#### Oatley Heritage & Historical Society Projects.

Month & Year of Topic
Topic
Written & Spoken
Presenters

May 2013
Oatley Bowling Club
Graham Lalchere

# Oatley Bowling & Recreation Club INTRODUCTION

- My background for this presentation:
  - Campaign to save club. Unsuccessful, but may achieve some good in the end
  - Salvage from club, before vandals destroyed the lot
- Story of Oatley B & R club is the story of many Bowling Clubs
- Changing demographics and interests
- Thanks to contributors
- Thanks to pioneers who originally built the club and kept it going
- Please let me know if I have any information wrong

#### Two strands to story:

- Local. Location, creation, operation, downfall and demise
- Social changes. Reduction in popularity of lawn bowling.

Eg. From ABC Central Coast, August 2012:

Since 1995 more than 350 clubs across New South Wales have merged or closed down, 174 of those from regional and rural areas of the state.

#### Statistics on Number of Bowling Clubs in Sydney

Year	No of Clubs*	Population (approx)
1971	250	2.8 million
1974	260	3 million
1984	290	3.4 million
2001	233	4.15 million
2007	207	4.3 million
2013	190	4.7 million

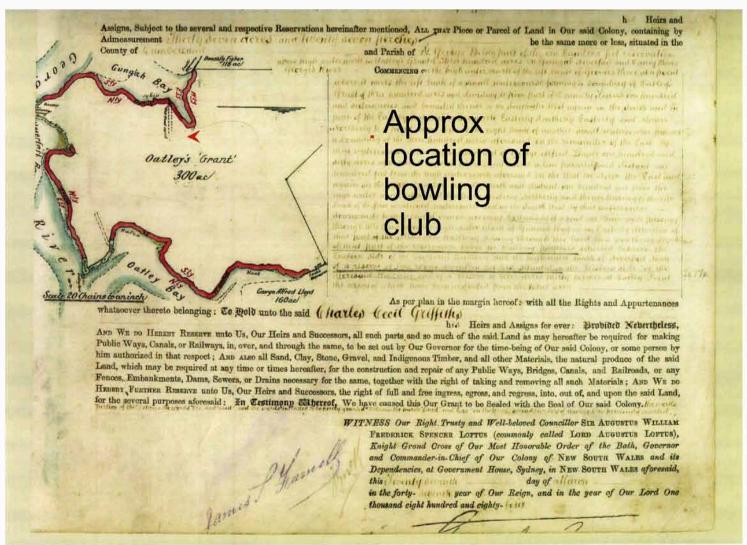
<sup>\*</sup>Approx No, sourced from Street Directories



Is this how the site would have looked in 1788?

No. 84/  121 Che parend kinchildings  16 6 M  GRANT UPON RESCISSION OF RESERVATION.	1—For. 38
FECTORES, by the Grace of God, of the Unit. Britain and Arcland, Queen, Defender of the	draith and so forth.
in pursuance of the powers by H. & Majesty the Wested in him as Governor of the Colony of New South W1.	Lord one thousand eight
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Savino and Reservino unto H. Majesty, H. & Heirs and Successors, all land within one hundred feet of high-water mark on every Creek, Harbor, and Inlet: Rub Ethereas, by divers meme Convoyances and Assurances in the law, the fee-simple in the said lands became vested in the said lands lan	the Sen Const, and on
day of in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and or grate of the said Colony to rescind the said Reservation and to grate of the lands so reserved as aforesaid, and situated between her said land and the said (1997).	nt to him the fee-simple
And Ellitreas the money consideration to be paid for the said land has, under the provisions of the Crown Lands Alienation determined by Appraisement, and fixed at the Sum of Colonial Treasury of Our said Colony, before these Presents are issued, Wr., with the advice of Our Executive Council of Our said and for us, Our Heirs and Successors, Do Humany Grast, unto the said	rling: Now Know YE,
	h Hoirs and

Grant to Charles Griffiths on 31st August 1833 on purchase and rescission (annulment) of 1833 Grant to James Oatley



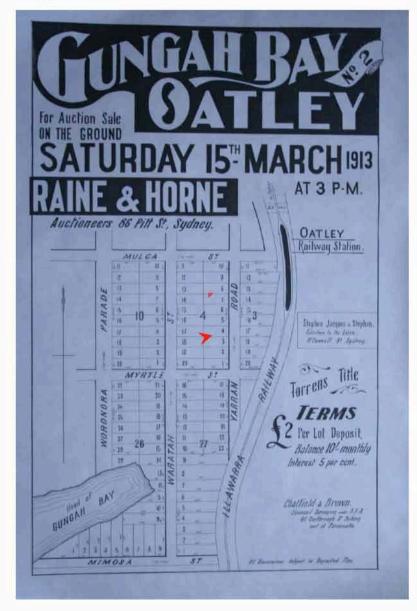
Transfer of 37 acres and 27 perches for £297/7/0 to Charles Cecil Griffiths on 21 3 1884

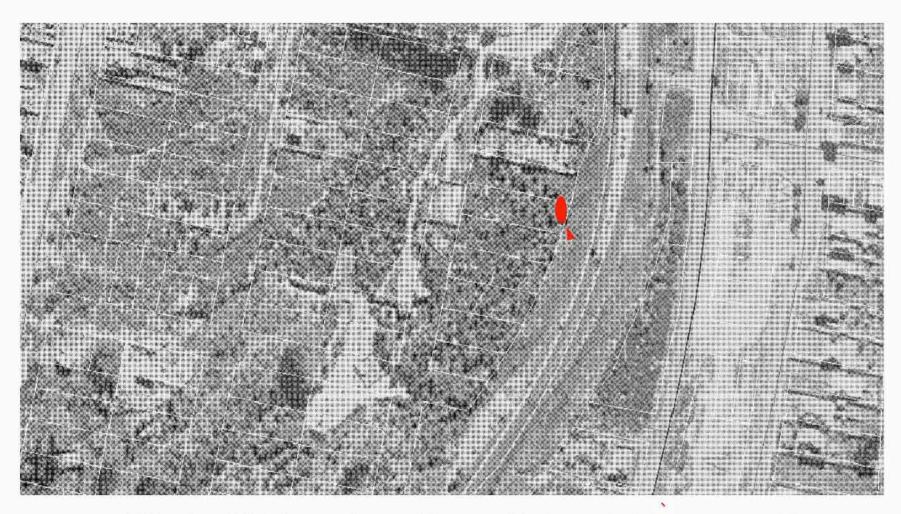
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Record of transfer from Charles Cecil Griffiths to George Neville Griffiths on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1885, then to Oatleys Estate Company Limited on 14 th December 1896.

 Area was sub-divided and building blocks were sold in 1913 as the Gungah Bay Oatley No 2 estate.

Approx location of bowling club





Site in 1943 and position of later clubhouse, with sub-division over-laid

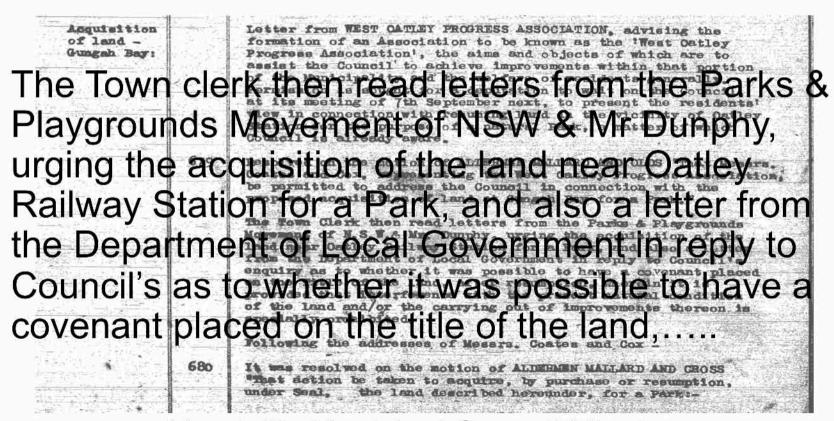
Attempts to have a park were long-standing

Report to Council:

In fact, they first approached council in January 1940, if not earlier.

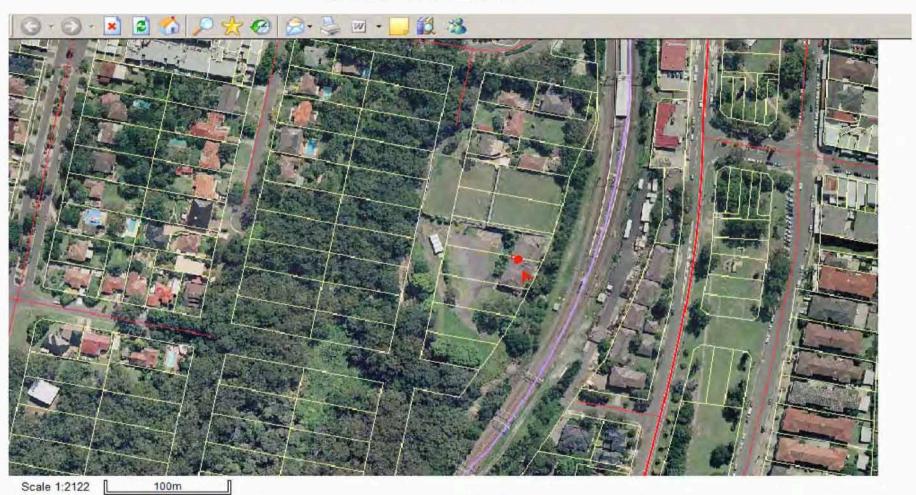
Hurstville Municipal Council Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> February 1944

Myles Dunphy was one of those who approached Hurstville Municipal Council with a view to turn the land into a reserve.



Hurstville Municipal Council Minutes 7th September 1944

#### Oatley Bowling Club Site in 2007



Source - NSW Department of Lands SIX Viewer @six.nsw.gov.au

O Sydney - Newcastle Aerial photos (High Resolution) - Ausimage @ SKM 2008

Includes property boundaries, roads and location of Bowling Club

- Despite being sub-divided, it was difficult to continue Yarran Road to Mulga Road due to swampy conditions.
- Council Engineer's rough estimate was £120,000 as shown in the council correspondence of July 1944:

However, some blocks were sold.

Some locals objected to this resumption, as shown in the council minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1945:

Mr J S Sloman who owned No 5 River may have been one of these residents. One of the grounds may have been that the owners were absent and fighting for their country.

The properties were eventually resumed anyway, with assistance from the Dept of Lands (16<sup>th</sup> November 1944), being a grant of £500 towards the cost of acquiring land at Gungah Bay for park purposes.

First known proposal for a bowling club was a notice in the press by Ernie Stanhope (known as founder, according to Norma Dendle).

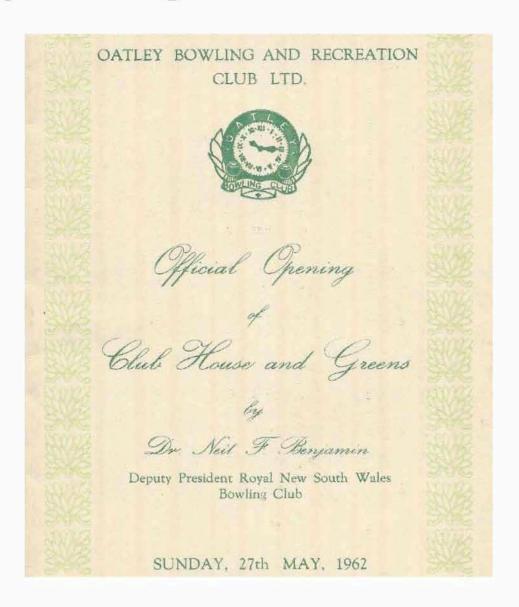
As a result of a notice in the Total Fress by E. Stanhore the inauguration of the Oatley Bowling and Recreation Club took place in Oatley Park on the 20th December, 1959 at 10.15am (Hence the Club badge). Arising from this meeting of local residents the Foundation Committee was formed.

#### FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

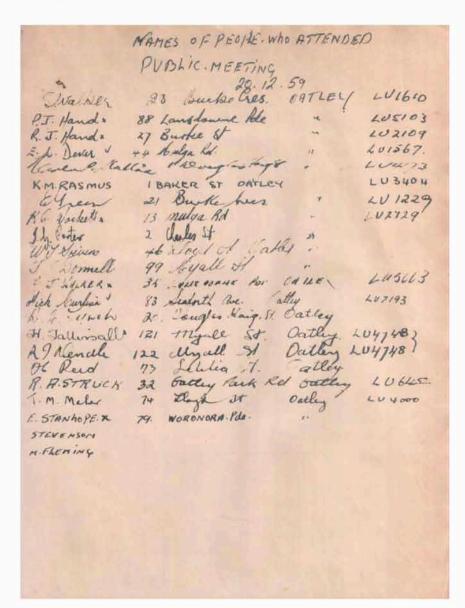
President	R.J. Hand
Senior Vice President	R.A. Struck
Junior Vice Pr sidents	K.C. Wachett E.A. Stanhope
Secretary	S.N.P. Storhenson
Treasurer	W.A. Paull
Bowls Secretary	A.J. alker
Committeemen	F.J. Hand H. Tattersall R.J. Dendle

Progress was so rapid that the Committee was able to call a public meeting a 24th February, 1960 in the local Swimming Club Hall of those desirous of becoming members of the Club.

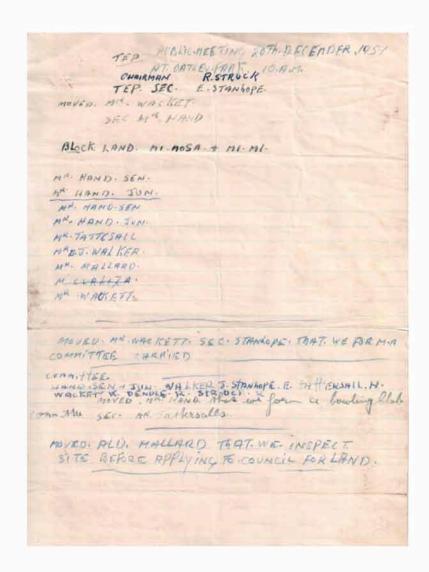
The first meeting in December 1959 was held at 10.15am as shown as shown on the clock in front of the clubhouse, and in various documents, eg, official opening programs.



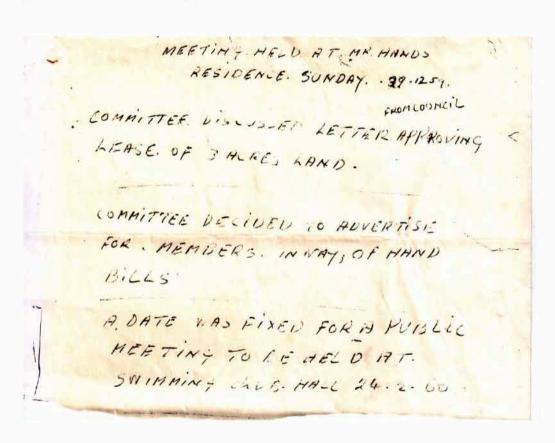
- Oatley Bowling and Recreation Club held its first meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1959
- Here is the list of those who attended

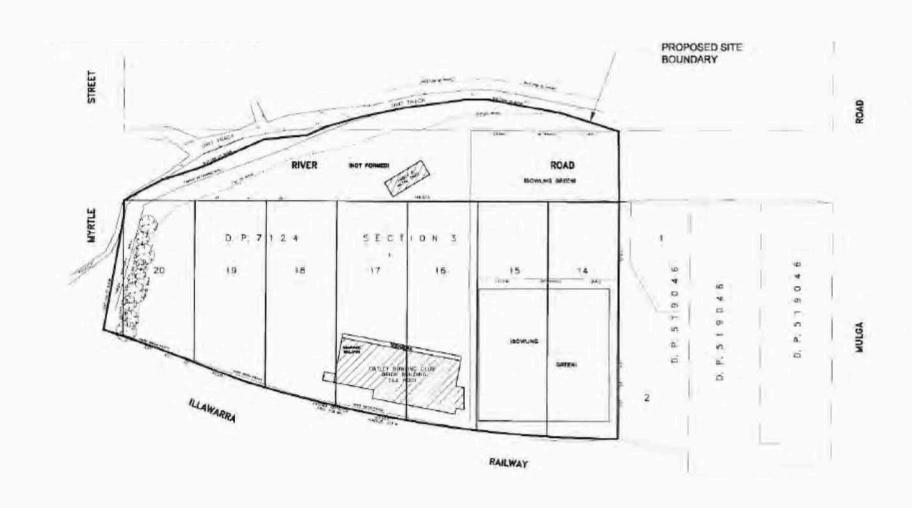


Here are the minutes of that meeting



A second meeting followed a week or so after and brief minutes were taken.





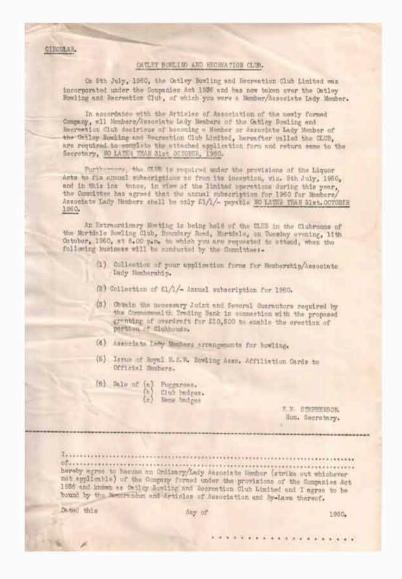
Approximate Site Boundaries

In February/March 1960 Hurstville Municipal Council resolved:

- to approve the plan for the club submitted by Oatley Park Bowling Club, and
- permission be granted to commence clearing of the land.

- Work then proceeded apace
- By May 1960, earthworks had started.
- Evidence for this were the complaints by Messrs J S Sloman, D D Johnston and D D Martin
- Hurstville Municipal Council correspondence includes a letter (13<sup>th</sup> May, 1960) from these men detailing the covering of River Road with "stones and dirt".
- Another letter on 15<sup>th</sup> May submitted an eight point compromise, including more formal roadworks, objections to the low rent and better planning for the area.
- Obviously many of these points were not fully carried out.

- On 5<sup>th</sup> July, 1960, the Oatley Bowling and Recreation Club Limited was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1936 and took over the Oatley Bowling and Recreation Club.
- Circular requesting Members/
  Associated Members to apply for membership of this new limited club.
  - Under the Liquor Act the club had to fix annual subscriptions and these were set at £1/1/-
- Also notified members of an extraordinary meeting at Mortdale Bowling Club to collect fees, etc, and obtain guarantors for the bank overdraft.



Finance was arranged through the Commonwealth Trading Bank and members also invested their own money to pay for the construction of the greens and clubhouse.

A herculean task faced the Committee. The site required to be cleared and levelled but this work had progressed to a stage in May, 1960, that it was possible to complete plans for the layout of the first green and its surrounds. In the meantime finance had been arranged through the Mortdale Branch of the Commonwealth Trading Bank and by debentures taken out by the members.

Excerpt from original history notes as shown in "Our Beginnings" in the Official Opening Program

When the Club incorporated in 1960 it had 200 Ordinary Members and 100 Associated Lady Members from both sides of the line.

N.S.W. Stamp Duty £1.10.0 Paid 20.4.61

## In 1961 a lease was drawn up by council

THIS DEED made the Seventh day of April One thousand nine hundred and sixty one BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HURSTVILLE (hereinafter called the Council and which expression shall be deemed to mean and include the Council itssuccessors and assigns) of the one part and OATLEY BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB LIMITED duly incorporated under the Companies Acts now in force for the State of New South Wales (hereinafter called the Club and which expression shall be deemed to mean and include the successors and permitted assigns of the said Club) of the other part WHEREAS certain land (of which the land hereinafter described forms part) situate at Oatley in the area of the said Municipality was acquired by the Council by purchase and now is vested in the Council for the purpose of public recreation and as otherwise deemed desirable AND WHEREAS the said Council has power to give a licence to use any part of the said land at such rent for such purposes and for such term and subject to such provisions and conditions as the Council shall see fit AND WHEREAS the

Excerpt from Lease dated 20th April 1961

Oatley Women's Bowling Club was formed in April, 1961.

105 Gungah Bay Road,

OATLEY.

10th April, 1961.

The Secretary, N.S.W. Women's Bowling Association, 130 Victoria Road, Belkvue Hill, S Y D N E Y.

Dear Madam,

I desire to inform you that permission has been granted the Associate Lady Members of this Club to form the Oatley Women's Bowling Club and one green (7 rinks)will be allotted to them on Wednesday of each week at least. As soon as our second green is available, which could be within the next two months, additional rinks will be made available to their members whenever practicable.

The members of the Oatley Women's Bowling Club are desirous of affiliation with your Association and the necessary forms are enclosed herewith.

Trusting their application will receive your early and favourable consideration.

Yours faithfully.

S. N. STEPHENSON. (Hon. Secretary).

1 A Stephenson

First clubhouse was completed in 1962.



The building was designed by Messrs Loder & Dunphy. Was this Myles or Milo Dunphy, son of Myles Dunphy?



Interior of the new £28,000 club house



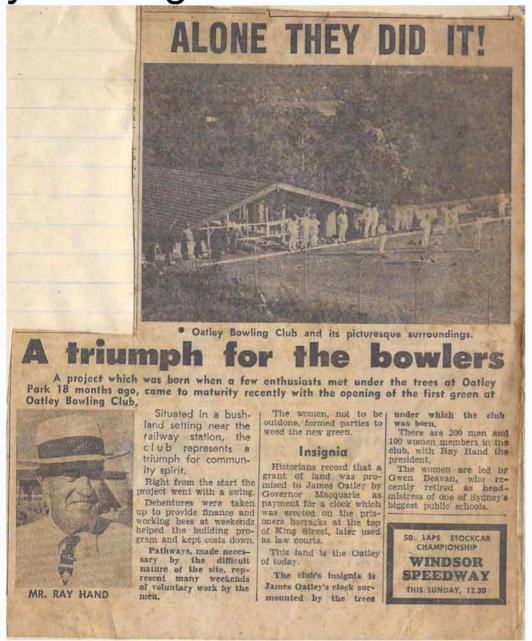
tnother view of the lounge looking towards the main entrance of the clubhouse; brush box parquetry is used for flooring

The building was built by E J Russell & Co.

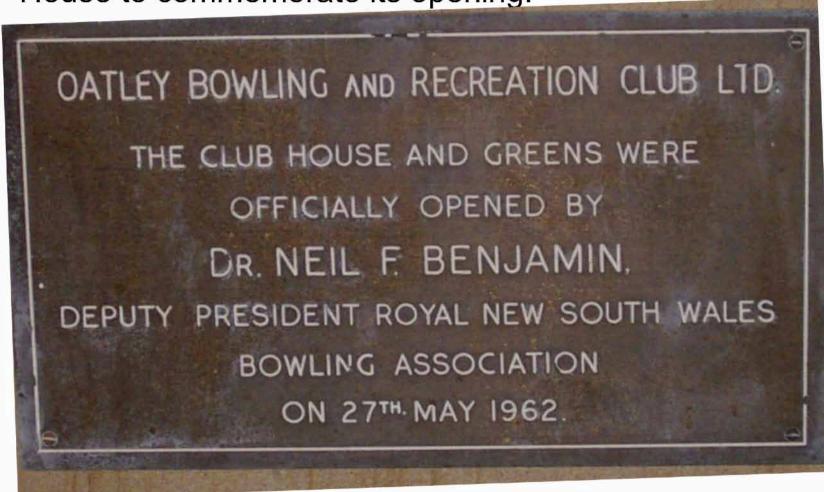
Newspaper report of the opening of the first green.

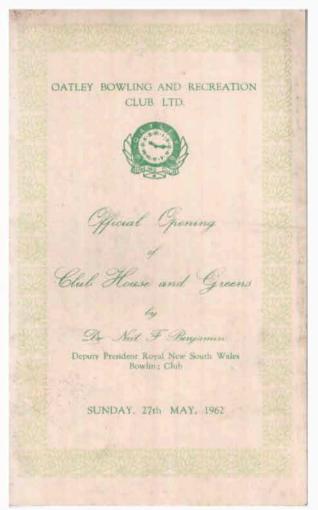
Included the fact that there were 200 men and 100 women members with Ray Hand as the President.

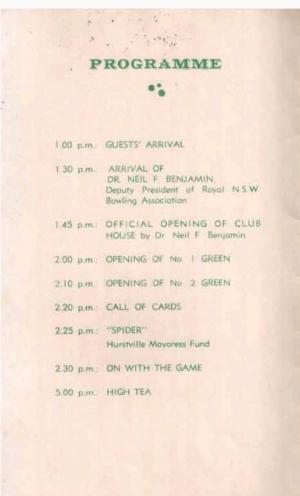
The women were "led by Gwen Beavan, who recently retired as headmistress of one of Sydney's biggest public schools."

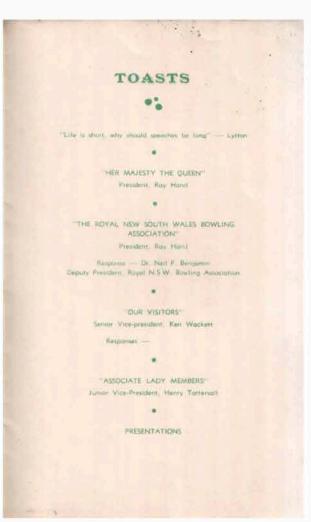


A plaque was fixed to the entrance of the new Club House to commemorate its opening.

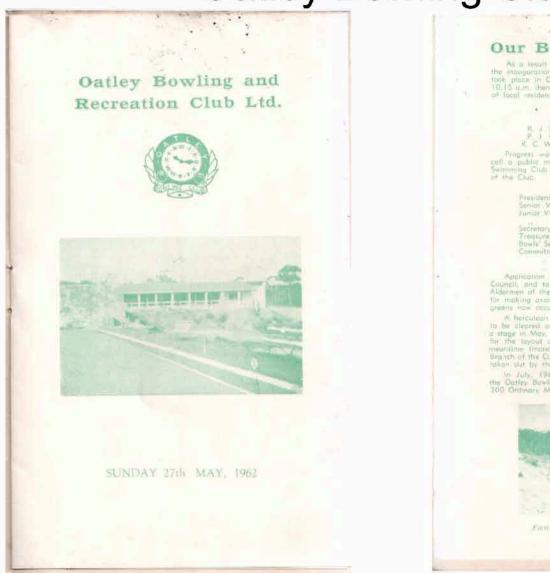


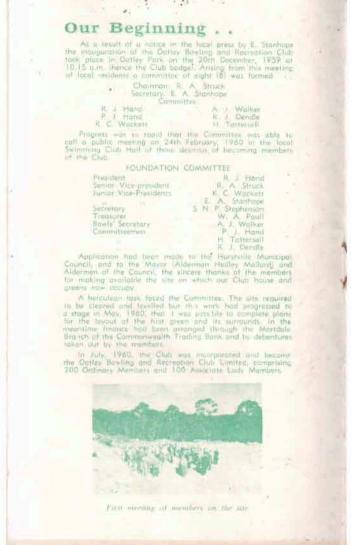






Official Opening Program Concluding with High Tea at 5pm!





Official Opening History

By September, 1960, the retaining wall for No. I green had been completed and the green their laid in, the progress had been attantisting. Water was laid on and a sprinkles visiters provided. Ferroing of the whole of the area followed and so the wark progressed.

Meanwhile plans had gone steadily ahead for the erection of further stone extending willy and the laying in of the second green. Large quantities of filling had to be procured but each statable was mer and overcome.

in December, 1960 the plans were completed for the club house by Mesars Loder and Dumphy, Architects, and Fabruary, 1961, see stope one of the club house under construction, the work being completed by the end of July, 1961.

During the progress of the work on the greens, club house, site, meetings were held by the Committee on the site to enable members to inspect the progress. These were well attended and interest was keen as the greens and then the club house took single.

A shed was purchased and erected for the purpose of moring material and equipment. This was pressed into service as a kitchen when members commenced playing on Ne. 1 Green in May, 1961. At this functure due thanks must be pold to the Associate Lady Members for their effort in organising afternoon real under trying conditions.

In August 1961, the Club was successful through the untilling efforts of the Committee in statelling a provisional learn license.

To the Committee we over as much, this long hours, spent of Committee Meetings, Special Meetings and the manuscular efforts it is not proclicable to receive in such limited space. Their reward in this ourstanding Club, a fitting manuscrit to their afforts.

At the same time the apparturiny connor be allowed to pais without mentioning those thembers who assisted the Club at working bees and other tasks too numerous to mention space will not painwit at naming any and all, but the Club is greatly indebtand to them.

#### BADGE

The Committee, after due consideration, left that the despired of the Club Bodge should be symbolic, and agreed display about a clock face with a tree on either wide and a pair of boxle. James Outley, after whom the district is reamed was the first clock installation engineer, whiler 10.15 c.m. refers to the time the first meeting was held and the trees on either wide of the clock-face — three gum trees for which the district is as well known.

The opportunity is taken of expressing our appreciation for the Caringboh, Mortdole, Grandview, Pockhurst, Moore light, Kyle Bay and other Beyling Clubs who during the early formation of the Club provided games for our members and estended the friendly haspitality known throughout the howth tratemits.

To our Associate Lady Members the Committee and members extend their thanks for the most generous help in giving their time and energy in providing the necessary afternoon teas. Also for organising functions to raise funds for various club amenities.

Our thanks to the various sub-committees operating throughout the Club for their efforts so unstitutingly given

In conclusion we trust that the "bowling spirit" and "good fellowship" encountered in the "Game of Bowls" will permoste throughout all the activities of the Club and the Club will go forward to a bright and happy future to the benefit of all club members.

President.	R. J. Hand
Senior Vice-president	IC C. Wackett
Junior Vice-presidents	H Tottersall
	J. R. L. Davidson
Hon. Treasurer	O B Saitlett
Hon, Secretary	5: De Meur
Hon Bowls Secretary	M. Pt. Lord
Hon Publicity Officer	A. J. Walker
Hon, Asst. Trepaurer	E. A. Stanhops
Committee	R J Dendle
	E. L. Dever
	P. J. Mand
	A. F. Jaboult
	G. Meier

Official Opening History



Early site works and members

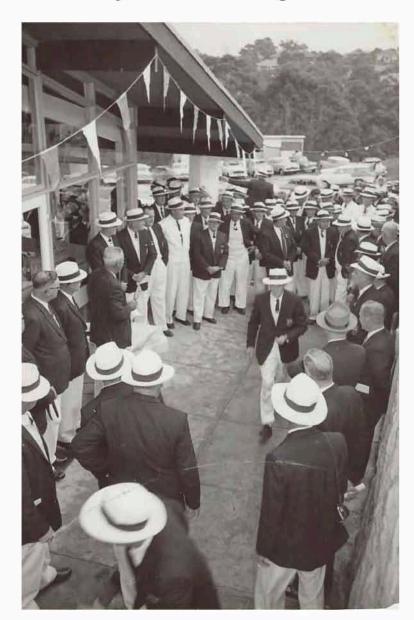
Club members selected a symbolic design for their club badge – a clock face bordered by gum trees and a pair of bowls.



Ron Dendle's club badge and life members badge

Early ceremony in 1960s at entrance to the original clubhouse.

Opening of clubhouse?





# Oatley Bowling Club Drama

Sometime not long after the club opened it was robbed.

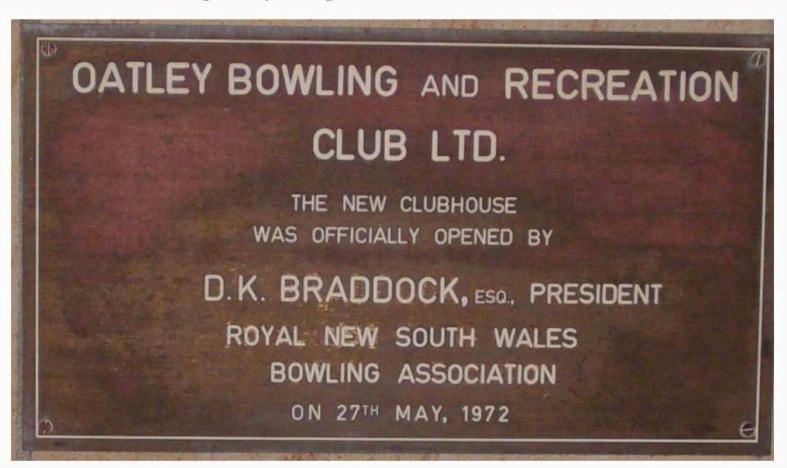


In 1969, Oatley Bowling Club won its only State Pennant.



From St George and Sutherland Leader 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1969

 Second clubhouse was built in 1972, as shown on the plaque commemorating its opening near the entrance.



This building appears to have been a reconstruction of the original building.

Report from Leader on 31st May 1972.

Note the badge on the wall behind.

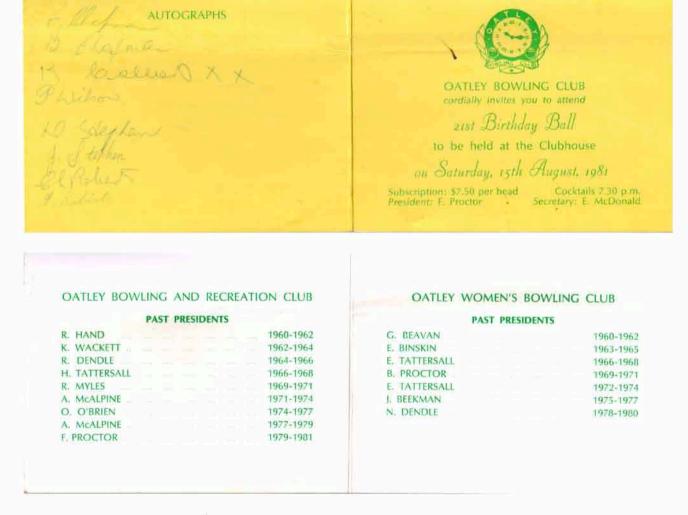


The women won the 1978/1979 2<sup>nd</sup> Metropolitan Pennant.



From Leader 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1979: N Dendle (Pres), D Parkinson, N Battishall, D Skinner, E Buck, C Stepto, J Dever and others.

In 1981 the club celebrated 21 years since its creation



21st Birthday Ball Invitation



Ernie Stanhope speaking (with Ray Hooper, left, and Ron Dendle, right)



Gwen Bevan and Norma Dendle cutting the cake

- Information handout for visitors and prospective members.
- Contains information about James Oatley, his land grant and the Bowling Club.

With the Compliments of

Oatley Bowling Club



This district bears the name of James Oatley, watch-engineer, who was transported to NSW for life in 1815.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie granted Oatley a conditional pardon in 1817 for his work in installing the clock at the Hyde Park Barracks, and he was appointed overseer of the Town Clock.

James Oatley's clock was placed above the commemorative stone which bears the inscription — "L. Macquarie Esq., Governor 1817". The stone still remains in its commanding position overlooking Queen's Square in Sydney.

Records indicate that Oatley conducted a successful business as a watch engineer, and was actively associated with Francis Greenway, Government Architect of early Sydney.

In recognition of his services to the Colony, Oatley was granted 470 acres of land adjacent to Georges River.

At a Public Meeting held in Oatley Park on Sunday, 27th December, 1959, to consider the formation of a Bowling Club, suggestion was adopted that the club emblem should be in the form of a clock, and that the hands be set at fifteen minutes past ten to indicate the precise time that the meeting was opened; the leaves supporting the clock face are meant to show the setting in which this meeting was held.

#### Newsletter Bowls and Bowlers in January 1981 included The Confessions of an Apprentice Bowls Secretary.

#### CONFESSIONS OF AN APPRENTICE BOWLS SECRETARY.

Well, I am not really an apprentice to the Bowls Secretary nor do I have any ambitions in that direction. But I am a member of the Bowls Committee and make out the cards on Thursday and generally organise the game. Any complaints and/or constructive criticism of my performance must be typed, double spaced and have three carbon copies attached. So far I have not received any communications in such form so may be I am not so bad or at least, better than none. However I have heard some grumblings and experienced trauma.

To illustrate: I first acted as Bowls Secretary on a Saturday shortly after the Annual Meeting. There was a special game and players names had been entered on sheet and some also had put their names in the box. But there was an odd number and after a few telephone calls, I was able to find another starter. The cards were made out and called but before I could say "on with the game" Bruce Ashton pulled the rug from under my feet by saying "You called my name out twice!" And so I had unfortunately.

An expert would have sorted this out in a few seconds but I certainly wasn't an expert. It was soon discovered that three games could not get started --- the two that had Bruce as a player and another that was short of a player. Eventually the penny dropped because the non-arrival of the latter player meant that we had an even amaber in total. So the three games eventually got under way with emended cards. As one player, grumbling at the late start said "This would never have happened in (you know who's) day."

Another illustration: This incident was somewhat similar and occurred the following Friday in the mixed. The sheet looked like a pak-a-pu ticket with names added, subtracted, altered and deleted. Any-way there were 41 names and anther was needed to make the draw. So I telephoned a male member and requested that he or his wife may like to play to ease the acting bowls see's burden. His would be pleased—thank you very much.

At 1.15pm I realised that his wife was player No. 43! Penic! Trauma! Telephone, quick! I again spoke to the male and obsequiously explained the situation. He, in turn, explained that his wife as having her monthly shower but the would withdraw from the game. We then shouted loudly to his wife "Nita! Stop washing!" Anyway, Nita please accept my apologises for disrupting your afternoon.

A plaque was erected in a small garden bed in 1982 to thank volunteers.

It reads:

In appreciation of the achievements of a group of volunteers from the club who carried out various projects over many years

June 1982 works By their good

Shall ye know

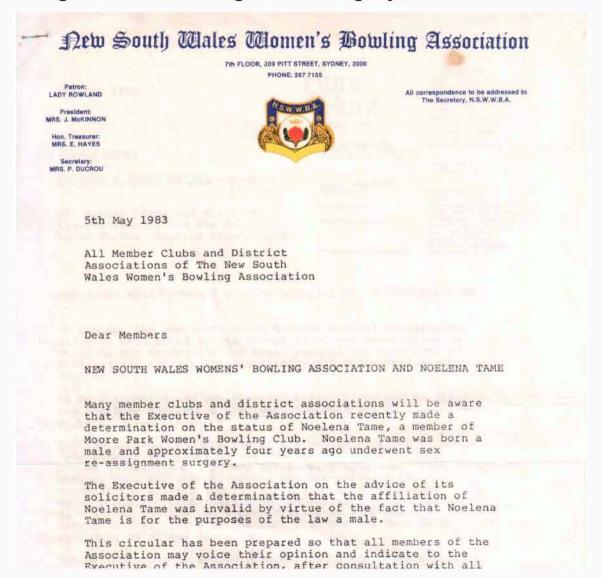
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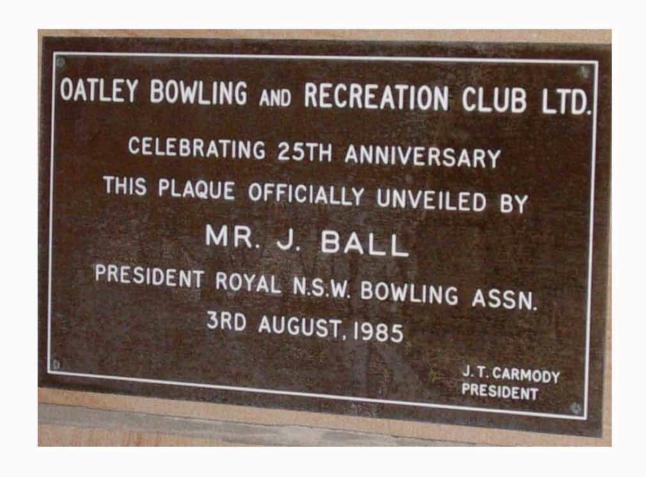


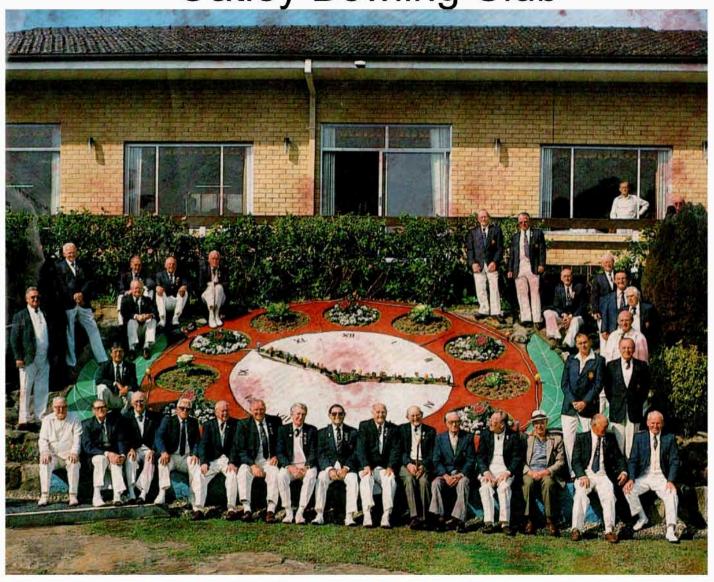
#### Times (etc) were changing

In 1983 the club was asked if it would allow a woman, who was born a male and had undergone sex re-assignment surgery, to become a member.



The 25th anniversary of the club was commemorated in 1985, as shown on the plaque commemorating its opening near the entrance.





25<sup>th</sup> Birthday

187 SPINIFEX AVE THA GARDENS 2324 28-1-13 Dear Graham I searched through my albums to find some photos but apart from then when I was President, they are mortly of us all partying which was one favourite occupation in those days as we were a very happy group, and had many artings and tups together It was very sad to hear of its densist as the original humbers marked so way hard to build the whole complex where spinary happy days were spent with great friends

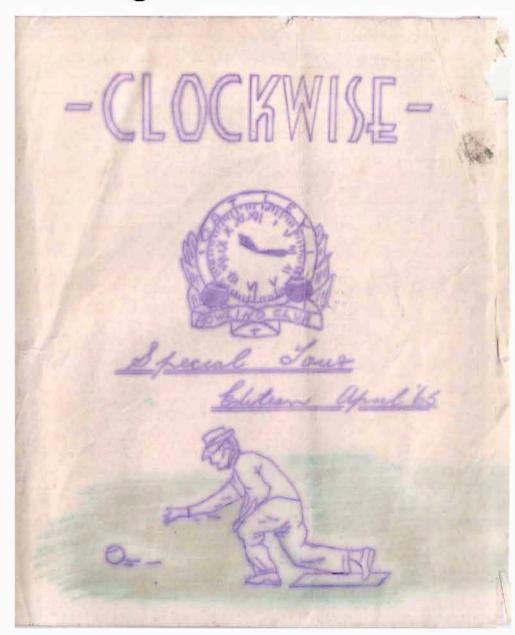
Letter from Noela Bentley

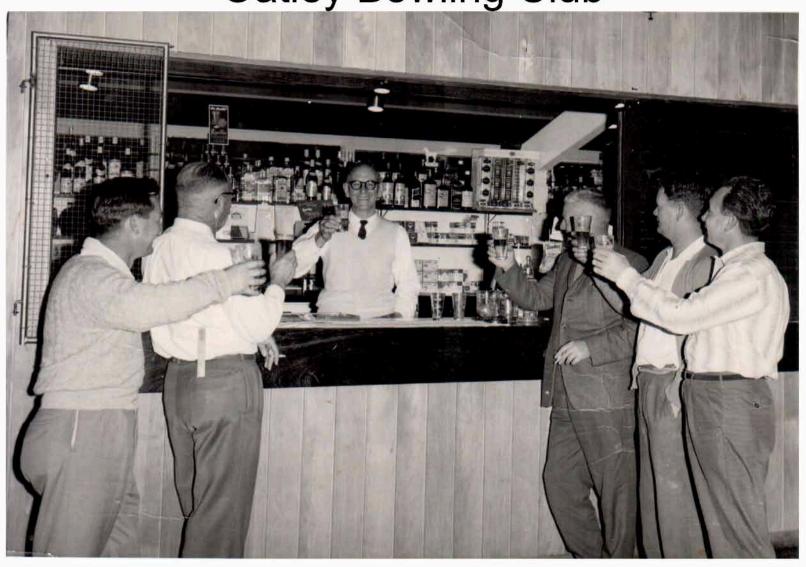
Example of partying from Clockwise:

"5,633 gallons of beer disappeared during 1963, at the rate it is flowing at present with the help of our genial John and Roy, you boys should beat this record easily for 1964."

Not a bad effort for 200 members!

What about the girls?





Members attempting to break the record!

The girls knew how to party too!

Ladies Choir Xmas Concert 1970s Cinderella





Ladies Choir Xmas Concert 1970s MV Oatley



Not sure about one of these girls though!



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary

L - R: Pat Marmody, Mimi Frost, Noela Bentley & Officals



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary



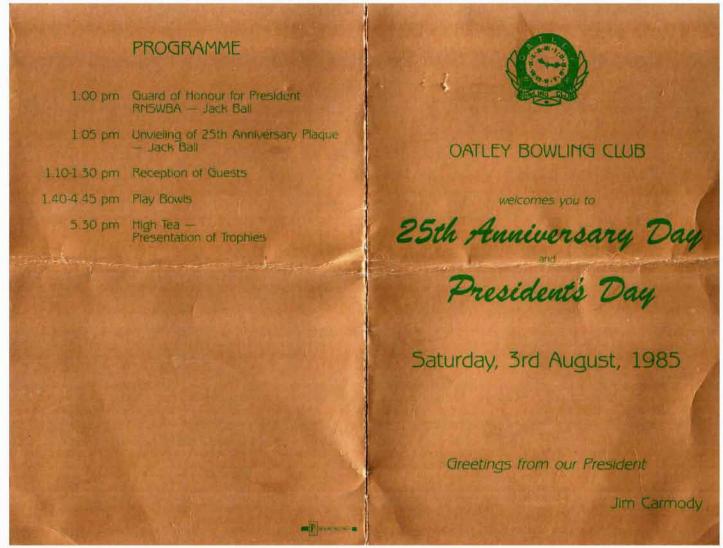
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary

L - R: Edna Bryant, Jean Dever & Grace Gibson



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary

L - R: Joan O'Brien, Unknown & Betty Small



Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

#### OATLEY BOWLING CLUB

Founded 1960

First Meeting of Directors, Wednesday, 7th September, 1960, at 122 Myall Street, Oatley, at 8 pm

#### Elected-

President: R. J. Hand
Snr. Vice-Pres.: R. A. Struck
Jnr. Vice-Pres.: E. A. Stanhope
K. C. Wackett
Hon. Treasurer: W. A. Paul
Hon. Secretary: 5. N. P. Stephenson
Committee: A. J. Walker, S. N. P. Stephenson,

H. Tattersall, R. J. Dendle

#### OFFICE BEARERS — 1985

President: J. Carmody
Snr. Vice-Pres.: F. Keating
Vice-Presidents: D. Bennett, T. Riley
Hon. Secretary: E. McDonald
Hon. Treasurer: C. Small
Bowls Secretary: J. Basile
Committee
K. Duce, D. Sinclair, B. Guest

#### TOASTS.

The Queen
Proposed by President Jim Carmody

Royal MSW Bowling Association
Proposed by President Jim Carmody
Response by President Royal MSW Bowling
Association Jack Ball

The Day We Celebrate Past President K. Wackett

The President
Proposed by Snr. Vice-President Frank Keating
Response by President Jlm Carmody

Our Guests
Proposed by Secretary E. McDonald
Response by President Aust. Bowling Council
L. T. Fraser

Our Ladles
Proposed by Committeeman Don Sinciair
Response Madam President Noela Bentley

Presentation of Trophies by Bowls Secretary Joe Basile

#### Toastmaster Ron Lord

Gentlemen, today we celebrate Oatley Bowling Club's 25th Anniversary with the six remaining members of the foundation Committee, and the three clubs who assisted us in our infancy, Mortdale, Carlingbah and Marrickville Memorial, and our other distinguished guests.

To all of those and the past officers of our fine club, I say "a job well done"

Pres Jim

#### Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary

L-R: Helen Smith, May Guest, Beryl Percival, Margaret Sinclair, Molly Battersee, Gema Magetson, Josie Carmody & Pat Carmody



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary

25th June 1986 President Jim Carmody responding

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Pre-computerised record keeping

A new constitution was drafted in 1986.

Under this Constitution the Ladies Bowling Club became a sub club of the main club. They would have their own President.

The main club was then run by both the ladies and the men who voted in the next elections for the Management Committee.

The March 1988 edition of the club newsletter, The HAND, reporting on the half-yearly General Meeting, indicated that enthusiasm from members was beginning to flag:

- Official positions could not all be filled
- Poker machine revenue was down.
- Reduction in numbers playing bowls

However, there was an increase in visitors due to the unfortunate loss of the Oatley RSL club premises due to a major fire.

There was also mention of the work carried out by approximately 100 volunteers, who carried out the many tasks required to keep the club going.

THE



CATLLEY BOOKLING

Chairman and Secretary: B. Dornan

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1988

\$ priceless

#### SPECIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A programme for 1988 covering all events has been produced and we are sure that all Members have one, the immediate special events are these:-

APRIL 1 GOOD FRIDAY Club Closed all day

4 MONDAY Mixed Versatility Fours 10:30 am

17 SUNDAY Postal Bowlers Visit Mixed and Barbecue

25 MONDAY ANZAC DAY Remembrance Service 1 pm

MAY 15 SUNDAY Oatley RSL Bowlers v Cricketers

#### FROM THE EDITORS GREEN

In this Newsletter will be found a report of the Half-Yearly General Meeting of your Club, 73 Members were present and more than two hundred were not. At that meeting matters of importance were discussed that all Members should be aware of. If you were not present please be sure to read this report and if you know of Members who, for whatever reason, do not come to the club please ensure that they receive a copy of this Newsletter.

A disapointment at the Meeting was the total silence with which a request for nominations for Secretary/Licencee and filling of a board vacancy was greeted. For the Club to survive it is dependent on everyone giving a helping hand in whatever way their talents may lie. Alan Corbett has willingly given up his time to become Assistant Treasurer and Noela Bentley her valuable time to assist the Secretarial duties and this should be applauded and emulated.

We would also take this opportunity to commiserate with our

Where's the clock?

Note the disappointment expressed by the writer

- A Statutory Directors report (required by the Companies code) in 1999 shows that the club was experiencing difficulties
- The loss for the year 1999 amounted to \$2,184, resulting from:
- Bar trading turnover of \$55,747 (\$59,048 in 1998)
- Poker machine turnover of \$38,371 (\$69,813 in 1998).
- The Treasurer's report indicated that this was due to: falling membership, wet days and consumption of liquor due to age of members.
- This followed extraordinary growth in profit in 1997/98
- Poker machine numbers were also being reduced.

The Chairman's report for 2002 highlighted the trouble the club was in and described efforts to foster other groups.

These community groups were welcomed at the club:

- Renown United Football Club
- Renown United Baseballers
- Hurstville Bridge club
- Line Dancing Group
- Student of St George college
- Local club supporters
- Oatley West United Soccer Club (All Saints?)

Local club supporters probably included locals who came to listen to the group Young Once on Friday nights.

Oatley West Public School Art & Craft Show organisers also had an enjoyable after show party there one year.

In February 2003, the half yearly report showed that the Club was experiencing further difficulties. There were:

- 116 bowling members
- 191 social members
- 89 Renown members
- 39 local members, & 63 bridge club members (recently joined)

#### Active players?

30 men and 30 women

The report also informed members that the club had a loss of \$6,000 in the previous 6 months, although the Treasurer thought that the loss was not that serious!

The barman's position was also made redundant with the Secrary/ Licensee performing both functions.

- Due to this falling membership and financial difficulties, in 2002 the club had affiliated with the Renown United Sports Club.
- Renown United Sports Club had "been resident at south Hurstville Bowling Club for some years but due to changes at that club it was inconvenient to remain there" (G Gerrard, correspondence).
- This allowed the licensed club (OBC) to remain viable and also provided a facility for the Sports Club to base its operations.
- The Sports Club then proposed that the name of the club be changed to Oatley Renown United Sports club.
- By 2003 the Oatley Sports Club Limited had been formed (with comprehensive Constitution).
- This union with the Sports Club was not enough to keep the club viable and it closed in 2006

### Oatley Bowling Club Modern Entertainment



Group: Crack This - June 3rd 2005

# Oatley Bowling Club Tragedy!

Council ignored groups wanting to use the building

Club buildings attacked by vandals

Neglected by council

Destroyed and irretrievable

Demolished at last

Council wins

The beginning of the end.

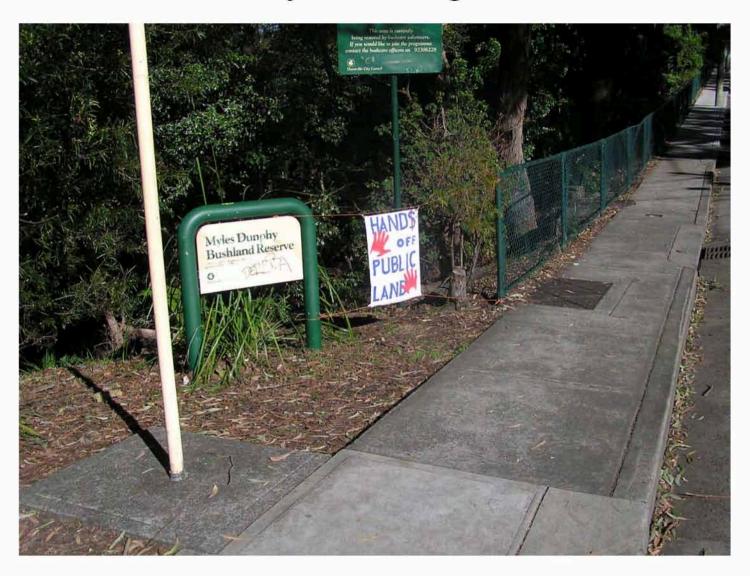


Gymnasium August 2008



Club August 2008

- Community groups approached HCC to undertake community consultation.
- Oatley Flora and Fauna corresponded a number of times expressing concerns about the site in Myles Dunphy Reserve, asking for public consultation and release of the feasibility study, with little concrete response.
- Oatley Lions Club used the building for 6 to 9 months to store their equipment. Their presence meant that the facility had some security.
- During a quiet time of the year for Lions during winter, vandalising of the club buildings began.
- The Oatley Bridge Club had continued to use the building as well.
- Line Dancers also used the club house for a time.
- This damage could have been avoided if Council had made immediate constructive use of the building, eg, community groups.
- In 2006 HCC resolved to undertake a \$70,000 feasibility study to investigate leasing the site for approx \$3 million. Not released to public as "commercial in confidence". Freedom of Information applications were refused at the time.



Protest!



**Community Support** 

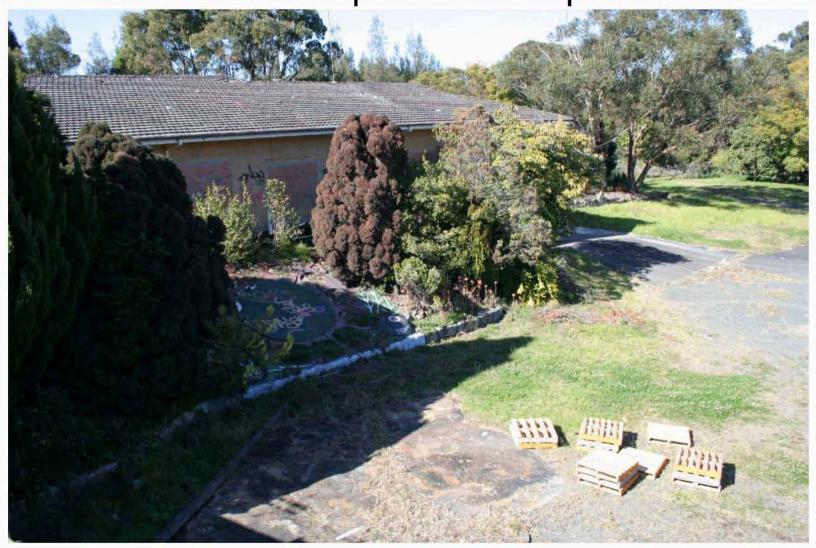


**Community Support** 

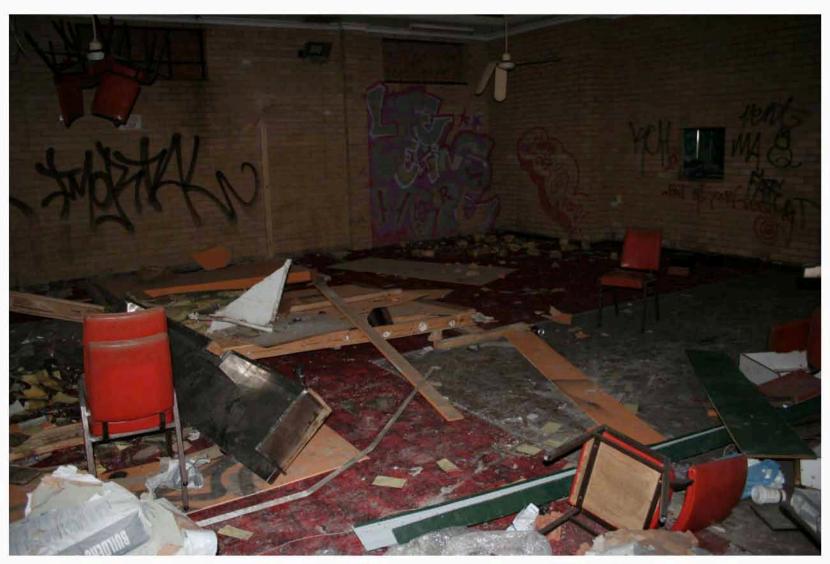
- Oatley Residents Against Overdevelopment (Now Friends of Oatley) wrote to HCC requesting that the feasibility study be released and presented a petition in March 2007 containing over 400 signatures. This Petition stated:
- The former Oatley Bowling Club site is part of Myles Dunphy Reserve, predominantly bushland which is owned by Hurstville Council, and is zoned 6(a) Open Space.
- We the undersigned:
  - Ask Council to recognise and maintain this site as publicly owned land to continue to be used for public recreational purposes as per the objectives of Zone No. 6(a) - Open Space Zone.
  - Strongly object to the sale and any rezoning of any portion of Myles
     Dunphy Reserve, named in honour of a former Oatley resident who is
     regarded as the Father of Conservation in NSW.
  - Urgently call on Council to consult with the community to determine the future community use of the former Oatley Bowling Club site, which is public land.

- Friends of Oatley also asked Oatley residents to indicate uses for the site. These were presented to council in April 2007. There was no response from Council at the time.
- This survey indicated overwhelming support for the area to be used as bush/park and community facility.
- Major concerns that were expressed were the need to avoid damage to the bushland in the Reserve and to not intensify traffic problems in Mulga Road.

## Oatley Bowling Club Council bricked up the club to protect it



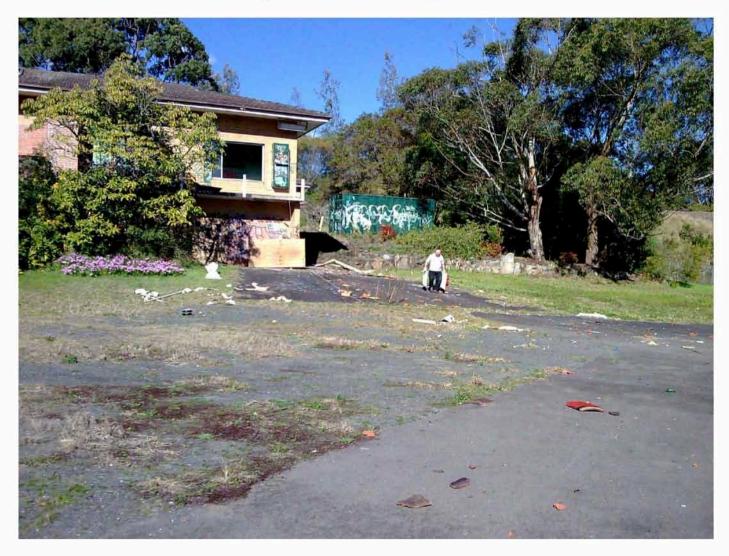
Club August 2008



Inside Clubhouse August 2008



Shame!



Volunteer maintenance in case of repreive



Greens August 2008



Clubhouse site today



From Upper Green



Upper Green

Different interests these days:

More active, Cycling

Individual, Travel

Affluent, Surfing

Mobile

Bushcare (eg. Myles Dunphy Reserve!)

Mens sheds (replacement?)

Diversity of population

Less active: Cultural

Electronic (TV, computers, games, etc)

Where have all the bowlers gone?



Today's Bowlers?
Still in uniform!

Hope for Bowling in the Future?

The Daily Telegraph April 06, 2012:

Ten years ago bowling clubs were struggling, members were dying off, profits were in a nosedive and younger generations viewed lawn bowls as a pastime stuck squarely in the 1950s.

But an unconventional change in tack means the grass is finally starting to look greener for hundreds of suburban clubs.

Clubs have dropped their air of formality - sometimes reluctantly - and invited younger players to join them on the greens. And the strategy is paying dividends. A recent audit found more than half a million people regularly participate in formal competitions, including 200,000 in NSW



Farewell bowling. Welcome?

Thank you.