

# **The Jetty Meeting - An Historical Re-enactment.**

## **Cast**

### **Host**

**Initial Chair of the Meeting – Mr. Felton (Councillor)**

**Voted Chair of Meeting: Mr. Gibbs**

**Dissident: Mr. Cunningham**

**Dissident Supporter: Mr. Johnson Smyth**

### **Host**

- General Introduction

Today we have a presentation on Wynnum Jetty. We will recreate a meeting held in 1897.

We would like everyone to participate as members of the audience at that meeting. Some of you are from North Wynnum – otherwise known as Division 1. Follow the screen and cheer or boo at the right time.

Others are from south of Wynnum Creek – Division 2. Please also cheer or vote or boo at the right time.

Now I am going to hand over the meeting to our special guest – Mr. George Gibbs, who has been around for a very long time.

## **PROLOGUE BY CHARACTER OF MR GEORGE GIBBS**

Good morning, my name is George Gibbs. You won't haven't seen me around the streets of Wynnum for a while, mainly because I died about 120 years ago.

You might know me from a couple of other things though. I was a stonemason and in 1889 I built the Waterloo Bay Hotel in Mary Street – sorry, I saw on my way here that you have changed the name to Berrima Street sometime since I was around. Great to see the old pub is still there, though it's certainly not the biggest building in the street anymore.

Anyway, I took out a licence and was the first publican of the Waterloo Bay Hotel. The railway line from the City to Cleveland was opened at the same time so we got lots of visitors coming to our lovely seaside town.

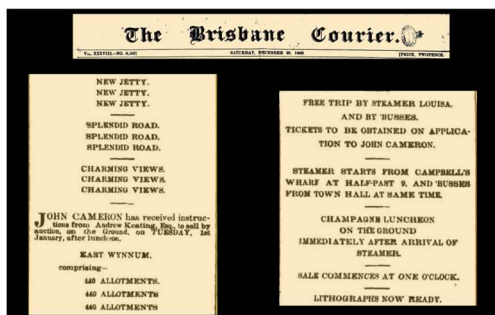
I retired and lived near Wynnum Station. I noticed they have named the street where we lived back then Gibbs Street after us.

What I really wanted to talk to you today about was an interesting meeting that I attended back in 1897. It was to do with the building of a new jetty at Wynnum and where it should go.

I better give you a bit of background about the jetty situation before we see what happened at that meeting.

Back in 1884, a fellow named Andrew Keating was trying to sell land in his East Wynnum Estate, basically all of what is now Wynnum Central from Tingal Road down to the beachfront. This was some of his advertising

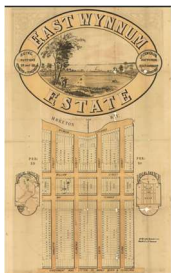
(Slide 4) :



Keating's problem was that the railway hadn't yet been built and the roads from the City were dreadful. So the best way to get his prospective buyers to Wynnum was by steamer, down the Brisbane River and round to Wynnum. You will see here that he even offers a Champagne Luncheon for anyone who comes. I guess a few drinks might have loosened the purse strings of his targets.

Slide 5

To land the steamers at Wynnum, he built a basic jetty. You can see it marked here on his East Wynnum Estate Poster) – between the bottom ends of Edith and Florence Streets – that might sound familiar.



Slide 6

Here's what Mr Keating's jetty looked like back then



A few years later, Andrew Keating has no further use for his now dilapidated jetty so in 1890 he sells it to the Wynnum Progress Association for 10 pounds. The Association has to spend a further 42 pounds making it usable at best. I can tell you – it had seen better days.

In 1897, the Wynnum Divisional Board agrees to build a new jetty. The question is where? There were three divisions in the local government area that the Divisional Board looked after – Division 1 north of Wynnum Creek, Division 2 for the rest of Wynnum and Division 3 for Manly.



The Manly people didn't care much so it became a battle between the Division 1 and Division 2 people. A public meeting was held at the Wynnum Divisional Board Hall at 8pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 1897 to consider the location of the new jetty.

You could have read a report on the meeting in the Courier Mail the next day (hold copy of page aloft) but it might be better to step back in time to see what actually took place.

Councillor Felton is going to open the meeting. (Mr Gibbs retires to back of room)

### **COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING RE-ENACTMENT**

#### **Mr. Felton**

Well, thank you everybody for turning out on this very rainy night. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a new jetty. The council purchased Mr. Keating's jetty for 52 pounds. But the jetty is not in good shape. We either need a new one or rebuild the existing one. Mr. Gibbs knows most about the proposal, so I will ask him to chair the meeting.

#### **Mr. Johnson Smyth**

Why do we need this Gibbs fellow? You're the Councilor. Do your job!

**Mr. Felton**

Very well. We will elect a Chair. I move that Mr. Gibbs chair the meeting.

**Host**

Seconded

**Mr. Felton**

Those in favor of Mr. Gibbs as Chairman.

Raise your hands.

*Everyone except Johnson Smyth raises hands*

Cheer

**Mr. Felton**

Those against.

**Johnson Smyth**

*Johnson Smyth raises hand*

**Slide 12**

Boo

**Slide 13**

Blank

**Mr. Felton**

Motion carried. Mr. Gibbs.

*Hands gavel to Mr. Gibbs*

**Mr. Gibbs**

*Bangs gavel*

OK, thank you. Now I would like this matter to be discussed in a fair and impartial manner. Please be respectful. When others are speaking, **don't interrupt**. Its impor...

*Mr. Cunningham enters room*

**Mr. Cunningham**

Why is this meeting being held in such a hole in the wall manner?

**Mr. Gibbs**

*Bangs gavel*

Order, order.

**Mr. Cunningham**

Who are you? Who made you chairman?

**Mr. Felton**

He was elected Mt. Cunningham.

**Mr. Cunningham,**

Well, I didn't get a vote. I demand a recount.

**Mr. Felton**

(Sigh) Always the troublemaker. All those in favour of Mr. Gibbs as chairman, raise your hand.

**Slide 14**

Raise your hands

**Slide 15**

Cheer.

**Slide 16**

Blank

**Mr. Felton**

Those against.

*Cunningham and Smith raise their hands.*

**Slide 17**

Boo.

**Slide 18**

Blank

**Mr. Gibbs**

OK, now the important point is where to place the new jetty. I think it would be best placed near –

**Mr. Johnson Smyth**

*Loudly interrupts*

It should be north of Wynnum Creek – by King Street. That is where the real heart of Wynnum is. Near the Creek, where there is deep water and the boats can come in.

**Slide 19**

Division 1 Cheer

**Slide 20**

Blank

**Mr. Cunningham**

It needs to be near the Creek, but in Division 2 – near Mary Street. That's the place that makes sense.

**Felton**

No, No, No – The location of the Keating jetty works fine. It just needs to be properly rebuilt. And division 2 is clearly destined to be the growing hub of Wynnum.

**Slide 21**

Division 2 Cheer

**Slide 22**

Blank

**Mr. Gibbs**

*Bangs gavel*

Order! Order!

**Mr. Cunningham**

*Stands*

And we need dredging of Wynnum Creek

**Mr. Gibbs**

Bangs gavel

Mr. Cunningham sit down. I won't hear you.

**Mr. Cunningham**

Oh! you won't, won't you. We will see about that.

**Mr. Felton**

Let's stick to the location first. I move for a vote.

**Mr. Smyth**

Seconded.

**Mr. Gibbs**

All right. Those in favour of a location in Division 1 by King Street, raise your hands.

**Slide 23**

Division 1 Raise Hands

**Mr. Gibbs**

*Mr. Gibbs counts*

Nine in favour of Division 1

Those in favour of Division 2 by Mary Street, near the Creek.

**Screen 24**

Do nothing.

**Mr. Cunningham**

Raises his hand. Come on!

**Mr. Gibbs**

Those in favour of the Keating site.

**Slide 25**

Division 2 Raise Hands

**Mr. Gibbs**

Mr. Gibbs counts

Sixty two. Division 2 by the Keating Jetty is where the new Jetty will go, by a vote of sixty two to nine with one vote for Mary Street.

**Slide 26**

Division 1 boo

Division 2 cheer

**Slide 27**

Blank

**Host**

So that is how the meeting went on that rainy night in Wynnum.