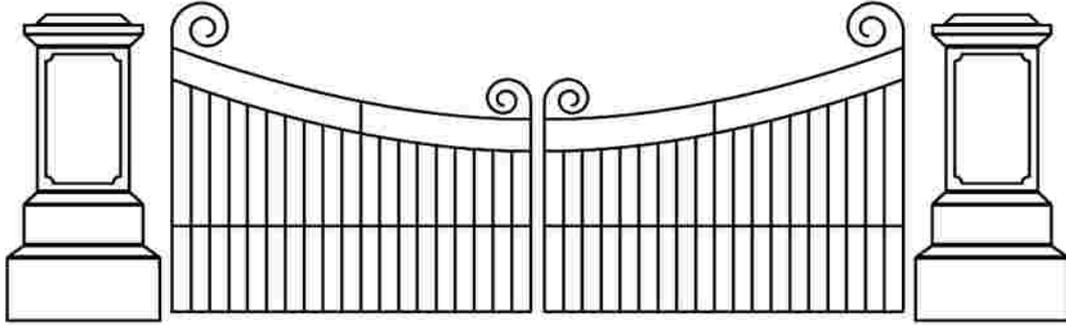


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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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.

Cattle Dip Sign: On Sunday morning, 31-7-2011, the CDHS, the Northern Catchments Network, the Dera Sacha Sauda Community Group and the Brisbane City Council organised by Donna Edwards unveiled the sign marking the remains of the Cattle Dip in the Chermside Dip Reserve. The occasion was the 103rd anniversary of the opening of the Dip in 1908 for the Kedron Shire which was located in Chermside.

The date was chosen because it was the National Tree Day for 2011. This date replaces Arbour Day which fell on different dates in various states.

The day opened at 9.30am with an introduction and planting demonstration by such people as Donna Edwards and John Wrench, and then the whole group of some 60 people set about planting 103 shrubs and grass plants to mark the passing of the years. The Dera Sacha Sauda Group and other workers had, over the last few months, cleared the planting area of dense growth in preparation for the new shrubs etc.

The Dera Sacha Sauda Group is made up of a number of young adult Indians and their children

who come from the Punjab in Western India. They devote much of their time to helping others and were very active in the recent floods. Some have taken up permanent residency in Australia while others are here temporarily.



Some of the visitors inspecting the exit to the plunge bath at the Dip. The old site hasn't seen a crowd like this since it was opened in 1908.

An interesting side issue was the great profusion of witchetty like grubs found on the mulch being used around the plants. They were the size of a very large man's thumb and turned out to be Elephant Beetle larvae; they probably taste the same as the witchetty grubs but no-one tried them. They were carefully placed back under the mulch.

The next item was to share the Dera Sacha Sauda food which was scrumptious, very nicely spiced and there was plenty of it.

Audrey Twining and Glenda Brunings represented the Vellnagel family whose original blacksmith forge is preserved on the other side of Downfall Creek; the family operated the Dip for some time.

Counsellor Fiona King officially unveiled the information notice which explains the part played by the Cattle Dip in the history of Chermside. In thanking the various groups who helped in developing the notice a genuine Condamine Cow Bell was rung several times. The gathering appreciated the 'tinny' touch as a link with the past.



Some of the Dera Sacha Sauda group planting some of the 103 native grasses and shrubs to commemorate the time that has passed since the Dip was opened.

This was followed by a member of the CDHS conducting a tour of the Dip to explain how the old structure worked to control the deadly Cattle Tick for over 40 years.

The follow up to the signage unveiling will be the building of a fence around the Dip remains to enclose the contaminated soil which contains minute traces of arsenic used to kill the parasitic ticks. This project is being undertaken by the BCC and Mountains to Mangroves (M2M) Group since the Downfall Creek Corridor is their area of interest.

The speaker at our September meeting was Kim Stone, a Town Planner, who works for the Urban Land Development Authority which is a part of the Queensland Government which aims to make affordable housing more readily available. It is at present developing the Fitzgibbon Chase estate which is bounded by Telegraph Road (N), Rail

Line (W), Beams Road & Carseldine Campus (S) and Cabbage Tree Creek and the built up area of Fitzgibbon (E).

The Close is a new venture in which more people will be accommodated in a given area in simpler homes and very little yard space. Little mowing of lawns and gardens will be needed.

The area will be pedestrian and bicycle friendly, close to train station and bus transport. The small house blocks, can accommodate double story houses with small court yards and single garages.

Blocks vary in size from 3perches (70m²) to 25perches (640m²). The very small ones would have two floors in the building which doubles the house area. The aim is to have 30 + dwellings per hectare with frontages varying from 20m (66feet) which is common in older suburbs to 5m (16feet) which was the size of the old worker's cottages in the 19th Century.



A row of terrace style houses in the new Close. Each house takes up the full block and has one level with three bedrooms, one bathroom and a two car garage.

Small parks will be scattered throughout the Close within easy reach of families. One large park is planned for large functions; all will have children's playgrounds.



This is not a large house; it is four units under one roof. Each one has two bedrooms, one bathroom and one car, all under one roof. Each unit is separated by a thick brick wall which ensures privacy.

The frontage on some streets with small housing blocks will have the houses wall to wall present-

ing an unbroken line along the street. It is a form of terracing with two floor dwellings but with a variety of fronts.

The Close is only 2km from Taigum Centro and other centres such as Chermside and Aspley are within easy driving distance.

The September meeting celebrated the 87th birthday of Jean Tune one of our founding members. Jean grew up in Chermside and has supplied the Society with a great deal of material that her family has preserved over the years. Especially valuable were the minute books of the Chermside State School Committee and those of the Chermside School of Arts Committee.



Jean seems to be deciding whether to read the card or cut the cake; she did both

Great news – We have been granted \$15,000 to paint the School – for some time we have been aware that the school would need painting as the last coat was applied in the late 1990s. We knew it would be costly and finally Terry Hampson got some quotes to see how much money we would have to raise; it was in the vicinity of \$15,000.

In early April 2011 Glenys Bolland undertook the task of ‘raising the wind’ via a grant from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation Community Benefit Fund. The process involves a long and complicated filling in of forms, constant checking of statistics and terms, lots of patience, many emails seeking advice and information, many consultations with officials and society members, to say nothing of the legal requirements, etc.

Glenys has spent a lot of time over the last six months seeking specialist advice especially in relation to the roof. The roof is a Colourbond finish which is not a simple paint job but a bonding of the paint with the steel. This complicates the whole job and then there is the problem of the graffiti on the roof which was painted over by the Council and has to be repaired. Etc, etc, etc. The cost for doing the roof alone is about \$6,000.

Then there is the problem of the protective cages on the outside of the windows. The cages, which are large, heavy and unwieldy, may have to be removed to paint under them and then reattached after the windows are painted.

Much time was taken up by the Executive discussing each of these and many other problems as they arose. But then it will be another 10-12 years before another Executive has to go through the process again.

New material on the website: A lot of new material has been made available to the society by Mrs Ros Burke a G. G. Granddaughter of Sergeant Major Henry Robert Lee whose unmarked grave we discovered in Lutwyche Cemetery some months ago.



This photo was taken sometime in 1914 and features: Standing Left Lt. Colonel Harry Lee, and Capt. Harry Lee, Seated left Cadet Corporal Clive Lee and Sergeant Major Henry Robert Lee.



This beautiful shot of Farrington House which was the Lee family home in Alderley comes from the John Oxley Collection. The Lees lived here while Harry Lee Snr was Head Teacher at Chermside State School from 1919 to 1923.



Susan (nee Heilbronn), Colonel Harry William Lee (Snr), Harry William Lee (Jnr). The Colonel was Head Teacher at Chermside State School from 1919 to 1923. This photo was cropped from a group photo showing about twelve members of the family. It was taken in C 1930 at Caboolture when Harry William was teaching in Toowoomba.

The Plucknett family story has been added to a page on our website with the help of Mrs. Yvonne Hirn a Great Granddaughter of James Vincent Plucknett and Charlotte Ann Tovey who arrived in Hervey Bay on the 19-7-1883. They made their way to Geebung via Wollongong where they took up a small farm.

Later they moved to Downfall Creek and set up blacksmith and carriage building workshops on the east side of Gympie Road between Pilba Street and Rode Road. This was the heyday of small manufacturing businesses in Chermside which

lasted till well after World War II when foreign competition produced cheaper products which local consumers bought.



This small photo shows the Plucknett forge in the middle and storage/workshops on either side. On the left are two sulkies, which were a specialty of the firm, while on the right is a heavy duty wagon. The latter may have been built by the firm or it may be there for repairs.

When automobiles began to replace horse drawn vehicles Plucknetts began to build motor bodies for specific purposes. The chassis and motor had to be imported from USA or England where the large manufacturers were situated.



The body of this tip truck was built on a Thornycroft chassis by the firm for the Caboolture Shire Council. It is a heavy duty work horse and needed to be tough. The tray was tipped up by a man turning a crank handle, on the side of the truck, which wound a rope attached to a pulley shown above the back of the cabin.

Grenville Plucknett sold the property to Alex Chesney for £2,000 in 1950 when Alex started selling caravans on the site. Chesney expanded the site to the corner of Rode and Gympie Roads

when the place became known as Chesney's Corner.

An interesting side issue that emerged from the interview with Yvonne Hirn related to the death of George Early in 1909. George owned the first car in Chermshire and it ran over him causing serious injuries from which he died a couple of days later.

Yvonne's father, Arthur Plucknett, now 94 and living in Wheller Gardens, recalls the incident that he learned from his elders. It appears that George had the car on the old Plucknett property at Geebung and was cranking it to start the engine, which was in neutral.

Apparently the brake was not on because, Arthur thinks, that George confused the car hand brake, which had to be pulled back, with the sulky brake, which was pushed forward by foot. Arthur's suggestion was that George pushed the hand brake forward. Consequently when George cranked the car, which must have been on a slight incline, it simply rolled forward and over George.

Earlier explanations placed the accident at the Plucknett workshop and the car was in gear when he cranked it; a car could not be cranked while in gear, it would be impossible to turn the crank.

Anybody got a better theory?



George Early is shown here driving the 1908 Belsize and taking the family for an outing. The hand brake is shown with what looks like the gear lever. The engine was started by a hand crank in the front of the engine; no self-starters in those days. It must have been awkward for the driver to get in and out of the car. George looks to be wearing a white coachman's coat for all weather protection. What protected the passengers? Umbrellas?

Question: How did the ladies keep their hats on when George hit speeds as high as 30kph?



The old Belsize was still going in 2002 when members of the CDHS visited the Nut property at Crow's Nest. Allan Nut restored the car which he bought in about 1940; it was put up for sale in 2004. One lady had a big hat and tied it on with a long scarf, who is she? The driver looks older than the car, should he be driving? If you look hard you can see the crank handle in front and several cranks in the car!

Vellnagel is the only local smithy to continue in the trade but only by processing different products from those of the earlier generations. The firm is still firing up the forge at Brendale and being run by the fourth generation of the family.

Charlie Murr was another Chermshire blacksmith who managed to survive by morphing his forge into a service station – blacksmith into motor mechanic.



The first service station in Chermshire was set up beside Murr's forge on the north corner of Latham Street and Gympie Road in 1924. A butcher, Bill Auld, rented part of the Murr's site and no doubt they worked together. They sold different brands of petrol in gravity feed bowsers. The petrol was pumped up from the tanks by hand. Today the service station and the smithy are long gone and have been replaced by service industries in the '800 Gympie Road' building below.

This imposing building is an example of the continuing change that has been going on in the Chermaside area. From the original inhabitants of the Turrbul Tribe who were hunters and gatherers, to the primary industries of farming, to the secondary industries of manufacturing and to the tertiary or service industries of today.



Originally built in the 1970s and renovated in 2007, this building houses the Bank of Q'ld, a suite of dental surgeries and a firm specialising in building modern outdoor living areas.

Thus the (his or her)story of Chermaside continues as one lifestyle replaces an earlier one and one industry is replaced by another. This is history, the story of change; it is still going on and will go on and on. Sometimes it means greater prosperity and sometimes the opposite; it all depends on how smart the players are.

 The 2011 Marchant Lecture will be held at 10am on Saturday 5th November at the Kedron-Wavell Long Tan Room and will feature Auntie Ruth Hegarty, a Queensland icon, as the speaker. She has just returned from a speaking tour of Tassie.

Bus Trip to the Hinze Dam is scheduled for Saturday 12th November leaving the Precinct at 8am. Cost is \$60.

Christmas Raffle – please bring an article to put in the hampers – tickets have been sent to members

Use of the CDHS website – Within less than a week there were five instances of people using the website.

- One downloaded information for a talk he was giving to a Toastmasters' meeting
- Another at a meeting produced a bundle of paper which he had downloaded
- An email - wanting to hire a room
- An enquiry from Wesley Mission for information on Wheller Gardens
- Another gent emailed me via the website outlining, with photos and a Google map, the following information:



The object lies 450m from the C' side Hist. Precinct at the confluence of Somerset and Downfall Creeks. It is made from 6mm steel plate and is closely riveted to seal the joints. It measures 2.5m long, 1.6m in diameter. It was probably made about 100 years ago and may have been dumped sometime after steam power gave way to electricity in the 1930s. I have tilted the photo to the vertical position. Rob Isdale is investigating.

Since it is on the land once owned by Alonzo Sparkes, who had a large slaughter house on the site, it was possibly used by him.