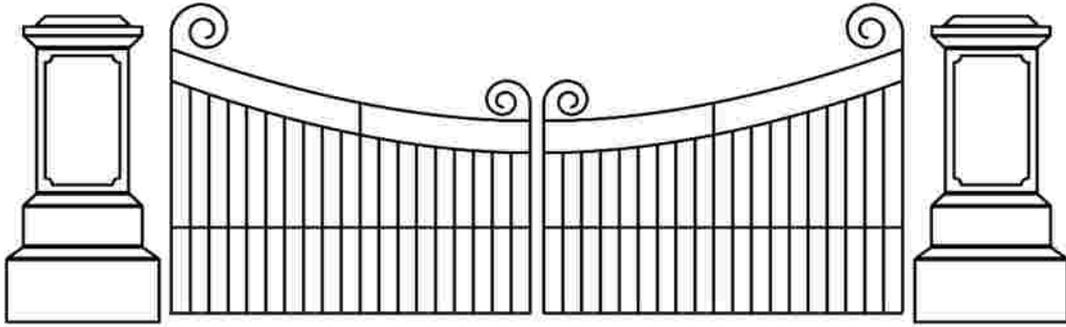


*Preserving our past is our future*



# Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

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NEWSLETTER

Aug -Sep 2010

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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.



**The funeral of Coral Rance (nee Reid)** was held in the Lakeside Chapel at Albany Creek Crematorium on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August.

Coral was a foundation member of the Society and until this year rarely missed a meeting. Sitting in the front row, Coral took an active part in the meetings with plenty to tell about Chermside over the last sixty years.

She gave the Society much information of her experiences growing up and living in the local area. Especially important was her knowledge of the family shop which her father, George Reid, operated as a grocery, fruit & vegetable, milk bar, Post Office Agency and newsagent with two paper runs daily.

Despite her declining health since 2006 but with the help of her family she lived in her home until she entered Prince Charles Hospital a couple of weeks before her death. Coral leaves a big hole in the Society; we will miss her. Rest in Peace.

**The Annual General Meeting** of the CDHS Inc was held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010. The Annual Report was given along with the Treasurer's Report and the election of officers held.

The Officers for 2010-11 are:

President: Terry Hampson

V. President: Pat O'Shea

Secretary: Gay Sparkes

Treasurer: Lois O'Shea

Archivist: Bev Isdale

Media Officer: Terry Hampson

Additional Executive Members:

Margaret Argo

Brian Tilly

Glenys Bolland

Jeanette Nurser

The outgoing President, Pat O'Shea, gave the Annual Report which included:

- Thanks to the many who had contributed to the Society over the past year
- Membership has fallen from 73 last year to 69 at present as old members pass on; between 20 and 30 are regularly attending meetings.
- Terry Hampson has managed to maintain a full slate of monthly speakers.
- The launch of the CDHS Website was the highlight of the year. It took a massive effort by members of the Society to marshal and prepare the data to put on the site. Now that the site is running we are being contacted by an entirely new range of people who use the internet. It is our new archive with a continually growing volume of information. One of the important features is that we can correct mistakes and update the site with new information as our research continues.
- Talks are being given to local groups of interested people on various aspects of Local History.
- There were no bus trips during the year as the patronage had fallen off quite dramatically.
- Vandalism, including graffiti, has fallen during the year due to streamlined reporting, police co-operation and Council action. The Community Service people have been keeping the lawns nicely mowed.

- Beverley Isdale outlined the work being done in our archives along with the photo displays the Society places in the local libraries. Also, because we have so much material it has been necessary to reorganise and streamline the storage of much historical material.
- New Computer: After five years the old computer was replaced with a more up to date one using new programs and a new, larger monitor. All up, the cost was \$2,048 which was covered by subscriptions, donations and the balance carried over from the previous year.

## **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

Since we live in safety conscious times it is important that all members should know what to do in case of an emergency while we are on the Society's premises. We are currently investigating the placing of an Assembly Point Sign for use in emergencies.

**Below is the evacuation planning so you can read it and be prepared; it is common sense.**

- A whistle, hung from the TV shelf, will be blown to signal an emergency evacuation.
- A Management Committee member with a mobile phone will be nominated at each meeting to make the appropriate emergency contact, i.e., telephone 000
- When the alert is raised all persons must evacuate the building and proceed to the designated assembly point which is the lawn beside Kittyhawk Drive. Take the shortest safest route; disadvantaged persons should be assisted by the able bodied.
- The persons nearest the front and back outside doors are to move straight out and must not try to retrieve articles from inside; move smartly but do not run.

- The Secretary to bring the Attendance Book and conduct a roll call at the Assembly Point; all must be accounted for in case some are still in the building or have wandered off while in shock.
- Under no circumstances should anyone go back into the building until the all clear is issued by the emergency personnel, e.g. The Fire or Police Officer.
- If an accident occurs and someone is attending to the situation do not stop, keep moving.
- Evacuation practice to be conducted at least once a year.

### Lock Down Procedure

Sometimes, usually when there may be one or a few people in the premises, some threat may arise from unruly elements outside.

When this happens it may be necessary to close and lock the doors. Often this is enough and the intruder, simply wanders off. If they stay then it may be necessary to ring the Police. So, at least one person in the premises should have a mobile phone with them.

The doors must be kept unlocked while people are inside the building and only locked when a problem arises.

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An addition to the Website is currently nearing completion. It is a section on the effects of the Great War 1914-1918 on Chermside and District. While much has been written on the war itself not much has been written on the Chermside experience. But that is part of the role of a local history society, to research the effects of great and often, distant events on the local area.

It is divided into three sections:

- Pre War – Social Conditioning of Australians
- Wartime – War Conditioning
- Post War – The After Effects

#### Pre War

Social Conditioning is to shape the outlook of a person to fit into the general outlook of society. It began in the schools as early as the mid-19<sup>th</sup>

Century when cadets were introduced. Boys were drilled by the teachers to be future soldiers of the King and defend the realm from its enemies.



On the left is the junior soldier standing to attention.

The basic uniform was a standard khaki jacket and trousers, complete with long leggings and boots. The hat, of course, was the Digger's "slouch hat", with badge.

Rifles were issued to the boys, although they were obliged to buy their uniforms at "15/9d complete". From 1911, any three of five subjects - Drill, Rifle Practice, First Aid, Physical Education and Swimming, were to be taught. This was to make them fit to be soldiers of the King; later the idea of physical fitness for the whole

school became the norm.

Female teachers were expected to train cadets if no male was available. It was a serious business and teachers in small schools where full facilities were not available were expected to improvise.

After primary school the Cadet training continued in secondary school and also for those who had left school. Notes in Alexander Hamilton's 1912 Service Booklet stipulate that "you are required by the Defence Act to undergo training:

- In the Senior Cadets, from 14 to 18 years (of age) and
- In the Citizen Forces from 18 to 26 years (Militia)

The Annual Service consisted of Statutory Parades involving the following:

4 whole-day drills + 12 half-day drills + 24 night drills and a 3 week annual camp."

Most of this training took place in the Drill Sheds (Halls) that dotted the landscape and included the one in the Chermside Historical Precinct.

In addition the children were given a British Empire view of history and they were made aware that they were British Citizens. They could travel the world and still be under the protection of the British Empire. It was made very clear that they owed allegiance to the King and he would protect them. The Union Jack was commonly flown beside, or instead, of the Australian flag. From time to time members of the British nobility would visit Australia while the state governors were sometimes distinguished British soldiers.



*A group of cadets on camp complete with the flag and band. Is the flag the Union Jack?*

### **The Colonial Wars**

The cadets graduated into the Militia and were ready to support Britain in its wars to keep control of the Empire. As far as we know there was no military support for the Crimean War in the 1850s although there could have been some colonials there.

### **The Sudan Contingent**

This was the first time that Militia from the Australian colonies went abroad and then it was only from the colony of New South Wales. A contingent of some 758 infantry and artillery was sent to assist "the Mother country". They left Sydney on 3rd March 1885 and arrived back on 19th June 1885.

While the NSW government was keen to support the scheme the public was divided and, no doubt relieved, when the Contingent returned with the loss of very few men from disease; they did not engage in any battles only skirmishes.



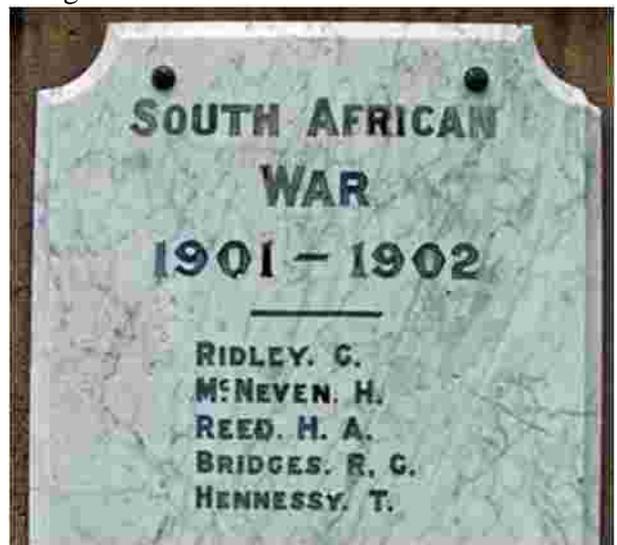
*A 1880s group of Militia in Marchant's Paddock. Troops such as these would have been sent in the Sudan Contingent.*

While this expedition would not have affected the Chermside district directly, the people here would have read about it in the local newspapers. It thus entered their thinking and helped form their opinions regarding defence.

### **The Boer War**

This was a very different war from the Sudan; many more men went and many died. It caused much more interest in Australia, both for and against foreign wars.

The might of the British Empire was fighting a group of farmers who could ride and shoot, they fought as commandos, an opponent that the British Army was unable to overcome; they had not been trained to fight this type of enemy. The Australians on the other hand easily adapted to this type of warfare as they could both shoot and ride. They worked as long range attacking forces using the Boer tactics.



*Local men who went to 'ride and shoot' across the African Veldt in the Boer War. Anybody know anything about these men? Let me know.*

Between 12,000 and 16,000 Australian colonials went to South Africa and in the process they lost 251 men in battle and 267 from disease, especially typhoid.

At first Australians supported the war but as it dragged on many became disenchanted, especially as they became aware of its effects on Boer civilians, 20,000 of whom died in British concentration camps, and through cases such as the conviction and execution of the Australian Lieutenants Morant (Breaker) and Hancock in 1902. These men were the only Australians to be executed in any war; the Australian government banned such punishment, even though the British continued to use in the Great War of 1914-18.



*The Australian mounted troops like this one fought first in South Africa against the Boers and later in the Middle East during the Great War. The horse is one of the famous Walers (originally from New South Wales), a very tough horse which could withstand the privations of the African Veldt.*

### **The Boxer Rebellion March 1900 – March 1901**

This was not a rebellion but a propaganda title; the Chinese wanted to get rid of the Europeans

who were living in China and outrageously exploiting the Chinese.

The Australian colonies rallied to the support of Great Britain and, since the soldiers were fighting in South Africa, they sent a naval contingent of sailors who could also fight as soldiers.

The war followed the usual one sided conflict with the Europeans getting their way and the Chinese paying the price in blood and treasure.

Like the Sudan expedition the Boxer Rebellion probably did not impinge directly on the local area but it did highlight the responsibilities of the local British citizens to the Empire. They depended on it to protect them so they had to support it and 'keep the Chinese in their place'. Of course not all the Australian people thought that way as many came here to avoid wars.

### **Then came the Great War**

When war broke out in 1914 the then Australian Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, promised that Australia would "stand beside our own to help and defend Britain to the last man and the last shilling."

Australians were conditioned to support the Mother Country in defending the British Empire since we benefited from that empire. We had to "do our bit". When Britain called for our help we had to be ready.

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### **The Northern Busway – Kedron to Bracken Ridge.**

The draft outline of the route of the busway, which will also carry emergency vehicles, has been released and is available for discussion. The route is divided into 7 sections with a separate Fact Sheet on each one showing the proposed route and/or alternative routes. Suggestions, criticism, discussion is invited from those living in the area.

Letters have been sent to people and businesses directly affected by possible resumption or other factors.

Displays and discussion will be taking place at the following places and times:

Chermside Uniting Church  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. 9am-12pm  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 5pm-8pm

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Chermside Library  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2pm-5pm

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Aspley Special School  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 5pm-8pm

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Note: Funding has not been secured for the Busway and there will be no start until it is secured. The link to Bracken Ridge has to be finished by 2026 but the start has not been decided. The consultation is only a preparation so when the route is finally decided the future building and road making will have to conform to the Busway.

Brisbane is growing rapidly, internal and external migration along with births adds thousands of new faces monthly. And they all have to be fed, housed, healed, entertained, exercised, educated, connected to the internet, etc, etc, etc.

The Hospital Complex employs 4,000 persons, has 30,000 visitors and the same number of patient movements per month. And there is plenty of space for future expansion. The Busway will travel across the hospital land.

Westfield has something like 30,000 shoppers each day and employs thousands of people. It has expanded steadily – 1957 space for 700 vehicles – 2006 space for 6,500 vehicles. And it has all happened in just two generations.

The Chermside area has some 7,000 residents and that is expected to rise to 30,000 by 2131. Employment is expected to rise from the present 14,000 to 50,000 in the same period. Building heights for residential occupancy has been raised from 10 to 15 levels in the inner zone.

There will have to be a new bus terminal as the present one beside Westfield is reaching its capacity.

We are seeing the town change daily as new buildings climb higher, the traffic increases, new products proliferate like weeds in the lawn, advertising seeks new ways to attract the consum-

ers attention, new firms appear and others disappear, etc, etc. Change, Change, . . .

This puts the Society in hurry-up situation as we scramble to record the changes and try to chart the driving forces behind the continuously changing, moving, fascinating, vibrant activity in the market place.

We live in the global village and the internet is our gateway to the world.

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In living memory the local area has gone from the top scene to the bottom one.



*This photo of the Staib family was taken in 1930. It is an excellent photo of a horse drawn sulky with the family going for a drive. There is plenty of space on the cleared land, hardly a tree in sight but remember how it was cleared, with back breaking labour. Transport was slow not frenetic like today and people did not travel much. Chermside was the centre of the local social life.*



*Today we live in the global village; we can fly to London or New York in a matter of hours. We can talk to people there in a matter of minutes and we can watch these places and see people as they go about their business. Remember 9/11 when we watched the Twin Towers.*

