



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

## November 2023

## Issue. No. 157

### November General Meeting

### THURSDAY 16 November 2023

6.45 pm for 7.00pm start

Wynnum Ambulance Auditorium  
Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street

Speaker

Member

### Dr Ian Patterson



“Tourism and Recreation  
in Wynnum Manly  
from 1890 to the 1930s”

### Special Christmas Hampers For Raffles

Lucky Door  
Refreshments  
Gold Coin Donation

**Dr Ian Patterson** hails from Victoria and, after gaining University qualifications at Monash and the University of Western Australia, he travelled to Oregon, USA to gain a PhD in Leisure Studies, in 1991.

On returning to Queensland Ian became Senior Lecturer in Leisure Management at Griffith University and then Associate Professor at the University of Queensland.

We will all be aware that Ian has recently returned from sampling life at a University in Uzbekistan.

### November News from the Committee

#### Membership Dues for 2024

Fees are due on **January 1 2024** .  
\$25 per individual, \$40 per household  
\$15 if under 15years.  
(No Rise!)

Please put you fee in a named envelope and bring to the November monthly meeting

Bank payment can be made at **Bank of Qld**  
To: Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc.  
**BSB: 124 012 A/C: 2013 9708**  
Reference: “Surname. Fees 2024

### Christmas Raffles

Thank you for all your kind donations.

Who will hold the lucky tickets?



**BUY YOUR TICKETS**  
\$1 each or 3 tickets for \$2

**Thank you to all our members who have contributed to the Bring and Buy stall, and then have made purchases.**

**Next Bring and Buy. Thursday 16 February 2024**

Interesting Books, (Fact or Fiction). Swap or pay \$1



Preserves . . .

Cakes and Biscuits . . .

Craft. Cards Bring some home-made items and some cash!!!

Most items \$2

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)

## *A Crouch Family Enquiry*

Our visitor wished to know if we had any information concerning the Crouch family. Who lived at 40 St Catherines Terrace? Where to start???

The first member of the Crouch family to leave Kent, England and arrive in Sydney was Edward Crouch who arrived in 1839. Some of the family moved to Queensland in 1864 and settled in Bulimba.

Fishing was their livelihood. But, the journey up the Brisbane River from Moreton Bay to Bulimba took too long and often the catch was spoiled before arriving to market. So, in 1895, the move was made to Wynnum, where the family settled on the bank of Wynnum Creek in St Catherines Terrace. As the family grew, many of the siblings purchased land in St Catherines Terrace.

We are concerned with George Frederick Crouch, a son of Edward Crouch, who had moved to Queensland in 1864 with his family. His son, George Shillington Crouch, was the father of Edgar Charles Crouch.

Houses built before 1940 were rarely identified by number, but instead by name. We found the Crouch who lived at 40, St Catherines Terrace, in 1962, according to the Electoral Roll, was **Edgar Charles Crouch**, born in 1891 and son of George Shillington Crouch.

## *A request . . .*

Another visitor came to us requesting to buy a copy of either of these books:

“Cattle, Pig, Coal Trains and Chicken Too.” *by Janice Pittam.*  
“Beginnings and Endings.” *by Janice Pittam*

The books, compiled by a local resident, contain stories of the districts in and around Bulimba, Murarrie and Tingalpa. The content is based on a large collection of oral history interviews with local long-standing residents. People remember their earlier days, their memories of local people and events.

If you have a spare copy, or you would like to pass on a copy which you no longer need, please contact me.

## *Magazine/Book Holders*



Due to a little “down-sizing” by moving some rarely-used material out of the Resource Room to our storage cupboards at the Wynnum Ambulance Heritage Museum, we have 6 of these Magazine holders are surplus to our needs. Is anybody interested?

### **Books:**

We have duplicate copies of:

- “Against the Tide” John Parke
- “Manly School 2000 - 90th Anniversary”
- “Brisbane on Fire” K D Calthorpe & K Capell
- “Brisbane Ablaze” K Capell
- “Guardian Angels Centenary - 1902 to 2005”

Donations appreciated.

## *Christmas Holiday break*

The Resource Room will close on Friday 15 December and reopen on Monday 9 January 2024.  
Seasons Greetings to all our readers and best wishes for 2024

Jill

### CROUCH FAMILY

Thomas  
b. 1750 d.  
Kent, England  
Son, Thomas  
b. 1777 d. 1868  
Kent, England

**Son, Edward**  
b. 1813, Kent  
**Arr. Aust 1839**  
Arr. Bulimba 1864

Son Geo Fredrick  
b. 1842 d. 1920

Son Geo Shillington  
b. 1866 d. 1959

Son, Edgar Charles  
b. 1891 d. 1977

## Where was I? October 2023



Corner Tingal Rad and Florence Street3 Tingal Road,  
Wynnum  
Discovered by Ian Wheeler

The Dunny, off Tingal Road, still services the three shops in Florence Street, between Tingal Road and the Railway Line. The building, containing the three shops lies in Portion 76, on Subdivisions 46 and 47 of 2½ acres which was sold to the Railway Commission in 1888. The train service commenced through Wynnum in November 1889!

*The three Shops in Florence Street*



The three shops in Florence Street were probably built prior to 1915. Hansom Cabs and carriages, bicycles and horse dreys are the means of transport, with not even an early automobile in sight. Two Hooper brothers traded here. Against the railway line was an auctioneer and Real Estate Agent, Harry Hooper. Next door was Richard S Hooper, the dentist. Next was George Heymer, the Newsagent, on Tingal Road. He also owned two hansom cabs, which could hold 10 people, and met the trains arriving at Wynnum South station. George Heymer, then his son Alfred, drove one cab, and Mr Peachy, the other. (George Heymer's wife was a Peachey.) When George Heymer retired from the Newsagent on Tingal Road in 1934, his son Percival took over running the business. The entrance to the Dunny behind the three shops is around the right-hand side of the building.

## Where am I? November 2023



Another find from  
Ian Wheeler!

Till next time

Jill

## Our Lost Buildings - Moreton Bay Girls High School.

This fine building once stood at 89 Bay Terrace Wynnum.

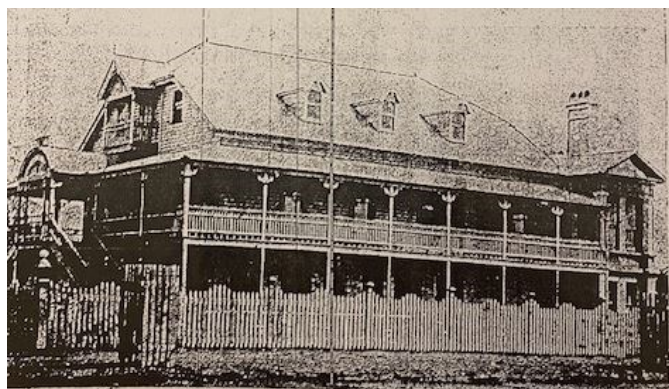
John Iley Green (1839 -1905) purchased this land in 1891 not long after the rail line had reached the district in 1889. Here, he and his two sons, Sam and Bill, built the school.

The Green family hailed from Bridport, Dorset, England. Bridport was a rope-making town. John Iley Green, wife Ellen Webber Green (nee Greenham) and seven children moved to Cardiff in 1875, as there were more opportunities for education and employment for the family. However the poor air quality of Cardiff, due to the surrounding south Wales coalfields, prompted John and fourth child, Mary, to sail to Australia. They arrived on the steam ship "Taroba" on 24 May 1889. His third child, Emily Marina arrived on the "Jelunga" on 17 August 1891 and his wife and 7 other siblings arrived on 8 December 1892. Youngest child, Harold was four years old. Eldest daughter, Ellen "Ada", stayed in Wales as she was already married.

John Iley Green, a carpenter by trade, was 43 years old and had progressed over time from being a carpenter to become a builder. He purchased 2 roods (½ acre) of land at the northern end of Bay Terrace on 17 November 1891 and built a home large enough for his entire family of 13 persons, and included his sister in law.

Second child, Alice Jane (1863 -1966), prior to arriving in Australia had trained at the South Kensington Science Department and the London Day Training College. She taught in Cardiff Higher Grade School in Wales for 5 years, becoming a Senior Mistress. She brought excellent testimonials to Australia, arriving in Queensland in 1892 and then moving to take up a Senior Mistress post at Rockhampton Girls Grammar School in 1893.

Fifth and sixth children, Anne Eliza "Alison" (1869 -1954) and Ella "Hellah" (1872 -1969), had studied Art and Music in London. The pair moved from Wynnum to teach at the Ladies High School in Tenterfield. Ninth child, Elsie Gertrude, also moved to Tenterfield and finally Alice Jane left Rockhampton in 1895 and became Principal at Tenterfield for the next five years.



In 1900, Father John Iley, and sons Samuel (1875-1958) and John William (1877 -1959), completed a purpose-built school building at the front of the site of land in Wynnum. The Green girls left the Tenterfield school and the family was re-united again in Wynnum.

Moreton Bay Girls High School 1901

Moreton Bay Girls High School (MBGHS) took the first pupils in 1901. The original building was very simple and catered for 6 boarders and 20 day girls. "Queensland Country Life" gives the school the highest accolades in 1908, ". . . broad and extensive curriculum, home from home accommodation, healthy sea side surroundings, examination links to overseas institutions and so on . . .".

Father John Iley Green suffered an accident in 1905 and was killed.

In 1910 a large extension was built onto the southern side of the school, towards Florence Street, which allowed for an increase in pupil admissions.



Large extension on southern side of the building 1910

The extension contained additional new classrooms and practicing rooms, a library and an abundant water supply!

The roof line was raised to give more space on the second floor for the dormitories. The small balcony at the

front of the original building was removed. An extension built, enclosing the area, gave more internal space for the school. The veranahs were left open.

This building work, from an educational and a health point of view, allowed claim to be made that the school was one of the best secondary schools in the state.



Moreton Bay Girls High School. Post 1910

## Our Lost Buildings - Moreton Bay Girls High School. (Continued)



Admissions grew during the 1920s and 1930s. The school did not rely on scholarship holders and the range of academically ambitious students was limited. One of the lasting maxims of the school was “qualifications without qualities are useless”, which would be an attempt to define the ethos and educational philosophies of the Misses Greene. The girls who came MBGHS were primarily country girls who expected to return to country properties.

*Principal, Alison J Alice Greene*



*An early dramatic production*

In 1943, Principal Alison Greene retired but Miss Elsie and Miss Hilda remained as teachers, for a short time. The school was gifted to the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association. New Principals served through the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. In 1957 the school was re-named Moreton Bay College. But the school population was declining, and the building could not be expanded and modernised to financially survive on the two acre piece of land.



*Tony Finlay*

Fourteen acres had already been purchased in Wondall Road, Manly West and now housed the Junior School. The decision to move the secondary school to Wondall Road was made. The Board Chairman, Rev Nevin Stoddart, stated that the ideals and traditions built up over the years would be able to survive and flourish. Moreton Bay College was opened in Wondall Road, Manly West, in January 1986.

### The Original Building in Bay Terrace

Already in the hands of demolishers, the main building at 89 Bay Terrace was purchased by Tony Finlay, who was a house restoration expert and adept at moving large old homes onto new sites. Although the building was built as a school, Tony intended to create a residential mansion with very large rooms.

The three-storey structure was carefully dismantled into twelve pieces. Then the journey began across Brisbane to the new site, high on top of a hill in leafy Pullenvale, in Brisbane’s western suburbs.

Re-assembly took six weeks and full restoration took nine months

### The Site at 89 Bay Terrace Wynnum



The ground was cleared and Franklin’s Shopping Centre emerged, a three-storey building. On the ground floor were shops, the Wynnum Shopping Centre, with two floors of small Units above. Franklin’s store became the IGA grocery store, then sold. Various food and drink establishments now line Bay Terrace. To the rear there is a gymnasium. (This is the site proposed for a 29-storey building in 2022.)



*“Moreton” at Pullenvale*



## OUR LOCAL “Herald”

Another find by our Tuesday volunteer, Margaret Bulloch whilst searching through the “Wynnum Herald”

# Fish cafe owners have become world

By Geoff Shearer  
Wynnum Herald April 27 1988

One minute to opening time and a line of customers have formed outside the little Wynnum fish and chip shop. Inside waitresses give the Laminex tables and vinyl baked chairs a final wipe over. A plastic vinegar bottle is repositioned and the ever pleasant sweet smell of frying fish begins to steam the front counter glass.

This is Williams Fish Café Wynnum, and this is how it has been for 39 years. (1949)

Tucked away beside Wynnum Creek bridge on Cusack Parade, the modest 48-seater café and even more modest owners have become world famous. People from all walks of life patronize the century old building. They come for a meal as the world's most magnificent and yet which is one of the simplest – fish and chips.

It is an attraction which owners, Bill and Frances Williams, find difficult to comprehend. We're not big and flash, we're just a plain old-fashioned fish café. Frances said. I don't know why everyone's saying we're so famous, we do nothing fancy.”

The shop has been operating as a fish and chip shop for near on 100 years, according to Bill, who took over the business in 1949 and transformed it into an early version of today's café.

Originally a timber cutter from the Blackbutt Ranges, Bill, 64, was forced to retire after he accidentally sliced his kneecap in two. It was then that his mother suggested he went into something “a little easier like a fish shop”. Little did they know he would have to work twice as hard and twice as constantly.

But it did have its advantages. Through the shop Bill met and married Frances and together they have come to learn more about fish than perhaps anyone in the bayside. Bill is the longest holder of a license for buying seafood in Queensland, which is an accolade Frances is quick to jibe. “He knows more about fish than anyone, but he gets seasick if he goes anywhere near a Boat,” France said with a laugh and a wink.

“But seriously we would not give this life away for a million dollars. Wynnum and Manly are God's Own Country -Bjelke can have his, this is ours,” she said. While Brisbane - ites have known the delights of Williams Fish Café for many years, people from all over the state and indeed, from overseas are now discovering its old-



fashioned charm.



*Francis and Bill Williams*

A Canadian journalist visiting for the Commonwealth Games in 1982, sampled the famous fishy fare. He returned home and professed the café's wonders in an extensive article in a leading Canadian newspaper. The William's only found out about the article when a Canadian couple in the shop some time later, saying they had read their “advertisement” in the Canadian paper. “We know it couldn't have been an ad, we've never advertised this shop in our lives – let alone in a Canadian paper!” Frances said. It cost me a fortune but I phoned the editor in Canada and thanked him. We had a good old chat for about half an hour.”

The café also has become the favourite haunt of many Brisbane politicians and television personalities. “There's always some-one in the shop you recognize,” Frances said. “everyone comes here – they're too numerous to mention,”

But aside from the shop, Frances, aged 59, has another keen interest -greyhounds. She currently has three racing dogs in training -Sunday Girl (which won Gold Coast Greyhound of the year 1987/88), Chanting Time and Fair Contrast.

Bert Woodcock, nephew of famous horse trainer Tommy Woodcock, trains two of her dogs, “I've been gambling since my dad sat me on his knee, held me up to the radio and I listened to the Bernborough racing.. “You never get ahead in gambling but I've been lucky with my greyhounds,” she said.

Locals know Frances will testify that she also has a knack with birds. She has taken in many injured birds from locals and nursed them back to health, earning her the nickname, “The Bird Lady”.

The secret of their success. You can't get ahead unless you work so very hard and together. And remember the personal touch. And you must always have a healthy dose of local humour. And Frances added , “There's always a laugh going on here. We may not be rich but we have fun.

## What's On! October - November 2023

Date	Event	Venue	Booking
Until 10 Dec. 10am - 3pm	"Out of Sight. Out of Mind" Exhibition	Bribie Island Seaside Museum, 1 South Esplanade Bongaree	Ph: 5433 2596
Sunday 19 November 2 - 5.30pm	Brisbane Open House Tour "At Home" (Previously Lamb House)	9 Leopard Street Kangaroo Point  Drinks and Canapes incl.	\$330 (Limit 50 per tour) Eventbrite. Proceeds to Open House Projects
Friday 24 November 6-7.30pm	Book Launch Pat Comben: "Tommy Ryan and the Birth of Labour" by Helen Gregory	Commissariat Store 115 William Street City	Free. RSVP. ptcomben@gmail.com
Thursday 7 December 9.30 - 11am	Sandgate and Shorncliffe Walking Tour (no Wheelchairs)	Rotunda, Upper Moora Park, 65 Park Parade Shorncliffe  Morning Tea at Full Moon Hotel	Book on "Open House" on Internet
Until April 2024 MF 9am- 8pm SS 10am-5pm	"Purpose Built Architecture for a Better Tomorrow" Exhibition	State Library Stanley Place South Brisbane	Book for a free Tour: 3840 7666.
Thursday 30 November 10 - 11am	"The History of Wynnum Shire Clerk Cottage"	Wynnum Public Library 145 Florence Street Wynnum	Free Book: 3403 2199.
9 Jan to 31 Dec 2023. 8.30 - 4.30pm	"Criminal Law. Then, Now and Tomorrow" Exhibition	Sir Harry Gibbs Legal Centre, Ground Floor, QEII Court of Law, 415 George Street City	Free. All are welcome.
20 May to 21 Jan 2024 10 - 5.00pm	"Gon' Fishing" Indigenous Artists work that confirms this cultural, social and recreational activity.	Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) Stanley Place, South Bne.	Free. 3840 7303.

### PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

History of Music in Wynnum Manly 1900 - 1997	Betty Nock	\$ 5
History of Arts in the Wynnum Manly Area 1900 - 2003	Betty Nock	\$ 5
Bayside Biographies. People from Wynnum Manly. 1900 -2007	Betty Nock	\$ 5
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, Tingal Road  
on Thursday 19 October 2023

### Meeting opened at 7.15pm

There were 27 members present, 2 apologies and 3 visitors, Alex Giveney, Simon Brown and Darryl Timms.

President, Lucy Laakso took the chair, welcomed everybody, especially returning member Mitch Parsons. The visitors introduced themselves. Member Father Twigg is to be posted to WA for 2/3 years.

Michael Beard researched and presented 3 events that occurred in Wynnum/Manly 100 years ago.

### Previous Minutes: (Jill)

Minutes of Meeting of Thursday 21 September 2023 were accepted by Ellen Coupland seconded by Tom Schultz..

### Treasurer's Report: (Jill)

Cash Management A/C No. 20139708, Bus Web Saver A/C No. 21781280 and Term Investment A/c 23366345.

At 1 September 2023: \$30,529.53

Each A/ C at 30 September

At 30 September 2023: **\$30,786.19**

Everyday \$ 8,152.14

Building \$ 7,634.05

Fxd Term \$15,000.00

**TOTAL \$30,786.19**

Membership fees for 2024 are now being accepted. (\$25 for individuals, \$40 for a household)

Correspondence Report (Lena) 1 to 30 September 2023. The correspondence was accepted and endorsed at the committee meeting held on Thursday 5 October 2023.

### Resource Centre: (Jill)

The audience was reminded to bring the Christmas Hamper contributions to the Resource Centre. This month, the "Where am I" photograph was a view of the toilet block behind the row of shops at the junction of Bay Terrace and Florence Street, against the Railway line.

Website Report (Chris Seymour). The website, now on the WIX platform is still being updated.

Main Speaker, Dr James Lergessner is well known to the Society. Jim is a publisher and in his latest book, "My Brisbane, Rediscovered", he goes back to the 1940s – 1960s and reminisces on the happenings of those years. He has a great affinity for the vocal groups and bands, but also recalled visits of well-known personalities, Billy Graham, the Beatles and many more. A very interesting recall of happenings of former years.

Lucky Door: (Not claimed)

Raffle – Eric Sibley "Spring plant / voucher" (Donated by Lena)

Meeting closed 8.45pm and members were invited to partake of refreshments, aided by Ellen Coupland, Lena McCreadie and Margaret Collins.

We thank our Patron, Joan Pease and Councilor Sara Whitmee,  
for their ongoing encouragement and support.

"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners - the Quandamooka People - and the land on which we operate.

## Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc

Postal Address: 51 Drayton Terrace, Wynnum Qld 4178.

Email: secretary@wmhs.org.au Secretary: 0431 332 207 or 3393 4393

Committee: Lucy Laakso, Lena McCreadie, Jill Greenhill, Myrtle Beitz, Ellen Coupland, Chris Seymour.

Meetings: 7.00pm for 7.15pm. 3rd Thursday of the Month (except December and January)  
in Queensland Ambulance Auditorium, Cnr Tingal Road and Bay Terrace Wynnum

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

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

Librarian: Jill Greenhill 0407 293 177