



A Coming of Age: The Kurrawa story

This November, the Kurrawa Surf Lifesaving Club will officially unveil its spectacular new club at Broadbeach on the Gold Coast.

This exciting development project will involve the construction of an iconic new surf lifesaving club building followed by the demolition of the existing club. The new surf club will see an iconic community-focussed building that will become the jewel in the crown of a revitalised Broadbeach area.

This development will facilitate surf club operations, including increased on-site storage capacity for surf lifesaving equipment, improved ease of access to the beach, while providing training and recreation rooms for Nippers and Senior Lifesavers.

However, its pièce de résistance will be an expansive dining lounge and bar offering 230 degree views of the stunning Kurrawa Beach.

This world class venue will showcase architectural excellence and from any angle will offer spectacular views complemented by the breathtaking beach vista. The delivery of this project will see the area transformed into a vibrant, activated precinct with significant public amenities.

A new ground floor cafe connects with the spacious public undercover forecourt area, Council's beachfront oceanway and the Kurrawa-Pratten Parkland where joggers, cyclists and

families can enjoy a coffee or a bite to eat amidst the spectacular Kurrawa backdrop.

Iconic Club, Iconic History

The Kurrawa Surf Lifesaving Club has a rich and rewarding history but it all started from very modest beginnings. On 6 September 1958, the club was first registered as the 'Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association Surf Life Saving Club', before adopting the name of the Kurrawa Surf Lifesaving Club in 1961.

On 23 May 1996, the licensed club opened following the introduction of poker machines to Queensland, trading with one chef, one barman and six poker machines.

The Kurrawa Surf Lifesaving Club developed rapidly into one of the leading licensed clubs in the region and has been a community institution for almost 60 years. Its name has been synonymous with surf lifesaving and, to this day, no other surf lifesaving club has held the national titles more times than Kurrawa. Its contribution to the local community has been impressive with numerous charities, local organisations and other community and sporting groups having been supported through the club's generosity.

Bursting at the Seams

After more than 20 years of service to the community, the club now employs over 70 dedicated staff, has 650 club members and over 16,000 supporters.

In the years since the last major expansion of the club, its memberships and patronage have consistently increased to a point where expansion was essential to cater for not only this growth, but for the inevitable projected future growth.

The existing clubhouse layout was not conducive to the current operational demands of the club and this was compounded with a desperate shortage of space. This couldn't have been more evident with the administration team located in another building and the club even storing some of its surf equipment off-site.

"Both the Surf Lifesaving and Supporters Club Committees knew that the current clubhouse could not service our needs into the future. It was an old building, short on storage and was inefficient operationally. We needed something that would serve the Club for the next 50 years." Stewart Palmer, President – Kurrawa Supporters Club

Timing Is Everything

The time was right to reactivate the heart of Kurrawa Beach, to rebrand and reimagine the club and to create a building that was operationally efficient, as well as meet the growing needs of the local community for the next 50 years and beyond.

With the upcoming 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games fast approaching, this iconic club will find itself on the front line of the Commonwealth Games activities.



The new clubhouse will be one of the major celebration points or 'Live' sites during the Games, where thousands of Commonwealth Games devotees will commandeer the adjacent Kurrawa-Pratten Park to watch events on the huge outdoor screens.

Importance of Strong Partnerships

The Kurrawa Surf Lifesaving Club has embarked on numerous renovations and extensions alongside trusted design and construct specialists Paynter Dixon Queensland. Ironically, the completion of the new clubhouse will coincide with the 20-year anniversary of the Kurrawa and Paynter Dixon Queensland relationship.

Paynter Dixon Queensland's delivery of their hospitality projects is focussed around removing the stress and risk away from its clients, and on to the design and construction experts who do it every day.

Paynter Dixon Queensland's Head of Hospitality, Entertainment and Leisure, Paul Coory explains, "This was an iconic project, so we conducted an 'ideas competition' where we invited three architects to submit design concepts. We specifically chose three 'non-club' architects, gave them a loose brief, and asked them to present their ideas. This process was about finding the right architect to partner with Paynter Dixon Queensland, rather than finding the right design."



And as it turned out, the winning design bore little resemblance to the final design. Paynter Dixon Queensland drew on its extensive club expertise, making a number of operational and design changes. Understanding the importance of Kurrawa's food offering, they commandeered a large patch of Council's parkland to replicate a full scale layout of the proposed bar and kitchen design. They invited the club's chef, general manager, and other representatives to 'test drive' the food and beverage operations. This proved worthwhile as it prompted further refinement to the kitchen design.

Kurrawa occupies a very high profile site which it leases from the City of Gold Coast Council. The Council, while supportive of the proposal, was very conscious ensuring that the design was within its planning provisions and met community expectations. Paynter Dixon entered into numerous meetings with Council on the club's

behalf and successfully negotiated not only an outstanding design outcome, but a lease outcome that the Club requires for its operations. The road to full approval included numerous meetings with Council, community groups, local residents, the GCCC Commonwealth Games Committee as well as all stakeholders.

Paynter Dixon Queensland held separate briefing meetings with various club stakeholders to ensure all users were consulted and their needs considered. It's a credit to the club's board that they encouraged such a consultative approach to this new venture.



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