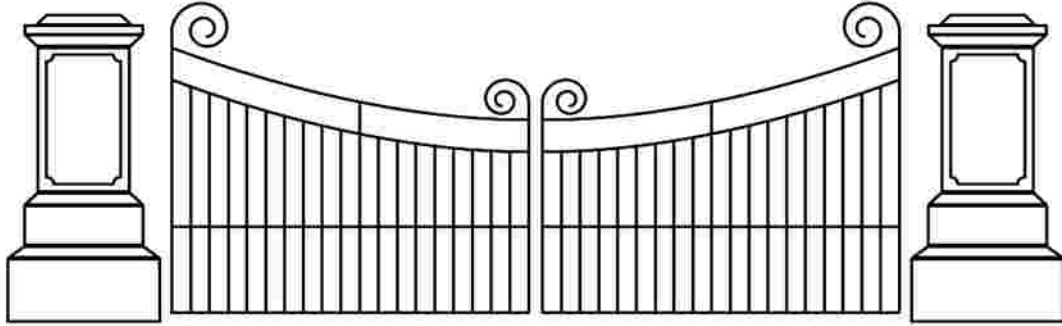


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

Volume 14. No. 2

NEWSLETTER

Apr-May 2011

(Issued June 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 speaker for April was Dr Jack Ford PhD, a historian with the Brisbane City Council Heritage Department. Jack has been a long-time friend of the CDHS supplying us with a continuous stream of information and assistance. He has also been active in helping with the preparation of the Chermside Cattle Dip Signage and preservation.

Using a power point presentation Jack explained three types of BCC listing:

- Heritage Listing is when the building cannot be altered externally but can be shifted around on the site.
- A Demolition Control Precinct is an area in which buildings can be altered but cannot be demolished.
- Heritage Incentive Scheme is when the council is prepared to grant up to \$7,000 for the owner to do repairs etc to a building and allow it to be Heritage Listed.

He then went on to list and comment on the 81 sites within the boundaries of the old Kedron Shire Council which are listed under the above categories plus several others that are listed by the State Government.

Jack supplied the CDHS with the list of the buildings and their location. The Society is now in the process of photographing and storing all of them. This is a big job and will take some time; we are looking for volunteer photographers.



Tess Quilter and Jack Ford in conversation after the presentation.

The May General Meeting was addressed by Margaret Glasson, an historian who is working on her PhD even though she has passed her 80th birthday.

Margaret focused on **the first Labor Government in the world** and it happened in Queensland. Anderson (Andrew) Dawson (1863-1910) was the 14th Premier of Queensland for six days from 1-7 December 1899. Although the government was short lived it received coverage by newspapers around the world.



Margaret adding one of her many anecdotes to her talk about 'it could only happen in Queensland'.

The story begins with the outbreak of the Third Boer War in South Africa. The imperial British Army with several hundred thousand men was having trouble trying to defeat a guerrilla army of Boer (Farmers) Commandos and wanted help from Australian bushmen who could ride, shoot and live off the land.

James Dickson, the then Premier of Queensland, lent a sympathetic ear to the request but parliament was in recess at the time. He then organised a reply to the British request by consulting with the Governor of Queensland and the Commandant of the Queensland Defence Force. The three wrote an affirmative reply, signed it and cabled it to London. The deal was done even though the Militia were only supposed to serve within the Colony.

The uproar that followed saw the Government

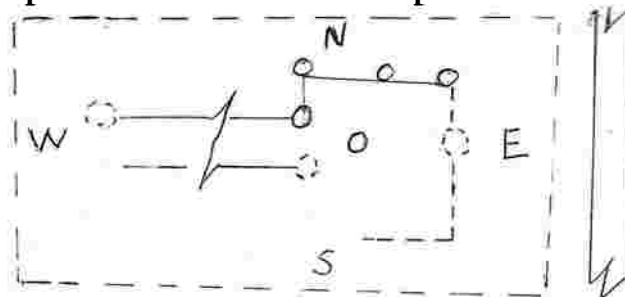
split and Dickson deposed as Premier. The only party which was willing to form a minority government was Labor and its leader, Dawson, became Premier but only until Parliament reconvened and another government was formed.

Anderson Dawson represented Gympie in the Qld Parliament from 1893 to 1900 and was a Senator from 1901 to 1906 where he became a Minister in the first Federal Labor Government under Prime Minister James Watson in April to August 1904. He died of pneumoconiosis (Black Lung) in 1910 and is buried at Toowong. The Federal electorate division of Dawson is named after him.

Margaret's grandfather, James Hower, enlisted in the 4th Queensland Imperial Bushmen, saw service on the African Veldt (Bush) and was revolted by what was happening; the burning of Boer farmhouses, the capturing of women and children and their imprisonment in concentration camps in which the conditions were appalling.

James kept a small notebook in which he recorded his impressions of the war as he experienced it. He wrote using an indelible pencil and it is still clear after a century. Many of the Australians did not want to continue fighting as they had no desire to be party to rounding up the Boer farmers who looked very much like the farmers back in Australia. Requests to be sent home met with a blunt refusal from General Kitchener.

Report on Chermside Cattle Dip



Rough Sketch Plan of Dip: Far Right is Gympie Road – NSEW are directions of the compass

— — — Proposed Fence around dip

Circles are Posts – Dashed Circles are Post Holes

— — — — Edge of concrete slab in yard but has not been fully cleared so we don't know where it goes

The entrance to the plunge bath, which is 13m long, is at the Western end and the Exit into the yard which is about 5m long.

The central post is the hinge post for the exit gate



The old Cattle Dip is located on the west side of Gympie Road almost opposite the Australian Tax Office. Note the posts in the middle right.

In November 2007 I was directed to the remains of the dip; five very weathered hardwood posts.



The only visible remains of the dip in 2007 were five standing posts and two lying on the ground.



Opposite Column

A 1947 aerial photo of the area: The dip is the white rectangle which forms the roof over the plunge bath. The two small white patches on the right are slabs of concrete which formed part of the exit draining yards. The Boulevard is the entrance to the Council offices and Wheller on the Park; it has recently been superimposed on the original photo. Gympie Road is the white lines on the right.



This dip was photographed at Barambah Station in 1914 and would have been similar to the Chermshire Dip which had the plunge pool covered. The gate on the exit could be swung so as to draft the cattle into either of the two yards.



The exit from the bath was found beside the post on the extreme right. The two concrete walls of the plunge bath are shown with the top two steps in between. A small pilot trench has been dug in the clay filling of the bath to show the concrete ramp with the small ribs across it to give the exiting cattle some foot holds as they clamber out.



This hole in the side of the northern wall of the bath could mark the entrance to the bath at the western end. It is the only post hole found so far in this wall and is 13m (about 44 feet) from the exit at the eastern end of the bath.



The post on the left is part of the photographic record done in 2009 when the Council temporarily fenced off and covered the area with wood chips to protect people from the arsenic in the soil. The slots in the post are to take the ends of the rails to form the yards at the exit of the dip.

In 2011 the Northern Catchment Network Inc came on the scene in the person of the Ranger, Donna Andrews, who had the finance to produce and erect a sign on the site. Jack Ford and I worked on the text for the sign.

The soil had to be tested for arsenic and six samples were taken and analysed giving the expected results of arsenic around the dip. In the process of testing the tester found one side of the plunge dip and we followed it up by measuring and photographing. This led to the discovery of the exit from the bath and the possible entrance but the latter has to be determined when some of the vegetation has been removed.

Just how and when the dip will be fenced and completed as part of the development of a park in this section of Downfall Creek remains to be seen. Meanwhile the sign will be unveiled at the Dip on National Tree Day 31st July 2011.

There are Ticks and the Cattle Tick: Australia

has its own native ticks, about 72 species, which are carried by native animals and can kill imported small animals such as dogs and cats. Then there is the Cattle Tick which was on cattle imported from Indonesia in the 1870s. It spread southward and eventually reached NSW.



A cow with a tick infestation: The cow, unless treated will produce less milk, sicken, lose condition and eventually die due to the poison injected by the parasitic tick.



Adult female cattle ticks engorged with blood. The tick penetrates the host's hide with its head, firmly anchors itself and proceeds to suck blood. When fully satisfied it drops off and lays its eggs starting off a new cycle.

Email about the 'History of Chermside'

From Wendy Witt (nee Currie)

I was born in 1951, so saw a lot of change through this period until about 1971 when I left home to live in Townsville. I enjoyed the Dawn Theatre history. We were sent to the matinee every Saturday afternoon. Think it was about 1 shilling to get in for kids. I remember the naughty kids rolling soft drink bottles and Jaffas down the aisles, and a

bossy guy with a torch who worked there coming in to sort out problems and interrupt teenagers canoodling in the back seats.

I would go home from the movie theatre and then round up my friends who had also been that day, re-enacting the whole movie. Some arguments would break out over casting issues with everyone wanting the best roles, but we usually sorted it out. I am still bossing kids around at the age of nearly 60 but am paid for it, being a guitar teacher in a school on the Gold Coast.

I remember that hall that was behind the old library in Gympie Road. My brother Peter who was born in 1955 used to go to a youth club that was held after school to do trampolining and general gymnastics. They would have presentation nights occasionally to hand out trophies.

A big change for Peter and me was when the Chermside pool was built. We were not serious competitive swimmers but would practically live there in summer, living so close by. It was a good social meeting place for teenagers as well.



The water slide tower at the present pool. All they needed in the 1960s was a puddle of water and they made their own fun.

Thanks again and well done for writing such an excellent book.

Letters such as this one are very welcome as feedback and they also add to our resources about the local area.

School Cleaning: The outside of the old School was cleaned by Mega Services on Friday 20th May and it is the first time since it was painted back in about 2000. Since we are a community organisation we were given a discount of \$150 so we now name Mega Services as a Sponsor of CDHS.

The reason for the cleaning, apart from the dingy state of the building, was to prepare the building for painting the external walls and roof. We are applying for a grant because the cost of painting is far beyond our resources. The process of preparing the application is long and complex with the member involved spending many hours working on the document and contacting expert opinion to support our cause.

A side issue to the grant application was to find out the age of the roofing iron which was newly fixed when the building was shifted. We had to know if the warranty had expired or not. A simple problem, easily solved? Hardly! It involved a search by our archivist through photographs which have been stored and dated from the time the building was shifted. Another case of several hours of work on the part of a couple of persons; then there was the problem of just what was the warranty..... and so on.....

We generally try to keep the inside clean ourselves and we periodically wash the two verandas. A couple of years ago we had two vandal proof taps installed on diagonally opposite corners of the building. By attaching hoses we are able to get a good supply of water all over the verandas. The front one gets very dirty due to our night-time visitors who insist on partying there. They are very good at making a mess, including on one occasion, a bloody mess.

Society Talks to Local Clubs: This year our free lectures are centred on our recently published book *The History of Chermside and District*. We take a section out of each chapter and illustrate them with photographs using our Data Projector and Lap Top Computer. We even take our own screen when there is no nice piece of white wall available.

This year we have eleven talks booked with a variety of organisations ranging from Grade 1 at St Kevin's Geebung (five year olds), to Wheller Gardens (one lively lady was 95), to Kittyhawk Club, to Aspley Uniting Seniors, to Qld Family History Society. We make no charges for these as they are part of our Community Service. But, hopefully, we will sell some more books.

Over the years the CDHS and the BCC have cooperated in signing local historical places around the area. These signs have grown more detailed over the years as the two following photos show.



One of the early signs in central Chermshire commemorating the first known shopkeeper in Downfall Creek. It is between Kidson Terrace and Norman Drive.



One of the latest signs commemorating the small goods factory in Geebung. This sign faces Newman Road on the banks of Downfall Creek beside the bridge. It contains a lot of historical information about the Gerns family.

The Chermshire Cattle Dip Signage unveiling on 31-7-2011 will be the twelfth Park and Place sign that the CDHS has been involved with erecting in the local area over the last decade. The BCC produces the sign and erects it, with an all up cost of some \$2,000, while the CDHS and the BCC Heritage Section provide the historical data. The CDHS finds the places of historical interest and gets the BCC interested.

History of Chermshire and Districts is selling well. We have 36 copies left out of the 250 printed which is pleasing. We are still concerned that there are many people out there who might buy the book if they knew about it. So tell your neighbours and friends and your uncles and aunts and children and grandchildren.

Reorganisation of Paper Archives: For the last several months Beverley Isdale, our Archivist, has been busier than usual reducing the bulk of our paper in our filing cabinets. We have about 20 drawers of filing in the Archives and they are getting to the bulging stage. In the early years we thought we could keep newspaper reports and a photocopy of each as well. Well we can't, so out goes the newspaper copy as it deteriorates anyway, while the photocopy is more stable.

Reorganisation of the Registration Records of Chermshire State School: Some years ago the Society obtained photocopies of the School Register from 1900 to 1981. We hope to get the remainder up to 1996 in the near future.

These A3 pages were then fastened into bundles of about 8 pages each. Ex-students like to look up their registration at reunions and see who else was in their class. The data is very handy for the researcher as it provides much information about the school and students over the years.

We now propose to put each page into a plastic envelope and put the lot into several large binders which will allow easy access. At present the papers are held by plastic rings on to a cardboard back and people turn the paper which is not good for preservation. The plastic envelope will protect the records for many years.

We need volunteers in these endeavours.