



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 2026

Vol. 18. No. 2 (181)

May General Meeting

THURSDAY 21 May 2026

6.45 pm for 7.00pm start

Wynnum Ambulance Centre
Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street

Indigenous Author

**Chrissy
Hansen-Doherty**

will tell us about her book

**"A Forgotten History.
Moorooka Aboriginal
Camp."**

based on the recollections of her
mother, Auntie Sue Hansen, who lived
in the camp in the 1940s and 1950s.

Raffle.

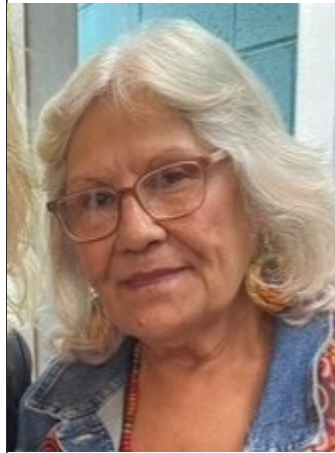
Lucky Door

Refreshments

Gold Coin Donation

Chrissy Hanen-Doherty

An accomplished First Nation author, Chrissy was honoured with the prestigious Central Queensland University 25th Anniversary Edition of Idiom 23 Literary Magazine award in April 2016 for her non-fiction story, "Ancestors, Breastplates Fate". In December 2023 she authored a historical book dedicated to the descendants of a First Nation soldier.

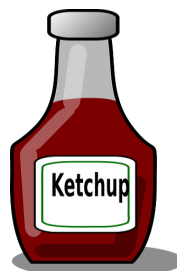


Chrissy who has been an ardent advocate for truth telling, will guide us on a journey from Moorooka Aboriginal camp to Sibley Road, Lindum, recounting her mother's childhood and early married life in Brisbane's Bayside suburbs, complimented by family treasured photos from the era. "A Forgotten History" is Chrissy's third published book, an intimate and moving account of her mother's childhood at the Moorooka Aboriginal camp.

The Resource Room will be open next on Saturday 27 June from 10am - 12 noon for those persons who are not able to visit on a week day.

Bring and Buy this month.

At Meeting. May 21 2026.
We always welcome home-made items, jams and chutneys, biscuits and cakes.
Small portions. Most items:
\$2 or \$3



Located in the “Old School Building” at Room 1.08, 105 Florence Street, Wynnum.

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

On Saturday 25 April 2026 Queensland celebrated ANZAC day.

Are you aware that there are heritage-listed **ANZAC Cottages in Wynnum?**

ANZAC cottages were homes built by the community for the widows and families of soldiers killed in WWI and for soldiers who returned debilitated by tuberculosis. Usually the land and the materials were donated. Homes were built in all States but the greater majority were in Queensland, that is 52 Anzac cottages and 22 TB (Tuberculosis) homes.

The Cottages

The funding of the cottages is part of the Golden Casket history, the Golden Casket being a unique government-run lottery which funded Queensland’s free hospital scheme.

Gambling was illegal in Queensland after 1895 (Suppression of Gambling Act). However licensed Art Unions were legal. The Golden Casket Art Union first went on sale in November 1916 to raise money for the rehabilitation of soldiers returning wounded from the war in Europe. There were 5 draws, before the Queensland Government took over the Art Union, and draws 3,4 and 5 raised money for Anzac Cottages. Drawer 3 was opened on 2 March 1918, ran for 5 months and sold 98,750 of the 100,000 tickets. Drawer 4 and 5 were fully subscribed and raised approximately £37,000, enough funds to build 60 – 80 homes for war widows, being used for purchasing land and materials when donated gifts needed to be supplemented.

The Anzac Cottage Committee was responsible for allocating cottages which were rented to deserving widows, and for organising repairs and maintenance when required. Rent was low, only 1/6 per week. The widow had to be of good character and remain single, not be seen drinking in public and not to have male callers. If she re-married, she vacated the cottage. If she died, only a relative capable of caring for the remaining family could move in. The land was vested in the Public Curator, upon trust in perpetuity and leased to the widow or descendant.



On Friday 7 September 1917 the *Brisbane Courier* reports:- “ Stump capping ceremony of the Anzac Cottage to be built at Wynnum on the Martinville Estate (will occur) at 4.00pm on Sunday. The Wynnum Glee Party has promised to assist, and teachers of Wynnum State Schools have signified their willingness to arrange a procession of school children to march from the Wynnum South railway station to where the cottage is to be erected. The Moreton Bay Junior Brass Band will play martial airs during the afternoon. The stump capping ceremony will be performed by the Minister for Railways (Mr J H Coyne). A special train will leave South Brisbane for Wynnum South at 2.30pm on Sunday”.

(This cottage is situated at 128 Dibar Street, Wynnum.)

(Continued on Page 3)

ANZAC Cottages in Wynnum (Continued)

Mr G Martin, the proprietor of the Empire Theatre, at that time, had donated the land for the building of the cottage on his Martinville Estate (near Memorial Park), Mr Meadows then offered two cleared allotments also in the Martinville Estate. Mr Brandon, of the Star Pictures, offered to hold a benefit entertainment for the fund. Proceeds from the afternoon amounted to £11/4/6. (*Brisbane Courier and Telegraph*, 10 September 1917).

By 26 November 1917 the cottage was complete and was officially opened by the Governor and handed over to a deserving widow on Sunday 1 December 1917.



This picture shows the Queensland Governor handing over the key of another Anzac Cottage to Mrs Marsden, a soldier's widow. Mrs Marsden lived in 45 Wassell Street, Wynnum.

Our Society member, member, Ian Wheeler, on arrival to Australia, lived with his parents,

at 43 Wassell Street. Their next-door neighbour was a war widow Mrs McCarthy.

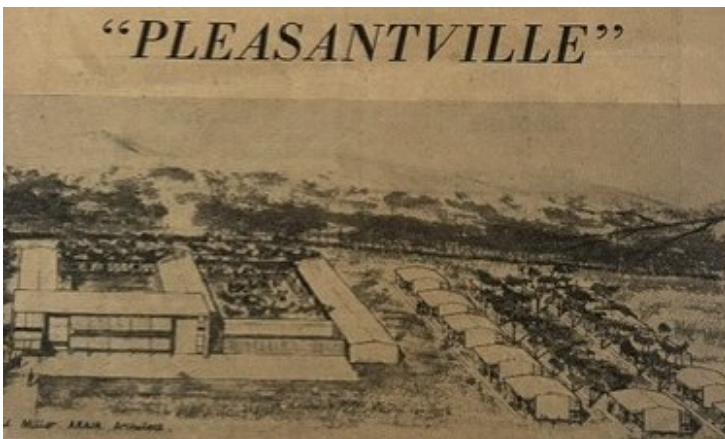
The Post Office Directory from the early 1920's to 1940 list only 2 houses on the right side of Wassell Street (from Tingal Road), occupied by Mrs Marsden and Mrs McCarthy. Mrs McCarthy was listed in the telephone directory until 1962 as living at 47 Wassell Street. So there seems to have been two of the Anzac cottages built in Wynnum, in Wassell Street, Wynnum North!

The scheme was terminated after the last three houses were constructed in 1922. However, in 1923 there was a need from the soldiers returning, suffering from TB. The balance of the fund, some £17,000, was used for this purpose. By October 1925, 52 Anzac cottages and 22 TB homes had been built in Queensland. The Queensland War Council was disbanded in 1932 and the Public Curator took over the administration of the Anzac cottages and TB homes.

The Public Curator found it difficult over time to find returned Anzacs or their descendants to occupy the cottages and the accumulated funds for maintenance and repair were running out. In 1960 the ANZAC Cottage and TB Homes Act was passed to allow the sale of unoccupied homes and 13 were sold by 1963.

Some cottages had been heritage listed. These modest houses are a remarkable part of Brisbane's heritage.

Information based on "Anzac Cottages" an article written by Carmel Black. Published in Queensland History Journal, Royal Historical Society of Queensland. Volume 24, No. 1, May 2019.



The Wynnum Methodist Church Circuit saw the need for the establishment of a **Hospital for the Incurably Ill**. Discussion began in March 1955. This Community of Senior Citizens would be called "**Pleasantville**". Land was found in Rodney Street, Lindum, behind the Methodist Church.

The complete building program was to provide for 70 Senior Citizens. Twenty-four of the citizens were to be accommodated in cottages. The balance would be in buildings which would provide for the office, lounge, dining room, kitchen and laundry. The estimated cost of land and buildings would be in the vicinity of £80,000.

Taken from "Wynnum Methodist Circuit Review" No. 57. Oct 1958

(Late members, Ian and Beryl Kennedy lived in one of the cottages.)

At the meeting held on 16 April 2026, WMHS member Alan Beswick gave an illustrated talk about the

Early History of Photography.

The camera obscura had been used for many centuries to produce an inverted image on the wall of a darkened room. The image could then be painted. The camera obscura used a pinhole or a lens to make the image.

The first photograph used an unlikely material – bitumen. Bitumen has the property that it hardens when exposed to light. In 1827 a Frenchman called Nicéphore Niepce mixed bitumen powder with water to create a thick material that he slathered over a metal plate and dried over a flame. When the bitumen was dry, he placed the plate into a simple box camera looking out of the window of his apartment for a whole day. Washing the result with white petroleum dissolved the bitumen that had not been hardened by light. The view shows both sides of a wall in sunlight because of the long exposure.



First Photograph – in Bitumen from 1827



An Early Dageurrotype of Constant Huet from 1837

The next advance was a result of co-operation between Niepce and Louis Daguerre. Daguerre invented a process where a metal plate coated with a layer of silver was exposed to iodine vapour (and later bromine vapour) and then exposed to light in a box camera. Niepce helped with the camera and other insights. The image was developed by exposure to mercury vapour. Mercury vapour is deadly poisonous.

The Daguerreotype process produced beautifully detailed images, but only one image – it couldn't be copied.

The next advance was the collodion process in which a thick syrupy solution of nitrocellulose was charged with silver nitrate and coated on glass. After exposure in a camera a negative image could be created using silver halide salts. The process had the big advantage that prints could be made on paper. The main disadvantage was that glass negative had to be developed while the collodion was still wet – requiring a field dark room. One hazard was that nitrocellulose (otherwise known as “guncotton”) is explosive.

It was the development of photographic roll film by George Eastman in 1885 that led to the box camera and the widespread use of photography by non-specialists.

Thank You Alan.

On Tuesday 5 May 2026 two visitors came to the History Room.

John Smyth and his daughter Annette.

John and his late wife, Marjorie (nee Reece) were former Wynnum residents. On their retirement they moved to the south coast and lived at Runaway Bay. On the occasions that they visited Wynnum, they would drop into the previous history room. Marjorie, formerly a local telephonist, presented us with two books in which she had compiled information about the final manual telephone exchange in Wynnum, which closed in the 1950s. She provided us with location of and the history of the Congregational Church in Manly. One time we were presented with a home-made cake. Each year the Society was given ten postage stamps for the newsletter to be sent to them.

Marjorie has passed away and John is now in-care. Their daughter Annette brought her father to Wynnum, yet again with contributions. We have more family photos and the framed photo of the members of Wynnum Council in 1915 is on display in Councillor Alex Giveney's Office in Bay Terrace.

1915 was an important year for this family. John's grandfather, **Johnston Smyth** was the Mayor of Wynnum.

JOHNSTON SMYTH



Johnston Smyth was born at Gurtenar, Couty Leitrim in Ireland in 1862 and came to Australia in 1877, at the age of 14 years, in the Royal Mail stream ship "Cloncurry".

Johnston married Ellen Louisa Cobb, also from Ireland, on 23 August 1893 and they had five boys and four girls. Ellen Louisa died in 1928.

Johnston was married a second time to Lillian Springfellow. There was no issue.

In 1895 Johnston was employed to care for the shade trees on the Wynnum beachfront at a yearly salary of £4/18/6.

Johnston was a trooper for four years in the Queensland Mounted Infantry and for three years held the rank of Sergeant of the well-known "A" company. He gave devoted service to the building up the Defence Forces of Australia. He was serving with his company when the Duke of York, later King George V, reviewed Queensland troops at Lytton in 1901.

Johnston was involved in the petition to request the removal of Lytton School to Prospect Street/Tingal Road, Wynnum North in 1911.

Johnston was a founding member of the Wynnum Lodge of Oddfellows

Johnston became a member of the Wynnum Town Council in 1913. He was Mayor in 1915. He was still a local alderman in 1921 when the new concrete Fox Street Bridge was opened.

Johnston left Wynnum to take up Diamond Vale Station in the Pikedale District. He was elected Mayor of Stanthorpe in 1924 and 1926. Johnston's passion was for the game of lawn bowls. He is reported to have traveled 13 miles every week by horse and sulky for his game of bowls. He was President of the Stanthorpe Club and then elected a Life Member. He died in the company of his bowling friends on 3rd December 1949 on Stanthorpe Bowling Green, aged 87 years.

What's On!

February/March 2026

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	Booking
Until 17 May 2026. Wed to Sun 10 - 3pm	“Harvest” . Exhibition of local Agricultural History. Kylie Harris.	Redcliffe Museum 75 Anzac Avenue Redcliffe	Free. 3480 6700
Wed 20 May 2026. 12.30-1.30pm	“The Forgotten Irish Explorer - John Finnegan. ” ** See Below	Royal His Soc Qld. Commissariat Store 115 William Street, City.	\$10 (Non Members) Enq: 3221 4198
Tuesday 26 May 2026. 7.00 -9.00am.	National Sorry Day Ceremony. Hosted by Winnam Aboriginal and Torres Islander Corporation.	Breakwater Park 23/25 Waterloo Esplanade Wynnum	Free. Coffee/Tea available.
Thursday 28 May 2026. 10 - 11am	“The History of Wynnum Library”. The new library has been open for 10 years. What came before 2016?	Wynnum Library 145 Florence Street Wynnum.	Free. Book: 3403 2199
Saturday 30 May 2026. 9.30 - 11am	“Guided Walk in Sherwood Arboretum.” Opened in 1925 this is the only botanical garden dedicated to growing Australian native trees.	87 Jolimont Street Sherwood (Carpark) or 39A Turner Street Sherwood.	Free. Walk will be led by the Volunteer Guides of the Brisbane Gardens, Mt Coo-tha.
Until Sunday 31 - May 2026 10 - 3.30pm	“Napery over the Years.” Tablecloths and Serviettes from 1888 - 2000	Redlands Coast Museum 60 Smith Street, Cleveland.	Concess. \$8 Children Free
Until Sunday 31 - May 2026 10 - 3.30pm	Family Picture Hunt Scavenger Hunt	Redlands Coast Museum 60 Smith Street, Cleveland.	Concess. \$8 Children Free.

** Convict **John Finnegan**, was one of the four men who left Sydney Harbour in 1823 on a timber-getting Mission. There was a severe storm and the boat was driven northwards to Moreton Island. Three of these men were the first Europeans to live in the area and to discover the Brisbane River.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

“Stroll along the Foreshore.”	WMHS Publication	Donation
“Ride around Wynnum, Manly and Lota.”	WMHS Publication	Donation
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, 35 Tingal Road,
Wynnum on Thursday 16 April 2026

Meeting Opened at 7.05pm

There were 26 members present, 4 visitors and 12 apologies received. Chris notified all that Myrtle was now out of hospital and at home.

President Tom Schulz took the chair, welcomed everybody and acknowledged country.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting of Thursday 19 March 2026 were accepted by (name removed) and seconded by Flo Schulz

Treasurer's report: (Danny)

All accounts: Each a/c at 31 March 2026

At 28 February 2026	\$43,449.25	Everyday	\$ 8,290.37
At 31 March 2026	\$44,205.44	Building	\$ 1,925.13
		Fixed Term Deposit	\$33,989.94
		TOTAL	\$44,205.44

Correspondence Report: (Elma) Report was presented for 5 March - 2 April which had been accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 2 April 2026.

Resource Centre: (Jill) Apology as Jill was absent.

Website: (Chris): Over 1000 documents and 700 images have been uploaded to the website to date. Chris was notified that his expression of a grant through Kara Cook's office was a formality and we should have received \$2000 in October. This will be used to update the website using professional web managers.

Guest Speaker: Alan Beswick gave an interesting insight into how photography evolved.

Monthly Speakers: Tom has this sorted for 2026. Our August meeting to be held at "Lindermere" in the grounds of Iona College.

Publicity: Chiharu is working with the Brisbane City Council and Alex Givney in compiling a new Heritage Trail for Wynnum. She also attended a consultation session concerning the "Development of a new Heritage Strategy". Any reforms will be relevant to the "Tower House" on Kingsley Terrace.

Lucky door: Evana Jones

Raffle: Chris Seymour

Meeting closed at 8pm.

Refreshments supplied and served by Flo Schulz and Anne Fitzpatrick



"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners - the Quandamooka People - and the land on which we operate. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present."

We thank our Patrons,
Joan Pease



Joan Pease MP

Member for Lytton

and
Alex Givney



for their ongoing
encouragement and
support

We thank our
Sponsors and Donors
Bunnings



Iona



Cartridge World



Ede's Salon



Taste the Aroma



Coles



Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc

Postal Address: 9A Roseberry Parade, Wynnum West, Qld 4178

Email: secretary.wmhs@gmail.com Secretary: 0477 722 394

Committee: Lucy Laakso, Elma O'Toole, Danny Fitzpatrick, Jill Greenhill, Myrtle Beitz, Ellen Coupland, Chris Seymour, Tom Schultz and Chiharu Tsurutani.

Bank of Queensland at BSB:124012. Society Everyday A/C 20139708, Resource Centre A/C 21781280. plus 2 Fxd-Term.

Meetings: 6.45pm for 7.00pm. 3rd Thursday of the Month (except December and January)
in Queensland Ambulance Auditorium, Cnr. Tingal Road and Cedar Street, Wynnum

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

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

Librarian: Jill Greenhill. jillg01@tpg.com.au 0407 293 177