EARLY WYNNUM AND MANLY

Aboriginal Influence
About 5000 Aborigines lived in the Moreton Bay area at the time of white settlement in large tribal areas. The Jagara Tribe lived along the coast north of Cleveland. Within each tribal area there were many sub-clans, normally fairly small, such as the Winnam at Wynnum and the Mipirimm at Manly. Winnam means 'Place of the Pandanus Tree' and there are remnants of Aboriginal occupation seen in the middens of Wynnum North.

These early people were semi-nomadic but due to the abundance of food did not wander far. They generally moved between semi-permanent campsites one of which was situated on the present day Elanora Park but still referred to, until the 1960's, as 'Black's Camp'. Intertribal meetings were common for barter and trade, for dance and marriage, for feasting and kippaing (when youths were made into men). By 1900 most Aborigines had been relocated to reserves - the Myora Mission on Stradbroke Island was operational until 1938.

European Influence
In 1859 James Warner had surveyed the Wynnum / Manly area into large portions, each of many acres. Thomas Jones was the first to purchase land, Lot 77 of 51 acres, on 13th November 1860. He built his holiday home, named "Wyvernleigh" in 1862, on the site of the present Manly Catholic Church. William Duckett White bought the land, where Lota House now stands, on 20 November 1860 and was living in the house by 1863. Thomas's mother, Mary Louisa Jones purchased the land on the south bank of the mouth of Wynnum Creek in 1861 and John Balfour, a squatter of Colinton, purchase four portions of land on the north bank of the creek mouth in 1863.

John Dawson opened up the land near the source of Wynnum Creek in the 1860's. He planted sugar cane and built a mill and called his property "Woodall". Richard Ash Kingsford purchased the land in 1877 and attempted raise poultry here. John Hargreaves occupied the property after 1892. His jams and preserves became well known over the next fifty years and his factory offered employment to many in the district. Around the factory he grew fruit - the "Spring Gardens" - and water from the head of the creek overflowed from a 20ft deep well into a lagoon and thence into the factory. In the 1960's Edgell's acquired the Company but the operations finally ceased in 1999 and the area has become a housing estate.

In 1872 the Bulimba Electorate was established but by 1879 the electorate had been divided into local Divisional Boards, mainly responsible for the clearing of tracks and surveying of roads. Further division in 1888 resulted in the Wynnum area being under the Kianawah District Divisional Board, extending from Lytton to Tingalpa Creek. A Board Hall, Office and Residence were constructed on the bank of Wynnum Creek in Tingal Road in 1890. Though the Board Hall has been replaced with the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre, the residence, now known as the "Shire Cottage", still stands and was fully renovated in 1984.
The early Wynnum Township was located around the mouth of Wynnum Creek. The first Hotel, the Hastings Hotel stood on the site of the present Wynnum Hotel in 1882, with Miss Kate O' Connor as the "Licensed Victualler". Louis and Mary Weber built the first shop opposite the hotel in King (Glenora) Street in 1885. Swampy land on the north bank of the creek mouth was filled in 1890, the Reserve, but re-named Greene's Park in 1933 at the request of the Wynnum and Wynnum North Progress Association. In 1891 Mr Fox of the hotel, (now re-named the Wynnum Hotel) requested a pathway across this new reserve to the new footbridge over the creek. This pathway became the present-day Fox Street. The first wooden traffic bridge over the creek, near its mouth was opened in 1899 to be replaced by the present concrete bridge in July 1921.

In the 1880's, the original large portions of land were sub-divided into residential blocks and many land sales occurred. The first recorded sale "Manly Beach Estate" was held in 1882 by the Arnold brothers, David John and James on the land originally bought by Thomas Jones, in the vicinity of Cambridge Parade, Manly. The "Waterloo Bay Estate", south of the mouth of Wynnum Creek was opened up for sale in 1885 and Wynnum Township Estate north of the creek in 1886. The population of the district increased considerably after 1889, with the opening of the Brisbane-Cleveland railway line that passed through the district. The original township in the district, Lytton, was bypassed by the railway line and the population gradually decreased. Lytton is not listed in the Post Office Directories after 1905, as the surrounding area was taken over by the Commonwealth for military purposes after Federation.

From the earliest days, Wynnum has been known as Oyster Point, Manly as Wyverleigh and the oyster beds, together with the local fishing industry did provide a substantial livelihood for the community. Large grape orchards were established in the vicinity of the present railway line and the district became a popular seaside location. At holiday times tents were pitched along the foreshore. Wynnum had a stylish Kiosk, (located on the corner of Wilde and Fox Streets, and demolished in 1968),

In 1932 and 1946 bathing boxes existed by 1890 and in 1891 a public bathing enclosure was constructed at Jetty No. 1 at the mouth of the creek. Jetty No.2 was constructed at Wynnum South (became Wynnum Central in 1932) and Jetty No. 3 at Manly (part remains today as William Gunn Jetty).

In the 1930's the famous sand castle competitions organised every summer by the 'Telegraph' and 'Courier Mail' were held along the foreshore. Boarding houses abounded for the many holiday makers and visitors, perhaps one of the largest being Ingleston, built on the site of the present Public Library in Charlotte Street, in 1915 and burnt down in 1946.

Along its course Wynnum Creek flows through Wynnum Golf Course, opened in 1925 and developed on land originally called Lovekin's Paddock. Then the creek passes adjacent to Kitchener Park, and on to the monument commemorating the visit of Lord Kitchener in 1910. Here on the bank of the creek, in Tingal Road, Kitchener of Khartoum stood and watched the troops return to the military encampment at Lytton.

The commercial centre of Wynnum is, today, located along Bay Terrace and Edith Streets. The first shop in Bay Terrace was opened in 1892 by Hugh Irvine. Hugh commenced trading in Bulimba, but after being washed out by the 1893 floods, he moved to Wynnum and opened his Commonwealth Store which sold everything!. Hugh was followed by his sons Mr Sam and Mr Bert who traded there until 1966. The building was finally demolished in 1974 to make way for the dark glass Commonwealth Government building on Bay Terrace between Bride and Charlotte Streets.

If you wish to know more about the early history of Wynnum and Manly, please visit the Resource Centre of the Wynnum Manly Historical Society at 7/66 Bay Terrace, Wynnum. Open Monday to Friday from 10am to 12 noon. Librarian: Jill Greenhill 3393 3208