

## 12 - Wellington Point Reserve

<b>Street Address</b>	1A and 2A Main Road
<b>GPS/RPD</b>	Lot 199 SL8594, Lot1 & Lot 4 RP815066, Lot 183 SL12828, part of Lot 89 SL10815, part of Lot 182 SL10824
<b>Place Type</b>	Landscape, Built



Google Earth Pro (AHS, 2017).



Wellington Point Reserve (AHS, 2017)

<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Integrity</b>	Good
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	Local Heritage Place		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No current listing		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	17/05/2017		

### Historical Context

Wellington Point Reserve has been a well patronised recreational area since the late nineteenth century. The popularity of the Point as a destination followed the early development in the area which centred on Louis Hope's Ormiston sugar mill and Gilbert Burnett's Trafalgar Vale sawmill initially, followed by land sales associated with the Trafalgar Vale Estate, in the 1880s.

In 1887 a railway connecting Brisbane and Cleveland was built, which passed via Wellington Point, leading to the area becoming a popular seaside destination. Designated a reserve in 1897, the Point area was used as a camping ground, and by the early twentieth century boasted swimming enclosures, dressing sheds, jetties and a kiosk. In 1922 a swimming enclosure was built on the western beach of the Point by the Wellington Point State School Committee for the purposes of hosting swimming lessons, and a carnival was held to commemorate its opening.[1]

Local residents supported the use of the Point as a recreational reserve. In 1923 a proposal was made by residents to fence off the circular enclosure on the Point to keep horses and vehicles out, ensuring its use as a recreational and picnic spot.[2] The first kiosk was built on private land in 1925, and was later extended to include a dance hall later in the 1920s, before being demolished in 1978. In the 1920s the proprietor became the subject of complaints for holding public dances in the hall on Sundays.[3] The jetty was built in 1937, while it has been replaced, the current is on the same site and remains in use by visitors to the Wellington Point Reserve.

Closely associated with the use of Wellington Point Reserve as a recreation spot is King Island, which had been declared a reserve in 1887. In 1888 local residents petitioned the Divisional Board to cut a road through the end of the bluff at Wellington Point to allow access to the foreshore and King Island. The Board purchased the reserve at the end of the point for public recreation in 1897. Promenading was a popular Victorian pastime and the walk out to King Island from Wellington Point formed a natural promenade at low tide. Locals advocated for a transformation of the Point to a recreation and tourist venue.[4]

During World War II, Wellington Point Reserve was used by the US Navy as an anti-aircraft gunnery school. The site was used for shooting practice, and included trial 'bombings' of King Island, and gun pits were built on the north-east shoreline. During this time, the US camp comprised of approximately 1500 men, and access to the Point was restricted, with only the jetty and kiosk remaining open to locals.[5]

Wellington Point Reserve features a number of mature trees. Banyan trees were planted in 1924 to commemorate the Brisbane's centenary celebrations, while six large leafed Moreton Bay Figs were planted three years later.[6] The Reserve has remained a popular destination for both tourist and locals throughout the twentieth century, a particularly popular camping spot in the Christmas holidays. In the 1930s pictures were shown in the hall attached to the kiosk, and a slippery slide was installed at the beach, remaining popular through to the 1960s.[7] The bathing enclosure on the western side was in disrepair by the 1950s and was removed.

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Used continuously as a recreation area, the Reserve currently has park areas, sand pits, climbing walls, a boat ramp, barbeque areas, a restaurant and jetty, while the walk to King Island at low tide remains a popular leisure activity.

### Physical Description

Wellington Point Reserve is located on the northern end of Main Road. It is a large recreational reserve consisting of land to the western side of Main Road, extending down the slope to the largely flat reserve and water's edge. The site is inclusive of King Island, the jetty on the north-eastern point, and south on the eastern water edge. King Island is connected to the Point via a land bridge that is accessible at low tide.

The Reserve consists of a number of precincts, which includes a jetty, bitumen car park, boat ramp and grassed park area to the east, a circular drive around the Moreton Bay Figs located on a grassy area consisting of picnic tables and BBQ's at the north of the point and a Banyan tree and park area to the western shoreline. King Island is located one kilometre of the north-west tip of the point. The extensive western play area is located underneath the commemorative Banyan Trees, and features sandpits, swings and climbing walls. King Island is a conservation park to the north of the Point. It is a small sandy island that is accessible at low tide, incorporating an approximate 2 kilometer round walk. Collectively these elements form the recreational area known as Wellington Point Reserve.

### Statement of Significance

The Wellington Point Reserve embodies historic, aesthetic and social significance to Wellington Point locality and the Redlands. It has been consistently used as a recreational reserve since the late nineteenth century, from when it was a popular destination for both locals and tourists.

**Criteria A** The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.

Wellington Point Reserve demonstrates the evolution of local history, as the area became a popular recreational area and structures were built to serve the growing popularity of the place. As its use became more widespread, the reserve accommodated a swimming enclosure, a kiosk, a dance hall, and a jetty. The Point's use during World War II also contributes to its historical significance. The trees planted at the reserve in the twentieth century show the evolution of the place in facilitating recreation.

**Criteria E** The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.

Wellington Point Reserve is a picturesque recreational reserve. Its featured substantial historic plantings and structures, including the historic jetty, add to its overall aesthetic appeal.

**Criteria G** The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.

Wellington Point Reserve has a special association with the local community as a place for social events and recreational activities. The local community has contributed to the evolution of the reserve since its inception in the late nineteenth century.

### Primary Themes

8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions

8.05 Sport and recreation

### References

- [1]: Mary Howells, "Wellington Point History", Redland City Council, nd, p. 8.
- [2]: Howells, "Wellington Point History", p. 8.
- [3]: Howells, "Wellington Point History", pp. 8, 11.
- [4]: RPS, Redland City Council – Heritage Citation, "Wellington Point Reserve," 2012.
- [5]: "Timeline Wellington Point: Settlement to 2000", Redland City Council, 2006, p. 6.
- [6]: Howells, "Wellington Point History", p. 8.
- [7]: Howells, "Wellington Point History", p. 11.



Wellington Point Jetty (AHS, 2017).



Aerial view of Wellington Point, 1929 (QSL).