

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

October 2022

Issue. No. 146

September General Meeting

THURSDAY

20 OCTOBER 2022

7.00pm for 7.15pm start

Wynnum Ambulance Auditorium

Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street

**(Full Covid restrictions apply as this is a
live Ambulance Centre)**

**“What’s Happening in
the District”**

All will be revealed by
our Patron and our Councilor

Peter Cumming.

Have your questions ready!

Raffle
Lucky Door
Refreshments
Gold Coin Donation

Full vaccination and masks please, as the
Ambulance Officers have direct contact with the
local hospitals.

Christmas 2022 will soon be here!

Every year we ask
members to give a small
donation towards the

CHRISTMAS

RAFFLES.

These will be drawn at the
last meeting of the year on

Thursday 17 November.

**Please bring your contributions to the
October meeting or to the Resource
Room in the Community Centre**

Mon - Friday 10am -Noon.

THANK YOU

from the Committee



Membership Fees for 2023

are due on 1 January 2023

No rise !! \$25.00

Please Pay at the

October or November meetings

or deposit in

Bank of Queensland

ISB:124 012 A/c No: 20139708

A/c Name: Wynnum Manly Historical Society

Thank you. Geraint Gregory Treasurer

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)

The Star Theatre

The Star theatre, built in 1915, stood in Florence Street for 42 years. On a Sunday morning, 17 May 1957, the building was destroyed by fire.



Coles Supermarket stands on the site of the old cinema and a line of brown-etched photographs were set in the windows in Florence Street, telling the story of the fire and the loss of the lives of two of the firemen. Sydney William Brown, aged 44, and Herbert George Lees, aged 62 years who died



when the projection Room collapsed on them. The fire started next door to the Star in the fish and chip shop at 8.20am that morning and quickly spread to neighbouring buildings.

The photos have gone!!!

On making an enquiry at the service desk in Coles, I was informed that the glass in all of the windows, had been smashed and would not be replaced.

The Chevron Furniture Store, Edith Street Wynnum

A visitor to the Resource Centre remembered a shop in Wynnum that had large curved windows. Where was the shop located?

Col Daveney, now deceased, used to visit the ‘old’ Resource Room in the Civic Centre. He brought in contributions, such as pictures of the Sand Gardens Competitions (because he once won a prize). In his working life he was a glazier and he always boasted of being in the team that installed the large curved glass shop windows.

This week the location of these windows was revealed. Sandra Wheeler remembers them in Edith Street set in the shop adjacent to Bishop’s Pharmacy, almost adjacent to the new Post Office.

Where has all the sand gone?

Another recent query!

When the local shores were fringed with mangroves, the tides came in, and gently receded. During the Depression of the 1930s, work was allocated to the unemployed to construct a low stone wall along the length of the foreshore.

Then the tides came in and receded, bouncing off the wall and dragging the topmost layer of sand out into Moreton Bay. Hence Moreton Bay is shallow having collected all the sand from our foreshores.

Till next time . . . Jill

551 Royal Esplanade

Entrance at
12 Valetta Street Manly



The house was built in 1936 for prominent Brisbane hotelier, and Queensland Brewery Limited director, William Dennis O'Connor. William had been associated with Wynnum-Manly for many years, having become the proprietor of the Waterloo Bay hotel in 1898. He also owned the Shamrock Hotel and the Prince Consort Hotel, both in Fortitude Valley, and the Treasury Hotel in the City.

In 1929 the Brisbane Courier praised O'Connor's reputation and efforts in the Wynnum Manly area: "In Mr W. D. O'Connor the district has a generous and public spirited gentleman, ever ready to assist a deserving cause and a keen follower of sport". (24 October 1929)

William established a Sport Ground adjacent to the Waterloo Bay Hotel, on which he organized an annual woodchop contest. In 1937 William joined the Board of Queensland Brewery Ltd.

William had been gradually purchasing land between Oceana Terrace and the Esplanade, that is six subdivisions, during 1911 and the final 2 subdivisions, fronting Valetta Street, in 1936. This is when O'Connor contacted Eric Percival (Percy) Trewern (1895 - 1959) from a leading firm of architects to design his new house.

In 1920 Percy Trewern had decided to start his own architecture design business and he produced the better quality residential architecture in Brisbane in the 1920s and 1930s. Brick houses were a novelty at this time in Queensland, compared with the traditional timber houses. As Percy trained in Victoria he made a breakthrough with the new Spanish Mission design and Californian style Bungalow, which he maintained were cheaper in the long-run to maintain.

After O'Connor's death in 1950, the house passed to Douglas Wadley and Graham Denis O'Connor and finally left the O'Connor family in June 1952, when purchased by John C Anderson. The Boden family lived there later, and today their daughter Joan is in residence, complaining about the house being Heritage listed, so she can not make any changes!

The residence was Heritage listed by the BCC in 2004 being the only bayside Spanish Mission home designed by the influential interwar architect E P Trewern in the district, and the home of the prominent hotelier, William Denis O'Connor.

WHERE AM I? OCTOBER 2022



Till next time

Jill

At the Society's September meeting, Lucy Laakso kindly recorded a summary of the talk entitled

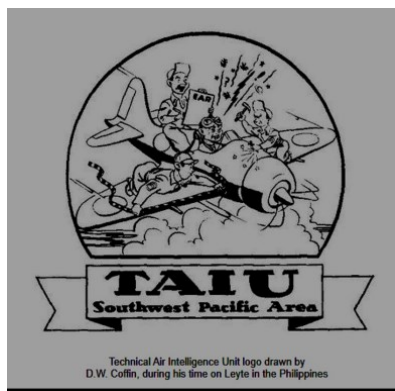
“Rebuilding Japanese War Planes in Wartime Brisbane”

presented by Member **Chris Seymour**

Chris Seymour may have only been a member of our Society for five short months, but his keen interest in aviation has been lifelong. At the September 2022 General Meeting, Chris (ably assisted by his son) presented on a most intriguing topic: a WW2 heritage site called Hangar 7, in the Eagle Farm area.

Chris started his presentation with two aerial photos: one of the present day and another of WW2 times. Hangar 7 was near the Doomben racecourse which, during WW2, was a camp for American troops; around 300,000 military folk were based in Brisbane during WW2.

Hangar 7 has an ‘igloo’ construction style, which was suitable for rapidly constructed military buildings.



Within Hangar 7, the Allied Technical Air Intelligence Unit (ATAIU) rebuilt crashed Japanese planes in order to learn about the planes' performance. Chris explained that General Douglas MacArthur afforded the ATAIU considerable authority to collect and rebuild the downed planes. The ATAIU would recover the downed planes and then ship the planes to Hangar 7 in Brisbane so that the planes could be rebuilt. Chris explained that, by the time a downed plane arrived at Hangar 7, it may have been considerably ‘lighter’ – souvenir hunters sometimes removed instruments and components before the plane arrived at Hangar 7: thus rendering the plane relatively useless to the ATAIU!

Fortunately, the souvenir hunters didn't prevail in all cases: an infamous ‘Japanese Zero’ aircraft was rebuilt by ATAIU in early 1943 using the parts from five downed planes. Once rebuilt, it was flown over Brisbane, which – understandably – caused considerable concern among Brisbanites who reported a Japanese warplane over Brisbane!

Chris went on to explain that ATAIU had an important role in developing recognition charts to assist Allied pilots to identify Japanese planes. Chris had located some film footage from the internet, which had an actor-pilot struggling to identify a plane (a ‘Japanese Zero’) some distance away. The actor was none other than former US President Ronald Reagan. At the conclusion of the film footage, Chris brought us full circle back to our local area by telling the meeting that the ‘Japanese Zero’ in the film had been rebuilt here in Brisbane, at Hangar 7.



After WW2, Hangar 7 was for civilian use and anecdotal evidence indicates this continued up to the 1970s. Hangar 7 is now heritage listed and the Brisbane City Council has refurbished it. Anecdotal feedback was that a special interest community group had intended to open a museum on the site but this has not eventuated to date.

Extensive information about Hangar 7 is available on the Queensland Government's Queensland Heritage Register – use the search term ‘Hangar 7’: <https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/>

A most intriguing presentation about a ‘local’ place that played a role with ‘global’ implications during WW2. Thank you, Chris and son!

Until next month... Lucy Laakso

Do you follow the

Wynnum Manly Historical Society FACEBOOK page?

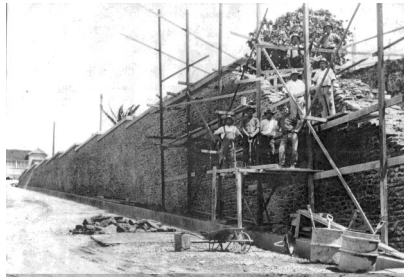
Enter: *Wynnum Manly Historical Society Facebook* into Google.

There is a new picture and story every day!

Falcon Street Wall, Manly



Present Day



1933

In the Depression years of the 1930's an astute District Engineer, Joe Sands, undertook the building of the "Spring Street (Falcon Street) Wall".

The State Government under the Government Relief Scheme paid the wages and the Council supplied the materials.



Kangaroo



Iguana

The basalt, blue metal stone came from the quarry at Lytton. The stones were packed in concrete and the joint pointed with cement plaster.

Leopold Sticher is one of the many names given to the person/s who professed to creating figures on the wall.

"The old leper Colony is like a place that time forgot . . .

Author Eleanor Limprecht, whilst researching for her second novel 'Long Bay' (2015) discovered the existence of a lazaret in Sydney. The Little Bay lazaret was a small, enclosed part of a bigger hospital (later Prince Henry Hospital) for people with infectious diseases, in particular leprosy.

Eleanor came to Queensland and visited the site of a more desolate "Leper Colony" - Peel Island in Moreton Bay.

She says: "Like going to a place that time forgot. It's not inhabited: I had to get rangers to take me. There are the original huts, some being renovated by a historical society (Friends of Peel Island); you see the vast difference in the accommodation between the "coloured section", which looked like chuck sheds, and the "white section". A doctor would come to the island maybe once a month.

The irony is that the disease isn't very contagious. There were so many misconceptions about leprosy, including the idea that fingers and toes fall off. It's actually nerve damage (and the consequent loss of feeling) making one vulnerable to repeated injury and infection. It's hardly contagious at all, yet we locked people away, many for life, because of fear. ."

Peter Ludlow provided us with vivid pictures of life and times of Peel Island in his talk to the Society in August of this year.

Look out for the historical novel, "The Coast" by Eleanor Limprecht in the Wynnum library. Though mainly set in Sydney in the last century, the fear of isolation, of the disease and of the lazarette is portrayed..

A thank you to member Christine Johns for supplying this cutting from the "Weekend Australian Magazine" of 11 June 2022.



Author Eleanor Limprecht

WYNNUM Returned Services League (RSL)

Thanks to a Lady!

On 25th August 1925 the Commissioner of Railways received an application from the Lady Mayoress of Wynnum, Mrs J W Greene, for an area of land, owned by the Commissioner to be made available for a site for a Memorial Hall for the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA), Wynnum Branch.

The site chosen was the land where Lord Kitchener had stood and reviewed the troops returning to Lytton on January 3rd 1910.

The application was successful. The land, on the corner of Tingal Road and Berrima (now Colina) Street was set aside on 5 November 1925, as a 'Reserve for a Soldiers Memorial Hall'.

Mr G T Campbell of the Federal Deposit Chambers, Brisbane prepared the plans for the Hall. Tenders were called in October 1929 and building soon commenced. A public ceremony was held on 7th December 1929 and the Hall was opened by Sir John Goodwin, Governor of Queensland. The granite and marble Cairn (on the far right) marked the spot where Kitchener's stood to inspect the troops as they marched past in 1910.



The first RSL Memorial Hall

The Commissioner for Railways extended the size of the piece of land in 1931. A Board of Trustees, John Greene, William Gunn and William Nichols was proposed but the members were never appointed?

The first Board of Trustees was appointed on 8 October 1936, made up of George Paton, J P Donnelly and Edmund Calvert.

More land was purchased for a significant extension in 1937.



1973 Two storey building on the corner of Tingal Road and Colina Street

In 1954 there were great extensions and renovations, extending the building from the Bowling Green to the Kitchener Memorial. The re-modelled two storey building was flush with the footpath alignment. Meeting rooms were added, along with card rooms, a billiard room and a library. Additional activities were incorporated into the RSL Club's program. Public entertainment was introduced. Septic was installed. The project cost £8,000.

Further extensions took place in November 1963 towards Colina Street over the site of the Memorial Cairn. The cairn was not incorporated into the building and disappeared.

Advertisements in 1973 indicated a further \$500,00 was spent on modernising the club.

The lost marble face of the cairn was found in 1992, dumped in a suburban backyard. A new cairn was reconstructed and now stands 60 metres away from the old site, across Colina Street against Wynnum Creek.

Lord Mayor Jim Sorley unveiled the new Cairn on May 2 1992.

New Cairn with gardens.



What's On

Date	Event	Venue	Booking
Wednesday 12 October 2022 12.30 - 1pm	120th Anniversary of State Library of Qld. RHSQ Event	Commissariat Store 115 William Street City	Eventbrite
Thursday 13 October 2022 10.15 - 11am Free	Book Launch "Captain Cook in Queensland" Launch by Dr Jeanette Young	Commissariat Store 115 William Street City	Eventbrite by 11 October
Thursday 27 October 2022 10 - 11am Free	"Remembering Nazareth House", with local author Tess Rowley	Meeting Room Wynnum Public Library 145 Florence Street Wynnum	Book: Wynnum Library 3403 2199
Friday 4 November 2022 \$40 7.30 - 9pm	Camerata: Making Place Live in Concert. Qld Chamber Orchestra	Inside the Gallery Space Museum of Brisbane Level 3 City Hall 64 Adelaide Street, City	Booking City Hall 3339 0800
Now till Sunday 6 November 2022	Museum of Brisbane Level 3 City Hall 64 Adelaide Street, City	"World of Wonder" Margaret McKenney, Jewelry Designer. A celebration of the World's rarest gems.	info@museumof brisbane.com.au \$12
Thursday 17 November 2022 5.30pm	AGM Qld's Struggle against Rabbits How far have we come? Dr Margaret Kowald	Commissariat Store 115 William Street City	Pre-book Eventbrite
Thursday 24 November 2022 7.00pm	"Camerata" Mozart's Jupiter Qld Chamber Orchestra	Concert Hall QPAC Cnr Grey and Melbourne Streets South Brisbane	QTIX Call Centre 136246
Now till 22 Jan 2023 10 - 5pm Free	Gallery Level 1 Qld State Library Stanley Place South Brisbane	"Queensland to a T" Qld Culture, 1950 - 2016, as re- flected in the humble tea towel."	sql.qld.gov.au

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
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 15 September 2022

Meeting opened at 7.20pm. Covid regulations were followed – spacing of chairs.

There were 18 members present, 4 apologies and 3 visitors, Trish and Mark Ebery and James Seymour.

Jill Greenhill took the Chair in the absence of President, Jan Parnell

One minutes silence was held in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

Moments of the life of late member Ian Kennedy were recalled from the Eulogy presented by his son, Andrew.

Members were asked to assist with the opening of the Resource Room on Sat/Sun 8/9 October for the Steampunk Festival at the Community Centre, Florence Street

Previous Minutes: (Jill)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 18 August 22 were accepted by Ellen Coupland, seconded by Geraint Gregory.

Correspondence:

Lena presented the meeting with the offer of cumquats and a recipe for Cumquat Bandy before presenting the correspondence report for August. The correspondence was accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 1 September 2022.

Treasurer's Report (Geraint Gregory) 1 – 31 August 2022

BOQ Ac/Nos. 2019708 / 21781280

OPENING Balance on 1 August 2022 \$29,052.75

Income \$ 385.10

Expenditure \$ 59.00

CLOSING Balance on 31 August 2022 **\$29,378.85**

which comprises: *Everyday Account*: \$7,126.07 and *Websaver Account* \$22,252.78

Resource Centre: (Jill)

The house in question “Where am I”, was “Cloncrew”, 551 Esplanade Manly but only accessible from 12 Valetta Street Manly. The house was built in 1936 by William Denis O'Connor, William being the proprietor of the Waterloo Bay Hotel from 1898 to 1950. The house was designed by Eric Trewern, a prominent architect, who introduced the Spanish Mission house into Queensland. This is the only example of Trewern's Spanish Mission design in the Bayside Area.

Guest Speaker: Member **Chris Seymour**, a retired mining engineer, gave an interesting talk about the use of Hangar 7, at the old Eagle Farm airport during WWII. In this Hangar, shot-down Japanese aero planes were collect and reassembled to investigate the technology used in the building of the planes in Japan. Hangar 7 is now the only Hangar of its kind remaining in Brisbane, heritage listed and maybe a museum.

Raffle: The raffle, donated by Lena McCreadie was won by Myrtle Beitz.

The Lucky Door prize (\$5) was won by Christine Johns.

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

We thank our Patrons for their ongoing encouragement and support
Peter Cumming and Joan Pease

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: Jan Parnell, Lena McCreadie, Kathy Golinski, Myrtle Beitz, Ellen Coupland, Mitch Parsons, Chiharu Tsurutani.

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