



Cambridge Parade Manly Circa 1920

# Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc

"Our aim is to gather and record local history before it is lost."

www.wmhs.org.au

ABN 49 071 835 845



## NEWSLETTER

## June 2024

## Issue. No. 162

### May General Meeting

### THURSDAY 20 June 2024

6.45 pm for 7.00pm start

Wynnum Ambulance Auditorium  
Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street

Speaker

### Ed Harwood

will tell us about

### The Port of Brisbane



Lucky Door  
Bring and Buy

Refreshments

Gold Coin Donation

Visitors welcome

### Ed Harwood

speaks . . . .

Edward graduated with a Diploma of Performing Arts from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1986.

Since then Edward has worked in a variety of hospitality managements positions in Melbourne, Adelaide, London & Lund (Sweden), before arriving in Brisbane and joining the Port of Brisbane Corporation in 2006 now Port of BrisbanePty.



Edward is now PBPL's community relations manager with a focus on strategic partnerships, community engagement, grant programs and delivering on meaningful support to First Nations organisations and peoples in the Ports area of operation.

Before the arrival of rail and air transportation, almost all passengers and freight were carried by ship. The wharves along the Brisbane River were extremely busy. The port of Brisbane at the mouth of the Brisbane river was opened in 1981 and replaced the wharves along the river. Ed Harwood will talk about the establishment of the Port of Brisbane. Ed has been at the Port of Brisbane for nearly 20 years and is currently the Community Relations Manager.

### **Remember the Next Bring and Buy. Thursday 20 June 2024.**

*Interesting Books, (Fact or Fiction).*

Swap or pay \$1

*Preserves . . . Cakes and Biscuits ..*

*Craft. . . Cards*

Bring some home-made items and some cash!!!

Most items \$2



Located in the “Old School Building” at Room 1.08, 105 Florence Street, Wynnum.

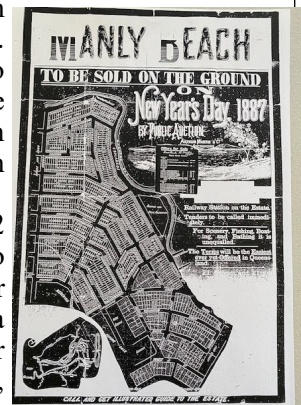
Open Monday to Friday 10.00am to Noon or by appointment. (0407 293 177)

### Early Residential Subdivision Sales in Manly



David, James and John Arnold purchased Portions 57 and 78 in July 1882, at a low price, from the trustees of their niece, Marion. The land was left to Marion by her father James Leuthwaite who died when she was three years old. Her mother, Mary Leuthwaite (nee Arnold) was left £300 per year and a city house in Bowen Hills. But the Arnold brothers who had farmed the land from 1874 turned from farming to real estate.

The first sale of residential subdivisions was in October 1882 around Cambridge Parade. The second sale has always thought to have been taken place on New Year's Day of 1887 by Arthur Martin (Right poster). However this month, through Facebook, a second poster has been found. (Left Poster) There was an earlier sale of this land on Saturday 6 June 1885, by James R Dickson, extending as far as Darling Point. Our knowledge of earlier times is continually increasing!!!



### Another find this month - Aerial view of Wynnum Central - 1935



Can you see:

Wading Pool in the centre

Wynnum Creek and Wynnum North Jetty to the left

Darling Point to the right

Bay Terrace, Waterloo Bay Hotel . . . . .



**You are invited**  
**on**  
**Sunday 25 August 2024**  
**at 10.00am!**  
**(See Page 6)**

Cemeteries are not only places of burial; they are repositories of our history, culture, and stories waiting to be discovered. Join fellow members of the Wynnum Manly Historical Society as we take a walk through Hemmant Cemetery, a tranquil and reflective space nestled in the heart of Hemmant.

The Cemetery is home to many of our communities' stories, I have recently started recording some of the stories of those buried there and would love to share my findings with you. There are plenty of stories to be told - and plenty more to be uncovered.

The area to be covered is the Monumental section - ground is flat and is a relatively small area and suitable for wheelie walkers.

Darryn Sibley

### **VALE**

We are sad to announce the passing of **John McIntyre** in April 2024.

John joined us in 2004 and was a most diligent and useful member. Besides helping in the Resource Room every week, he mapped out and listed all the Traders in Bay Terrace and Edith Street. He was happy making lists and transcribed our local telephone directories.

John attended any gathering, happening, meeting and when whilst able to, always lent a helping hand. Though unable to assist in later years John still called in to see us.

### **VALE**

#### **Stewart Burton**

Stewart joined us in 2014. He was a resident of Canberra but had spent his early days in Wynnum Manly. He would often phone in to ask about articles in the Newsletter.

## May 2024. Where was I?

Guardian Angels Catholic Church  
198 Bay Terrace Wynnum

The Rosary Window



The district of Wynnum Manly was originally administered by the Parish of South Brisbane. Mass was celebrated in the Wynnum Shire Hall in Tingal Road. Fathers Dorrigan and O'Leary travelled from South Brisbane. Father Enright was in charge of the area in 1904, and a committee was established for the purpose of procuring a site and funds for a new church.



Land was purchased by Archbishop Dunne for £420.00 and donated to the parish. Father Enright's committee began raising funds for the construction of the church.

In early April 1905 the foundation stone was laid, and £50 was collected to add to the £260 already available, leaving £90 still to be found. One substantial donation came from Rev Molesworth the Minister of the Church of England.

When the fund reached £400, Mr J P Little built the church, designed by architects Eaton and Bates. The style of the small timber church was said to be Federation Carpenter Gothic.

The church stood on bush covered ground on the eastern edge of Bay Terrace, which was probably a dirt track. The church was one of the first buildings on the ridge and much of the surrounding area remained as bushland until the 1910s. The church overlooked Moreton Bay so had a magnificent view.

Archbishop Dunne officially opened and dedicated the church to 'Our Guardian Angel' on 26 November 1905. There was an "immense congregation", some persons had travelled by train from Brisbane. Archbishop Dunne congratulated the people of Wynnum for their achievement. The church was almost debt free.

In 1913 Wynnum became a parish and Father Enright appointed as parish priest. In 1914 Archbishop Duhig officially opened a Parish School designed by Richard Gailey in the grounds of the church. This building is now a school hall. The Presbytery was built in 1914 but moved to Nanango in the 1980s.

After Enright's death in 1919, the Parish was under the care of Diocesan priests until 1945 when the Capuchins, an order of the priesthood, came to Wynnum from America. Their purpose was to cater for the needs of local Italian migrants who could not speak English.

Local Heritage Listed in 2004 (Present presbytery and parish centre built in 1980s and are not included).

## June 2024. Where am I?



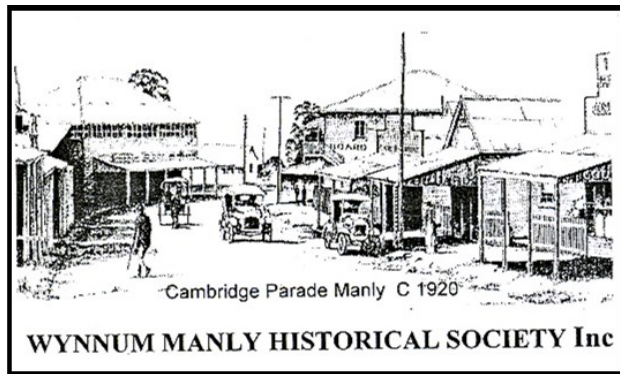
Till Next Time,  
Jill

**The History of the Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc:  
May 2024**

**(Part 1)**

Our Society was invited to deliver the monthly local history talk for May 2024 at the Wynnum Library. Many thanks to Heather Richards (Local History Librarian) for extending the invitation.

For the talk, we gave a brief overview of 'The History of the Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc'. Many of our Committee members were present on the day so we were well-placed to answer any curly questions from the audience! Of the 40 attendees on the day, many were long term locals. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear recollections from those present – during and after the talk.



The talk began with a brief introduction to our Society: **who** we are (a registered charity); **what** we do and **why** we do it ('gather and record local history before it is lost'; but we also learn, record, research, share, and give the opportunity for people to connect); **how** we operate (through the power of volunteers); and **where** and **when** we operate (Resource Centre; monthly meetings; Facebook; website; events).

After the brief intro, we went way back to 1988...Merv Beitz was a very dedicated local teacher, with a great passion for local history. He and his wife Myrtle (today, Myrtle is the author of our daily Facebook posts) had gathered an enormous collection of historical records and wanted them to be available to the general public. In 1988, there was a suggestion to house the collection in a special history room at the (former) Wynnum Library. This was a project of the Rotary Club of Wynnum-Manly, the Brisbane City Council and – of course – Merv and Myrtle Beitz. On 28 May 1988, then Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson opened the 'South Moreton Bay Historical Library' housing the 'Merv Beitz Collection'. The room housed over 2,000 items and became known as the 'Merv Beitz Room'. Near the end of 1988, library staff reported that 300-400 school students passed through the room in one day. This was when local history was included in Social Studies for year 4 students in Queensland schools.

After the opening of the 'Merv Beitz Room', Merv and Myrtle Beitz, Jack Sands (a familiar name to many readers, I'm sure) and Sue Laakso (still a member) were chatting over their adjoining back fences and decided to form a group to support the new history room. The first meeting of our Society was held on 20 October 1988. There were 10 people in attendance and an Interim Committee was established. At that first meeting, it was decided that monthly meetings would be held on the third Thursday of the month, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. After that first meeting, we were off to a flying start. Here are some of the highlights:

On **24 June 1989**, a time capsule was sealed in the Merv Beitz Room; the room was located in the old Wynnum Library that was on Bay Terrace. When the Wynnum Library moved to this current premises, the time capsule came, too. The time capsule is to be opened on 24 June 2039. On **10 March 1990**, our Society erected a plaque on the Fox Street Bridge. You can read the text on the plaque and also read the Brisbane City Council Heritage Citation online. In the **early 1990s**, we invested in technology like a tape recorder, an overhead projector and a public address system.

In **1995**, we changed our name from 'Wynnum Manly and Districts Historical Society' to 'Wynnum Manly Historical Society'. In **1996**, the Society started to gather a collection of resources separate from the Merv Beitz Room at the Wynnum Library. The Society's collection of resources grew over subsequent years. On **1 July 1997**, our Society unveiled a plaque at 'The Great Wall of Manly' or what some others might know as the Falcon Street wall. It's listed on the Queensland Heritage Register so you can read about it online or take advantage of this beautiful winter weather and go and see it in real life! Our Society had a float in the **1997** Spring Parade and we won first prize! Our float was a vintage bus. In the **1999** Spring Parade, we had a float and we won second prize. The trophy sits proudly in our Resource Centre. In **February 2003**, our Resource Centre at 7/66 Bay Terrace officially opened – it was located in the small group of shops and businesses outside the former Wynnum Library. In **2005**, we started holding a raffle at our monthly meetings. In **2006**, maroon polo shirts, with white lettering, were ordered. In **2013**, we started our Facebook page and – since then – have welcomed over 3,600 followers. In **2014**, we donated lots of old newspapers to the 'Frenchie's' café in Bay Terrace for their lacquered tabletops. In **2015**, the Society applied for and then took a room in what was then the new Wynnum Community Centre. The official opening of the Wynnum Community Centre was in **November 2015**. And, from the 1990s through to COVID in 2020, our Society held many (many) tours and events.

Part 2 to follow next newsletter...Thanks for reading!

Lucy (President)

## Our Pioneers - Now resting in Hemmant Cemetery

### Mary Gibson ( 1817 - 1875) with Grandchildren,

Monumental A .5.1.

**Mary GIBSON nee McAlister ( 1817 – 1875)** was born on 24 July 1817 in Dreghorn, Ayrshire, in the Scottish Lowlands about 28 miles (45 kilometers), south of Glasgow and near the Firth of Clyde, to parents Archibald and Janet McAlister (nee Sellers). Her husband William Gibson (1813 -1902) was born in Kilmaurs, about 4 miles further inland from Dreghorn on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1813. The couple were wed at Dreghorn on 30 March 1838, he was 35 years she was 21 years old. Their seven children arrived between 1839 and 1858, all born in Scotland.

As a result of earlier campaigning of John Dunmore Lang, the family decided to emigrate to Australia. In March 1863, father William with Angus, the eldest son, sailed from Greenock, the first dock established on the Clyde, to Brisbane in the “Cairngorm”, a clipper sailing ship of the Black Ball Line. The trip took 92 days to Brisbane. On board there were 500 tons of general merchandise and 340 passengers.

William purchased land from Franklin at the small settlement of Doughboy Creek, an area between Doughboy Creek, Lindum and Tingalpa. Access to the area was by the river until 1870 when a bridge was built over Bulimba Creek. In those early days the land was covered with light scrub, easy to remove. The land was fertile suited for market-garden crops. Melons, pumpkins, potatoes. The farm produce was taken overnight up the river to the wharves in Brisbane and sold the next morning from the wharf.

Mary Gibson followed her husband William and son Angus to Australia, together with children William (Junior), James Maxwell, Jessie, Margaret and John in the “Warren Hastings” departing Glasgow on 27 February 1864 and arriving in Brisbane on the 20 June 1864. The eldest daughter Mary with husband William Stirling also sailed for Australia in the “Light of the Age” arriving in January 1864, the family meeting at their home in George Street.

The Gibson family called their Doughboy property “Clydesdale”, after their property in Scotland, and began growing sugar on their land in 1865 obtaining the seedlings from Captain Louis Hope who had plantations at Ormiston. The sugar cane was initially crushed using the floating sugar mill, “Walrus” a sailing ship converted to steam. By 1868 a Mill was built on their land. In 1870 sugar production was flourishing in South East Queensland fetching £84 per ton.

An article written in 1871 reads: “A prominent area where sugar farming has been sufficiently developed to prove that it is profitable is the districts of Tingalpa and Bulimba, a small tract of alluvial country on the southern boundary of the Brisbane River within a few miles of its entrance. The area has for many years supplied the Brisbane Market. The farms are small. The land is low and flat and does not suffer from flood to any serious extent. Cane has long been grown in the area in small patches.

Attempts made to build a mill on the co-operative principle fell through for finance and choice of location. But the movement for a mill continued and in 1869 the first mill was erected by Messrs. Gibson and Sons. Their farm is named *Clydesdale*. The location is on a point formed by the junction of the Bulimba Creek and the Brisbane River. The first mill, made by Smellie and Co., Queensland Foundry, was moved by horse power and produced about 20 ton of sugar in the first year. During the crushing season of 1870 Messrs. Gibson produced over 60tons. Feeling that they trading on safe ground they made arrangements for a larger mill and for steam power. This has been erected and is now at work. The mill and engine are by Blythe of London. The battery is by Smellie and the centrifuge by Pettigrew of Brisbane. To supply the new Mill

Messrs Gibson are extending the cultivation from 30 Acres of Bourbon cane to 60 acres as well as crushing 30 acres for neighbours. The spirit of enterprise upon the Clydesdale farm is very marked. An effective drainage system has been commenced making sour land about the best for production of cane. The working force of the farm is about 20 hands” With plenty of rain the plants were looking well”.



*Clydesdale*

Mary Gibson was living in these times of exploration and success. In 1873 she was featured as a vocalist at a social gathering of workers at the end of the sugar crushing season. She suddenly passed away on 30 March 1875. Buried with her are her daughter-in-law Jemima (nee Woodgate), wife of son James Maxwell, who died 1883. Also four grandchildren are in the same grave. They are Flora (1878) and Catherine (1885) daughters of son Angus, and James (1876) and Norman (1883), sons of William Gibson Jr.

In the August of 1875 , “there were sharp frosts and the Bourbon sugar got nipped”. A severe drought in December 1877, affected the crops. There had been no rain for 10 months. The sugar cane, English potatoes and vegetables were a failure. Cattle died. Gibsons stopped after crushing 60 tons of sugar cane as there was very little juice and the cane was just dry and pithy. The next year in July there was a considerable amount of frost, more severe than ever before. ”The bananas were ruined, everything had a brown appearance.”

Space around the mill was becoming limited, the weather inclement. So Angus Gibson travelled though S E Qld and Central Qld searching for a new site. Bingara, outside Bundaberg was chosen. Clydesdale was sold in 1883 and closed in 1886.



# Happenings

## Saturday 22 June 2024

### Private Visit to Fort Lytton

Mike McLean, a Fort Lytton tour guide is opening the Fort and grounds for us. Entry to site is available from 1.00pm and the Tour commences at 2.00pm. Mike promises to show us places not usually open on the Sunday Public Tours. Why not bring a picnic?  
Our Member Ian Wheeler will be in the canteen serving Tea/Coffee and a biscuit for \$3.00.



This is a self drive Tour. Please indicate if you can transport passengers or if you, yourself need a lift.

Donation to Fort Lytton Guides would be appreciated.

The Sign-up will be at the Meeting on Thursday 20 June or at the Resource Room M to F. 10am to Noon.

## Sunday 25 August 2024

### A Walk in Hemmant Cemetery

#### Monumental Section

Meet outside the Office at 10.00am



Cemeteries are not only places of burial; they are repositories of our history, culture, and stories waiting to be discovered. Join fellow members of the Wynnum Manly Historical Society as we take a walk through Hemmant Cemetery, a tranquil and reflective space nestled in the heart of Hemmant. The Cemetery is home to many of our communities' stories, I have recently started recording some of the stories of those buried there and would love to share my findings with you. There are plenty of stories to be told - and plenty more to be uncovered.  
Daryn Sibley

View the oldest headstone in the Cemetery - The story of Mary Gibson on page 5.

The area to be covered is the Monumental section - ground is flat and is a relatively small area and suitable for wheelie walkers.

## Sunday 21 July 2024

Coochiemudlo Island  
Flinder's Day Markets and  
Re-enactment of Flinder's Landing.  
Assemble at the memorial Flagpole at 10.20am.



Every year the re-enactment of Flinders Historic landing is staged on the Sunday closest to July 19 (1799)

A Sunday Family Day out. Drive to Victoria Point and take 8 minute ferry across to the Island.  
Visit the Markets. Take Morning tea or lunch at the Curlew Café or Coochie Beach Bar.  
Walk around the Island. Enjoy the emerald fringe and the wetlands.

(Walking on sand is not suitable for those persons with mobility problems)

## What's On! June/July 2024

Date	Event	Venue	Booking
Monday 24 June 2024 10 - 11.30am	"Folk Tunes and Music in the Redlands"	Redlands Museum 60 Smith Street Cleveland	Adult \$13 (Inc. M Tea) Book 3286 3494
Thursday 27 June 2024 10 - 12noon	Introduction to Family History  Genealogical Society of Qld	Wynnum Library  145 Florence St Wynnum	Free. Book 3403 2199
Tuesday 2 July 2024 10.15-12.45 *	Discussion on Bulimba and Suburbs. Local History	Bulimba Library 219 Oxford St Bulimba	Free Book 3407 8223 * Also on 9 July 6.30 - 9.30pm
Wed 10 July 2024 12.30 - 1.30pm	"History of Hospital at Greenslopes"	Royal Historical Society of Qld Commissariat Store 115 William St City	Members Free Visitors \$10 3221 4198
Sat/Sun 13/14 July 2024	"City Architecture Past, Present and Future"  50 Building to Visit. Talks Discussions	<a href="https://brisbaneopenhouse.com.au-program">https://brisbaneopenhouse.com.au-program</a> Brisbane Open House. Annual event	Program to be released 19 June 2024
Sat 18 May to Sun 4 Aug 2024	"Births, Deaths and Marriages"  Exhibition	Redcliffe Museum 75 AZAC Avenue Redcliffe	Check opening hours: 3480 6700
Friday 19 July 2024	"Ask an Archivist" Preservation of photos, negatives, paper documents . . .	Brisbane Square Library 266 George St, City.	Free Book: 3403 4166
Sat 27 July 2024 10 - 12 Noon	"How did they get here? Immigration in Australia from 1788 onwards.	Toowong Library Toowong Shopping Centre 9 Sherwood Road, Toowong.	Fre. Book 3403 2590

### PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

History of Music in Wynnum Manly 1900 - 1997	Betty Nock	\$ 5
History of Arts in the Wynnum Manly Area 1900 - 2003	Betty Nock	\$ 5
Bayside Biographies. People from Wynnum Manly. 1900 -2007	Betty Nock	\$ 5
Mangroves to Moorings re-visited	Myrtle Beitz	\$35
Lota House: Photos over 150 years	Myrtle Beitz	\$15
Story of Lota House 1867 - 2017	Myrtle Beitz	\$ 5
Church Buildings of Wynnum Manly and Lota	Coupland and Greenhill	\$10
Early Shipping in Moreton Bay 1846 - 1859	Davenport and Mottram	\$ 5
Early Shipping in Moreton Bay 1860 - 1863	Davenport and Mottram	\$ 5

Available at the  
Resource Room  
Weekdays 10am-Noon  
Email:  
jillg01@tpg.com.au

## Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc

Minutes of General Meeting held in Ambulance Auditorium, Tingal Road  
on Thursday 16 May 2024

### Meeting Opened at 7.05pm

There were 29 present, 6 apologies and 8 visitors.

President Lucy Laakso took the chair, welcomed everybody. She acknowledged and asked the visitors to introduced themselves. Eric and Darren Sibley commented on their mother's health. Alex Givney our new local Councillor has agreed to be ar Patron and she gave us an update on happenings in the local ward.

Sue Laakso presented Wynnum Manly news from 100 years ago on a Gymkhana in Wynnum, a boys home in Wynnum and home hints.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting of Thursday 11 April 2024 were accepted by Darren Sibley and seconded by Tom Shulz.

### Treasurer's report: (Danny)

Cash Management A/C No. 20139708, Bus Web Saver A/C 21781280, Term Investment A/C 23366345

#### All three accounts:

At 1 April 2024: \$38,790.55

At 30 April 2024 \$38,265.80

#### Each a/c at 30 April 2024

Everyday \$10,040.64

Building \$13,225.16

Fxd.Term Deposit \$15,000.00

**TOTAL \$38,265.80**

**Correspondence Report:**(Elma) Report was presented for April 2024 which had been accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 9 May 2024.

**Resource Centre:** (Jill) This month the "Where Am I" photo was of a stainless window in the Guardian Angel's Church.

**Publicity (Chiharu):** She has been dropping the newsletter into local business, advertising in the local paper and has received a donation from Bunnings.

**Main Speaker:** Russell Turner gave an enlightening account of the Hemmant Aquarium.

**General Business:** Possible Outings are: Winnam Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island breakfast at 7am on 24 May, Rotary Fun Day on 9 June at George Clayton Park: Fort Lynton Tour, maybe 12 June, Flinders Day at Coochiemudlo Island on 12 July. Cemetery walk August date to be advised.

**Lucky door:** Tom Shulz

**Raffle (donated by Lena):** Helenese Seymour

Meeting closed at 8.25pm and members were invited to partake of refreshments aided by Ellen Coupland, Lorraine Owers and Margaret Collins.

Elma O'Toole (Secretary)

We thank our Patrons, Joan Pease and Alex Givney for their ongoing encouragement and support



We thank our Sponsors and Donors for their ongoing encouragement and support



Bunnings

Cartridge World

Iona College

Ede's Salon

Taste the Aroma



"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners - the Quandamooka People - and the land on which we operate.

## Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc

Postal Address: 9A Roseberry Parade, Wynnum West, Qld 4178

Email: [secretary@wmhs.org.au](mailto:secretary@wmhs.org.au) Secretary: 0477 722 394

Committee: Lucy Laakso, Elma O'Toole, Danny Fitzpatrick, Jill Greenhill, Myrtle Beitz, Ellen Coupland, Chris Seymour, Tom Schultz and Chiharu Tsurutani.

Bank of Queensland at BSB:124012. Society Everyday A/C 20139708 or Resource Centre A/C 21781280.

Meetings: 6.45pm for 7.00pm. 3rd Thursday of the Month (except December and January)  
in Queensland Ambulance Auditorium, Cnr Tingal Road and Bay Terrace Wynnum

Resource Centre: Room 1.08, 105 Florence Street, Wynnum Q 4178

Open Weekdays 10am - Noon (Excl. Public Holidays)

Librarian: Jill Greenhill 0407 293 177