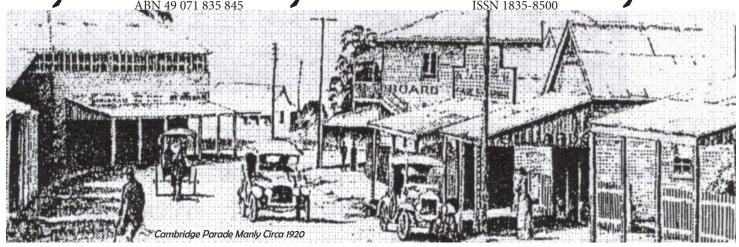
Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

No 68, November 2014

From the President...

Greetings...& welcome to our last newsletter for the year. This year has been a particularly moving one – a year of remembrance marking the 70th anniversary of D-Day and also the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I. Australia also saw the centenary of the formation of the Australian branch of the Red Cross, who do so much good work in the community.

Red Cross originally arose out of the work of

Jean-Henri Dunant (1828-1910) who was inspired after seeing the dead and wounded strewn over the battlefield of Solferino in 1859. His efforts brought about the conference at Geneva in 1863, from which came the Geneva Convention in 1864. The Geneva Convention established the principles by which the signatory countries are to treat an enemy's military and civilian casualties in time of war.

In 1901, along with Frederick Passey, Dunant was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize. A fitting honour for this great humanitarian.

...continued on page 2

November General Meeting...

'20 Years as Councillor' Councillor Peter Cumming

Thursday November 20th, 7:30pm Ambulance Museum Auditorium (Cnr Cedar Street & Tingal Road, Wynnum)

This is our Christmas break up and last meeting for the year.

Donations for the Christmas hamper would be much appreciated. Please drop in to the resource centre prior to the meeting.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated. Raffle tickets also available: \$1 each or 3 for \$2

Appreciation to

Myrtle Beitz and Margaret O'Neil for providing supper this month.





From the President

It is with sadness that I have to advise those members who have not already heard, of the untimely death of our Vice President, John Coupland, on Saturday 18th October 2014, at Greenslopes Hospital. I am greatly indebted to John, who covered for me during my long stay in hospital during 2013.

A number of members attended John's funeral on Wednesday 29th October at the Hemmant Cemetery, and it was a wonderful tribute to John and a celebration of John's life. Family members spoke of his devotion to Ellen and their family and also, of John's ability as a sportsman and engineer and his achievements on the sporting field and at sailing. Most members would not have been aware that John was a Queen's Scout, which is the highest award in the Scouting movement.

The Historical Social are also very grateful to John for the many hours he put in to preparing the fire bell for relocation to the new fire station at Wynnum Road and also, for providing the disabled access at the resource centre. We will also miss his presence and wise counsel at our committee meetings. On behalf of all Historical Society members, I extend to Ellen and family our very sincere and heart-felt condolences.

Unfortunately, John won't be here to see the Dedication of the Fire Bell at the Fire Station on Wednesday 26th November 2014 at 10am. The Governor will be present and all members are welcome to attend.

In closing, I would like to wish all members and their families my very best wishes for the coming Christmas season, and here's to a happy, healthy and fulfilling year ahead.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting...

Best wishes,

Jan Parnell



This photograph was sent to the Merv Beitz room at the library with the following information:

It was 'rescued' after an old family farm was pulled down some years ago in Pakenham, Victoria. The family farmers were Charles and Bess Abrehart (he from Mitcham, Surrey England and she, nee Robertson from Glasgow, Scotland).

One of their 10 kids was my grandfather William.

Members of the family were dispersed through marriage etc.; some of the names were Simpson, McKillop, McKenzie, Fennell, McCauley and probably many others.

Does anybody recognise the family?



WMHS Resource Centre

Civic Centre Shop 7/66 Bay Tce Wynnum (outside entrance to public library)

Opening Hours Monday - Friday 10am-12 noon closed public holidays

Resource Centre Report – October 2014

• Follow-up from the article last month on the "Chenille Factory in Wynnum".

Col Brown remembered, and found, a Profile, published in the Wynnum Herald, of a Navy Commander George Meikle.

Whilst growing up on a farm George floated boats on the local creek and in the cow trough. Moving to Wynnum his passion for the water increased which led to sailing small boats. He soon realized there were bigger and better boats to play with, if he joined Royal Australian Navy, which he did at 15 years of age. After a career of 33 years he returned as commanding officer at the Naval Headquarters at Bulimba, living with his wife Judi and family in Wynnum.

George was the son of Jimmy Meikle who set up the chenille factory in Berrima Street (opposite the Waterloo Bay Hotel) in 1967 and was well known for his steam traction engine, which he kept at the factory and occasionally drove up and down Berrima Street with lots of noise, steam leaks and smoke.

Thankyou Col

• Origin of Wynnum West State School

We are indebted to the relatives of Percy Duke, who was our President from April 1998 to March 2000. We have received Percy's collection of information regarding the origins of Wynnum West State School.

A meeting was arranged called by the Wynnum West and West Manly Progress and Fruit Growers' Association in Unsworth's Store, on "MONDAY 13th instant" (Monday 13 November 1916), to

"elect a building committee and take other preliminary steps for the erection of a school on the Brisbane Road, West Wynnum".

Leonard Unsworth, who had established the "Pioneer Store" in Wynnum West in 1915, became the Chairman of the committee. After five years of waiting, Mr Unsworth sent a letter to Mr Huxham, Minister for Public Instruction. He pointed out the problems of children not being able to travel the distance to Wynnum South School, especially in wet weather. Many became sick, after sitting in wet clothes all day.

The two - roomed school was opened, six years later at 3pm on Saturday 8^{th} July1922, with a "Concert, Dance and Euchre Party" following at 8.00pm in the evening.

• Wynnum Sea Scouts

Christine Morris is planning to write the full history of Bayside Sea Scouts, who are based in an old house behind the Special School at Darling Point. Christine seeks the story of the building, of the activities of the Sea Scouts, the names of their leaders and any personnel who were involved.

If you were a Sea Scout, or know of a former Sea Scout, please let me know, so that we can help Christine with her project.

• Wynnum North Bird Hide

Mick Scanlan remembers tidal flows in the salt marsh surrounding the Wynnum North Bird Hide. He fears they are no more, the area now remaining dry at high tide. Mick is seeking the reason for this disappearance of water. Has the land risen or is there a barrier to stop the flow of water?

Any ideas? Till next time Jill (Librarian)

An Article taken from the Wynnum Redlands Herald in 1978

Boss held the trump card in the old mining days

by HUGH McLEAN

It is a growing trend, in Queensland especially for political observers to blame many of our economic woes on the "excessive demands of trade unions".

But as Wynnum's 89 years old former Alderman George Clayton points out, unions haven't always wielded the power they do today.

In fact during the early 1900's it was the bosses, not the workers who held the trump card. George made that grim discovery at the raw age of 18 years.

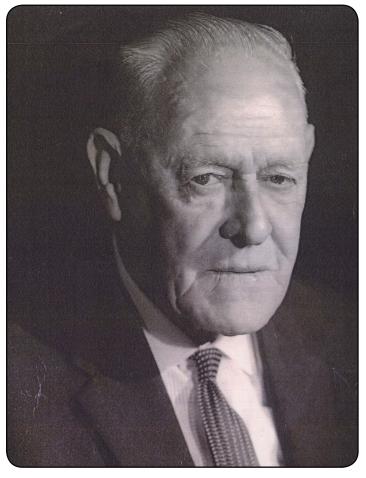
The Gympie gold mines were booming in those early days, providing a life saving boost for the deflated State coffers.

The local work force may well have been mining one of the world's richest minerals but meager pay and grueling conditions was their reward.

In George Clayton's case his four years in the mine cost him dearly.

Employed as a trucker to haul the ore from the shaft he was asked one day by a mate to lend a hand in a drilling operation.

A steel fragment flew from the drill and speared into George's eye.



NO 'COMPO'

Doctors tried in vain to save the eye and George resigned himself to his loss and applied for workers' compensation.

The management maintained however that he was ineligible for payment because he was employed as a 'trucker' and at the time of the accident was assisting a 'miner'.

George received nothing, there was no one to fight his case.

When World War I broke out he couldn't enlist because of the affliction and "hit the road" to make a living. In 1920, 30 year old George Clayton arrived in Wynnum to visit relatives.

He was destined to settle and play a significant role in the progress of the town.

"Actually I was on my way down to the station to book a ticket for Rockhampton when I bumped into an old mate of mine" George recalls.

"He said there was a job going laying pipes in Wynnum's first water main".

Later George was employed in the construction of the first water reservoir on Roles Hill.

He worked for 20 years with the Brisbane City Council Water Board.

In 1925 the small shires were absorbed by "Greater Brisbane".

COUNCIL ELECTION

Boasting an electorate of 7000 in 1952, George was elected to the Brisbane City Council, an office he held for five years.

continued on page 5

He says the council was just as politically motivated then as it was today.

It was a strong Labor following that elected George to office. In fact he joined the Labor Party (then the Workers' Political Organisation) in 1910.

Today he is a Life Member of the party and still a staunch supporter. A keen sporting enthusiast, George was closely associated with Rugby League and cricket in Wynnum's early days.

He umpired in the Warehouse Cricket Association and was a Rugby League official before the Brisbane Rugby League was formed.

Today he remains an ardent supporter of the Wynnum-Manly Rugby League Club.

At 89, George has not opted for the quiet life.

He is still a keen competitor with the Wynnum Ex-Servicemen's Bowls Club and a loyal supporter of Wynnum Sparks Vigoro Association.

It has been a long innings for George Clayton but don't be surprised if he's still sending down a bowl or two at 100.

Wynnum Redlands Herald of 20.12.1978

Transcribed by Heather Langston

Where was I? October 2014



This plaque is on a seat, looking out to Moreton Bay from Norfolk Point

Can anybody provide us with more information about John Branigan?



Where am I? November 2014



Jill Greenhill
Librarian

What is your story? Everyone has an interesting story to tell.

We are looking for participants to be involved in our upcoming
Wynnum Manly Oral History Project.

If you have lived in the area for a 'few' years and you would be interested in having your story recorded and added to our library, please register your interest by emailing our oral history co-ordinator Sharee,

sharee.cordes@gmail.com or leaving your name and contact number at the Resource centre.

An Article taken from the Wynnum Herald in 1960

Mendis Building Officially Opened

On Monday (10.10.1960) at 9.30 am Senator Sir Walter J Cooper officially opened the district's latest and most modern building.

It is Mendis building in Edith Street which accommodates three shops and five offices.

A portion of these premises is now occupied by Messrs P H Mendis trading as jewellers and children's wear specialists.

A striking feature of the front of the building is the blue terrazzo in which is inlaid £1000 worth of mother of pearl shell.

Mr Siri Mendis complimented the architect, Mr Col Tannent and the builder, Mr D Jenkins on their fine result. He also thanked Mr J Clune, who was responsible for all the brickwork and all the work involved in preparing the mother of pearl for the front. In fact, said Mr S Mendis, I wish to thank all who were engaged in the building project.

It forms the latest link in a chain of pearl and jewellery stores established by a man who began life in Australia as a £2 a month printer's assistant.

He is Mr Punchi Mendis, senior member of the firm of P H Mendis, whose success story of Australia's first Asian Justice of the Peace is as romantic as his trade.

Pearls cleaned and polished by Mr Mendis adorn the necks and ears of Royalty in East and West.

His connections extend to Paris, New York and other fashion making cities.

Thursday Island has been "home" to Mr Mendis since his arrival in 1898 aboard the migrant ship Duke of Westminster.

With his fare (an "exorbitant" £5) paid by a cousin who was then a Queensland businessman, 14 year old Mendis began his career in what he describes as "the smallest and most expensive newspaper in the world" the "Torres Strait Pilot" a 6d quarto sheet.

In 1905 he set up a jewellery shop, utilizing the traditional knowledge of the Sinhalese about dealing in gold, silver and gems.

Within five years he was introduced to the pearl industry, then at its romantic best. Divers belonged to diverse races, but pearl cleaners and evaluators were extremely rare.

"Even now there are hardly half a dozen expert pearl cleaners in Australia" Mr Mendis says.

Having been in Australia at the time of the Federation (1901) he is one of the "founder citizens" of the Commonwealth.

But his wife, Miss Mercy D'Silva, niece of Singapores's famed jeweler, the late Mr D P D'Silva, never saw Australia.

Married to him in Ceylon in 1915, she bore him two boys, Siri and Nissanka, both "Australians" too in her native town before her death.

Both sons are jewellers and pearl dealers themselves and both have married into families associated with jewellery in Asia.

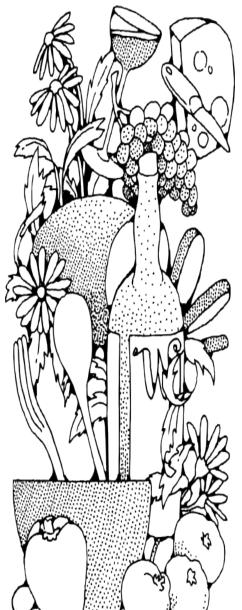
Why did he choose mother of pearl shells for the façade of his new building?

Said Mr Mendis; "It is Queensland's native treasure of nature. I hope our building will kindle the interest of other builders in realizing what a fine decorative material mother of pearl makes".

Wynnum Herald 12.10.60

The Mendis Building, November 2014





Supper Roster 2015

February	Ian wheeler Eris Powell Wendy Smith	3396 9923 3348 3087 3396 4508
March	Margaret Collins Melva Hatchman Lena McCreadie	3396 3150 0403 838 913 3393 4393
April	Daphne Liddle Laurima Rabe Alison Rolf	3396 8921 3348 8037 3396 7094
May	Noela Stratton Christine R-Westhouse Rensche Schep	3396 0069 3901 0484 0412 044 167
June	Jan Parnell Jan Aplin Christina Stevens Mellisa champley	3396 6001 3396 4728 3396 9174 3893 3121
July	Mim Carrington Nena Robertson Roisin Burrell	0416 076 102 3396 2524 0423 241 921
August	Lyn Shanks Jan Bird Carol Astill	3396 3792 3396 6690 3396 5481
September	Margaret Bullock Jillian Mahoney Marie Stokes	3396 3230 3393 1655 3893 3363
October	Anne Hall Ellen Coupland Deborah Tearle	0412 634 587 3899 1326 3396 9697
November	Myrtle Beitz Margaret O'Neil	3396 4711 3348 3123

If you are not able to do your rostered month, please contact Deb Tearle on 3396 9697 or email supper@wmhs.org.au

Thankyou to our sponsors...

The Society would like to thank and acknowledge Cartridge World Wynnum for its ongoing support and sponsorship.



Thankyou to our sponsors...



The Wynnum Manly Historical Society would like to thank and acknowledge **CMK Financial Solutions** for its ongoing support and sponsorship.

Carl and his staff at CMK Financial Solutions very kindly provide the use of their printer (at no cost to the Society) every month to allow us to print our monthly newsletter

For all your financial needs and advice contact Carl ph: 1300 882 910

Our Committee...

President: Jan Parnell 3396 6001 president@wmhs.org.au

Vice President: John Coupland 3899 1326 vicepresident@wmhs.org.au

Secretary: Lena McCreadie 3393 4393 secretary@wmhs.org.au

Treasurer: Sandy Liddle 3207 4467 treasurer@wmhs.org.au

Librarian: Jill Greenhill 3393 3208 library@wmhs.org.au

Events Coordinator: Myrtle Beitz 3396 4711 events@wmhs.org.au

Membership Coordinator: Sandy Liddle 3207 4467 membership@wmhs.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Sharee Cordes 3348 4452 newsletter@wmhs.org.au

Supper coordinator: Deborah Tearle 3396 9697 supper@wmhs.org.au

Publicity Officer: Roisin Burrell 0490039056 publicity@wmhs.org.au

Welfare Officer: Ellen Coupland 3899 1326

Meeting Sign on: Denise Cogill 3396 9004

Plaques & memorials coordinator: Noela Stratton 3396 0069

Life Members: Myrtle Beitz, John Davies, Jill Greenhill, Noela Stratton

Late life members: Merv Beitz, Jack Sands.

Patron: Cr. Peter Cumming.

Supper Roster...

November

Myrtle Beitz 3396 4711

Margaret O'Neil 3348 3123



If you are unable to meet your rostered supper committment for any reason, please contact our supper coordinator, Deborah Teale on 3396 9697

Many hands make light work!

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

Minutes of General Meeting of Thursday 16 October 2014

held in the Ambulance Auditorium, Corner Tingal Road and Cedar Street, Wynnum.

The meeting **opened** at 7.30pm. Thirty one members were present. Eight apologies were received.

President Jan opened the meeting and welcomed all present. She recalled some happenings on this day regarding Oscar Wilde. Jan announced the death of member Penny McAulay at 98 years of age.

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 18 September 2014 were approved by all present.

Correspondence, **inwards** and **outwards** for September 2014, was presented by Lena McCreadie. The correspondence had been accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 2 October 2014.

The Treasurer presented the **Financial Report** for the months of August and September as follows:

BOQ A/c No. 2013 9708

1 August to 30 September 2014

Opening Balance at 1 August 2014

\$35, 882.72

which comprises

Everyday Account

Opening Balance at 1 August 2014 \$ 5,001.25

Income \$362.29 Expenditure \$195

Closing Balance at 30 September \$ 5,168.54

and

Websaver Account at 30 September (Inc Interest \$115.79) \$30.881.47

TOTAL FUNDS at 30 September 2014

\$36,050.01

Resource Centre Report:

The location of the plaque for October (Where am I?) was mounted on a seat at Norfolk Point. None of the audience knew of John Branigan (1943 – 2012).

The possibilities for the re-location of the Resource Centre in 2015 were outlined, the new library, the brick school building or behind a shop in Bay Terrace were presented. To date no decision has been made, as these possibilities do not present a location that would equal the suitability of the present Resource Room in the Civic Centre.

Tours:

On Saturday 27 September seventeen members of the Society visited the newly refurbished City Hall, mounted the Clock Tower and wandered through the Museum of Brisbane, before enoying a lunch at the Shingle Inn. Next tour will be in 2015.

General Business:

Speaker Peter Mann explained the concept of **Star Community Transport**, which presently operated in the Redlands and is extending its service to Wynnum. Participants must be over 65 years and have mobility problems. Patsy Wiltshire explained how to register for the service. Fee for service is \$10 for a return journey.

Main Speaker:

Caroline Bauer read the book, "Mavis, the Amazing Tug Boat", accompanied by illustrated slides of each page. Dianne Lonergan described how the book was written after the 2011 floods of Brisbane. Produceds from book sales are being donated the "Mater Little Miracles".

The Members Draw was won by Roisin Burrell, the raffle by Alan Burrell and the Door Draw by Dennis O'Neill.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm. Members retired to a delicious supper provided by Ann Hall and Debbie Tearle.

Jill Greenhill (Minute Secretary)

Microfiche and Microfilm Resources...

We currently hold the following microfiche and microfilm resources in the Resource Centre.

Microfiche

Aldine History of Queensland 1888 Births Deaths & Marriages in Queensland

Pioneer Index 1829 – 1889 Federation Index 1890 – 1914

Commonwealth Electoral Roll

Wynnum Manly 1903 – 1989 Hemmant 1903 – 1982

Peter Spicer's Moreton Bay Diaries 1828 – 1949 Queensland Post Office Directories 1868 – 1949 Queensland Government Gazette 1859 – 1869 Queensland Land Records 1856 – 1859

St Helena Diary 1897 – 1910

Microfilm

Wynnum Herald 12.01.1946 – 12.07.1967 Queensland State Electoral Rolls 1860 - 1910

These are free for members to use and the friendly volunteers will be more than happy to assist you with use of the equipment.

Resources for Sale...

Author	Title	Year	Cost
Beitz, Myrtle	Mangroves to moorings revisited	2005	\$35
Davenport, Winifred & Mottram, Betty	Early shipping in Moreton Bay: June 1846 - December 1859, Volume 1	1998	\$5
Davenport, Winifred & Mottram, Betty	Early shipping in Moreton Bay: January 1860 – December 1863, Volume 2 (2nd ed)	2002	\$5
Nalder, Robyn	From sapling to kero tin: A peek at Gumdale's past	2004	\$15
Nock, Betty	History of music in the Wynnum and Manly area 1900-1997	1998	\$5
Nock, Betty	History of arts in the Wynnum and Manly area 1900-2003	2005	\$5

Please pop in to the Resource Centre or contact Jill Greenhill on 3393 3208 if you would like to purchase any of these items. Part proceeds of some sales go to supporting the Resource Centre.

Regular WMHS Volunteers and Helpers...

GENERAL MEETINGS: Afternoon set up: Col Brown, Jill Greenhill and Myrtle Beitz

Welcome at Door and raffles: Ian Wheeler, Noela Stratton & Denise Cogill

Bring and buy: Rensche Schep, Heather Langston, Christina Stevens.

Kitchen Coordinator: Margaret Mack Supper Coordinator: Deborah Tearle

Supper Donations and servers: Jan Aplin, Jan Bird, Margaret O'Neil, Myrtle Beitz, Lena McCreadie, Ian Wheeler, Laurima Rabe, Noela Stratton, Eris Powell, Daphne Liddle, Nena Robertson, Alison Roff, Jan Parnell, Margaret Collins, Deborah Tearle, Lyn Shanks, Carol Astill, Lou & Anne Hall, Christina Stevens, Christina R-Westhouse, Ellen Coupland, Marie Stokes, Jan Bird, Jillian Mahoney, Roisin Burrell, Rensche Schep, Wendy Smith, Melva Hatchman, Mellisa Champley, Mim Carrington, Margaret Bulloch.

Raffle prizes: Sandra Wheeler

NEWSLETTERS: Compiler & Editor: Sharee Cordes

Printing: Ian Wheeler

RESOURCE CENTRE: Volunteers on duty: Ian Wheeler, Ian Kennedy, Noela Stratton, Dennis O'Neill, Col Brown, Myrtle Beitz, Dawn Wilkins, Heather Langston, Margaret Bulloch, Rensche Schep, Roisin Burrell, Ellen Coupland. Reesearch enquiries: Jill Greenhill and Ellen Coupland

TOURS: Planning & Coordination: Jan Parnell, Jill Greenhill, Lena McCreadie & Deb Tearle

Booklet: Jill Greenhill

Bookings: Sandy Liddle at General Meetings or resource Centre staff each weekday

ORAL HISTORY: Sharee Cordes

Why not own a smart maroon WMHS polo shirt - only \$22. Or a maroon WMHS spray jacket - \$35.00. Or a maroon WMHS warm fleecy zip up jacket for winter - \$35.00.

Polo shirts in all sizes available now in the Resource Room so come and try one on. .

Do you have the new badge -\$10.

Contact Jill (3393 3208) to order.

Coming Events...

November 2014

Thursday, 20th November, 7.30pm

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Ambulance Museum Auditorium

Cnr Cedar St & Tingal Road

Speaker: Concillor Peter Cumming

Topic: 20 Years as Councillor

Visitors welcome. Cost: Gold coin donation

Thursday, 27th November, 10am MORNINGTEAATWYNNUMLIBRARY Wynnum Library, 66 Bay Terrace

Speaker/Musician: Cliff Turpin and Jim Lergessner

Topic: Boom Baby - 'Return to Cloudland' concert

Come and reminisce about Cloudland while being entertained by music and anecdotes from the period. No bookings required but please bring your tapping feet!



Series BEFORE THE 1950'S
Bay Terrace Photo No 7
Ernie S. Knox first occupied this building from 1910 as a general Drapery Store with the motto "for better service and sterling value". The store was situated in Bay Terrace on the seaward side between Charlotte and Florence Streets.

For regular WMHSociety updates and more of Myrtle Beitz's interesting 'Before the 1950s' series...



August 9 - November 27: Inside: Life inside Children's Homes and Institutions Exhibition.

Queensland Museum. A travelling exhibition from the National Museum of Australia that explores the hidden history of people who grew up in children's homes orphanages and institutions in Australia in the Mid-20th century. www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au

December 7, 9.35 and 11,20am: Steam Train Sunday

Take in the view of Brisbane behind a magnificently restored steam locomotive as the train winds its way through suburbs, city stations, past landmarks and over river crossings. Adults \$45, concession \$40, children \$32.50. Bookings essential 07 3432 5100 www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au

December 14, 10.15 and 12.15am: Christmas Express

Catch the Christmas Spirit with a festive steam train journey to historic Grandchester station. Museum Entry included. Adults \$45, concession \$40, children \$32.50. Bookings essential 07 3432 5100 www.theworkshops.qm.qld.gov.au

November 22 - May 24 2015: Costumes from the Golden Age of Hollywood

Museum of Brisbane. Step back in time onto the soundstage of a bygone era and discover the cinematic world of Costumes of the Golden Age of Hollywood. Free admission.

November 12 - February 1: Undressed - 350 years of Underwear in Fashion

Queensland Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum, London are revealing fashion's secret history this summer. The Victoria and Albert Museum holds one of the important collections of historical and fashionable dress in the world. Adults \$21.50, Concession \$19.00.

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 318,
Wynnum. Q. 4178
www.wmhs.org.au
ABN 49 071 835 845

Stamp required

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

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

Visit us online at: www.wmhs.org.au

Membership application forms are available from the Resource Centre, Civic Centre, 7/66 Bay Tce, Wynnum.

Membership costs per year (1 January to 31 December):-

Single \$15.00 Family \$25.00

High School student \$5.00

PLEASE NOTE: There is a joining fee of \$10.00 per person.