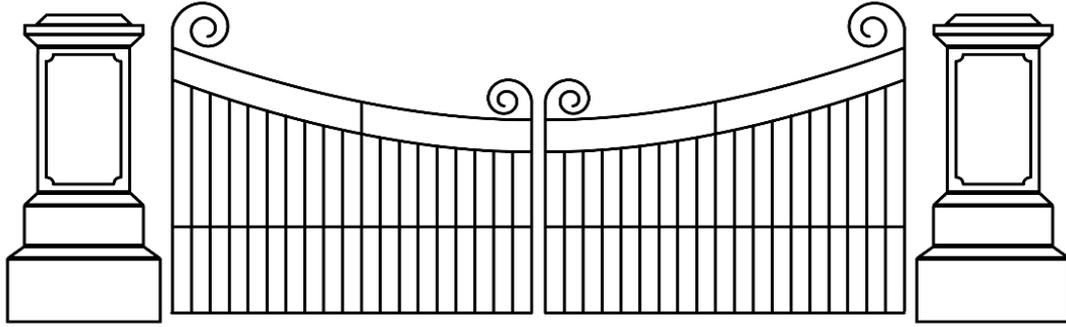


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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

Hail and Farewell

On the 14th September 2009, one of our longest serving members, Daphne Postle, died. Along with Keith, Daphne joined the Society in March 2000 and strongly supported the work of the Society over the intervening years. In very recent years she suffered an illness which prevented her from attending meetings.

Daphne was a gentle and well liked member; she is, and will be, sadly missed. We extend our sympathy to Keith and the members of her family and share in their loss. On the other hand, all our memories of her are happy ones.

New Logo: We are using the new logo in our masthead; this one is derived from our traditional logo. It has been modified by computer to give it a smooth appearance for our letterheads and mastheads.

Annual Report: Was read to a very patient group of members and illustrated with many

photos recalling our activities over the past year. Some of the highlights were:

- Bus Trips to the Carnival of Flowers at Toowoomba and Gympie Rattler;
- The grant of \$27,000 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for our website
- The work going into setting up the website which is progressing well.
- The clearing of the jungle beside the old school and the Turfing by the Brisbane City Council. It looks great.
- The afternoon tea roster is working well although the hot water urn died.
- New signs for Heinrich Gerns Park and Cpl French V C Bridge.
- Finding Lt. Solomon Scheer's name as the pilot who died in the 1943 plane crash about 300m from our Headquarters. A plaque will be dedicated to his memory on 11-11-2009 by the K/W RSL Sub-branch and the Society.
- First showing of the Executives' baby photos, you will have to wait till the website is online.
- Membership is up from 75 to 79.

- Wallace Street research is growing fast along with our Archives and our recording of them on disk and the internet.
- Congratulations and thanks to all those who have contributed to the Society's welfare and progress this year – members, Kedron-Wavell Social Club and RSL, the Brisbane City Council, our Politicians, our benefactors who contribute resources, to the friendly park users who wish us well and to ones whom I have forgotten. Thank You All.

And after all that we had our usual fine old beano.

The Website: Proceeding apace as our team grapples with some ill health in the family, cranky technology, lack of time, our own learning mistakes; after all we are rather elderly apprentices in this sphere, but still going strong. An Education Writer has been working designing our Lesson Ideas for schools section. The

aim is to provide material that fits in with what teachers are doing in school so that the students will be able to find material for their assignments and homework. It will be interesting for us and, hopefully, for them.

The Executive were given their first view of the website at the Exe. Meeting on Monday 17th August when I was able, using our new Dongle or Wireless Internet Connection. This gadget plugs into our computers and picks up the internet by radio waves from the nearest Mobile Phone Tower. The picture is then sent to our TV monitor by cable and everybody could see the show. Sounds very technical doesn't it? Well it is, until you learn how to press the right buttons, and that can be simply trial and error at times. Several times recently I have set up the gear and failed to get the laptop to 'talk' to the TV screen only to find that I had forgotten to connect the two of them by cable; don't laugh, this is serious.



The above photo is a copy of the Fade Banner on the Home page of the Society website. The group of seven photos fades out to give way to another group of photos in a sequence of five sets and then repeats the process till the viewer leaves the page. See if you can pick the ring-in. The surrounding ragged edge is to give the impression of a document of great antiquity, i.e. faded and torn as are some of our documents and photos. This is a reduced size; the actual banner heading is about twice this size.

Website Continued – We hope to put most of our archives on the website so that they are available to anybody who wants to look. This means that our story, that of Chermshire and Districts will go around the world. We can tell the stories of the people who lived here, if we have them, to the world of the internet. We are proud of our home and our ancestors who have made it

such a good place. So, let's tell the world our stories!

Hopefully people will feed back to us more material to go on the website so that it keeps on growing. If we make mistakes then tell us about them and we will make corrections. This will be a new experience for some of our members so learn to use your computers; your grandchildren

are good mentors so ask them for help. That's what the editor does.

So far we have:

500+ photos in our Gallery of Photos;
22 family histories under way;
Thousands of pages of the Hamilton Diaries;
The full story of the 1943 plane crash that occurred 300 metres from our Headquarters;
8 Local industries and their stories;
4 Farms and their stories;
15 Then and Now situations: what was here and what is here now;
Publications: Five books – all of our newsletters can be read – they tell the history of the Society;
All these items are lavishly illustrated.

All of these items will be expanded and new ones added as material comes available. But we can't do it on our own, we need your help. So send us your feedback, stories, photos, snippets and let us piece them together.

Nephew of Plane Crash Pilot Found: The latest step in researching the 1943 plane crash, which occurred only 300 metres from the Society Headquarters, has been accomplished. Beverley Isdale took up the challenge and had emailed several places in the USA looking for descendants of Sol Scheer's two brothers; no replies.

Bev mentioned the problem to her daughter, Beth, who suggested she try Facebook on the web. This is one of the recent innovations, started in Feb 2004 and now has 250 million members, where people can build their own page and seek to contact new friends. So Beth went ahead on her page, looked up the list of names of other people on Facebook and found a couple of Scheers, one of whom was Sol's nephew who was born in 1953. Actually it is his daughter who has the page and who Beth contacted. Beverley has been in email contact and has sent material about the Society, locality and our interest in Sol to Flip Scheer in Florida.

This is another example of the importance of the internet as a means of communication. Glenys Bolland located the data on Sol Scheer using the Web plus Email and now Bev & Beth have used Facebook to locate a relative of the dead pilot. And Facebook goes all around the world. That's why we are building our own website, to send

Chermside and District Historical Society Inc around the world.

Flat File Cabinet: At last we have a method of storing large documents flat rather than storing



them in large vertical plastic bags where they slumped. The hunt for this cabinet took a couple of years because they are very expensive and we wanted a good second hand one. Beverley Isdale managed to find a cabinet which looked much the worse for wear at a West End second hand office-furniture shop. However when they cleaned it up the cabinet was sound. The price was \$600, as compared to well over \$1,000 for a new one, plus \$130 delivery fee. We could not shift it ourselves and when we saw how much effort two young, strong men put into shifting it, we counted the cost cheap. They had to take out the drawers, ten of them, and then carry the heavy cabinet inside the back door which was a balancing act itself.

Below: The old method.



The Bollards: Two sets of three bollards have recently been installed by the Council. One set at the entrance matches the earlier ones near the Precinct Sign and this clips the wings of motorists doing a ‘wheelie’ to get around the **NO U TURN** sign as they take a short cut into the Shoppingtown. One such driver had the front of his/her vehicle dented. The other set stops vehicles from being driven into the park at the other end of the carpark. This will protect our new turf from being ploughed up in wet weather which occurred a couple of months ago.



Chermside Public Dip Above: Located between Downfall Creek and Kerry Fein Pathway and fronting on to the west side of Gympie Road, Chermside – almost opposite the Australian Tax Office. Currently the BCC is clearing this section of the creek side and planting new flora to create a sub-tropical rainforest and parkland. There is a deep bed of wood chips over the site which may be obscuring some post holes and other indicators of the use of the area in past times.

There are five posts each about 1830mm (6 feet.) x 230mm (9 inches) diameter standing and one lying down. All posts are weather beaten and cracked and all contain groves for wooden rails which I estimate to have been of 75mm x 100mm (3 x 4 inches). There are no rails on the site.

One post had a gate attached shown by the presence of a blacksmith made hinge pin 300mm long (1foot) with a pin 75mm (3 inches) and a hole about 910mm (3feet) below where another hinge pin was probably held – maybe driven in with a hammer as the hole does not go right through the post but only to a depth of 130mm (5 inches).

There is a concrete object lying beside one post which could have been part of a drain but no evidence to indicate that it is from the site or somewhere else.

Just how long the Kedron Shire Cattle Dip operated is unknown – it continued after the amalgamation of the shires in 1925 to form Brisbane City Council as the need for it still existed. Dipping would probably have continued as long as the dairy farms operated in the district which would have been into the 1950s.

As at 6-8-09 the work the BCC was doing on the site of the old dip was suspended till soil tests are done to check for chemicals such as arsenic which was used in the old dips. The posts are fenced off with plastic orange lattice for the time being.



Above: Cattle Dip at Barambah Station in 1914. (Courtesy of John Oxley Library)

I rang BCC for information on present Cattle Dips and the reply was that there was one at

Yeronga which is operated by the Department of Primary Industries, probably in the Yeerongpilly Animal Research Institute.



Above: Dipping in the Camooweal District in 1935. (Courtesy of John Oxley Library)

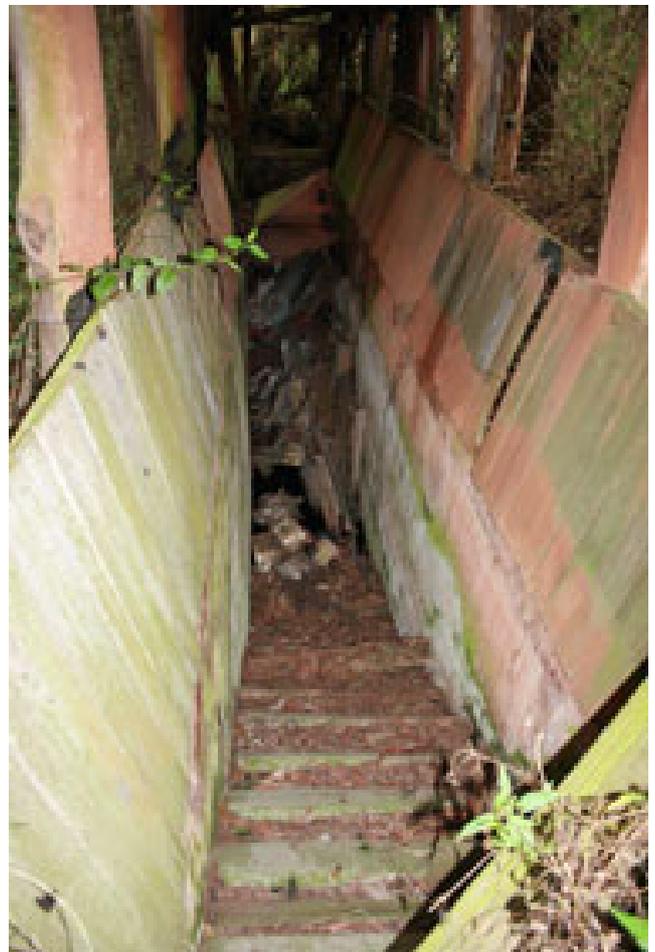
Just when the Chermside Dip was built and how long it was used are matters still under investigation but the Brisbane City Council inserted the following notice in the Tenders column of the Courier Mail 4-10-1933:

TENDERS are invited and will be received by the undersigned at the Town Hall, Brisbane, until Noon on FRIDAY, 13th October, 1933, for the LEASE for a period of Three Years of the Land known as "DIP RESERVE" Chermside, containing an area of 2 acres.

This notice seems to indicate that the BCC owned the Dip and leased it to private individuals to operate. Also Audrey Twining (nee Vellnagel) recalls that the key of the Dip was kept at the Vellnagel's blacksmith shop on the other side of Downfall Creek.

It has been recommended that the remains be fenced off and a sign erected indicating the name "Chermside Public Dip" and explaining the early function of the site.

As we do not have any photos of the Chermside Dip we have used two photos from the John Oxley Library and one of the remains of the Peachester Public Dip.



Above: The Peachester Public Dip built in 1915 but now in disrepair, showing the steps on which the cattle climbed out of the dip. The water was about 2m deep. ('Supplied by Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland')

Shopping Days – Past

Remember when you went shopping to the corner shop on most days of the week, when you had an ice-box rather than a refrigerator, when the butcher, baker, milk-man etc called daily? Remember your weekly visit to the grocer shops in Gympie Road? Remember when the Drive-in opened and you didn't have a car to go there?

Well your grandchildren don't so tell them.

Grocery Shops



These photos are of Joe Fisher's stores the above one at Chermshire and following one at Aspley. (Fisher Family)



Grocer's shops were small places with goods behind a counter and the assistants packed them in the customer's bag. The customer paid in cash and the assistant 'rang up' the transaction in the till or cash register; seats were often provided for the customers.

Goods were displayed on the shelves behind the counter, with bins containing bulk goods such as sugar and flour which the assistant scooped out and weighed. The grocer would call at your house for your weekly order and deliver it a couple of days later.

There was no self serve until BCC came to Chermshire in 1953. But the "times they were a' changing".

Shopping Days - Present

Today you drive to the Shoppingtown or Woollies or Toombul or Chermshire Markets, etc once a week, serve yourself and go through a check-out; all very efficient and labour saving. But "the times they are a 'changing".

Self-serve Check Outs

These appeared in Chermshire in 2008 and are expected to become a common feature at Australian supermarkets as retailers seek to meet the demands for the 'time-starved consumer'; this is adopting new technology to speed up shopping rather than putting on more employees.

"Self-service facilities allow customers to complete their own transactions, including scanning and bagging, without the aid of a service assistant." But an assistant is on hand to help the shopper who is learning the technique.

If you really want to keep up with the times you *can do it all from home*. Crank up the old computer, go on the internet, check the items on sale and the prices, select the items you want and order them, pay for them and get them delivered. Meanwhile you can do the gardening. What will the supermarkets do with all those car parking areas?

You can book your plane seats, theatre seats, ticket to the Entertainment Centre, the football, the cricket, etc.

What will they think of next? Well here is one unforeseen change back to one old habit.

Speed Shopping

Instead of once a week shopping about 50% of shoppers are buying their needs daily or every few days and more express lanes are needed to cater for the speed shopper.

People are dropping in on the way home from work which is becoming the busiest part of the day at the supermarkets; both Woolworths and Coles are experiencing a similar change.

A mother of two says she uses speed shopping as it gets her and the children out of the house each day and it saves her lugging home a large amount of groceries and two children. It costs about \$10-\$20 more a week but it is worth it and the food is fresher.

And remember we are changing too, we are all getting older, and that's one change that's **not** new.