

WYNNUM MANLY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

September 2020 Newsletter

NEWS

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, there will be **NO** general meetings until further notice and the **Resource Centre is closed** until further notice

We are continuing to publish a monthly newsletter. Any contributions are most welcome.

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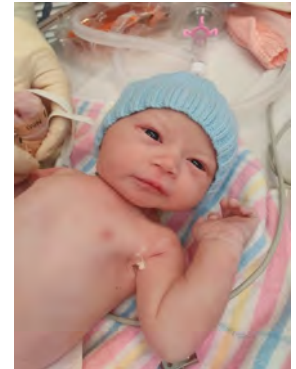
From the President

Welcome to our September Newsletter.

It is wonderful to be able to bring you some happy news this month.

In what I believe is a first in the Society's history, one of our committee members has become a parent whilst in office!

Congratulations to **Mitch Parsons** and his wife, **Tayla**, on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Louis Charles Douglas Parsons. Louis was born on 25 August at 8.07am weighing in at 3.2kg. Both mum and bub are doing great.



Below are some events that occurred in history during September.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes, Sandy

During September in Australian history

- 01 Sep 1874—Sydney General Post Office opens.
- 23 Sep 1879—Baldwin steam motors tram first tried in Sydney
- 04 Sep 1884—Britain ends its policy of penal transportation to NSW
- 17 Sep 1900—Commonwealth of Australia proclaimed
- 24 Sep 1903—Alfred Deakin succeeds Edmund Barton as Prime Minister
- 17 Sep 1914—Andrew Fisher becomes Prime Minister for third time.

During September in International history

- 02 Sep 1666—The Great Fire of London begins in bakery in Pudding Lane
- 29 Sep 1829—Britain's "bobbies" make their first public appearance
- 19 Sep 1893—NZ becomes first country to grant women right to vote
- 14 Sep 1901—US President William McKinley dies from wounds suffered during assassination attempt in New York.
- 01 Sep 1939—Hitler's armies invade Poland starting WWII in Europe
- 12 Sep 1953—John F Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier marry
- 30 Sep 1955—Actor, James Dean killed in car crash in California
- 28 Sep 1978—Pope John Paul I dies after on 33 days in office
- 14 Sep 1982—Princess Grace of Monaco dies following car accident.
- 11 Sep 2001—Worst terrorist attack in US history when four passenger jets were hijacked and crashed killing nearly 3,000 people.

Resource Centre Report

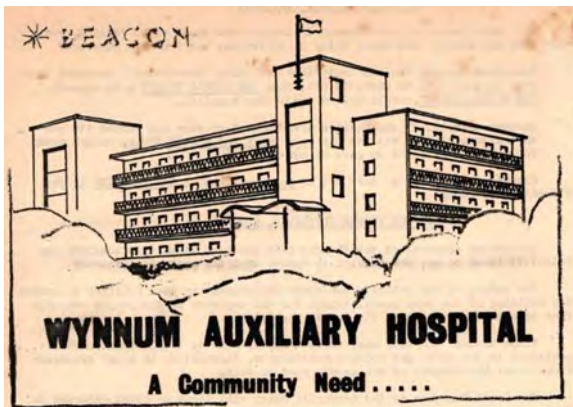
September 2020



Wynnum Hospital

We received a faded folder containing yellowing papers from a deceased estate. The contents of the folder were plans and letters, dated in the 1960s. Corresponding were the Secretary of the Lota Progress Association and the Acting Secretary of the Brisbane District committee of the Communist Party of Australia.

“Thirteen years ago (in 1947) we were promised the next hospital after the South Brisbane Auxiliary Hospital (now Princess Alexandra Hospital).”



A local petition was set up resulting in the collection of 4,756 signatures, 1215 signatures being from the Wynnum Branch of the Communist Party of Australia.

The Communist Party envisaged a multistorey building, as sketched on the front of their regular publication “The Beacon” in the 1960s.



Local Member, William Morrison Gunn lobbied for a 250-bed MODERN AUXILIARY HOSPITAL in 1957. He had secured a 10 acre site for this purpose in 1956, at the corner of New Lindum Road and Wynnum Road. This explains the location of the latest specialist centre, Gundu Pa built on this same land over 50 years later.

The Wynnum Hospital eventually arrived in 1981 together with plenty of land in Whites Road. There was no expansion. Less than 40 years later the building was closed and development of Health Care facilities moved to Cleveland. Wynnum was given the Specialist Centre, Gundu Pa.

Do you remember this house?



Around 2001, this Colonial-style house (with the veranda roof attached to the walls of the house and not continuous with the roof structure) stood on the corner of Wellington Street and Kooralgin St, Manly.

The house is now relocated to Wellington Point.

The present owner is seeking any information about the history of the house.

Can you help?

Till next time, Jill

Fishermen’s Rugby League Football Club



Recently, a visitor showed us this photo and thought that this team was playing in the late 1940s. Eddie Hancox sits on the front row, third from the right.

Please can anybody identify any of the other players – we, and Edie’s relations would appreciate your help.

Contact Jill: (3393 3208) Thank you.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Cr. Peter Cumming
for the printing of this month’s newsletter

	
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Aussie Broadband provides subsidised internet access to our Resource Room.

Cartridge World Wynnum supplies toner for our printers.

August 2020 Where was I?



I am on the crest of the hill on Manly Road before descending to Mayfair Village. Only one of the Bunya Pines remain today.

On land surrounding this site, John Dawson grew sugar cane in the 1860s. The area was known as the “Spring Gardens as water never ceased to flow from several springs on the property.

In 1891, John Hargreaves, leased this property. The family grew produce which was processed as jams, sauces, pickles, chutneys in their factory on the site. The business grew rapidly due to the good quality of their products and the land purchased in 1898. One of these Bunya Pines remains, close to the road.

In 1936, Warwick Whatmore purchased the business, but still traded under the Hargreaves Name.

Edgell Company took over the entire operation in 1963, at the time employing over 500 local residents.

Simplot Australia became the owners in 1999. The land was subdivided for modern community development.

September 2020 Where am I?



Where is this plaque mounted?

Till next time Jill

The St Helena Island Community

www.sthelenacommunity.com.au

WARDER Felix McCURLEY

(written by Belinda Daly, August 2020)

Family and Early life

Felix McCurley was born in Derryachey, Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1827 to James and Jane McCurley. At the age of 18 years joined the British Royal Engineers and he was stationed in Quebec, Canada for 8 years

Felix married Margery Bell, daughter of Sophia Jane Hamilton and James Bell. Margery was born in Cavan, Ireland in 1852 and they lived at Aldershot, England where Felix was stationed in an Army camp for 21 years. He became a Troop Sergeant Major before he retired and spent a further six years in England before the family left for Brisbane.

Felix and Margery's children were all born in England, excepting the youngest child, Felix Arthur, who was born at Doughboy Creek, Queensland, Australia in 1873. Some of the children born to Felix and Margery died in the UK before the family emigrated to Australia, but the following children are recorded as emigrating and/or living in Queensland, Australia:

Children of Felix and Margery McCurley

John Arthur	Died 18/5/1919
Annie	Died 23/8/1873 in Queensland
William John	Died 14/12/1885
James	Died 9/3/1942
David Robert	Died 5/11/1946
Edward Charles	Died 16/8/1926
Felix Arthur	Born 4/12/1873

Felix bought seventy five acres from Mr William Poynton for £80. This land is now bounded by Wynnum Road, Chandos Street, and West Avenue in Wynnum. The farm was basically used for market gardening.

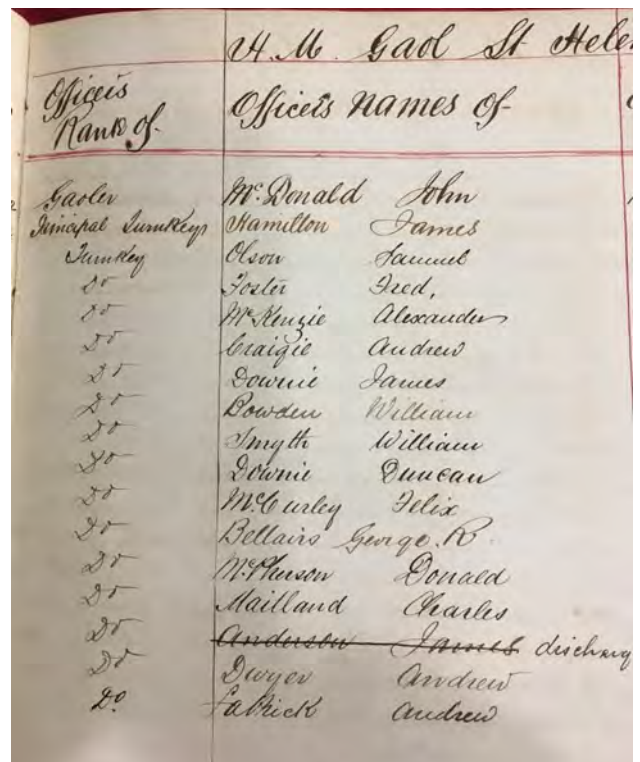
Felix was involved in the Fort Lytton Garrison at Lytton.

St Helena Penal Establishment Information

Prison appointments

Felix McCurley was employed as a Warden on St Helena Island. He was also Senior Warden for 6 months before his resignation on the 22nd August 1880.

Image (right) Officers of the St Helena Gaol, 1875 recorded in the Letterbook of the Sherriff 1875 - April 1877, sourced from Qld State Archives.



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General prison information

1880

Subscription list - IRISH FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

THE Honorary Treasurers gratefully acknowledge the following additional Subscriptions collected at St, Helena
Mr. J. McDonald . Mr. J. B. North, Mr. J. Teeling; Mr. J. Mullaney; Mr. J. Hamilton Each 10
P. Kennedy, Antisell, J. A. McDonald, McKenzie, D. McPherson, 7s. 0d.; W. Smyth, 7s. 6d.; W. Bowden, 7s. 0d. Each
5s.: J. Downie, D. Downie, A. Boal, C. Halbaum, **F. McCurley**, A. Lafranc, A. Sneyd, C. Holloway, C. Fetherstonhaugh,
J. Nairn, J. Tulloch, J. Bell, E. Trueman.

Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), Wednesday 21 January 1880, page 5

Misuse of weapon

Warder Andrew Lapraik, under a charge of losing his weapon, pointed out 3 other instances of misdemeanors by warders on St Helena:

Warder William Wallace (Wallis) in 1869 left his revolver in the passage of B Ward where all the prisoners could have access to it. Prisoner Henry Stacy found it and Wallace (Wallis) fined \$2

Warder Felix McCurly left his revolver in the prisoner's water closet in 1876 where it was open to any prisoner. Prisoner George Dodwell found it and McCurly fined \$5 and \$2 for neglect of duty insubordination and disrespect.

Warder Richard Antisell left his revolver in the prisoner's water closet in 1879 and he was cautioned.

Warder's salaries

Probation warders (first year) £80

Warder (second year) £90

Warder 3rd year £100

After 5 years £10 additional

Recommendation from Superintendent John McDonald for Senior Warders is:

Warder and Sugar boiler Andrew McKenzie (17 years in the Government Service, and a most valuable Officer) to £150 (given £130 10)

William Bowden (appointed in 1870) to \$£135 (given £120)

Donald MacPherson (appointed 1874) to £120 per annum (given £110)

Warder Charles Holloway (appointed 1874) to £120 (given £110)

Also recommends those over 5 years service receive £120 and this will affect 4 warders – Lapraik (now dismissed) Bowden, McCurly (useful) and McPherson.

Resignation St Helena Island

Penal Establishment

St Helena

22nd August 1880

I wish to resign my position as warder there as I am not able to remain on account of the Chief Warders' tyranny. I have performed every duty on this island since I have been here both as Chief Warder, Senior Warder that I have been doing for the last 6 months, and then I have not receive(sic) one penny more pay than any other warder. But I am perfectly convinced that Mr McDonald the Superintendent has recommended me for extra pay. Still I am unable to remain under the Chief Warder.

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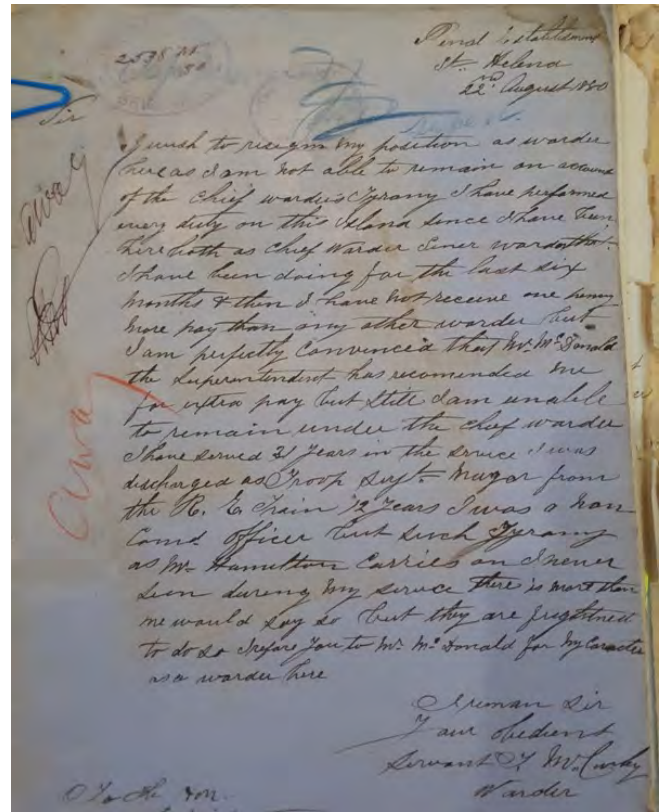
I have served 21 years in the service and I was Troop Sergeant Major. From the R.E. Train 12 years I was a non-commanding officer but such tyranny as Mr Hamilton carries on I never seen during my service. There is more than me would say so but they are frightened to do so. I refer you to Mr McDonald for my character as a warder here.

I remain, Sir

Your obedient servant

F. McCurley

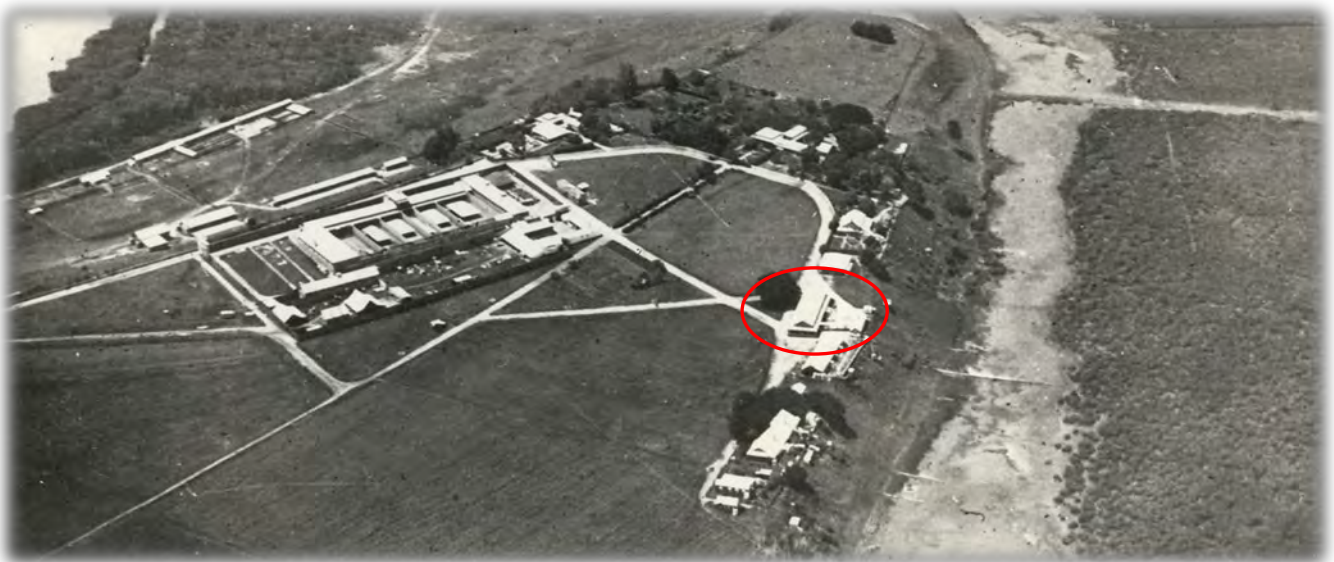
Warder



Resignation letter sourced from Qld State Archives

Accommodation

The Superintendent, Senior Warders, School Teachers, Storekeepers/ Clerks and Trade Instructors were given preference for housing in the Married Quarters on the high land on the Eastern side of the island, outside the Prison Stockade. Despite working briefly as Senior Warder, Felix McCurley was not allocated a cottage and did not have his family on the island with him. Felix was housed in the Warder’s barracks, which was a long dormitory style accommodation with attached kitchen and bathroom.



Aerial view of the St Helena Island Penal Establishment in the 1910's. The Prison stockade is the large group of buildings on the left. The T shaped Official Quarters is surrounded by lush gardens at the top of the photo. The warders' barracks, Felix's accommodation, is circled. Photo courtesy of the Fiona Pearce Collection, QPWS.

Post St Helena Island life and employment

Felix McCurley died on the 9/1/1902. His wife Margery McCurley died on the 24/11/1908

The land in Wynnum was passed to their sons, James, David and Felix Arthur and gradually has been sold off and developed for residential developments. The family's connection to the land is remembered by **McCurley Street** running along one of the boundaries.

Information Sources

Colonial Secretary's Correspondence

Qld BDM Index

Letterbook of the Sherriff 1875 - April 1877

Qld Parks and Wildlife Service

Qld State Archives

St Helena Depositions Book 1867 to 1886

Trove

Wynnum Manly Historical Society

PROJECT: Churches of the local district.

The Society is attempting to locate all the churches that are, or have been, in our local district. **We need some help!**

Today, this building houses the Queensland Philatelic Council at 18 Coolcrest Avenue (off West Avenue) Wynnum.



Formerly this was an **Apostolic Church of Australia.**

Does anybody know, or have a contact that might know, when the building was opened as a church and when was closed? Or you may have some more details or know of a person who can help.

Where did the Apostolic Church re locate and reopen?

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

216 Bay Terrace, Wynnum

Does anybody know:

When did the Jehovah's Witnesses come to Wynnum?

Where did they first meet?

When was this Kingdom Hall Built?

Was this Hall refurbished in 2007?



Thank you, Jill.

The Origin of the Lota Camping Reserve

Rev. Loyal L Wirt (1863 -1961) was the instigator of the **Brisbane Institute of Social Service**. Wirt was an American Congregational Minister, who was both born and trained in America. His ideals were to improve the conditions of the industrial classes, to provide a centre for a higher social and civic life and to institute and maintain a place of wholesome amusement and clean recreation.

To achieve his vision, in 1906, Wirt applied and was successful in leasing part of a large empty factory building in Fortitude Valley, at the corner of Brunswick and Ivory Streets. The property belonged to the British Australasian Tobacco Company Ltd. of Sydney. The rent charged was one shilling per annum for 5 years, after which the Institute could buy the building or pay rent at £300 per annum.



Factory of the British Australasian Tobacco Company Ltd.

Wirt then organised

“radical alterations of the fabric of the building ... the renovation of two floors of the building ... which, when accomplished will provide a home and headquarters for the work contemplated ... larger, more convenient and better adapted to the social needs of the industrial classes, especially the younger children.” (Bne Courier 31.10.1906).....

When the renovations were complete, the premises housed a creche, a free kindergarden, a working girls' guild, a young men's club, a gymnasium, a swimming pool and a roof garden.

The inaugural meeting of the Institute was held in September 1906 and the building was officially opened by Lord Chelmsford on 18 April 1907.

Lota Camping Ground

An orderly detrainment at the Lota Railway Station on Saturday afternoon (22 December 1928) formed the initial operations of the Naval Cadet Corps connected with the **Institute of Social Service**.

The unit encamped on the recently acquired site at the intersection of Lota's Esplanade and Alexander Street.

The site was of 48 perches, cost £150 and commanded an uninterrupted view of Waterloo Bay from Wellington Point to the mouth of the Brisbane River. This was one of the best of the remaining blocks of land adjacent to the bay.

In readiness to receive the boys, six bell tents had been erected, with the necessary storm trenches dug around them. In addition, there was a large marquee with tables, chairs and a piano for use as a recreation tent. The elevated and well drained camp site was enclosed with a neat white rail and netting fence, and water and electric light were laid on. The presence of a temporary cook house, with a store house attached, ensured that well cooked meals could be provided under all conditions. (*Bnsbane Courier* 27.12.1928)

The following day, Sunday 23 December 1928, a Church Parade was held at the nearby Lota Methodist Church (now a residence Ambool Street). Rev E G Walker, in his sermon, made reference to the presence of the fine body of naval cadets.

On Monday 24 December, 1928, the cadets settled down in real earnest to the syllabus arranged for them. Events were organized to a schedule, that included bedding rolled up by 6.00am, Union Jack hoisted at 8.00am. Breakfast was at 8.15am. At 9.45am there was to be the daily division and prayers. The forenoon and afternoon routine contained rifle exercises, boat building, boat sailing, swimming, physical

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drill, routine marches, various lectures on splicing and other essential naval work, signaling and sports. In the later afternoon, the boys had leisure time before returning within the camp bounds for the lowering the flag at sunset. Out-lights and pipe down took place at 9.30pm.

The Institute of Social Service officially opened their permanent foreshore camping ground on Wednesday, 26 December 1928. The opening ceremony took place on the grounds at the base of the fine flagstaff. A guard of 60 naval cadets, with fixed bayonets, commanded by Chief Petty Officer D J McDougal and 20 "Loyal Wirt" boys formed a hollow square. They presented arms, as three buglers played the general salute during the hoisting of a new flag, presented by Messrs Paul and Gray. At 3.00pm, after the official opening, the general public were invited to inspect the encampment.

These naval camps were held each Christmas between Christmas and the New Year's night. The camping ground was used by the girls at Easter. In 1929 a sickbay was added. In 1932 the camp was held at Redcliffe, but in 1933, back again at Lota, where a violent gale and torrential storm resulted in the flooding of the large recreation tent. Members of the camp slept on wrestling mats on the temporary stage. However the tents withheld the gale.

In 1938 thirty boys from the Darling Downs were chosen to stay at the Camp at Lota. The boys were selected under the auspices of the Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme and selection was made by the Queensland Country Women's Association. Chosen were twelve boys from Warwick, three from Stanthorpe, three from Killarney, three from Allora and four from Clifton. The boys were at the site on holiday for two weeks in comfortable tents and had a joyful time. Has the camp at Lota has lost its naval theme!

Originally in 1907, the Institute of Social Service was one of its kind. However, by the late 1930s there were reported to be too many social services available in Brisbane. Forty were counted. Money to provide social services was scarce and the Institute had an overdraft of £ 1,900.

Today this area on Lota foreshore is under the control of the Brisbane City Council and named Lota Camping Reserve. There is no white picket fence. Public camping is not allowed and around 1980 a low set house was constructed on the former Brisbane Institute of Social Service camp site at 2 Alexander St Lota.



2 Alexander Street, against Lota Esplanade, Lota today

LOTA CAMPING RESERVE TREE

The Brisbane City Council have advised that they are wishing to have a monumental gum tree located within the Lota Camping Reserve entered on the National Trust of Significant Trees. To assist it, they are asking for any information regarding the history of the tree which is believed to have predated European settlement in the area. The tree is opposite Bart's Place.

Are you able to provide any information or do you have any old photographs where the tree is visible? If so, please provide copies to us so that we can pass onto the Council.



Publications for sale

In person—Wynnum Community Centre, Room 1.08, 105 Florence Street Wynnum Mon to Fri 10am to Noon,

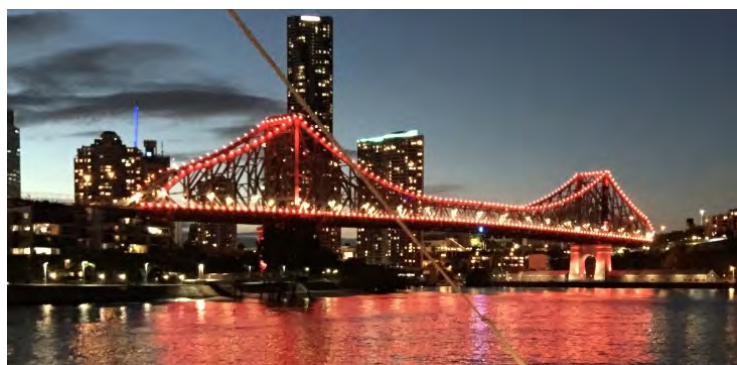
Email— Wynnum Manly Historical Society Librarian: library@wmhs.org.au

Early Shipping in Moreton Bay June 1846 –December 1859 Vol 1	Davenport, Winifred and Mottram, Betty	1998	\$5
Early Shipping in Moreton Bay January 1860 –December 1863 Vol 2	Davenport, Winifred and Mottram, Betty	1998	\$5
From Saplings to Kero Tins A Peek at Gumdale’s Past 2nd Ed.	Nalder Robyn	2017	\$15
History of Music in the Wynnum Manly Area 1900 - 1997	Nock, Betty	1998	\$5
History of Arts in the Wynnum Manly Area 1900 – 2003	Nock, Betty	2005	\$5
Lota House. Photographs and Images over 150 Years	Beitz, Myrtle	2017	\$15
Mangroves to Moorings - Revisited	Beitz, Myrtle	2005	\$35
Plum Blossom : a transition of one’s life (fiction)	Maree, Jeannette	2020	\$24.95
Story of Lota House	Beitz, Myrtle	2017	Donation

UPCOMING EVENTS

When	Where	What’s on
September 27 11am—12.30pm COVID restrictions and safe-measures in place with limit of 50 attendees so bookings essential Via Police Museum	Qld Police Museum Police Headquarters, 200 Roma Street Brisbane	Archaeology of the native mounted police Presented by Archaeologist, Prof Bryce Barker, USQ.

SUNSET DINNER CRUISE FROM MOWBRAY PARK—13 September 2020 (5pm—8pm)



BRISBANE CRUISES is once again operational and have a great inexpensive cruise you may be interested in. It is a 3 hour river cruise taking in sunset and watch as Brisbane comes to life at night. The cruise includes a BBQ dinner onboard. Cost is \$45 for adults and \$30 for children (4-14 years).

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 requirements, you will be required to bring a face mask or scarf (which is to be worn at food service time only—approx. 10 mins) and your own coffee/tea mug. Your temperature will be taken prior to boarding.

Bookings can be made directly through Brisbane Cruises ph 3630 2666.

NOTE: This is not a WMHS organised tour.

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

PO Box 318

Wynnum QLD 4178



Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.

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

Membership application forms are available from the Resource Centre at the Wynnum Community Centre (formerly the Wynnum Central State School building), .Florence St, Wynnum or on our website www.wmhs.org.au

Membership costs per year (1 January to 31 December)

Single \$20.00

Family \$30.00

High School Student \$10.00

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

2020/21 Committee

President: Sandy Liddle	0438 830 140	president@wmhs.org.au
Vice President: Jan Parnell	3348 4433	
Secretary: Lena McCreadie	3393 4393	secretary@wmhs.org.au
Treasurer: Geraint Gregory	3396 5264	treasurer@wmhs.org.au
Librarian: Jill Greenhill	3393 3208	library@wmhs.org.au
Speaker Co-ordinator: Myrtle Beitz	3396 4711	events@wmhs.org.au
Membership Co-ordinator: Geraint Gregory	3396 5264	membership@wmhs.org.au
Newsletter Editor: Sandy Liddle	0438 830 140	newsletter@wmhs.org.au
Supper Co-ordinator: Vacant		
Publicity Officer: Vacant		
Welfare Officer: Ellen Coupland	3899 1326	ellen@wmhs.org.au
Plaques & Memorials: Mitch Parsons	0448 522 403	plaques@wmhs.org.au

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