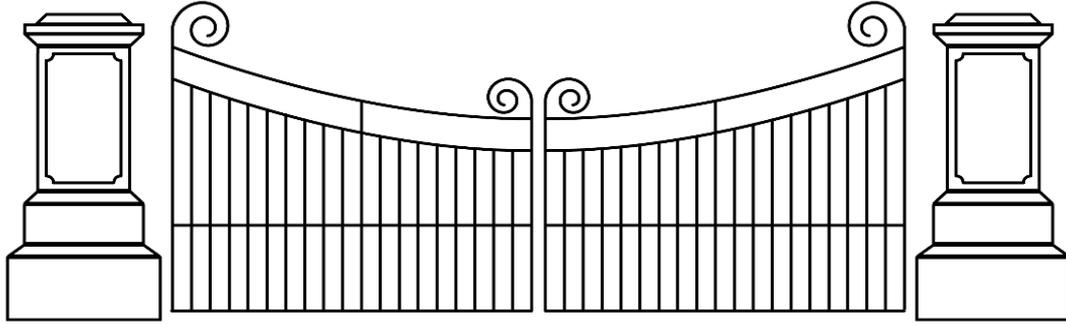


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Oct-Nov 2009

(Issued December Meeting)

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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.

Our Website will be uploaded onto the WWW on Thursday 10th December, 2009 and will be operational from the next day, Friday 11th December 2009 when you can log on at:

<http://www.chermsidedistrict.org.au>

Then we will have the Official Launch (Party Time)

At Chermside Library Meeting Room

On Tuesday 15th December, 2009

At 10am

So put the date in your diary and spread the word around; we want a good roll up. Remember that it is 100 years this year since the Chermside School of Arts was formed in the old Chermside meeting place and social centre. It wasn't far away geographically or in functionality, but a century has passed. They had the Magic Lantern we have the Web both of which aim to communicate.

Our voyage to set up the website can be charted from the log I kept as follows:

- Friday 20-6-08 at the Precinct. First meeting with Robbie Whyte and Ann Jones of ToadShow to examine the possibility of setting up a website, the structure, the cost, etc.
- 30-6-08 – Proposal from ToadShow for the website including the Suggested Budget of items and costing. (By Email)
- CDHS documents, letters of support, suggested budget and a copy of the statements answering Section 7.1 to 7.5 Selection Criteria.
- Copy of the Application form downloaded, printed and filled out.
- Letter dated 3-11-08 from GCBF advising that our bid for the first round had failed and we would be in the second round in February 2009.
- Letter dated 25-2-09 advising the grant approval, the administrative arrangements and the cheque for \$27,219.
- Cheque banked at the Heritage Building Society, Chermside Shoppingtown on 2-

3-09. Contacted Robbie Whyte of Toad-Show to start the operation.

Up until this point the whole proposition was just theoretical. Now the reality began, we were on our way, we had the money and it was head down, tail up and go, go, go!!!

- 11 March 2009 – meeting to commence the project – paid ToadShow 25% deposit.
- By 20 April – we supply web content on newly purchased external drive.
- By 18 May – draft web site (content) and proposed graphic design ready.
- By 15 June – final draft of web site.
- By 20 July – go live on the web for editing only, not for general access.

That meant we could start downloading our material direct on to the website from our home computers, but nobody else could access the website.

We had been digitising (nice word) our archives for years but now it became more urgent because we were going to have to start learning how to edit web pages. And that proved a very steep learning curve. But it has been a wonderful learning experience and this is only the beginning.

The Website will have to be continually updated for as long as it exists because new material is constantly coming to light. New interpretations of old material are constantly being made. Errors have to be corrected and we have to constantly advertise the site to find new viewers. The world is our window and, hopefully, many people from many countries will be looking in and communicating with us.

The Final Countdown: After 18 months the last stages of the **beginning** have arrived.

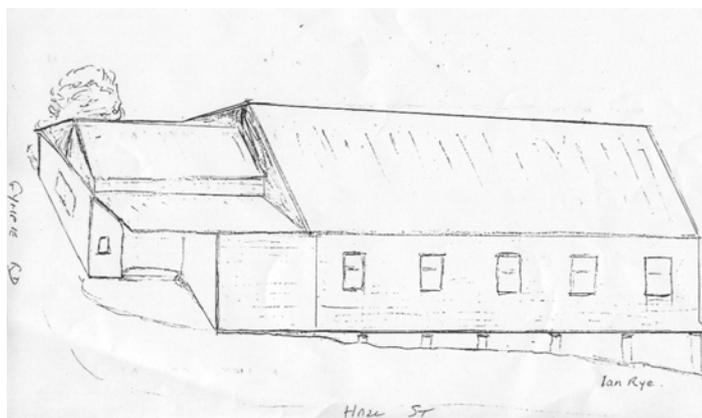
- 4 December 2009 Close Of Business copy deadline – no more changes
- 7 December 2009 final quality check and prepare to go live
- 10 December 2009 go live (upload)
- 11 December 2009 resume editing



We will meet here on the 15th December, 2009 in state of the art Chermide Library with all the latest computerised technology and a Coffee Shop.



In 1995 we would have met here on the corner of Hall Street and Gympie or maybe in the old Meeting Hall behind. But neither building had a Coffee Shop.



One hundred years ago we would have met here. So you can see that in Chermide some things have improved over the years. But libraries are still libraries, aren't they?

Beverley Isdale's Interim Report on the Wallace Street, Chermside Research Project

There were four phases in the development of Wallace Street, Chermside. (November 2009)

- Indigenous people living off the land for thousands of years.
- C1866 – European settlers farming small blocks of land.
- C1922 – Europeans living in a town with family houses on individual blocks of land.
- C1971 – Australians living in a mix of family houses and multi-level apartments.

Our work on Wallace Street began early in 2009 and started with Carol Cunningham and Carolyn Bowser doing a photographic survey of the entire street. Also some archival photos were added as they were found. Beverley Isdale undertook the task of chronicling the ownership and sale of properties as well as the increasing replacement of single family houses by multi-level apartment blocks.



No.12 Wallace Street –The Thompson Family home built in about 1936 was a timber building with an asbestos roof, high set with external stair and housing five persons.

Bev began this search on Wallace Street by asking two questions – why is the street so wide in comparison with all the others and who was the street named after? She continued by asking a lot of people a lot more questions. A survey such as this takes a great deal of time, dedication and effort.

The first land sales were held in 1866 in blocks of 10, 12, 15 acres, most used as small farms or sold in speculation ventures. We don't know when the street was formed but it was probably in the early 1920s which was in the time of the Kedron Shire Council and those records are either lost or we just have not found them

The first house might have been the Burton or the Byrne family home built in about 1922. Bev continues "I've only looked at commonwealth electoral rolls and I'm not sure of the date when registering on one roll automatically was registered on the other. I also think some people did not register to vote as voting was not compulsory then."



No. 12 Wallace Street today is a brick two level, tiled roof, five apartment block built in the 1990s housing about 10 persons. The ground level has six lock up garages.

It was not until just after World War 11 that the bulk of the land was sold for the building of houses many of which were built by the Queensland Housing Commission, some of which still stand today. "These Housing Commission or War Service homes were timber framed, set on concrete stumps, modest in size and resulted in sturdy construction with the use of quality hardwood framing over structurally short spans and with hardwood weatherboard cladding. Some earlier homes had fibro cement as cladding. Fibro was also used inside for lining. The roofs were corrugated iron and asbestos or cement tiles. The houses usually had two to three bedrooms, a single living dining room, kitchen, bathroom and an external toilet and laundry." As building materials were so scarce, very little attention was paid to decorative effects. This led Robin Boyd to describe 1950s architecture as the "great Australian ugliness."

War Service homes were built for returned service personnel. Beverley estimates that over a 20 year period, there were 30 returned servicemen from World War 11 living in Wallace Street; one had been a POW. There might also have been women but they are more difficult to trace due to marriage name changes. Most of the men did not come from the Chermside area and some of the men who were stationed at the Chermside Military Camp later chose to live in Chermside. Some of the houses were built for newly-weds and their children attended the Chermside State School and some attended the Wavell Heights and Kedron Catholic schools.



No. 93 Wallace Street, home of the James family, was a weatherboard high set with galvanised iron roof and external stair housing four persons.

About 1971 a new trend began to emerge in Wallace Street when the area was rezoned to allow the building of intermediate height apartments up to three levels. This gradually raised the population density in the street and brought many new people to the area. The older occupants were beginning to move out as they had raised their families and they did not need a large block of land to look after. Also there seemed to be fewer children around.

Beverley estimates that by 1982 there would have been at least 500 people who would have lived in the street at some time or other. She also notes that the turnover rate seems to be quicker now, but that might only be because of the numbers of people living in units and flats, some constantly on the move.

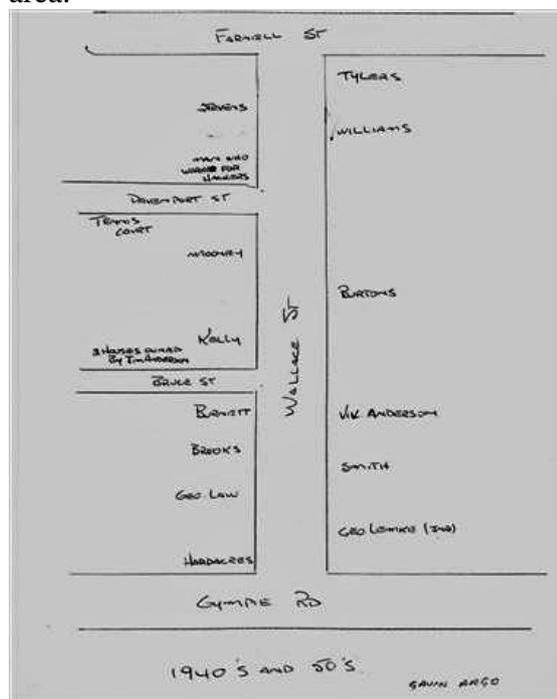
Today, 2009, there are many three level apartment blocks among the older houses and as population increases the apartments will probably outnumber the houses. On-street parking

does not seem to be a problem except at either end of Wallace Street. The west end has an overflow from Prince Charles Hospital while the east end may have an overflow from Gympie Road. Bev illustrated her talk with 30 slides and commented on those where people have given her some information. Many more properties remain to be catalogued before we can make a full analysis of the growth and changes to the area. This means more volunteers are needed.



No. 93 Wallace Street, on the corner of Farnell Street, is a three level brick, flat roofed apartment block of six units housing about 12 people. It has six lock-up garages on the ground level.

Beverley had to admit that she still could not answer her two original questions regarding the width and name of Wallace Street but emphasised that this is an ongoing study and the Society would appreciate any information which will contribute to our knowledge of living in Wallace Street, or for that matter, any other street in the area.



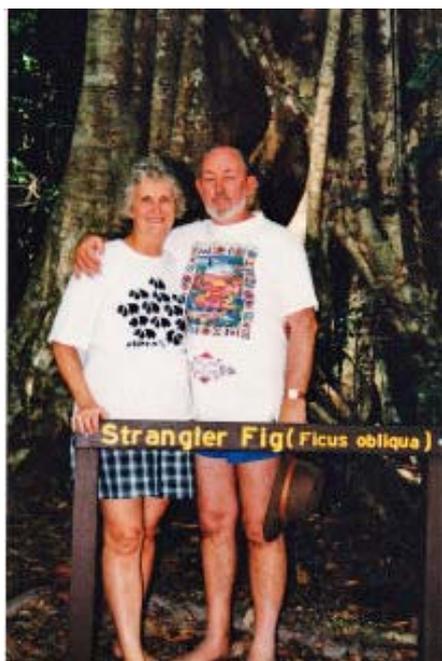
The simple map on page 4 by Gavin Argo is an example of how people can help the research by simply sketching what they remember. Since it is dated it gives an excellent record of Wallace Street at that time.

FIDO – Frazer Island Defence Organisation: Our speaker for the September meeting was Terry Hampson who told us about the long drawn out battle to save Frazer Island.

It seems silly now to talk about ‘saving’ Frazer Island; we all know just how important it is, being the largest sand island in the world and one of Queensland’s prime tourist attractions. It returns millions in revenue, to say nothing of the jobs it provides.

But in the pre 1970s Frazer Island was a source of timber; Tilbury Dock in the port of London was built using Frazer Island Turpentine logs as piles. The timber is Teredo resistant, the

marine equivalent of our beloved white ants; it was also easy to log. Another attraction was the mineral or heavy black sands which produced a bonanza in Zircon, Ilmenite, Rutile and a host of lesser minerals.



This almost looks like a WANTED poster but it is only our Terry and Ann Hampson looking like a couple of tourists on Fraser Island at Yidney Scrub in 2005.

A short sighted, ignorant public and government only saw the short term cash flow and missed the destruction of this unique landform. Fortunately a small number of environmentalists, led by John Sinclair, a Maryborough school teacher, began the long battle to stop the rot of the island. Labelled as ‘rat-bags, extremists, woolly headed idealists, impractical do-gooders’ they were de-

rided by the state government while the national government stood by.

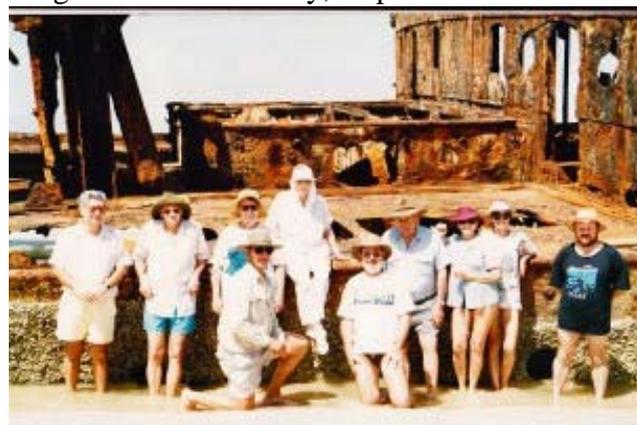
Today Frazer Island has World Heritage listing and John Sinclair was Australian of the Year in 1976. A far cry from when he had to leave Queensland pursued by a wrathful government.



John Sinclair, the founder of FIDO, with Terry Hampson at Yidney Scrub which has the largest trees growing in sand in the world.

Today Australian sand miners are amongst the world leaders in responsible sand mining. Instead of ripping out the valuable deposits and leaving a waste land behind, they reconfigure and revegetate the dune systems which constitute nature’s way of protecting the sand from wave erosion.

Much of this has been achieved by the efforts of FIDO members who gradually persuaded the public and governments that destroying the natural environment was not only stupid but was also uneconomic. One is reminded of Bill Clinton’s adage “It’s the economy, stupid.”



The FIDO Executive in 1995 standing beside the remains of the Maheno, wrecked in 1935 while being towed to Japan for scrap metal.

The Blackfella, the Butchulla people lived on the island for at least 5,000 years and maybe much longer. Their name for the island was K’gari

meaning paradise, and it was. They lived in harmony with nature taking only what they needed, then the Whitefella came and the trouble started because they took for profit and the sky was the limit.

This incredible island has over 100 fresh water perched lakes which means that the fresh water sits on top of the salt water below. The lakes are blue, reflecting the sky or brown from the tannin in the bark of the Melaleucas.

It is the only place in the world that has rainforest growing on sand. The trees are tall but they stay upright in gales and cyclones so they must have an incredibly strong root system.



A group of Trade Union Officials standing in Lake Birrabeen which is one of the biggest perched lakes on Fraser Island. They were examining the island during the dispute over sand mining in 1975. Terry is second from the left.

The Dingos on the island are the purest strain of the species which is descended from the Asian Wolf. The island can only sustain from 180 to 200 so if the population goes above that then starvation culls the numbers.

Today some 350,000 tourists visit each year bringing a new set of problems. They are loving the island to death by driving and walking over the sand and so destroying the vegetation that holds the sand in place. Gradually the sand is slipping down into the perched lakes and creeks. Will we ever achieve K'gari on the island?

Terry told a story about an old familiar figure from Mt. Isa's past, Pat Mackie. Remember him? He turned up on Fraser Island and became a friend of FIDO in the early days. The next time they saw him was as a witness for the sand miners, Dillingham Murphy, which was fighting a

court battle against FIDO. C'est la vie.

Bus Trip to Toowoomba –

Date: Saturday 13th March 2010

Depart Precinct: 7.30 am

Return Precinct: 6.00 pm

Cost per Person: \$60 including Morning & Afternoon Tea.

Lunch per Person: \$10 if required or bring own lunch.

Visit: Two Museums – the Cobb & Co Museum and the Milne Bay Military Museum

Contact Terry Hampson for details.

Annual Fees Now Due

Private Cemeteries

Sandgate & Nundah Dispatch – 19/8/1903 – the text is printed in one paragraph as was the custom of the time.

A gentleman obtains permission for himself and his relatives permanently to “stay in their own backyard.”

A return to the old system of “burying done on the premises” is threatened in a part of our district. We learn with great surprise that license from the Home Secretary has been obtained by a well-to-do gentleman on the Gympie road, to start a private cemetery on his own ground, within a few feet of the road, and opposite a much frequented store. There is a public cemetery barely a mile away. It seems impossible that such permit should have been applied for so recently, and more impossible that it should have been granted. Without doubt the suggestion is a highly objectionable one to 90% of the residents. Why do they not, then, approach the Kedron Shire Council in the first place, and failing their co-operation, the Commissioner for Health, who, we have every reason to suppose, has the power, and quickly put a stop to endangering public health by nipping this form of crankihood in the bud? In fairness to the gentleman suffering this temporary aberration the people should take action at once, before any great expense is occurred by him, or offence by the bodies of his dear relics which are to be brought from a distance that their tombstones may adorn this gentleman's garden! It, indeed, takes all kinds of people to make a world.