

LEEDERVILLE OVAL, LEEDERVILLE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Leederville Oval
Other names	R.P. Fletcher Grandstand Medibank Stadium Sullivan Logistics Stadium
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	14582
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	246 Vincent St
Locality	Leederville
Survey	LOT: 500 D/P: 65192
Vol/folio	LR3157/914
Reserve	LR3157/914

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/ authenticity
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should minimise impacts on the original site or building and reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>The grandstand and associated facilities is one of the better metropolitan examples of the Post War Functionalist style of sporting venue.</p> <p>Leederville Oval has historic value for its association with one of the oldest Australian football clubs in WA, the West Perth Football Club from 1915-1994.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the establishment and development of the Leederville district in the early 20th century.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with a range of sports and activities that were held at the oval and as the drilling ground for the Leederville Drill Hall during World War One.</p> <p>Leederville Oval has considerable social significance to the district, being located at the heart of the district and being used for a variety of sports and social events.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Social Recreational: Other
Current use	Social Recreational: Other
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1915; 1919; 1943; 1958, 2008; 2023
Walls	Brick
Roof	Corrugated sheet metal
Architectural Style	Post War International
Physical description	<p>Leederville Oval is located on an irregular piece of land that contains the centrally located grassed football oval and the surrounding grassed banks, stands, clubrooms and other associated facilities.</p> <p>The grassed oval runs north-south with goal posts located at either end. To the east and north are grass embankments and to the west are the two grandstands and the steel-framed shelter.</p> <p>The larger of the two grandstands is the R.P Fletcher Stand constructed in 1959 in the Post War International Style. The base and rear wall of the stand is constructed from salmon coloured face brickwork with a tiered concrete floor to accommodate the timber bench seating.</p> <p>The massive west wall of the building with its flanking towers anchors the steel framed; metal deck clad cantilevered roof that shades the seating.</p>

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Physical description	In the base of the building beneath the seating are two floors offices, club rooms and change rooms and other facilities. Two new media boxes were constructed in the internal rear section of the seating in 2006. The Roper Stand constructed in 1969 is located to the south of the R.P Fletcher stand. This two storey structure has a concrete frame with brick panels and a low pitch gable roof. Grassed slopes down to oval.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Originally part of the wetlands, the subject site belonged to a Government reserve (Reserve 884) under the control of the Perth Board of Health in the 1890s. Reserve 884 covered the north side of Vincent Street, stretched from Charles to Oxford Streets.

The area east of Loftus Street was used as a rubbish tip for some years in the 1890s, while the area along Oxford Street was parcelled off as sites for public buildings such as post office, municipal offices, primary school and police station.

Leederville Oval was established in 1915, although the Wise's Post Office Directories list the subject site as a 'Recreation Reserve' at the time and only named it as 'Leederville Oval' from 1929. The first football game was held at the Leederville Oval in July 1915.

The oval was used during the First World War by the military forces for cadet drilling, the Leederville Drill Hall being only a little further west on Vincent Street and not yet provided with its own parade ground.

It was 1919 before any facilities were built at the ground, and that was only done when the West Australian Football League refused to allow any more games to be played until they were provided. A grandstand was built the following year, at a cost of £703, the contract going to G. Schofield of Cleaver Street.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

By 1921, facilities included seating accommodation, fencing, turnstiles & ticket houses, heights, latrines and gates. A total of £917-4-10 was spent between 1919 and 1921.

In 1943, the main entrance from Vincent Street was enlarged and the hall beside the old entrance was removed. The oval was eventually provided with tennis courts and cycle track as well as football facilities.

Leederville was the home of one of the oldest Australian football clubs in Perth, the West Perth Football Club established in 1885. Mr Richard Perth Fletcher (1909-1989) president of the club from 1946 - 1962 was recognised through the naming of the new 1958 grandstand on the western side of Leederville Oval.

Apart from the connection with the WAFL, the place has also had strong associations with athletics, particularly as a training ground during the 1961 Empire Games and Interschool sport competitions.

The West Perth Football Club relocated to Joondalup in 1994 and in 1995, following the establishment of the Town of Vincent, the Town's administration set up temporary home in the premises until the new administration offices located adjacent were completed.

Leederville Oval is dedicated as an WAFL 'Football Centre of Excellence' and is the home of both East Perth Football Club and Subiaco Football Club.

In August 2005, the Town approved the new name for Leederville Oval to be 'Medibank Stadium'. In December 2023, the Leederville Oval was re-named Sullivan Logistics Stadium as part of a sponsorship and naming rights deal with family-owned company Sullivan Logistics.

Works were undertaken in 2007/2008 to the north east side of the oval to create bench seating around this portion of the oval and a grassed area in the north east corner of the site. In December 2023, the City of Vincent announced that additional works will be undertaken to the 1958 grandstand. These works will be the final stage of works which began following storm damage in August 2022 when emergency repairs were undertaken. The proposed works to be undertaken in June 2023 and will strengthen the brick façade and the sub-structure of the grandstand.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Governing: Government and Politics	
Associations	Richard Perth Fletcher	President of West Perth Football club
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



RP Fletcher Stand C1960s Source: City of Vincent



View north to Leederville Oval c1970s Source: City of Vincent



Old Turnstiles, now demolished c1968 Source City of Vincent