

History

Recent History – WPC Cricket

In March 2003 Wolston Park Cricket Club & Centenary Cricket Club started merger negotiations. This was done with the view that the merger would provide better facilities for both clubs, a strong support base for the senior club and enhanced pathways for junior cricketers into senior cricket in the greater Wolston Park/Centenary district. The Wolston Park Cricket Club merged with Centenary Cricket Club in November 2003 to form Wolston Park Centenary Cricket Club.

In the 2006/07 season the Senior teams moved successfully from the Churches competition into the Sub-Districts competition with 3 Senior teams and a 20/20 Senior team. The Senior group has subsequently expanded to include a 4th team. Junior cricket played in the MSW Cricket competition has continued to flourish and the club offers cricket for girls and boys 5 to 8 years old - Junior Blaster, Master Blaster, and stages 1-3 for 7 to 16 years old. Additionally we offer cricket for girls in girls only teams. In winter the club enters Junior and Senior teams in the Warehouse competition.

The club runs as one organisation rather than a separate Senior and Junior club. There are several dedicated club members who work hard to ensure the future of the club. A solid pathway has been developed between the Junior and Senior teams. The Wolston Park Turf wicket ground has been renamed Eddie Gilbert Memorial Field. The development of the lit training facility at CJ Greenfields has enabled the club to centrally conduct its training activities for its growing membership.

The Wolston Park facilities (considered our spiritual home and headquarters) now form part of the Wacol precinct managed by the Queensland Police Service. In 2010 there was a formal handover of the shared use of the facility between QPS and WPC Cricket, underpinned by a 10 year licence agreement which has subsequently been extended. This coincided with the inaugural Eddie Gilbert Cup game between WPC Cricket and QPS.

From the 2017/18 season our club adopted **WPC Cricket** as our commonly known name although the formal/legal club name is still Wolston Park Centenary Cricket Club Inc.

In 2020 we added a new synthetic wicket facility at Ducie St Park, Darra. Additionally we have constructed toilet blocks at Eddie Gilbert Memorial Field and Ellen Ferris Junior Oval (Wolston Park), irrigated Eddie Gilbert Memorial Field and enhanced the surrounds, installed new sight screens, a new scoreboard, signage, covered the BBQ at Eddie Gilbert Memorial and revamped the inside of the club house. In 2023 we constructed a solar lit concrete pathway to provide safe access to the CJ Greenfield's lit nets. In 2024 we expect to see the construction of new nets at Eddie Gilbert Memorial Field.

With our access to club controlled facilities at Wolston Park, CJ Greenfields and Ducie Park we look forward to a long cricketing future and further enhancements of our facilities. Access to our facilities (other than Wolston Park) are underpinned by a lease on the lit nets at CJ Greenfield, a sub-lease from Jindalee JAGS AFL on 3 fields at CJ Greenfield and a 3 year licence with Brisbane City Council at Ducie St Park.

Pre-Merger - 2003 - Wolston Park Cricket Club

The Wolston Park Cricket Club was born upon the completion of the field in 1909. The club (formerly known as the Goodna Cricket Club) played in the Brisbane A Grade (1914-1920) and the Ipswich & West Moreton competitions. Furthermore the club became quite accomplished and a force to be reckoned with in the Queensland Cricket Association. In fact, on one occasion the MCC touring side played a hospital side on the oval. The match was a personal triumph for Dr Ellerton.

In recent years the club has enjoyed incredible success. The Wolston Park Cricket Club winter side, captained by life member Greg White had great success in the A1 Warehouse Competition. This strong team won six A1 premierships in nine years: 1991, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999.

The most recent history of the Wolston Park Cricket Club summer team came about through the availability of Rosewood Colts Cricket Club players in 1995/96 and they duly won the 1995/96, 1997/98, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2001/02 & 2003/04 Churches State Shield Competition and were runners up in 1996/97 and 1998/99. The Club has also won the Brisbane and Ipswich Premierships several times in the 2000s.

The club has also produced many Queensland Churches representative players including four Australian players (Brad Case, J.King, Dale Bederow & Chris Brosnan) one of which was an Australian Churches captain (Brad Case). The high point was the Australian Churches carnival in Melbourne 2000/2001 where the club provided 8 of the 13 players in the touring party.

Pre-Merger – 2003 - Centenary Junior Cricket Club

The Centenary Cricket Club was formed in the early 1970's and became incorporated on 11 October 1993. It was a club for junior boys and girls to learn the skills of the game of cricket and to play in a structured competition for fun sporting days and a pathway for the gifted few to follow their dreams to higher levels of their sport. Cricket was played on local school ovals and Peter Lightfoot Oval which Centenary CC partly managed along with St Catherine's Soccer and Netball as part of the Centenary Combined Sporting Association. (CCSA)

Centenary operated at a severe disadvantage, as we did not have:

- grounds that were specifically identified as belonging to the club
- a Clubhouse to hold meetings, or functions or to bring all members of the club together.
- adequate facilities for storage of equipment and club records.

Our membership was expanding with the development in the Forest Lake area. In order for cricket to continue to develop in the Centenary/Forest Lake suburbs it was identified that our club needed specific grounds and clubhouse facilities even on a shared basis. We envisaged that we could develop a better club spirit, which would be an asset to the community of the Centenary/Forest Lake suburbs.

We set about looking for grounds and a place to call home and pursued a number of options with the assistance of local Councillors and Members of Parliament and Queensland Cricket. An outcome of this was our securing of a summer season

licence at the CJ Greenfields Sporting Complex in Richlands. Also in 2003 we pursued a merger with Wolston Park CC.

A former Centenary player who was with the Queensland Bulls is Craig Phillipson.

Dr Henry Byam Ellerton - The Cricket Ground Founder

In 1908, the Queensland Government called applications in England and Australia for an Inspector of Asylums, and Medical Superintendent, Hospital for the Insane, Goodna. Dr Henry Byam Ellerton was selected from 25 applicants. Then 37 years of age and a bachelor, he took up duty at Goodna on 21st January, 1909.

The references from his superiors which the Government sought prior to his appointment mention his keen pioneering interest in what was the infant science of Occupational Therapy. His confidence in this form of treatment was later to be of immense value to the establishment of the cricket ground (now known as Wolston Park) and a nine hole golf course (now the Gailes Golf Club).

Practical designing, a field in which he displayed marked ability, interested him and this, together with his firm belief in the medical value of Occupational Therapy enabled him to transform his surroundings. He meticulously planned the many major projects he undertook at Goodna and took personal charge of each. He freely sought expert advice but was intolerant of any other. With the huge labour resources at his disposal, he could reach for the sky and did.

His fanatical interest in cricket and his approach to that sport demonstrated his character. Within a few years of his arrival at Goodna, he had converted a swampy depression into the then finest cricket oval in Queensland. He did this by drainage and the transportation of many thousands of yards of fill in drays and wheelbarrows. He then turfed it all and added pickets, sight screens and a handsome pavilion to complete a playing field that was the envy of every visiting cricketer.

The cricket pavilion was built in 1910 on the South West corner of the cricket ground near the old fig tree. In 1936, the cricket pavilion was moved to its present location on the South West corner of the ground by patients of the hospital. The cricket pavilion was heritage listed in 1996 and is surrounded by significant land including the cricket oval. The cricket ground continues to provide enjoyment for all those cricketers who play on the magnificent surface.

Wolston Park Hospital and Cricket - Orford Dr (private road), Wacol

The recreation grounds have played an important role in the treatment of mental patients since their construction in 1895 as exercise was considered therapeutic and part of their moral treatment. The present location of the cricket pavilion reflects Dr Ellerton's overall plan for the male section of the institution as it was moved to allow patients in the newly constructed Male Ward 8 to have a clear view of the oval which, Ellerton believed, would facilitate their recovery.

The cricket pavilion is significant as evidence of the frequent usage of inmate labour in the asylums. It also reflects a tradition of pavilion design associated with parks and recreation grounds.

Prior to Queensland's declaration as a separate colony in 1859, citizens deemed mentally insane or lunatics were sent to Sydney for treatment or were imprisoned. The first move to establish an asylum in Queensland occurred in 1861 when land between Brisbane and Ipswich, fronting Woogaroo Creek was reserved for this purpose. However, it was not until the British Government sent a dispatch enquiring after the treatment of the insane of the colony that the government considered building. Colonial Architect, Charles Tiffin, had previously drawn up plans for an asylum and in 1863 the government adopted the first part of Tiffin's scheme. The Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum was opened in 1865 with sixty nine patients. In the 1880s the name was changed to the Goodna Lunatic Asylum and then later to the Goodna Hospital for the Insane.

The first cricket ground at the Goodna Hospital for the Insane was laid out in 1895. As part of the patients' rehabilitation, cricket became an important recreational activity at the institution, with many outside teams visiting the asylum to challenge the inmates. Recreation was part of the patient's moral therapy.

On arrival as Medical Superintendent of Goodna and the Inspector of Hospitals for the Insane in 1909, Dr Ellerton immediately implemented changes to the asylum in order to bring the institution up to the line of modern mental hospitals. Ellerton placed great importance on the role of recreation in the treatment of mental patients. Under his management the cricket ground was reconstructed and levelled by patient labour in 1909-10. A new recreation ground was constructed, comprising cricket and football fields, measuring 127 yards wide and 227 yards long. Three tennis courts with seating accommodation were also provided. At the time Dr Ellerton declared that when quite complete, the ground would form one of the prettiest, if not the best, in Queensland. The cricket pavilion was built in 1910 on the corner of the cricket ground which added considerably to the appearance of the ground. In 1914 the entire recreation grounds were enclosed with a 9ft K-wire fence, so that the patients would have an unobstructed view of the oval and could wander around within the fenced area. This, Ellerton hoped, would give the patients an increased sense of liberty.

In 1935-36 Dr Ellerton redesigned the male section of the asylum, locating the newly designed wards around the recreation grounds. Ellerton wrote to the Department of Public Works in May 1935 requesting the cricket pavilion be moved to a new site selected by him on the opposite side of the recreation grounds, as the pavilion would block the view of the patients in the new male wards which were under construction. Initially his request was rejected as an unwarranted expense, however, Ellerton insisted that the present position of the pavilion would prove objectionable to patients in Male Ward 8 and may retard their recovery. As the patients in this ward were considered recoverable, Ellerton believed no expense was too great, within reason to assist their recovery. The Home Secretary intervened and permitted the use of inmate labour to move the pavilion, which was moved the following year. The present location of the cricket pavilion, on the south east corner of the grounds, therefore dates from 1936. A scoreboard was constructed adjacent to the pavilion.

The cricket pavilion is now located on a grass terrace overlooking the playing fields. A generous flight of rendered masonry steps leads up to the terrace. Originally, the pavilion was placed with the porch on axis with a set of rendered

masonry steps. When the building was moved it was placed at an angle to a different set of steps. The original had nine risers, the new existing stairs have ten. The building was also lowered slightly as originally five steps led up to the verandah, but now there are only four.

The pavilion is built of timber, on stumps, with a galvanised iron roof. The core of the building is of single skin, chamfer board construction, gabled at the rear, but formed into a hexagonal bay at the front under a hipped roof. Verandahs follow the shape of the bay and run down both sides of the building. Two gabled weatherboard wings project at right angles from the rear to form a T. These wings house the changing rooms and appear in an early photograph. One wing has been extended with a small lean to structure at one end and the verandah has been partially enclosed. The verandahs have turned and moulded posts and dowelled balustrades, and finials on the porch roof and at the apex of the hexagonal bay. There are vertical sliding windows on two sides of the bay. The original glazed doors forming the main entrance appear to have been replaced with a four panel door.

Wolston Park Hospital, including the cricket pavilion, toilet block and oval, is entered in the Queensland State Heritage Register (Place ID 600340), listed in the Register of the National Estate (100630) and is listed by the National Trust of Queensland (BNE 371).