



Volume 11 No. 5

NEWSLETTER

Oct -Nov 2008

(Issued Dec. Meeting)

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Lessons of History: Do you know that the greatest lesson of history is that people do not learn from history? Wise people tell us that unless you know your history you will repeat the mistakes of the past. History does not repeat itself, each event is unique, but we repeat history and create a sort of merry-go-round of history.

A very famous US historian, Gore Vidal, said "History is about the most interesting subject anybody can read. It's us and our ancestors, and if you don't know where you were, you don't know where you are, and you certainly have no idea where you are going!"

In 1918 we ended the war to end all wars costing some 13 million lives. 19 years later we did it all over again but that time it cost about 60 million lives; a grim sort of progress!

The last year has seen a monumental repeating of history on a global scale with the collapse of several very, very large banks, and various governments shoring up many others as well as the super size mortgage investment firms with astronomical amounts of credit and debts.

While the government action was learned from past mistakes the need for that action was because the finance sector, the merchant bankers and others, ignored what happened in 1929. Then the US stock market collapsed and millions of borrowers had been buying shares on the margin, i.e. paying a deposit and the bank financed the remainder. It worked well while share prices were rising, but when they fell; great was the fall of the house of finance.

This time the fiasco was called the sub prime mortgage disaster. Giving loans to people who had little chance of repayment - and when the borrower could not pay the mortgage, repossessing the house and selling it. It worked well on a rising house market but when prices began to fall the mud hit the fan. Panic followed, prices fell faster and banks went bankrupt. Same scenario with different details!

After the Great Depression subsequent Australian governments placed controls on banks and limited their lending activities so that we did not make the same mistakes as the US banks. The US government did not control their own banks as much so that the reckless fat cats were able to play. And they did.

Now seemingly all governments are looking at new regulations to make sure that this mess is not repeated. But some smart/stupid operator will find new loopholes in the new regulations and the scent of big new profits will start a new gold rush. Now you know why historians dream about merry-go-rounds?

Beverley Isdale was our guest speaker in October and showed us photos from the Society's collection most of which our members had never seen. Then she wrote the following report.

My selection concentrated on people – those who had lived in this district over the generations and those who are members of our society attending our functions. The result of my random selection showed that people haven't changed much over the generations – we take photographs of the same occasions.

Some examples are – the Alfredson wedding in the fashion of the time with the bridegroom seated; the photo of the two beautifully dressed Pfingst girls, probably taken to send to relatives overseas; a new car for the Carseldines; holidays in caravans; the thrill of a new house for the Hibberd family and the sadness of leaving a much-loved house for the Jackman family; the cheerful gardener Clara Hamilton.

Some of the photos showed how our district developed from a farming area to one with a reputation as a shopping centre – the Barker family clearing trees opposite the present Prince Charles Hospital; the Staib family resting on a log after working on their farm on the present site of Prince Charles Hospital; William Sammells posing with his family outside the Downfall Creek Furniture Bazaar (what did he sell, other than furniture!); the same building in use as a bicycle and sports store as the Argo family posed (the photo could have been sent to relatives in Scotland); David Law's piggery on Webster Road and the Drew family beside their car/van delivering milk to their customers. All of these reminded us of times gone by but we still benefit from the work of all these early residents.

No community is isolated from the outside world and our district was influenced by, and impacted on, other communities. Young men volunteered to serve in both wars and we have photographs of young men in uniform, Allan Currie and two members of the Lake family. While they were away, the community held fund-raising activities to support servicemen far from home – the concert held in the School of Arts in 1941 and the fete held in Centenary Park with members of the Chermiside Branch of the Queensland Patriotic Foundation helping to raise money for the war effort.

A student from the Zillmere School, Victor Grenning, became a Rhodes Scholar and later the Director of the Queensland Forestry Department. He was in contact with many international organizations in the forestry field.

We have photographs of many members at Society functions – Vivien Heiner telling the story of her family at the opening of the park named in honour of her grandfather, Joseph Lee; Keith Tune vigorously ringing the school bell at a reunion; Adrian Turner with the photo frame he restored; Marion Eaton and John Hopkins at the presentation of his diagram of Huttons factory; our president

(plus cap) as the “guinea pig” for our new camera; the latest photo was the opening of the Heinrich Gerns Park with family and Society members.

Nearly all these photos were donated by members. They not only help in our understanding of the past but also record the present. Sometimes we are just so busy that we miss what is happening around us. We can also look at some photos with “new” eyes. Betty Kemp's family took a photo of a charming toddler in the back yard in the early 1940s. Looking at it now, I can appreciate another interesting aspect in the background – old style buildings common at that time but totally gone now. These photos help us to remember “how we were”.

Graffiti Control Team: Councillor Fiona King and the Courier Mail have supplied the following information. The BCC and the Police Dept set up a team of five police officers and two BCC officers in early October to work together to investigate and prosecute graffiti offenders. By the end of the month they investigated 1,239 incidents on Council property alone and 21 charges had been laid. These people will be working with the 10 Council graffiti removal teams to clean up their mess. The clean up has cost the BCC, financed by the ratepayers, \$12 million over the past four years

At present the Council paints out the graffiti as soon as it appears so as to discourage the offenders. In future they will also photograph the vandalism first and forward the photos to the above team who will sort and analyse the data. This is passed on to the Police who carry it further by identifying the ‘tags’ or signatures used by the offenders, which will, hopefully, lead to arrests.

Graffiti is not simply a few young fellows spraying the local hall but there are strong well organised gangs operating and selling drugs and advertising via the graffiti; e.g. the tag KOS means kids on speed and that has nothing to do with automobiles.

Another problem is chroming which is when the graffiti artist sprays the walls, then sprays paint into a coke bottle and sucks out the vapour. This gives them a high and they walk on air, for a while.

The sale of paint spray cans to juveniles is banned but some shopkeepers may be lax or the young ones get older ones to buy the cans. Sound familiar?

Our speaker for the November meeting was Dennis Cleary, President of Nundah Historical Society and, in an earlier life, secretary of the Queensland Place Names Board. And he spoke on place names in the North East Brisbane area which includes Chermside.

Dennis, who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of Queensland place names, spoke without notes, using only a map fastened on to our white board.

He pointed out that many place names are aboriginal, or what the early settlers thought were the local aboriginal name names. However the indigenous people did not have a written language so the early settlers, few of whom could speak the native language or even pronounce the words properly, simply wrote the names the way the names sounded. So we finished up with a mishmash of sounds that the original owners of the land would not recognise.

Nundah – One source claims it is a corruption of the aboriginal word “nyanda” which meant swamp or lagoon – Another source claims it is a corruption of “nanda or nunda” which meant chain of water holes.

Cabbage Tree Creek was probably named after the palms that grow there but the Aboriginal people called it Tighgum which was their name for the lawyer cane they used to make baskets. That name survives in the suburb of Taigum which borders the creek.

There were some 400 native languages in Australia and several of them spoken in the vicinity of Brisbane so the new immigrants sometimes picked up a name in one place and used it another.

For example the suburb Geebung was originally called Geebong because the early European settlers saw the shrub of that name growing there. But that was the native name of the shrub in the Sydney area; in the local area it was called Doolandella. The new settlers thought the local indigenous people spoke the same language as those in Sydney Town.

Finally, the Post Office changed the name to Geebung because, they argued, Geebong sounded too much like Geelong in Victoria.

In the late 1880s the Queensland government decided to establish local government areas, run by Divisional Boards composed of local prominent men. This was resisted by many as they didn't want to pay rates, but the boards went ahead and they had to be named.

In 1879 the Chermside area was in the Nundah Divisional Board and in 1884 the shire offices were set up in Chermside. This caused confusion for people who went to Nundah looking for the shire offices.

In 1901 the shire was renamed Kedron Shire and in 1925, Chermside became part of the BCC.

The name Kedron came from Kedron Brook which was probably named by the Lutheran missionaries after the brook which flows along the eastern side of Jerusalem. They named their headquarters Zion Hill after the height on which the Jewish temple stood in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago.

They set up their station at Nundah near a major Aboriginal pathway which extended from near Grafton possibly to the Blackall Range. This gave them access northwards to Burpengary where they set up an outstation in the hope of contacting the moving tribes and clans. Sandgate Road follows part of this pathway.

The Old Northern Road follows another pathway which ran from Spring Hill through Cash's Crossing (Albany Creek) area to the Bunya Mountains where the great feast of Bunya pine fruit was held every three years.

Other Aboriginal names were:

Nudgee – place of ducks

Pinkenba – originally called Boggy Creek by the European settlers but later reverted to the Aboriginal name which means place of the little river tortoise.

Murarrie – place of beaks, so Murarrie Murarrie means place of many beaks or many birds. It was a good place to catch birds.

Banyo – a ridge.

Doomben – a local swamp grass the roots of which were edible.

Inala – camp fire or hearth

The European settlers imported their own names:

Ascot, Brighton, Albion from England

Clontarf from Ireland

Hendra from Cornwall

Manly from Sydney Town

Named after white settlers

Deagon – Dr. Deagon who lived at Sandgate

Carseldine – the family who farmed there

Fitzgibbon – the first engineer of Qld railways

Rode Road – one of the German missionaries

Named after local features or activities

Bald Hills – natural clearings on the hills

Bracken Ridge

Acacia Ridge

Clayfield – the site of Petrie's brick pits

Luggage Point was where the shallow draught steam boat met the immigrant ships to off load the immigrants and take them up river to Brisbane

Eagle Farm – A place of Wedge Tailed Eagles and the convict women's farm which had been moved from the site of the GPO

Eagle Junction – railway junction to Eagle Farm and Pinkenba

Winstains – A combination of Wind and Stones pronounced with a Scottish accent by settlers

Northgate – Railway junction of the North Coast railway and the Sandgate line

Sunshine – from the Sunshine Massey Harris works that has since gone

Virginia – thought to be after the US state of Virginia, but why?

Zillmere – Originally Zillman's water holes but shortened to Zill plus mere which means water or sea. Zillman was one of the early German settlers.

Avenue of Honour: this is a BCC project to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Queensland becoming a state in 1859. It is on each side of the newly laid 3m cycle/pedestrian track in 7th Brigade Park from Kid Space to Delaware Rd with beds of Rosemaries at each end.

There were already 38 Eucalypts up to 20m high along the path and they are now joined by 123 newly planted, 2-3m Box Brush trees.

The avenue will commemorate the Australian service personnel who were active in the many wars over the years since the late 19th Century and it will be Chermshire's largest war memorial.

The Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) are gum topped box trees which means they have a rough bark near the ground and smooth bark in the upper reaches. They grow locally and can reach as high as 40 or 50 m with no low branches so there is clear sighting near the ground. They do not provide hiding places for predators.

On Wednesday 12th a community planting was held near Kid Space to allow interested locals to plant a tree or trees. A sausage sizzle followed and the River City gardeners completed the planting all the way to Delaware St.

The gardeners dug the holes with a large mechanical auger, drove two heavy stakes in each side and planted the 2-3 metre trees, earth tamped down and the stem firmly anchored to the stakes.

Our tree is the third one on the western side of the path from Kid Space. If it grows as well as the trees behind it will be a giant as they were shorter than the editor when we planted them in 2000. So watch it grow.

The official opening or dedication of the Avenue will take place next year in April and will probably be with the Lord Mayor present. It will be named after Major James Mahoney, a veteran of Milne Bay, as suggested by the Society. By that time the young trees and the Rosemary will be established and looking good.

Nigger Brown Oval Toowoomba: There has been a lot of controversy over this name which has since been changed to Edwin Brown as this was the proper name of the famous Toowoomba footballer.

He was the second youngest of a family of 12 children and acquired the nickname 'nigger' at school because of his blond hair. This is similar to the Australian custom of calling red headed males 'blue' or old men 'young fellah' or a slow walker 'swifty' or the baker as 'doughy' or the butcher as 'porky' and the carpenter as 'chippy' and so on and on ad infinitum.

It is reported that the nickname was widely used all his life without any problems and the only person who called him Ed was his wife. But, times they are a' changing.

Messages from Cr. King:

The Kingfisher Adult Learning Programs are looking for volunteers for next year. I understand many of you are already participating in volunteering duties but if anyone is able to answer the call or can tell others who may be interested in this type of volunteering, it would be much appreciated. Details from the Marchant Ward Office

This organisation helps young adults who are handicapped to learn skills that help them take an active place in society. There is a branch in the old Scout Hall, Delaware St Geebung in 7th Brigade Park.

Christmas Cards: The Lord Mayor's Combined Charities Card Shop is now open in the Ann St foyer of the City Hall with over 100 varieties of Christmas Cards from 17 charities on sale. Trading will continue on week days till 17th December with opening hours 9am – 5pm in December and Saturdays 10am – 2.30pm.

Our thanks to Cr King for the printing of this newsletter as a Community Service.



Beverley Isdale planting one of the 133 Brush Boxes on the Avenue of Honour.



Avenue of Honour at Delaware St. This is the older part made up of 38 Red Gums, Spotted Gums, Iron-barks, with few Brush Box to plug the holes. On the ground is shredded bark.



The Chermside Galleria; eight levels of Accommodation facing Thomas St and five levels of Commercial facing Gympie Rd with off-street parking in two basements. Left is NE view. Right is SW view.



Hamilton Rd C'side Clinic Commercial Ampol Old CBA Old Bank of NSW (Older Use)
 Suncorp Bank Bank Service Shops Solicitors & Shop (Newer Use)
[Chermside Galleria on Gympie Rd]

