



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**

**April 2026**

**Vol. 18. No. 1 (180)**

## April General Meeting

**THURSDAY 16 April 2026**

6.45 pm for 7.00pm start

**Wynnum Ambulance Centre  
Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street**

## Alan Beswick

will tell us about

## “Those Old Photos”

Join Alan on a fascinating trip through photographic history and the development of cameras from the huge cumbersome plate cameras to the super capable you have in your pocket

Raffle.

Lucky Door

Refreshments

Gold Coin Donation

Visitors welcome

## Alan Beswick

Alan developed his first photo when he joined the photo club at Brisbane State High in 1961. A combination of art and chemistry appealed to the teenager and has never left him. In later life he took to science with post graduate qualifications in remote sensing the very technical manipulation of photos taken from space using satellites.

Alan has given several courses on photography through U3A, always with one eye on the science, and the other through the viewfinder. On the artistic side, Alan joined the Mt Gravett Photographic Society, where he rose through the competition ranks to A Grade. With MGPS's encouragement he has had several images exhibited in international competitions, but has yet to win a prize at the Ekka.

## “Bayside Pavillion”

See page 3 of the Redland Bayside News (April 2 - 8) for the full story!



Site - The Fish Markets at Wynnum Creek

### **Bring and Buy this month.**

**At Meeting. April 19 2026.**  
We always welcome home-made items, jams and chutneys, biscuits and cakes.  
Small portions. Most items: \$2 or \$3



# Resource Centre

# APRIL 2026

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)



Painting received from Rowena Shaw of Manly Jetty in 1977

## Where would I have been? April 2026

Jill



## Weekend Open Days for 2026

For those persons who are seeking information, but are unable to visit the Resource Room on weekdays, the dates when the Centre will open from 10am to 12 noon are

Saturday 27 June 2026

Saturday 29 August 2026

Saturday 1 October 2026

(Subject to change if necessary)

How cool is this? One of the original metal stars from

### **The Star Theatre, Wynnum.**

... stepping back in time.



The Star Theatre was built by Bert Mouland in 1915 and purchased by Sam Greene in 1924.

The building was on the site of present-day Coles in Florence Street, Wynnum and operated for nearly 45 years, until sadly being destroyed by fire on Sunday, 17th May 1959. The fire originated in the adjacent Fish and Chip shop.

The Star was donated to the Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc. by the family of Bill and Margaret McPherson, a member of whom retrieved the Star as a memento, when clearing the site after the fire.

# Where was I? March 2026



Outside 416 Tingal Road, Wynnum.

The “gable roof” shelter stands at the bus stop to the back of the wide footpath on the west side of the road between Prospect and Ryder Streets.

The gable ends are clad with vertical tongue and groove boards forming a full length screen to the seating area and an awning infill with decorative scalloped ends to the outer edges.

There is a viewing cut-out on the approachside of the shelter with a fibre cement sheeting panel replacing the timber boards below the opening. The posts stand directly into the concrete slab which is west of the footpath.

From the 1920s to the 1950s the Brisbane Tramway Trust and then the Brisbane City Council erected a number of timber waiting shelter sheds along tram/bus routes. Most shelters were erected in response to petitioning by community groups or Progress Associations. A survey of use was undertaken by BCC to determine the most viable location for the shelters.

Waiting shelters promoted the use of the tram/bus system y providing a comfortable waiting area with some protection from the elements.

Three standard designs were used during this period. The “gable roof” shelter was the smallest of the three.

Behind the bus shelter stands the former Wynnum North Presbyterian Church on the corner of Prospect Street and Tingal Road. The land was purchased in early 1918, and the timber building opened in October 1918.

Jill

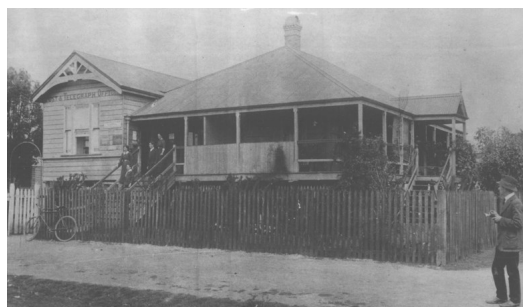
## Wynnum Post Office



This second Wynnum Post Office operated at the corner of Bay Terrace and Clara Street from 1923 until 1994.

Before the widespread use of the internet, post offices played a central role in daily communication and services. In addition to mail handling, they provided telephone operator services, transmitted telegrams, and processed bill payments and pensions. On Saturday mornings, long queues were common, giving rise to the well-known local joke during the 1970s that “the last customer just fell off the Wynnum jetty.”

To ensure timely delivery of urgent telegrams, the post office maintained two motorcycles and four bicycles. The building at Bay Terrace and Clara Street was the second post office established in Wynnum. The original office operated from a rented house at 57 Bay Terrace. This photograph, taken in 1911, shows the postmistress, telephonist, and a telegram messenger boy outside the original premises.



Prior to 1901, postal deliveries were managed by station masters, with residents taking letters to the Wynnum railway station for distribution. Before the arrival of the railway, mail was delivered by stagecoach. Earlier still, it is likely that First Nations People carried messages on foot using message sticks.

Thank you, Chiharu.

At the meeting held on 19 March 2026, WMHS member Ian Patterson gave an illustrated talk on

## St Helena Island in Moreton Bay.

St Helena was known to the Quandamooka people as Noogoon, meaning the place of the flying foxes. The island was culturally significant and middens show that the people used the island to hunt for flying foxes and dugongs and gather shellfish.

Matthew Flinders and his crew were the first Europeans to enter Moreton Bay. Flinders noted St Helena Island on his sketch map, but did not give it a name.

In the early years of European settlement, fishermen hunted the dugong around St Helena for meat and oil.

In 1828, the officer in charge of the penal settlement on Stradbroke Island exiled an Aboriginal man called Eulope to St Helena for stealing an axe. Eulope had a similar appearance to Napoleon, and the island was named St Helena in reference to the South Atlantic Island where Napoleon Bonaparte spent his last years in exile.

In 1866 the government decided to make more use of St Helena Island. Thirty prisoners from the overcrowded Petrie Terrace jail were transferred to a hulk at the mouth of the Brisbane River. Every day they would be transferred to St Helena and set to work on sinking wells, clearing scrub and quarrying stone for a quarantine station.

In 1867 the government changed its mind and decided the island would house a prison for offenders “under sentence of hard labour.” Captain John McDonald was made the first Superintendent. He had been captain of the prison hulk. The prison developed a reputation as a hard place to be and was called “the hellhole of the Pacific.” Because of its location there were very few escapes.

Initially opening with 60 prisoners, within two years there were 300.

The administration aimed to make the prison self-sufficient. There were crops of maize and sugar cane, and sheep and cattle herds. Ayrshire cattle bred on the island won awards at agricultural shows, and olive oil from the island’s groves won awards in Italy. Besides agriculture the prison also trained prisoners in trades – such as bootmaking, tailoring and carpentry.

Many of the prisoners had violent records. In 1891 the inmates included 17 murderers, 27 men for manslaughter and 26 for stabbings and shootings. But not everyone was a violent offender. Thirteen of the Union leaders from the great Shearer’s Strike of 1890 were sentenced to 3 years on St Helena. Some went on to have distinguished political careers. For example, one imprisoned union leader, William Hamilton, went on to become President of the Queensland Legislative Council.

Ian Patterson described a failed escape attempt from 1911. Two prisoners broke out of their cell and hid. They hoped to steal a boat to escape but were unsuccessful in getting it out of the boat shed. After 11 days they gave up.

By the 1920s the island prison was considered archaic. The last prisoners were engaged in pulling down the buildings. By 1933 all the prisoners had been transferred to Boggo Road jail.

The Island sat idle until 1973, when Charles Carroll took out a ten-year lease, with the intention of raising cattle and running a tourism business. He wanted to extend the lease to thirty years, but instead the government declared a National Park in 1979 and an Historic Area in 1980.

Ian Patterson deplored the poor state of preservation of the historic structures on the island, and the lack of investment in the tourism potential. The slides from Dr Patterson’s excellent presentation are on the WMHS website on the “Documents” page.

Below is an 1878 painting of St Helena by artist Charles Edward Winn, who served three months hard labour on the island for trespassing on private property.

Thanks to Chris Seymour



## Developing a new Queensland Heritage Strategy

The Wynnum Manly area accommodates 11 state and 57 local heritage listed places. (In Queensland there are 1,798 state heritage and 8,494 local heritage places). Do you think all of them are maintained well and are in a good condition? Maybe, maybe not.

Recently I attended a consultation session titled “Developing a fresh start for Queensland’s heritage” held in the city. Almost 100 people from various local government sectors, local community groups and property owners, architects, archaeologists and other professionals attended.

The Queensland Government is developing a new Queensland Heritage Strategy. Why? The current Queensland Heritage Act introduced in 1992 is 34 years old and requires reforms to meet the standard of contemporary heritage stewardship.

Proposed reforms are firstly to introduce an overarching principle of a general heritage duty of care which provides for a duty to maintain and keep in good repair. Secondly there is a proposal to reduce the number of Queensland Heritage Council members from 12 to 9 persons.

Also proposed are the following

Community nomination of places will replace the current application driven register process and simplify the type and amount of information required.

A Chief Executive or the Minister can issue a temporary protection notice to avoid the detrimental impact on the historical property by development.

Local governments will be provided with greater ability to issue repair and maintenance notices for local heritage places.

### How does this affect Wynnum, Manly and Lota?

These reforms are relevant to the case of “Tower House” (or “Blue House”) in Kingsley Terrace Wynnum, where the heritage building continues deteriorating while local government repeatedly rejects the demolition application to protect the heritage listed house, and expects the unhappy owner to maintain the building.

(I addressed this case, but a clear solution was not given at the gathering, of course.)



”Tower house”, 17 Kingsley Terrace, Wynnum.

Photo taken in March 2026

This is going to be one of the many cases that the Government will have to take into consideration in this reform.

The government certainly wants to improve the situation. But I felt that the audience was not convinced about how the reform will improve the situation, and will make an actual difference.

The balance between retaining heritage and the need for new development is the key issue that needs to be considered. The government is aiming to finalise the discussion paper after considering feedback from the group.

Chiharu Tsurutani



This certificate, was left with the Society by Bruce Pattison.

INDEPENDNT ORDER OF RECHABITES  
Salford Unity  
Established August 25th 1835. Registered March 27th 1854

*This is to Certify*

that *Robert McNulty* was duly admitted  
a Member of Young Excelsior Junior Tent No.14  
of the member of the INDEPENDENT ORDER OF RECHABITES,  
on 15th day of October 1898.

Signed: *G. Shaw* H.S.J.T. *E.J. Martinelli* S.J.T.  
*F. W. Hoskin* H. Sec. *Sadie Martinelli* Sec.

TEMPERANCE JUSTICE  
FORTITUDE

## The McNulty Family and the Order of the Rechabites.

Robert Henry McNULTY (1894-1959) was duly admitted a Member of Young Excelsior Juvenile Tent No.14 of the Independent Order of Rechabites on the 15th day of October 1898. Robert Henry was only four years old, living with his father, Robert McNulty, his mother Eliza Jane (nee Shaw) and his sisters Bessie and Gladys in Armstrong Avenue, (Ithica). Robert Henry's father, also named Robert, was a draper.

The family moved to Wynnum in 1911/1912 and lived in Pine Street. Robert Senior was still a Draper. Robert Henry was 17 years of age and was a clerk. On 11 December 1918, at the age of 22 years, Robert Henry married Sarah Gladys CRUST and they lived in Walnut Street, Wynnum South. Daughters arrived, June Pearl (1919-1995), Gladys Joan (1922-1981) and Marjorie Emily (1925-1995).

Between 1943 and 1949 Robert Henry and wife Sarah Gladys lived in Tingal Road but by 1953 they were at a Clara Street address. Their daughters, June, Gladys and Marjorie remained at Tingal Road. The girls were machinists.

Robert Henry died on 30 November 1959, aged 65, and Sarah on 3 March 1981, aged 84 years. Both are in the Lawn section of Hemmant Cemetery (Lawn 1-322). Father Robert Senior and mother Eliza (Elizabeth) are also in Hemmant Cemetery (Lawn 11-174).

### The Independent Order of Rechabites (Salford Unity)

#### Earliest References

*"A command was laid over 2,700 years ago upon the sons of Jonadab, the son of Rechab that they should drink no wine, neither they nor their sons. (Leeds Newspaper 1892)*

*In Jeremiah Chapter 35, commencing at verse 6 is found, "Ye shall live in tents, never drink wine, own land, plant crops or build houses." Rechab was said to be a descendant of Moses.*

The Order of the Rechabites is an Historic Friendly Society and temperance organisation founded in 1835 in Salford (now a suburb of Manchester, England). The Order, a mutual support society, with total abstinence from alcohol, was founded to provide sickness and health benefits to combat the social damage caused by alcohol during the Industrial Revolution (1760-1840) in England. With the coming of steam power, of canals and railways and the use of coal, occupations were changing.. The move was from a rural life style to industrial factories and jobs.

The Order, promoting temperance as a benefit to society, came to Victoria and Tasmania in 1843 and Queensland in 1872. Local branches were called "Tents" with 101 "Tents" in Queensland in its hey day.

In 1991, the financial arms from all Australian "Tents" combined to form a national private health fund, IOR (Independent Order of Rechabites) Group Ltd. In 2005 the OIR Health Fund was sold to HCF Health Insurance.

In 1999, funds from the Queensland Rechabites provided for the construction of Salford Waters Retirement Estate at Victoria Point. (LEVANDE advertises on TV)

The Order closed in Qld in Sept 2022 after 150 years, though still active in Victoria, here not in a financial capacity, but promoting the benefit of teetotalism.  
Elma O'Toole and Jill Greenhill

# What's On!

# February/March 2026

Date	Event	Venue	Booking
Wed 8 April 2026. 12.30-1.30pm	"The Work of Colonial Botanist, Frederick Manson Bailey."	Royal His Soc Qld. Commissariat Store 115 William Street, City.	\$10 (Non Members)
Friday 17 April 2026 10-11am	"From Records to Remembrance"	National Archives 16 Corporate Drive Cannon Hill	Free. Book: 3403 2199
Tuesdays 14 or 29 April 2026 10.00 - 11.00am	Queen's Wharf Heritage Tour through 11 Buildings. RHSQ Activity	Meet at Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, City.	\$10 (Non Members)
Thursday 30 April 2026. 10 - 11am	Wynnum Manly and the ANZACS. Impact on the District.	Wynnum Library 145 Florence Street Wynnum.	Free. Book: 3403 2199
Thursday 30 April 2026. 11 - 12.30pm	Resource Launch: "Convict Outpost to Olympic City." Richard Hunt.	Commissariat Store, 115 William Street, City.	"History of Queensland Wharf Precinct."
Saturday 9 May 2026 10 - Noon	"Queensland Family History on Line" with Researcher from Gen. Soc. of Qld..	Wynnum Library 145 Florence Street Wynnum.	Free. Book: 3403 2199
Until Sunday 31 - May 2026 10 - 3.30pm	Family Picture Hunt Scavenger Hunt A holiday picture hunt trail.	Redlands Coast Museum 60 Smith Street, Cleveland.	Concess. \$8 Children Free.
Until 17 May 2026. Wed to Sun 10 - 3pm	"Harvest" Exhibition of local Agricultural History.	Redcliffe Museum 75 Anzac Avenue Redcliffe	Free.

## 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 19 March 2026

Meeting Opened at 7.05pm

There were 39 members present, and 6 visitors with 9 apologies. Myrtle was reported as still being in hospital.

President Lucy Laakso took the chair, welcomed everybody and acknowledged country.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting of Thursday 19 February 2026 were accepted by Michael Beard and seconded by Sue Laakso.

**Treasurer's report: (Danny)**

**All accounts:**

At 31 January 2026 \$43,043.83  
At 28 February 2026 \$43,449.25

**Each a/c at 28 February 2026**

Everyday \$ 7,534.18  
Building \$ 1,925.13  
Fxd.Term Deposit \$33,989.94  
**TOTAL \$43,449.25**

**Correspondence Report:**(Elma) Report was presented for February - 4 March which had been accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 15 March 2026. A query regarding grants through Kara Cook's Office. Chris responded that he put in an Notice of Interest for a grant to update the website.

**Resource Centre:** (Jill) Updated everyone on what has been happening at the Centre.

**Where Am I** (Jill): The bus stop shelter on the corner of Tingal Road and Prospect Street in front of Gundala Kindergarten. This was previously a Presbyterian Church in 1918.

**Website:** (Chris): Website is an ongoing concern but all working correctly. Grant interest for upgrading of website and help with digitisation program. Chris is also speaking at the Coorparoo Bulimba History society on 12 April.2026.

**Guest Speaker:** Ian Patterson shared his information on St Helena Island

**Publicity:** Chiharu has been working with the Alex Givney on the Heritage Trail for Wynnum and also the Community Day for Wynnum.

**General:** Patrons Joan Pease and Alex Givney each spoke of the wonderful work the Society does for the local community.

**Lucky door:** Treacy Beswick **Raffle:** Joan Pease  
Meeting closed at 7.20 to be followed with the Annual General Meeting.



"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