

Wander through **WYNNUM**



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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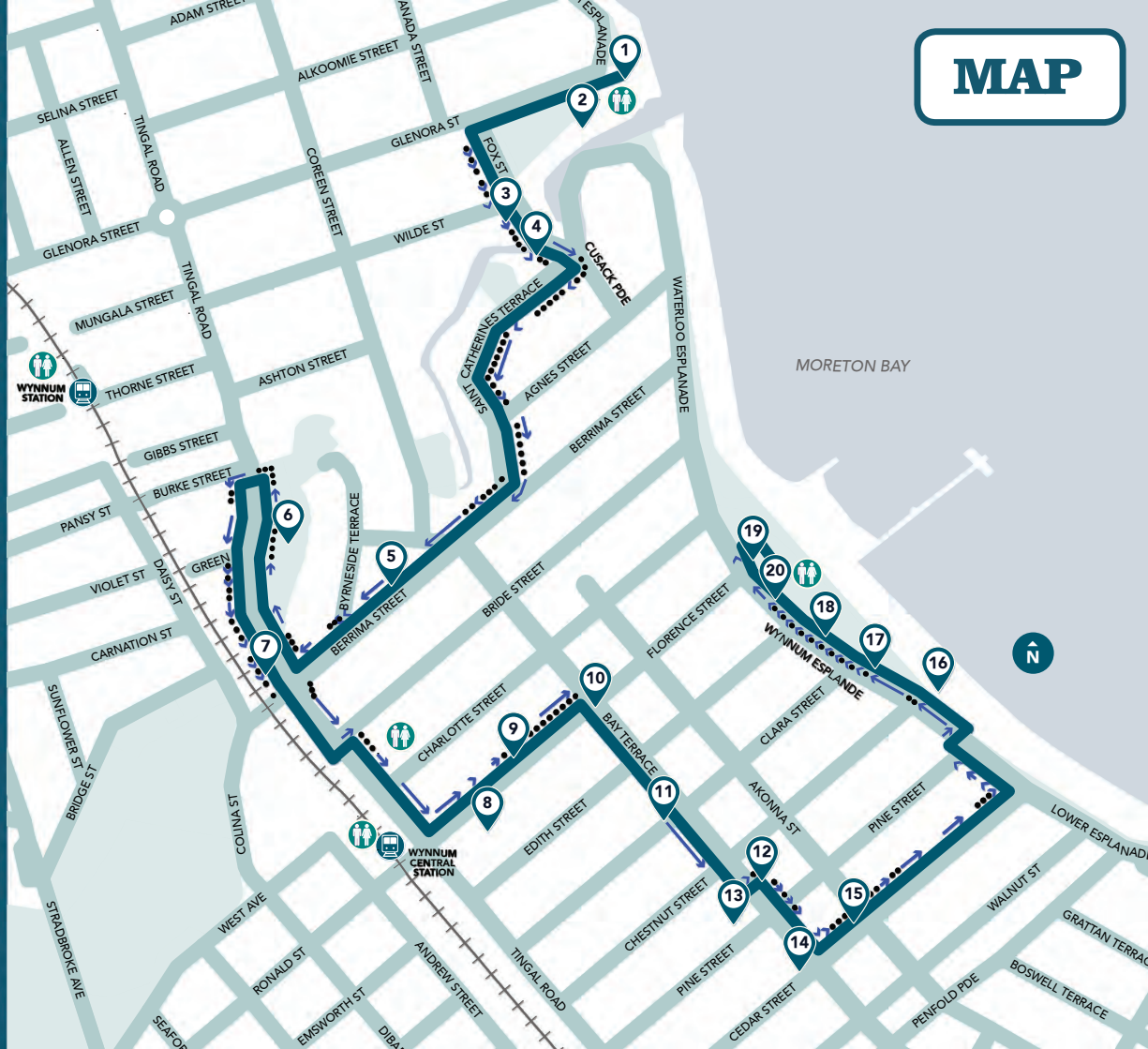
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MAP

INTRODUCTION

Wynnum is rich in history and heritage places. This trail visits only a few of these places to give a snapshot of the history of this part of Brisbane.

The name 'Wynnum' is believed to have come from an Aboriginal word for the screw pine, a common species of pandanus found in the area. With the closure of the Moreton Bay penal settlement, first established at Redcliffe in 1824 and moved a year later to the present Central Business District, Moreton Bay was officially opened for free settlement in 1842 as part of the colony of New South Wales.

The land in the area we know today as Wynnum was first sold in 1860 as large land holdings suitable for farming. The first house in the Wynnum-Manly district was Wyvernleigh, a fine stone house that was located on the hill overlooking the bay. A pioneering sugar plantation was established on the estate that included a working sugar mill. Other smaller farms began to emerge closer to Oyster Point, the name first given to the Wynnum area.



View of Wynnum from the Jetty, ca. 1912, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 38661

Aboriginal people were forced to move further away from their traditional hunting and fishing grounds as European settlement encroached on the area.

With its frontage to Moreton Bay, the area soon became a seaside retreat. Following the completion of the rail line to Cleveland in 1889 and the inclusion of a station at Wynnum, many more holiday makers travelled to the fledgling suburb. Land was swiftly subdivided for housing and a bustling community emerged. By the 1880s, two hotels were established, the Hastings Hotel, which became known as the Wynnum Hotel (now demolished), and the Waterloo Bay Hotel.



Churches, schools and the School of Arts had been built by the early 20th Century, as well as a shopping strip along Bay Terrace. The name Wynnum was officially adopted in 1892 when the divisional board changed its name from the Kianawah division.



Inglestone, a boarding house in Wynnum, ca. 1920, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 159866



Two ladies chatting outside the kiosk on the waterfront at Wynnum, 1906, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 17367

Along the seashore several jetties with bathing enclosures and dressing sheds were built. These and other civic improvements contributed to Wynnum becoming one of Brisbane's favourite holiday destinations. Holiday boarding houses dotted the streets and by the 1930s the Wynnum Wading Pool had been built. This became one of the suburb's main attractions and remains so today.

1

JETTY NO. 1

"To be attractive, a watering-place must have a jetty, not alone for giving access to the port, but as a public promenade. Jetties were certainly great necessities for the rising townships of Wynnum and Manly" (*Premier Dickson*, 10 December 1898).

From this point, a 360 metre timber jetty stretched out to Moreton Bay. This was the second jetty built at Wynnum; the first was built in 1884 and located where today's stone jetty sits. This second jetty is thought to have initially been built in 1889. Over the years it was rebuilt and extended, but remained one of Wynnum's recreational attractions throughout the late 19th Century and well into the 20th Century, where holiday makers, visitors and locals would promenade.

A bathing enclosure was built at the end of the jetty in the early 1890s. These types of enclosures became popular in Brisbane in this era with others being built between Wynnum and Manly. There were also several located in the inner-city areas along



North Jetty at a distance, 1922, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 48416

the Brisbane River. Swimming in these enclosures ensured protection from sharks and, at a time when most people did not bathe regularly, was important for hygiene.

When the enclosure first opened, men and women bathed at separate times because of the social customs concerning modesty.

STATE FISH MARKET

receiving depot

Perhaps the most important, earliest and lucrative industry in Wynnum in the late 19th and into the 20th Century was fishing.

This was the former site of the State Fish Market's receiving depot, which was built by the Queensland Government in 1917. Under the *State Enterprises Act*, the Labor Queensland Government established State Fish shops as a means of steadying the price of household staples such as fish, meat and sugar. The scheme began in 1915 to provide competition against possible monopolies and offer cheaper rates. As well as fish shops, the scheme included butcher shops, the 'State' brand jam and sauce factory, a sugar mill and some cattle stations.

In 1916, the government allocated £20,000 to build the State Fish Market at South Brisbane, where "the Government was to enable the fish to be distributed amongst the people at a reasonable price" (*Worker*, 23 May 1918). An integral part of this scheme was the efficient delivery of the fresh seafood to



*Moreton Cold Storage, Wynnum, undated, Brisbane City Council,
Negative No. BCC-CD48-122*

South Brisbane. The receiving depot was built to enable the fishing trawlers to unload their catches. These were then cleaned, inspected, packed in ice (which was manufactured at the depot) and sent to South Brisbane by rail.

By 1926, the government scheme had proven to be an expensive failure and the receiving depot was closed. A year later, the Moreton Ice and Cold Storage Company began to lease the premises, and in 1930 purchased the site for £2410.

The broader state-wide scheme had completely ended by 1929.

FOX STREET

kiosk

This was the site of a quite unusually shaped kiosk. It was built ca 1902 and photographs from the turn of the century show its prominence beside the creek. From around 1905 until 1912, the kiosk was run by Edward Cloherty and his family.

Traditionally, seaside kiosks provided a retreat out of the sun for those enjoying the beach where they could purchase refreshments, similar to our modern-day cafes. This was not the only kiosk in the Wynnum-Manly area but it was certainly the most distinct, with an octagonal shape, decorative windows and perched eagle on the tip of its domed roof. After its use as a kiosk had ended it became a butcher shop for a time before being demolished in 1968.

Throughout the late 19th Century and well into the early 20th Century, Wynnum was one of Brisbane's primary holiday destinations. In 1929, Wynnum was described as "amongst the foremost of Brisbane's many beautiful watering places, not only



Wynnum Creek, 1920s, Brisbane City Council, Negative No. BCC-WYN-412

because of [its] nearness to the city and the facilities for reaching [it], but because of the natural charm with which [it] is endowed and the wholesomeness of... climate" (*Sunday Mail*, 23 June 1929).

Several boarding houses offering accommodation were established at the turn of the century to cater for the large numbers of holiday-makers enjoying Wynnum's seaside charms. By the 1920s, the number of boarding houses in Wynnum had quadrupled, reflecting Wynnum's popularity. On 27 December 1934, *The Courier-Mail* reported that a crowd of 16,000 holiday-makers lined the waterfront: "Yesterday's invasion of holiday-makers at the bay... exceeded all previous records" (*The Courier-Mail*, 27 December 1934). At a time when the motor car was becoming more affordable, it was noted that 800 motor vehicles had been driven out to the bay on that day.

FOX STREET

Bridge

As the fledgling suburb of Wynnum grew, Wynnum Creek became a major challenge as the only way to cross was by boat. By the 1890s, a rickety foot bridge had been constructed over the creek, but this soon proved inadequate and a vehicular crossing was needed.

The first Fox Street Bridge was completed in 1898. Initially the construction of the bridge was not received favourably by all. The shop owners north of the creek, specifically along King Street (now known as Glenora Street), were concerned their businesses would suffer if customers chose to shop on Bay Terrace. Despite this opposition, the new timber bridge was officially opened by Premier James Dickson, who stated:



Fox Street Bridge, ca. 1927, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 87950

"No community ever made progress that did not mix with the world and interchange views. In this light that was a day of promise of better things for Wynnum, in the breaking down of local jealousies and party feeling... [he] hoped sections would now work strenuously to make Wynnum what it should be – the premier watering-place of Southern Queensland" (*The Brisbane Courier*, 12 December 1898).

The current bridge replaced the old timber bridge in 1921. This beautifully designed bridge, which stretches well beyond the span of the creek, afforded this part of Wynnum a sense of permanence and prosperity, swiftly becoming a landmark in the area.

WATERLOO BAY

Hotel

"Waterloo Bay Hotel, Wynnum, for rest, quiet, and comforts"
(*The Brisbane Courier*, 6 April 1897).

The Waterloo Bay Hotel was built in 1889 by local stonemason George Gibbs who ran the hotel for the next three years. The opening of the new hotel coincided with the opening of the rail extension five days earlier. This was fortuitous as the population of the seaside suburb quickly grew, and so too did hotel patronage. In 1891, there were 683 people living in Wynnum and by 1911 the population had risen to 2320 people.



Waterloo Bay Hotel in the Brisbane Suburb of Wynnum, 1940, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 183258

In this era, the Waterloo Bay Hotel not only provided the community with food, drink and accommodation, it became a social centre:

"The fine two-storied brick hotel... for many years has been a popular meeting centre... is a credit to the district in every respect. Fine large rooms, comfortably furnished, and an excellent table combine to give the establishment that degree of popularity which leading hotels of Queensland enjoy"

(*The Brisbane Courier*, 24 October 1924).

Today, the Waterloo Bay Hotel continues to provide hospitality to locals and visitors alike.

SHIRE CLERK'S

cottage

This beautifully restored cottage was originally built in 1890 as the shire clerk's residence. As more people began to call this area home in the 1880s a local authority was established, and in 1888 the Kianawah Divisional Board was divided from the earlier and larger Division of Bulimba.

Initially, the board operated from premises in King Street (now known as Glenora Street). When the Queensland Government set aside a generous portion of land for their use, it was decided that a new hall, offices and shire clerk's residence were needed. The buildings, designed by Brisbane architectural firm Taylor and Richer, were completed by August 1890.

The new hall was located beside the clerk's residence and when officially opened was described by visiting dignitary John Buckland MLA as "a credible and comfortable building, and [he] hoped that the business transacted within its walls would be conducive to the interests not only of Wynnum but of the whole of the Kianawah district" (*The Brisbane Courier*, 11 August 1890).



1946 Aerial photograph of shire clerk's cottage, Brisbane City Council

A concert and ball were held to celebrate the opening of the hall. Following the formalities and the singing of the national anthem, 'God Save the Queen', the hall was cleared for dancing, which "was kept up with much spirit until about 3 o'clock on Saturday morning" (*The Brisbane Courier*, 11 August 1890).

The local authority's name changed several times between 1892 and 1924: Wynnum Divisional Board (1892-1902), Wynnum Shire Council (1902-1912), and the Wynnum Town Council (1912-1924). Despite these changes, the member's commitment to working for the Wynnum community didn't waiver.

In 1977, the hall was demolished and replaced by the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre. The shire clerk's cottage was acquired by the centre in 1980 and restored four years later.

KITCHENER

Memorial

"There is no one better qualified than our present distinguished visitor to tell us what to do, and how to do it, in providing for our own defences and in contributing our share to the maintenance of the Empire in war and peace"

(*The Brisbane Courier*, 3 January 1910).

At the time this was written, Lord Kitchener was perhaps the most respected military man in the British Empire. Kitchener built his reputation through the many military campaigns he commanded in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century, including victory in the South African War (also known as the Boer War). He is best recognised as the symbol of the British war effort during World War I, appearing on a famous recruitment poster.

Kitchener visited Australia in 1910 and was met with great excitement throughout the country. The purpose of his trip was to inspect Australia's defences and offer advice on how to improve them.



Lord Kitchener on Horseback, ca. 1910,
State Library of Queensland,
Negative No. 77706

In Brisbane, rather than inspect the troops from Fort Lytton in the traditional manner, Kitchener proposed a tactical exercise in which troops would occupy a line along Capalaba Creek. As the 3000 troops returned to Fort Lytton that afternoon, Lord Kitchener took his stand near this point to salute them.

To mark this important occasion, a solid timber pillar was placed on the site. In 1929, a grander stone cairn was erected to replace it. By the 1960s, the memorial had been removed to make way for development, and later in the 1990s the memorial stone was reinstated in its present position about 60 metres from where it was originally located.

STAR PICTURE

Pavilion

This was the site of the Star Picture Pavilion, a theatre built in 1915. As well as showing the latest cinema pictures and 'talkies', the theatre hosted boxing and wrestling matches, Anzac commemorations, the Wynnum Eisteddfod, Wynnum Central State School's fancy dress balls and political meetings. In 1919, an audience of more than 2000 people packed the theatre and sang 'For he's a jolly good fellow' to Prime Minister Billy Hughes. Later, on a visit to Wynnum in 1931, Prime Minister Jim Scullin addressed a cheering crowd in the theatre in what was considered "one of the most memorable and momentous meetings ever held at Wynnum" (*Brisbane Worker*, 16 December 1931).

From 1924, the cinema was run by Samuel Greene, former mayor of Wynnum and brother of the Greene sisters who founded Moreton Bay Girls' High School. Greene, a politician and philanthropist, gave pensioners free entry to the theatre. An electric 'town clock' was installed on a high gable of the



Star Theatre, Wynnum, 1940s, Brisbane City Council, Negative No. BCC-WYN-271

theatre in 1935. Chimes were added in 1936, although they were switched off from midnight to 5am.

The Star Picture Pavilion burned down in 1959, sadly killing two firemen. A display of newspaper reports from the time can be found on the Florence Street side of the Coles building, and a plaque dedicated to the two firemen has been placed outside the entry.

WYNNUM CENTRAL

State School

Prior to the establishment of the school at Wynnum, the closest school available to the district was at Lytton. This was a concern for the Wynnum and Manly residents because it was difficult for the smaller children to travel there every day. Locals believed that as the district's population was expanding a local school was required. At a public meeting in 1892, a committee was tasked with finding a site for a new school. Later that year a petition was sent to the Department of Public Instruction requesting a new school for the Wynnum-Manly area. The department refused the request and stated that they would not "erect a new school while Lytton State School was in existence"

(The Brisbane Courier, 13 August 1894).

Although disappointed by this, the community did not give up. In 1894, another request was given to the Department of Public Instruction. They were able to show that from 1890 "the number of residences in the Wynnum Division had increased from thirty-seven to 134, and eleven were then in course of construction"

(The Brisbane Courier, 13 August 1894).



Wynnum Central
State School, 1952,
Queensland State
Archives, Negative No.
1296254

The community believed this justified the construction of a new school but the Department of Public Instruction again refused the request, concerned that a new school would negatively affect the Lytton school with low enrolment numbers.

In 1895, after further lobbying from the Wynnum and Manly community, the Department of Public Instruction finally approved the new Wynnum district school. Wynnum State School was officially opened on 24 February 1896 with capacity for 125 students. The official student enrolment number was 89.

As enrolment numbers increased, more room was needed. A larger brick school building was constructed in the late 1940s and completed in 1953.

BAY TERRACE

By the 1920s, Bay Terrace was a bustling commercial centre with shops and businesses on both sides of the street. Among the businesses were four butcher shops (including one State Butcher shop), three fruiterers, three drapers, two chemists, two boot shops, two hairdresser and tobacconist shops, a bank, several doctors, a bookseller and a tailor.



Moreton Bay College, ca 1930s,
State Library of Queensland

The centre had several churches including a Catholic and a Presbyterian church, and two schools including the Moreton Bay Girls' High School on the corner of Charlotte Street and Bay Terrace.



Looking along Bay Terrace from the Moreton Bay College corner, Wynnum, ca 1935,
State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 35013

This private girls' school was founded in 1901 as both a boarding and day school by sisters Alice and Anne Greene.

The substantial school building was built by their father John Iley Greene, a builder. When first opened the school was described as having "been specially erected for school purposes and contains spacious, cool dormitories, assembly hall and class rooms. The site of the school is admirable, overlooking the Bay, the rooms catch the fine sea breeze" (*The Queenslander*, 26 January 1901).

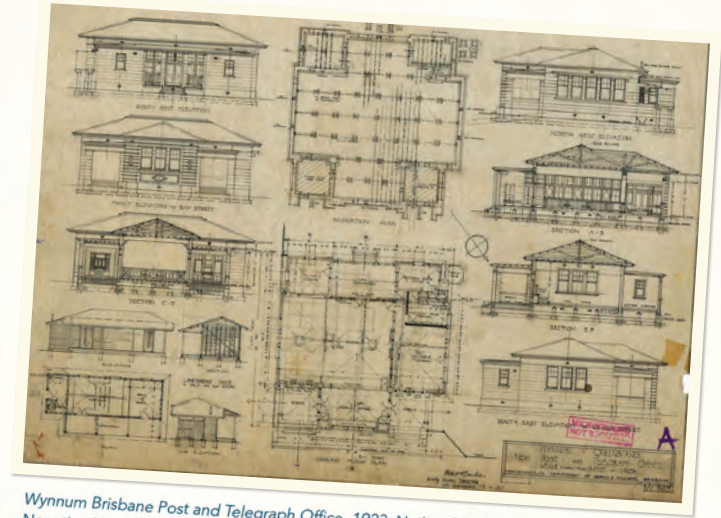
The school provided high-quality education to young women. After being gifted to the Methodist Church in 1944 and renamed the Moreton Bay College in the 1950s, the school was eventually moved to a larger site in the 1980s.

WYNNUM

Post Office

Prior to Federation in 1901, the Queensland Government was responsible for running the postal and telegraph service. After federation, all postal and telegraph services were run by the newly formed Commonwealth Postmaster General's (PMG) Department.

At this time, the Wynnum community began to lobby for a permanent post office. As the fledgling suburb grew popular as both a residential address and sea-side holiday destination, the postal and telegraph service which was run from the railway station increasingly proved inadequate. In the early 1900s, the Wynnum Divisional Board met with the PMG Deputy to persuade him of the need for a permanent service. One member of the deputation complained of a typical case "in which he had sent a wire [telegram] from town, left by train three hours afterwards, and arrived before the message was delivered" (*The Brisbane Courier*, 5 January 1903).



Wynnum Brisbane Post and Telegraph Office, 1923, National Archives of Australia, Negative No. 1708709

After further pressure from the community, including a petition, the request was eventually granted and Wynnum's first post and telegraph office was established in a house at the corner of Bay Terrace and Bride Street in 1901.

In 1923, a new post office was constructed on the corner of Bay Terrace and Clara Street to further serve the community. The building incorporated a mail room, telephone exchange and staff rooms. The telephone exchange operated until 1955 and the post office until 1995.

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Catholic Church

The Guardian Angels Catholic Church was opened by Archbishop Dunne in November 1905. From 1903, local Catholic parishioners had worshipped in the Wynnum Town Hall, but population growth in the late 19th Century led to increased demand for religious facilities. Funds were quickly raised to construct a church building and land was donated by the Archbishop.

This small timber church was designed by architects Eaton and Bates, in the Federation Carpenter Gothic style. It was built using Queensland hardwood and pine. Though small, it could hold 400 people and a very large congregation attended the dedication ceremony. The site was described as a "magnificent one on an eminence overlooking the waters of Moreton Bay"

(Brisbane Courier, 27 November 1905).

A parish school designed by well-known architect Richard Gailey was constructed in the grounds of the church in 1914.



Guardian Angels Catholic Church at Wynnum, 1910, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 35004

Gailey was responsible for designing some of Brisbane's most beautiful buildings and is most famous for his late Victorian era hotels, including the Prince Consort, the Wickham and Jubilee hotels in Fortitude Valley, the Orient Hotel in the city and the Regatta Hotel in Toowong.

The parish school now serves as a school hall.

MT CARMEL

Convent

In 1861, Five Sisters of Mercy led by their Mother Superior, Mother Mary Vincent Whitty, arrived in Brisbane from Dublin. The respected teachers were invited by Queensland's first Catholic bishop, Bishop Quinn (1859-1881). Bishop Quinn believed the young colony of Queensland had become increasingly non-religious and was concerned for Catholic families and their children. His vision was to establish Catholic schools in Queensland for all Catholic children, particularly the poor. The sisters began teaching Brisbane children at a small school that had been started in 1845 at St Stephen's in the city.



Mt Carmel Convent, Queensland Pictorial, 25 September, 1915, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 702692-19130925-0027

From 1903, the Sisters of Mercy travelled to Wynnum to teach the local youth. On 8 August 1915, a two-storey brick convent was opened on this site for the sisters. The convent was designed by Brisbane architectural firm Hall and Dods, and named Mt Carmel. In 1957, the Mt Carmel College secondary girls' school was opened, but closed in 1992 due to the declining number of school-aged children in the area.

WYNNUM AND MANLY

School of Arts

This charming School of Arts was officially opened in December 1913. School of Arts buildings were traditionally established to provide adult education for the community and became very popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Australia.

When plans for the new community building were underway, the chairman of the Wynnum School of Arts Committee stated that "the School of Arts was most essential in a growing district like Wynnum, to assist in the intellectual development of both young and old, and the committee were determined to erect such a building as would be a credit to the new town of Wynnum" (*The Brisbane Courier*, 23 January 1913). When completed, the new building contained the hall, a library and a reading room. Noted Brisbane architects, Atkinson and McLay, designed the hall at no cost.

The School of Arts became the social centre for the Wynnum district, with dances, balls, concerts and community meetings



Workmen outside the newly finished Wynnum-Manly School of Arts, 1913, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 35002

held there. In 1915, the first district show was held at the School of Arts until it was moved to Russell Park (now known as Memorial Park) in 1919. The Governor attended the first show and "the streets and grounds had been gaily decorated with bunting in honour of the occasion" (*The Brisbane Courier*, 27 September 1915). Award categories included farm and dairy produce, fruit, vegetables, pot plants, cut flowers, floral work, apiculture, sewing and fancy work, cookery, jams and jellies, and school work. Both the hall and the grounds were used for the show.

Today, the hall is known as the Wynnum Municipal Hall and continues to play an important role in the community.

ST HELENA ISLAND

and Green Island

Looking down the street across the bay, two islands are visible: St Helena Island to the left and Green Island to the right.

St Helena was a base for dugong hunts in the 1840s and 1850s. In 1865, plans were made for a quarantine station, but the building became a prison in 1867. The prison was largely self-sufficient, sourcing as much material as possible from the island. This included a sugar cane farm and mill which was added in the late 1860s. The sugar was sold commercially and won awards at international exhibitions, but the crop was removed in the 1890s because it helped to cover escaping prisoners.

Strict punishments, including gagging and shot drill, earned the prison the name 'the Hell-hole of the Pacific' and 'Queensland's Inferno'. By the early 20th Century, the focus had shifted to St Helena's natural appeal, giving rise to descriptions such as the 'pearl of Moreton Bay' and 'garden of beauty', despite the presence of the prison.



Gaol buildings on St Helena Island, ca. 1928, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 65115



Interior of the St Helena Prison on the island in Moreton Bay, Queensland, 1914, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 67098

In 1933, the prisoners were transferred to Boggo Road Gaol and the island became a tourist attraction. Plans for golf courses, landing strips, holiday cabins and tennis courts were never completed, but a dance hall and kiosk were built and a ferry service provided. Low tourist numbers saw it converted to a dairy farm in 1939. It became a national park in 1979.

Bayside residents also took day trips and camping holidays on Green Island. The Wynnum and Manly Sailing Club built a jetty and picnic facilities on the island in 1917. It is now a conservation zone.

THE ESPLANADE

"Manly and Wynnum, with their grassy streets, have a restful air, and are a solace to the footweary. On their foreshores are fine fig trees, under which a pedestrian can cool off after a walk. There are, in addition to well-stocked shops and comfortable restaurants, bathing boxes and reserves"

(The Brisbane Courier, 16 December 1926).

With the Cleveland railway bringing large numbers of tourists and holiday makers to Wynnum, foreshore improvements became a priority. The local council cleared timber and planted shade trees from the 1890s. The works were partly funded by a special 'Esplanade Improvement Rate' placed on all properties in the Wynnum Shire. Bathing boxes, enclosures and a sea wall were constructed in 1913. By the 1920s, Wynnum's esplanade was extremely well patronised, appealing to holiday visitors and residents alike.

With popularity came a growing need for accommodation. Holiday houses and boarding houses built throughout Wynnum were rented for the summer, and vacationers and the homeless



Camping grounds at Wynnum, 1910, Brisbane City Council, Negative No. BCC-WYN-272

camped on sections of the esplanade. Wynnum residents were unhappy with the campers who did not pay for shared sanitary services, caused damage when tying their tents to the trees and played practical jokes on them. After camping reserves were created the mood settled, and in 1912 Wynnum was described as "the seaside resort of Brisbane for the camper", with "miniature canvas towns flourish[ing] all over the place" *(The Queenslander, 24 February 1912)*. Some campers even named their tents so the postman could deliver mail.

A further holiday attraction was the sand garden competitions held at Wynnum from the late 1920s to the 1940s. From 1920, these contests were held along Brisbane's foreshores with prizes including a gold watch and a cup provided by the Imperial Theatre. There were 2000 people in attendance to see the first final held at Wynnum in 1927.

HARD TIMES

With thousands of people out of work in the late 1920s and early 1930s, relief work projects were organised by local and state governments. An Unemployment Relief Scheme was introduced by the state government in 1932 to provide construction work for the unemployed, with supervision, tools and materials provided by the local government.

Many of Brisbane's civic improvement and beautification relief work projects were undertaken in the bayside areas. Mangroves were removed along the esplanade at Wynnum to create a beach, shade trees planted, and retaining walls and a wading pool built. More than 10,769 tons of blue metal was quarried at Lytton for use in the works.

Wynnum also provided a pleasant and affordable outing for those affected by the economic depression. Roadworks completed by relief workers provided better access to Wynnum for Brisbane day-trippers, and the newly improved foreshores



Unemployed meeting, King Edward Park, Brisbane City, during the Great Depression, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 106339

were a great attraction. Charity groups arranged functions and outings to the Wynnum foreshore for underprivileged children.

By 1933, the foreshores had experienced a 'complete metamorphosis', according to the *Brisbane Courier*:

"... those who knew the locality only as it was a few years ago will scarcely reconcile the fine, well-ordered retaining walls, the added green areas along the esplanade, the excellent arrangements for bathers, and the smooth roads of today with the sprawling, ill-connected hamlets of a few years ago. Residents of the district have reason to be proud of their beautiful suburb and its progress" (*Brisbane Courier* 23 January 1933).

WYNNUM

Wading Pool

Despite the netted bathing enclosures in sheltered Moreton Bay, beach bathing was not particularly popular at Wynnum through the 19th Century and early 20th Century. Sharks were often spotted in the bay in winter, although attacks were rare. Reports of breaches in the shark-proofing and the discovery of a shark in an enclosure in 1929 discouraged bathers. A wading pool had been proposed as part of an overall improvement scheme for Wynnum in 1922 and again in 1926. No work, however, was done until 1932, when relief workers began building the wading pool.

The waterfront site chosen for the 128 x 54 metre pool minimised the need for excavation works. Concrete was poured for the walls and the clay base covered with sand. Saltwater for the pool entered through three concrete pipes at high tide, and flood gates kept the water in.



1946 Aerial photograph of Wynnum Wading Pool, Brisbane City Council

A 'Back to Wynnum Week' was held in January 1933 to celebrate the completion of the pool. This was a week-long festival which started with the official opening of the pool by Governor Sir Leslie Wilson. Other events included a reunion tea for Wynnum pioneers, sports carnivals, boat race, band concert, religious services in the Star Theatre and a ball in the School of Arts hall.

The wading pool was designed as a safe bathing facility for children, and 24 children from the Wynnum Central State School had the honour of being the first to use the pool.

CROWN

Theatre

"The right of the cinema to be considered one of the greatest and most far-reaching inventions of the age is vindicated, not alone by its wide use, but by the unlimited possibilities which it affords for providing instruction, amusement, and the maintenance and encouragement of the moral standards which are the basic principles of our social life"

(*The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 7 July 1917).

Some of Queensland's earliest cinemas were established in Wynnum, providing entertainment for locals as well as the huge crowds visiting the Wynnum foreshore on weekends.

The Crown was one of two theatres that operated along the esplanade from the 1910s. The other, the Empire Theatre, was a two-storey building containing shops and a dance floor on the upper level. It ran only for a short time before it burned down in 1922.



Crowded esplanade at Wynnum, ca. 1919, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 35012

The Crown opened in the early 1910s on the corner of Florence Street, with Joseph Major's refreshment rooms next door. In addition to entertainment, the Crown hosted fundraising benefit shows for the Patriotic Fund and the Queensland Soldiers' Christmas Boxes Fund during World War I. During World War II, a 'rubber drive' to collect household rubber items to be made into bomber tyres was carried out at the theatre. In peacetime there were live performances by the Brisbane Shakespearian Company and a baby show with 100 entrants.

Briefly renamed the 'Princess', the Crown Theatre became the 'Imperial Theatre' in the late 1920s. The theatre was busiest in the 1930s, when the Wynnum Wading Pool and park reserve were built opposite the theatre, and bookings regularly topped 300 people. The theatre was demolished in 1983.

WH BARNES

Memorial Fountain

This sandstone drinking fountain was unveiled in July 1934 as a memorial to Walter Henry Barnes, State Treasurer and member for Wynnum until his death in 1933. Barnes was described by the clerk of the Queensland Parliament in 1931 as "courteous always; firm always; knows his own mind; loves politics; has a keen realisation of his obligations as a public man; is a thoroughly loyal subject of the King" (CA Bernays, *Our Seventh Political Decade*, 1931). His connection with his constituents was cemented in a letter dictated shortly before his death. It was published in Queensland newspapers, and concluded:

"And now, electors of Wynnum, after these utterances hurriedly dictated in much weakness, I wish again with all my heart to thank you, and to say good-bye"

(*Brisbane Courier*, 20 February 1933).



Opening of Barnes Memorial Fountain, 1934, State Library of Queensland, Negative No. 35011

A public fund was set up after his death to raise money for the memorial fountain. Architect GR Beverage designed the fountain, and FC Upton constructed the 23 foot-tall freestone shaft above a concrete base. It had three bubble fountains (which were later removed) and an inscribed bronze plaque. Despite the economic depression, more than £230 was raised for the memorial, and donations from people from all sides of politics showed Barnes' popularity. A public notice invited all to the unveiling on Sunday 15 July, drawing a crowd of about 3000 people.



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