



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 July 2026

Vol. 18. No. 4 (183)

**July General Meeting
THURSDAY 16 July 2026**

6.45 pm for 7.00pm start

**Iona College
North Road
LINDUM**

**The History of the Chapel
"Lindum-Mere"**



Told by Danny Fitzpatrick

Danny has had a long relationship with Iona College. He was enrolled at the College in Grade 5 in 1967, and completed his senior year in 1974. He came back to Iona as School Bursar in 1984 and stayed in that role until retiring in September 2021.

His talk will cover the beginnings and pioneer years (1957 to mid 1960s) of Iona College. Starting with a run down farmhouse and a five pound note, the Oblate Fathers had a very stressful period in keeping the school afloat.

This talk is a story of a community working together, believing "the Lord will provide" and leaving nothing un-dared, ultimately laying the base for the magnificent College campus we see today.

President's Report

Welcome everyone to the July edition of our WMHS newsletter.

It's sometimes difficult to understand how quickly time passes and the fact that we are now in the second half of 2026. "Christmas in July" events are already being planned by many, and it won't be long before the early Christmas items start appearing on supermarket shelves. The Easter hot cross buns have only just disappeared, but don't fret, they will be back on Boxing Day!

We are busy with our digitization project and our website continues to grow with historical photos, documents, newspaper items and other media. Ake the time, when you can, to go web-surfing on our website, as there are new items uploaded regularly. Comments are welcomed ad encouraged.

This month we will be holding our monthly gathering at Lindum Mere, located in the grounds of Iona College at Lindum. We look forward to a good attendance y members and hopefully after some promotional work guests from the broader community. For anyone who hasn't seen the restored "Digger's" statue, relocated to Iona College, please take time on the night, to view its new location next to Lindum Mere.

Tom Schulz (President)

Directions to Lindum-mere



Enter Iona College grounds in **North Road**.

Car Park is visible down to the right.

Lindum-Mere is adjacent to the Car Park.



Wynnum's New Foreshore Trail

No. 19. Opposite 25 Waterloo Esplanade

“Unloading fish at Wynnum Creek”
1907

No. 1 Jetty, built at Oyster Point (on the northern bank of Wynnum Creek), long welcomed swimmers and fishers.

Built in the 1889, the jetty was extended in 1891 into deeper water and a shark-proof bathing enclosure added. Men and women always swam at different times.

The No. 1 Jetty was demolished in 1964, rather than being repaired as was the Jetty at Shorncliffe.

More information about the trail is on the internet or obtained by scanning the QR Code on one of the street signs.

Visit to Lindum Mere on Thursday 16 July 2026 at 6.45pm for 7.00pm for Monthly Meeting

Any member who does not drive, or does not drive at night, or is uncertain of the location, please contact Secretary, Elma (Ph: 0477 722 394) to arrange for a lift to Lindum Mere at Iona College.

Weekend Open Days for 2026

For those persons who are seeking information, but are unable to visit the Resource Room on weekdays, the dates when the Centre will open from 10am to 12 noon are

Saturday 29 August 2026
Saturday 1 October 2026

(Subject to change if necessary)



Grandstand in Memorial Park

The Tuck Shop for Wynnum High School was under the Grandstand. Who can remember in which year the Grandstand burnt down?

Were you perhaps at school then?
Please let us know.

*Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1903; 1916 - 1926),
Tuesday 22 June 1926, page 8.*

AMBULANCE FETE AT MANLY.

A fete in aid of the building fund of the new Ambulance quarters at Wynnum was held at Manly State School last Saturday afternoon and evening. The fete was organised by the ladies of the Manly sub-centre and was formally opened by Mrs. W. L. Dart. . Thank You, Sue.



Till next Time!

Jill

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 August 2026
Featured Display:
Embroidery and Tea Towels

*Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld. : 1872 - 1947),
Tuesday 15 June 1926, page 11.*

MOTOR-BOATING - The Centenary M.B. Club
- Speedy Outboard Craft By "PROPELLER"

"There appears to be a bright future for the Centenary Motor Boat Club, which has as its home the shores of Wynnum and Manly. From there on many weekends the little fleet, chiefly cabin-cruisers, makes its way out to the delightful picnic grounds on the islands of Moreton Bay.

Often on Saturday afternoon a race is held. When the Greater Brisbane Council carries out the proposed shorefront scheme, there will be attractions for some of the town boats to join the club. It is thought that in this case there will be stations erected at both Manly and Wynnum, where city enthusiasts may leave their launches safely with a caretaker.

On June 23 a public meeting is to be held in the Wynnum School of Arts to consider with the town planner, the proposed scheme. A representative of the Centenary Motor Boat Club will be present to look after its interests."

Thank you, Sue.

Early History of Wynnum

At the June 2026 meeting, Chris Seymour gave a talk about the early history of Wynnum up to the amalgamation of Wynnum/Manly into Greater Brisbane.

Chris showed a slide of sea levels over the past 24,000 years, as determined by geological studies from around the world. The last ice age peaked at 21,000 years ago, and conditions remained cold until about 14,000 years ago. Sea levels were 130 metres below the current mark and Moreton Bay was mostly dry land. The current location of Wynnum was 30 kms inland. Sea levels rose gradually to reach close to their current height about 8,000 years ago.

Evidence from Moreton Island shows that humans were in the area at least 18,000 years ago, and probably much earlier. They would have been able to walk to all the Moreton Bay islands. When Europeans arrived, the area was inhabited by the semi nomadic Quandamooka People. A 2011 Native Title court settlement gave the Quandamooka exclusive rights on most of Stradbroke Island and nonexclusive rights to the Wynnum/Manly Lota area and the coast down the Logan River, as well as Moreton and other Bay islands. The Quandamooka were skilled fishermen and hunted the turtles and dugongs in Moreton Bay. The Pandanus tree was important in their culture and provided material for dilly bags and didgeridoos. The fruit was used to make a drink and smouldering branches were used to carry fire from camp to camp. The Quandamooka name for the Pandanus and its location was “Winnam” and Europeans adopted the name Wynnum from the Quandamooka.

The first Europeans in the area were on Captain Cook’s voyage in 1770, but he sailed far off the coast and did not realise the nature of the Bay. Matthew Flinders in 1802 was the first European to venture into Quandamooka country. He sailed right past the Brisbane River and Wynnum and landed on Coochiemudlo Island. The next visitors were three ticket-of-leave convicts in March 1823. They had been commissioned to sail a boat from the Hawkesbury River to Wollongong to collect timber. They were pushed far out to sea by a storm and ended up on Moreton Island after a fourth man in their party had died at sea. Helped and kept alive by local people, they reached the mainland and walked through the Wynnum area to discover the Brisbane River. Two of them, Thomas Pamphlet and John Finnegan, were rescued in November 1823 on Bribie Island by John Oxley, who was on a mission to find a new penal colony site. The two showed Oxley the Brisbane River. Within two years the new colony was set up in what is now Brisbane. The Brisbane area was closed to free settlers until 1846. Settlement was initially slow, but by the late 1850s settlers were moving into the Wynnum area, which was initially called Oyster Point. The Manly area was originally called Wyvernleigh, named after the first house, a solid stone building built in 1862. The site is now occupied by St John Vianney school.

Oceana Terrace. Another early dwelling was Lota House, built by William Duckett White in 1865.

Farming was the initial economic activity in the area, primarily fruit and vegetables, but also sugar cane. There were several sugar mills in the area, notably at Hemmant and Cleveland. Wyvernleigh was the site of a jam factory and in 1891 John Hargreaves set up a fruit canning factory at The Springs in what is now Manly West. Over the years this became a substantial enterprise and a major employer in the area. A fishing fleet was established at Wynnum Creek, pioneered by the Crouch family. Mullet was the principal fish caught and with the help of the Aboriginal fishermen the annual catch became one of the largest in Queensland.

The population was growing steadily from 693 in 1892 to 2300 in 1912. Local government was established with Kianawah Divisional Board formed in 1888 to control the Wynnum/Manly Lota area. After several changes, this became the Wynnum Town Council in 1912. Real estate developers moved in in the 1880s, offering “prime lots with views and sea breezes.” Wyvernleigh was renamed Manly to compare with Manly in NSW.

Tourism took off after the arrival of the railway in 1889. People could come for the day to enjoy the seaside. Dozens of bathing boxes were constructed along the seashore. Swimming enclosures were built at the end of both the Wynnum jetties and Manly jetty. Hotels and boarding houses were built for those wanting a longer stay. The Ingleston Guest House was one of the classier establishments, built in 1915, and burnt down in 1947. One Manly boarding house owner was denied a liquor licence and called her place the Canberra Coffee Palace. She was prosecuted after police had entrapped her for offering alcohol.

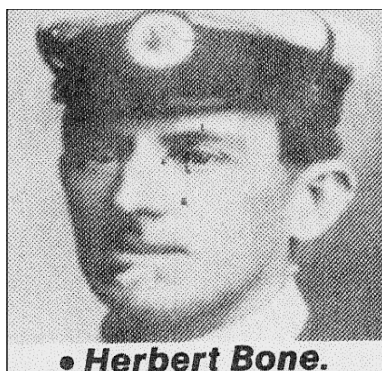
Several families were prominent in early Wynnum history. John Illey Green built the Moreton Bay Girls High School – run by his daughters. His son Sam Greene was the first mayor of Wynnum, and his other son John Greene was the last mayor of Wynnum. Hugh Irvine opened the Commonwealth Store in 1901, run by the family up until the 1960s.

Telephone service started in 1901 with a manual exchange in the Post Office. A gasworks was built in 1914, and the streets were lit by gas lamps. Houses were connected to a water supply in the years following 1919, but a sewerage system was only built in the 1960s. Electricity was connected in 1923.

Sandgate and Wynnum were the two districts most opposed to the 1926 amalgamation. Mayor John Greene was vocal in the cause of Wynnum independence but was overruled by State Parliament. In 1931 he was elected as Brisbane’s third Lord Mayor.

Thank you Chris.

This month we received a large box, containing the memorabilia of Mr. **Herbert Bone** who was well known in the district at the beginning of the last century. Lindi, the new Property manager of a Housing Development found the material left behind by a previous Tenant. She kindly forwarded the material of **Mr. Herbert Bone** on to us.



Henry "Herbert" Bone came to Wynnum in 1902, aged 26 years, and was one of the foundation members of the *Wynnum and Manly Sailing Club* in 1909. Herbert was timekeeper and starter for the club, a position which he held for many years.

The family lived at Wellington St. Manly before building the family home, which still stands today at Gordon Parade. Two sons and four daughters were born. Herbert's third daughter, Mrs Norma Ansell, still lives in the family home.

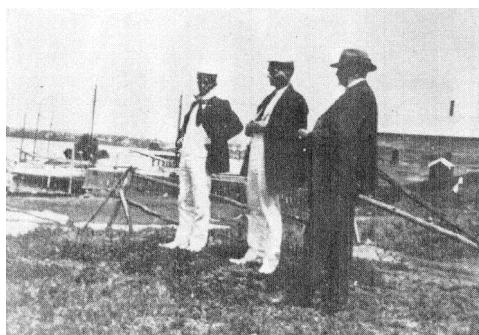
Herbert also was one of several bayside sailors who put a lot of time and effort into establishing a place for club members and friends on Green Island. Herbert was responsible for making a garden bed on the island in the shape of the club's crest.

The island also boasted a grandstand, barbecues and picnic tables. The improvements to the island were officially opened for the first annual trip on February 1, 1919.

Events on the program for the opening day included novelty races, a fishing competition and tug-o-war.

One of the novelty races included running 25 yards, sitting down and eating a pie and drinking a bottle of ginger beer before running another 25 yards.

Herbert was presented with a gold Wynnum and Manly club crest with the inscription on the back of it: "To Herbert Bone for past services 2-9-1919".



Having a chat near the Manly Jetty were, from the left, Herb Bone, G Gordon and Harry Hart . 1919

Herbert was a sign writer and started the family company, "H. Bone and Son" which was well known on the Bayside.

His love of sailing was taken up by his sons "Harry" Henry and "Harold" Spencer. Harry and Harold made names for themselves in the sailing races held on Waterloo Bay in the early 1920s.

They skippered the "*Evans*" and won several trophies. Harold was the most promising sailor of the two. He was given the reins of the "*Evans*" after Harry had graduated to the senior ranks.

Harold had won two club championships in the junior ranks when he was struck down with appendicitis and died at 17 years of age just before the championships on January 3, 1925.

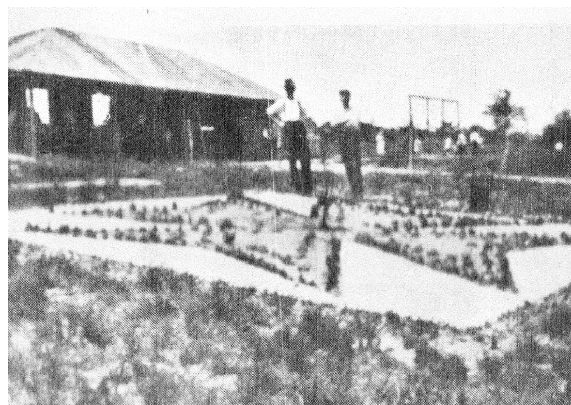
The local newspaper placed the following ode to Harold after the championship race.

A Dingey Romance

When the smart little clipper "*Evans*" won the championship of the dingey section of the Manly Yacht Club on New Year's Day you could not recognize that "*Evans*" was one of the original dingies presented to the club by Mr Harry Hart some years ago. She was sailed by Harry Bone who as time went on graduated to the senior ranks of the club leaving the boat in the hands of his brother Harold.

Harold gave promise of developing into a skipper of unusual attainments and further adding to the reputation of the "*Evans*" when he was cut off by his untimely death.

Harold Spencer Bone also was presented with a gold medal from the Manly Yacht Club. The inscription on the back of it read: "Presented by Walker and Hall to Harold S Bone, skipper of the "*Evans*" 23-2-1924.



The Gardens made by Herbert Bone on Green Island 1919

"Looking Back" printed in Wynnum Herald on 8 February 1989.

The DIXON FAMILY

Tanners and Shoemakers

Thomas Dixon, (1814 -), born in Giggleswick, Yorkshire, married Jane Chapman in Bradford, Yorkshire in 1838. There were 6 children, 5 sons and 1 daughter, all registered in Bradford. Thomas



was an ironmonger, and the family were Quakers.

Two of the sons, **Joseph Chapman Dixon** (1841 -1929) and **Thomas Coer**

Dixon (1845 -1909) came to Australia in 1864, leaving from Bradford in England.

In 1869, **Joseph Chapman Dixon** encouraged his brother **Thomas Coer Dixon** to come to Brisbane from NSW where he, Thomas, had already established a small tannery. Soon after arrival in Brisbane Thomas set up a tannery at West End. In 1878 this building was expanded to include a boot and shoe manufacturing business with boot and shoe machinery and shoe lasts bought from Sydney.

The first mention of the Dixon Shoe Factory was in the Queenslander of 6 July 1878. The business was situated in Russell St West End. Disruptions came in 1885 when fire destroyed buildings, and in 1893 the floods damaged the goods and swept *West End* 1908 away the tannery shed.

In the early 1900s, Thomas was urged by his son to expand and construct more buildings. Land was purchased in 1906 bounded by Montague, Raven and Drake Streets. Thomas visited Sydney to collect ideas of the latest innovations in the shoe industry. With the experience of well-known architect, Richard Gailey, a “magnificent building” was constructed in brick in 1908 at 406 Montague Road West End, and this building was operational until 1965.

Grandson Donald Coer Dixon (1915 – 1997).

Donald Dixon’s father, William Victor Dixon, was the third eldest son of Thomas Coer Dixon. Mother was Kathleen Eleanor Lamont. William Victor Dixon became in charge of the West End Tannery, in 1909 when his father Thomas Coer Dixon died.

Donald, one of 4 siblings of William Victor Ellen and Jill.

Dixon, was born in 1915. Donald married Margaret (Peg) Tilley in 1940, when aged 25years. Then, in 1941, he enlisted and served in the Air Force until 1945. (WWII).

On return to civilian life, Donald’s father, William Victor Dixon, had died (1944). Donald joined the staff of his grandfather’s tanning and shoemaking business (Thomas Coer Dixon, died 1909) at West End and studied Industrial Chemistry at QIT. Due to differences of opinions amongst the family on ideas of modernization, Donald left the family business to set up a business on his own.

The Donald Dixon Tannery

was opened in Fleming Road, Hemmant in 1950. A fire destroyed the shed in 1958. But the shed was insured. In the 1960s there were up to 400 employees. The business was floated as a Public Company, with Don and Peg as major shareholders. Donald’s management style was the key to his success. He was a hard man but fair. If he was wrong he apologized gracefully. He related well to those around him, and he had a good sense of humour.

Don was willing to innovate and kept up with new technology. A tannery uses technologies from all over the world and Don travelled overseas every two years to see what other tanners were doing.

Early in the 1970s, suburban housing had begun to border onto the tannery. There were many complaints about the continuous smell of hydrogen sulphide, a major chemical used in leather curing.

The smelly part of the business moved to a site outside Toowoomba.

In the 1970s the market for trading was changing. Less leather was used. There were more goods arriving from overseas. Shoe making was losing its viability. Don was ill and had to retire.

Don Dixon’s Tannery became an asset of Walter Reed, Sydney. The Hemmant factory ceased production and was sold in the 1990’s.

Now there is only empty land.

Douglas Leighton Kesteven, his son-in-law, wrote the story of “Donald Dixon and the Hemmant Tannery”. Douglas worked for Don for ten years, from 1972. We have added an introduction exploring the Dixon family’s arrival in Australia.

What's On!

February/March 2026

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	Booking
Saturday 25 July 2026 10.30-11.30am	"Exploring how our ancestors earned their daily bread."	Inala Library, Corasir Avenue/ Willawong Parade, Inala.	Free. Book. Ph: 3403 2205
Tuesday 28 July 2026 6pm	Book launch: "Qld Temperance Story." Pat Comben.	RQHS Commissariat Store, 115 George Street, City.	RSVP Ph: 3221 4198
Wednesday 29 July 2026 10.30 – 11.30am	"150 years of the EKKA."	State Library of Qld, Auditorium 1, Level 2, Stanley Place, South Brisbane.	Free. Book: Eventbrite
Thursday 30 July 2026 10 - 11am	"Researching of your House."	Wynnum Library, 145 Florence Street, Wynnum.	Free. Book: 3403 2199
Thursday 6 August 2026 6 - 8pm	"The uncovered history of early Aboriginal Activism."	UQ Geoffrey Rush Drama Studio, Campbell Place, St Lucia.	Free. Book: Eventbrite
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.

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 - Thursday 2nd July 2026

- Applicant, Greg Lacey is welcomed as a new member of the Society.
- The July meeting of the Society will be held in Lindum Mere, at Iona College. Treasurer, Danny a former pupil and employee of Iona College is to give a presentation on the history of the College. Lindum Mere was the former Baptist Chapel situated in Bay Terrace and moved to the new location at Iona on 27 April 2023.
- An unexpected box was delivered to the Society. A box of memorabilia originally belonging to, Henry "Herbert" Bone, well-known in the Sailing fraternity over 100 years ago. The box contained many black and white negatives, an empty match box, an empty powder compact and a money box with no lock. There were many photographs of people but unfortunately very few with names and dates.
- Coles has provided us with a \$50 gift voucher for use towards the cost of the supper after the meetings.
- There is to be a Bayside Spring Festival to be held from Friday September 11 to Sunday 13 September in George Clayton (Lighthouse) Park. Community entertainment, family fun, stalls, food and WMHS.
- Brisbane City Council have uploaded their new Heritage Trail booklet to the internet. Excellent presentation and photographs, but no contact with the Society regarding the accuracy of the text.
- Digitisation proceeding using the \$2,000 grant from History Queensland for the processing of the larger photographs, maps and documents.
- President Tom to meet with Cnr Alex Givney regarding the re-naming of Kitchener Park.



"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

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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.