

WYNNUM MANLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

September Newsletter

September General Meeting

Mr Gregory Cope

'Wynnum Post and Telegraph Service'



Thursday, 17th September,
7:30pm

Ambulance Museum
Auditorium

(Cnr Cedar Street and Tingal
Road, Wynnum)

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

Appreciation to Margaret Bullock, Jill Mahoney and Deb Tearle for providing supper this month.

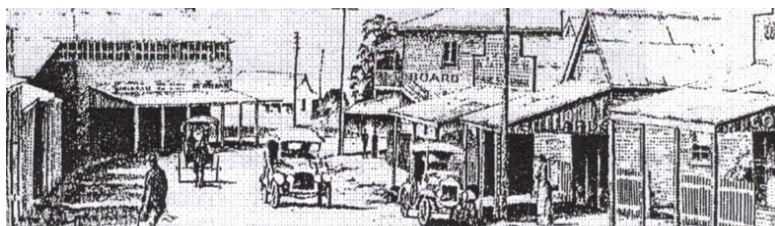


Presidents Report

Greetings...& welcome to our September newsletter.

September is my favourite month of the year. The weather is (usually) lovely and always makes me want to spend as much time as possible outdoors, recovering from the winter chills. Actually, if I am honest, I've got to admit that, here in Queensland, we have very little to complain about as far as weather is concerned - it's just the extremes that I am bothered about.

You are all probably aware by now that we have been granted space in the red brick school building for our resource centre, so, at least we have somewhere to go when our lease expires. It is near the entrance to the building, so we will get some passing traffic, and hopefully, the general public will be interested enough to visit. If, the building becomes the community centre envisaged by the





WMHS Spring Heritage Tour

Saturday 26th September

Join us for a delightful day trip to
the

**Tweed Regional
Gallery**

and

**Margaret Ollie Art
Centre,**

Murwillumbah

Followed by lunch at the
Murwillumbah RSL

After lunch we will have a
short visit to Tropical Fruit
World before departing for
the bus trip home.

Cost for the day will be \$40 per
person (includes bus trip,
morning tea, lunch and
admissions)

Please book at the
Resource Room

Brisbane City Council, we may be pleasantly surprised.

Don't forget to book for the
Spring Heritage Tour on Saturday 26th September to the
Margaret Olley Art Centre in Murwillumbah. At a cost of
\$40 you will be getting good value for your money. Cost
includes bus fare, morning tea, lunch and admissions.

Margaret would have to be one of life's characters. She
was born in Lismore on 24th June 1923. Her family lived
at Horseshoe Creek near Green Pigeon and then moved to
Tully, Tweed River, Brisbane, Tully and back to Brisbane.
For a time she was a boarder at Somerville House where
she met fellow artist and life long friend Margaret Cilento
who was also a student there. One of my friends who was
also there at the time relates the story about Margaret
approaching the headmistress asking for more art classes.
She told the head that her mother had written saying that
she would like Margaret to drop French and have more art
classes instead. Interestingly, the headmistress believed
her and she got her own way, without even asking to see
the letter!

Obviously Margaret was a larrikin even then!

On leaving Somerville in 1940, Margaret enrolled at the
Brisbane Central Technical College to study art. However,
she found the school's atmosphere uninteresting and
stifling. In 1943 she moved to Sydney and became an art
student at the East Sydney Technical College. It was here
that she truly blossomed both as an individual and an
artist. As Margaret herself said, "life began". She shared a
flat with Margaret Cilento and became part of the art scene
in Sydney, relishing the independence of their living
arrangements and the camaraderie of like minded people.
She graduated in 1945 and began her life long association
with the art world.

Margaret Olley's paintings are reach in the qualities of
sentiment and beauty. Her early output was dominated by
landscapes, but later she was inspired by still life paintings
and indoor scenes around her home. Even in her eighties
she was still painting every day. She died peacefully in her
sleep, surrounded by her artwork and other artist's
paraphernalia, and will be remembered for the beautiful
work which she produced. I know you will enjoy the visit to
her art centre.

All for now. Looking forward to seeing you at the next
meeting.

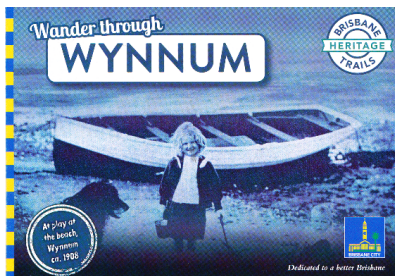
Best wishes,
Jan Parnell

Resource Centre Report – August 2015.

- *Wynnum Creek Clean-Up*

The group, set up by Neil Symes, is still active and now continues by State Member, Joan Pease. Most boats are now an eyesore and many have been abandoned and are disintegrating. As boats are nearly all past their use-by date are they just ready for the dump? A thought from the group is to bring one boat out of the water, and, after a clean and paint, set it up as a living museum in Greene Park, as a reminder of life on the creek in former times. Watch the “*Wynnum Herald*” for further news, or attend the next meeting of the group and have your say!

- *New Visitors Guide “Wandering Through Wynnum”*

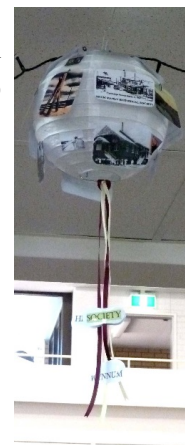


This booklet, produced by Brisbane City Council has now been reproduced in A5 size by Councillor Peter Cumming and is available in the Resource Room. The booklet is on line at:

www.brisbnae.qld.gov.au/heritagetrails
with similar booklets of other Brisbane suburbs.

- *The Lantern theme*

The Historical Society’s lantern joined the other seventy seven lanterns in Wynnum Library last week for the official lighting-up ceremony to celebrate Children’s Book Week.



Ours!

The lantern competition is occurring throughout all the Brisbane City libraries and Wynnum library staff hope to take the collection over to the new Library in Florence Street a the end of this year.

Till next time.

Jill (Librarian)

Here is another interesting article from a Herald of 1956

Popular Amateur Theatre producer joins men's mercery store

Martin Overson on staff of Quinn Kelk Store for Men



Mr. Martin Overson.

In pursuance of their policy to provide the shopping public of Wynnum with the finest available service in their modern mercery establishment, the Quinn Kelk Store for Men have enlisted to their staff the well known and popular Martin Overson.

Member of a highly respected local family, Martin has gained an excellent

reputation of recent years as one of the leading amateur players and producers of the Wynnum Mercury Theatre.

His production of "The Corn is Green" was voted the best play of last year and the current Mercury production "The Sleeping Beauty" pantomime with a cast of 80 local artists is in Martin's capable hands.

He also wrote the stage adaption of the story and has designed the elaborate settings and arranged the very fine ballet sequences for which the production is sure to win the acclaim of local theatregoers.

This will give some indication of this popular young man's artistic ability, which has won for him many friends and enthusiastic supporters.

His wide practical experience in the Men's Wear field makes his appointment to the Quinn Kelk Store a very wise and practical one indeed.

Martin has just completed eight years service in one of the largest City Emporiums during which time he has gained a sound knowledge of all phases of the Men's Wear Retail Trade which will undoubtedly make him a valuable acquisition to the already competent staff of the Quinn Kelk Store.

The fact that Martin has accepted the appointment which transfers him from a leading City Emporium, where, no doubt, boundless opportunities exist for such talented young men is in itself a grand indication of the high standard that has already been attained by this enterprising local business house.

They already feature several "Big Name" exclusives such as Stetson Hat and Country Club Shirts and it is confidently anticipated that more of these "Big Name" Lines will be added to their repertoire when the current building programme, which includes an entirely new and enlarged premises is completed in early December.

Already boasting a standard for quality, that is without peer in any suburban area, the Quinn Kelk management state that they are now seeking to attain a standard of service that will have no parallel and Martin's appointment is a major step in this direction.

Whilst it is recognised that quality men's attire that is right in step with the latest and best in male fashion world, the Quinn Kelk Store is fully conscious of the need to cater for the ever growing district requirements for industrial clothing and the finest range of men's working attire is displayed side by side with the finest fashion clothing of the season.

Already Martin Overson's artistic talent has been evident in the tasteful and attractive window displays featured in the past week or two and the assistance he is able to render the young men of the district in selecting just the right garment for the particular occasion is proving invaluable to the discriminating shopper

who seeks the best quality at a competitive price.

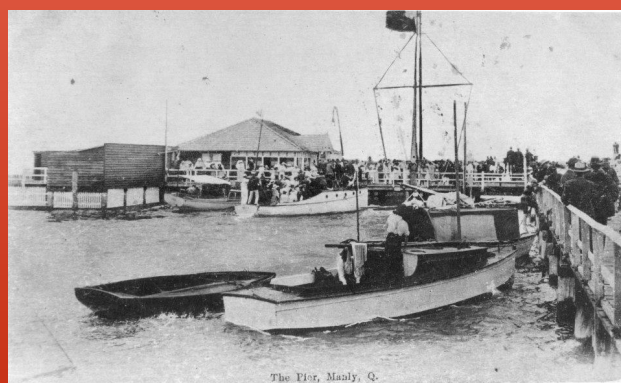
Martin's many friends are sure that he will add even greater prestige to the Quinn Kelk Store's already pledged policy of Quality and Value with Service.

"Wynnum Herald" 3 October 1956

Transcribed by Heather Langston. July 2015

BEFORE THE 1950's Post Cards No 14

One of those very crowded days for the Manly Jetty through the 1920's when all eyes seem to be fixed on something out to sea so it can be assumed some important sailing race is in progress. A large motor boat is about to leave somewhat overcrowded with spectators wanting a better view of the proceedings. The three jetties have always been popular on summer holidays and warm weekends. Of course The Kiosk at the end of Manly Jetty was very popular for both visitors and locals.



The Jetty, Manly, Q.

For more of Myrtle's Before the 1950's series, don't forget to LIKE us on FACEBOOK

Early Theatre in Wynnum and Manly

Win Davson (nee O'Neill) is a name well-known in former local theatre circles. In May 1946, she is reported, as a member of the *Wynnum and Manly Younger Set War Workers*, to be the producer of plays for local war funds. She herself belonged to *Brisbane Amateur Theatres* and was a star in Noel Coward's "Point Valaine" in 1945 and in "Animal Kingdom" by Philip Barry in 1946, both performed at the Albert Hall in Brisbane. The "well-known Win O'Neill" directed the *Young People's Club Players* production of "Miracle" staged at the Albert Hall on 2nd April 1947.

Win's talents came nearer to home in 1949 with the official opening of *Mercury Theatre* at 8pm on 7th July 1949 at the Star Theatre Wynnum. Tickets were 3/- and 2/- and "Milestones" a three-act play, directed by Win O'Neill, raised £25/2/- for the Waterloo Bay Rescue Fund.

"Many patrons, program sellers and usherettes wore formal dress, mainly in black and varying shades of blue. There were many charming frocks. Special thanks were extended to Sam Greene for the use of the theatre and Wilf Greene for staging the play."

Wynnum Herald 14/7/1949

At a special meeting on 21 July 1949 the constitution of the *Mercury Theatre* was formally adopted. The name was taken from the wonderful London Mercury Theatre and from the experimental Mercury Players of American, Orson Wells.

The objects of *Mercury* were to provide a training ground for professional stage and radio as well as a friendly club providing citizens with an outlet for artistic self expression, performance and song. The committee was elected with Win O'Neill as Director, Anne Grambauer as Secretary and

Stan Ede as Treasurer. Members were in two categories, those active in production and those giving moral and financial support. Costumes were received from Miss Hilda Greene and Mr A Sargeant and English newspapers from Mrs Silvester. Plans were made for future activities. Early castings were held at the home of Win O'Neill, 93 Esplanade, Wynnum Central.

As was the custom with "Little Theatre" the Wynnum productions were played at other venues. In 1950 "Short Story" was re-played at Greenslopes Military Hospital and for two nights at the Albert Theatre, Brisbane. Members had six concession tickets, each 1/- cheaper! *Mercury* was reported to be the only "Little Theatre" group in Australia to provide free supper to all of the audience.

Win O'Neill was made the first life member of *Mercury* at the Annual General Meeting on 3 August 1950. In 1951 Win O'Neill, now Mrs Maurice Davson, formed a branch of *Mercury* at Gatton, financially independent from Wynnum, but hoping to interchange productions.

Mercury Theatre is still alive and well. The last Production was "Mystery on the Orient Express" presented in the Manly Memorial Hall in August 2008.

In 1953 the *Wynnum, Manly and Lota Youth Association* was endeavouring to "keep teenage sons and daughters off the streets." The Club had a Dramatic Section, "in the capable hands of Martin Overson, a member of the *Brisbane Dramatic Society*."

The *Harlequin Theatre* was founded in late February 1957 as a "Little Theatre" organisation which "will encompass the whole of the area of the Redlands, Wynnum, Manly, Hemmant and Cannon Hill. The Theatre aims to develop artistic talent (not just repertory but also song and dance) and to provide a green room for inexperienced players." The theatre was run without President or Director but as a series of eleven departments, each headed by an expert in that field eg production, treasury, property, art, secretarial etc. Martin Overson was in charge of production.

The first public function was the casting for three plays, held on 20 March 1957 in the Municipal Hall, Wynnum. The first general

meeting was held on Wednesday 12 June in the Municipal Hall. There were department reports, make-up demo, casting of a children's variety event, supper, a game for the juniors.

The first big production was "Charley's Aunt" staged on the 4th, 5th and 13th July 1957 and at Cleveland on 1st August 1957. Harlequin-aides were enlisted in July 1957 to render any service necessary. There were 160 persons on the roll by 25 September 1957. A badge of membership had been introduced. More men were required and there was a "Full Up" notice for junior members, until the present juniors had become more experienced.

During its life the *Harlequin Theatre* staged productions at Manly Memorial Hall and under the house of Mark Overson at 28 Carlton Terrace, Wynnum. The house was fitted out with presentation area and lighting. The group unfortunately folded in the mid 1990's as enthusiastic members had aged and junior members had moved away from the district. There were not enough members to continue with productions to the standard desired.

1959 saw the first production of the Iona "Passion Play" Rev Father Shortall then undertook a nation-wide publicity tour to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth armed with a complete model of the Iona stage, prepared by Wynnum resident John Bakker and coloured slides of actual scenes of the play, prepared by Mr D'Arcy Phorr. Father Shortall toured schools, parishes and was featured on radio and television. The 1960 production was scheduled for Good Friday 15 April and Easter Saturday 16 April and Saturday 9 April at

Toowoomba. Now the play is produced by Iona College every second year.

Mrs Hope-Lewis was a keen supporter of *Mercury, Harlequin* and *Iona Passion Plays*. As the guest speaker at a *Mercury* AGM in March 1961 she suggested the formation of a new group to embrace the production of musical comedies, operettas and comic opera. She was seconded by Local Member Mr W M Gunn. Mrs Hope-Lewis of 83 Bride Street, Wynnum offered to undertake initial coaching for the *Musical Comedy Society* and production of shows.

The inaugural meeting took place on 10 May 1961 in St Peter's Hall when the Chair was Mr J Foley. A public meeting was held on 31 May 1961 in the Band Hall in Tingal Road to ratify the constitution and adopt a name for the society.

The Society was reported as the *Savoyards* in the press on 7 June 1961 named after the Savoy Theatre in London, the home of the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company, where Gilbert and Sullivan was played. The first production was the "Mikado" staged in the Municipal Hall, Wynnum.

Today *Savoyards* have their own hall in Ferguson Street, Manly, previously the Scout Den at Manly (and before that an air raid shelter.)

Savoyards claim to be the longest continuously operating amateur company in the Brisbane area and now present two major productions each year in the Iona College Performing Art Centre and several minor choral events.

Jill Greenhill December 2008

Where was I? August 2015

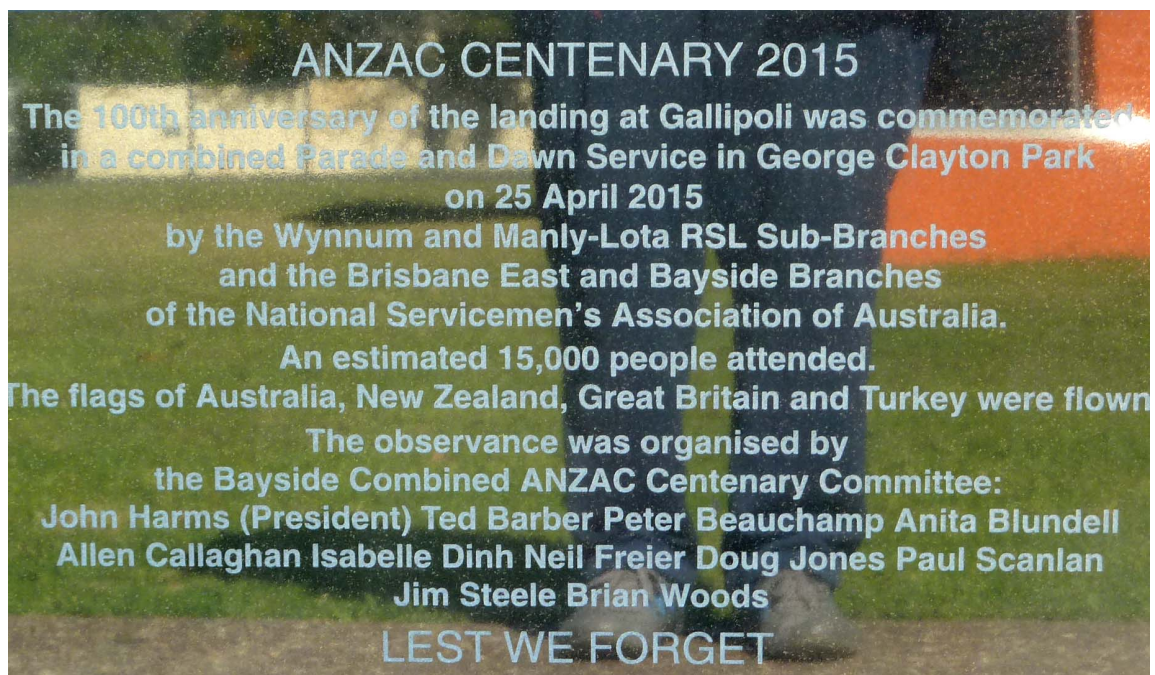


A vertical cut into the ground revealed a row of buried white shells indicating the former presence of a midden. A midden was a refuse dump in earlier times, usually a collection of shells and bones which had been left after feasting.

A new fence was constructed between the Tennis Club and the Croquet Club in Colina Street and the shells were seen in the exposed cut near the entrance gate and ramp from the carpark to the Croquet Club.

In the early 1900's this area was well known for its water holes along a tributary of Wynnum Creek that flowed behind the RSL building. The site, now vacant once housed the gas works.

Where am I? September 2015



Jill Greenhill Librarian

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc
Minutes of General Meeting held in the Ambulance Museum Auditorium
on Thursday 20 August 2015

The meeting opened at 7.30pm with 27 members present and 7 apologies were received.

President Jan Parnell opened the meeting at 7.30pm, and reminded us of many happenings of the past including the invention of stainless steel in Sheffield in England in 1913.

Minutes of the previous meeting: were accepted by Jill Greenhill, seconded by Mitch Parsons.

Correspondence: Lena presented the correspondence received in June. This correspondence had been accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 6 August 2015

Treasurers Report: Band of Qld A/c No. **2013 9708** **1 – 31 July 2015**

Opening Balance at 1 July 2015
\$35,934.25

which comprises:

Everyday Account

	Opening balance at 1 July	\$
4,567.69		
	Income \$229.40 Expenditure \$314.87	
	Closing Balance at 31 July 2015	\$ 4,482.22

and

Websaver Account at 31 July 2015 (Inc. Interest \$47.95) \$31,414.51

TOTAL FUNDS at 31 July 2015
\$35,896.73

This report was presented and approved at Committee Meeting on Thursday 2 July 2015.

Resource Centre: “Where was I?” this month featured the remains of an Aboriginal midden in the cutting of a new ditch against the croquet club in Collina Street. A midden is a word for a rubbish collection, the collection here being of shells and bones, the inedible remains of their food.

Tours:

Bookings were received for the next trip on Saturday 26 September to the Margaret Olley Studio in northern New South Wales with lunch in Murwillumbah and a visit to Tropical Fruit World. Cost \$40.00 inclusive.

Speaker:

President Jan Parnell spoke on plants in the garden that have received the name of a famous health professional. Sister Kenny has a dahlia, Lady Cilento, a hibiscus.

The **Door Prize** , was won by Mitch Parsons, the **Raffle** also by Janice Newlands and the **Members Draw** by Roisin Burrell.

The meeting closed at 8.5000pm. A delicious supper was served by Wendy Parsons and Debbie Tearle.

Jill Greenhill. Minute Secretary

<i>Events September</i>			
Date	Time	Location Name	Event Name
15 th September	6pm	John Oxley Library, Level 4, State Library	Brisbane Folk Music: yesterday, today and tomorrow
15 th September	5:30pm-7:30pm	Royal Brisbane Womens Hospital Education Centre	RBHW History Series: Part 1 Cost: \$10 (bookings required)
18 th September	1:30pm-3pm	Wynnum Library	Genealogy Online
19 th September	10:30am-3pm	State Library	Find your soldier: Spend the day at SLQ discovering your familys military history. Bookings required.
20 th September	2pm-3pm	Newstead House	Music from the highlands: Celebrate in style with a selection of old and new tunes from the City of Brisbane Pipe Band.
24 th September	10am-12pm	Wynnum Library	The Man Who lived in a tree: Hear the fascinating story of Johann Herbig, who immigrated from South Australia in 1855, and took up residence in an old red river gum the Barossa Valley.
24 th September	11am-12pm	Queensland State Archives	Behind the scenes tour of the archives
26 th September	9am-5pm	West End state School	PANZfest: Queensland Caribbean Heritage
26 th September	9:30am-4pm	The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich	Ipswich Salutes: Step into an army camp based on WW1 and WW2 as the Museum grounds transform for 1 day only. Cost: \$21 Adult, \$18 Concession, \$12 Children
27 th September	10:30am-4pm	Ormiston House	Alfa Romeo Concours Cost: \$5 Adults, \$1 Child
Until 27 th September	10am-5pm	SLQ Gallery, level 2, State Library, Stanley Place, South Bank	Voices from Afar: This exhibition invites visitors to learn about Anzac tradition 1st hand through the experience of several young Queenslanders who have travelled to Gallipoli and the Western Front battlefields
1 st October	6pm-7:50pm	Wynnum Library	Family history up late
4 th October	10:15-11:15am	Roma Street Railway Station	Steam Train Sunday: Take in the views of Brisbane behinds a steam locomotive. Cost: \$25 Adult, \$22 Concession, \$15 Child
Until 4 th October	10am - 4pm	Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery	Grass Dukes and Shepherd Kings: An exhibit on the 19th century pastoral life of the darling downs.

10th-11 th October	9am-5pm	Brisbane	Brisbane Open House: Over this weekend discover Brisbanes hidden treasures as the doors are unlocked on a multitude of contemporary, historic and environmentally significant buildings in Brisbane. See website: http://brisbaneopenhouse.com.au/2015-buildings
11 th October	9am-5pm	Newstead House	Open for Brisbane Open House event
14 th October	9am-3:30pm	Auditorium 1, State Library of Queensland	How we remember Symposium: A symposium on how we remember the centenary of the Anzac legacy. Free, bookings required
14 th October	11am-12pm	Online	Nursing in QLD - webinar: Queensland state archives includes many types of records which document the history of nursing in QLD. This webinar provides helpful hints to find them.

Our Committee...

President: Jan Parnell	33966001	president@wmhs.org.au
Secretary: Lena McCreadie	33934393	secretary@wmhs.org.au
Treasurer: Sandy Liddle	32074467	treasurer@wmhs.org.au
Librarian: Jill Greenhill	33933208	library@wmhs.org.au
Speaker Co-ordinator: Myrtle Beitz	33964711	events@wmhs.org.au
Membership Co-ordinator: Sandy Liddle	32074467	membership@wmhs.org.au
Newsletter Editor: Sharee Cordes	0408232158	newsletter@wmhs.org.au
Supper Co-ordinator: Deborah Tearle	33969697	supper@wmhs.org.au
Publicity Officer: Deborah Tearke	33969697	publicity@wmhs.org.au
Welfare Officer: Ellen Coupland	38991326	
Meeting Sign on: Mitch Parsons		
Plaques and Memorials: Noela Stratton	33960069	
Life Members: Myrtle Beitz, John Davies, Jill Greenhill, Noela Stratton		
Late Life Members: Merv Beitz, Jack Sands		
Patrons: Cr Peter Cumming and Joan Pearce MP		
Friends of WMHS: John McIntyre		

The Society would like to thank and acknowledge Cartridge World Wynnum and Carl Wheeler of CMK Financial Services for their ongoing support and sponsorship.

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 318
Wynnum QLD 4178
www.wmhs.org.au

