



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 2025

Issue. No. 170

April General Meeting

THURSDAY 17 April 2025

6.45 pm for 7.00pm start

Wynnum Ambulance Auditorium
Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street

"The Wynnum Jetty"

Public Meeting

(Brisbane Courier Wed 29 September 1897 p.7)

A short re-enactment
by members of the Society based on a

**Public Meeting held on
Tuesday 28 September 1897 at 8-00pm**

in Wynnum Divisional Board Hall,
located in Tingal Road, Wynnum.

Raffle

Lucky Door

Refreshments

Gold Coin Donation

Visitors welcome

Prominent Names mentioned at the
Meeting of the Wynnum Divisional
Board on 28 September 1897.

Andrew Keating (1857—1906) Born in Eire, came to Australia as a Law student. Married Louisa Stamm in 1884 and then guided in his business career by father in law, Louis Stamm. Bought prominent land in Wynnum and constructed a simple jetty for visitors from Brisbane to visit his land sales in 1884. He overindulged in a fast alcoholic life-style. Wife left him and all support from Louis Stamm stopped. , Mackay and Rockhampton, then in Victoria where Worked down Qld Coast for newspapers in Cairns he was run over and killed by a train in 1906.

George Gibbs, came from Cornwall, a stonemason. He built the Waterloo Bay Hotel and was the first licensee between 1889 and 1892. The opening of the Hotel coincided with the arrival of the railway line running through Wynnum Manly between Brusbane and Cleveland. George retired to Gibbs Street (Off Tingal Road near the Wynnum Station).

Alexander Cunningham, owned a shoe store in Queen Street and imported his goods. He owned many properties in Wynnum and Manly. He was involved in the local government of the district from 1889, but never aspired to being Mayor of the Town of Wynnum/Manly.

Annual General Meeting 2025

(Cancelled in March due to inclement weather)

Thursday 17 April 2025

Ambulance Museum Auditorium

Cnr Tingal Road / Cedar Street Wynnum

Approx. 7.30pm



The Next Bring and Buy is on
Thursday 20 March 2025.

Please contribute some home-made items

Most items: \$1 or \$2 or \$3

Thank you for your contributions . . .

Resource Centre

April 2025

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)



We have been donated a bound book of monthly Sunday Magazines, running for a few months in 1832. Subject matter is universal, topics from all disciplines throughout the world. A true dictionary of knowledge of the world in the 1830s.

The book is in the Resource Room. As there is no content of our local scene we would like to pass the book on to somebody who might appreciate its uniqueness. Does anybody have any ideas?

Open Days for 2025

For those persons who are seeking information, but are unable to visit the Resource Room on weekdays, the following dates are when the Centre will open over a weekend.

The hours will be from 10am to Noon.

Sunday 29th June 2025
Saturday 30th August 2025
Sunday 2nd November 2025

Where was I? March 2024



578 Royal Esplanade Manly
Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron (RQYS)

History of Club

A Club was born in 1885 when a few gentlemen formed the “**Brisbane Saling Club**” Club. Several different premises and locations close to the city were used for Club House and for holding of activities. In a newspaper clipping of 31 March 1938 (Found by member Gordon Brown):

“Candidate Mr. William Dart who was seeking election as candidate for Wynnum in a State Election under the banner of the UAP (United Australia Party) (1931 – 1945), stated that the State Government had money put aside for the building of a boat harbour.

Dart did win the Wynnum seat. But the Labour Government (with Premier William Forgan Smith) was apathetic to the idea of a boat harbour for Brisbane and there was no follow-up in the 1930s.

Following Bill Dart, in the early 1950s, William Morrison Gunn was the local member. During this time RQYS agreed with the State Government to build a Club House on land to be reclaimed at Manly, at the southern end and to use the dredged waterways to establish Headquarters for sailing and boating activities for Brisbane. Construction began in 1958.

In 1964 the new RQYS Clubhouse was completed, opened on 26 September by Sir Henry Able Smith and named the “Greg Cavill Building”. Greg worked at Tangalooma, he owned the Breakfast Creek Hotel, and was a Commodore of RQYS. The front doors came from “The Gem”, Kenmore, home of the founder of the original Wallace Bishop Jewelry Business in Brisbane, in 1917, and grandfather of past Commodore, Wallace Bishop.

In 1985 the monument was built to commemorate 100th Birthday of RQYS with a plaque stating:

“ **This Tower, to commemorate the centenary (1885 – 1985) of the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, was unveiled on 21st April 1985 by HRH the Duke of Kent.**”

The Moura Mine Explosion

Moura Mine was the first of the large Central Queensland coal mines, opening in 1962. The high-quality coking coal was exported around the world, especially to Japanese steelmakers. At first it was operated by American coal company Peabody, but BHP bought out their share in 1977.

It was initially an open cut mine, but in 1968 a supplemental underground mine was opened by tunneling into the coal face of the open cut.

In 1975 this mine exploded with the loss of 13 lives. Other underground mines were opened over the years. The Number 4 Mine exploded in 1986 with the loss of 12 lives, followed by the Number 2 Mine in 1994, with 11 lives lost.

Thus, there were three explosions causing the death of 36 miners within twenty years. All three explosions involved the gas methane. Moura coal is very gassy, with an average content of 15 cubic metres of methane per ton of coal.

The mining method used in all the mines was room and pillar, in which pillars of coal are left to support the roof. It is not a very efficient method as only about 50% of the coal is recovered. Also, not very labour efficient. At Moura the underground mine employed 25% of the workforce but only contributed 10% of the output.

During mining a large fan sucked air through the mine, diluting the methane gas emitted by the coal. When mining had finished in a particular panel, the panel was sealed off, so ventilation within the panel ceased. After sealing the methane content within the panel would typically climb from 1% to about 85% over the course of about twenty days. Methane is explosive when it is between 5 and 15% of the atmosphere. Thus at 85% the panel is stable, but it necessarily passes through the explosive range to get there. After every sealing, a bomb existed for two days, an ignition source needed to set it off.

The 512 panel was sealed the day before the explosion. It had just reached the critical 5% level when the night shift started work at 10 pm on 7 August.

A sample point had been installed within the sealed panel. Gas from the panel was sucked up in a pipe to to the office where an analyser gave a continuous measure of the gasses. Crucially however it took about 45 minutes for the gas sample to reach the analyser, so the numbers were always 45 minutes behind conditions in the panel.

That night, the shift foreman sat in the control room and intently watched the gas results, especially the carbon monoxide levels. His training and experience told him that any sudden increase in carbon monoxide was an indication of spontaneous combustion of the coal, which could ignite the gas and cause an explosion. At 11 pm, the level suddenly went from 100 parts per million to 1,000. However, because of the delay this result did not show on the analyser until 11:45. By then the mine had exploded at 11:30.

It is believed the 11 victims died almost immediately from lack of oxygen. Nine other miners successfully escaped from the mine wearing self-rescuers to combat deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

Chris Seymour had gained a reputation for safety after the BHP San Juan Mine in the US, where he was the manager, had received the Sentinels of Safety award as the safest surface coal mine in the US in 1992. He came to Australia on a two-year assignment to manage the internal investigation of the accident, and BHP's response to it.

The official Inquiry into the accident was conducted by Queensland's Mining Warden. It lasted six months, involved numerous witnesses and documents, and produced a report which was very critical of BHP.

In Chris' opinion, only hinted at in the report, a key factor in the incident was the toxic relationship between the young mine manager and his deputy. BHP management had apparently failed to recognize the impact this would have.

Following the Warden's report, Crown Law considered prosecutions, but finally decided not to prosecute either the company or any individuals.

There were many changes to the way safety is handled in Queensland Mines. There have been no multiple fatality accidents in Queensland Mines since 1994. In 2024 there were four fatalities in Queensland Mines. Although four is regrettable, on a per employee basis mining in Queensland has a lower fatality rate than other industries in the state, like construction.

Chris was asked what he would have done if he had managed the mine at the time would me. He said he would definitely not have allowed anyone underground while a panel was in the explosive range, and have tried to shorten the danger period by actively pumping methane into the panel.

Thank you Chris



What's On!

March / April 2025

Date	Event	Venue	Booking
Thursday 24 April 2025. 10-11.30am.	"Capturing Memories of Wynnum Manly families at War".	Wynnum Council Library 145 Florence St. Wynnum.	Free. Book: 3403 2199
Tuesday 29 April 2025. 9.00-5.30pm.	"Yuuingan Dhillia Yari 2025" Indigenous Languages Symposium	Qld State Library Stanley Place South Brisbane.	Free. Book: 3840 7666
Saturday 3 May 2025. 10 - Noon.	"The History of the Lebanese Community in Qld." Anne Monsour.	Ashgrove Council Library 87 Amarina Ave Ashgrove.	Free. Book: 3407 1940
Wednesday 14 May 2025. 12.30 - 1.30pm.	"Matthew Flinders: British Spy or an unfortunate chain of events." Marc Serge Riviere	Commissariat Store 115 William Street City.	\$10. Enq: Royal Historical Society of Qld Enq: 3221 4198
Saturday 17 May 2025. 8.30 - 4.30pm.	" 2025 Moreton Bay Settlement Conference".	Commissariat Store 115 William Street City.	\$35.00. Purchase on Royal Historical Society Queensland website.
Saturday 24 May 2025. 1.30 - 2.30pm.	"DNA for Genealogy Step Two: Beyond Ethnicity" GSQ Presentation.	Everton Park Council Library 573 South Pine Road Everton Park.	Free. Book: 3403 7400
Open until 18 July 2025. 9 - 4.30pm.	"Winagaylay Ngiyani Ganunga". Experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Service persons.	Qld State Archives 435 Compton Road Runcorn.	Free. info@archives.qld. gov.au

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
on Thursday 20 March 2025

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

There were 27 members present, 2 apologies and 1 visitor, Jeff Harrison.

President, Lucy Laakso took the chair, welcomed everybody and acknowledged Country. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves. Notice was given of the 2025 AGM to be held at the next meeting in April 2025. Also the Resource Centre will be opened this coming Saturday, March 22 for those Members unable to visit on weekdays. Hemmant Cemetery is to hold an open day on Sunday 30 March from 9 – 12Noon

Sue Laakso provided some snippets of 1925, especially those relating to Bathing Boxes.

Previous Minutes: (Elma)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 20 February 2025 were accepted by Ellen Coupland, seconded by Sue Laakso.

Treasurer's Report: (Danny) For month of February 2025

<u>All Accounts:</u>	<u>Each A/C at 31May 2024</u>
At 1 February 2025: \$38,296.11	Everyday \$ 5,062.40
At 28 February 2025 \$39,137.54	Building \$ 1,583.13
	Term Deposits \$32,492.01
	TOTAL \$39,137.54

The Society has purchased a "Square" reader so now has the facility for Efpos payments.

Correspondence Report (Jill for Elma) Report presenting correspondence from 13 February to committee meeting on Thursday 13 March was accepted and endorsed by the committee on Thurs 13 March 2025.

Technical Report: Chris Seymour reported that the nomination form for membership of the 2025 Committee is on the Website.

Project (Chiharu) "Greater Brisbane – 100 years". Planning has commenced of possible activities which will be staged in the City Hall in October 2025.

Resource Centre: (Jill)

This month, the "Where am I" photograph was a view of the 100-year memorial of Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, unveiled in 1985. The first building, the Club House opened, in 1964 on the southern reclaimed land in Manly Boat Harbour.

Main Speaker. Member Chris Seymour, a mining engineer, told of the 1994 Moura Mining Disaster in Queensland. Chris was employed by BHP and came to Queensland from America to investigate the cause of the explosion and future precautions to be taken. The mine was sealed containing the 11 bodies of miners trapped by the explosion.

Lucky Door Prize: Myrtle Beitz Raffle: Margaret Bulloch

Meeting closed 8.45pm with a reminder of the goods for sale on the "Bring and Buy" Table, of the upcoming Open Day at the Resource Centre on this coming Saturday, and of Hemmant Cemetery Open Day on Sunday 30 March 2025.

Visitors and members were invited to partake of refreshments, aided by Lena McCreadie, Ellen Coupland and Margaret Collins.



"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



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

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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 2Fx-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