

## Heritage Recommendation

**650288**

*Queensland Heritage Act 1992*

Under delegation from the Chief Executive, Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, and under the provisions of s.44 of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, I, Stephen Potts:

### Recommend to not enter this place in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place



Recommendation Date: 27 May 2026

Delegate name/position: Stephen Potts, Executive Director



Figure 1: Coorparoo Bowls Club (Queensland Government, 2026)



Figure 2: No heritage register boundary proposed

<b>Place name</b>	Coorparoo Bowls Club
<b>Address</b> <b>LGA</b>	32 Riddings Street, Coorparoo 4151 Brisbane City Council
<b>RPD</b>	Lot 1 RP107835; Lot 56 SL4245

**Queensland Themes and Sub-theme:** 08.05 Creating social and cultural institutions: Sport and recreation

**Historical Period:** 1919 – 1938 Interwar Period

**Place Category and Type:** Recreation and Entertainment: Clubhouse – other; Bowling green

## Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance

<p><b>critterion a</b></p> <p>the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history</p>	<p><i>The Coorparoo Bowls Club (1930) reflects the growth of lawn bowls during the interwar period, when many clubs and grounds were formed across Queensland. It is comprised of its two full-sized foundation greens (1930 and 1931), greenkeeper's shed (1930), and clubhouse (1930). While the Coorparoo Bowls Club demonstrates the evolution of lawn bowls in Queensland, it is not important in demonstrating this pattern at a state level, due to the substantial degree of change that has occurred to the clubhouse. The interwar clubhouse has had repeated alterations and extensions over time and is not intact in its original interwar configuration.</i></p> <p><i>It is not early, representative, of regional importance, distinctive or exceptional, or rare.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p> <p><i>The place satisfies this criterion at a local level of cultural heritage significance, as demonstrated by its designation as a Brisbane City Council Local Heritage Place.</i></p>
<p><b>critterion b</b></p> <p>the place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Queensland's cultural heritage</p>	<p><i>Coorparoo Bowls Club does not demonstrate rare, uncommon, or endangered aspects of Queensland's cultural heritage at a state level of cultural heritage significance. Interwar bowls club complexes are not rare in Queensland, with numerous examples surviving across the state.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p>
<p><b>critterion c</b></p> <p>the place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Queensland's history</p>	<p><i>The history and fabric of Coorparoo Bowls Club are well documented; and the place has insufficient potential to contribute new knowledge about Queensland's history, knowledge that will lead to a greater understanding of particular aspects of Queensland's history, or knowledge that will aid in comparative analysis of similar places.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p>
<p><b>critterion d</b></p> <p>the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places</p>	<p><i>Although Coorparoo Bowls Club is an example of a Queensland interwar lawn bowls club complex, it is not important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of this class of cultural place at a state-level of cultural heritage significance. While it retains features of a lawn bowls complex from the interwar period, including two greens, a clubhouse, and greenkeeper's shed, these features are not sufficiently intact in their original configurations to be important at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p> <p><i>The interwar clubhouse has had repeated alterations and extensions over time, and is not intact in its original interwar configuration.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p>

<p><b>critterion e</b></p> <p>the place is important because of its aesthetic significance</p>	<p><i>While Coorparoo Bowls Club features a large, landscaped site with greens and a clubhouse, the place does not demonstrate or possess particular aesthetic attributes or qualities, or a streetscape contribution, to be sufficiently important for its aesthetic significance at a state level. The clubhouse has been altered and much of the formal manicured garden setting has been compromised or lost through the addition of extensions and later structures.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p>
<p><b>critterion f</b></p> <p>the place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</p>	<p><i>Coorparoo Bowls Club does not demonstrate any notable artistic, architectural, or creative qualities, or any technical, construction or design qualities to be sufficiently important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p>
<p><b>critterion g</b></p> <p>the place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons</p>	<p><i>Coorparoo Bowls Club has a longstanding association with the local Coorparoo community, as a recreational and social venue. It's establishment and ongoing maintenance was funded by its members, principally Coorparoo residents. The Club has hosted social and competition bowls, including metropolitan and interstate competitions since opening in 1930. The Club has sustained its role as a social venue for both playing and social members, and the Coorparoo community. However, there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate a wider, strong or special association beyond the local area.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p> <p><i>The place satisfies this criterion at a local level of cultural heritage significance, as demonstrated by its designation as a Brisbane City Council Local Heritage Place.</i></p>
<p><b>critterion h</b></p> <p>the place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in Queensland's history</p>	<p><i>Coorparoo Bowls Club does not have a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group, or organisation of importance in Queensland's history.</i></p> <p><i>The place does not satisfy this criterion at a state level of cultural heritage significance.</i></p>

## History

The Coorparoo Bowls Club was first known as the Coorparoo Bowling Club. It was formed in 1929 by Coorparoo community members eager to establish a lawn bowls facility. Vacant land in Coorparoo was acquired by the club and in 1930 the first green was laid, with plans for a clubhouse underway. Architect and club member, Maurice Guthrie designed the clubhouse which was completed by December 1930. The builder, Wally Ewart, was also a member of the club. A second green was laid by October 1931. Throughout the club's history, members have contributed time and donations to improve the facilities. Coorparoo Bowls Club has played an ongoing social, recreational, and community role in the Coorparoo district.

Coorparoo, a suburb in Brisbane, is situated approximately four kilometres southeast of the CBD, and is sited on the traditional lands of the Jagera and Turrbul People. Following European settlement and the associated dispossession of local Aboriginal people in the Moreton Bay region, land in the Coorparoo district was sold from 1856 and farms established.<sup>1</sup>

The Coorparoo district continued to grow during the 1880s as Brisbane's population increased rapidly and moved to outlying areas, assisted by the development of public transport and the subdivision of land holdings. In 1887 a tramway was extended to Buranda, close to the western end of the Coorparoo district. In 1888 development had progressed so far that Coorparoo Shire, which included Stones Corner and parts of Holland Park and Camp Hill, was established. In 1889 the Cleveland railway line opened through the northern extent of Coorparoo Shire and included a station at Coorparoo, adding to its popularity as a residential area. Suburban development in Coorparoo Shire accelerated after an electric tram extension opened in February 1915 from Stones Corner, along Old Cleveland Road, to Coorparoo State School (QHR 650047).

After World War I (WWI), Coorparoo experienced increased property sales. Between 1911 and 1921, Coorparoo Shire's population more than doubled from 2804 to 6635 residences.<sup>2</sup> By the early twentieth century, the Coorparoo district was home to a mix of blue- and white-collar workers, as well as to wealthy and prominent Brisbane residents who included politicians, industrialists, and high-ranking public servants, many residing in large houses built on Coorparoo's hills.<sup>3</sup>

In 1914, Coorparoo community members, Messrs Nicklin, Smith, and Smout, first proposed the idea of the establishment of a lawn bowling club for the Coorparoo district. This, however, was postponed due to WWI. It was not until 1929 that the idea to form a lawn bowling club was again revived. A preliminary meeting was held on 23 September 1929 at the Coorparoo School of Arts (QHR 602054) where a provisional committee was founded. On 28 October 1929 a public meeting was held at the Coorparoo School of Arts and the Coorparoo Bowling Club was officially formed. At this meeting 49 members joined, subscribing to £5 debentures that totalled £1015 by the closing of the meeting.<sup>4</sup> Following this, the election of a council took place; the Hon R King MLA was elected Patron, Dr F Betchel as President, A Savage as Treasurer, and W Smout as Secretary.<sup>5</sup>

Lawn bowls was played in Australia from the 1840s, reaching Queensland in the early 1870s and Brisbane in 1878. Although first played on hotel grounds or at private homes, following the English tradition of the game, the Australian game evolved towards the more formal Scottish approach, regulated by a club system. The clubs limited participation to well-to-do men, with membership fees, gender restrictions, and weekday competitions, prevented others from taking part.<sup>6</sup>

The Queensland Bowls Association (QBA) formed in 1904 to further the interests of bowling in Queensland. In Brisbane, clubs were established in inner-city suburbs including South Brisbane, Toowong, Clayfield/Nundah, and East Brisbane, with more clubs opening as residential development spread. A number of clubs received or leased sites in parks or public land, setting their greens within leafy space or against picturesque backdrops near the river.

The sport experienced steady growth in the following decades as it became more accessible; competition matches were held on weekends, allowing working professionals and labourers to play. In 1930, 40 clubs were affiliated with the QBA, 18 of them in Brisbane. This grew to 90 by 1940, with 26 in Brisbane.<sup>7</sup>

The next step in establishing a lawn bowling club for the Coorparoo district was to find a suitable site for the laying of greens and construction of a clubhouse. On 9 December 1929, the Trustees of the club, William (Bill) Nicklin, John Watson, and Joseph (Joe) Rees acquired a one acre, one rood and 24 perch (approximately 5,665m<sup>2</sup>) piece of vacant land, known at the time as Harries' Paddock, at a cost of just over £810.<sup>8</sup> The site for the new bowling club was situated nearby the Coorparoo Railway Station and busy Cavendish Road.

In its first year, Coorparoo Bowling Club had 74 members.<sup>9</sup> In January 1930, tenders were called for the construction of the first green for the club. Club member and member of the green committee, John Sibbald called for the tender, 'for the laying down of a playing green'.<sup>10</sup> The successful contractor was Mr F Ambrose, with a contract price of £635. Initially a ten-rink green was planned, however, when further measurements were taken of the land it was decided the first full-sized green would be a seven-rink green. This would allow the later laying of a second full-sized green as membership of the club grew. By February 1930, work had progressed with the construction of a boundary fence and a soil shed.<sup>11</sup> In early December 1930, the first green was opened by George Rees, the President of the QBA.<sup>12</sup>

From early 1930 the need for a permanent clubhouse was raised in the Coorparoo Bowling Club's monthly meetings. A 'pavilion' committee was formed, 'to prepare plans, estimates, and other information' pertaining to the building of a clubhouse.<sup>13</sup> In May 1930, it was unanimously decided at the club meeting that a clubhouse be constructed. Architect and club member, Maurice Guthrie, was chosen to design the new clubhouse with tenders called in June 1930.<sup>14</sup> In July 1930, Wally Ewart, also a member of the club, was awarded the contract of £1455. The Brisbane City Council's *Register of New Buildings* recorded the 1930 approval for the new clubhouse at Harries Road, Riddings and Wakefield streets, Coorparoo.<sup>15</sup>

By October 1930, the clubhouse had been completed yet not officially opened. It was described by a visiting journalist at the time, who stated 'unhesitatingly I can say that no other bowling club in the metropolitan area possesses its equal', and following a tour of the building led by the architect and two members, described the new building:

*It is constructed on what is technically known as the American colonial style most suitably adapted to a climate such as ours ... It is built of timber on a cement foundation ... of two storeys, with tile roof; length overall 91 feet [27.7m]. The ground floor includes the members' room ... with locker accommodation ... a visitors' room ... [and] commodious storage room for the greenkeeper's use ... The top floor is approached by a flight of stairs at either end leading on to the balcony ... which forms part of the social hall, which is 40ft [12.2m] long with a staged recess ... A well-appointed bar ... and kitchen ... with up-to-date fixings is found off the social hall on the right [south], whilst on the left [north] is a card room ... and the ladies' club room with retiring room attached ... It is a most effective, airy pavilion which reflects credit on the architect.*<sup>16</sup>

By this time membership at the club had reached 80. Although not officially open, the clubhouse was swiftly put to use, with a gala evening held on 29 October 1930 to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the founding of the club. The evening was reported in the *Brisbane Courier* and included a photograph of the hall's interior, 'A flashlight photograph of the audience at the concert, the first entertainment held in the new clubhouse, staged by the Coorparoo Bowls Club last evening'.<sup>17</sup> The official opening date was set at the club's November meeting for Saturday 6 December 1930.<sup>18</sup>

The Queensland Ladies' Bowling Association was inaugurated in 1930.<sup>19</sup> In the same year, the Coorparoo Ladies' Bowling Club was established. At a meeting at the Coorparoo School

of Arts on 4 July 1930 the club was formed, with Irene Longman MLA being made Patron, Mrs Thompson, President, Mrs King, Vice President, Mrs McKinnon, Secretary, and Mrs Wilson, Treasurer. Initially there were 22 members; this had risen to 42 by June 1931.<sup>20</sup>

The interwar period (1919-39) saw a major increase in the number of bowls club grounds built in Queensland. In 1918, Queensland had only about 28 bowls club grounds, built in the previous 40 years. In the interwar period, at least 57 new bowls club grounds were built. Of these, 47 survive in 2026.<sup>21</sup> The interwar period was the beginning of a long boom in the founding of new clubs and construction of new grounds, which began in 1919 and grew to a peak in 1946, before a slow decline ending around 1995.<sup>22</sup>

Bowls club grounds built in Queensland during the interwar period share characteristics. Where not in rural or regional communities, they were typically constructed in central suburban locations, close to public transport and their membership, on relatively generous sites. They were generally laid out with at least one green at inception, sometimes half-size in smaller communities, or two greens in larger centres. A small number of larger clubs developed up to four greens.<sup>23</sup>

The greens were highly manicured grass surfaces, level and typically square or near-square in plan. They were divided into rinks, usually six to eight, forming the long, narrow areas of play on the green. Each green was enclosed by a ditch, a shallow depression to catch stray bowls. Beyond this, the bank formed the outer edge, generally as a slightly raised perimeter. Surrounding the bank was the apron, providing clear circulation space for players to access the rinks. Along the outer edge of the apron were usually player seats and shade structures, set within formally arranged and well-maintained garden surrounds. Reflecting the intensity of maintenance required, facilities also included equipment sheds or storerooms, and occasionally an on-site residence for the keeper.<sup>24</sup>

Pre-WWI bowls greens in Queensland were essentially adapted lawns or paddocks, although their sophistication increased over time and with greater membership and funds. During the interwar period, driven by growing interest in the game, formalisation of rules, interclub competitions, advances in turf science, expanding turf species availability, and new construction and maintenance technologies, the ideal green was increasingly understood to be a constructed system capable of periodic reconstruction rather than indefinite improvement. Greens became more precisely formed and dimensionally standard, with surfaces established as monoculture turf (typically couch), closely cropped and systematically top dressed with sand. These conditions generally required older greens to be rebuilt rather than improved.<sup>25</sup> The irregular shaggy turf-edged ditches of earlier greens were replaced by neatly trimmed grass or timber retaining walls, producing vertical or near-vertical moats. Once established, these developments increased maintenance demands, and greens were continuously refined by their keepers to make them 'faster, smoother and more consistent and more predictable to play well on'.<sup>26</sup> Keepers adapted practices to local conditions, so that while greens across Queensland became increasingly similar in form and performance, they were not identical.<sup>27</sup>

When it was completed in 1931, the Coorparoo Bowls Club's grounds were characteristic of those built across Queensland in the interwar period, although it was better provisioned than the average complex. The main entrance into the site was at its northwestern corner and the grounds were fenced and neatly manicured, including hedged shrubs, concrete paths, and lawns.<sup>28</sup>

On Saturday 6 December 1930, the official opening of the Coorparoo Bowling Club's clubhouse and first green was held. The afternoon was attended by at least 200 people, including Patron of the club, R King MLA, Minister for Education, Irene Longman MLA, Patron of the Coorparoo Ladies' Bowling Club, and QBA President, G Rees. Many representatives from other metropolitan bowling clubs, including East Brisbane, Wynnum, and Hamilton were also in attendance.<sup>29</sup> Afternoon tea was served in the new clubhouse's social hall with its wide balcony that allowed clear views over the green. The hall was decorated in the club's colours,

blue and maroon. The first speech was delivered by the club Patron, Mr King MLA who congratulated the bowling club on the fine clubhouse and green and stated:

*The formation of the bowling club was a splendid move, and he was perfectly sure it was going to be a source of untold happiness and enjoyment to the residents. On the green one was enabled to forget for a time the cares and worries of the outside world, which was a good thing, especially in these times of depression and difficulty.*<sup>30</sup>

In the evening, a dance was held in the hall to further celebrate the Coorparoo Bowling Club's official opening.<sup>31</sup> In the *Eighth Australian Bowling Carnival Program* from 1931, that provided information about each bowling club taking part in the carnival, including a photograph, the Coorparoo Bowling Club's clubhouse was described as 'probably the largest Club House in Queensland'. It also stated that the membership of the club had reached 91 members.<sup>32</sup> In May 1949's edition of *Bowls in Queensland* it was stated 'this pavilion, with its fine appointments is considered to be without equal in Queensland. The land is freehold and no debts exist'.<sup>33</sup>

In the interwar period, at least 51 new pavilions (not all were clubhouses) were built for bowling clubs across Queensland, and at least 17 pre-existing more were substantially extended and/or remodelled, some more than once. Eleven of these 68 are known to be extant in 2026,<sup>34</sup> with a further seven likely or possibly extant.<sup>35</sup>

Pavilions of the interwar period shared characteristics. They were typically the largest building on the site. Ranging in size and accommodations, smaller pavilions were little more than gazebos to watch play or recoup out of the sun, while larger pavilions offered member and visiting players changing rooms, ablutions, and lockers, a bar, kitchen and dining room, club rooms, and a social hall for large gatherings and events. Typically, they were built with a direct and strong axial relationship to the greens, oriented to overlook the greens via verandahs or balconies. Frequently, the buildings included only partial enclosure for their main rooms, with large open-sided halls or dining rooms acting as extensions to the building's verandahs. Some of the larger pavilions were designed by architects, often members of the club, in a range of interwar styles, symmetrical forms and compositions, and often included a flagpole.<sup>36</sup>

Coorparoo's was one of the largest known pavilions built in the interwar period, and the second-most expensive (Auchenflower's was more expensive but does not survive in 2026).<sup>37</sup> In 2026, surviving interwar pavilions have generally been altered since construction to update the interiors and exteriors.<sup>38</sup>

With increasing membership numbers, a second green was needed at Coorparoo. In August 1931, work on the second green (to the south) commenced. It was to cost £479, of which Joe Rees, club trustee, donated £250. The new green was officially opened on the 6 December 1931 with now QBA Vice-president, G Rees, throwing the first jack on what was termed 'the No.2 green', followed by the President of QBA, Mr Ferguson, bowling the first bowl. The event was reported in the *Sunday Mail* which stated: 'in the 14 months since its establishment ... the Coorparoo club had made great progress, which indicated unbounded energy and enthusiasm on the part of every member.' The opening day was very well attended with a celebratory dance held in the hall in the evening.<sup>39</sup>

In 1940, two narrow one-rink greens, to be used for practice and coaching purposes, were laid at the eastern end of the site. These were extended eastwards c1962 by an extra rink each, with the club acquiring two lots from the owners of the adjacent eastern property, the Commonwealth Government. A low brick wall with steps was built at this time to provide a demarcation between the small practice greens and the two full-sized greens. The practice greens were removed and in 2026 this area is a children's play area.<sup>40</sup>

The sport's popularity continued to climb during World War II (WWII), attracting members who were ineligible for military service, but its largest growth followed immediately after the war.

The number of clubs in Queensland nearly doubled in six years, leaping from 93 in 1944, to 172 in 1950.<sup>41</sup>

In 1946, following weather damage to the first-floor balcony, changes were made to the clubhouse. This included the closing-in of the balcony with timber weatherboards and arctic glass casement windows.<sup>42</sup> Also at this time, the greenkeeper's shed was extended by several metres to the south.<sup>43</sup> May 1949's edition of *Bowls in Queensland* feature, detailed the history of the Coorparoo Bowling Club and described the clubhouse as 'beautiful'. It goes on to state:

*Upstairs the giant floor space accommodates the bowlers at refreshments, while the polished floor serves for a beautiful dancing surface on those occasions when the President entertains with socials ... On the ground floor is the huge bowls room with bowls polishing tables and the lockers for members. On this floor, too, is the visitors' rooms, where every convenience is provided for guests. At the opposite end is the bar with its modern refrigeration. Outside are the soil shed and tools house for the two electric mowers etc. used by staff.*<sup>44</sup>

In 1954, the two main greens were renamed in honour of two founding members and former trustees. No.1 green was renamed the 'Bill Nicklin' green, and No.2 green, renamed the 'Joe Rees' green. A set of signs with the greens' names were installed on the northern and southern edges of the greens at this time.<sup>45</sup> Plan drawings from the late 1950s show that by this time the clubhouse's first floor had been altered to increase the size of the social hall by moving the northern and southern partitions and a small toilet extension had been made to the ladies' club room.<sup>46</sup>

Throughout the club's history, Coorparoo Bowls Club has been involved in competitive lawn bowls in Queensland. From the 1930s it played host to metropolitan and interstate competitions. Within the clubhouse were hung numerous timber honour boards attesting to this, as well as to the sporting success of members in both the men's and women's competitions. Long-serving greenkeeper at the club, Keith Jones, maintained and cared for the greens and gardens from 1931 until 1964. In the club's 1979 *Golden Jubilee Souvenir*, it was stated the 'Club has been honoured on numerous occasions in having its green selected in Interstate Test Matches, State Carnivals and Finals and Semi-finals of Metropolitan events'.<sup>47</sup>

The social side of lawn bowls was as equally important to participants as the playing of the sport. A lawn bowls club became a social centre for the local community.<sup>48</sup> The Coorparoo Bowls Club, with its spacious social hall on the first floor, hosted many social events such as dances, card evenings, concerts, and club dinners. Many of these events were to raise money for the club. Others were to raise money for charity. One example was a dance arranged by the Ladies' Bowling Club in April 1940 to raise money for the club's building fund.<sup>49</sup> During WWII, the club held fundraising events for the war effort, including a fundraising bowls afternoon to raise money for the Red Cross that was attended by the then Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson, and arranged by the Ladies' Club. The Ladies' Club also held sewing circles to make items for the Australian Comforts Fund.<sup>50</sup> In 2026, the Coorparoo Bowls Club remains a social centre for the Coorparoo district with active members and popular barefoot bowls for the public on weekends.

Coorparoo Bowls Club members have been generous to their club with both their time and donations over the years. When the club was first established, its founding members enthusiastically donated gifts to assist in the laying of the green and the construction of the clubhouse, including: the timber for the bordering of the ditches from Joe and Evan Rees; installation of a full electrical system free of charge from Mr Birley; white porcelain tiles and house flag from Joe Rees; festoon of coloured lights and pennant flags from P Smith; plumbing materials from A Savage; 60 *Acalypha* plants and several seats from J Sibbald; and staining and painting the interior walls and ceiling of the clubhouse free of cost from J Niven.<sup>51</sup> Joe Rees donated half of the funds for the second green's construction. Through fundraising efforts, the Ladies' Club have donated furniture, overhead fans, and kitchen items.<sup>52</sup> In the

1931 *Australian Bowling Carnival Program* it states '£2840 has been spent on improvements, plant and furniture to date and it is credible to the members that all the funds required have been provided by themselves and their friends'.<sup>53</sup> Working bees attended by members were a regular activity at the club from its establishment, this included the foundation members' helping to construct the first green as evidenced in historic photographs from the time.<sup>54</sup>

Substantial changes were made to the clubhouse in the late 1960s and 1970s. The ground floor player changerooms and ablutions and the 1940s bar were demolished and the entire ground floor converted to a large bar and lounge. This included demolishing all partitions and adding a small timber extension to the southwestern corner. A brick, single-storey addition was made to the building's northern end to accommodate new ablutions, which involved demolishing the ground floor's northern wall. Also, a two-storey addition was built along the eastern side, facing the greens, reducing the apron between the clubhouse and greens. It was a glazed, concrete-framed structure, accommodating further lounge area and office on the ground floor, and extended the enclosed balcony on the first floor. This addition involved demolishing the eastern wall of the ground floor, and the original parapet roof, flagpole, and c1946 balcony enclosure of the first floor. At completion, the clubhouse presented a considerably different face to the greens.<sup>55</sup>

In 2009 ownership of the Coorparoo Bowls Club was transferred to Bowls Queensland.<sup>56</sup> In 2026, the Coorparoo Bowls Club remains in operation as a lawn bowls club open to members and casual players. It retains a complex of buildings, greens, and landscape features from the interwar period, altered over time to facilitate expanded operations or updated play requirements, but still in their original use and locations. The club organises and hosts weekly social game sessions, coaching, and regular competition games both within the club and against visiting clubs from across Queensland, and club members travel to compete at other grounds in inter-club tournaments. Public, sponsored events are held regularly on the grounds, including fundraising events for charity. Coorparoo Bowls Club is a longstanding community facility with an active social focus within the Coorparoo district.<sup>57</sup>

## Description

Coorparoo Bowls Club is a bowls club complex located in Coorparoo, approximately 4km southeast of the Brisbane CBD. It occupies a large flat site, and comprises a complex of buildings, landscape features, and open spaces. The site is bounded by streets on its (nominally) north, west, and south sides, and by adjoining residential lots on its east. The main access into the site is from the northwestern and southwestern corners.

The majority of the site is occupied by two large bowling greens, separated and surrounded by narrow aprons of land. Centrally at the western end of the site stands the Clubhouse, a two-storey pavilion overlooking the greens. Near the Clubhouse on its southern side stands the Greenkeeper's Shed, a small, single-storey storage shed with an open yard to its east.

As an interwar lawn bowls complex, the place is not intact at a state-level of cultural heritage significance. Interwar fabric is retained in the Clubhouse and Greenkeeper's Shed, and the greens are in their interwar locations. However, the complex has been repeatedly altered over time including: multiple extensions to the Clubhouse and interior reconfiguration; extensions to the Greenkeeper's Shed; modernising the greens in their same locations; adding and removing Practice Greens to the east side of the site; and changes to the formal layout, plantings, and landscaping features of the site over time.

### **Nicklin Green (1930) and Rees Green (1931)**

The Nicklin Green and the Rees Green are two, 7-rink bowls greens, approximately 36.5m x 38m. Separated by approximately 2m, they occupy the majority of the site and are sunken lower than their surrounding ground (aprons). While they retain their original size and locations, their surfaces and foundations have been modernised and their original timber board ditches have been replaced with concrete and concrete ditch cappings.

The greens remain open to the sky and generally symmetrically aligned with the Clubhouse. The surrounding aprons are still used for viewing, seating, and circulation, but they have been extended in the 1960s to be marginally wider, and do not retain Interwar fences, seats, or plantings.

Two metal name signs (c1954, likely moved in the 1960s when the site was extended), reading 'Bill Nicklin Green' and 'Joe Rees Green', stand centrally on the outer sides (north and south) of their greens, orientated to face toward the greens.

Other modern features of the greens and their surrounding aprons include shade structures, seats, fences, score boards and rink markers, and standard lamps.

### **Former Practice Greens (1940, replaced and extended 1960s, removed 1980s)**

An area of higher, flat land runs along the eastern edge of the site (east of the greens). Formed in 1940 as two, one-rink practice greens, the area has been extended eastwards in the 1960s forming two two-rink practice greens. In 2026, the greens have been removed and it is used as an open area for children's play.

Other modern features include boundary fences, vegetation, a low brick retaining wall and stairs (1960s), metal flagpole (1960s or more recent replacement), and sign.

### **Clubhouse (1930, extended and altered c1946, 1950s, and 1970s)**

The Clubhouse is a large, two-storey pavilion standing on the western side of the site. The building faces east to the greens, and presents a plain, service elevation to Harries Road to the west. It has a 1930 core that forms the majority of the building, and extensions have been

made on its northern, eastern and southern sides. The building also has had modern attached and freestanding shelters added to its northern and eastern sides.

The 1930 section forms the majority of the building and is a two-storey, symmetrical, timber-framed and -clad structure on a concrete slab base. It comprises a long rectangular block with a terracotta-tiled hip roof, and long, narrow blocks attached centrally on its east and west sides with parapet roofs. Original external, timber stairs from ground to first floor are located on its northeastern and southeastern corners, protected by the overhanging main roof.

The original form of the building is only somewhat legible, due to later extensions and changes. The open eastern balcony of the first floor, its parapet roof, flagpole, and cast letters of the club name have been demolished and replaced by a modern concrete-framed, glazed, two-storey 1970s extension, changing the building's main facade and relationship to the greens. A large, one-storey brick ablutions block (1970s) has been added to its northern end with a nearby large concrete tank. Large modern kitchen vent stacks protrude from the building's southern side.

Original timber-framed windows survive, although most have been relocated from their original positions. All original, highset, window openings have been enlarged and different sashes inserted. One pair of original timber casement windows survives (western elevation first floor). No original exterior door leaves survive.

A small, timber-framed extension (c1946) has been made off the northwestern corner of the first floor, matching the earlier section in form, materials, and some details, and incorporating relocated 1930 windows. It accommodates a c1946 ladies' toilets.

The ground floor interior is not intact, having lost its original eastern and northern exterior walls to accommodate extensions. None of the original layout survives or is legible as all original internal partitions have been demolished and new partitions to new layouts have been added. No original surface finishes survive, and all existing finishes are modern. In 2026, the ground floor accommodates a large modern bar and kitchen. Original, square, timber posts with chamfered concrete bases (originally of the eastern balcony) pass through the space, defining the original end of the building.

The first floor is mostly intact but has had alterations. It retains the original VJ-lined partitions with timber moulded belt and picture rails of its former kitchen and cards room (small rooms to the west), and their doors. However, it has lost the partitions between the hall and the bar (south) and the ladies' club room (north), changing the size of the social hall and north and south rooms. Some walls are lined with 'faux' VJ boards. The social hall retains its original coved ceiling, which defines the original locations of the lost partitions. The floor throughout is timber boards, different dimension replacements of originals. The roof structure's original iron tie rods are retained, running exposed through the space. The original balcony's large square posts survive, but the balcony balustrade and ceiling are lost, and the balcony space is now incorporated into and enclosed by the 1970s extension.

Original and early bowls club paraphernalia is held throughout the building, including timber lockers, framed photographs, bell, honour boards, memorial plaques, bowls cases (bags), and trophies.

### **Greenkeeper's Shed (1930, extended c1946)**

The Greenkeeper's Shed is a small, single-storey greens keeping equipment storage shed. Originally roughly square in plan, it has been extended to its south in c1946, doubling its size, matching the original section in form, materials, and detail. In 2026, the shed is used to store equipment and tools, in part operating as a 'men's shed'.

It is timber-framed and -clad, rectangular in plan, standing on a concrete slab-on-ground. The shed's walls are single-skin, and its timber wall and roof frames are exposed internally. The exterior is clad with weatherboards, and its hip roof is clad with corrugated metal sheets. It retains original (1930 and c1946) wide double doors, highset windows with obscure glass, and original or early door and window hardware.

Its two construction periods are legible through joints in the wall cladding and the different quality of the concrete floor slab, with that of the extension being rougher and poured in strips. The 1930 section retains its (originally external) southern double doors and wall, which now open into the extension.

The shed is positioned close to the site's western boundary, leaving an open service 'yard' on its eastern side between the shed and the greens. In 2026, the service yard remains an open space but has had concrete ground surface laid, and is used for car parking.

Modern features added to the shed include replacement gutters and downpipes to different profiles, whirlybirds, signs, and lights.

## Images



Figure 3: Coorparoo Bowls Club from the northeast (Queensland Government, 2026)



Figure 4: The Clubhouse from Harries Road in the southwest (Queensland Government, 2026)



Figure 5: Looking southeast from the Clubhouse across Rees Green (Queensland Government, 2026)



Figure 6: Former Practice Greens looking south (Queensland Government, 2026)



Figure 7: Greenkeeper's Shed from the east (Queensland Government, 2026)

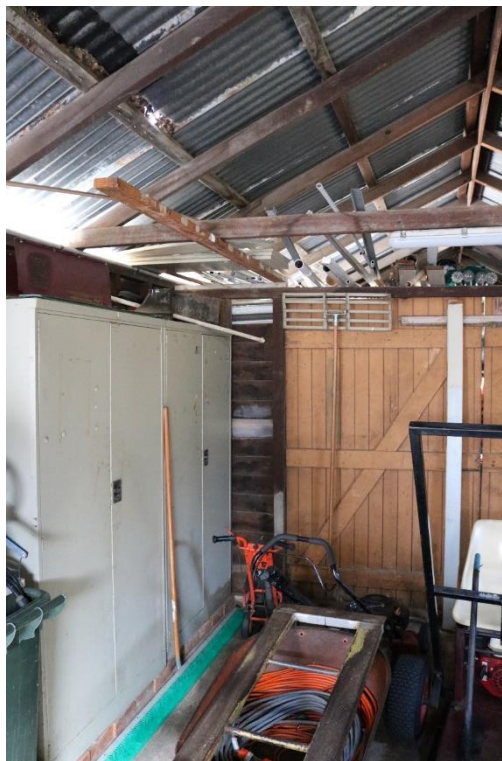


Figure 8: Greenkeeper's Shed interior, 1930 section, looking south to former external doors (Queensland Government, 2026)



Figure 9: Clubhouse from the southeast (Queensland Government, 2026)

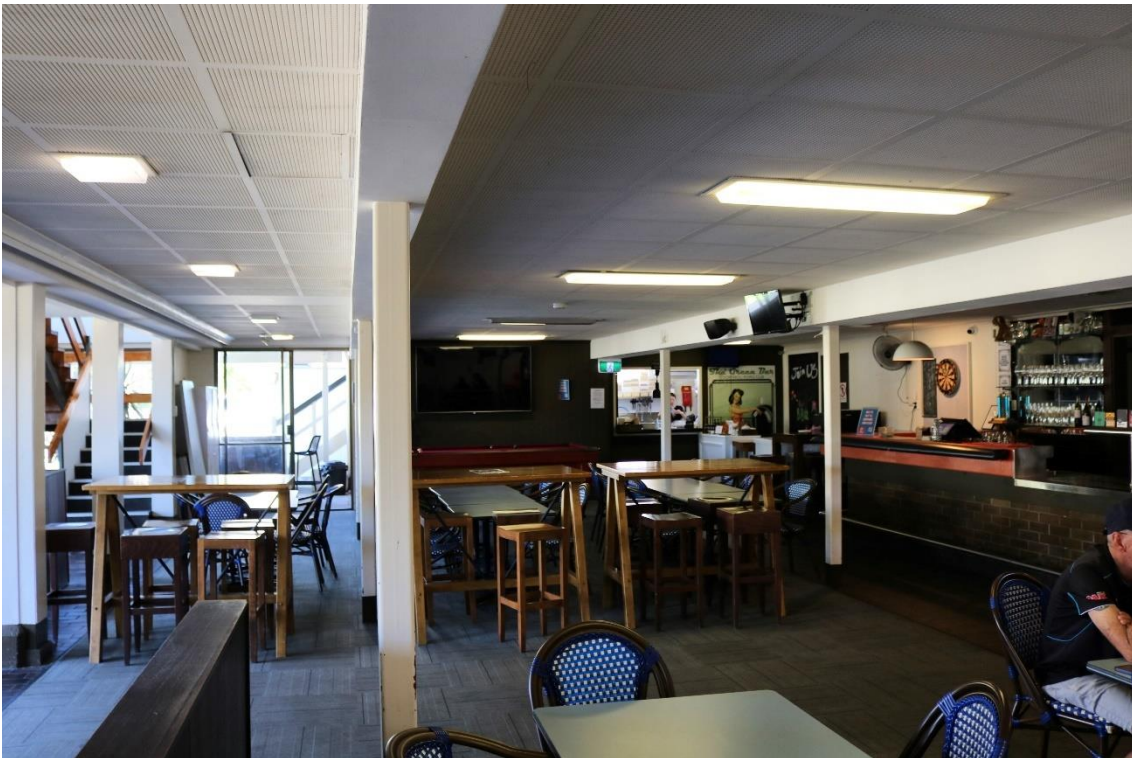


Figure 10: Clubhouse ground floor former members' room (player's change room) looking south (Queensland Government, 2026)

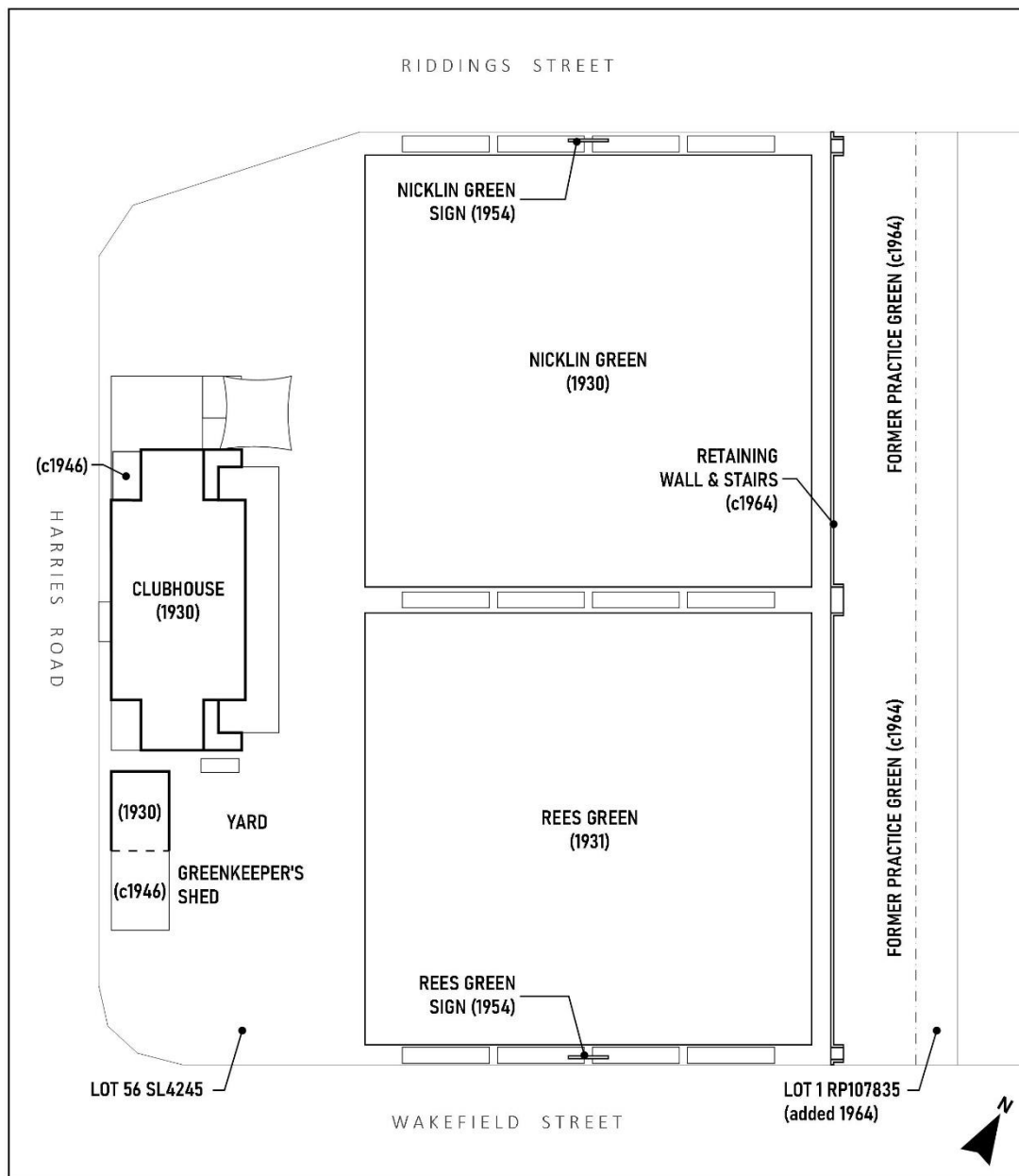


Figure 11: Clubhouse first floor social hall looking south to former bar (Queensland Government, 2026)



Figure 12: Honour boards in social hall (Queensland Government, 2026)

## Site Plan



**Coorparoo Bowls Club**  
**650288**  
**Site Plan**

Date created: March 2026  
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Figure 13: Site plan (Queensland Government, 2026)

# Plans



**Coorparoo Bowls Club**  
**650288**  
**Indicative Floor Plan**

Date created: March 2026  
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**Legend**

- Original (1930) features
- Demolished original features
- Non-original features

Figure 14: Indicative floor plan, ground floor (Queensland Government, 2026)

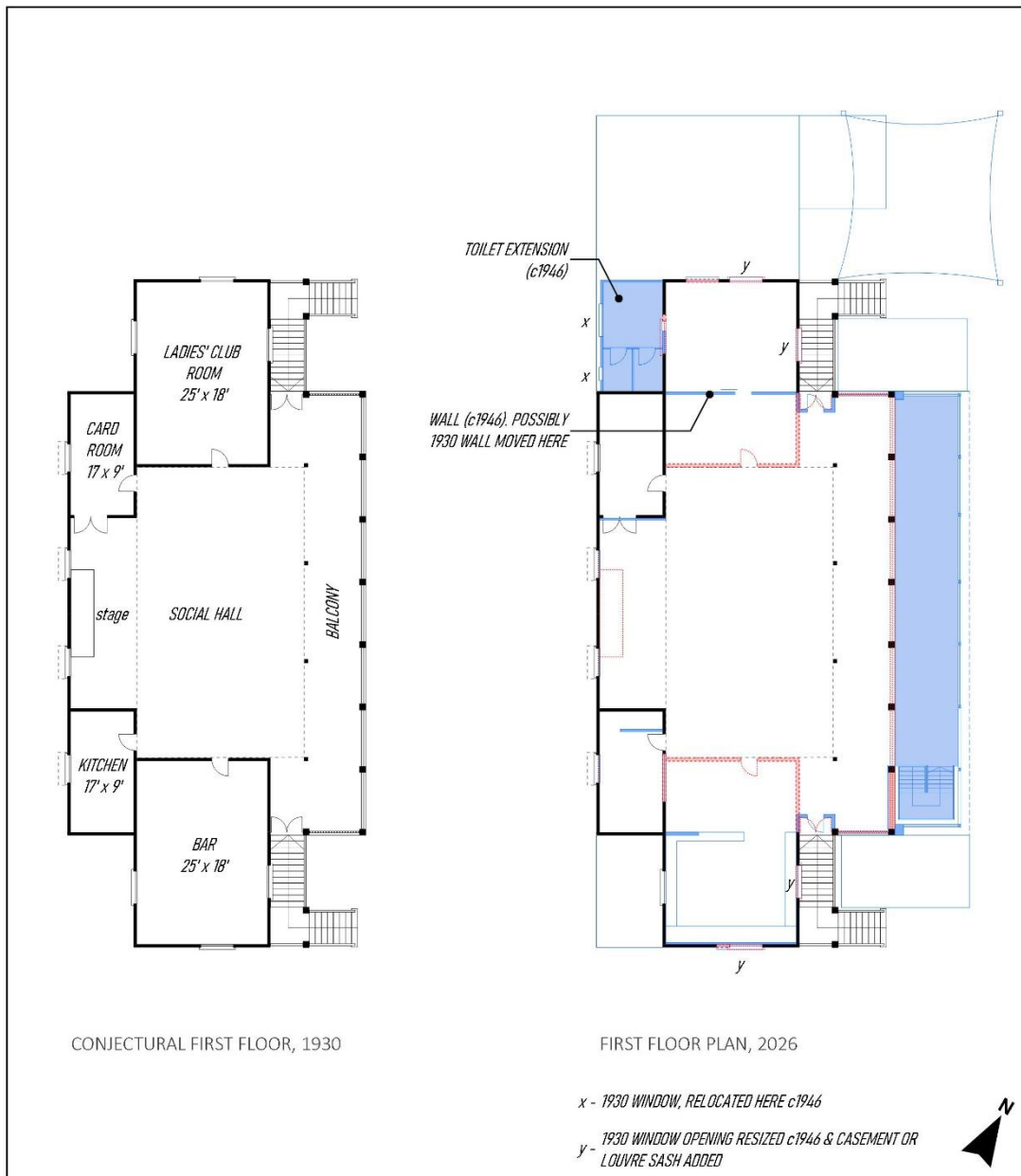


Figure 15: Indicative floor plan, first floor (Queensland Government, 2026)

## **Proposed heritage register boundary**

No heritage boundary proposed.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Queensland Government, Map 1, *South East Queensland's Traditional Owner Groups*, Accessed April 2026.
- <sup>2</sup> Entry in the Queensland Heritage Register, Coorparoo State School (QHR 650047).
- <sup>3</sup> Brisbane City Council, *Heritage Citation*, 'Coorparoo Bowls Club', <https://heritage.brisbane.qld.gov.au/heritage-places/2077>, Accessed April 2026.
- <sup>4</sup> *Daily Standard*, 'New Club House Opened', 8 December 1930, p.11; Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.1; *Bowls In Queensland*, 'History of Coorparoo Bowling Club', May 1949, p.86.
- <sup>5</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.1.
- <sup>6</sup> Ed. Wray Vamplew and Brian Stoddart, *Sport in Australia: A Social History*, 'Lawn Bowls', Cambridge University Press, 1994, pp.112-117.
- <sup>7</sup> Judy Murphy and Carolyn Nolan, *Lawn Bowls in Queensland: Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Lawn Bowls Administration in Queensland 1904-2004*, Royal Queensland Bowls Association, 2003, p.12; Brisbane City Council, *Heritage Citation*, 'Booroodabin Bowls Club', 2000.
- <sup>8</sup> Certificate of Title, No.335683, Vol.1794. Folio.173; *Daily Standard*, 'New Club House Opened', 8 December 1930, p.11; Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.1; Queensland Bowling Association, *Eighth Australian Bowling Carnival, Brisbane, August 1931*, pp. 66-67; *Bowls In Queensland*, 'History of Coorparoo Bowling Club', May 1949, p.86; Brisbane City Council, *Heritage Citation*, 'Coorparoo Bowls Club', 2009.
- <sup>9</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.2.
- <sup>10</sup> *Telegraph*, 'Tenders', 8 January 1930, p.19.
- <sup>11</sup> *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Bowling Club', 7 February 1930, p. 16; Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.2. The soil shed is possibly referring to the small timber building later called the Greenkeeper's Shed, present on site in 1930.
- <sup>12</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.2; Queensland Bowling Association, *Eighth Australian Bowling Carnival, Brisbane, August 1931*, pp. 66-67.
- <sup>13</sup> *Brisbane Courier*, 'Coorparoo Bowling Club', 12 March 1930, p.10.
- <sup>14</sup> *Brisbane Courier*, 'Coorparoo Bowling Club', 12 March 1930, p.10; *Brisbane Courier*, 'Coorparoo New Green', 13 May 1930; *Brisbane Courier*, 'Coorparoo', 30 May 1930, p.6; *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Bowling Club', 31 May 1930; p.13; *Brisbane Courier*, 'Tenders', 14 June 1930, p.27; Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.2.
- <sup>15</sup> *The Architectural and Building Journal of Queensland*, 'Guthrie – Erection of a timber club house for Coorparoo Bowling Club; W. Ewart (accepted)', 10 July 1930, p.52; *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Bowlers, Erection of Pavilion', 5 July 1930, p.13; Brisbane City Council, *Register of New Buildings*, 31 July 1930, Building No. 21497, Brisbane City Council Archives.
- <sup>16</sup> *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Prepares', 15 October 1930, p.10; 1930s photographs of the building show that near to its south side was a small one-storey greenkeeper's shed, a timber-framed and -clad building and a short ridged hip roof clad with corrugated metal sheets. It had small, highset, horizontally-pivoting windows as well as double doors on its eastern and southern sides to allow large green maintenance equipment. The shed stood near the western boundary of the site allowing a generous open yard on its eastern side between the shed and the greens and near the southern side of the clubhouse, close to the greenkeeper's storeroom.
- <sup>17</sup> *Brisbane Courier*, 'Coorparoo Bowling Club', 29 October 1930, p.22.
- <sup>18</sup> *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Bowls Club', 20 November 1930, p.16.
- <sup>19</sup> Judy Murphy and Carolyn Nolan, *Lawn Bowls in Queensland: Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Lawn Bowls Administration in Queensland 1904-2004*, Royal Queensland Bowls Association, 2003, p.12; Brisbane City Council, *Heritage Citation*, 'Booroodabin Bowls Club', 2000.
- <sup>20</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.16; *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo', 18 June 1930, p.10; *Telegraph*, 'Lady Bowlers Coorparoo Club Opening', 20 January 1931, p.1.
- <sup>21</sup> Department of the Environment, Tourism, Environment and Science (DETSI), *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026.
- <sup>22</sup> DETSI, *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026.
- <sup>23</sup> DETSI, *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026.
- <sup>24</sup> DETSI, *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026.
- <sup>25</sup> Such as at Clayfield in 1924; *Sports Referee*, 'Realm of Bowls', 19 Apr 1924, p.16.
- <sup>26</sup> <https://bowlsinternational.com/fifty-years-of-sand>, Accessed 24 March 2026.
- <sup>27</sup> DETSI, *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026; The evolution toward a highly constructed green capable of periodic reconstruction intensified after 1960 as keepers increasingly adopted the United States Golf Association Specification for Putting Green Construction (the USGA Spec) in the building and maintenance of lawn bowls greens. These greens involved substantial earthworks and engineered soil profiles, producing more consistent and reliable playing surfaces, while shifting and, in some cases, reducing maintenance demands. Earlier greens across Queensland were progressively rebuilt in accordance with these principles, resulting in increasingly standardised facilities. Concrete ditches cast to regulation dimensions had already been introduced at Queensland greens from at least 1946, but after 1960 they became widely adopted.
- <sup>28</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, pp.2-3.
- <sup>29</sup> *Brisbane Courier*, 'Bowls, New Club Opened', 8 December 1930 p.14; *Sunday Mail*, 'Bowlers Greet New Club', 7 December 1930, p.8; *Truth*, 'New Club Makes First Bow to Kitty', 7 December 1930, p.9.
- <sup>30</sup> *Brisbane Courier*, 'Bowls, New Club Opened', 8 December 1930, p.14.
- <sup>31</sup> *Daily Standard*, 'New Club House Opened', 8 December 1930, p.11; *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Bowlers', 8 December 1930, p.4.
- <sup>32</sup> Queensland Bowling Association, *Eighth Australian Bowling Carnival, Brisbane, August 1931*, pp. 66-67.
- <sup>33</sup> *Bowls In Queensland*, 'History of Coorparoo Bowling Club', May 1949, p.86.

<sup>34</sup> New pavilions or extensions to existing pavilions were built and survive at: Graceville (1920, extended 1937); Windsor (1922, extended 1927); Southport (1924, extended 1930); Yeronga (originally built 1915, extended 1927, and moved on site, remodelled, and extended again 1937); Hermit Park (1929); Bribie Island (1929); Coorparoo (1930); Cunnamulla (1937); Burgowan, Torbanlea (1937); Toowoomba City (1938); and Atherton (1939).

<sup>35</sup> Collinsville (1926); Athelstone, Rockhampton (1927); Gayndah (1929); Bowen (1934); Biggenden (by 1936); Charleville (1937); and Kingaroy (1937) (based on desktop survey).

<sup>36</sup> DETSI, *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026.

<sup>37</sup> DETSI, *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026; the Suburban Recreation Club (Hermit Park) (a tennis and bowls pavilion) built 1929, reportedly cost £1606. However, given the substantially smaller size of the 1929 building (38'x30'), this figure appears to be the total cost of the bowling green, pavilion, and two tennis courts built that year, but this has not been verified. Auchenflower Bowls Club's pavilion (demolished c2007), reportedly cost £2250. It is the only known interwar pavilion that cost more than Coorparoo, but at 85'x28' (25.9mx8.5m, approx. 220.15m<sup>2</sup>) Auchenflower's pavilion was considerably smaller than Coorparoo's 91'x38' (27.7mx11.5m, approx. 318.55m<sup>2</sup>) so it is not clear why there is such a difference. These two buildings were both substantially bigger than the typical pavilion.

<sup>38</sup> DETSI, *Queensland Bowling Greens Comparative Study* (internal study), 2026.

<sup>39</sup> *Sunday Mail*, 'New Green at Coorparoo', 7 February 1932, p.4; Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.2.

<sup>40</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.2; Certificate of Title, No.306295, Vol 1666 Folio 35.

<sup>41</sup> Judy Murphy and Carolyn Nolan, *Lawn Bowls in Queensland: Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Lawn Bowls Administration in Queensland 1904-2004*, Royal Queensland Bowls Association, 2003, pp.79-109.

<sup>42</sup> By the time plans were drawn of the clubhouse in the 1957-8, a first-floor toilet extension had been made off the ladies' club room, and the first-floor social hall had been enlarged by moving partitions, possibly reusing existing partitions. It is likely this work occurred c1946.

<sup>43</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.5.

<sup>44</sup> *Bowls In Queensland*, 'History of Coorparoo Bowling Club', May 1949, p.87; the description states a bar had been created in the ground floor, where the greenkeeper's storerooms were previously, and the first floor bar was converted to a kitchen. This is evidenced by 1950s floor plans of the building (QSA ID:2736719).

<sup>45</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, pp.12-13.

<sup>46</sup> 'Proposed alterations to the Club House for the Coorparoo Bowling Club', EP Trewern, 1 July 1958, QSA ID:2736719.

<sup>47</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.8; *Telegraph*, 'Victorian Tourists Visit Coorparoo', 30 June 1934, p.3 and p.5.

<sup>48</sup> Ed. Wray Vamplew and Brian Stoddart, *Sport in Australia: A Social History*, 'Lawn Bowls', Cambridge University Press, 1994, pp.126-127.

<sup>49</sup> *Telegraph*, 'Bowling Club's Dance for Building Fund', 13 April 1940, p.9; *Sunday Mail*, 'Bowlers' Social', 25 June 1933, p.16; *Sunday Mail*, 'The Women's Realm: At Home, Coorparoo Bowls Club', 17 September 1933, p.14; *Sunday Mail*, 'Coorparoo Bowlers Fifth Anniversary Party', 28 October 1934, p.16; Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.10.

<sup>50</sup> *Telegraph*, 'Governor at Red Cross Bowls Afternoon', 14 October 1942, p.5; Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.16.

<sup>51</sup> *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Bowlers', 5 July 1930, p.13; *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Bowling Club', 6 September 1930, p.10; *Telegraph*, 'Coorparoo Prepares', 15 October 1930, p.10.

<sup>52</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.2 and p.16.

<sup>53</sup> Queensland Bowling Association, *Eighth Australian Bowling Carnival, Brisbane, August 1931*, p.67.

<sup>54</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.10.

<sup>55</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, *Golden Jubilee Souvenir, 50 Years of Coorparoo Bowls History, 1929-1979*, p.6.

<sup>56</sup> Certificate of Title, No.14022203.

<sup>57</sup> Coorparoo Bowls Club, <https://coorparooowlsclub.com.au/about-2/>, Accessed 8 May 2026; MND and Me Foundation, <https://www.raffletix.com.au/cooperscupraffle>, Accessed 8 May 2026.