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NEWSLETTER

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The Annual Meeting 2007 was held, and the election of officers was held, and we welcome a new secretary, Gay Sparkes, and farewell the retiring secretary, Heather Bingham. Heather stepped in two years ago and filled the position of secretary even though she was already a very busy lady. She did it to help out the Society and for her unstinting service we thank her profoundly.

Another member, Daphne Buse, was welcomed to the Executive replacing the retiring member, Stirling Hinchliffe, who, due to Parliamentary commitments, is unable to attend Executive meetings regularly.

The Annual Report was read by the President accompanied by a series of photos on the big screen using the Data projector. The items touched on in the report have already been reported in the regular newsletters, so I will not repeat them here.

However I must place on record my thanks to all the members for their loyal support of the Executive and the Society over the year in payment of fees, buying raffle tickets, coming to meetings, providing archival material, staffing the various events we have run during the year. Without this support the Society would cease.

Report on the Changing Face of ChermSIDE
31/8/2007; the Playfield St. view.

The rebuilding began in about December 2004 with the demolition of three houses and the building of a block of 8 levels with 41 units.

Since then two more blocks have been completed, a fourth is underway, three more houses have been demolished for a fifth block

and three houses are currently fenced off for a sixth block.

Originally Playfield St, developed in the early 1950s, had 54 houses all of which were probably owner occupied. Today there are 25 houses left and there are only five owner occupied.

Of the 25 houses, 16 are occupied by families, 6 are empty, 2 are offices for developers and one is the office of a firm of Body Corporate professionals.

Playfield St was built in the bushland, from about 1952, and grew like a mushroom, as did many other streets in ChermSIDE at that time. Today, in a period of three years, another crop of mushrooms are appearing and growing higher.

I spoke to one of the original owners still living in the street, when she was out looking for the paper which I found in a shrub. Widowed, and living on her own with a small, elderly dog, she has no intention of moving and does not like the idea of living in a high rise apartment.

She had a phone call during the week from an agent who offered to make her a rich woman. She replied that she is already rich as she has everything she needs. Change is not always welcomed by those who have to change the most, especially when it involves moving from your home of sixty years.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

Since we live in safety conscious times it is important that all members should know what to do in case of an emergency while we are in the Society's premises. We are currently investigating the placing of an Assembly Point Sign for use in emergencies.

Below is the evacuation plan so you can read it and be prepared; it is really common sense.

- A whistle, hung from the TV shelf, will be blown to signal an emergency evacuation.
- A Management Committee member with a mobile phone will be nominated at each meeting to make the appropriate emergency contact, i.e., telephone 000
- When the alert is raised **all persons** must evacuate the building and proceed to the designated assembly point which is the lawn beside Kittyhawk Drive. Take the shortest safest route; disadvantaged persons should be assisted by the able bodied.
- The persons nearest the front and back outside doors are to move straight out and **must not** try to retrieve articles from inside; move smartly but do not run.
- The Secretary to bring the Attendance Book and conduct a roll call at the Assembly Point; all must be accounted for in case some are still in the building or have wandered off while in shock.
- Under no circumstances should anyone go back into the building until the all clear is issued by the emergency personnel, eg. The Fire or Police Officer.
- If an accident occurs and someone is attending to the situation do not stop, keep moving.
- Evacuation practice to be conducted at least once a year.

Lock Down Procedure

Sometimes, usually when there may be one or a few people in the premises, some threat may arise from unruly elements outside.

When this happens it may be necessary to close and lock the doors. Often this is enough and the intruder, simply wanders off. If they stay then it may be necessary to ring the Police. So, at least one person in the premises should have a mobile phone with them.

The doors must be kept unlocked while people are inside the building and only locked when a problem arises.

Results of the Fathers' Day raffle:

- 1st Prize – Airplane flight – M. J. Webber
- 2nd Prize – Wet & Dry Vacuum Cleaner – Joan Doherty
- 3rd Prize – Clock – Val Cowan who is, at present, recovering from surgery

Profits are

Magic Lantern Show – Since we did not have a speaker for the Fathers' Day meeting the President showed a series of photos, some very old and some very new; some taken that morning.

The aim was to illustrate the changing times and how Chermside is coping with some of the changes.

The children's playground outside the northern entrance to Chermside Shoppingtown fronting on to Downfall Creek is in some ways confronting for people of mature age. To appreciate the sculptures one has to see them through the eyes of a three or four year old, not a 60 or 70 year old; a child, not a grandparent.

There are aluminium sculptures of flowers which have small brightly coloured ceramic tiles stuck on. The effect is to stimulate the imagination of small children who have been brought up in the TV age. These flowers are obviously extra terrestrial, any four year old can tell, they have seen them or something like them on Play School or Sesame Street.

There is a set of fountains which squirt water vertically from holes in the floor at timed intervals, a nice place to paddle around and get very wet.

There is a screen of tall didgeridoos, or bamboo, or some strange Martian grass with a couple of giant Easter eggs, or Dinosaur eggs, or Thunder eggs; pick your own fancy, children do.

Then there are the screaming penguins, made of aluminium with large, heavy door knockers on each. The children lift and drop the knockers and listen to the sound; could be very noisy, but many children like to make noise.

A discussion centred around the Chermside Medical Complex which is under construction beside Wheller Gardens. Somebody asked "Why did Wheller give up some land for the complex?" Another said because of the expected benefits of having a state of the art medical complex on site.

Behind the complex is the first stage of Wheller on the Park, a large set of retirement units which, when finished, will be as big as Wheller Garden. There are already about 500 residents in Wheller and this will add some hundreds more.

Another change is shown by the new toilet block in Marchant Park on Ellison Rd which replaced a good traditional block which was knocked down. The trouble with the old block was that it was too private with the cubicles concealed from public view enabling predators to hide. The new

block has three cubicles all opening out in full view of the street and parking lot with a handbasin on the outside. There is no place to hide; the local community was canvassed and there were few, if any, objections.

A look back at the sawmill operations of Mick Simpson in Chermshire showed a huge Cedar log cut into sections ready for milling. The comment was made that, unfortunately, the Cedar forests were so heavily logged over a very long period and the species is now rare.

The photo showing Mick's racing car that he built from an old 1920s Chevrolet using blacksmith's tools emphasised the changes that have been made in the automobile industry. Today you need a lot more than a blacksmith's forge to build a new motor body.

Then there was the discussion about how big was the BCC supermarket in 1957 on the corner of Hamilton and Gympie. The building is still there but with later additions; I will have to go and have another look at the back!

The Police Beat in the Shoppingtown is only a fraction of the size of the old Station that stood where the bus interchange is presently sited. It looks rather harmless until one remembers that it is backed up by the very large central Boondall complex with a force of about 60 officers and a vast array of technological hardware.

The police force in Chermshire has come a long way since its main form of transport was the Station bicycle or horse. On the other hand, the officers at the Shoppingtown beat have been given two state of the art bicycles; yes, bicycles to enable them to get to emergency situations in the Centre quickly. So, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Caboonbah Homestead Bus Trip

(Beverley Isdale writes)

Our bus trip on 11 August began as usual from our Society headquarters with a full load of passengers. Terry Hampson organized a circle trip, taking us around the edges of Brisbane Forest Park with its varied scenery and vegetation. The country looked lush and green, thanks to recent rain.

We stopped at Mt Nebo to enjoy the view out to the coast but the gusty winds drove us back to the bus. Morning tea at Brisbane Forest Park headquarters gave us another opportunity to appreciate our wonderful country. This time, the view was towards the ranges north and west of Brisbane.

It was sad and worrying to see the very low levels of water in Lake Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams. It will take a lot of rain to fill these areas.

By the time we arrived at Caboonbah homestead, Terry had reminded us of the historic aspects of our visit. Many of us had seen the film, *Deluge*, based on the 1893 floods in the Stanley River catchment. From his verandah, the owner of Caboonbah homestead had seen and heard a great wall of water surging down the river. He sent one of his stockmen to ride and warn people downstream of the approaching disaster.

On the day of our visit, nothing could have been more idyllic – sunshine, green pastures and the blue waters of the Stanley River. The Esk Historical Society provided a very nice lunch and entertainment and then gave us a tour over the house. We could probably have spent a few hours there but we had enough time to learn that there is nothing new about air conditioning. This house has a marvellous natural system, built in the late 1880s.

We left the main highway and came home via Mt Mee and Dayboro – more fantastic views and different vegetation from the morning.

For most of us, it was all new country and Terry's knowledge helped us to understand that Brisbane Forest Park really works as the lungs of and for Brisbane.

Note: The initial response to this bus trip was not enough to fill a large coach so it was decided to ask the RSL for the use of their smaller bus. Then somebody who was at Bernie Bray advertised the proposed trip and about eight more people lined up for the trip. These extra people enabled us to make a better profit for the Society which will be used to upgrade our resources.

Chermshire Neighbourhood Planning Committee

Three of our members, Bev Isdale, Jenny Gilmour and Pat O'Shea have volunteered to attend meetings of the above committee for the next five or six months. The BCC has formed the group with people from the local area who are interested in the future development of Chermshire under the current Chermshire Kedron Major Centre plan.

The Committee has to put forward suggestions as to what they think should be done to house, transport, employ, entertain, feed, water, teach, keep healthy the expected extra 5,300 people along with 4,900 extra jobs and 3,900 extra dwellings by 2026. Since the boundaries remain the same and there is very little vacant land, the only way to go is up. This brings a whole lot of complications in its wake; traffic density, public transport, sewage, garbage disposal and recycling, water supply, electricity supply, fresh air, telephone and telecommunications networks and some that we haven't thought of yet.

There is no quick fix, no easy way out, just old fashioned planning with all its faults and successes.

So what do you want for your grandchildren in the local area? You can pass suggestions on to the three mouseketeers, preferably in writing and we can bring them up at meetings. If enough people want the same then we are in business, if not we are not; that's democracy.

Vision for the History Society in 2020

We have been requested by BCC to draw up a vision of where we would like the Society to be in 12 years time. This is an attempt at forward planning so we can have some idea of where we would like to go and then do something about it.

Step 1 is to brainstorm ideas which we list and then assess the worth of each and prioritise them. This will be done at the November meeting so it is necessary for all members to let their minds run and out of the ferment some practical ideas or goals will emerge. Get an envelope, write down your ideas and bring them to the meeting.

CHERMSIDE HISTORIC PRECINCT:

Planning for the future: The Drill Hall is planning to build a kitchenette in the hall – The Voyager centre is planning to expand the building to the north on to the lawn to accommodate their expanding classes – Also a new toilet is to be built for the precinct by the RSL – Both these projects will be financed by grants – The site of the Milne Bay Memorial is to be shifted to the eastern end of the Drill Hall.

Chermside Kedron Community Church – a 21st Century church. It stands prominently on the rising ground as one approaches Chermside from the city and it is a local landmark. But it doesn't look like a church, especially from the car park.

And that's where the front door is located - at the back of the structure, but that makes sense as in the days of car parks, that's where the people come from. How many people walk to church today? Most of them do, but only from the car park to the front door.

The front, which is the back, looks over the town and looks somewhat like the bow of a large ship; 'barque of Peter' perhaps? But the back, which is the front, has large glass doors looking out on the car park.

This is a building that is made for God and the people who use it, not to impress the passer by. The view of the building from Henry Street is a jumble of roofs looking for a building. But when one goes inside then it all becomes clear as the form follows the functions it was built to perform.

The main worship room, or auditorium, or church is spacious and equipped to encourage the worshippers to enter into communion with God; that is its function.

Surrounding the church are several other rooms, some equipped for meetings, another can be use for carpet bowls, another is a coffee shop; there is the child centre, the office centre, counselling rooms, the kitchen and not to forget the toilets; all this under one or other of the roofs.

The location is very important; it is right in the market place, where the people are. Beside it and sharing the same car park is the Aldi Supermarket and beside that eight small stores and an ATM; there is a constant flow of people all around.

While the ever moving traffic swirls past like a vast mechanical river on Gympie and Rode Roads, the Uniting Church stands as an island of tranquillity in a sea of constant motion and stress.

I intended to include a photo of the complex from the car park but there were too many trees and buildings in the way so one of these days when.....

The present community grew out of a group of smaller Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational communities which were established at Lutwyche, Kedron, Chermside and Chermside West over the previous 130 years; from the Lutwyche Methodist in 1871 to Craigslea Methodist in 1960 to the opening of the present church in 2001.

Changes in position, architecture, denomination and outlook are all reflected in the Uniting Church of Chermside and Kedron.

For thousands of years the land from the north bank of the Logan River to the south bank of the Caboolture River was occupied by the Turrbul Tribe of which the Barrabim Clan occupied the local area.

After the European settlers moved in the Aboriginal people were displaced and the site was used to build the school in 1900. When it was closed in 1996 the land was eventually divided into three parts, for church, commercial and 24 public housing units.

How much longer will this arrangement last? Remember, the site is part of the Chermside Major Centre Local Plan. The area is listed for medium to high density retail, office and residential development. The church will probably not be affected but the commercial area could be changed greatly.

So, the only thing we can really expect is more change but we don't know what it will be.

Exciting isn't it?



Faces from the bus trip to Caboonbah Homestead 11th August 2007

Left: Bev Isdale who took the photos, Joan Hamilton & Margaret Argo in deep conversation, May Hibberd & Betty Hornsveld were the only ones sitting and admiring the view.



Left: Jenny Gilmore & Glenys Bolland smile for the camera, Keith and Jean Tune discuss the state of the nation with Lindsay Staib, a friend is startled while Carolyn Bowser looks on matronly.



The changing face of Chermside is shown by the dramatic rebuilding of Playfield St which was first built in the early 1950s with houses such as the one shown on the left. It was photographed on 13/9/2007 and the photo on the right the next day. Nobody wanted a not very old house, so throw it away!

