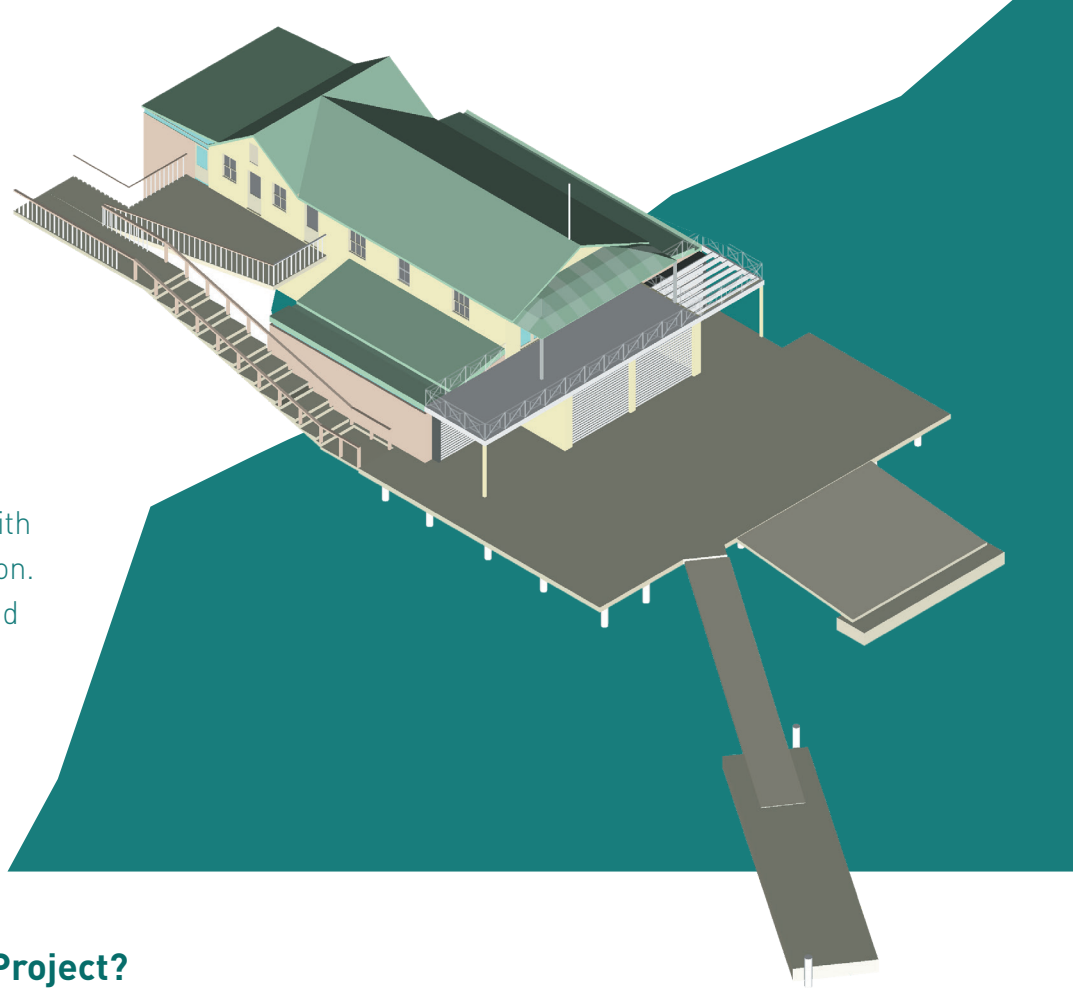




BALMAIN
ROWING CLUB

Restoration Project

We wish to provide members with an update on the club restoration. We are also seeking support and help with fundraising to realise this exciting project.



What is the Restoration Project?

Balmain Rowing Club (BRC), formed in 1882, is the oldest surviving rowing shed of its type in Australia.

Due to its age and rising sea levels, the heritage timber structure and piers on which it sits are fast deteriorating, putting the building and our club's long-term viability at risk.

Like our neighbour, Dawn Fraser baths, the heritage wooden structure of the Club is increasingly under water and not

able to dry out sufficiently, causing decay at an accelerated rate. The annual cost of maintenance has become a large burden on the club and if nothing is done, there is risk the shed could eventually collapse into the sea.

Currently, the club does not have disabled access and boat loading is conducted via steep, stone cut steps which do not meet safety requirements. Access to the water is also a bottleneck because of the limited staging and pontoon access.

Approvals for a major renovation of the entire boatshed were gained in 2009 and then amended in 2019. For more details visit: www.balmainrowingclub.com/restoration

The restored club will significantly improve access and facilities for our members and ensure the club survives for future generations to enjoy.



BRC clubhouse circa 1900



Piles and supporting members decay and require constant maintenance.



Rising water levels create inundation risk.

Building on Past Success: \$1m Grant Achieved

The club has completed a number of projects over the last decade, such as the addition of the North and South (Neilson) wings, upgrade of the hall facilities, and numerous emergency repairs.

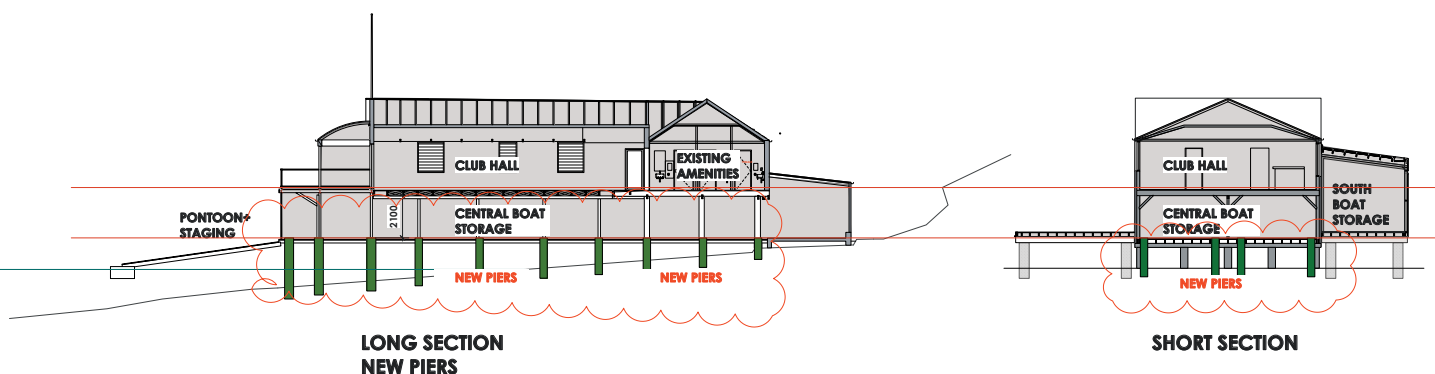
More recently, the club was successful in obtaining a significant \$1 million allocation in the State Government Greater Cities Sports Facilities Fund. The new funding is in addition to seed funding from the Inner West Council for planned accessibility works.

With this funding secured, we now seek to embark on the following renovations

The exact scope of the work is yet to be defined.

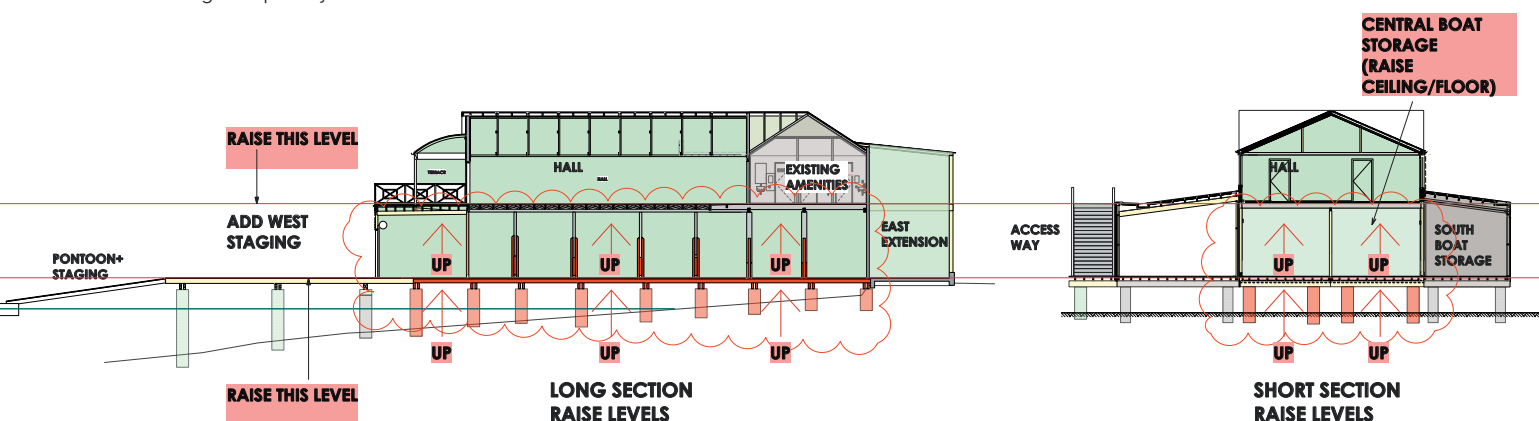
1. Replace the piers under the shed

To stop water logging and provide new foundations for the shed.



2. Raise the club floor levels

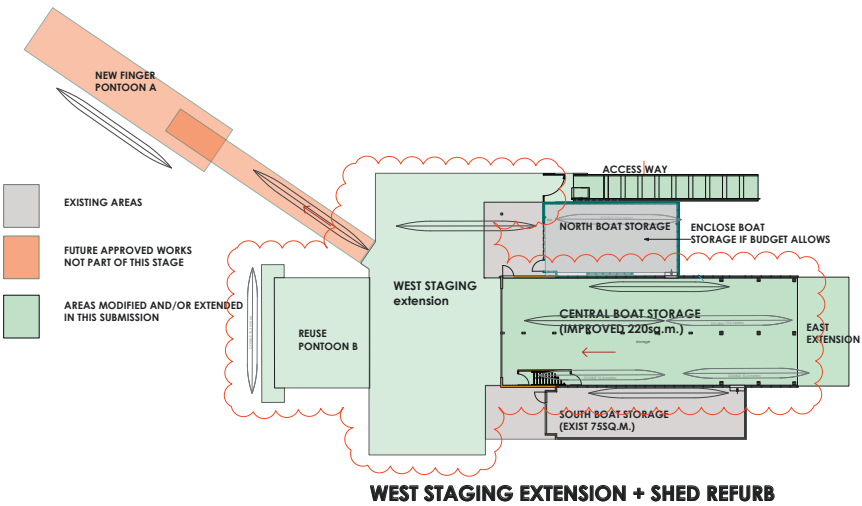
To protect the club against rising sea levels and provide additional height downstairs for increased boat storage and safer handling for members. This will correct a 140-year problem of storage capacity and access.



3. Building additional staging (west deck) and relocate existing pontoon

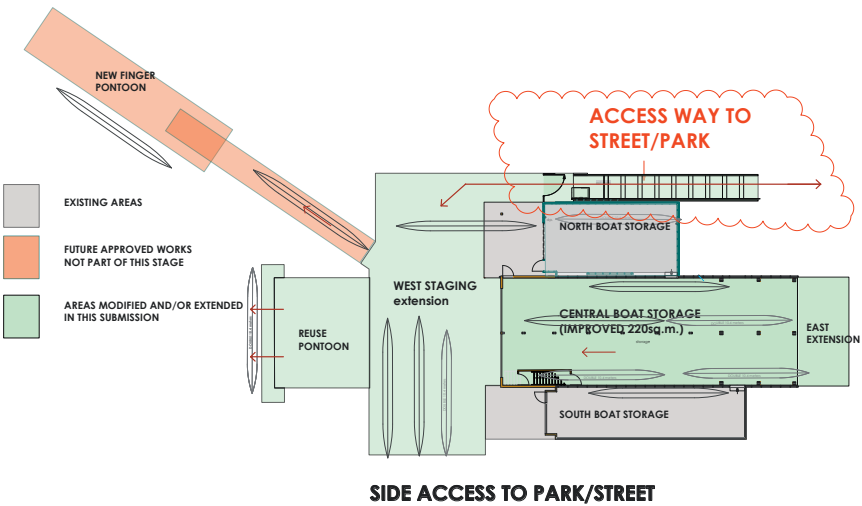
200sq.m. level staging extension to assist with boat handling whilst allowing for additional finger pontoon in the future.

General refurbishment of central boat shed to provide more racking and raised head room.



4. Building new side access to the street level

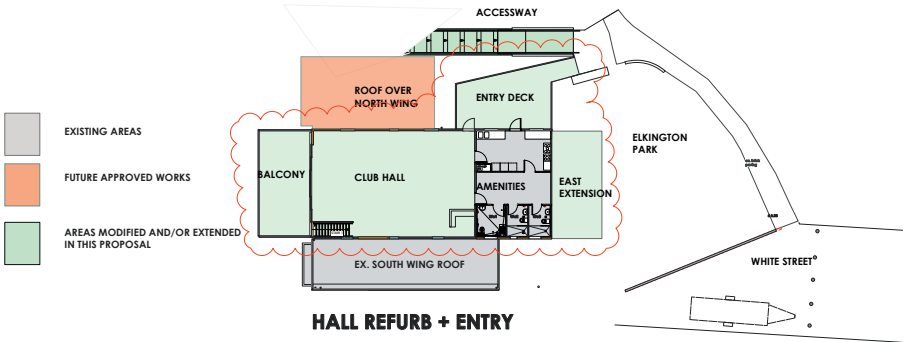
For safe boat loading and providing safe pedestrian access.



5. Build a new entry deck to the clubhouse and refurbish hall

Enhancing entry to the club and providing additional space to the rear (east extension).

General hall refurbishment including new windows, electricals and internal linings.



Benefits to Members and Community

- High-grade hall and bathrooms for athletes and guests
- Versatile and increased boat storage and training areas
- Excellent access from the road level to the boat deck
- Improved access for all members, including people with disabilities
- Fast and convenient boating area, with less crowding, through an enlarged staging (deck) area
- A beautiful place to row from, with heritage restoration
- A legacy for the future

It will also allow us to continue to have Junior and School Rowing programmes, learn to row, and other community rowing activities.

Funding the Gap to Complete the Project

It would be ideal to complete all stages of the restoration at one time to reduce costs and minimise club disruption. However, this is dependent on funding and resourcing.

The building team is working hard to maximise the use of available funds with scope for this round still to be defined.

Although the amount raised through grants is significant, based on tenders received so far, there is a shortfall of around \$240,000.00 to complete the ideal (full) works. (more if the finger pontoon is included).

This is a relatively small amount compared to the grants already secured, and raising it will allow the club to complete the shed restoration which has been planned for approximately 30 years now.

BRC Needs You!

We now seek the support of the entire membership to complete this project and bring the club restoration to a successful conclusion, particularly:

1. Your support for the project

Please send through any feedback to the Committee at: committee@balmainrowingclub.com

2. Your patience while the work takes place

The shed will need to close for rowing, but we will seek alternate arrangements so members can still get on the water. Details will be provided as the scope and timing of the project becomes clearer.

3. Your help with fundraising

If you have any ideas to help us raise the additional funds to complete the restoration project, either personally or through your contacts, the Committee would love to hear from you.

4. Any skills you may have that can assist the project

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect and improve our beautiful clubhouse. Once done, we will have wonderful facilities and can get back to focussing on rowing, rowing and more rowing!