

19 - THORNLANDS: Thornlands Dance Hall (former Dance Palais)

Street Address	87-95 Redland Bay Road
GPS/RPD	Lot 1 RP138577
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Thornlands Dance Hall, Thornlands (RCC, 2013).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Poor
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	24/04/2017		

Historical Context

The Thornlands Hall is a public dance hall was constructed in 1938, opening in December that year to a crowd of 600 people. The original two acre site for the hall was donated by the Langdon family, who were local farmers.

From the late 1930s the hall was the social centre of the Thornlands district and held prominent Saturday night dances. It was also used to host fetes, public meetings and euchre (card game) evenings were a regular event at the hall. Fundraising events were held during World War II to raise funds for the war effort. During this time, the Saturday night dances were also attended by American soldiers stationed in the district.[1]

The grounds of the hall also formed part of its facilities. Tennis courts were installed in 1950; the courts remained popular until other tennis courts were constructed in the area, leading to their demolition in 1971. From the 1970s, the use of the hall has changed from its original intentions and the Saturday night dances became less popular. The Redlands Playgroup began using the hall in the mid-1970s and the Strawberry Ball began in 1978. Outdoor activities declined at the hall and the unused land was eventually sold for residential development. In 1997, the hall and its land was formally gifted to the Redland City Council by the Thornlands Hall Society Incorporated and remains in use as a public hall.[2]

Physical Description

The building is a low set timber clad hall with corrugated iron roof, located on the prominent intersection of Cleveland Redland Bay Road and Island Outlook Avenue. There is a bitumen car park to the north and west of the hall and several mature trees frame the boundaries.

Whilst the hall is in its original location, it has been changed substantially since its construction, with numerous additions and adaptations to suit the changing needs of the community, as well as subdivision of land for residential properties. Very few original or early features remain, with the exception of the eastern entrance (possibly the original entrance); a possible early stove recess; and some of the chamferboard cladding in the main (original) hall area. The open hall is itself part of the original building and its historical function and setting remains important.

Statement of Significance

The Thornlands Hall has a special association with the Thornlands community for social and historical reasons, particularly for being a focus of weekend dances and other community events since 1938. The various changes to the building over the years have, however, impacted its integrity.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
The community hall is important in demonstrating the evolution of settlement in the Redland Bay and Redland Shire.	

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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.
Thornlands Community Hall, erected in the late 1930s, has a strong association with the Thornlands community and remains as a focal point for communal activities.	

Primary Themes	
6.0 Buildings, Settlements, Towns, Cities and Dwellings	6.01 Establishing settlements and towns
8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.02 Cultural activities

References
[1] Tracy Ryan, "Places of the Redlands: Thornlands," Local History in the Redlands Number 7, Redland City Council, 2003, p. 12.
[2] Ibid, p. 13.



Renovated Dance Hall, Thornlands (RCC, 2013).



Renovated Dance Hall, Thornlands (RCC, 2013).