

Limbless Soldiers' Bowling Club (former)

60 Oxlade Drive, New Farm

In 1946, Brisbane City Council offered the Limbless Soldiers' Association a site for a new club house in New Farm. Previously used during the Second World War as a US naval officers' club, the facility boasted a dance hall, stage, film projectors, lounges, bar, kitchen and boat deck.

Navigational hint: travelling upstream after leaving the New Farm Park ferry terminal, look to the right for the row of white shade sails and barrel-curved roofs. Travelling downstream, look to the left just before you arrive at New Farm Park ferry terminal.

The club was officially opened in 1949 by the Queensland branch of the Returned Limbless Sailors and Soldiers Association (RLSSA). In the same year, Queensland bowlers donated £4,000 (\$7,572) for a fully equipped green and its upkeep paid for 2 years.

Plans for the club began several years earlier in 1944 with the association announcing that it hoped to secure a property where a swimming pool, full-sized bowling green and a tennis court could be provided. In 1945, the association launched a '£35,000 Appeal' for the Limbless Soldiers' Patriotic Appeal Fund, publishing that it "has pledged itself to safeguard the interests of all servicemen who have lost a limb..." and do all they could "in order that these men, who have sacrificed so much will receive the consideration due to them". Slides announcing the appeal and asking for donations showed at the Mayfair Theatre in Sandgate, and the campaign raised its target £35,000 (\$66,252) between 1944 to 1946.

The Limbless Soldiers' Bowling Club was later renamed the Merthyr Bowls Club. In 1978 the lease was transferred from the RLSSA to the Returned Services League of Australia (RSL), which leases the land from Council, and still subleases facilities to the bowls club.