



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

August 2026

Vol. 18. No. 5 (184)

August General Meeting

THURSDAY 20 August 2026

6.45 pm for 7.00pm start

Wynnum Ambulance Centre

Corner Tingal Road / Cedar Street

Heather Richards

will discuss the

History of Lota House



Raffle

Lucky Door

Refreshments

Old Coin Donation

Visitors Welcome

Heather has been an historian with the Brisbane City Council for thirty years. She is currently in charge of local history at Wynnum Public Library where she enjoys researching the history of the Wynnum Manly area for the library's monthly local history talks, and finding guest speakers who are happy to share their knowledge.

Heather also loves connecting with local residents and hearing stories of their families' lives in the district.

President's Report

Hello Everyone

August is here and of course, It's Showtime! The Brisbane Exhibition, our much loved Ekka, is open and expected to attract hundreds of thousands of visitors during its 2026 season. This year the Ekka celebrates 150 years, a wonderful achievement. We extend our congratulations to organisers past and present on their work in creating and maintaining this Queensland icon.

For those of us with long memories, we will have seen many changes over the years, some good, some disappointing, but the entertainment continues. No doubt the reputation of having sunny days, usually with the legendary westerly winds will come to pass.

Unfortunately, the wet weather on the evening of our July meeting at Lindum Mere, may have discouraged a small number of people preparing to attend that night. However, we held one of our largest meetings for the year enjoying an entertaining presentation on the early history of Iona College and how the local community backed the dream of the founders, to keep the College resourced, afloat and growing.

This month, we return to the QAS museum for our August gathering on Thursday 20th. As always we look forward to seeing members and also members of the community at this event. If you're interested in locating, researching, preserving AND learning about our local community's historical past, you will be made very welcome at our gatherings.

Until next time,
Tom Schulz
WMHS President

The Next Bring and Buy is on

Thursday 20 August 2026.

Please bring in a Donation.



And buy something to take home.

Thank You

Wynnum Wonderland !!!

The Plan for “**The Bayside Pavillion**” is Revised.

A Vision to revitalize the Wynnum Foreshore.

A New Function and Wedding Venue, providing local employment.

The building is fully enclosed upstairs, but provides stunning views over the bay.
At ground level, Greene Park will be brought to life with the café and takeaway spilling onto a lawn.

The project also includes the provision of a purpose-built boardwalk connecting to the foreshore and a fully rebuilt jetty on the creek.

- Building height only 2 stories,
- Building Footprint 60% smaller,
- Fully enclosed to reduce noise,
- Number of gaming machines halved,
- Purpose built boardwalk,
- Restored jetty, and
- Green space integrated with cafe



An information session was held on Saturday 8 August on the site.

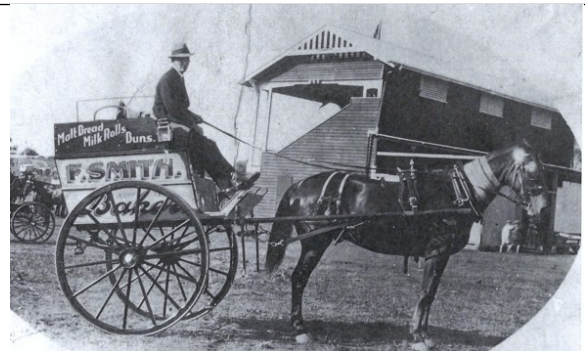
But the question, ” WHERE ARE ALL THE CARS TO BE PARKED?” could not be answered!

Courier Mail, (Brisbane Qld.:1933 - 1954) Thurs. 6 August 1939, page 19.
Wynnum Parklands

Park lands at Wynnum, other than the Esplanade reserves, were subjected to criticism by former Lord Mayor (Mr J W Greene) at the meeting of Wynnum and Manly A.H. and I. Society.

Reporting on the condition of **Memorial Park**, which is used annually by the Society, Mr Greene, who is President, said he had seen the park in a better condition than it was at present. It should be a place of beauty and of use to the people, not for the agistment of cattle. The entrance gates and fences were in a deplorable condition and the room under the Grandstand was in a filthy condition.

During the subsequent discussion it was stated that the park area was let out for agistment purposes at £5 a year. It was also stated that the cattle were eating the palms planted in the War Memorial Avenue. Trove



Grandstand in Memorial Park

In 1947 the Tuck Shop for Wynnum High School was under the Grandstand.

In 1950 the Tuck Shop opened as a private concern and ran until 1960.

A short time afterwards, the Grandstand burnt down?
Thank you, Myrtle.

Weekend Open Days for 2026

For those persons who are seeking information, but are unable to visit the Resource Room on weekdays, the dates for Saturday opening are:

10am to 12 noon

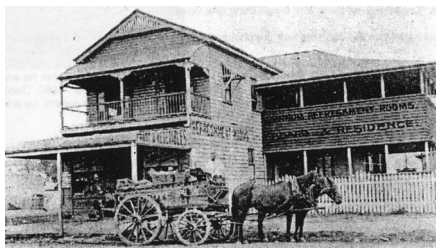
Saturday 29 August 2026

Saturday 1 October 2026

(Subject to change if necessary)

Where am I? August 2026





**31 Glenora (King) Street,
Wynnum.**

Early 1900s

William Augustus Woodhouse (1875 - 1915) was a commercial traveller, and the owner of the Hostelry in 1913. He came from Portsea, Hampshire, England, being the 7th of 10 children.

William enlisted to serve in WWI on 27 August 1914, at the age of 38 years. He was killed at Gallipoli on 29 May 1915. His wife lived at the shop till her death in 1969,, aged 90 years.

Today.
Demolished and
rebuilt



OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2026 | 10am til 2pm

Representatives from the GSQ Interest Groups will be available to answer any queries you may have and there will be experienced library volunteers to help you find your elusive ancestors. Invite your relatives, friends and neighbours to come along and see what GSQ has to offer its members. There will be raffles, coffee, tea and lovely food as well as other goodies on offer. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

Visit the
Genealogical Society of Queensland
to find your elusive ancestors!
Take advantage of the OPEN DAY on
Saturday 22 August 2026
between 10am to 2.00pm.

Raffles, Drinks and Food.

Research Room is located at
25 Stackpole Street, Wishart

"Laggan House"

Gumdale Historical Museum

A lovingly restored Depression-era tin shed . Located in the rounds of Gumdale Progress Association Hall at
737 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale
Opens on 1st Saturday
of every month (except Dec and Jan)



Saturday 1st September 2026
Featured Display: School Display

2026

SPRING FESTIVAL



Sunday 13th September 2026
George Clayton Park

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**Do you have any Historical Memorabilia
you can lend?**

**Do you have any time you can spare to
man the stall?**

Please contact Chiharu - 0432 154 741

THE PIONEER YEARS OF IONA COLLEGE

Summary by Danny Fitzpatrick,
presenter at our July 2026 Meeting

At the July 2026 meeting held at Lindum-mere, Danny Fitzpatrick gave a talk about the pioneer years of Iona College and the financial struggle to keep it afloat in its infancy.

Danny is an Old Boy of Iona and was also the College Bursar from 1984 to 2021. We were delighted to welcome past College Rectors Fr John Sherman OMI and Fr Michael Twigg OMI to the presentation. Their insights and memories added significantly to the night. In addition, many past students including a number from those pioneer years were with us at Lindum-mere.

Whilst the College is now one of the largest Catholic schools in Queensland with outstanding facilities, it was only the remarkable efforts of the Oblate Fathers and the parents of students in the late 1950s and early 1960s that helped the dreams of its founders to eventually become a reality.

Danny introduced the key players in the foundation of Iona College:

Fr Tim Long OMI – Graduate of Cambridge University, esteemed Rector of St Patrick's College in Sri Lanka from 1937 to 1954.

Archbishop Sir James Duhig – legendary Archbishop of Brisbane for 48 years from 1917 until his death aged 94 in 1965. A buyer and developer of property, constantly shuffling funds as required with very little cash reserves at any time.

Fr Ned Ryan OMI – Oblate Provincial for Australia. Fr Ned and his Council had to make the decision to start a school, something new for the Oblates. Given their lack of resources, there was a real risk to the Order's future in this undertaking.

Fr Tim Long left Sri Lanka in 1955 and was posted to Australia. Fr Long was approached by many Australian Bishops about starting a school in their diocese. However, Archbishop Duhig was determined the school would be in Brisbane, making "an offer the Oblates couldn't refuse – a 32 acre property at Lindum and promises of finance as needed".

The Lindum property consisted of a rundown farmhouse, stables and a tractor shed. It was to these humble beginnings that Fr Long and the young Fr Denis McCarthy arrived on 1st October 1957 with the plan to have a school up and running by the end of January, less than four months away. The Provincial Fr Ryan had given them a five pound note as start-up capital – it was all the Oblates could afford.

A master plan was put together in late 1957 showing an assembly hall, classrooms, dormitory blocks, music rooms and a chapel. Given the lack of funds and in an era of no Government funding, it was a remarkably ambitious and optimistic blueprint for the school.

The farmhouse was moved to a more suitable position, it

was renovated to provide for two classrooms downstairs whilst the priests lived upstairs, land was cleared and drainage work carried out by volunteers.



Opening day was 28th January 1958.

An enrolment of 58 students in Grades 6 and 7 assembled outside the converted farmhouse that was Iona College. Archbishop Duhig arrived for the opening with a photo taken in pouring rain.

The first classroom block was commenced in 1958. This was the start of serious financial woes when payment of the £45,000 to the builder became due. The Oblates were knocked back by every bank they approached, they couldn't get the deeds from Duhig, a credit squeeze had hit Australia and Duhig's promises of cash failed. Fr Tim Long declined rapidly in health during the crisis.

An aerial photo from early 1961 showed a bare main oval. The topsoil had been sold in 1960 to enable a payment to be made to ward off foreclosure. Things were that grim.

The unwell Fr Long resigned as Rector and headed home to Ireland, sadly dying on route in London on 30th April 1961. He probably died thinking that the dream of Iona College was doomed and his work was in vain. If only he could see it now.

In June 1961, Archbishop Duhig was finally able to lend 15,000 pounds which enable Iona College to get a better financial footing. With rising enrolments through the 1960s, the College slowly but surely reached stability and over the next 50 years gradually developed the magnificent campus that exists today.



1961 showing driveway from North Road, Farmhouse, new buildings and start of Sport's oval.

Moreton Bay College

Founders' Day 2026 - 125 Years



Member **Ellen Coupland** with local Cr **Alex Givney**
at the Founder's Day celebrations held on
Tuesday 28 July 2026

Message from **Prof. Mary Coupland**, Old Girl and Gt Niece of
the Misses Greene who founded the School in 1901.

"What a wonderful celebration this Founder' day was - marking 125 years of the College. The service at 11am for the whole school, Old Girls and guests, was inspirational. There were exceptional contributions of speeches and music from the Principal, staff, students, guests and old girls: especially the 2026 MBC Medalist, Dr Melissa Manahan. Dr Mahan, consultant dermatologist, spoke about her own career path and also about her time at the school, and encouraged the girls to find and follow their passion.

A delicious lunch was a wonderful opportunity to socialize and reconnect.

A highlight was then the tour of the new Winchester Heritage Centre, and time for more sharing of recollections. It is so good to see a dedicated place for the archives, and treasured items from the past. Congratulations MBC and Happy Birthday."

History of 125 years

Moreton Bay College traces its origins to 1901, when Moreton Bay Girls' High School opened on Bay Terrace in Wynnum, bounded by Charlotte and Florence Streets. The School was founded by Miss Alice J. Alison Greene and her sisters, Anne and Helah Greene, in a purpose-built wooden school designed and constructed by their father. The school began modestly, with six boarders and 20 day students, but it offered something significant for the district: a formal independent education for girls at a time when such opportunities were limited. Boarding was central to its early character, with accommodation for around 30 students.

For more than 40 years, the Greene family shaped the school's values and daily life. Alice Greene served as its founding head and helped establish a tradition of disciplined learning, cultural enrichment and personal care. The Wynnum location also connected the school closely to the growing bayside community. In 1944, after Alice's retirement, the Greene family handed the school to the Methodist Church. Two years later, responsibility passed to the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools' Association, which appointed Miss Ellen Christensen as headmistress. She was followed by leaders including Mrs Millicent Drewe and Mrs Viola Owen-Winchester, each guiding the school through changing educational expectations.

By the 1950s, the school had become more established. In 1956, the roll had reached about 150 students, and in 1957 the name was changed to Moreton Bay College. The new name reduced confusion with state high schools and aligned the school more closely with other independent colleges. Although enrolments grew, the original Wynnum site was small and increasingly restrictive. The College remained intimate in scale, which gave it a strong community identity but also limited its capacity to expand programs, facilities and sporting opportunities.

The 1970s brought the College to one of the most difficult points in its history. Financial pressure, falling enrolments and the decline of boarding placed the school under strain. In 1975, the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools' Association decided to close the College. Although the decision was later reversed, the uncertainty damaged confidence, and enrolments fell sharply. A committed group of parents, staff and supporters worked to keep the school alive. With the formation of the Uniting Church, a new Board chaired by Mr John Mason helped reconstitute Moreton Bay College in 1979. At that time, enrolment stood at only 116 students.

A new period of renewal began in 1980 when Mr Ken Waller became principal, the first man to hold that role in the College's history. The boarding house closed, confirming the school's shift toward becoming a modern day school. At the end of 1981, the College acquired 20 hectares of land on Wondall Road, Manly West. This decision transformed its future. The Primary School moved to the new campus in 1984, and the Secondary School followed in 1986. The relocation provided space for new buildings, expanded co-curricular opportunities and stronger long-term planning.

From the late twentieth century onward, Moreton Bay College grew into one of Brisbane's leading independent girls' schools. A centenary was celebrated in 2001, with enrolment exceeding 1,000 students from Prep to Year 12. New facilities, broader curriculum pathways and a strengthened sense of identity helped the College continue to evolve while preserving its historic commitment to girls' education. In 2026, the College marked 125 years since its founding. A story, beginning in a small Wynnum boarding school and continuing on a larger Manly West campus, reflects courage, resilience and renewal. Moreton Bay College remains closely linked to its bayside origins and to the vision of the Greene sisters, whose belief in the education of young women continues to shape the school's legacy.

**St Kilda Hospital,
61 Kingsley Terrace
Wynnum**

(SW corner of Kingsley Terrace and Picton Parade)

"The Brisbane Courier": Thursday 22 June 1916 and Friday 7 July 1916

AUCTIONS AND PROPERT LISTS-MONDAY NEXT
For sale by Public Auction in the Mart at Eleven o'clock

Valuable Private Hospital.

Property at WYNNUM SOUTH.

By Order of the Proprietress.

**THE FREEHOLD RESIDENCE, FUNITURE
AND GOODWILL
OF PROSPEROUS PRIVATE HOSPITAL.**

Situated in Kingsley-Terrace, Wynnum South.

The land is described as

Sub-Divisions 283 and 284 of Portion 56, Parish of Tingalpa,
containing 1 rood 24 perches;
with improvements comprising

**WOODEN DWELLING AND PRIVATE HOSPITAL
GOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL BUSINESS AS A GOING CONCERN**
conducted by Mrs. Agnes Amelia Rendell

CAMERON BROS.

TOWN HALL

AUCTIONEERS

TOMORROW AT 10 o'clock



When the hospital closed ALL the records were destroyed. Over the last 30 years the Society has been collecting data from former patients of St Kilda Hospital. **Are you included?**

Over the last few months member Duncan Morrison has been collating the records to form a searchable database.

**We have 1567 records - is yours one of them?
Thank you Duncan for your contribution!**

Mrs. Agnes Amelia Rendell was living in Wynnum by 1911 and running a Hospital on the site prior to 1916. The house dates from about 1910 and maybe was transported from another site.

After Mrs. Rendell sold the Hospital as a going concern in 1916, the building served as a private hospital, largely under the administration of the Order of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The original building was high-set, largely of pine construction with verandah around three sides. Additions in later years include extensions under the eaves and further rooms built under the house.

For the first fifty years the building was mainly a maternity hospital for the Wynnum Manly locality. But from the early 1960s the change was to geriatric patients, as maternity patients were sent to the Women's Hospital at Herston.

Ownership of the building changed many times. Kate Bowden purchased in 1929 and subsequently sold to Marie Julie Cribb (of the Ipswich Cribbs) who retained the building until 1946. Michael Joseph Plunkett next owned the house and during his ownership acquired an entire built-in Besser-block ablution block. So the bathrooms and laundry facilities, both upstairs and down, had all "mod cons" and one was not plunged into the 19th century when taking a shower. In 1966 the hospital-owning McBride's took over, until 1975 when the building went into private ownership and was converted into a dwelling.

The first owner of the residential property was Mr Nielson, who was a Swede, and ran the Manly Baths. He subdivided the building into two houses, 61 and 65 Kingsley Terrace.

Mr Tony and Mrs Janet Rutkin lived in No.61 to at least the early 1980s. The work they did is described as follows:

"Restorations have included the recovery of the essential front verandah, which was lovingly rebuilt in period, including iron lace balustrades. Extensions onto other veranda have been tastefully modified, with windows replacing louvres to give these parts of the house an airy feeling.

Four of the five bedrooms front onto the restored verandah, with its view of Moreton Bay and the mouth of the Brisbane River, and several of them connect with a back passageway as well. There are very many doors, partly because that is the way they built old Queenslanders, and partly because of its history as a hospital where the fire regulations required rapid exit from all rooms."

Real Estate Agent, Frank Robinson of "Forge", was offering No. 61 property for sale in 1986 at the price of \$180,000.

There is said to be a resident ghost who has been felt by two previous owners. Both owners had felt a feeling of coldness and eeriness in the property. The ghost is said to be an old gardener, employed at the Nursing Home, who hung himself under the house.

Jill.

What's On!

February/March 2026

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	Booking
Saturday 15 August 2026 8.30 - 10am	"Seven Favourite Houses of New Farm." Walk.	Meet at New Farm Park Ferry Terminal.	Non-Members of New Farm H S \$33.08 Book: Eventbrite
Wednesday 19 August 2026 12.30 - 1.30pm	"Pastoralism and Modernity in the Burnett Region 1880-1914." Christina Lawrence	RQHS Commissariat Store, 115 George Street, City.	Book sale after lecture - "Famine to Feast" by Garry Kuhn.
Thursday 27 August 2026 10 - 11am	"A Spanish Beauty at Manly." Spanish Mission style Home on Royal Esplanade.	Wynnum Public Library, 145 Florence Street, Wynnum.	Free. Book 3403 2199
Saturday 5 September 2026 8.30 - 3.45pm	"Back to Limestone."	1 Nicholas Street, Ipswich. (In Dandiiri Room)	\$35 - \$40 Free M. & A. Teas Book RQHS
Saturday 5 September 3.30 - 9pm	"River Fire Cruise."	Mowbray Park Pontoon, 40 Lytton Road, East Brisbane..	Aroness Classic Cruises Tickets on line \$186
Until Sunday 6 September 10 - 4pm (Not Mon/ Tues)	"Fascinating Science" . Explore everyday scientific principles and problem solving in a fun, hands-on way.	Bribie Island Seaside Museum.	Free. All ages. No booking required.
Wednesday 9 September 12.30 - 1.30pm	"A Girl in Utopia. The last New Australia Communard.	RQHS, Commissariat Store, 115 George Street, City.	\$10 Non-Members.

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
The Heritage Guide - over 90 sites to explore. Brisbane Living Heritage.		Free.

Available at the
Resource Room
Weekdays 10am-Noon
Email:
jillg01@tpg.com.au

Wynnum Manly Historical Society Inc

Highlights from the recent Committee Meeting - Thurs. 6th August, 2026

- The full committee was present.
- Membership stands at 76 members. No new members since last meeting.
- Life member, Jan Parnell was admitted, last June, to an Aged Care home at Eight Mile Plains. Her neighbour is helping the family with the sorting of Jan's books and will pass any local history books on to the Society. We do not know what has happened to the cat!!
- Heather Richards, from Wynnum Public Library, will be the speaker in August 2026. Her subject will be Lota House.
Dr Valerie Cooms will be invited to speak in 2027.
The September 2026 Meeting will be held at Lindum Mere. Speaker will be Paul Comber.
- Digitisation: As commercial scanning of our records cost less than expected the decision was made to hire a Book Scanner for 3 months, using part of the History Queensland grant.
Not all digitised material is to go straight into our Website as structure of the Website needs to be determined.
- Many of the plaques, mounted in the past by the Society on buildings throughout Wynnum and Manly, are in need of repair. The black lettering has disappeared.
- Preparation of material for display at the Spring Festival is being considered. Clubs and Societies are only needed on Saturday 12 September for 6 hours.
- The re-naming of Kitchener Park is still yet to be decided. The proposed name is only relevant to part of the Park. How about the tennis and Croquet Clubs?
- Next Committee Meeting: Thursday 3rd August.
(If you have any concerns, ideas, constructive suggestions, etc. please let us know.)



"We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners - the Quandamooka People - and custodians of the land on which we operate. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present and emerging. We recognize their connection to Country and role in caring for and maintaining Country over tens of thousands of years."

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

Postal Address: 9A Roseberry Parade, Wynnum West, Qld 4178

Email: secretary.wmhs@gmail.com Secretary: 0477 722 394

Committee: Tom Schultz, Elma O'Toole, Danny Fitzpatrick, Jill Greenhill, Myrtle Beitz, Ellen Coupland, Chris Seymour, 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.