

BAGDAD PUBLIC HALL & RECREATION GROUND.

On February 3, 1900, Portion 97, Parish of Walladilly, was gazetted for recreational purposes. This area of approx. 7 acres was to be the site of the public hall, tennis courts and a cricket / football ground.

Citizens of the surrounding districts of Bagdad, Sebastopol, and Mimosa, along with several Temora businessmen, subscribed the sum of 93 pounds and eleven shillings towards the purchase of materials and construction of the hall. It was erected in late 1909 and functions are recorded as being held there in early 1910.

The first Hall trustees were: W.J. Cartwright, King Box, Alexander Wallace, James Wallace and William Drummond.

The Hall was the venue for kitchen teas, 21st birthday parties, farewells to citizens leaving the district, tennis, cricket and football social gatherings. Church and Sunday School Services were conducted here regularly up to World War 2.

The 1939-45 war years saw money raising events held here in aid of the war effort. Following the end of the war a Dinner Function was held here in July 1946 to "Welcome Home" the Returned Service Men and Women.

To the left of this site Tennis Courts were constructed, and to the east, the outline of the Cricket and Football Ground can be seen.

In the early 1960's, use of the Hall began to wane. A Committee meeting held August 4, 1968 decided not to renew the Hall's licence and insurance.

In 1972 the Lands department accepted an offer from the Temora Rural Museum and the Hall was moved to a site within the Museums' grounds.



The Bagdad Public Hall.

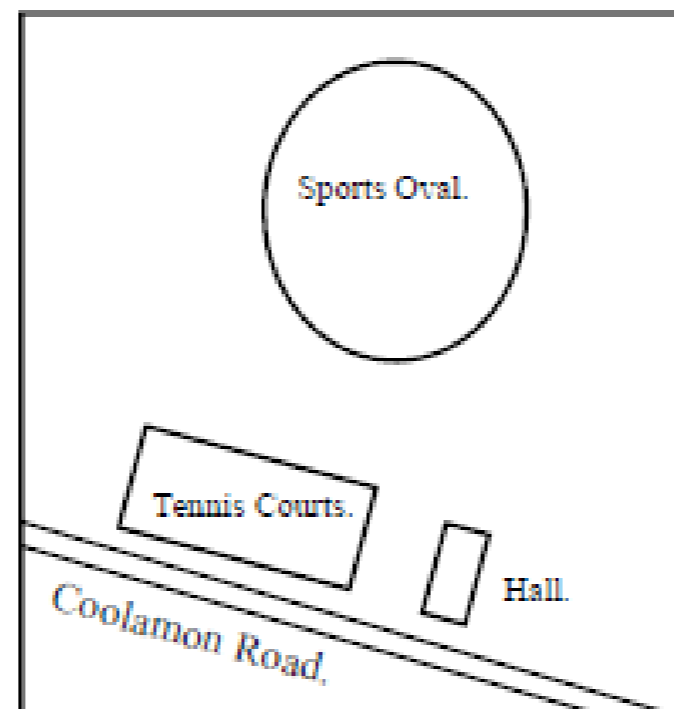


Bagdad Australian Rules Football Team.

BAGDAD CRICKET AND FOOTBALL CLUBS.

Following the construction of the Hall, sufficient land was available for a Sports Oval to serve both lovers of Cricket and Australian Rules Football. About 1913, a concrete pitch was laid down and both Cricket and A.R.F. Clubs were formed.

Both clubs functioned strongly between World Wars 1 and 2, participating in the district competitions. However, following the end of the Second World War, the Cricket Club went into recess and its former members joined the Sebastopol Cricket Club. The Australian Rules Football competition was revived for a short time before also going into recess. The Bagdad Football Club then became a part of history.



THE BAGDAD TENNIS CLUB.

The Tennis Club was formed and courts constructed close to the Hall. Socials were held to raise funds as early as 1913.

The club operated successfully well into the 1930's. In 1934 the Wimbledon Tennis Club started up on courts opposite the Bagdad School, closer to Temora. It grew in strength and by the beginning of World War 2 the Bagdad Tennis Club ceased to exist.

Erected by the descendents of the early residents of Bagdad-Sebastopol and the Temora Heritage Committee, 2007.