

## Summary of Minutes of General Meeting

of 17 June 2004 held in the Baptist Church Hall,  
Corner Bay Terrace and Clara St. Wynnum  
Meeting opened at 7:35pm. 39 members and 4 visitors  
were present. 16 apologies were received.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**, were moved by Betty  
Mottram, seconded by Col Brown.

**Correspondence**, was presented by Minnie Bowman  
and put on display.

**Financial Report** (as at 31 May 2004) was presented  
by Jan Parnell. Opening Balance: \$2,869.18  
Receipts: \$777.13 Expenses: \$170.35  
Closing Balance: \$3,476.12

Report was accepted and endorsed at the committee  
meeting on Thursday 1 June 2004.

**Resource Centre.** Ipswich Leukaemia Foundation  
Tour of Wynnum/Manly is on Sunday 20 June 2004.

The next **Heritage Tour** is to Boonah on Saturday 26  
June 2004 and a few seats are still available.

### General Business.

Thanks were extended to the volunteers who attended  
the QALFHS Fair on 30 May 2004

An oral history group will meet in July

**Spot Speaker: Thelma Hogan** provided the criteria  
for one to decide whether one could be considered to  
be a "Local".

**Main Speaker: Neil Bishop**, assisted by his wife **Pam**,  
talked of his life as a pharmacist, from his training in  
Brisbane to his retirement from his shop in Edith  
Street. Members had a behind-the-scenes view of po-  
tions and pills as they used to be, assisted with a dis-  
play of early pharmaceutical equipment.

The **Lucky Door Prize** was won by Peter Jones and  
the **Membership Draw** was won by Gordon Brown.

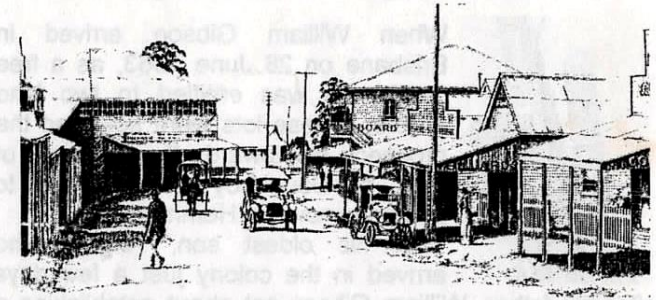
**Meeting closed** at: 8.50 and members and guests re-  
tired to a delicious supper prepared by Shirley Jeffries  
and Nena Robertson.

Jill Greenhill. (Minute Secretary)

(Full un-abridged version of minutes are available on request)

Postage  
Stamp  
Required

If undelivered please return to:  
Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.  
P O Box 318 WYNNUM Q 4178  
ABN: 48 071 835845  
President: Noela Stratton 3396 0069



Cambridge Parade Manly Circa 1920

WYNNUM MANLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

## July 2004

**Thursday 15 July at 7.30pm**  
**in the Baptist Church Hall**  
**(Corner Bay Terrace / Clara Street)**

### JAMES DEAN

Real Estate Agent

will tell us about

**80 Years of Housing**  
**in Wynnum and Manly**

and a talk by

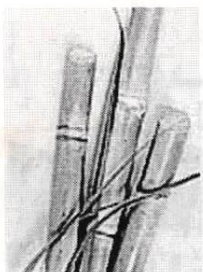
**Graham Kircher**  
**of the Antique Truck Society**

**Gold Coin entry** - covers hire of Hall and Supper  
**Bring and Buy Stall** - The stall will be empty so please  
bring your unwanted gifts, cakes, fruit, vegetables to  
support the Resource Centre

Appreciation to Denise Magill, Cherrie Nicholson and  
Shirley Houghton who will be providing your supper

**Invite a friend to attend**

## Our Heritage - Gibson Sugar



When William Gibson arrived in Brisbane on 26 June 1863, as a free settler, he was entitled to two land orders. These lots were sold and the proceeds put towards the purchase of land at Doughboy Creek, later to become known as Hemmant.

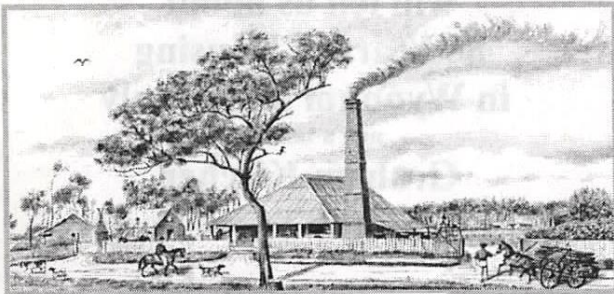
With his oldest son, Angus, who arrived in the colony just a few days

after his father, William Gibson set about establishing a vegetable farm and preparing a home for his wife, three other sons and three daughters who came out 12 months later.

In 1864, the Queensland Government introduced regulations for coffee and sugar cane, offering incentives to farmers to grow these crops. That same year, William took up the challenge and visited Louis Hope at Ormiston where he obtained sugar cuttings. Most of the work of planting, cultivating and harvesting, on the Hemmant farm, was done by Kanaka labourers.

Initially, the cane was sold to a tiny floating sugar mill, the *Walrus*, or shipped to Louis Hope's mill at Cleveland.

In 1868, there were only 10 sugar mills in Queensland. A year later, this number had risen to 28 and included William Gibson's Clydesdale Mill which was named after their home in Scotland. This was the first mill in the Hemmant district. By 1871, there were 7 mills in the area.



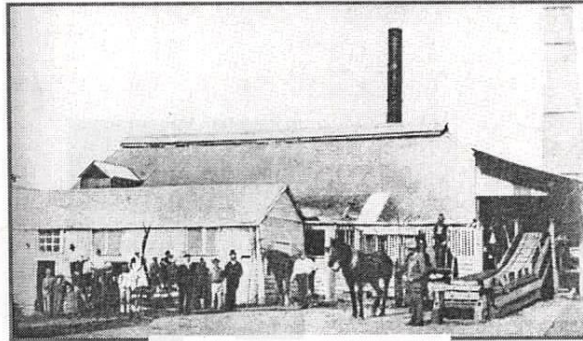
Clydesdale Mill 1875

The machinery for the small, horse-drawn Clydesdale Mill was supplied by Smellie & Company of Brisbane at a cost of £400.

The Gibsons crushed for their neighbours, taking 40% of the proceeds or 50% if they also had to cut and cart the cane.

In 1869, the mill produced 9 tonnes of sugar and 9,000 litres of molasses but by being very careful with their processing, they were able to increase production to 60 tonnes of sugar and obtain £33/3/7 per tonne during the 1877 season.

Improvements were continually being made and on 27 September, 1879, Clydesdale Mill produced its first white sugar. A new mill was built in 1880.



New Clydesdale Mill

However, a succession of severe winter frosts in SE Qld in the mid 1870's, practically killed the sugar industry along the Brisbane River. This, combined with the lack of suitable land in the Hemmant area, much needed for expansion, caused the Gibsons to start looking for property, further north.

In 1883, they purchased 527 hectares on the northern bank of the Burnett River, between Bundaberg and Gin Gin, and named the plantation and mill after the nearby Bingera Station. Bingera Mill crushed its first crop just two years later.

Back in Brisbane, the Clydesdale Sugar and Land Company Limited was formed to buy the Clydesdale Mill. On 8 November, 1884, it was sold for £10,000. The Gibsons retained no shares.

Unfortunately, the downturn in the industry in SE Qld, low prices and inexperienced management resulted in a £205 loss and heavy mortgages. In January 1886, the shareholders voted to put the company into liquidation.

With the experience and dedication of the Gibson family, Bingera expanded to such a degree that members of the Howes family were taken into the partnership and in 1904 it became a limited company. Gibson and Howes Pty Ltd, one of the three largest sugar mills in Queensland, was acquired by Bundaberg Sugar Ltd in 1972.

William Gibson Snr died at Bingera in 1902.

Heather Smith

## Heritage Tour Saturday 4 September



MARBURG

ROSEWOOD

All the details of another great day out coming your way very soon.

## Special Event Invitation

### "FASHION THROUGH THE AGES"

Members, their families and friends are invited to a special afternoon. Enjoy the fashion of times gone by in the setting of an historic residence while you partake in a delicious afternoon tea.

**When: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**Time: 2pm – 4.30pm**

**Where: Lota House**

**Cost: \$10**

A multi-prize raffle shall be held on the day. Kind donations of suitable prizes would be much appreciated.

### Remember our Regular Meetings . . .

**Third Thursday (July 15) Baptist Hall 7.30pm**

James Dean "History of Wynnum R/E"

**Last Thursday: (July 29) Wynnum Library**

**10am**

**Guest Speaker**

Morning Tea

**Open every Monday to Friday 10 –12 noon:**

Resource Centre 7/66 Bay Tce

(Outside Public Library)



### HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The long awaited planting of the Norfolk Pine will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30 am at Norfolk Point. Come along and be part of the occasion.