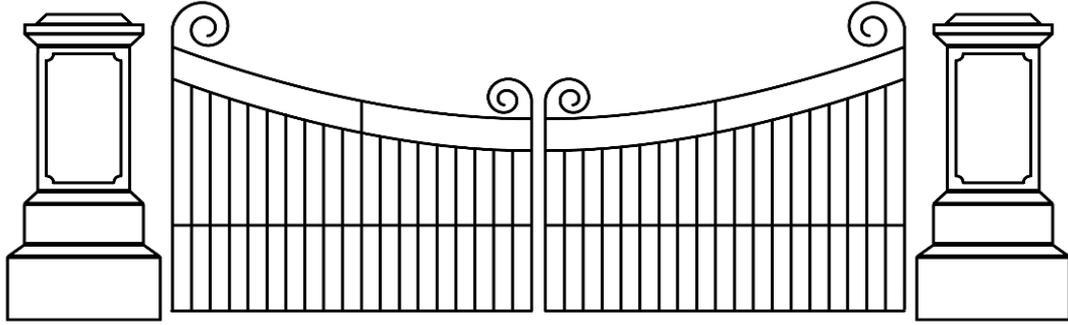


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Feb -Mar 2010

(Issued April Meeting)

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Hail and Farewell

Selwyn Francis Ronald Campbell was born to Eternal Life on the 14th March, 2010 and his funeral took place on Friday 19th. A Celebration of his life was conducted by the Rev. Keith Biggs at the Metropolitan Chapel, Zillmere Road, Zillmere.

He was active in organisations such as APEX, Lions and RSL. He was a ballroom dancer, singer, sportsman, raised birds, roses and orchids; a multi-talented man.

Selwyn had a long illness fighting cancer which caused him to be constantly visiting hospital for treatment. His cheerfulness never deserted him and he looked forward to coming back to the Society meetings.

His final home was the Holy Spirit Home, Carseldine.

Sel Campbell



Roy Ballard husband of **Kath Ballard** died recently after an illness.

Kath is the Historian of Geebung and her books are regularly consulted in our work. She also gave the society a great deal of historical material covering World Wars I and II which was the result of many years of research.

The sympathy of the Society is extended to Kath in her loss and a letter was sent on 15-2-2010

February Speaker: John and Alma Knox enthralled the members at General Meeting with John doing the speaking while Alma controlled the pictures and film clips on the TV screen along with sound reproductions on disk. It was a professional and tightly coordinated presentation worthy of the two professionals. John had spent 50 years in radio while Alma had spent many years in TV.

John wanted to become a pilot in the Air Force, then thought about the Army but finally decided on Radio Announcing. So he trained at the Vincent School of Broadcasting and got a job at 2RG Griffith in NSW. Several stations followed, including a year at 4LG Longreach where he met Alma, until he went to 4IP just outside Brisbane where he stayed for 16 years.



John using the speakers lectern while Alma controls the TV screen from the laptop computer. She also worked the film clips and sound effects.

At 4IP he covered a series of dramatic world events and as he listed and commented on each one Alma showed slides on the TV screen and played sound clips of commentators, including John, speaking at the various

times. Included were the Cuban Crisis, the two Kennedy assassinations, the Springbok riots in Brisbane, the Vietnam War, and the Mandela saga.

The pace was rapid and the dramatic intensity of the events was maintained during the presentation.



You could have heard a pin drop was one comment from a listener. The audience of about 30 members and visitors did not miss word or scene of the presentation.

Then followed coverage of the Brisbane floods, much of which was filmed and broadcast from an Iroquois helicopter of 9th squadron RAAF. He spent a lot of time hovering over the inundation commenting. He even showed the lighter side of people swimming in the main streets of Brisbane.

The Queen's visit to open the Commonwealth Games in 1982 was accompanied by a sound clip of the Queen speaking while we watched her on TV. It was as if we were transported back to that year for a short time.

9/11 was especially dramatic partly because it is still fresh in our minds. He was on air when the first news came through and a scramble followed to find out the details almost as they were happening. This was live time, broadcasting as it was happening with the TV coverage following.

They then explored some of the most memorable events in radio history starting with the Hindenburg disaster in 1937. We watched the old black and white film clips of the mighty air ship coming in to the mooring mast at Lakehurst and listened to the measured tones of the radio announcer Herb Morrison describing the event. When he was broadcasting there was no TV and the film

was screened later in the cinemas, but our speakers combined the two mediums for us.

This was one of radio's greatest events and has been replayed regularly. John pointed out that an announcer becomes part of the event as his/her emotions form part of the broadcast and affect the listener. Morrison was measured and calm before the explosion of the great air ship and then he was almost crying, as he tried to describe the disaster for the listeners. 'O my, this is terrible' – 'O the humanity' – 'O the flames' – 'what is happening to the people' – and the listeners could see the event in their minds.

He contrasted this disaster with that of the Challenger Shuttle which occurred in the TV era of the early 1990s. When it happened millions of people were watching and listening to the sounds of the launch as well as the words of the commentator. The viewers actually saw the explosion and the shuttle veering off course and plunging into the sea. You didn't need imagination as in the earlier radio era.



Another view of the presentation – from the back of the room showing the TV screen, the images on which were clearly visible

After these dramatic presentations John spoke about the time he broadcast from inside the lion's cage at Bullen Brothers Circus in 1964. There were three lions with him as well as the trainer, but as John said he was nervous getting into the cage but once he got the microphone in his hand he was OK. He had a one million pounds insurance policy and Alma commented "Look what I missed out on!"

A large part of broadcasting involves advertising and without it there would be no commercial radio stations. So a big part of his job

was to talk about the merits of the advertisers and this often included a musical jingle. His longest running jingle was for Tristrams cordials which was played and evoked memories. Then there was one for Zupps "Don't sign anything till you see Zupps." John had to literally sing for his supper.

Then there were the Quiz shows with Jack Davey, Bob Dyer and John Dease. Jack Davey used to run the show "20 and Out" – he would be given a topic or name and had 20 seconds to make up a limerick of four lines, it had to rhyme and be funny; Jack rarely lost.



Beverley Isdale moving a vote of thanks for the presentation. Bev recounted her pre-TV days when she listened to John entertaining and informing Brisbane; she was able to tell a few tales of those days herself.

John recounted the story of an April Fools Joke in which an unnamed announcer told his listeners that the council was going to cut off the water. He named a time for the cut off and advised listeners to make sure and tell their neighbours of the cut off. Apparently people took the warning seriously and many utensils were filled with water all over Brisbane. This little incident dramatically illustrated the reach of radio and how valuable it was for advertising products. He did not say what happened to the announcer.

That incident is very similar to the time in about 1938 when Orson Welles broadcast "The War of the Worlds" on a New York radio station and did it so well that many people thought an invasion was underway. Widespread outrage followed but it launched Welles as a producer. (Wikipedia)

Although officially retired, John still does a one and a half minute presentation five days a week entitled Brisbane's Yesterdays. Also you can still hear his voice introducing the news on 4KQ. Well, after today's show John and Alma's hands are still well and truly in production.

Our March Speaker was Linda McBride-Yuke who is Aboriginal and lives with her two daughters in Zillmere. Linda works in the Public Service in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) within the Department of Communities



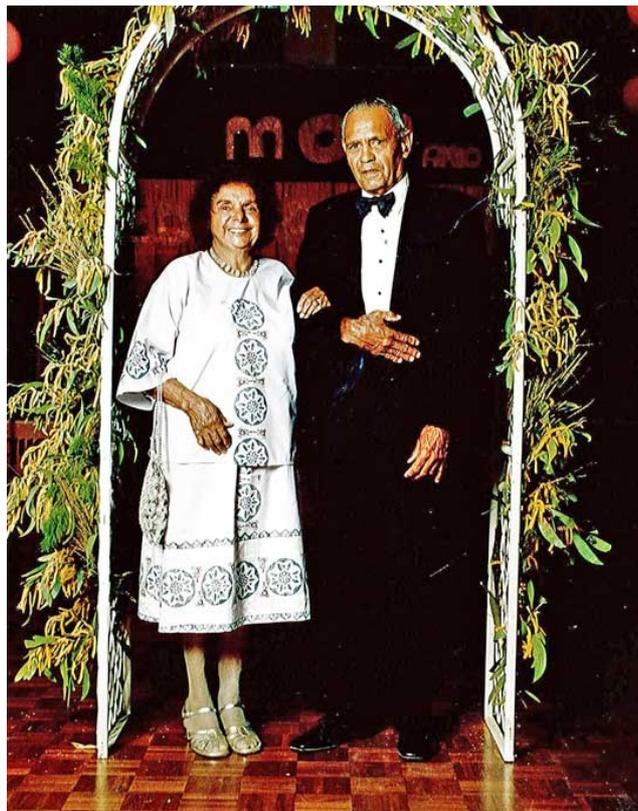
Lambert (Stan) McBride and May Ross at the time of their marriage in 1942

In contrast to the nomadic nature of many Aboriginal families the McBride family has a long history of being settled in their own homes and employed in industry. As Linda puts it "the McBrides never got the memo about wandering".

The story starts in the early 20th Century when her grandfather, William McBride and Elizabeth (nee Bundock) had a selection at Grady's Creek on Lions Road just outside of Kyogle. Billy or Piper McBride, he played the bagpipes, grew fruit, milked their cows for fresh milk and made their own butter. Billy

McBride also had a bullock team where the McBride men were excellent timber getters/axemen, horsemen, shooters and bullock team drivers. They would cut trees on the side of Mt Lindsey, use draft horses to drag the cut timber to the bullock wagon, load it and then tote the massive load of timber to the Kyogle sawmill.

Elizabeth McBride gave birth to 14 children – 12 of whom survived. They went to The Risk and Loadstone State Schools.



May and Stan McBride as Guest Elders at the NAIDOC Ball in 2002 when they celebrated their Diamond Jubilee.

It was highly unusual for Aboriginal people to own land or house in those days. Most of them were on Mission Stations or Reservations of some sort. Their lives were tightly controlled and they were treated like children. Families could be split up and sent away, there was no stability and little education. They finished up in menial jobs or unemployed; they had no real future and not much self respect.

At the same time the McBrides were independent and free. They could move around, work where they found work, marry whom they wanted, manage their own money, buy a house, father was the head of the house all of which built a stable family.

There was a time when the Government attempted to put them on a reserve but the local whites rallied and prevented it happening.

Lambert (Stan) McBride, (1918-2002)

Stan was born at Cedergetter Creek near Kyogle, started work at 14 with a bullock team hauling timber for \$1.50 a week and tucker, then sleeper cutting for the railway, timber mills, worked as a fettler and bridge carpenter on the railway and as a boxer in the Snowy Hill Gym group. After working at Brown and Broad Sawmill at Newstead he joined the Australian army during World War II.

In 1942 he married May Ross (1917-2002) born Yarrawonga, Hervey Bay, and they moved to Zillmere in 1956 and lived in the same house, where they celebrated their Diamond Jubilee in 2002; the year in which they both died. At the celebration their son William (Billy) said:

Mum and Dad stuck to each other through thick and thin, the ups and downs, sickness and health, happy and sad times and were loyal as the day is long. It just proves in these days of high divorce rates, declining standards of morality and decency, shallow and superficial relationships, Mum and Dad are proof that such a thing as true, real, deep, loyal, love still exists.

All of his life Lambert, supported by May, was a fierce advocate for the rights of Indigenous Australians and was an active member of many groups such as Koobara Aboriginal and Islanders Kindergarten, The One People of Australia League, Taigum State School and Nalingu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Respite Centre at Zillmere, the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders of which he was Queensland President. He worked at Aboriginal Hostels throughout Brisbane as Manager/Night Watchman, a Public Servant.

Lambert's son, Petty Officer William McBride RAN, BSc, said that his father "brought us up blind to race, colour, religion or creed. Everywhere I've sailed around the world, I have found his words to be true – we

have a lot more in common than there are differences between us. We need to work together on what we have in common to make the world a better place."



Petty Officer Photographer William James Cameron McBride; CSM; BSc Health Promotions.

On 27 May 1967, 90.77% of Australian voters recorded the largest ever 'Yes' vote in a referendum to alter the Australian constitution in favour of granting Aboriginal people citizenship, the right to vote in elections, to be counted in the census and be subject to Federal laws and not just State laws. It was the formal recognition of the existence of the Aboriginal people as people of their own country.

Linda expressed the change by saying that in 1966 Aboriginal people didn't appear to exist but in 1967 they did exist, it was official. Prior to that date they were just entries in the books of a Superintendent on a Mission somewhere.

William (Billy) McBride, (1955-2004)

Billy went to school up to Grade 10 and worked at Evans Deacon Engineering. On the advice of a workmate he joined the Royal Australian Navy in February 1972 and stayed in for 32 years. He started as a waiter in the Officers Mess but rose through the ranks to

become a Senior Petty Officer. To do this he had to study and gain his Senior Certificate, thus completing his schooling.

He discovered he had a talent for photography and specialised in it becoming a Navy Photographer, taking picture on ship, on land, in the air and even through the periscope of a submarine. Billy sailed all over the world, in peace and in war. In Sri Lanka the people could not understand why he said he was an Australian when they 'knew' he was Sri Lankan. He went to Annapolis, the great naval academy in the USA and gave classes to the undergraduates.

He gave up smoking and alcohol when he realised the damage they could do to people. Later he qualified as a Drug Counsellor in the navy and went on to study at Edith Cowan University in W. A. where, in 2004, he was awarded Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion.

When he finally left the Australian Navy in 2004 he was going to work with the Aboriginal Drug Counselling Service. He never made it, Billy died suddenly in 2004 at the age of 49. As Linda, proudly proclaims, 'Not bad for a skinny little Aboriginal boy from Zillmere.' Billy, like his father Stan, was a high achiever in spite of great odds.

We hope to build a webpage around the McBride family on our website, when we get some time, in the near future, we hope.

The Website

New pages have been added to the website including a couple in the People section:

- The Reid family and their shop which was located on the east side of Gympie Road beside the Dry Cleaners on the site of the present blue roofed Wattyl Paints building. Material supplied by Rona and Coral both of whom worked in the shop.
- It was also a newsagency, a Post Office, a Milk Bar, a popular meeting place and the home of the "Sticky-beak Gazette".
- A second Reid section features Barrett Reid the third child who spent most of his life in Melbourne and is little known in Chermside. He was a very high achiever and today the Li-

brary of Victoria offers an annual scholarship named after him; it is worth \$30,000 each year.

New Witness to 1943 Plane Crash

Another witness to the 1943 crash came forward in March 2010. Noel Shaw is a life long resident of Geebung having grown up on a local dairy farm opposite the intersection of Hamilton and Spence Roads.

Noel saw the plane fly over the farm while he was milking for the afternoon delivery and contends that it was a P-43 Lancer rather than a P-47 Thunderbolt. The two planes look very much alike and the former was the prototype of the latter. In other words they belong to the same family of WWII fighter planes.

As a 16 year old, Noel was a keen maker of model planes which he used to carve from Sassafras as there was no balsa wood available during the war. This claim is an example of what makes history such an interesting subject, the researcher is always finding new ideas, material and opinions. Thus the history of a person, place or incident is always changing as new material comes to life; the historian needs to have a strong back as s/he is always digging up something new.

The Treasurer's Message

Just in case some of you might have forgotten, it's time to pay Membership Fees for 2010 – single \$20 and \$30 for a family.

Thank you to those who have already paid and for donations included with the fees.

And thank you for generous donations to Afternoon Teas – goodies and cash.

The Guard House

Remember the proposal to bring a WWII US Guard House from the US base at Banyo and re-erect it in the C'side Historical precinct?

The Australand Construction Co., which is developing the site of the old base has notified us that they intend to use the WWII US Guardhouse as an Entrance Statement to their new housing development; the new road will be called Guard House Road.

It has been a long story; we may tell it someday when we get time. Cheers.