

Street Address	Oxley Parade, Dunwich
GPS/RPD	Opposite L11 on D9042
Place Type	Built, Landscape



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Polka Point Draughts Board, Dunwich (AHS, 2017).

Condition	Fair	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	17/01/2017		

Historical Context

The Polka Point Draughts Board located between Oxley Parade and the foreshore is a remnant from the consumptives' camp and the female division of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.

The Benevolent Society in Moreton Bay was established in 1844 as a citizen run charity. In 1861, the Queensland Government passed the Benevolent Asylum Act, which provided funds to transform hospital wards into these asylums. Prior to the formation of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, the area was used as a convict out station from 1827-1831, a Catholic mission for the local Indigenous population from 1843-1847, and a quarantine station from 1850-64. The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum housed Queensland's poor and underprivileged, including the aged, infirm and individuals without access to required care from their families.[1]

In 1913, during a time of increasing patient numbers, the asylum expanded to include a police station, visitor centre, public hall, ancillary service buildings, ward buildings, tent accommodation and recreational facilities. Facilities catered for live-in staff, including cooks, administration staff, and wardsmen.[2] Due to an overcrowded patient population and deteriorating health conditions on site, the asylum closed in 1947 after operating for over 80 years.

Inmates with consumption were originally accommodated at the Benevolent Asylum but as their numbers increased a consumptives' camp was established, located to the north of the main Asylum buildings and approximately 400 metres from the female division.[3] Removed from the main institution, patients were housed in individual tents which were burnt when the occupant died. Similar to the draughts board at Junner Street, this board was reportedly constructed for recreational use by tuberculosis patients.

Physical Description

The concrete draughts board is set on a grassed reserve between Oxley Parade and the beach. Resembling an oversized draughts board, it is made of concrete and features yellow and black squares with a red border, and is approximately 3 x 3 metres.

Statement of Significance

The Polka Point Draughts Board site is a locally significant place which displays historical and representative heritage values. It survives as a remaining element from the Benevolent Asylum and is a reminder of the social policies and attitudes of the late nineteenth century.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
Criteria B	The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the region's cultural heritage.
The site is rare as it contains in situ elements relating to everyday life of the asylum inmates.	

D10 - DUNWICH: Polka Point Draughts Board

Criteria C	The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.
The draughts board had the potential to yield further information about the development and function of the Benevolent Asylum. The remaining board is particularly important as it contributes to the understanding of the asylum's layout, in addition to the few remaining Benevolent Asylum Structures and former asylum buildings. It is one of the few intact recreational elements used by the inmates at the Asylum. Most of the remaining structures are associated with the administrative running of the Asylum.	
Primary Themes	
10.0 Providing Health and Welfare Services	10.02 Caring for the homeless and destitute
References	
[1] RPS, Redland City Council – Heritage Citation, “Benevolent Asylum Structures,” 2012. [2] Ibid. [3] Joseph B. Goodall, “Whom Nobody Owns: The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, An Institutional Biography 1866-1946,” PhD Thesis, The University of Queensland, 1992, p. 81.	



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