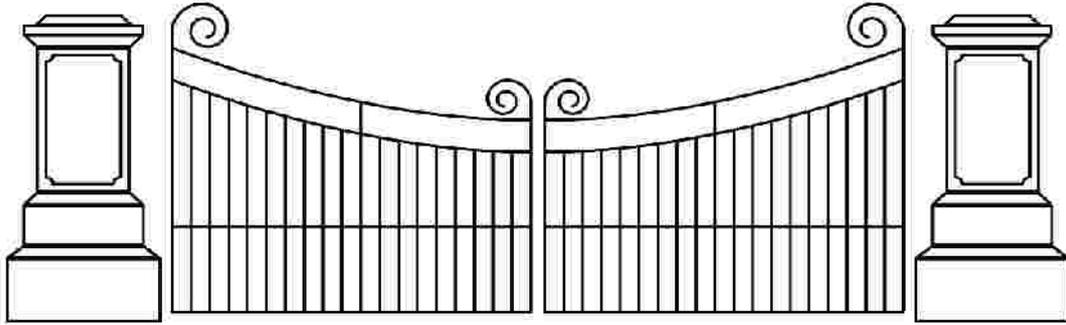


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

Aug-Sept 2012

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President 3261 1601
Terry Hampson

P.O. Box 416, Chermside Qld 4032

Secretary 3359 3022

Editor: Pat O'Shea 3260 7384

Carolyn Bowser

ABN 15 432 826 265

INC. No. IA28320

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 2012 Annual Meeting was held at the August meeting and the election of office holders was held resulting in the following:

Chair: Terry Hampson

Vice Chair: Patrick O'Shea

Secretary: Carolyn Bowser

Treasurer: Lois O'Shea

Executive Members: Gay Sparkes, Margaret Argo, Glenys Bolland, Jeanette Nurser



Gay Sparkes with a gift for her work as Secretary.

Five Year Rule: One of the rules in our Constitution is that an official serves for five years only in any capacity. This is designed to share the offices around the membership and keeps people from 'burning out'. Another positive side is that under the principle that 'a new broom sweeps clean' the new official has a chance to introduce new methods. And that has worked well over the years.

The down side is that it creates a headache replacing people when their term of office expires. This year we have divided up the job of secretary by parcelling out the jobs that one secretary usually does. Now, while Carolyn is the official Secretary, a job she performed very well some years ago, she will have two executive members helping her. The fact of the matter is that, mostly we are retired and all are 'getting on'; Carolyn is still working full time in a most demanding occupation. Thus, under the principle 'many hands make light work', we have decided on the above action.

Over the years I have noted that two local organisations which were prominent for over fifty years in Chermside closed because they lacked members who could take on official duties. The Country

Women's Association and Rotary Club were two prominent organisations in Chermside but both quietly closed. We don't want this happening to the CDHS Inc.

Opening of the 7th Brigade Memorial Shelter on Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside, on Saturday 18th August 2012

A crowd of about 40 people attended the impressive ceremony which was conducted by Cr. King assisted by a small contingent of the Australian Army Cadets. The 7th Brigade was represented by the C O Brigadier G C Bilton CSC, ADC and Brigade RSM W/O Thompson.

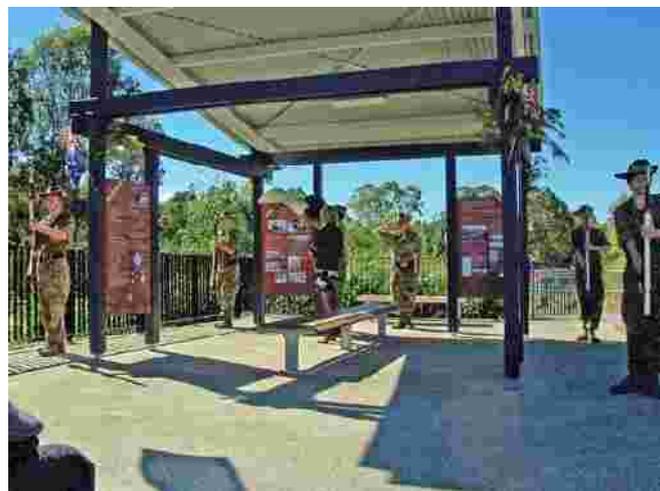


The Australian Army Cadets stand at ease watching the Flag Party on the left standing to attention while the Honour Guard takes up their positions on each corner of the Memorial Shelter.

The ceremony began with the cadets marching up from the Drill Hall, with flag flying and drums beating, to mount a guard on the Memorial Shelter. At 10am Cr King introduced Brigadier Bilton who gave a very succinct history of the 7th Brigade from the Great War up to the present mission in Afghanistan; he then proceeded to unveil the history plaque.

The other speaker, ex-Councillor and President of the Chermside Historical Society, Terry Hampson, gave a short account of how the naming of 7th Brigade Park came about on 28th March 1996 after the Brisbane City Council bought the area from the Commonwealth Government. He also mused on the connection between war, peace and history.

The ceremony ended with the departure of the Cadets and a short viewing time for visitors. All then wended their way back to the Drill Hall for an extended and cheery morning tea which was catered by the parents from Somerset Hills State School.



Brigadier Bilton and Cr. King unveil the History Plaque in the left back corner while the Honour Guard Present Arms.

While the ceremony was conducted on a tight schedule and according to military discipline there was a definite 'old village of Chermside' air about it all. There were the old Chermsiders who remembered the camp in WWII and the men who served; there were the mothers of the cadets who were obviously proud of their sons and daughters; there were the Councillor and the ex-Councillor. The whole ceremony and the signage melded neatly into the History of Chermside. And then there was the morning tea catered by the parents of Somerset Hills State School! Well done Chermside.



Cr. King listens attentively while Brigadier G C Bilton addresses the gathering with a history of the 7th Brigade.

A Co-operative Venture: About 90% of the photos and text for the plaques came from the Archives of the CDHS. This is our mission to preserve the history of our region and to make this material available to the public. The section on Army Structure, Colour Patches etc. was written

by Alex Morris of Kedron-Wavell RSL Sub Branch. Patrick O’Keeffe of the Drill Hall worked on much of the text. The whole display was designed and executed by the Graphic Arts section of the Brisbane City Council.

A fuller account of the proceedings will soon be posted on the CDHS website.

70th Anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay Commemoration Service: On Saturday 25th August, a crowd of about 350-400 people saw the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, present medallions to some 35 veterans of the battle which they fought from 25th August to 7th September 1942.

The commemoration was held in the newly sealed quadrangle of the Chermside Historical Precinct over which a large marquee was pitched for the occasion.



The marquee, which was hired for the day, cost \$1,500. The chairs were set out in precise order so that each veteran and their carer sat in the order in which the governor would come to them. They sat in the places assigned to them so the governor was able to address each one using their name.

The Governor gave a very accurate and well thought out speech:

- Outlining the battle and the horrific conditions under which it was fought.
- The importance of the battle to the defence of New Guinea and Australia.
- The breaking of the ‘invincibility myth’ of the Japanese Imperial Army; this was its first defeat during World War II.
- She was very critical of the ‘raw deal’ given to the Commanding Officer, Major

General Cyril Clowes, by the Australian HQ in Brisbane.

- She praised the men fighting in the mud, the men in the air and the ground crews who kept them flying.

Dear reader, I urge you to read the Governor’s speech when it is posted on the CDHS website; it is very vivid.

The Governor then unveiled the 70th Anniversary Commemorative Plaque which will be installed inside the Drill Hall.

The formal structured part of the ceremony being concluded with due solemnity, the informal part began with the Governor striking exactly the right note of good cheer with smiles, chats and laughter.

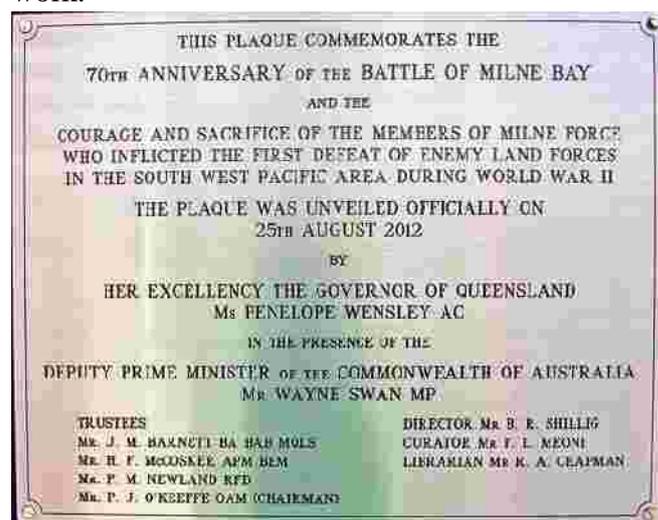
The Governor proceeded to present the specially struck medallions to each of the Milne Bay veterans who were present. The usual presentation of medals is for the recipient to come to the presenter but that was not going to work for the veterans, the youngest of whom was about 88 while the others were mostly in their nineties. So the Governor came to each one of them and that was quite a task in that she had to squeeze between the rows of seats. She did it cheerfully, with a smile and chat to each of the men who responded in kind; they all had a ball; so did the crowd. It was a very moving and memorable ceremony.



Cameras appeared from all quarters to catch snapshots of the individual presentations. In fact the Governor, at times, seemed to be swallowed up by the people milling around. The general opinion was that she deserved a medal for managing to create such a wonderful atmosphere.



the Anniversary Commemoration was borne by the local 9th Battalions War Memorial Museum C & P Trust. They had to work hard to raise the finance, which was substantial. This is to say nothing of the time they voluntarily contributed to the organisation of the event which ran like clock-work.



The plaque commemorating the anniversary of the battle is to be placed inside the Drill Hall as a permanent reminder of the importance of the battle in the history of Australia

The morning tea was catered by the parents of Somerset Hills State School inside the Drill Hall and in the precinct grounds.



No more medallions will be presented as the arrangement was strictly limited to this group of 35 veterans who signified their intention to attend after widespread advertising. Also part of the deal was that the Governor of Queensland presented the medallions. The cost for the medallions and

Snippet: During the ceremony a green tree snake fell out of a tree that was surrounded by onlookers. Probably the snake got the bigger fright and made a bee line for the nearest bush. The onlookers quickly made a corridor to allow the speeding snake safe passage and closed the opening after the sliding serpent sped silently to safety. The ceremony proceeded without a hitch.



Some of the CDHS members who attended the ceremony, all of them can remember the battle. Rob, Pat, Betty, Margaret, Lindsay and Joan

Website Counter for Visitors: The Society has recently downloaded a Hit Counter from Google Analytics. It has to be accessed because it does not show on the web site but it enables us to keep track of how much use is being made of the information on the website.

A large amount of information is recorded and available for our use. The Overview provides:

- Visitor numbers for previous 30 days are shown on a graph – for period ending 30-9-2012 there were 2,018 hits
- % of new visitors 85.63% (1,805)
- % of returning visitors 14.37% (303)
- Countries where visitors live:

Country / Territory Visits % Visits

1. Australia	1,600	75.90%
2. United States	152	7.21%
3. United Kingdom	77	3.65%
4. Canada	48	2.28%
5. New Zealand	20	0.95%
6. India	18	0.85%
7. Philippines	16	0.76%
8. France	15	0.71%
9. (not set)	14	0.66%
10. South Africa	12	0.57%

- Cities in where visitors live:

	City	Visits	%
1.	Brisbane	964	45.73%
2.	Sydney	305	14.47%
3.	Melbourne	184	8.73%
4.	(not set)	24	1.14%
5.	Adelaide	24	1.14%
6.	Perth	22	1.04%
7.	Redcliffe	16	0.76%
8.	London	16	0.76%
9.	Canberra	15	0.71%
10.	Hobart	13	0.62%

This is only a sample of the information that can be accessed using Google Analytics. It is primarily for the use of business firms who are trying to analyse their markets and adjust their products to suit those markets. It is another example of the expanding use of the internet by the community.

Tram Lines. About six weeks ago one of our members, Rob Isdale, managed to secure about a metre of the tramline rail which used to carry people to and from Chermside in the pre-1969 years.

The CDHS has been in contact with the BCC and the State Government via the local representatives proposing a Tramway Memorial sign. We suggest a good place would be in the Chermside Bus Interchange which involves both sections of government.

Our proposal includes using the section of tramline, sanded, cleaned up and suitably preserved along with a short chronology of the romance of Tram and Chermside. It has all the makings of a Greek Tragedy with Chermside abandoning the tram for the car. Are they co-existing happily since 1969? What will the next period of history reveal?



In 1947 Chermside welcomed the trams with great enthusiasm, state of the art public transport. Good bye shank's pony, farewell bicycle, now we ride in style. (Hamilton Archives)



In 1969 Chermside farewellled the trams as they plodded off into oblivion along with the horse drawn trams that came to Brisbane in 1885. (Val Kowalski photo)

A mea culpa: Recently a correspondent via email contacted the editor and queried my presentation of the Rules for Teachers 1879 and 1915.

Rules for School Teachers 1915

These rules seem to be for female teachers.

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract;
2. You are not to keep company with men;
3. You must be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am unless attending school functions;
4. You may not loiter down town in any of the ice cream bars;
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the Chairman of the Board;
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother;
7. You may not smoke cigarettes;
8. You may not dress in bright colours;
9. You must wear at least two petticoats;
10. Your dress must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle;
11. To keep the school neat and clean you must:
 - § Sweep the floor at least once daily;
 - § Scrub the floor at least once a week with hot soapy water;
 - § Clean the boards (chalk board) at least once daily;
 - § Start the fire at 7am so the school room will be warm by 8am.

Glen Bermingham asked me what was my source for this above list and I had to admit that I had not checked my source. I had seen this list on some occasions in the past in Teachers' publications and took that as sufficient. Glen pointed out that it seems to be of USA origin rather than Australian.

Unfortunately for me he is quite right, not to check sources is, for an historian, a very big sin, hence the mea culpa.

I am not sure what to do with the rules but Glen gave me a couple of websites in the USA that comment on them. However the following little list is authentic, it is from the archives of Education Queensland.

Beneath that sweet exterior the Bush school teacher of the 1880s was

More than just a pretty face

She had to be able to:

- Set a broken leg in a crisis
- Patch the shingles on the school roof
- Cook lunch on an open fire
- Wall paper the residence with newspapers to keep out the winter winds and snakes
- Stay fresh all day from a weekly swim in the dam
- Teach a class of children aged five to fifteen
- Ride a horse four miles to school
- Fight off swaggies who attempted to camp in the school
- Keep the school property free of goats and cattle
- Study at night for her end of year examination.

ALL THIS, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE



The bush was a hard place