





SANTAS ALLE MANLY

and the Fairy Floss man...

By Wallis Vinson (Mrs)

For many years, my father, Wal Bullock, aka the Fairy Floss Man, would have a stall at Santa's Alley Cambridge Parade Manly. We always had the stall outside the Manly Radio shop.

The photo top left shows the stall from 1989 and features Wal and Dot Bullock. I am their daughter, Wallis Vinson (nee Bullock). My brother and I grew up going to any local fetes, carnivals, celebrations of all kinds with the fairy floss and Santa's Alley was a regular one near Christmas. Cambridge Parade would be closed to traffic and Santa would arrive with a huge parade coming down Cambridge Parade.

The other photo is my Dad with Ron Schmidt who ran the Manly Radio shop, taken in 1992. Dad had bee hives so would give him some home grown honey as a thank you for being able to set up the stall in front of his shop and use the power for the machine.

Continued page 10.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING 18th NOVEMBER 2021 see page 2



Celebrate the End of the year

Morning Tea on the lawns of the historic Shire Clerks Cottage, Wynnum

Saturday 27th November 2021 From 10:15am

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WMHS Inc. logo is artwork of Cambridge Parade (Main st), Manly as seen in c1918, by artist Rick Morrison. (Source Mangroves to Moorings by Merv Beitz)

From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 137 of this publication, the last for the year. Its such a special season, a time to spend with family, friends and make some special memories and history of our own.

That's the wonderful thing about recording history, the never ending learning experience and the discovery of new facets of local history. Manly's Santa Alley as seen on the front page is but one such example.

A letter from Dossie Banks (Page 8) gives us an informative insight into our districts past, special thanks to Myrtle Beitz for providing this from her archive.

Chiharu provides us with an informative update on the 'Keep it Local' project (page 3) and Dr. Walding's Manly Memorial feature continues on page 6 and features James Glass. Spare a thought for the families of those men, whose Christmas would never have been the same.

The puzzles, a way to keep minds active during the lockdowns conclude for the year with this issue. Geoffrey Wilson Speakman recollections starting on page 12 tell

the story of an English family who paid an extra 10 quid to not get off the boat in Melbourne, preferring to chance it in Queensland and our own Wynnum North. Anybody go to see his band the 'Distortions' back in the swinging 60's? (see page 15)

Resignation as Editor

Over the last few months I've invested an enormous amount of time and energy creating a publication that reflects a society moving forward with the times, tapping into my almost 40 years in the printing industry.

Unfortunately the vision was not shared and as such I announce my resignation as Editor/Committee member of the WMHS Inc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank, YOU, the

readers for your support and wish you all the very best for the future.



Stay Safe **Sidney Weiss** Editor WMHS Inc.

sidneyweiss1@live.com.au

Memberships are now due

Society members you can renew your membership now

Membership costs per year (1st January to 31st December)

Single (incl emailed newsletters) \$25.00

Family (incl emailed newsletters) \$40.00

High School Student (incl emailed newsletters) \$10.00

OPTION Hardcopy posted newsletters **ADD** \$11.00

BSB: 124 012 Account No: 2013 9708

Account Name: Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

Send to: Membership Secretary,

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 318 Wynnum Q 4178

Or: Hand in at Meeting Resource Centre or

email to membership@wmhs.org.au

The Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

GENERAL MEETING

When: Thursday 18th November 2021 at 7pm

Where: Wynnum Ambulance Auditorium,

Cnr Tingal Rd & Cedar Street, Wynnum (Entry via Cedar Street)

Speaker: Di Hill

Topic: Women's Museum of Australia

Due to Covid 19 regulations tickets are strictly limited and you MUST RESERVE YOUR SEAT.

(Event capped to 30 tickets only)

Please contact the WMHS Inc. Secretary



Lena McCreadie secretary@wmhs.org.au

0493 252 315 (0431 332207 or 3393 4393)

ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION

'Keep it Local' Project Update





Wynnum history!

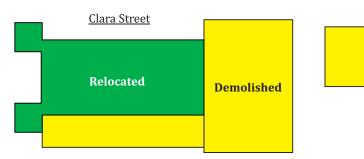
The church building will stay in Wynnum!

After a long wait, **we finally heard from the Lord Mayor.** The letter was two pages long, but nothing was clearly promised, a typical politician's response to inquiries. Basically all the inquiries I sent to various sections of the Brisbane City Council were put together into one letter, thus, very patchy. However, the following section gives us some hope.

"I note your particular concern about the possible relocation of the church to Logan. I can advise that, at this time, there are no building approvals for the relocation of the church to any alternate site. I can assure you that Council is actively working with the developer to find an appropriate site."

The letter also had a link to BMD's development plan and the approval package given by the Brisbane City Council. In the lengthy documents, we found (Thanks to Sidney's search!) the relocation plan for the actual church building and the condition of approval.

This drawing shows that only the original structure built in 1912 will be relocated and the extension added later be demolished.



Exactly where?

We still have no information exactly where the building is going to be relocated. My follow-up phone call to Team Manager, Planning Services, Mr Roly Kelly, revealed some more clues with regards to the future relocation site.

1. The church building is unfortunately not going to Drevesen Park.

The heritage team and others in the Brisbane City investigated

the land and found out that the site was not suitable due to the fact that it is in Flood Zone (They have to raise the land quite high), and maintenance issues related to a timber building affected by the salt air.

2. There are a few possible sites that he is not allowed to reveal at this stage. Some other community groups are also suggesting ideas. But the Brisbane City Council will certainly choose the location which is accessible for community members so that the building will be in use in the future and not abandoned or prone to vandalism.

I was told that this selection process will be completed definitely in the next couple of months. So hopefully we hear good news very soon

Break-in by homeless people

Some Wynnum residents reported to BMD that the side door and window were left open. Suitcases and temporal beds were also spotted on the side of the building. To make sure that no damage will be made on the premise, I asked the Police to assist illegal residents' departure and to advise BMD to secure the building. This tells us that the relocation and restoration have to happen in the very near future.



Dr Chiharu Tsurutani Projects Co-ordinator WMHS Inc.

projects@wmhs.org.au

The WMHS Inc welcomes its latest members...

Ian Patterson Elizabeth Stevens

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



Resource Centre Report

The history of your house

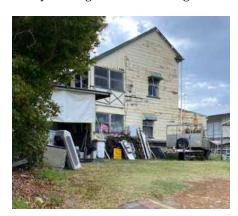
We have received an enquiry from a former tenant wishing to know the fate of this house.

The house is almost adjacent to Bay Terrace, directly behind Ede's Hairdressing Salon and opposite the Wynnum Veterinary Clinic.

The appearance suggests a Colonial Gable style, (1880s to 1890s) but very modified so that the front veranda and front roof are continuous, instead of the front veranda being attached to the house.

Enquires from the owner of the Hairdressing Salon next door fronting onto Bay Terrace, revealed that the house has been there longer than the Salon. And the Salon has been there for 50 years.

Unfortunately, the house is now just used for storage of boxes There is no family looking after the building.



57 Cedar Street, Wynnum

Were you born around 1937 and attended Manly State School?

This week Julie Jefferies (nee Severn) brought in some school photos that belonged to her sister, Margaret Mary Severn who was born in 1937.

Two generations of the Severn family

were employed with the functioning of the water towers and dissemination of tap water to the district. They lived at the Turncock's cottage up on Roles Hill. The cottage still remains today in Preston Road.

There are photos of class groups both Grade V and VIB and a High School grade, with nearly all the pupils with bare feet! Also there is a Christmas Party group, which includes parents and grandparents, and younger brothers and sisters. Lastly there is a photo of a group of characters from a play, with parts for a princess, sailor, mechanic, Japanese lady and jockey? Please can anybody help with identifying the people in the photographs?

A "Private" Journal from Fisher's Hotel

How many of you remember "Fishers" or the "Wynnum Hotel" at Wynnum Creek, which unfortunately was demolished in May 2015?

A couple travelled from Pullenvale this week to give us a journal named "Private Business". The first date inside was May 1914 and was the transaction for the purchase of the Hotel by J Fisher and his brother-in-law J Goopey from J. Forfar.

The next task is to find out why the Journal was found in a drawer in a barn at Pullenvale.

Give-Away Items surplus to our needs.

- Long Arm Stapler
- 4 holed paper holer
- UBD Country NSW
- AA Gt Britain 2014
- Pixma
- New Toners Black (4) 525
- New Toner Grey (1) 526



Jill Greenhill Librarian library@wmhs.org.au

Resource Centre opening hours

Monday to Friday 10am - 12noon. (when possible.) Wynnum Community Centre, Room 1.08, 105 Florence Street, Wynnum.

Perhaps check with Jill, (0407 293 177) if you intend visiting us, to make sure that someone is in the Room.

Resource Centre CLOSED 17th DEC 2021 to 10th JAN 2022 For Christmas/ New Year Break

Collect from History Room

Room 1.08, 105 Florence

Till next time.

Jill

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https://www.aussiebroadband.com.au/

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Where was I?



As one rises from Wynnum towards Manly, the house lies on the left side of the road, before Picton Parade, as one approaches Gordon Parade There are very large shady trees growing on the road frontage outside the boundary of the property.

The house is presently owned by Mr and Mrs Les Fereday. Les inadvertently left some personal documents in an old wardrobe, that he sent to Lifeline just before he moved into this house. A local resident who works for Lifeline brought the documents to the Society, as she considered that these documents should not be destroyed.

We found the owner!

History

The house stands on land surveyed by James Warner in 1860, a large 72 acre block known as Portion 56. George Heath, the first Post Master of Brisbane, purchased the land in 1861 as an investment property. He sold the whole of Portion 56 to Mr. John North 20 years later. After a couple more owners the land was purchased in 1885 by James Taylor of Toowoomba.

James would have organized clearing the native bush, evergreen forest and mangroves on the site, then sub-dividing the land into residential blocks. The development was known as Rose Bay Estate and the first sale of 32 perch was to sold to Walter Lupton on 27 July 1885.

This house is situated on sub-divisions 510-513,

of 2 acres purchased by Charles Jeffery in 1897. Charles was a member of the Wynnum Shire Council and well known in the district. He built a fine house on the site, then left in 1916 to get married, in England.

The Paton family bought the house. Father William was a well know contractor in Brisbane. The Paton parents died in the 1940s and the remaining two spinster daughters were not able to maintain the building as their funds dwindled. One sister was still alive in 1982. Perry and Heather Panos purchased the house in 1988 and sold off most of the land. Colin and Yvnne Dell, purchased in 1989. Then began renovations. This included lifting the house to form 2 storeys, extending the front verandah and introducing airconditioning.

Where am I? November 2021.



Till next time.

Jill



Manly Memorial **Project**

J. MES GLASS

Dr Richard Walding Research Fellow, Griffith University, Australia

EMAIL waldingr49@yahoo.com.au



Special Guest Researcher and Writer

The 'Manly Project' special feature by Dr Richard Walding will continue in next months issue.

The Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc wishes to thank Dr Walding for allowing us to print this work.

James Glass was born on 24

April 1885 in Esperance, Tasmania to parents William Glass and Elizabeth Glass (nee Holdbrook). They were married in 1874 but Mrs Glass married Adolphous Hardy in 1886 and had a daughter Olive in 1887. Adolphous Hardy married Sarah Argent and had Mary in 1891 and four more daughters after that. The names of these relatives of James Glass help explain who's who in his later life

James became a carpenter in Brisbane and in 1915 James married Ivy McCallum. Ivy already had a son, Norman, born in September 1912 from a previous marriage to Charles Harris. The three of them lived at Stones Corner in the suburb of Coorparoo. On 5 August 1915 James enlisted in the 26th Battalion AIF (6th Reinforcements) and after some training embarked for the Middle East aboard troop ship A48 Seang Bee.

He arrived in Alexandria (Egypt) and went by train to the Australian camp at Zeitoun, near Cairo. On 1 March 1916 the 52nd Battalion was raised at Tel el Kebir in Egypt on as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Approximately. James was transferred to the 12th Battalion - made up of recruits from Queensland and Tasmania - and then absorbed into the 52nd Battalion on 28 March. The 52nd became part of the 13th Brigade of the 4th Australian Division. On 5 June 1916 his batallion departed Alexandria and arrived in Marseilles, France, a week later. They made their way north to find they were destined for the Somme to support a battle than had been waging for some weeks.

The Somme Campaign lives in the memory because of the deaths on the 1st day - July 1916. On that one day there were 57000 casualties for the gain of three square miles of farmland in northern France. It was now five weeks later and the role of 52nd Bn was one of support. The battle was to get worse before it got better. The Australian Army held the Pozieres front line and now they were to advance east a short way and then turn north for Mouquet Farm. It seemed easy on the map but on the ground Pozieres was pockmarked with 1000s of craters and the Germans were still bombing the Australians on three sides.

James Glass came into the line with the 13th Brigade. They had arrived at Brickfields (Albert) on the 5th August and bivouaced there for a day before going to The Chalk Pit for a week to do fatigue duties. There were still casualties for the fatigue parties; nowhere was safe from the shells. On the afternoon of the 13th the 52nd received orders to move to Tara Hill and then the next day to move to Wire Trench to provide fatigue services for the front line. This involved carting ammunition, water and rations to the various units on the front line. They did this by proceeding along the side of the Baupaume Road from Albert

through a low lying area the Australians called Sausage Gully. They veered left and made their way the 4 km through the cratered ground past Pozieres and up to Mouquet Farm where the front line was. The farm was mid-way between Pozieres and the German-held town of Thiepval 1.5 km North. The old front ran through Sausage Gully so it was badly damaged and hard to negotiate.

It was now 14th August. The aim of the Australian forces was to lunge at Mouquet Farm that night at about 10pm and then on to Thiepval. The Germans had captured documents and knew this was soon to happen so they dropped a furious barrage on the waiting Australians during that day - 14 August. James Glass's 'D' Company had the job of ferrying water up to Mouquet Farm from the Divisional Water Tanks in Sausage Gully. The road was so bad that the water carts couldn't reach the farm so the soldiers filled petrol tins form the cart at Sausage Gully and carried them by hand to the front line at the Farm. The shelling from the Germans on this supply line was horrendous.

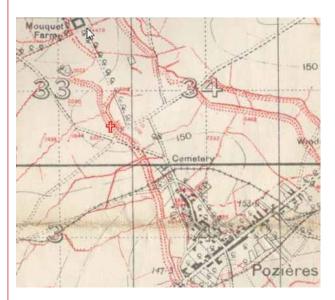
It was about 7pm. James Glass was working sideby-side with his best mate - Fred Gray - also a carpenter. Grey was from England but had been in Western Australia for three years. They were working in a group from D Coy that included Pte Claude Shaw - a 21 year old farmer from Gin Gin Queensland, Pte Adrian Tozer, Pte Michael Dillon and L/Cpl Arthur Leverett. Tozer said "The Bosch shelling was heavy and the party split up". Glass and Gray stayed back and the others moved forward. Shaw had already survived gunshot wounds at Gallipoli but knew that what he was experiencing at the Somme was far worse. He was well ahead of Glass and almost at Moquet Farm when he saw shell go over. It landed on Glass and Grey and they were blown to pieces. When Shaw and Tozer looked around Glass "was no more"; neither was Grey. They were declared missing in action. Dillon and Leverett were wounded and taken to hospital. The next morning 2/Lt Percy Norman from D Coy got special permission to look for the two bodies but couldn't find them. A few days later Tozer gave a written account of what he saw. He said that Glass and Grey were "great pals" and that they were "both very popular and liked by the rest of the Company". Tozer was wounded a week later at Mouquet Farm and captured by the Germans.

James Glass's wife Ivy was notified soon after that he was missing. His mother, Mrs Elizabeth Hardy, inserted a notice in the Hobart Mercury for 15 August 1917. It read......

In loving memory of our dear son, and brother.

He died a lonely hero for country and us, He has gone, the one we loved so dear, To his eternal rest. No one could be sure that Glass was not captured and taken back to Germany as a POW. The Red Cross searched for him and in October 1919 said they had found no trace. A Court of Enquiry in October 1922 found that Glass was now "Killed in Action, previously reported missing". James Glass's medals were sent to his wife Ivy in Brisbane. When Mrs Glass received them she asked if the "final resting place has been found" for her husband. The army answered that they were still searching. She was granted a war pension of £2 per fortnight for herself and £1 pf for her son Norman Harris.

In 1927 the War Graves Commission located James Glass's body just near Pozieres, close to Mouquet Farm. Two identity disks were recovered and sent to Mrs Glass despite being "greatly impaired by long exposure". His remains were reburied at the Serre Road Cemetery No. 2 located on the south side of the D919 road between Serre-les-Puisieux and Mailly-Maillet. An engraved headstone with his details and an inscription from his wife were added. She died in 1950.



James Glass's body was found at the location marked with a cross. It's grid reference was given as R 33 d 7.5.

If anyone has further information on Frank Bradbury please contact Dr. Walding.

Email waldingr49@yahoo.com.au or editor@wmhs.org.au

A letter from Cornelia T. Banks nee Dossie Geddes

Introduction:

Dossi Banks was the fourth child of Mr & Mrs J.M. Geddes, born on the 8 October 1895 at Highgate Hill. Her father a compositor was born in Brisbane in 1861. Her mother was born in Cornwall, England in 1870. The family moved to Wynnum in 1896.

After working at the Wynnum Allowance Post Office she was transferred to the Post Office at Canungra where she met her husband Jim Banks. They returned to Wynnum to live with her mother in 1950-51. Jim worked for Bunney's Sawmill until his death in 1958.

Merv Beitz, when at the Manly West School in the late 1970's, organised his students to interview several old identities of the district, one of which was Mrs Banks. Mrs Banks also wrote this interesting undated letter to him.

W rooming;

102 Pine Street, Wynnum Central Phone 396 1943

Dear Mr Beitz,

I was speaking to Mr Bishop (Chemist) one day and we were speaking about years gone by. I did say, you said you would be seeing me. He also said, write down your thoughts.

First of all, the reason why my parents came to Wynnum, Mr & Mrs J.M. Geddes: they lived at Highgate Hill and my parents with 4 young children travelled by train to Wynnum to spend a day on the beach. The beach had plenty of nice brown sand at that time; my sister who had whooping cough very badly when we arrived home my sister had no more coughing. They then decided that Wynnum was a healthy place to live. They bought land, had a cottage built in William Street (now Akonna Street) near Florence Street. Not far from Wynnum Central School. Arriving in Wynnum to live in May 1896 my two brothers Warring and Henry started school in the year 1896, sister Winnie 1899 and myself Dossie, 1900. My father was a compositor and worked for Sapsford & Co Brisbane, travelled to Brisbane by train from Wynnum early and arriving home late.

My Mother would take us to the beach and taught us to swim in her spare time. She was very busy as she

did all the sewing for our needs as well as all her household duties. In time we all learned to swim and mother made stays for us filled with corks and that kept us afloat until we were able to swim without her help. When we were older swimming baths were built with a stronger enclosure. They then had swimming clubs, ladies and gents. I won a Junior Championship in 1909. Had a Gold Medal and chain presented to me at Beach House Florence Street by our member at that time Hon W.H. Barnes. I came 2nd in a handicap race. So much for swimming! I should have mentioned sooner the first baths on the jetty was situated on the right side when going on the jetty and the surroundings was built with ti tree saplings. During holiday time, Christmas-New Year and Easter all available land from Wynnum to Lota were dotted with many tents and sailing boats were anchored or tied to all jetties. The hurricane lights swinging around were a pleasant sight for all. Plenty of fishing, I would go down and have a certain place to wade to and then use my line, a piece of meat for bait and bring home some whiting – very young then – plenty of oysters, also took time to gather and open same.

Now, again about school days - Mr Clark was Headmaster then, Mr Cumming. I think I had left before Mr Moreton arrived. My brother Warring helped to plant some of those large trees growing there. Our schooling was good, especially taught reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, drawing etc. We had drill every morning, also had bars, ladders, giant stride, cricket, football, Australian Rules, swimming with skipping, hop scotch and croquet. I enjoyed that best, much easier to play that the game that is played now-a-days.

Little bit of something else: - The houses depended on tank water. There were many springs along William Street. One well was situated in Florence Street (near William Street) at first it was ladled out if I remember rightly a pump was placed there for all. We had a well dug 8 feet deep and bricked inside and the water was lifted up in a bucket attached to a rope – very clean water and good for drinking.

Now behind our place, on Bay Terrace Mr Bill Blatchford had his little timber yard, for posts and panels for fencing. Next door towards Florence Street Mr Norman Peel, Cleveland had his fruit and vegetable shop. The other side of Blatchfords where the Westpac Bank now stands a Mrs Sarah MacBean a scotch lady had her drapery store, then over the road where the Commercial Bank now stands, that property was owned by my uncle Mr Daniel Geddes

from Dornock Terrace then a Mr Counice grew sorghum there. He had his dairy in Mary Street, opposite Waterloo Bay Hotel. My sister and I would go over every afternoon to buyfor my mother. Very early days there were not many shops. I can remember H.V. Birchley, Moreton Bay College, Irvines store and Hansen the chemist. On the beach was Dartnells, Mr Dartnell would go around selling fruit and vegetables, also Shorts were there. I know there was plenty of prickly-pear around the terrace. We were in that cottage about 9 years. My parents having two more in the family, as land was for sale in Pine Street, my parents bought 64 perches and there brother-in-law Jack Ashby built the house in Pine Street. He also built the previous house. By the way he was the father of the Ashby Bros. cyclists. So the parents with six children went into their home in Pine Street in May 1906 - very few houses in the street. Mr & Mrs Heymer lived close by and had their stables with horse for their cabs as that was his work "Cabs for Hire". We were not living there many years when my brothers Warring and Henry started work in the Railway and the youngest of the family a girl was born in 1909. My parents then had seven children. My sister W..... commenced working for Mrs MacBean. I started work in the Wynnum Allowance Post Office situated next to Irvines as a telephonist. After a couple of years I was an assistant in the PO and remained 6 months there when it became an official P.O.

Now about the churches – in the early days I think services were held in people's homes. In 1886 my mother mentioned about the Church of England and the Presbyterian Church in Chestnut Street was there. So we went to the Presbyterian as time went on. I believe it was opened in 1885. When I was old enough I belonged to the choir - Mr George Dowrie being the conductor. He was also the first conductor for the Anzac Choir with Miss Hilda Greene as pianist. I also was an early member of that choir.

About 1918 I was Post mistress at Canungra and then after my marriage in 1923 we lived at the South Coast and only came to Wynnum for holidays, my people were still living here. We returned to Wynnum about 1950-51 and have lived here in the parents' home ever since.

My father passed away, aged 83 in 1943, my mother aged 86 in 1956. When I returned to Wynnum, I joined the Croquet club and was secretary for 17 years also for 7 years secretary/treasurer. I am still a Life Member and Patroness of the Club. I have been a member of the Fifty & Over ever since it was formed. I play whist Monday evenings. Mrs Beverly kindly came for me and other nice folk Mr & Mrs Hewlett take me home. Only for my osteo-arthritis knees I may have helped some way or another.

What I would like to say something about the Croquet Club – it has been in existence since 1925, should be the 60th Anniversary in 1985. If our few members can carry on; really they are wonderful members Miss Sands could give you details of her mother's part re the forming of the Club and names of

those members.I know in the past whom I can remember, Mrs Fisher Snr (President for many years) Mesdames Sands, Machin, Campbell, Little, Woosley, Lind, O"Brien, Starr, Poulton, Ede, Graham, Jamieson, Jones, Bradford and Misses Jane Wassell, Ridler & Taylor. I joined the club 1950-51, too many names to think of, so will let that pass. People do not understand how croquet is played but once you know it is great. Many strokes played are similar of golf and billiards. Change the subject.

When young I have watched Australian Rules Football being played on land where the Wynnum Bowling club now stands.

As I am finishing this budget on Anzac Day, I must say I have so many memories of that war. All those brave men, fathers and young sons enlisting and going over sea, so quickly - sometime later, I would be receiving telegrams phoned through from the G.P.O. daily to advise many folk that their loved ones were either killed wounded or missing. Virgil Maguire was one Wynnum boy who was killed. He was the lad who I took his place in the Post Office that is why I have mentioned him.

To conclude I will mention a few surnames only of people around at that time – Batchfords, MacBean, Heymer, Coonice, Lapworth, Laidlaw, McNulty, Hupphries, Shepherd, Highets, Clohertys, Crouches, Hoopers, Dartnell, Shorts, King, Birchleys, Gregory, Ports, Russell, Curtis etc.

Wanting to let you know also, I have some photos of School classes (Wynnum South) 1907 and an earlier one - Wynnum Band in the early days, also the Post Office. Also have one taken at a Sunday School picnic (Presbyterian) it was held I think it would be near Drayton Terrace, it was all bush then.

This must do – I should have had your tape recorder. This is my hand writing (A bit tired now) aged $88\frac{1}{2}$ years as I am when writing these pages. Hope some of it will be useful. When the time comes for celebrations, try and get some of us old folks together so that we can enjoy a chat.

(this letter must have been written before the centenary in 1982).

Probably be seeing you, Yours sincerely, Cornelia T Banks ne Dossie Geddes.



Original Wynnum Post Office source Printrest.

This letter and info has been kindly supplied by Myrtle Beitz

The FAIRY

FLOSS

Man

By Wallis Vinson (Mrs) (Continued from page one)

My brother, Gary, and I grew up going to fetes and carnivals with Mum and Dad and the fairy floss stall. We learnt how to serve customers and handle money no calculator or cash register to calculate the change, you calculated it in your head. Santa's Alley was a very looked-forward-to Christmas carnival where we could meet some friends and spend some money on the stalls and rides. After we ran out of our pocket money, we would return to the stall and help serve the customers for a while. I think our friends hovered around for a free stick of fairy floss.

Dad had once said that his greatest thrill was watching the faces of the children, especially when he was winding the pink fairy floss onto the stick. The children would watch the size of the fairy floss grow and grow as Dad wound it round, turning it onto its side for the last few turns to shape it like a giant flying saucer. He had perfected spinning the fairy floss onto the stick to give the crowd value for money. This would ensure they came back for more and also bought a bag of fairy floss to take home for later.

I still have his original fairy floss machine at home. When the sugar starts to melt and just before it spins out, the smell brings back all the great memories of our Fairy Floss stall.

Dad's other specialty was toffee apples. He would buy a whole case of crisp, green Granny Smith apples which back then were each wrapped in a sheet of pastel coloured tissue paper. He would sit for ages and polish each apple, then prepare them by putting the stick down the centre of them. He then made the toffee in an old large pressure cooker, the heavier the base the better for that type of toffee apparently. His technique of dipping was a pleasure to watch as he



dipped and rolled the apple in the hot red toffee and then placed it on a tray - perfection I thought.

Dad made a note of most fetes or orders. I have the pages of notes relating to Santa's Alley from 1986 to 1988. In 1986 he noted things like "Took \$136.00, paid \$10.00. Took 30 pkts, sold lot of sticks, made lot of packets. 30 toffee apples". 1987 he Took 60pkts, 40 toffee apples. Made 60 sticks, lot more bags. took \$145.00, paid \$25.00" 1988 on Saturday December 3rd was "Working for Bayside Junior Soccer Club. Paid \$10 for my site. 30 toffee apples, 80 pkts was enough. Took \$111.00, sold only 12 sticks. Very Hot."

I also have a couple of Thank You letters from the Blue Nursing Service Wynnum. This is the organisation he made a lot of donations to over the years. They were thanking him for his kind donation of \$25.00 in January and of \$35.00 in December, which doesn't sound much nowadays but back in 1989 was very generous.

Around a similar time to those Santa's Alley dates, my brother was a member of the Wynnum Manly Citizens Band - he played the cornet. The band had a fundraising stall in the carpark of what was then BCC supermarket in Edith Street. Of course Dad provided some fairy floss for the staff. It was a Thursday night when late night shopping was the thing to do in Wynnum Central and Santa arrived. (see newspaper story at right and photo of stall above centre).







Band music drew crowd

It was "Music, "Music", "Music", in Edith Street last Thursday evening when the Wynnum-Manly Citizens Band had its first playout during late night shopping.

A large number of people attracted by a variety of old favourites, bright marches and a selection of foot tapping evergreens flocked into Edith Street and gathered around the band.

It was obvious by the applause that there is still a large cross section of the public who enjoys brass band music.

To "Jingle Bells" Santa arrived seated on the back of a truck and he was soon surrounded by wide-eyed and smiling children.

The audience heard a variety of selections while Santa was present.

The weather was kind on Sunday afternoon when bandsmen and families met at the bandshell for their annual Christmas party.

Santa again arrived with a bag full of goodies which were handed out to the children. Mum and Dads were also given

a gift.

President (Mr. Tom Mulder) welcomed patroness (Mrs. E. Lewis) and thanked her for her donation and for two decorated Christmas cakes.

Mr. Mulder thanked members and parents and wished them all a happy Christmas. Mrs. Lewis was asked to cut the cake.

Mrs. Lewis commended the band on the manner in which it had entertained a large section of the community.

At the final monthly meeting for the year the committee discussed ways of raising funds in the New Year.

Band Master (Mr. Graham Shuker) was untiring in his efforts during the year. Band members constantly gave up their time to attend practise and playouts while juniors regularly attended practise.

The committee would like to see more

involvement by parents and families in activities.

Wynnum Brass Band is available to play at numerous functions. For particulars contact the secretary Mrs. B. Hill on 396 2324

Learners have had their last practise for the year and commence again on the same night as the seniors, Thursday January 17.

The band is always looking for new players both learners and advanced.

Drum Major (Mr. Greg Jones) is concerned about the lack of side drummers. If anyone is interested it will be appreciated.

My Recollections

My recollections of Wynnum start in 1954. I was six year old. We were English migrants who had chosen Wynnum North as the place where we would put down roots in a new country. I started grade two at Wynnum North State School after having spent my first few months in Australia living at Greenslopes and attending the local state school for the latter part of 1953.

Earlier in April 1953 we had arrived in Brisbane on the P&O steamship "RMS Maloja" I recall steaming up the Brisbane River past the many backyard "dunnies" (toilets) and through water thick with jelly fish, before disembarking onto old timber wharves not far from the copper domed Customs House which remains a Brisbane landmark to this day. The tallest building in town back then was the City Hall with its impressive clock tower offering a panoramic view of the city.

Our family group of six on the "Maloja" consisted of my mother, father, myself, my father's brother and his wife and son. We had intended to settle in Melbourne but the weather was so miserable when we docked that we paid an extra ten pounds to be taken further on to Brisbane where we had heard the weather was more agreeable.

Fate had placed me here in Wynnum North because this was the place where my father had found an affordable block of land where he could build a modest home for his family. The land was a flood prone block on the southern corner of Tingal Road and Wassell Street. It was the last vacant block in Wassell Street. On the other side of Tingal Road was bushland, where I spent much of the next decade playing with friends, climbing trees, exploring and living with nature.

Wynnum North State School was in Prospect Street, high on the hill and just a couple of streets away from our house. The school was a collection of high set timber buildings with classrooms on the upper floors and shaded concrete play areas underneath. The classrooms which were accessed by wide timber stairs and verandas lined with port racks (places to put our school port/bag) had glass louvres on both sides which afforded a cooling breeze.

There were a series of headmasters at the school but as long as I can recall there was only one deputy headmaster, Mr Rice, who was much respected by the school kids. I was a diminutive pommie kid who was not good at sport. Mr Rice introduced me to cricket and rugby league and even took me to rugby league games with his son Clifford on the weekend. I was a fast runner and for a short while I played as a centre in the under 5 stone rugby league team. Unfortunately my rugby league career came to an end when I had to move to a higher grade which

Geoffrey Wilson Speakman.



Mum, me, brother Mark and Dad at home in Wynnum West Photo supplied by Geoffrey Speakman.

required wearing rugby boots, which my parents could not afford.

The school playground was covered in long grass and it was considered amusing to tie strands of paspalum grass into an arch and wait for someone who happened to be running in that vicinity to trip and fall. The playground was a more dangerous place back then and bones were regularly broken by thick wooden swing seats, the jungle gym and a heavy metal swinging boat that held four children.

There were two breaks from classroom activities during the course of the school day, "little lunch" and "big lunch". A "tuck shop" staffed by volunteer mums,

Little Lunch, Big Lunch

served salad rolls, sandwiches and cream buns at big lunch. In the morning we would hand in our lunch order written on the outside of a brown paper bag with lunch money inside. The bags would be taken to the tuck shop and our lunch would be prepared and delivered back to us in the paper bag in time for big lunch. Food scraps were put in a bin which was collected and used as pig food. Small bottles of milk were freely provided by the government at little

lunch. For the more adventurous hungry kid there was a wood fired pie van parked in Tingal Road and also two small shops across the street.

I became friendly with Mrs Myatt (the owner of one of those shops) and her children Jennifer and Barry. There were some colourful characters around in those days. One lunchtime I was at Myatt's shop when two racetrack types (looking a lot like Bud Abbot and Lou Costello) came in looking very smart in their suits and hats. They shouted iceblocks for every kid in the shop as they proceeded to shoplift while the iceblocks were being handed out. In those days I was not yet indoctrinated into the local culture of not being a "dobber" and so I dobbed them into Mrs Myatt. She decided not to cause a fuss and said nothing.

During our time at Greenslopes, my father who had found a job as a storeman at UMI, began building a house on the flood prone block in Wassell Street. He could not afford to buy building materials, so he used the wood from packing crates (used to ship cars into the country) to build the frame of the single story flat roofed house on low stumps. On the weekends Dad rode a pushbike from Greenslopes to Wynnum North. He slept at the building site on a stretcher he made from hessian sacks stretched over a timber frame and cooked his meals on a kerosene stove.

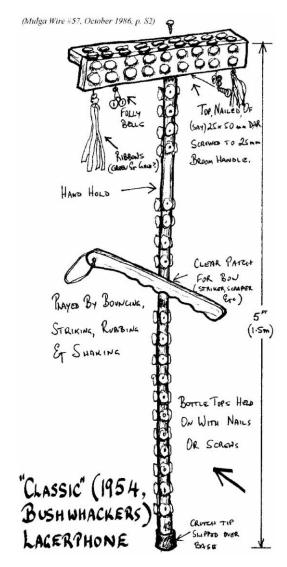
Incredibly the house is still there today. The roof was originally made of tar paper and leaked like a sieve when it rained. Both my parents worked. I would walk home from school down Tingal Rd and play in the street until they got home. One afternoon when it rained, I used every bucket and bowl in the house to catch the water that dripped through the ceiling. I think the house has an iron roof these days.

Kids in the neighbourhood played in "the bush", climbing trees, exploring storm water drains and building "cubby houses" which were constructed of tree branches and leaves. We formed ourselves into gangs who fought amongst each other by throwing stones and wrecking each other's cubby houses. It was quite primitive when I think about it now. There were manholes in the bush which when opened provided access to a network of storm water drains which were large enough to walk upright in. The drains went for miles. I was told that some kids walked through the drains all the way from Wynnum North to Fort Lytton.

Most kids had a home made "billy cart" which was a length of wood with a seat attached, two fixed wheels on the back and two wheels on the front connected to a pivoted axle which was steered with a looped rope. The wheels were taken from prams or anything that was available. Some of the roads that ran down the hill to Granada Street were very steep, which provided the perfect place to ride our billy carts.

Some of the local kids I knew were Greg & Rick Nugent, Lloyd Kelk (whose father of the same name had a menswear store in Wynnum Central), Ian Wheeler (who I remember hurling a large rock through the spokes of one of our bikes), Barbara Blackburn (who was one of the boys), Errol Sellars, and Roger Stone (who later made his name as a weather expert). Roger's mother had the ability to go back in time under hypnosis and become another person.

I would often venture up to the Bayard's house behind the Margaret Marr boys home to play with Les and Boyd. Their property dropped down to the bay where the dump was located. I was told that area was previously a "blacks camp". There was one aboriginal boy at school who wasn't in my class but who I befriended in the playground. His name was Nevil Newfong. I heard he later made his name as a



boxer.

Mr Manifold who was well known as the local Communist, used to visit the school and teach the children about their country including how to make a Murrumbidgee River Rattler or Lagerphone, which is a traditional English percussion instrument, used in folk music.

The school playground could be as rough a place as you wanted it to be. I tried to stay out of out of trouble as much as possible but there would always be some bully who insisted on a fight. My motto was 'discretion is the better part of valour'. Some kids

marched around chanting 'anyone in the road gets knocked over'. When the bell rang for us to return to the classroom, we would march back from the playground singing together loudly 'we won the war, in nineteen fifty four'.

At the start of the school day, a hand held bell would be rung and all the school children would form themselves into lines of their individual classes on the parade ground. The national anthem would be sung, the parade would be addressed by the headmaster and after all the talking was finished, the children would march into their classrooms to the sound of the school band. The band consisted of a dozen or more girls playing the fife, a couple of kettle drums and me belting out the rhythm on the base drum. It was actually another boy's job to play the base drum. He was a "home boy" from the Margaret Marr Boy's Home. Fortunately for me, because my father worked for Cadbury's, I had ready access to blocks of chocolate which I used to bribe the home boy into letting me take over as the base drummer.

Grade 7 was a transition year between primary school and high school called "intermediate" during which I attended both Wynnum North State School and Wynnum High and Intermediate School (WHIS). I would catch a steam train to WHIS to learn woodwork, metalwork, trade drawing and geometrical drawing. I later went on to become an architectural draughtsman working in various architectural offices in Brisbane before becoming a builder.

While at WHIS, I asked my parents if I could join the cadets. The cadets were like the regular army but composed of school children who dressed in military uniform, carried 303's and trained during school hours. My parents, who were pacifists, did not allow me to join. "Sub-junior" and "Junior" years were full time at WHIS. We moved home to Wynnum West where Dad had built another house behind his mother's place at 369 Brisbane Rd (now 2127 Wynnum Rd). This house, unlike the first one, was well built using a hardwood frame, chamfer board walls and a corrugated asbestos cement roof. My Mum still lives there today.

One of my fondest recollections of living at Wynnum West was "cracker night" celebrations. Cracker night was held in remembrance of Guy Fawkes who instigated the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 (a failed conspiracy by a group of provincial English Catholics to assassinate the Protestant King James I of England and VI of Scotland and replace him with a Catholic head of state). Anyway, cracker night involved bonfires, lighting explosives called "bungers" and setting off colourful fireworks including, sky rockets, roman candles, jumping jacks and catherine wheels to name a few. Cracker night would sometimes develop into a "cracker fight" where neighbourhood kids would throw "penny bungers" at each other, sometimes igniting the neighbours stash of fireworks. Letter boxes were often blown to pieces when a bunger was "posted" in the dark of night. The next day, unexploded bungers

were collected and snapped open to be lit as "fizzers" or the gunpowder collected for later use.

My friend Oliver lived next door. Oliver and I used his father's shed and tools to build things such as flat folding canoes, multi pronged fishing spears and a "cracker cannon" made of a length of pipe loaded with a cracker and a projectile, which when fired would have the same effect as a bullet from a gun. Most kids had a "slug gun" which was an air rifle that fired small lead slugs. We used the slug guns to shoot sparrows whose heads were removed and put into a jar of kero to be taken to the local council who would pay us threepence for each sparrow head. This was a welcome addition to the "pocket money" some of us received from our parents.

My father was transferred to Townsville where I repeated Junior at Pimlico High School, having failed Junior English at WHIS. I hated English, all that analysis and parsing, pronouns and past participles and to top it all off, Shakesphere!

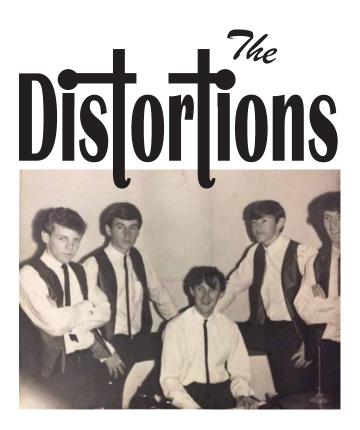
After a couple of happy years living in North Queensland, we returned to Wynnum West. I have lived in the bayside ever since, on acreage at Capalaba and most recently overlooking the beautiful harbour in Raby Bay.

Sometimes I wonder what my life would be like now, had it not been for the miserable weather on a Melbourne dock one night way back in 1953."

Geoffrey Wilson Speakman.



Left to Right: Paul Smith, Oliver Tannett and Geoff Speakman. Point Lookout, Stradbroke Island, Circa 1957.



"Someone came up with the name 'The Distortions' and it stuck."

Geoff Speakman - October 2020.



Ross Power, a High school friend, introduced me to his mate's brother who was in a garage band that practiced nearby on the weekends. During their rehearsal breaks I banged on the drums and strummed their guitars, learning some basic drum beats and chords. One of the songs they played was "Bombora" by The Atlantics. This was my introduction to the music scene.

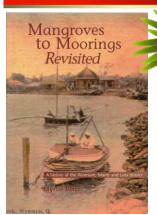
When we returned to the family home at 369 Brisbane Road (now 2127 Wynnum Road), Wynnum West in 1965, where I teamed up with some local Wynnum guys who were interested in forming a band. One of them, Brian Chantler, was a trendsetter and probably the first guy in the Wynnum area to grow his hair long in "The Beatles" style. Others in the band were Trevor Bagnall (bass), Glen Lawson (rhythm) and Eddie Ramsbottom (drums). I was the singer.

These were early days in the Wynnum Rock & Roll scene and you could count the local bands on one hand. "Terry and the Bandits" and "Changing Moods" were two local bands that come to mind. My friend Margaret was one of the Cook sisters who were getting their act together as a singing trio and would later team up with Marcie Jones to become successful international performers. Of course the Gibbs brothers were also preparing for international fame as "The Bg's".

No international fame came to "The Distortions", but great memories were created on the back of a truck at the Wynnum Central State School fete, Wynnum Bowls Club socials and various self promoted dances including one at the Manly Lota RSL hall.

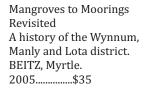
Apart from the fact that those were wild times and there were many fights, they were also good times and remembered by me with much bonhomie.

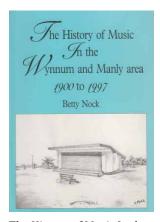




Publications for sale

Christmas Sorted!



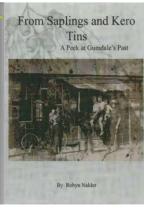


The History of Music In the Wynnum and Manly area 1900 to 1997 NOCK, Betty. 1998......\$5

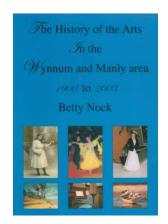


Early Shipping in Moreton Bay June 1846 - December 1859 Volume 1. DAVENPORT, William. and MOTTRAM, Betty. 1998.......\$5

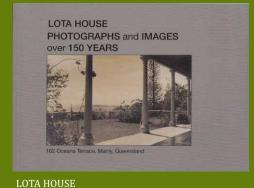
Early Shipping in Moreton Bay January 1860 - December 1863 Volume 2. DAVENPORT, William. and MOTTRAM, Betty. 1998......\$5



From Saplings and Kero Tins A Peek at Gumdale's Past. NALDER, Robyn. 2017.......\$15

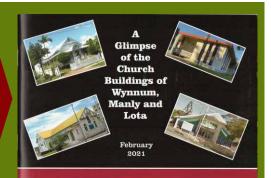


The History of the Arts In the Wynnum and Manly area 1900 to 2003 NOCK, Betty. 2005......\$5



A Glimpse of the Church Buildings of Wynnum, Manly and Lota February 2021

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.



Wynnum Community Centre, Room 1.08, 105 Florence Street, Wynnum Mon to Fri 10am to Noon.

Email library@wmhs.org.au



General Meeting October 2021- Minutes



Held in the Ambulance Auditorium, Tingal Road on Thursday 21 October 2021

Meeting opened at 7.15pm under Covid regulations. There were 22 members present and 3 visitors, Roberta and Helen Blake and Sharyn Lafontaine.

Opening Comments:

Librarian Jill Greenhill opened the Meeting, as President, Sandy Liddle has resigned as President due to personal problems and Vice-President Jan is unable to attend in the dark.

Previous Minutes: (Jill)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 17 June 2021, printed in the July Newsletter accepted by Ellen/Chiharu..

Correspondence:

The correspondence report was presented by Lena McCreadie for September 2021. The correspondence was accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2021.

Treasurer's Report (Geraint Gregory)

BOQ A/c No 20139708 1 September 2021 – 30 September 2021

Opening balance on 1 September 2021 \$28,984.36 Income \$ 1,8545.68

Closing balance on 30 September 2021 \$30,782.04

Bank Account Breakup: Everyday Account \$ 4,308.48. WebSaver (Building) Account \$26,473.56.

Expenditure \$57.00

The increase in income in September was due to the receipt of a \$1,800 Grant from the Leagues Club

Resource Centre: (Jill)

The "Where am I" house named "Tingalpa" or "Stratford House", is at 56 in Mountjoy Terrace, a Brisbane City Council, Heritage-listed building. The Paton sisters lived there for many years, with no cash to maintain the building. Today the house has been brought back to its original condition.

Activities: Saturday 27 November is booked for Morning Tea at the Shire Clerk's Cottage. Book with Lena, cost \$5

On **Wednesday 8 December**. Three seats were available for the Lord Mayor's Christmas Party. Free. See Iill

Members were asked for ideas of possible activities and speakers for next year.

Speaker: Myrtle introduced speaker Thom Blake, a well-qualified historian who told us about the antics of Mrs Howard of Manly, early in the 1900s.

Raffle: The raffle was won by Bruce Pattison.

Members were reminded of the next Meeting on Thursday 18 November and invited to take a drink and chat outside.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

A/Chair: Jill Greenhill Minute Secretary: Jill Greenhill

Puzzle Answers from last month.

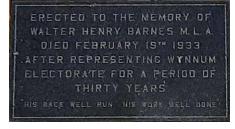




What is the local street? 2 Points **MELVILLE TERRACE**



Who is this? 3 points **MARILYN MONROE**



Where is this local plaque? 2 points **BARNES MEMORIAL WADING POOL**



What Movie? **PSYCHO** 1 point. Actor? **ANTHONY PERKINS** 1 point, and Actress? **VERA MILES** 1 point.



November/December 2021

When Where What's On **Wynnum Library** Wynnum Manly and the Second World War November 25 10am - 11am On 3 September 1939, Prime Minister 145 Florence Street announced the Australia was at war with Wynnum Cost Free Hitler's Germany and its allies. How did the communities of Wynnum, Manly and Bookings essential Lota cope with six years of war? Come Phone 3403 2199 along and find out how local residents joined the war effort...or not. Bring some family photos or wartime stories to share. **Ormiston House Christmas Craft Markets** November 26 11am - 3pm Visit historic Ormiston House and check 277 Wellington Street out the crafts available to purchase, Ormiston Cost \$5 - \$7 wander the gardens and house, and partake in a Devonshire Tea or sandwich on the verandah.

November 28 11am—12.30pm

Cost Free

Bookings essential via **Eventbrite** or by phoning 3364 6432

Queensland Police Museum

Brisbane

200 Roma Street

The Modus Operandi recording system: a common fund of knowledge

This presentation will revisit a 1936 lecture given by the Head of the Criminal Investigation Branch at that time. His lecture outlines the workings of the branch and the expectations of the system to increase the efficiency of linking reported offences to their perpetrators..

December 10 6pm - 7.30pm

Cost \$50

Royal Historical Society of Qld

Commissariat Store 115 William Street Brisbane

Bookings essential via **Eventbrite** or by phoning 3221 4198

Separation Day Celebrations

Come and celebrate with RHSQ the separation of Queensland from New South Wales in 1859. Tickets include drinks and light refreshments.

December 10 6.45pm - 8.15pm

Cost \$25 - \$30

Bookings essential by phoning 3393 4647

Fort Lytton National Park

160 South Street Lytton



Fort Lytton at night: A lost story from the

Be transported back in time and around the world as you follow the story of Raymond Augustus Stanley. He was born in Brisbane and served at Fort Lytton prior to being sent to Gallipoli and then the Western Front. This guided experience will allow you to immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of wartime, as professional actors relive the past with a live theatrical tour



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Feb 2021 - 128

- 130th Birthday of the Shire Clerk's cottage
- The Wild Scotchman- Part I (The St Helena Island Community)



Mar 2021 - 129

- Bill McFarlane Park
- A "Titanic" connection -Henri Marie Jallet
- The Wild Scotchman- Part II (The St Helena Community)



Apr 2021 - 130

- Remembering the Burke brothers from Wynnum
- National Serviceman's Memorial Darling Point
- Lest We Forget WWI Soldier Warders (St Helena)
- Sunshine Seafood Restaurant.



May 2021 - 131

- Then and Now Daisy Road, Manly.
- Moving on but never forgetting - Bool family Manly West
- From the 'Star' to Coles



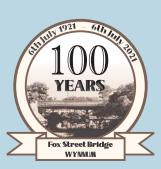
Jun 2021 - 132

- Then and Now 107 Cedar Street, Wynnum
- Stop the Press! Demise of the newspaper printing industry - Sid Weiss
- Hotel series The Manly Hotel

Jul 2021 - 133

- Fox Street (Wynnum) Bridge Centenary - includes special 8 page feature
- Sand Gardens at Wynnum
- Wynnum Sewerage







Aug 2021 - 134

- Wynnum Bridge Plaque Ald John Hutchinson.
- Margaret Lade Costumiere
- Manly Memorial
- Waterloo Bay Hotel



Sep 2021 - 135

- Keep It Local campaign to save the Wynnum Baptist Church
- Manly Memorial F.S.Bradbury
- Remembering Noela Stratton
- Where Am I? Barnes Memorial



Oct 2021 - 136

- Pacific Theatre Manly skating rink 1915
- Wynnum Manly Methodist Knights
- Manly Memorial Auguste Joseph Ferrari
- Strand Café, Wynnum South



Nov 2021 - 137

- Santa's Alley Manly Wal Bullcock, the Fairy Floss Man
- Dossie Banks Letter
- G.W.Speakman Recollections
- The Distortions





Resource Centre opening hours

Monday to Friday 10am - 12noon. (when possible.) Wynnum Community Centre, Room 1.08, 105 Florence Street, Wynnum.

WMHS Inc. Membership Application Form

Surname:
Given Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Phone (HM):
Phone (Mob):
Email: Date of Application / /
Signed:
Special Interests: I am agreeable for my contact details to be printed for
distribution to other Society members. Yes / No
Membership costs per year (1st January to 31st December)
Single (incl emailed newsletters) \$25.00
Family (incl emailed newsletters) \$40.00
High School Student (incl emailed newsletters) \$10.00
OPTION Hardcopy posted newsletters ADD \$11.00
OPTION Membership badge ADD \$10.00
BSB: 124 012
Account No: 2013 9708
Account Name: Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.
Send to: Membership Secretary, Or: Hand in at Meeting Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc. Resource Centre or PO Box 318 Wynnum Q 4178 email to membership@wmhs.org.an
OFFICE USE ONLY Date of Application://
Proposed by: Committee approval//
Seconded by: Receipt NoMem. No

Committee 2021/22



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