,500. In 1986 a sum of \$18,000 pounds was spent on improving Clubhouse furnishings.

The Club benefited in many ways from gifts from members, not least most of the 19 honour boards in the Clubhouse recording office-bearers and winners of bowls competitions.

Among these is a Life Members Board donated by of their number, Frank Beale, and a Patrons Board presented by the family of Jack Conde who died while he held that distinguished office. These boards are not only decorative but contribute greatly to the traditions and atmosphere of the Club.

The brick fence along the Arnold Street frontage was a gift from the Gissing family in memory of past President and Patron George Gissing. The Arnold Street gates, shared by the Bowling Club and the Tennis Club, were erected in 1963 by Mrs Sheffer in memory of Past President Mel Sheffer. The Memorial Gates in Locksley Street honour Steve Pierce, a Vice-President and Greens Director for

many years, who died in 1950. They were the gift of R. W. Park, an active member and builder, who was the contractor for the new greens built after purchase of No. 7 Locksley Street.

A beautiful camellia at the southern end of the Clubhouse, the gift of George and Sheila Stanbridge, was planted in 1984 in memory of Joan Roberts, a foundation member and singles champion of the Women's Club and its President at the time of her death. Another fine camellia, planted at the south-west corner of No.3 green, is in the memory of Past President Russell Wiltshire – the gift of K.W.B.C member Betty Wiltshire.

The following Historic images have been extracted from the above noted references.

**NYORA ESTATE**

OVER 400ft ABOVE SEA LEVEL

**KILLARA**

THE HIGHEST PART OF THE DISTRICT

*Adjoining the SPRINGDALE ESTATE*

**AUCTION SALE ON THE GROUND**

**SATURDAY**

NYORA ESTATE Killara. **ARCH '13 at 3.30 P.M.**

**JAMES EDWARDS Auction**

SALE POSTPONED TILL Saturday, 29th March, 1923, At 3.30 p.m. JAMES G. EDWARDS & CO., 14 Moore St., City.

**14 MOORE ST., CITY**

BRANCH OFFICES **HORNSBY & GORDON.**

**TORRENS TITLE**

**TERMS**

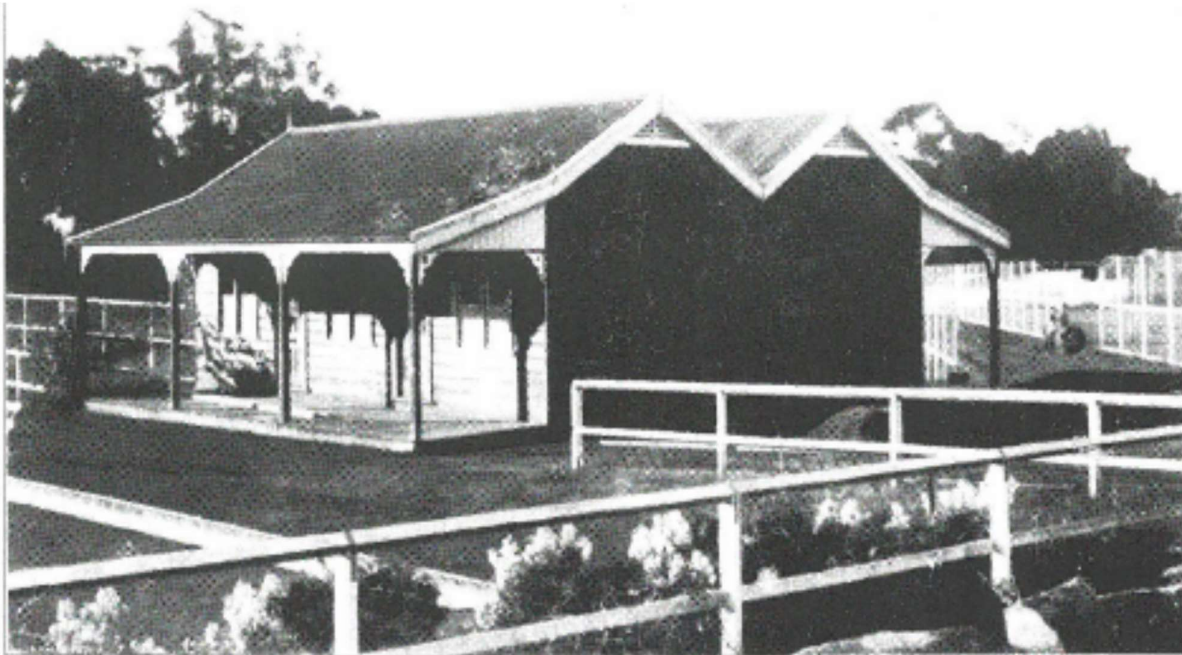
20% DEPOSIT & THE BALANCE WITHIN 3 YEARS @ 5% INTEREST.

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE IN FEET & SUBJECT TO DEPOSITED PLAN.

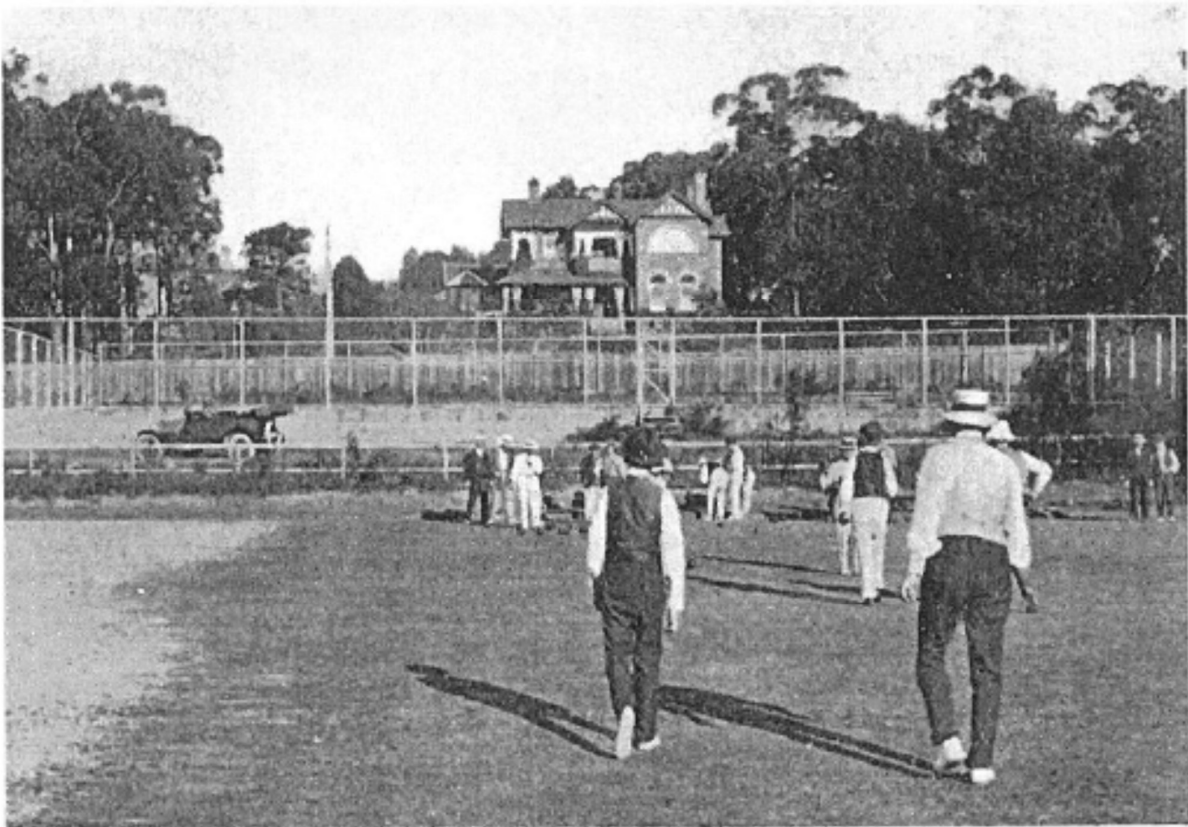
DARK & MOORE, PORTERS, BUILDING & ESTATE AGENTS.

Auction map for the 'Nyora Estate' dated March 1923 - showing the Killara Tennis Club, churches, houses etc.

Map: KHS Collection



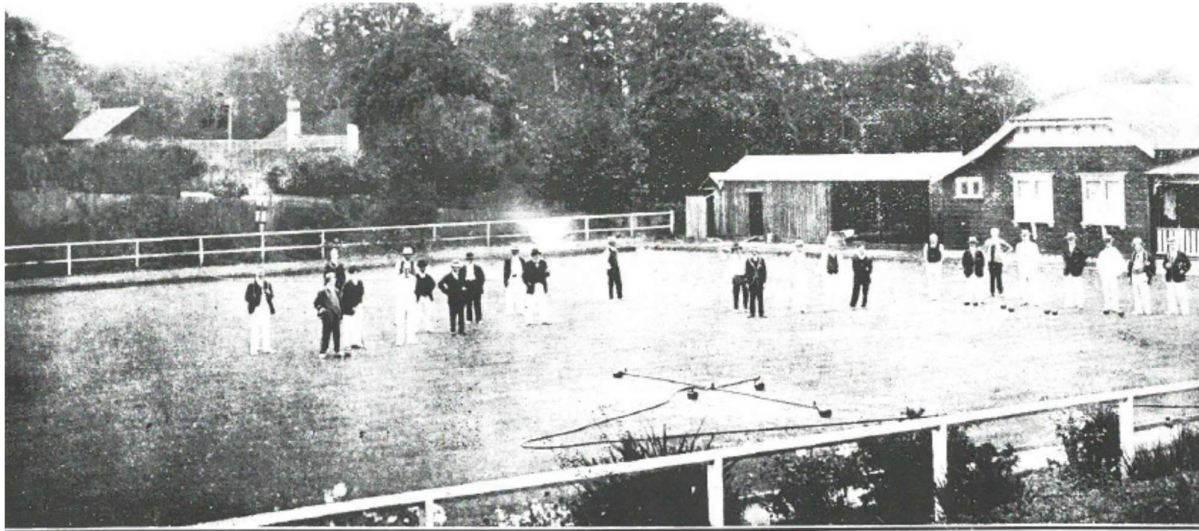
*The original Clubhouse, built about 1910, served tennis players on its eastern side and bowlers on the west.*



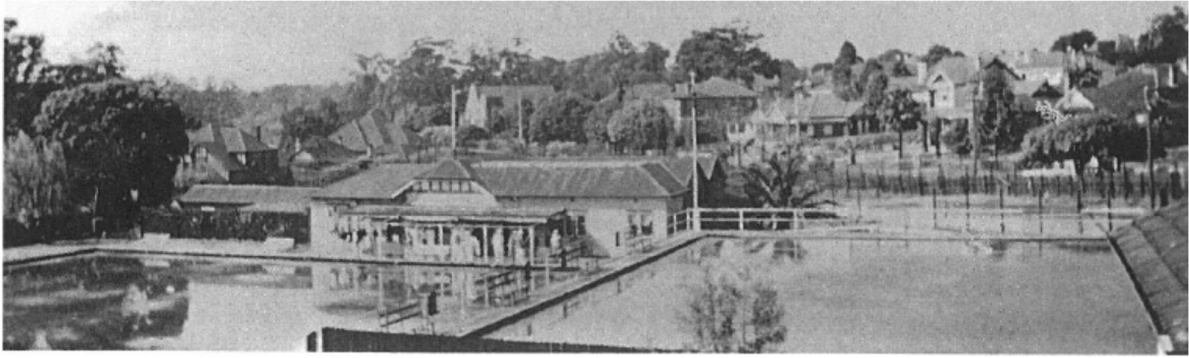
*View in 1918 of the Bowling Green and beyond the Tennis Club court - Photo: Club Collection*



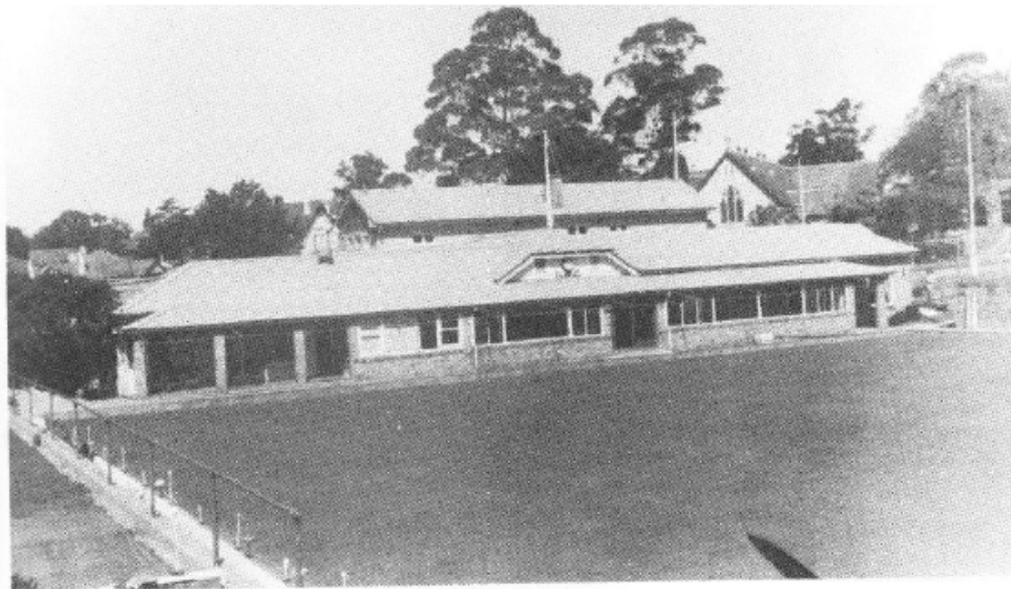
*A gala day at Killara Bowling Club about 1919. The "opening of the green" was a special occasion celebrated annually.*



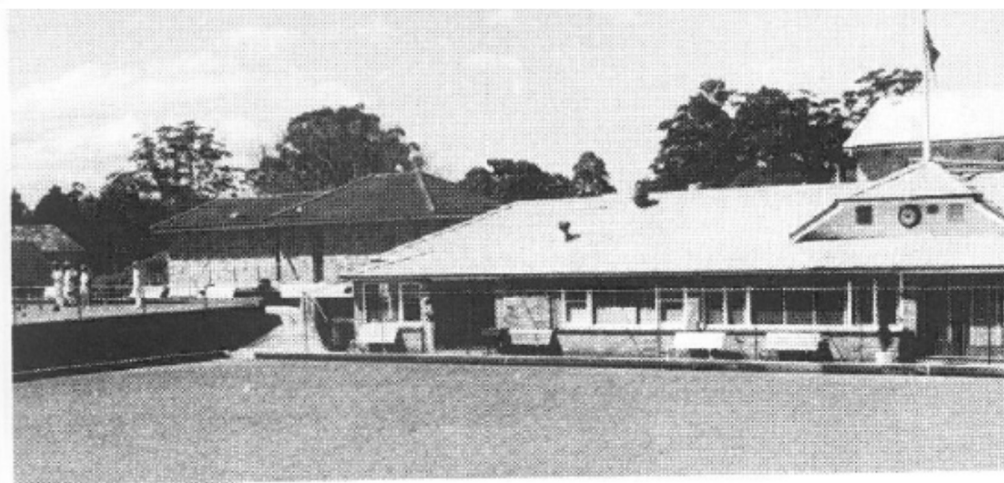
*This photograph of the Killara green and Clubhouse appeared in a souvenir publication and programme for the 1926 Australian Bowling Carnival held in Sydney.*



*The Bowling greens flooded in April 1942. A storm-water drain on the southern side of No 2 green collapsed after a storm leaving an opening 6 ft wide and 50 ft long. Photo: courtesy of the Killara Bowling Club*



*The Clubhouse as enlarged in 1958.*



*The two-story extension on the left of the Clubhouse, added in 1967, and enlarged in 1984, now houses the women's locker room.*

## 6. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

This comparative analysis tabulates the significance of some other similar precincts in greater Sydney, followed by other bowling (and former bowling) club sites within the Ku-ring-gai Area.



Pratten Park is an historic sport and recreation precinct in Ashfield containing a bowling club, lawn tennis club and football oval. The precinct began to be established c.1908 for football purposes and was used for tennis purposes by 1911, later identified in 1914 as Western Suburbs Lawn Tennis Association. Pratten Park is a local heritage item. ([www.pattenparkmagpies.com](http://www.pattenparkmagpies.com)) (Image Source: Six maps).



Kyle Bay Bowling Club is historically significant as it represents a good example of a Post-War international style building c1950. It is a later development overlay in the Williams Estate established 1914. It is socially significant as a community focus for the local residents. (NSW Heritage). (Image Source: Six maps).



The Hunters Hill Recreation Company Ltd was established in 1900 for the purpose of providing a social and general recreation club for local residents. Within 18 months, the company had purchased land in Madeline Street, built tennis courts, a bowling green, croquet lawns and a club house and transferred management to the Hunters Hill Recreation Club, which had a membership of 117 in March 1902. The club is not currently listed as a local heritage item (Image Source: Six maps).



The Ashfield Bowling Club is the second oldest club in the state and listed as a local heritage item for its association with many notable people and continued use for recreation and entertainment purposes. Located on the corner of Parramatta Road, the precinct makes a strong and positive visual contribution to the locale.

(NSW Heritage). (Image Source: Six maps).



Mona Vale Bowling Club is heritage listed 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.

(NSW Heritage). (Image Source: Six maps).



Newport Bowling Club is listed as a heritage item for its historic and social significance to the Newport community as a place of community gathering and sports activities. Operational since 1943, it represents a leisure activity, central to Australian culture. The significance of the bowling club lies on its historical and social values rather than the building fabric or architectural values of the building. The building is a representative of such club buildings of its period. (NSW Heritage). (Image Source: Six maps).

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**Former Gordon Bowling Club (4 Pennant Avenue, Gordon)**

The former Gordon Bowling Club Incorporated has occupied its current position on Council's land since 1950. The Club was granted a 50 year licence to use the land to build the clubhouse and undertake bowling club activities. Council constructed the first green and the Club was responsible for building the clubhouse and two further bowling greens. Bowls has occurred on the site since 1954 and the clubhouse was officially opened in June 1956.<sup>1</sup> A heritage assessment undertaken by John Oultram Heritage Design in March 2021 considered that the site did not meet the threshold for listing as a place of local significance.



Aerial photograph of Former Gordon Bowling Club (Source: Six maps).



Former Gordon Bowling Club: Looking southwest (Source: John Oultram Heritage Design)

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<sup>1</sup> Ordinary Meeting of Council Business Paper – 24 August 2004.

**Former Roseville Chase Bowling Club**

The Roseville Chase Bowling Club was established c1955. The club is not located within a conservation area nor is any research available to suggest that it would meet the threshold for local listing on historic or social grounds.



Aerial photograph of former Roseville Chase Bowling Club (Source: Six maps).



Former Roseville Chase Bowling Club (Source: Ku-ring-gai Council, 2020).

### Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club

The Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club was established c1948 and became incorporated in 1950. The club is not located within a conservation area nor is any research available to suggest that it would meet the threshold for local listing on historic or social grounds.



Aerial photograph of Lindfield Rollers Bowling Club (Source: Six maps).



(Source: <https://www.northshore.bridge-club.org>)

### St Ives Bowling Club

The St Ives Bowling Club was established c1959. The club is not located within a conservation area nor is any research available to suggest that it would meet the threshold for local listing on historic or social grounds.



Aerial photograph of St Ives Bowling Club (Source: Six maps).



St Ives Bowling Club (Source: Ku-ring-gai Council, 2000)

**Turramurra Bowling Club – 181 Bobbin Head Road, Turramurra**

The Turramurra Bowling Club was established c1960. The club is not located within a conservation area nor is any research available to suggest that it would meet the threshold for local listing on historic or social grounds.



Aerial photograph of Turramurra Bowling Club (Source: Six maps).



Turramurra Bowling Club Building (Source: <https://www.vennu.com.au>)

## 7. ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE NSW HERITAGE LISTING CRITERIA

Based on a general review of the documentation and information available for both Clubs, as well as a non-exhaustive inspection of the relevant sites, the significance of the Killara Bowling and Tennis Clubs has been considered against the NSW Heritage criteria as outlined below.

***a) an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history:***

The Killara Bowling and Tennis Clubs have continued to demonstrate strong links to the Australian sporting culture for over a century, since the declaration of JG Edwards in the late nineteenth century of the sites' suitability for the purpose of park and/or recreation. Both established by JG Edwards, the sites have continued to function for the purposes of a Tennis Club since 1910 and Bowling Club since 1916 and have had an ongoing affiliation with each other, which formally ended in 1919, but has informally continued as a product of their proximity to one another and symbiotic uses.

***b) 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:***

The sites have strong historical links to their founder, JG Edwards, who resided in the area since the 1850s. Edwards demonstrated the qualities of an early Australian entrepreneur, having acquired, established and subdivided 160 acres known as the Springdale Estate in the late nineteenth century. Often referred to as the 'King of Killara', Edwards was known as an instigator in the establishment of the North Shore railway line, including the construction of a station at Killara.

The clubs have provided recreational facilities for the immediate Killara and wider North Shore community for over a century.

The Tennis Club has been associated with notable Australians, including International Tennis players Neale Fraser, Lew Hoad, Fred Stolle and Ken Rosewell.

The Bowling Club has historic links to notable local people such as former President George Gissing who maintained a membership of the club for over 30 years until his death in 1955. The Arnold Street brick fence was later donated in memory of Gissing, by his family.

***c) an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW:***

The sites are visually prominent within the Springdale Conservation Area, maintaining landmark qualities through their recreational and open space characteristics, which provide visual distinction within the highly historic and suburban precinct. The regularity and rectilinear nature of the tennis courts and bowling greens, centrally flanked by the clubhouses, which continue to face their respective sporting precincts, conveys an aesthetically pleasing sense of order to the sites.

The existing tennis clubhouse has the potential to display an aesthetically pleasing and distinctive use of brickwork through its apparent high-quality construction and finer detailing.

The garden elements, fencing and historic stone walls are notable.

***d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons:***

The clubs have provided recreational facilities for the North Shore community for over a century and have been associated with prominent Australian Tennis players such as Neale Fraser, Lew Hoad, Fred Stolle and Ken Rosewell. The location of the clubs, side-by-side, within the suburban precinct has ensured that strong links with the surrounding community have been maintained since their establishment and the residential subdivision in the early twentieth century.

***e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history:***

Without further research, it is not known whether the site would meet the threshold for this criterion.

***f) an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history:***

Whilst the sites are associated with lawn bowls, which has continued to lose popularity as a sport within Australian society, without further research or extensive comparative analysis, it is not known whether the site would meet the threshold for this criterion.

The sites represent an early and possibly rare example of a sporting precinct within an affluent residential setting, whose curtilages have not been affected by the pressure of development.

***g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's***

- cultural or natural places; or***
- cultural or natural environments.***

Together, the clubs have the ability to represent the early entrepreneurialism of JG Edwards, who had the ability to envisage and manifest the ongoing use of the site for recreational purposes within a wider residential precinct.

The history of the sites and built fabric that has evolved is somewhat representative of economic fluctuations, changing popularities of sports as well as changes in social values, such as the shifting opinions in relation to women.

## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Individually and combined, the Killara Bowling and Lawn Tennis Clubs demonstrate significance at a local level through their ongoing association with the activities of lawn bowls and tennis within the local area and wider North Shore for over a century.

The sites have strong historical links to their founder, JG Edwards, who resided in the area since the 1850s. Referred to as the 'King of Killara', Edwards demonstrated the qualities of an early Australian entrepreneur, having acquired, established and subdivided 160 acres known as the Springdale Estate in the late nineteenth century.

The sites have continued to function for the purposes of a Tennis Club since 1910 and Bowling Club since 1916 and have had an ongoing affiliation with each other, which formally ended in 1919, but has informally continued as a product of their proximity to one another and symbiotic uses.

The Tennis Club has been associated with notable Australians, including International Tennis players Neale Fraser, Lew Hoad, Fred Stolle and Ken Rosewell whilst the Bowling Club has strong links to prominent local community members such as former President George Gissing.

The sites are visually prominent within the Springdale Conservation Area, maintaining landmark qualities through their recreational and open space characteristics, which provide visual distinction within the highly historic and suburban precinct. The regularity and rectilinear nature of the tennis courts and bowling greens, centrally flanked by the clubhouses, which continue to face their respective sporting precincts, conveys an aesthetically pleasing sense of order to the sites. The garden elements, fencing and historic stone walls are notable.

Upon brief inspection, the existing tennis Clubhouse has the potential to display an aesthetically distinctive use of brickwork with finer detailing that is of interest.

The historical evolution of the Clubs, including the built fabric that physically represents this, has continued to evolve because of economic fluctuations and changes in social values, such as the shifting opinions in relation to women. Together, the clubs have the ability to represent early the entrepreneurialism of JG Edwards, who had the ability to envisage and manifest the ongoing use of the site for recreational purposes within a wider residential precinct.

The configuration of the courts and greens remains intact as well as their relationship to the central clubhouse buildings, which have undergone changes over time. Neither of the original clubhouses remains despite possible evidence of the earlier Bowling Clubhouse within the extant fabric.

## 9. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on an initial assessment, the Killara Bowling and Lawn Tennis Club sites, both individually and combined, have high potential to meet the threshold for local listing, based on the standard criteria for listing outlined by the Heritage Council of New South Wales. It is recommended that Council proceed with preparing a planning proposal to list the sites as a local heritage item on Schedule 5 of the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015.

If in the meantime, there is any threat of imminent harm to either of the precincts, it is recommended that Council request that NSW Heritage make an IHO on both properties to enable them to have protection from that harm until a Planning Proposal can be progressed to Gateway Determination. .

## APPENDIX 1 – SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



View to NW Corner of Tennis Courts showing rear of Bowls Club Buildings



View to East of Tennis Courts



Upper Level of Tennis Club



View to SW Corner of Tennis Courts showing pedestrian entrance off Arnold Street and "Yarambah / Montana" in background



View to SE Corner of Bowling Greens



Original Stonework at Arnold Street

(Photos of Killara Bowling and Tennis Club, Source: Mr E Craig Miller)



One of the Tennis Club Honour Boards showing renowned players Neale Fraser, Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall and Adrian Quist



Bowls Club Entrance Way



Tennis Club Lounge



Original Stonework in Bowls Club



Original Stonework between Greens



NW Corner of Greens showing Heritage Dwellings in Locksley Street

(Photos of Killara Bowling and Tennis Club, Source: Mr E Craig Miller)



View to Car Park



View to West



View to SW



View past Club House to Entrance in Arnold Street.



Plaque on Gate Pillar in Honour of Member



Plaque on Fence in Honour of Member

(Photos of Killara Bowling and Tennis Club, Source: Mr E Craig Miller)



(Photos of Killara Bowling and Tennis Club, Source: Mr E Craig Miller)

<sup>i</sup> *Bowls at Killara*, Lloyd Sommerlad, 1990 p. 3.

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>iii</sup> *Ibid.* p.9.

<sup>iv</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>v</sup> *Bowling Club News*, September 1977, p.1.

<sup>vi</sup> *Sommerlad*, p.9.

<sup>vii</sup> *LTO Transfers A.5346 56/7/8 Plans and Transfers; KBC Ltd Bowling Club News*, 3 October, 2003, p.2, McElhone, Deputy Chairman. Investigation reveals that one pound in 1920 gets an approximate value in dollars of what it would be worth in 2015.

<sup>viii</sup> *McLean*, p.3.

<sup>ix</sup> *Bowls at Killara 1990*, E Lloyd Sommerlad, p.16.

<sup>x</sup> *Killara Lawn Tennis Club*, Brian H Ball, June 1995 p. 19.

<sup>xi</sup> *Ibid.* p.19.

<sup>xii</sup> *Ibid.* p.24.

<sup>xiii</sup> *Ibid.* p.19.

<sup>xiv</sup> *Sommerlad*, p.13.

<sup>xv</sup> *Ball*, p.18.

<sup>xvi</sup> *Ball*, p.66

<sup>xvii</sup> *Wikipedia*

<sup>xviii</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>xix</sup> *Ball*, p.21

<sup>xx</sup> *Ibid*, pp 31

<sup>xxi</sup> *Ibid*, p. 42.

<sup>xxii</sup> *Ibid*, p. 43.

<sup>xxiii</sup> *Ibid*, p. 44.

<sup>xxiv</sup> *Oral Interview with John Bickmore*, October 2016.

<sup>xxv</sup> *Ball*, p. 21.

<sup>xxvi</sup> *Wikipedia*

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- xxvii *Ball*, p.31.  
xxviii *Ibid.*  
xxix *Ibid.*  
xxx *Slee, John, Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol.16 2002.*  
xxxi *Ball*, p.32.  
xxxii *Ball*, p.23.  
xxxiii *KTC Web Site.*  
xxxiv *Ball*, p.30  
xxxv *Ball*, p.16.  
xxxvi *Ball*, p.64.  
xxxvii *Ball*, p.30.  
xxxviii *Ball*, p.34.  
xxxix *Ball*, p.27.  
xl *Ball*, p.30.  
xli *Ball*, p.28.  
xlii *Sommerlad*, p.27.  
xliii *Ball*, p.38.  
xliv *Ball*, p.40.  
xlv *Ball*, pp. 46-53.  
xlv *Bickmore.*  
xlvii *Letter sent to KBC from KLTC, 18 September, 2008.*  
xlviii *Bickmore.*