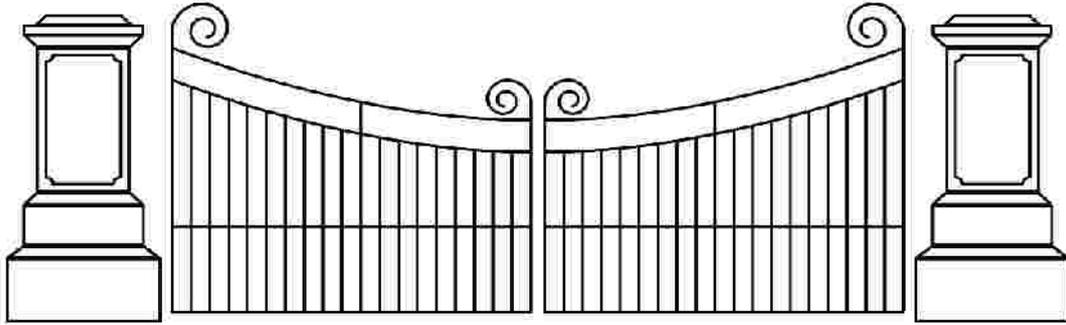


*Preserving our past is our future*



# Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

**Volume 15. No. 6**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Dec-Jan 2013**

**(Issued Feb. 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.**

Before the December meeting started people were able to inspect the new vinyl floor covering of the meeting room. It was a good time to have a good look as all the furniture had been removed at the end of the November meeting. Some small items had been returned, but not two large ones - the church pew and the official's desk.

Of the two items, by far the heaviest was the pew; they made them to last in the old days. And being a very long item it could not go through the door. It had to be lifted and passed through the large opening in the hall side of the room. This took several strong boys and girls, which let me off the hook, and they hoisted it with gay abandon, up and over straight across the room to its new position under the casement windows along the south wall.

The large desk was easily handled by fewer stout hearts as it was considerably lighter, I helped with that one.

Shifting both items was an example of the old adage "many hands make light work" and while there were plenty of cooks they didn't spoil the

broth. Thanks to everybody for making light of the work.

After the meeting the Annual Christmas party was held in lieu of a talk by a visiting speaker. We did not have a Christmas Hamper raffle this year because we were so busy with other matters that we forgot all about it. Sad!!

Since it was so hot outside in the bright sunshine we stayed indoors and opened all the windows in the meeting room. Including the pivot hung sashes in the north and south walls along with the four roller shutters on the back veranda. The east wind blew in the back and out the front of the building; natural air conditioning. The side windows were opened as well.

There were lots of goodies and, although everybody tucked in there was quite a lot left over which people had to take home for tea. The usual mess was left on our new floor but a couple of the girls got mop and bucket the following week-end and restored our new floor to its pristine condition. Thanks girls!!

And thanks to Kedron Wavell Social Club for a timely grant to cover the three thousand clams which was the cost of our new floor covering. In fact there was a sizable amount left over which we will use for some display structures for our pictures; more about that in the next issue.

The 2012 Marchant Lecture was held in the Long Tan Room in the Kedron Wavell Services Club on Saturday morning 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The speaker was

### Air Vice-Marshal, Julie

### Hammer



Julie was born in 1955 and attended Wavell Heights Primary, Brisbane Girls Grammar and Hendra High School, and in 1971 was placed 8th in the State of Queensland in the Senior Public (Matriculation) Examination; a B.Sc. (Hons) in Physics at the University of Queensland followed.

It was not easy for a physicist to find a job so she joined the RAAF so she would have something to

do “*while waiting for a proper job*” and that was the title of her talk. Like many other women who joined in 1977 she was appointed an Education Officer. In 1981 she joined the Engineer Branch shortly after it was opened to women and was transferred to Amberley where she worked on the FIIs. One of her first problems was to get permission to wear trousers instead of her uniform which included a skirt. As she put it ‘I would have looked silly trying to clamber over a FIII in a skirt’.

In 1985 she was promoted to Squadron Leader and transferred to Melbourne for a while. In 1986 Julie attended the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell in the UK to study full time, on full pay, for her Master of Science in Aerosystems Engineering degree. In 1987 she returned to Australia and worked on the P-3 Orion ESM Project as project engineer and then, on promotion to Wing Commander, as project manager.

In 1993 she took command of the Electronic Warfare Squadron in Adelaide and was the first woman to command an operational RAAF unit. Normally this command was given to an aircrew member and Julie was not such a person. In trying for the command she identified what skills and experience a commander would ideally need to do the job and then demonstrated that she was the best applicant.

This unit programs the software and *threat* libraries in self-protection equipment such as radar warning receivers, jammers, and flare and chaff dispensers. The process involves combining engineering, intelligence and operational planning skills.



*On graduation from training in 1977 Julie became part of an overwhelming male organisation.*

Returning to Canberra in 1996 she served as Project Director with the Defence Acquisition Organisation and completed a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies at the Joint Services Staff College. The same year she was promoted to Group Captain.

In 1999 Julie studied for a year at the Royal College of Defence Studies in the UK where she did the course in strategic and international studies. On returning to Canberra she was promoted to Air Commodore, the first woman to achieve One Star rank in the Australian Defence Forces



*In 1993 Julie was very much in command of the Electronic Warfare Squadron, the first non-air crew commander and the first female commander.*

From 2000 to 2001 she was Director General of the Information Services Branch, responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Department of Defence strategic communications systems and its restricted and secret computer networks. This was at a time when Defence was interconnecting and consolidating what had been many previously diverse and unconnected networks. This organisation comprised a staff of 1,500 at 160 locations.

During 2002 and 2003 Julie was the First Female Commandant of the Defence Force Academy in Canberra. Here she acted as a role model, not only for the young women to show them how far a woman can rise in a military environment, but also for the young men, so that they became used to having a female boss from early in their careers.

For over 28 years, Julie served in the fields of aircraft maintenance, technical intelligence, electronic warfare, and information and communications technology (ICT) systems. At the time of her

transfer to the Reserve in August 2005, she was the most senior woman in the Australian Defence Force. She was the first serving woman in the history of the Australian Defence Force to achieve One Star rank which she did in 1999 followed by Two Star rank in 2003.

Throughout her career, Julie has been a visible trail blazer for women in the military both within Defence and beyond, and has been a role model for women in engineering and other non-traditional professions. She has been actively engaged in Engineers Australia and in 2008 was the first female National President in its then 89 year history. In her frequent public speaking engagements, she focuses on women's contribution in the workplace and the profession, and also speaks more generally on leadership. Her message to young women is: "If Julie Hammer can do it, so can I."



The above photo, which is on our website in the section on The Prince Charles Hospital, carries a question about the nature of the markings on the nurses' caps.

Jennifer Helyar, who was a student nurse at the time, sent the following email reply:

In response to your questions about the headgear of the nurses:

The veil used to be cloth - to keep the hair up and out of the way while caring for patients. It eventually morphed into cardboard pieces of nonsense that just caught on the curtains etc., so they were eventually discarded in the late '70s. Then, to show who were the charge sisters and who were ordinary ones, they introduced epaulettes of different colours.

The markings on the student nurses' hats denote their year of training. As they were hospital-trained, it was an easy way of showing the seniority and experience of the nurse. I don't know the reason for the different colours at Chermside. Each of the hospitals had slight differences with the headgear. Because of the large number of intakes per year, at PAH, after the nurse had completed and passed her lectures for the year she earned a diagonal "bar" across the back of her stripes, showing her greater knowledge base.

Thank you Jennifer, can anyone who worked at The Prince Charles shed any more light on the markings?



*This is a photo of the Vellnagel forge in its original position which was where the World War I memorial gates now stand. It was shifted to its present position, much to August's annoyance, in 1921.*

**The following notice appeared in the Courier Mail:**

*VELLNAGEL, Irene Late of Zion Lutheran Home, Nundah. Formerly of Sydney Street, Kedron. Passed away on 5th January, 2013. Aged 99 Years Loving Wife of Alfred (dec'd). Devoted Mother of Fay (dec'd), Paul and Deirdre. Grandmother of Alan and Vivienne, Norman and Gabi, Darren, John and Suzanne. Great-grandmother of six. Family and Friends are invited to attend Irene's Funeral,*

*to be held at St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Buckland Road, Nundah, on Thursday, 10th January, 2013, commencing at 10 a.m..*

Irene's death marks the gradual passing of a generation of the Vellnagel family founded by August and Christiana in the late 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Their blacksmith's forge still stands at the intersection of Gympie and Murphy Roads as a memorial to their work in building the Chermside of today. The fourth generation of the family still "smites the black metal" at Brendale 115 years after August first lit his forge at Downfall Creek in 1897.

**North East Community Support Group Incorporated is holding an Open Day and Fund-raiser**

**Saturday 23  
March 2013**

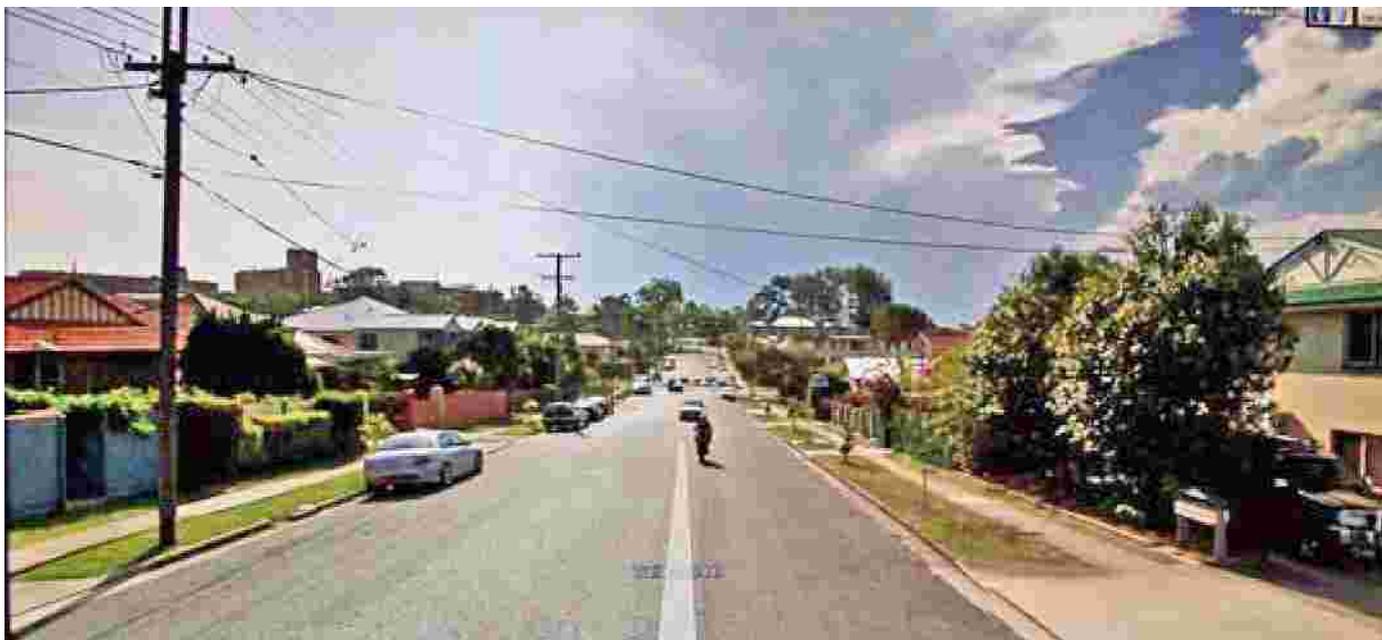
54 Handford Rd Zillmere  
**For more information Phone  
38652880 or  
Email: [supt.zcc@necsg.org.au](mailto:supt.zcc@necsg.org.au)**

Beverly Isdale's research on Wallace St. Chermside continues. This latest 'nugget' was the result of searching English Archives, Australian newspaper files of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Land Department files, Electoral Rolls and other venues. It takes time but so far we haven't found an easier way.

The following report is about one woman named Kalb, Mary Anne, and later, Knights, Mary Anne

Mary Anne Kalb was born in London about 1825. She was in Sheffield in 1846 when she married John George Kalb. Their son Ferdinand was born there in 1849.

According to the 1851 census, she was living in a large household with her husband and son, as well



*Wallace St. street scape as seen by Google today, try and imagine how it looked in 1866!*

as her father-in-law, mother and husband's niece. All the Kalb members were listed as British subjects, born in Austria. I could not find any reference to anyone in the family in English records after 1851.

A Mary Anne Kalb arrived in Brisbane on the "Bayswater" in 1863, aged 38 and her occupation was a matron, not matron of the ship. She advertised as a ladies monthly nurse in the *Brisbane Courier*. She was employed by the Lady Lamington Lying-In Hospital but resigned after a few months over a disagreement with the Board. She again advertised for private patients.

In 1866, she bought 2 blocks of land, Portions 533 and 534 in Parish of Kedron in what later became Wallace Street Chermerside. She also bought land in Boyd Parish, in the Logan/Beenleigh area. She must have returned to England at some time because in 1867 she appeared in the "Bayswater" shipping list again, still 38 and with her son Ferdinand, 14 (though he was listed as Frederick). He was really 18.

Mary Anne Kalb married George Knights on 9 March 1867 in Toowoomba. A notice appeared in the *Brisbane Courier*. George Knights drowned in a mining accident in Gympie in 1868.

Mary Anne Knights sold her land to Alfred Hubbard, later Mayor of Brisbane, in December 1869

and January 1870 and disappeared from Queensland records. She was mentioned in *Brisbane Courier* 26 June 1884 as the matron on board the immigrant ship "Crown of Aragon" so maybe she worked for some years on passenger ships.

A notice appeared in the *Brisbane Courier* in 1882 from a lady in Edinburgh seeking information on her sister Mrs Martha Herbert and daughters who came to Queensland in 1862, later followed by her sister Mrs Mary Anne Kalb. Perhaps that is the reason that Mary Anne came to Brisbane.

She wasn't in Brisbane in 1887 when Ferdinand died. He was involved with the Royal Foresters and died aged 38 in Toowong. He was buried at Toowong Cemetery but his age was unknown, so presumably the informant didn't know – Mary Anne would have been able to supply the information.

She's listed in the Queensland Postal Directory at Kennigo Street, Gregory Terrace for some years. She died there in 1908 and was buried in the same grave with Ferdinand.

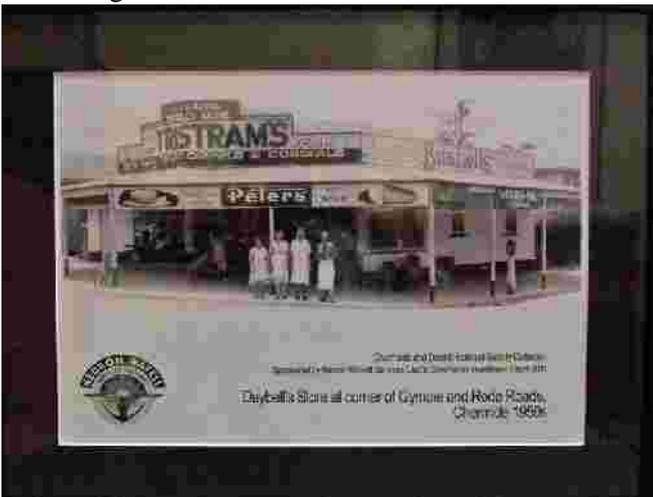
This intriguing little story has now been told because a lady bought, and later, sold land in Wallace St. Chermerside. It gives us a little insight into the life of one person; how many more stories lie in the archives of Wallace St? We will never know; historical research can only find what is left after the actors in the street have gone their way.

## Display Photos for Exhibitions.

In the last edition of our Newsletter we mentioned the new vinyl floor covering being laid in the meeting room. This month we are going to talk about the new photo exhibition that we have developed over the last few months.

Thirty photos were selected from our archives of over a thousand local scenes varying in age from over the century to last week. Yes, we photograph current events and buildings which are about to be demolished or removed and then photograph the replacement building or open space. And around Chermside and District you have to be quick; often a sign will be spotted and we watch the place but often it's a case of 'here today, gone tomorrow' literally.

The thirty photos went off to a Photographic studio for printing and then to a picture framer for the mounting.



*Daybell's store on the corner of Gympie and Rode Roads in the 1950s. Many owners and businesses have subsequently occupied this site; today the big boot is ensconced high above a brand new paint store.*

The result, as the photo shows, is quite stunning especially when you see ten of them lined up as they were in Chermside Library on their huge display wall. The black and white motif adds poignancy to the old photos; they came from the black and white era. And they catch the eye of the modern passer-by who is used to colour images.

The collection was financed with a grant of \$2,500 from Kedron Wavell Services Club, to whom we gave two photos for their walls; of course we may have to borrow them from time to time for our displays.

Like so many of our activities the story continues. When we went to mount our second exhibition we found that there was nowhere to hang the pictures. They had to go into glass showcases and stand up on their own; our erstwhile president had to find legs for each of ten photos, and in a hurry. He did; he seems to know almost everybody in the local area and the ones he does not know, our archivist does.

A friendly Frame Warehouse was located and they fitted legs, or rather bent frames, two on each of the ten photos at a cost of \$280 and the exhibition went ahead on time. We used the same lot outside the Long Tan Room when Air Vice Marshall Julie Hammer gave the Marchant Memorial Lecture.

A Frames – our current objective is to have built a couple of A Frames to display our Photo Display in places where there is neither hanging space or show cases. We have done the designing and at present are waiting for a price to see if we can afford them. If we do succeed then we can use the A Frames indoors and out of doors when we go to exhibit photos at one of the local day fairs which are held in parks.

Then there is the Tram Memorial which is still in the wide blue yonder, but we do have a one metre length of very old tram line. One of our members who owns a truck and can charm a bird off a bough, managed charm the wrecking company into donating it to the Society.

Speakers at coming meetings:

March: John Bowden who is involved with Mountains to Mangroves and will speak on a history of the Aboriginal people of the Northside.

April: Marilyn England who spoke to us last year on World War II in Brisbane will talk on the great flood of 1893 and its effects on Brisbane.

**Note: Membership fees for 2013 are now due. You can pay them by Cash, Cheque or Internet Banking with Heritage Bank: - BSB 638 070 - A/c No. 6774091 (Please include your name)**