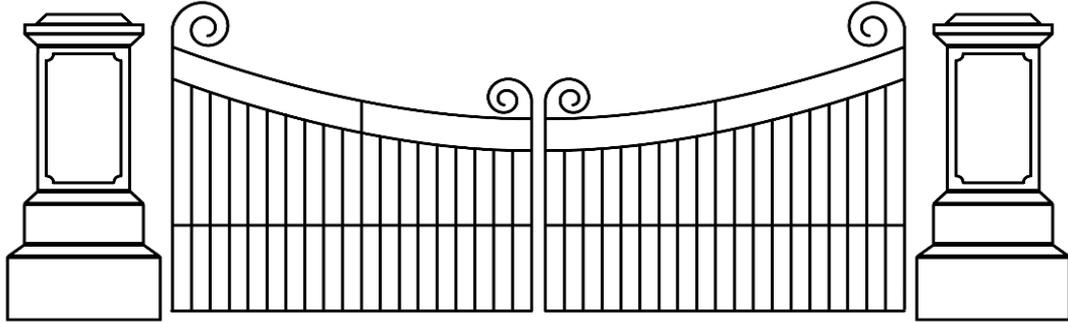


*Preserving our past is our future*



# Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Dec-Jan 2010

(Issued Feb. 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.

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## Launch of the CDHS Inc Website

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009, at 10am in the Chermside Library, with a group of over 50 persons we began the launch. And it went without any big hitches; there were a few small ones though.



*The website on the screen in the Library*

We were a little apprehensive about the technology because it was a combination of part CDHS and part Library but we had set it all up the day before and it worked well. We had to access the World Wide Web using our

computer and wireless connection and the Library's data projector. Others were setting up the morning tea goodies supplied by Toad-Show who built the website.



Norm Pfindst, the school bell ringer.

We began with Norm Pfindst ringing the school bell to quieten down the crowd, people do love to talk; no wonder teachers get grey

hairs. But Norm brought them to order as he used to do for the school back in the early 1930s. When I explained why Norm was the bell ringer the crowd applauded him. The President, that's me, recognised the Original Inhabitants of the land and welcomed the members and visitors.



*Beverley telling the story of CDHS*

Beverley Isdale, our archivist and display designer, gave a succinct talk on the history of the society outlining the achievements that have been reached and the problems that have been overcome. Bev has been in the society since it was formed and has served as Secretary and President



*Stirling speaks about the value of a website using the webpages on the screen*

Stirling Hinchliffe, Member for Stafford, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning in the State Government and the founding president of the CDHS Inc, then addressed the gathering. Stirling grew up in the computer age and has a very good understanding of its effect on society. He made it clear why the CDHS needs the website if it is going to be viable in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He quoted Charles Darwin who made the point that the species which

survive and flourish in the history of our planet are the ones that are able to adapt to changing circumstances. So it is with History Societies and CDHS in particular, adapt or die; we intend to adapt.



*Robert Whyte from ToadShow explains the workings of the website.*



*Anne Jones from ToadShow works the computer controlling the image on the big screen.*

The actual launch was carried out by two directors of ToadShow, Robert Whyte who gave the talk and Anne Jones who worked the computer controlling the projection of the Website on the large screen. Robert took us on a stroll through the Website to give people an idea of the range of material available in CDHS archives. For not a few of those present it would have been a new and, hopefully, pleasant experience.

Terry Hampson read the list of apologies. Our thanks to Terry who organised the Launch, booked the rooms, contacted the speakers, organised the proceedings, arranged photos and news items with both local papers and, with the help of Gay Sparkes, organised the invitations.

Beverley then took over and organised everybody for the Morning tea provided by Kedron-Wavell Services Club which manages the Coffee Shop in the Library. The cost of this very tasty event was met by ToadShow while CDHS members served the tea and coffee using our hotpots and other accoutrements.



*The small stall staffed by Carol and Lois who are busy with a couple of customers while another, rather small one, tries to look over the table. .*

Before and after the Launch a small stall of CDHS material was staffed by Carol Cunningham and Lois O'Shea. They looked after the signing on book, answered questions, provided membership forms and sold five copies of the History of Chermside State School.



*The new and the old councillor. Fiona King and Terry Hampson relax as they look on.*

All the photographs recording the event were taken by our official photographer, Robert

Isdale, who is also a very skilled metal worker and lamp restorer.

## **Bus Trip to Toowoomba**

**Date:** Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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. 3261 1601

## **Annual Fees Now Due**

The Treasurer thanks the members who have already paid their fees and wishes to remind those who have not paid that now is the time.

## **Information Needed**

We need information about a Florence May Kemp (nee Taylor) who wrote an article in about 1960 outlining her life. The article was given to the Society by Jeff Taylor who was a member some years ago.

I have contacted Jeff and he is in the process of getting us more information. Could anyone else help with information about Florence?

## **Donation for Data**

While we make information from our archives freely available to members and others there is a cost associated with the service. While we do not charge for the time taken by the archivist to retrieve the data there is photocopying, printing, sometimes in colour, and general maintenance of equipment. An example of the latter is that last December we had to pay \$288 to repair and service the photocopier. So, while we do charge for printing and photocopying and we are asking for a donation to help cover the other expenses.

## **April Meeting – Easter Sunday**

Easter Sunday for many people is a time of family gatherings like Mother's or Father's Day but we will be having our usual monthly meeting. We feel that it is better to keep to the

regular meeting day of the First Sunday of the month as it avoids confusion. And, if you are like me, then you are confused enough already.

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In 2004 the Society asked members to write something about their Grandparents; a short item with just the bare facts that the member could re-member. The following sequence of fascinating little jems is the result.

## GRANDPARENTS

**Jeff Taylor's** Grandfather was David Barker; arrived in Brisbane in 1854 and lived at Nundah. He married twice, the second time to Mary Ann Booth who was a relation of the founder of the Salvation Army, General Booth, they had 22 children.

Their property in the Valley consisted of a produce store on the corner Duncan and Wickham Streets. Barker and Booth bought land in one of the early sales and built the home later called "High Barbaree". Their last child died in 1980.

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**Glenys Bolland's** Grandfather was Elliott Bolland, one of the designers of Story Bridge. As a young man, he was sent to England to study engineering, but instead studied art in Paris. On his return to Brisbane he was apprenticed to his father, who was an engineer.

Glenys still has the model of the Story Bridge which her Grandfather built and showed it to the Society.

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**Margaret Fox's** Grandfather was Albert Edward Joseph Taylor who was born London in 1900. He was a staunch Baptist, a lay preacher and worked in the family business of basket making.

He served in WWI and the night before he left on active service he was secretly engaged to Elsie Stickley. They later married and had 4 children; Elsie died young.

During WWII he worked as occupational therapist teaching injured soldiers to make baskets; also served as a local fire warden during the blitz when German bombers made life hell for Londoners

Margaret later inherited that secret engagement ring.

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**Herb Carr's** Grandfather, Carl Freiderich Mueller (Muller) was born in Germany on 5/11/1831 and, at the age of 27 married Joanna when he was 27. They had 2 children and left Germany October 1864.

They first lived at Indooroopilly, then moved to Boondall near area now named Muller Road. Both were naturalised. Carl died in 1923 and both are buried in Bald Hills cemetery.

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**Daphne Fahey** (nee Price) recounts that her great grandparents were Charles and Ann Baulch and her grandparents were Pricilla and Fred Volkmann.



*Fred Volkmann caught this 29kg Jew fish in the Pine River in 1930. He was photographed at the Bald Hills hotel.*

Somewhere around the late 1860s my great grandparents decided to come to Australia for a better life than they had when he was a coal miner in the Rhondda Valley, Wales.

Daphne's grandmother, Pricilla, was a baby born on the fourteen week of the journey to Australia. Her sister, Elizabeth, died and was buried at sea. Her brother, Harry, was about seven when they left Wales. They travelled by wagon to Mackay working on the railway lines and living in tents. The children had very little formal education, they were real pioneers.

They must have returned to Brisbane some years later and bought land in Hamilton Road Chermshire.

Their daughter, Pricilla, married Fred Volkman and they bought land in Gympie Road running back to Western Avenue. They had a family of two girls and three boys. Little Edith was burnt and died at the age of three years; Freddie died of rheumatic fever at a young age.

Fred Volkman worked at Sparkes' Slaughter yard and died from a cut hand resulting in tetanus or lock-jaw as it was known then. Little help was available in those days.

My grandmother lived on to the age of 86, a much respected member of the community of Chermshire.

"It is with pride that we remember our pioneer relatives who made life so much better for us".

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### **Margaret Argo**

Grandparents on both sides came from Scotland.

Sam McCullough had 3 children but his wife died after third child and he remarried. The family, accompanied by his brother-in-law, came to Australia via assisted passage on the *Waipara*. Sam kept small diary in indelible pencil and recorded such things as the atrocious accommodation, miles travelled per day 250-275, terrible heat, and heavy seas. There was no place to sit except on deck, they brought their own food and experienced their first tropical storm at Thursday Island. A lighter note is introduced as he writes about a sports day when the women won picture of ship as prize for "eye on pig".

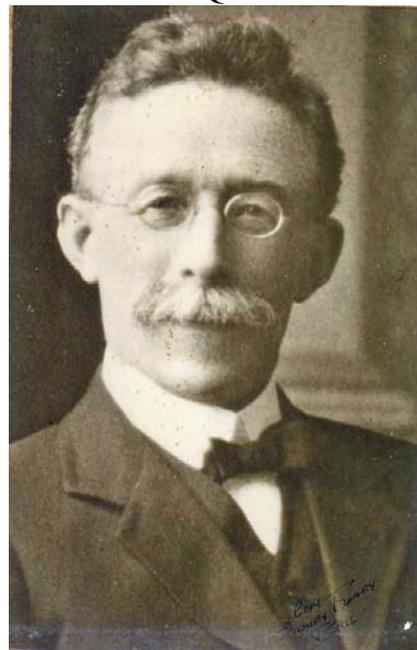
The voyage lasted from 23/6/1911, when they left Scotland, till 21/7/1911 when they arrived in Moreton Bay; just a few days short of a month.

Grandfather did office work and studied accountancy by correspondence.

Dad's parents came from Aberdeen on the *Osterley*, the voyage taking from 17/3/1911 to 1/5/1911 a total of 45 days or 7 weeks and 3 days. They had five children all in their teens except youngest son.

They settled in Spring Hill and worked first as a farmer, then in 1918 bought Sammells store on the corner of Hall Street and Gympie Road. Auntie Tina ran the Post Office which was attached to the store.

Granny was a lovely lady, stern when children were young, lovely sense of humour, knitted lace and lived to be 100 "just to get letter from the Queen".



Grandfather James Glennie Argo

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### **Gay Sparkes**

Grandmother Eleanor Cook (nee Bashford) born 1878 married W. J. Cook, Commercial Road – early 1950s came to live at 497 Stafford Road.

W.C.T.U. member; played organ for women's prison.

She made some notes re the prison for an article 1930-35 approx. – large building, 18feet high, pine floors, spotlessly clean, large room for services; on arrival asked for pass; take in nothing for attending meetings; played favourite hymns; remembered women in prayers – women mostly reading, ironing and cleaning.

### **Pat Smith**

“My Bowker grandparents were married in the parish Church, Lytham, in Lancashire, UK, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1906.

My grandfather, Francis, was the son of Thomas Bowker, a book-keeper, and my grandmother, Margaret Barrow, was the daughter of a fisherman.

They had two children, William and Ellen, before my grandfather came to Australia in 1913 to work as a linesman on the North Coast line. My grandmother and the two children came in 1914, at the beginning of the First World War. The ship they were travelling on came close to being the victim on German U-boat but, fortunately the German Navy’s aim wasn’t accurate. If it had been, I wouldn’t be here to tell this story.

Grandad continued his employment with the Railway, and after living in various railway houses, one being the gatehouse near Beams Road, came to live at Windeyer Street, Bald Hills. His wage when he started his employment was 7 shillings and 8 pence per week. In 1916, when my father was born, this had increased to 8 shillings and 9 pence.

Another child, Thomas was born in 1918; however he died when he was 18 months old and is buried at the Bald Hill cemetery.

My memories of my grandparents are of gentle people in the true sense of the word. My grandmother was a very kind person, and I can never remember her having an uncharitable word to say about anyone.

She was a good cook, and no gravy that I have ever tasted compares with hers. I think my love of cooking comes from being around her kitchen. I was very fortunate in the fact that I lived next door to my grandparents.

I was born in 1941. As grandad retired due to ill health in 1934, in my early childhood he was always around. I can remember his vegetable garden and his old tin shed where he kept his bottles of home made ginger beer.

When I was very young, he used to take me for short walks, and the year before I was to start school, he would take me to the school yard to watch the children on parade, then march into school. I’m sure that this helped me when I started school. The year that I started school, my grandfather died. I remember him as being a kind, gentle man whose family and home were his main interests. His death left a real hole in my heart.

Grandma carried on afterwards, with her daughter Ellen, who had never married, and Frank and Elsie, my parents, next door. Rozlynn, my younger sister and I spent a lot of time with Grandma and Auntie – they read us stories, took us to the pictures, played the old gramophone to us, knitted us jumpers and socks.

Grandma still had a sister living in England, and after the war I can remember food parcels being sent regularly to her, always sewn in a calico parcel.

My grandparents weren’t rich or influential people – they were very ordinary folk who came from the other side of the world to a strange country, not knowing what they would find here. I think that would take a lot of courage.”

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**Tail Piece – The Busway**

The best people to supply information are Fiona King Councillor for Marchant Ward Ph. 3407 0707 and Stirling Hinchliffe Member for Stafford and Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Ph. 3359 1331

### **Speakers for:**

March: Linda McBride – The McBride Family

April: James Largessner – Snippets from the Baby Boomers.