YARRA BEND GOLF CLUBHOUSE
YARRA BEND DRIVE

From 1848 onwards the Metropolitan Lunatic Assylum qv,
commenced to spread from the hillside, overlooking
the bend, in the Yarra, to the banks of the river.
Small cottage accommodation was supplimented by
larger hospital buildings, administration blocks
and a cemetery on the river bank. By 1926 the
asylum was emptied and most of the cottages
demolished by Whelan the Wrecker. After some
indecision as to the fate of the 315 acres remaining,
it became a public park under a management committee
of Heidelberg Shire Councillors and Government
nominees. By 1933 the Heidelberg-Kew Lands Act
was proclaimed adding 272 acres of land, on the
south side of the river, to the previous 315 acres.[1]

On the Heidelberg Shire portion an 18 hole golf
course was laid out and, with it, a clubhouse was
provided. The Public Works Department Chief
Architect, Percy Everett, supervised the design of
the clubhouse; the opening day being in May 1936 in
front of 1000 people. Trees from where the present
carpark[2] lies were used to construct a rustic,
American style, loghouse with nevertheless a
large percentage of clinker brick walling and stone
rubble work for the piers. The design employes
the overlapping gables seen at 31 Yarraford Avenue qv
and the Centenary Dairy qv in Heidelberg Road.
Cordova-pattern tiles hint at the Spanish Mission
style, also popular in America. Otherwise shingle
gables are replaced with vertically boarded walls
and the window treatment takes the horizontal
emphasis seen in the buildings already cited.

The clubhouse has fine, clipped hedges used
successfully as dividing elements for the
separation of the carpark and practice green
from the building.

This is an original example of American "Country
Club" type architecture set in contributive
landscaping.