



Cambridge Parade Manly Circa 1920

# Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc

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

www.wmhs.org.au

ABN 49 071 835 845



## NEWSLETTER

## May 2023

## Issue. No. 151

### May General Meeting

### THURSDAY 18 May 2023

7.00pm for 7.15pm start

Wynnum Ambulance Auditorium

Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street

### “The Foundation of the Native Police”

Patrick Collins

“Several Mounted Police groups operated in colonial NSW during the nineteenth century. These included:

**The Mounted Police**, most of whom were soldier volunteers, including those who were featured in Roger Milliss’s *Waterloo Creek*;

**The Border Police** were mainly former soldiers who had been transported to NSW as convicts. They were unpaid mounted police who served under Commissioners of Crown Lands on the frontiers including Brisbane. This force was created in 1839 following frontier massacres at Myall Creek and Waterloo Creek etc in 1838.

**The Native Police**: The northern Native Police force comprised white officers and Aboriginal men who patrolled in northern NSW and future southern QLD. The troopers in the first contingent, which was created in 1848, came from near the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers. These uniformed mounted police were paid a small wage and were granted many privileges. In return, they instigated methods of frontier control that can best be described as terrorism.

My talk will address the activities and growth of this violent force in future Queensland between 1849 and 1856”.

Raffle

Lucky Door

Refreshments

Gold Coin Donation

### Patrick Collins

Patrick's maternal great-grandparents migrated to Australia from Offaly in Ireland to escape the post-famine poverty of the 1850s.

Patrick’s father acquired sheep stations but lost them to floods and family divisions.

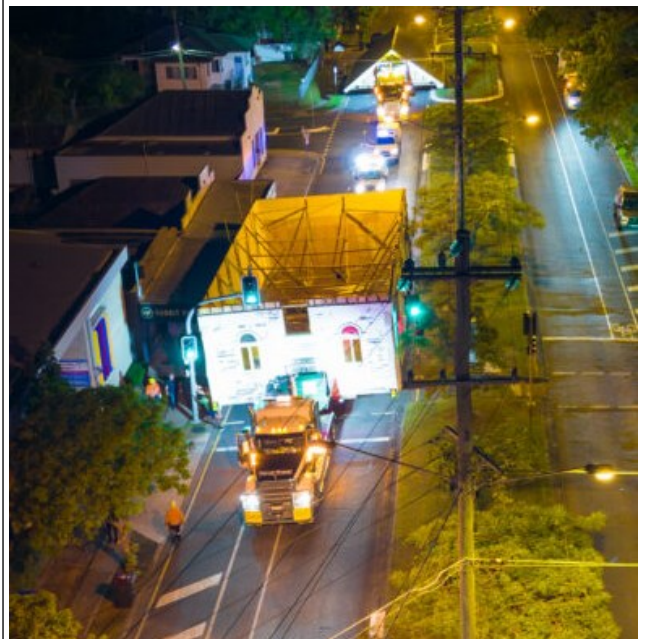
Patrick, himself escaped his family’s dairy farm to become a teacher, guidance officer and then a psychologist. He visited schools around Queensland and encountered, during this period, a great deal of racism.

As a student counselor at QIT and Brisbane CAE he also taught psychology, especially at post graduate level.

### The Old Baptist Church from Bay Terrace to Iona

Early morning Friday 28 April 2023.

The old church had a journey of four hours.



Where was this picture taken?

Located in the “Old School Building” at Room1.08, 105 Florence Street, Wynnum

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

## Margaret Marr Home

We have received a phone call from our member in Canberra enquiring about the visit to the Resource Centre of a former Margaret Marr Home resident, as he, Stewart also was living in the home at the same time.

Our member remembers clearly the Nurse/Carer whose son was living with the boys in the home. Telephone numbers have been exchanged.



## Recent Gifts

“Original MARYBOROUGH Site” An Historical Study.

by Tom Blake and Richard Allom.

Thank you to the donor of this book. Unfortunately we do not have space to store every book that we receive. So if anybody has an interest in the local history of Maryborough, please accept the book.

## “Goodbye Bussamarai” by Patrick Collins

*Aboriginal Landowners, Colonisers and Native Police at War, Southern Queensland 1842-1852.*

Bussamarai was a powerful resistance leader whose influence spread across five Aboriginal nations. Like the legendary Pemulwuy, Yagan or Jandamara, he fought for the survival of his people, the Mandandanji of southern Queensland.

Their homeland bordered northern New South Wales and its infamous sites of Aboriginal massacre and frontier warfare: Myall Creek, Slaughterhouse Creek and Waterloo Creek. This history serves as a sequel to those atrocities, so unforgettably chronicled in Roger Milliss’s Waterloo Creek.

Closely researched and finely grained, this is the first analysis of this fierce leader and the Mandandanji whose valiant fight for their homeland led to their decimation. Collins brings the violent struggle for land to graphic life, piecing together clues of a past suppressed or forgotten.

Unearthed is the full scale of a tragic chronology of bloody “bushwhacks”, racial wars and the dreaded Native Police Led by white officers, and armed with guns and swords, they were party to the destruction of countless Indigenous societies.

More than an account, this is a story enriched by the author’s speculations on racial violence and the psychological effects of a massacre in 19th century Australia.

## Electrician

We need help! Are any of our members, or their contacts, qualified electricians? One of the ceiling fans in the Resource Room has stopped turning. Hopefully just a fault in the switch.

If you can help please let me know. (Jill: 0407 293 177)

Till next time,

Jill.

## WHERE WAS I? April 2023



**Mount Carmel Convent**  
199 Bay Terrace, Wynnum  
Built for the Sisters of Mercy  
in 1915.

The “Convent of our Lady of Mount Carmel” was designed for the Sisters of Mercy (See page 5) by Architects, Hall and Dodds, and built in brick by Mr. W R Juster at a cost of £8,000. His Grace Archbishop Duhig formerly blessed and dedicated the building on 8th August 1915. A furnishing fund raised £110.00 at the opening ceremony.

The building retained the classic intact layout of a convent of its time, ie Dining Hall, Chapel, Reception Hahh and sleeping “cells” - 22 rooms in all. With the introduction of more lay teachers into their schools, the number of residential Nuns declined. The Convent was also used by the Order as a holiday retreat. At the foot of Pine Street there was a bathing box, with jetty and enclosure, exclusively for their use.

A secondary school for Girls, Mt Carmel High School, was considered in 1957. On 10 December 1961 this new school built on convent land, with a frontage into Pine Street, was blessed and opened by His Grace Archbishop Duhig. The Convent received a State Heritage listing on 27 August 1999.

In the final years of occupation by the Sisters of Mercy only three nuns, Sisters Maura, Nora and Loretta, were in residence. These three left the convent in August 2009.

The convent went up for tender in early April 2011 rumoured to be worth close to \$3m. But throughout the entire sale the Sisters of Mercy, who owned the property, maintained their vow of silence over why they were selling. The property had been advertised as suitable for educational purposes, or maybe for short-term Bed and Breakfast accommodation,

On August 30 2011, Ivan Simon, a Director of IJS Logistics, a production company in Virginia, became the new owner of the Convent. All the catholic statutory was removed and the building was renovated costing +\$1m. However a severe handicap, to making use of the new building, was the lack of access to any car parking space within the grounds. So the building was put on the market again.

The building was sold back to the Brisbane Catholic Education in 2015 for use by the Guardian Angels School, with rumours that the sale was over \$3m The statue of Mary and Jesus has been replaced in the south eastern gable.

## WHERE AM I? May 2023



Till next Time

Jill.

**Here is the summary of the presentation given to the Society by speaker, Pattie Brown** at the Society's meeting, held on Thursday 20 April 2023, kindly written by Lucy Laakso, our new President.

### **“My Grandmother Ettie”**

**An account from guest presenter Pattie Brown (Ettie's Granddaughter)**

At our April 2023 meeting, we welcomed guest presenter Pattie Brown. Pattie shared insights about the very eventful life of her maternal grandmother, Ettie Darlington. We were delighted to have Pattie's mother, Ethel, and her aunt (Ethel's younger sister), Isabella join us, too.

Our April 2023 newsletter (page 6) contained a detailed account of the life of Ettie and her young family. That account was from a newspaper article. Pattie's verbal account (augmented by Ethel and Isabella during the meeting) added colour and emotion, which can often only come from first hand experience or family stories.

As a child, Ettie was the only surviving girl in a family of five boys. Pattie told us that, as the only girl, Ettie took on a great number of household and farm duties; she worked very hard.

In May 1923, Ettie (19 years old) eloped with John Hill. Over the next 15 years, Ettie, John and their growing young family trekked across Queensland and South Australia. Pattie showed a map, with lines marking the family's progress over the years. Most of the family's travel was on foot; a horse was part of the travelling party at times. During this time, the family lived in a tent or a lean-to.

In the mid-1930s, the family – comprising John, Ettie (pregnant with sixth child), Norman, Olive, Nora, Ethel and Betty – was camped on the bank of the Cooper Creek, west of Innamincka in South Australia. John left in search of work and was never seen again. Food was scarce for Ettie and her children. Pattie, a proud First Nations woman herself, told us about Molly, a young and very kind First Nations woman, who gave the family goat milk, which helped them survive.

After Ettie gave birth to Isabella in July 1936, the government moved Ettie and her children to Brisbane. Isabella spent time in hospital and her siblings lived at Queen Alexandria Home in Coorparoo. Pattie explained that, to keep her family together, Ettie had to demonstrate to the authorities that she could find her way around Brisbane and secure employment. Displaying her usual resilience, Ettie did just that and, for a short time, Ettie and her children lived at a house at Darling Point, here in Manly. The family was reunited with Ettie's own mother – Kate – and, shortly after, the entire family moved to a larger home in Carlton Terrace, Manly.



*Norman, Olive, Ettie, Nora, Isabella, Ethel, with cat, and Betty outside home in Carlton Terrace.*

Fast forward to 2022. Family members – including Ettie's surviving children: Olive, Nora, Ethel and Isabella – retraced Ettie's steps across Queensland and South Australia. This time in the comfort of private vehicles rather than on foot! Pattie showed a lovely photo of Olive, Nora, Ethel and Isabella standing in front of a tree at Cooper Creek; the sisters believe it was the tree under which the family had lived.

The Innamincka Hotel has a display about the family. And the ABC has written a story about how Ettie's surviving children had retraced their mother's steps. You can find the article by typing into google: “Ettie ABC Innamincka”. Your search results should produce an ABC article titled: “After 90 years, the Darlington sisters return to Cooper Creek and retrace their mother's journey (by Nicholas Ward)”.

Thank you to Pattie, Ethel and Isabella for sharing Ettie's story of resilience, and your own insights, with us.

Until next time...

Lucy Laasko (President)



## Order of the Sisters of Mercy



The Order was founded by Catherine McAuley in 1831 in Dublin Ireland. McAuley sought, through her service to the poor, the sick and the uneducated, to reveal the mercy of God in our world.

With a particular concern for women, she helped them to recognise inherent dignity and to become self-directing and self-sustaining. Education was at the heart of this effort, as was a desire to meet needs, not being addressed by others.

**Catherine McAuley** was born in Dublin in 1789 and died on 11 December 1841, aged 52 years. Catherine's father died when she was 5 years old. The family moved around to survive, as their funds dwindled. Then her mother died, so the family was split up.

Catherine went to a childless family, firstly as a domestic. She became a maid then acted as a nurse/carer for the sick mistress. After the death of the lady of the house Catherine remained as a companion for the husband in his waning years. He asked Catherine what she would do if he left her \$1,000. She replied, "start a home for unfortunate people". When he died she inherited his estate and possessions, worth very much more than \$1,000. So, at the age of 41 years, she purchased a large building where she took in women and children in need. By 1830 Catherine had 12 permanent like-minded residents. The suggestion was made that she form a religious community. The Sisters of Mercy Order was born on 12 December 1831. This was an Apostolic group, (versus a Closed group) known as the "Working Nuns", who went out to work within the community.

**Frances Ward** from village of Abbeyleiks, in mid Ireland, came to Dublin at the age of 17. She met Catherine. Thus began a soul-based companionship. Francis had a business mind. The pair worked together to further the philosophy of the Sisters of Mercy. In 1837 Frances set up a new group in Carlow, Southern Ireland. Frances was with Catherine when she died in 1841.

In 1843 Frances, with other sisters, travelled to **America** and thus began the setting up of Sister of Mercy Hospitals and schools in America.

In 1846 **Sister Ursula Frayne** came to **Australia** with 7 companions and opened the first Mercy hospital in Sydney. The group established schools and convents around the state.

We are interested in the origins of the Sisters of Mercy in Queensland.

**Mother Mary Vincent Whitty**, was born in Wexford, in Southeast Ireland. She was a teacher. She was given 4 days to pack and be ready to leave. She travelled to Liverpool to join 5 other sisters and Bishop James Quinn. After 5 months of uncomfortable and dangerous sailing on the "Donald McKay", without sanitation and with very cramped conditions, the boat arrived in Brisbane on the evening of the **19<sup>th</sup> of May 1861**. Their landing was close by the site of the future "All Hallows School. The first night was spent in an unfurnished house at Spring Hill. The next day the party was moved to a site near the old crypt in Ann Street. This was the first permanent home of the Sisters of Mercy in Brisbane.

This group of nuns founded "All Hallows School" which is the oldest surviving secondary school in Brisbane. The first principal was Sister Catherine O'Kane.

The Sisters tended for the needy in society. They taught the less fortunate children but operated under the same legislative framework as the more affluent grammar schools.

### **The Sisters in Wynnum**

Wynnum, with the opening of the railway line in 1889, was growing as a popular seaside destination for new residents and Brisbane visitors. An extra rail station was added at Wynnum South (Central) in 1898. The demand for a religious presence grew. From 1903 onwards Sisters travelled from Brisbane each weekend to give religious instruction to the children. Mass was said once a month by Dean O'Leary, firstly in the Shire Hall on Wynnum Creek. Then, worship moved to Guardian Angels Catholic Church, which opened in 1905 in Bay Terrace on land donated by Archbishop Dunne.

The Sisters of Mercy provided leadership for the education of the catholic population in the district, with the opening of the Guardian Angel's School in Wynnum in 1914. This leadership provided by the Sisters continued until 1990, when the first lay principal was appointed.

In October 1914, pending the erection of their convent in Bay Terrace, five sisters took up residence in a cottage in Walnut Street rented from a Miss Green. (Continued on page 3)

## OUR LOCAL ACHIEVERS:

From the desk of our Tuesday morning clipping expert, Margaret Bulloch,  
We bring the stories of local achievers of our district.

### Brian Kirkby (Wynnum Herald 30 June 2004)

INNOVATOR, inventor, ideas man and creator of “all sorts of weird things”, Brian Kirkby is prof that the key to surviving in business is the ability to think outside the square.

Mr Kirkby who grew up on the bayside, established his Marine Refrigeration Service in 1974, designing and developing refrigerators and freezers to suit the individual needs of the boat owners.

Back then it was a thriving market, with Mr Kirkby’s tailor made units in heavy demand by charter fishing boat owners.

“The units I was building then were the forerunners of what is being built commercially today”, Mr Kirkby said.

“The decline in the charter fishing industry left me with a sheet of metal fabrication business in Wynnum and a need to source other types of work, so I started to look at the security industry”.

Since then Mr Kirkby has invented designed and manufacturer a vandal proof security camera housing that was quickly snapped up by Queensland Rail.

“So far I’ve produced 2500 units for Queensland Rail and about 5000 will go to New South Wales Rail”, he said.



Mr Kirkby is also in demand to design and manufacture some items that could be considered just a bit unconventional—like an enormous drawbridge over a moat at an exclusive Hope Island property.

His interest in energy conservation has led to the design of “a couple of prototype wind generators” and a solar energy system with diesel generator back-up which could power an entire house of appliances in the event of a failure.

“The diesel generator is built in a soundproof box, and it’s no louder than an air conditioning unit,” he said. Now trading a Nu-Tec Products, Mr Kirkby’s business is likely to continue evolving several steps ahead of the market.



*Mr Kirkby with a propeller guard  
he designed for racing boats*

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

English Names   Scottish Names   Irish Names   Welsh Names  
Dutch Names   German Names   French Names   Jewish Names  
Spanish Names   Italian Names   Scandinavian Names   [More ...](#)

(<http://surnames.behindthename.com>)

Do you know the history of your surname?

In our Society we have a Gregory (Given name popular in the Middle Ages), Morrison (Son of Morris), Butler (from Butte - a large trough used to contain wine), Brown (nick name for person with brown hair), Francis (Derived from given name) . . .

Find your name on line and let us know!

# What's On

Date	Event	Venue	Booking
Saturday 13 May 2023 7.30 - 9pm	Nundah Cemetery Ghost Tour	86 Hedley Ave, Nundah Wheelchairs - Yes Walking Aids - Not suitable	\$35/\$30 Book at: book-ings@historicaustralia.com.au
Sunday 21 May, 9.30am	"Guided Historical Walking Tour of South Brisbane"	Meet at Qld Maritime Museum 412 Stanley St. S. Brisbane	\$30 (Incl M Tea, Discount entry and discount lunch at Ship Inn. Book: 3844 5361
Saturday 10 June 2023 7 - 9.00pm	"Paranormal Investigation". Discover the haunted heritage of Wolston Farmhouse. Light Refreshments	Wolston Farmhouse Age 16+Only. 30888133 23 Grindle Road, Wacol.	\$45.00 Pre-book: National Trust on line. 5534 1266
From Thursday 6 April 2023	"Allelujah" Judi Dench (Small geriatric hospital is fighting closure.)	Local Cinemas. Based on play by British playwright Alan Bennett.	
Thursday 25 May 10 - 11.00am	"Wynnum Manly Heritage Places" Talk.	Wynnum Library 145 Florence Street, Wynnum	Free. Book: 3403 2199
Sunday 28 May 2023	"Brisbane Crime and Criminals"	Ground Floor Conference Room Qld Police Headquarters 200 Roma Street, City	Brisbane History Group: Enq: 3368 1828.
Friday 16 June 2023	Bremer Junction Day Cruise. (Only available on certain tides)	"Lady Brisbane" Hamilton Recreational Pontoon, 449 Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton.	\$85. Book at Brisbane Cruises Ph: 3630 2666
Sat/Sun 15/16 July 9 - 5pm	Keep these dates free for Annual "Brisbane Open House" event.	Buildings to open will be announced soon.	Free

## PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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

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

**Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc**  
Minutes of General Meeting held in Ambulance Auditorium, Tingal Road  
on Thursday 20 April 2023

**Meeting opened** at 7.15pm

There were 23 members present, 2 apologies and 2 visitors, Kate O'Neil and Tom Schultz  
President, Lucy Laakso took the chair, introduced herself, her relationship to the district and wished everyone well.

Father Twigg announced that the Baptist Church on Bay Terrace was moving to Iona in one week's time. The replacement of Balue's Slip on the foreshore was announced, with further discussion about the signage to be held after Easter.

**Previous Minutes:** (Jill)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 16 February 2023 were accepted by Jill Greenhill, seconded by Ellen Coupland.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Report from Jill- A/Geraint)

Cash Management A/C No. 20139708, Bus Web Saver A/C No. 2019708 and Term Investment A/c 23366345.

All Accounts:

Balance at 1 March 2023	\$30,515.06.	Everyday A/C	\$ 8,340.53
at 31 March 2023	\$30,681.08	Building A/C	\$ 7,340.55
		Fixed Term (to 23/11'23)	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
			<u>\$30,681.08</u>

**Correspondence:** Lena presented the correspondence report from 1 to 31 March 2023. The correspondence was accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 6 April 2023.

**Resource Centre:** (Jill) The answer to the question, "Where am I", was looking at the niche of the southern gable of Mount Carmel Convent at 199 Bay Terrace. Photos of the interior of the convent were taken when the Convent was for sale in 2011. After refurbishment a use was not found for the building, especially as there was no off-street parking. The Convent was bought back by Brisbane Catholic Education for use by Guardian Angels School in 2015.

**Speaker: Patti Brown:** Patti told the story of her grandmother "Ettie" who travel throughout Queensland on foot with her husband, John Hill in the 1920s and 1930s. John went missing. Ettie and her children were cared for by people in Innamincka and brough back to the east coast. They were found a house and lived in Manly. Two of Patti's aunts attended the meeting.

**Lucky Door:** Tom Schultz

**Raffle:** Fr Michael Twigg

Meeting closed 8.30pm and members were invited to partake of refreshments, aided by Ellen Coupland and Lena McCreadie.

We thank our Patron, Joan Pease, for her ongoing encouragement and support

**Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc**

Postal Address: 51 Drayton Terrace, Wynnum Qld 4178.

Email: secretary@wmhs.org.au Secretary: 0431 332 207 or 3393 4393

Committee: Lucy Laakso, Lena McCreadie, Geraint Gregory, Jill Greenhill, Myrtle Beitz, Ellen Coupland, Chris Seymour.

Meetings: 7.00pm for 7.15pm. 3rd Thursday of the Month (except December)  
in Queensland Ambulance Auditorium, Cnr Tingal Road and Bay Terrace Wynnum

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

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

Librarian: Jill Greenhill 0407 293 177