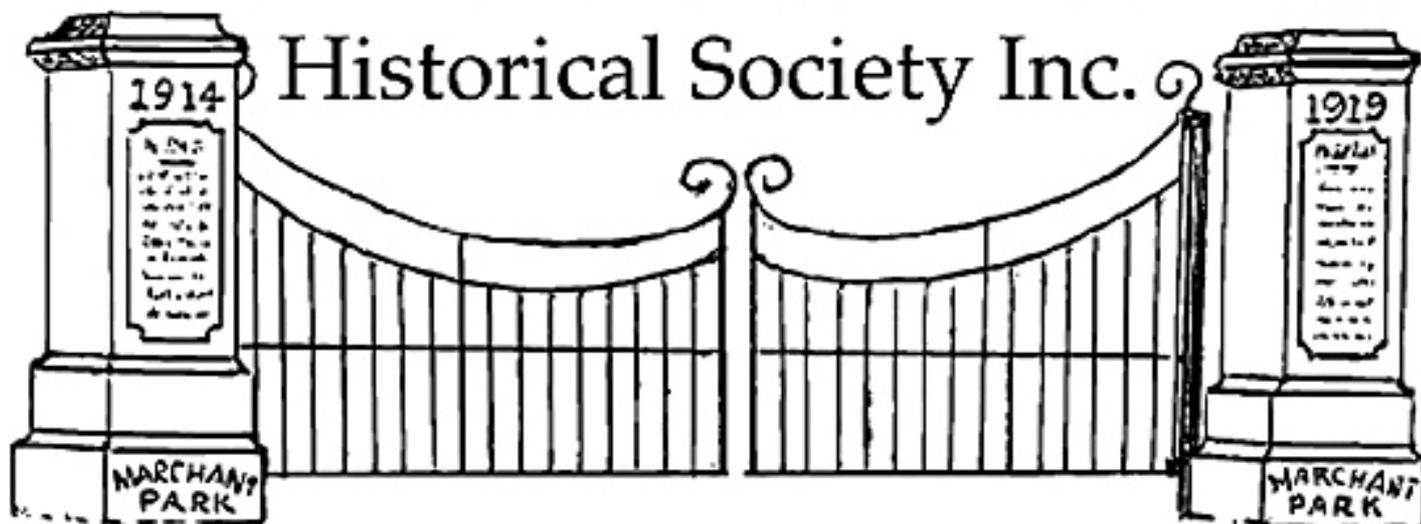


Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.



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NEWSLETTER

June -July 2009

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Located in the Chermside Historical Precinct at 61 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside but DO NOT send post to this address. Printing by Courtesy of Cr Fiona King.

New Masthead – ToadShow took the original sketch done by Adrian Turner, re-arranged the printing and defined the image more clearly by a small enlargement. This is the third masthead using the Memorial Gates, whereas previously a heading was used instead of a masthead.

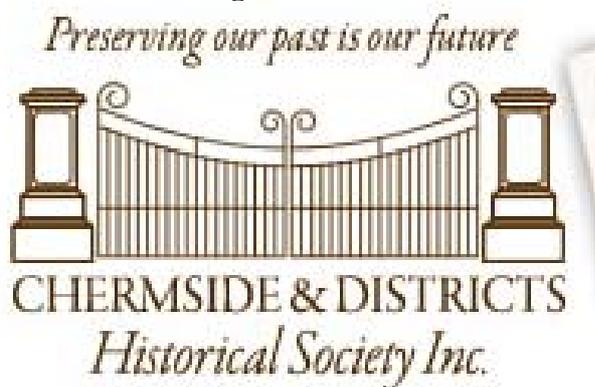
This development parallels the development of the Society as we gradually learned how to organise ourselves and as our equipment and skills become more sophisticated. In other words we are growing and learning. Our latest growth area is building the website.

Website – Progressing rapidly as ToadShow have now loaded all the pages of the Hamilton Diaries all 4,830 of them. All the newsletters from the April-May 2001 issue to the latest issue are loaded and record the history of the Society. In the section on People thirteen families are already loaded with more to come. Many photos show Society members and the work they do for the CDHS. In the attached Gallery of photos there are 519 images of individuals and groups of people. The Home Page is under construction and is growing as the web site accumulates more and more data.

By putting this material on the web site we hope that relatives of the families and people who have lived in Chermside will respond with more information which can be added. Also people interested in local history will learn more about it and be stimulated to find out more.

A great part of our archives are being loaded onto the website and will be on line in about September. Three of us are currently training as operators to manage the website and update it as time mooches on.

Below is our new logo.



This logo is for use on documents and web pages rather than as the masthead for the newsletter.

Raffle: – Produced a return of \$235 and expenses were minimised with all the 21 prizes being donated. The first prize, a framed painting of water lilies, was donated by Rona Arndt, daughter of George Reid and life long resident of the district. It was won by Mrs Ray Brackley and the other 20 winners have been notified and given their prizes.

John Oxley Award 2009: – On behalf of the Society Glenys Bolland entered the CDHS in the competition for the \$5,000 prize offered by the Q'ld State Library. We did not win but managed to achieve the position of being in the four finalists and the competition was very strong.

A letter from the State Librarian, Lea Giles-Peters, to Glenys commented:

I am pleased to advise you that, following assessment by the judging panel, the Chermside and Districts Historical Society has been selected as a finalist for the 2009 John Oxley Library Award. Please accept the congratulations of the Library Board of Queensland on your achievement.

The judging panel selected the Society as a finalist in recognition of its extensive research into the social fabric of the Chermside area. The judging panel also acknowledged the Society's commitment to documenting, sharing, storing, disseminating and celebrating this research.

Lyn Currie was the main speaker at our last meeting and she gave an outline of the Whalers. Never heard of them? They were the horses bred in NSW and Qld which were exported to India. Also they were the Australian Light Horse mounts in the Middle East during World War I.

The Whalers were disease free because of the long quarantine of the long voyage of bringing the horses to Australia in the early days. There were no equine diseases imported to NSW or Qld. By 1859 when Qld became a separate colony the first ship load of horses was on its way to India

In 1885 the first mounted contingent went to the Sudan as mounts for the soldiers and to draw the

nine-pounder artillery pieces. But the real baptism in war was when Australians went to the Boer War in 1901. They took 37,245 Whalers and although there was some criticism it was mainly about their training. The more seasoned Whalers that came with the Indian cavalry performed better and justified the Whaler reputation.

World War I in Europe and the Eastern Front had no use for horses but in the Middle-East the horse was in its element. The Australian Light Horse played a major role in fighting the Turks and driving them out of Palestine and the Sinai. In addition the Indian and British units were riding Whalers; in total some 120,000 were sent to the Middle-East theatre.

The climax for the Light Horse came at the battle of Beersheba on 31st October 1917 when what is generally accepted as the "last great cavalry charge" took place. Lyn read from the letter Lt. Guy Haydon wrote after the battle in which he was wounded and his mount, Midnight, killed. Below is an abbreviated version:

At 4 pm orders came to mount and we marched along to within 3 miles of the tower until we could go no further without being in full view. Then followed a few moments later the order "The 12th and 4th LH Regiments will charge Beersheba on horseback the town is to be taken at all costs." And five minutes we were on the way.

We trotted for the first 2 miles, then the Turks opened fire on us from a line of redoubts about half a mile out from the town and we could hardly hear anything for the noise of their rifles and machine guns.

As soon as their fire started we galloped and you never heard such awful war yells as our boys let out. They never hesitated or faltered for a moment. It was grand. Every now and again a rider would roll off or a horse fall shot, but the lines swept on.

A few seconds afterwards a bullet hit me high in the left buttock, just under the belt, lifting me clear off my horse and

dropping me sprawling on a heap of dirt that had been thrown out of a rifle pit, and I rolled down into the pit and into safety.

But all this time, really only a few seconds, the charge went on. Men raced their horses through and over the trenches and while some of us were still engaged in hand to hand fighting in the trenches, the remainder had charged through the town and went on to the high ground a mile beyond. The town was ours.”

In 1918 thousands of Whalers were left and the Army refused to sell them to the locals who treated animals very badly. Many were shot and the remainder given to British units. A memorial to the Whalers was unveiled in Sydney on Anzac Day 1950. The inscription reads:

They suffered wounds, thirst, hunger and weariness almost beyond endurance but never failed. They did not come home. We will never forget them.

A supplementary power point talk was given by the president on behalf of another member, telling the story **about** how the identity of a relative was stolen and her bank account infiltrated. It was one of those ‘it won’t happen to me’ stories which can happen to any of us who use credit cards. What makes it more chilling is that we know the persons involved, but unfortunately we don’t know the perpetrators, i.e. the thieves.

The thieves rang Mary posing as her bank and informing her that her credit card had been found and asked her to give some personal details to identify herself. Mary did this and soon after rang the bank to check the call but the office was closed and she spoke to the answering machine. Then the thieves cut into the conversation and posed as bank officials, they had infiltrated the bank’s phone.

Somewhat reassured she did not do anything but was still uneasy and switched on her online banking account, saw that \$1,000 had been withdrawn and some more being taken out in payment for goods bought with the credit card. In all \$1,850 were withdrawn or spent before she could put a stop on her card and withdraw all her funds and transfer them to her father’s account. Not all people who use credit

cards are as skilful as Mary and could lose much more.

In addition to Mary’s card, the thieves had gained her mobile phone number, mortgage card number, house loan account number. This was done partly by hacking into and downloading masses of information from other on line sources. She only found out this when a genuine bank rang her and enquired about another withdrawal. The thieves had made a mistake in spelling when they tried to steal from her mortgage account. This was sheer chance, not bank security.

On top of all this stress Mary had another four weeks of paperwork before she could access her own accounts.

So don’t give any information to anybody who rings up and asks for it unless you know who the person is at the other end of the line.

The bank did refund her money and tightened up their security. But in due course the thieves will find the loopholes or find people who will give them private details.

Clifton Villa 395 Zillmere Road: This property, an old Queenslander which was owned by the Smith family, has been Heritage Listed by the Brisbane City Council. It is sited on a large block of land near the intersection of Zillmere and Handford Roads. The present owners have applied for approval to build units behind the house which will be restored and stay in place. There had been some unease in the local community about the possible removal of the old house which they regard as part of the heritage of Zillmere. From the outside it looks as if there will have to be extensive, and costly, renovation.

Audrey Twining (nee Vellnagel) spoke to the July meeting about the Vellnagel family, the last blacksmiths in Chermside. The firm and family goes back to the 1890s when August Vellnagel set up his business at the intersection of Murphy and Gympie Roads.

Audrey used a power point display of a very large number of photos relating to the family and told many anecdotes about them. She is the daughter of Charlie and granddaughter of August so she has an intimate knowledge of the early family drawing on the stories told her by two generations of Vellnagels.

Many members of the audience remembered incidents about which Audrey spoke and some of them went to school with her.

She recounted that August Vellnagel arrived in Queensland in 1891 from Germany as one of four brothers and two sisters who came at various times. He worked for Charlie Murr, a blacksmith in Downfall Creek, and also went to the cane fields for some time and lost an eye in an accident. He was naturalised in 1897 and also married Christine Fischle the same year. He set up his forge on the corner of Murphy and Gympie Roads and they raised seven children, a girl and six boys.

In 1921 August had to shift to the other side of Gympie Road and the house, on skids, was winched over. This was slow and on two successive nights the house was parked partly on the road. On one night the family was awakened when a horse and cart ran into the house, no one was injured and the job was completed.

Audrey's father Charles Christian (Charlie) was the first born (1898) of seven children. He married Florence Byrne in 1924 and their only child Audrey was born in 1931.

When Charlie and family lived in Wallace Street they had a Camphor Laurel tree in the front which shaded the ground and the root system prevented any flowers from growing there. This annoyed Flo who was a keen gardener, so she was constantly asking Charlie to cut it down. Finally one day, when Flo and Audrey were out, he did. When they came home Flo didn't even notice that the tree was gone.

In 1936 the family moved to a new house built on Gympie Road near the forge which was then being run by Charlie, Alf and Harold as August died in 1932 after complications following surgery.

In 1953 Audrey married Sydney Twining and they had eight children while living at Tingalpa where they moved in 1955.

Charlie was President of the Chermiside Progress Association, Trustee and Treasurer of the Methodist Church, Protestant Lodge and active in local groups.

Federation 1901

When the Federation Referendum was held there was great excitement evidenced by the crowds that gathered to watch the voting figures on the tally boards outside the offices of the Telegraph and Brisbane Courier newspapers as the information came in via the wires of the Electric Telegraph.

In October 1899 71% of the electors of the six colonies voted to federate and become one people under one government. All the colonies voted in favour, Queensland being the least decisive with 55% of its electors in favour just behind NSW which had 56% in favour. Part of the reason for Queensland being so evenly divided was that the northern part of the state voted 'Yes' because it saw Federation as a means of entering the large markets of Sydney and Melbourne, especially for sugar sales. The manufacturing sections of the south east voted 'No' because they feared the competition of the bigger manufacturers from the southern states.

The Nundah Electorate, with a Roll of 1659, men only, voted Yes 286, No 651 and, of the 9 voting stations in the electorate, only Zillman's Waterholes voted in favour Yes 54 and No 39 (No idea why they went against the local opinion.) Downfall Creek was very much in the local trend with a return of Yes 7 and No 92. According to his wife, Thomas Hamilton was a supporter of Federation, and was probably numbered among the affirmative 7 even though he was a local manufacturer. The fear of competition was especially strong in the tanning and boot manufacturing industries of Brisbane.

In 1911 an article entitled "The Leather Trades Picnic" appeared in the Brisbane Courier which highlighted the problems faced by the small local footwear manufacturers who could not specialise as did the larger overseas, and the Sydney and Melbourne manufacturers but had to produce "every class of footwear, from the lady's dancing pump to the heaviest navy's boot." This meant they had to charge higher prices but while they were probably protected by tariffs from overseas competition they were not protected from the bigger Australian manufacturers in Sydney and Melbourne.



LEFT: Lieutenant Guy Haydon riding his gallant mare "Midnight", a Whaler - During the second battle for Gaza "Midnight" remained continuously under saddle for 7 days. Haydon rode "Midnight" in the charge at Beersheba and both were shot as they reached the Turkish trenches however Haydon was not mortally wounded but Midnight was killed.

RIGHT: Audrey Twining (nee Vellnagel) giving her talk of her family and using a computer controlled power point display of photos which showed up on the TV screen.



These two photos, probably taken in the 1890s, show Paul Maggs' Edinburgh tannery on the left and the employees on the right. This was his second tannery opened in c1894; he later opened the Bristol tannery.



These four photos have been specially prepared for inclusion on our website. Left above is Kedron Lodge the home of Judge Lutwyche and Right is Delamore now a Retirement Community; both are in Kedron.