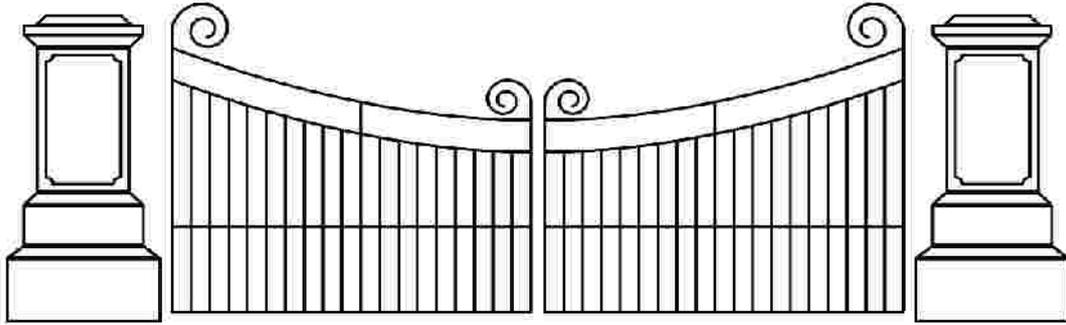


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

Volume 16. No. 3

NEWSLETTER

June -July 2013

(Issued August Meeting)

President 3261 1601

P.O. Box 416, Chermside Qld 4032

Secretary 3359 3022

Terry Hampson

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.

Speakers: For a long time we have been inviting speakers to come and give us a talk on their particular interest. However we have decided to revive an earlier system of getting members to talk about their interests and combining the two systems.

At the June monthly meeting Bradley Scott gave us an outline of the work he is currently doing on what he has named The Lutwyche Cemetery Project. It is a very ambitious project involving photographing all the graves and monuments in the cemetery. So far he has photographed 1,003 graves with a wide angle shot of the entire grave and a detail of the inscription(s). He has only some 26,000 graves to go.

To get an idea of the magnitude of the project go to his website at bradleyscott.org and read what he has done so far. Bradley has a deep interest in history and is an active member to the Society; he is also very computer literate.

He has two major reasons for indexing the cemetery; first to make possible an easy access for peo-

ple to find relatives or friends, secondly to alert people to the poor condition of many of the graves. He even suggests that it might be a good idea to have a 'Friends of Lutwyche Cemetery' similar to the one at Toowong. Of course by putting it all on his website he is making it readily accessible to the whole world.



Bradley used his laptop and the large monitor behind him to illustrate his work. The little gadget on the edge of the lectern is a voice recorder operated by Rob Isdale who also took the photos.

The process he is following is divided into three stages.

- Firstly, taking at least two photos of each grave and listing the basic inscription of name, dates and age.
- Secondly, having a separate page for each grave with photos and the information from stage one.
- Thirdly, a full transcription of the grave will be added to the above data.

Bradley is planning to research the evolution of high rise in Chermside, the evolution of the boundaries of Chermside and a Data Base of all the archives of Chermside.

The second speaker was Terry Hampson who spoke about a relative, 'N' Brown. The Browns side of Terry's family arrived in Sydney from Scotland in 1848; they then migrated north to the Darling Downs where they farmed at Spring Creek near Allora.

Edward Stanley 'N' Brown was a prominent sportsman in the district before he enlisted in World War I. After fighting in the Middle East he contracted malaria and was invalided home and discharged. He joined the Queensland Railways and completed his apprenticeship as a Fitter and Turner but resigned in 1925 to enter the Insurance industry

He had a very distinguished career in football, including a tour with the Kangaroos, before retiring with knee injuries in 1925. He continued to play golf, cricket and lawn bowls, all with great success in local and state competitions.

In 1940 he took over the management of a transport firm in Toowoomba and in 1944 he founded his own firm of Brown Transport Pty. Ltd. and remained as Managing Director till his death in 1972.

In about 1960 the grandstand at Toowoomba Sports Ground was named after 'N' Brown the reference being due to his white hair or to a Kiwi shoe polish 'N' Brown' or a combination of both.

In 1999, an Aboriginal academic, Stephen Hagan, noticed the name in the then Clive Beghofer Stadium and commenced legal proceedings to have

the 'N' removed. The process lasted for about nine years and almost bankrupted Hagan.

The case went to the High Court, the Federal Court of Australia and on to the United Nations, but was lost in all courts.

The matter was finally resolved by the then Federal Sports Minister, Judy Spence, who ruled that the 'N' be removed, and the stand was demolished in September 2008.

It was a long drawn out dispute with no slighting of the Aboriginal people intended and, apparently, none was taken by the indigenous Toowoomba people but the name had to go.

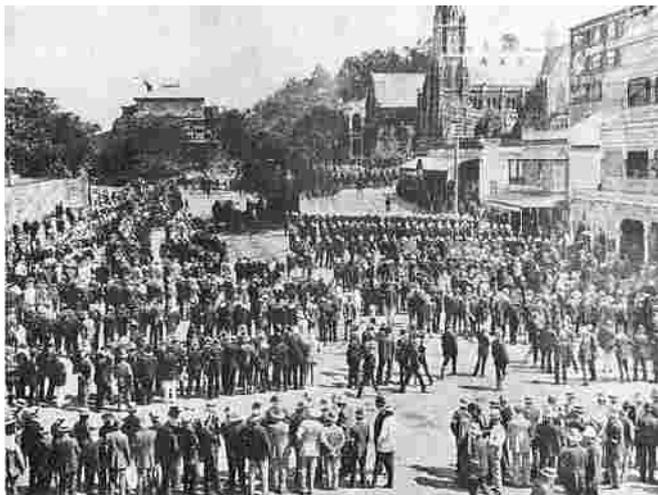
The Brisbane Tramway-General Strike of 1912 was the subject of the July speaker, Peter Hyde from the Tramways Museum. Peter used a wide variety of photos from 1912 to illustrate his talk.

The people of Brisbane were just getting adjusted to the railways using steam locomotives and horse drawn trams when the electric tram appeared on the scene in 1898. Not only did the horse disappear but the new trams seemed to go without any visible locomotive unit. Electricity was the new motive power; times they were a 'changing, again.

With the new trams came a new manager from the USA, Joseph Stillman Badger, who came to make the system work his way and he would brook no opposition to his rule. He even had his own private tram car with carpets, drapes and easy chairs to take him to and from his office and carry other worthies whom he invited to join him. He insisted that the drivers and conductors on the trams wear uniforms and distinctive white 'foreign legion' caps or kepis. He wanted his men to look the part of a new, efficient, disciplined work force and he got it.

Over the years a simmering resentment built up to his autocratic methods, especially among the nascent Communist Party, the 'Red Peril' of the Brisbane scene. The actual 'trigger' which started the strike was Badger's prohibition of the tramway men wearing their union badge while on duty. (Sounds like the current dispute about banning workers from wearing religious badges while on duty.) The date was 18th January 1912 when all

the tramway men wore their badges. As far as they were concerned the badges did not interfere with their efficiency. As far as Mr. Badger was concerned it was mutiny; he reacted by sacking those who wore their badges to work, which was most of them.



Market square, now King George Square, was the assembly point for marchers and also for the police. Photos show the mounted police, the special Constables rank upon rank preparing to go out on the streets; to fight a savage foe? Hardly, the strikers were unarmed. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)

The sacked men held marches in the city and the police were on edge, with the Premier having them all on duty and then swearing in masses of Special Constables who armed themselves with wooden batons. Joan Hamilton brought in the baton her grandfather, Thomas Hamilton, made from a wheel spoke; he was thankful that he never had to use it.



Women unionists marching towards the north entrance to the Victoria Bridge during the General Strike of 1912. The Treasury building is in the background. (Courtesy of State Library of Qld)

The women rallied and joined their men; the Clothing girls marched on Parliament House, led by diminutive, 35kg, 70 year old Emma Miller, a staunch fighter for women's rights, where they

met the police led by Commissioner Cahill on Black Friday 2nd February 1912. She is credited



with unseating the Police Commissioner from his horse by stabbing either the Commissioner or his horse with her hat pin. Emma's bronze statue, complete with bonnet and handbag, now stands in the Speaker's Corner, King George Square; Emma was a regular 'pocket rocket' in a long 'hobble' skirt.

The other Queensland unions soon became involved and the strike spread into the rest of Queensland. It

was when the Railway men joined that the premier became really alarmed. This could cut food supplies to Brisbane, but he could not do much about it.

The strike continued and Premier Denham (Con.) called for help from Prime Minister Fisher (Lab.) who sent a donation to the Strike Fund. Governor McGregor cabled London for a British Warship to come into Brisbane and somebody even tried to get the German Government to send a warship; no warships showed up. Someone even tried to kill the Police Commissioner by shooting through his office window; the assassin missed. After about a fortnight the strike began to die out, food was running short and the workers were running out of money.

The Tram Company won the struggle and no badges were worn by employees until the 1980s. Mr. Badger refused to re-employ the strike leaders but allowed the ordinary strikers to work. The bitterness lingered on for a couple of generations.



This photo was taken during the Great War at Yungaba, the Immigration Centre at Kangaroo Point on the Brisbane River. It was given to me by a friend, Ken, who walks the bike tracks in the Chermshire parks. Ken asked me to try and find where it was taken and if it could be kept by a history society for posterity. It is an excellent photo of 119 soldiers and nurses all lined up military fashion and still looking at the photographer after a hundred years.

I had no idea where the building was located but the word Toowong was written in pen and ink in the bottom right corner beneath the photo. So I turned to the Towong History Society and the Secretary, Leigh Chamberlain, but there was no record of a military hospital at Toowong in the Great War.

Leigh thought it might be Yungaba but could not be certain so she put me in touch with Claire Wilson from the Centennial History Society who agreed with Leigh and provided me with an excellent photo of Yungaba taken in 1950. There is hardly any background to the portrait photo but there was enough to identify the structural details on Ken's photo with those on the Yungaba photo to identify the original location of Ken's photo.

Ken told me that his grandmother had been a nurse during the First World War and had worked in military hospitals. If you look carefully at the left side (bottom) you will see an X on the nurse second from the extreme left. That is Ken's grandmother, Molly, when she would have been in her early twenties.

Molly went on to marry one of her patients and have Ken's mother, but her husband, who had been gassed, died. She remarried, had two more children, continued nursing and became a hospital matron. Molly outlived her second husband and died at 96 in 1991.

This is a snippet of the story of one person out of the 119 in the photo; what happened to the stories of the other people?

I sincerely thank Ken, for preserving the photo, also to Leigh and Claire for their excellent and unstinting co-operation, which made the identification possible.

The 2013 William ‘Billy’ Sing Memorial commemoration took place on Sunday 19th May at Billy’s grave in the Lawn Section of Lutwyche Cemetery. It generally followed the routine of recent years but with the added participation of the Light Horse 2/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry.

Billy originally joined the Light Horse in the Great War but served in the 31st Battalion Infantry when he was sent to Gallipoli in 1915.



The Light Horse contingent marched down from the high ground and mounted guard around the grave, facing outward, heads bowed and rifles crossed at the ready. They remained motionless during the ceremony, which took about 45 minutes; no mean feat for elderly men.

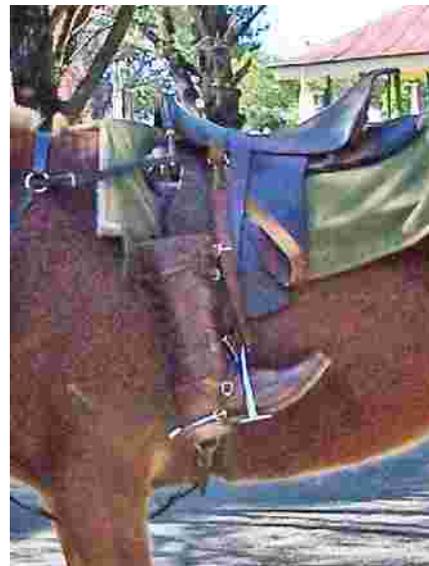


After the speeches and laying of the wreaths the armed guard about turned, faced inward to the grave and presented arms, the Infantry men saluted, the Ode was recited and the bugler sounded the Last Post/Rouse. Note the long bayonet of the Light Horse men, used as a short sword in the famous charge at Beersheba in 1917.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the Light Horse contingent marched back up to the high ground where, traditionally, the horses were kept while the riders were operating on foot as infantry; they were, in effect, mounted infantry.



Another tradition of the Light Horse at a funeral or a commemoration was to have a riderless horse with reversed cavalry boots in its stirrups.



This is the middle part of the horse cropped from a larger photo to show the brown boot against the brown horse. There is also an empty bayonet scabbard as well; the dead soldier does not need these weapons. I am not sure if there is an empty carbine/rifle scabbard on the other side.

Blast From The Past

Chermside News Aug & Sep 1913

Chermside State School was singled out in *The Queenslander* for having displayed “good plain hemmed handkerchiefs” at the Brisbane Exhibition. Hector Hamilton received a special mention in the “Illuminated Text and Ornamental Writing” section.

The debt owing on the Chermside School of Arts building was largely eradicated by a fundraising garden fete & flower show, held on Sunday, August 31st at the Chermside State School.

Bradley Scott (Our new columnist.)

Bev Isdale takes us on a Visit to City Hall to see the recently completed renovations.

On 22 June 2013 about 18 members and friends of CDHS had a very enjoyable visit to the City Hall. We enjoyed the novel experience of being tourists in our own city.

The bus took us straight to the City Hall where we had a guided tour from a very knowledgeable guide. She took us to see the Auditorium with the magnificent changing light display set into the dome. We were also fortunate enough to hear a rehearsal where the acoustics were being given a good test. We admired all the gold leaf work throughout the area, well out of reach of curious hands!

The original courtyards had been converted to office space many years ago but have now been returned to their original function. They even have original flagstones set into tiny gardens.

We were fortunate to be taken to the sub-basement, two stories below ground level, where there is now a fully operational commercial kitchen. Workers discovered 1940s walls where soldiers passing through Brisbane had left their signatures. Workmen have also left some of the original building supports – we were amazed that the building had stayed vertical for so long.

The last part of the tour included the visit to the Museum of Brisbane to see displays of Rugby Union memorabilia, highlights from Expo, and a large series of paintings and prints of views of the Brisbane River but we'll have to go back to see all we missed on our speed tour through those sections.

Some of us did manage to investigate The Shingle Inn and its goodies, even having cakes and coffee for lunch – very decadent.

If you intend to visit the City Hall, allow plenty of time to see all its restored delights.



Rob Isdale photographed this magnificent shield/plaque on the wall during the tour of City Hall. It looks like it is cast in bronze and the figures indicate some of the industries of early settlement. It is not the City Crest, so can anyone enlighten us?

Speakers for future CDHS Meetings

September 1st Major John Wright – Manager of Victoria Barracks Museum – WWI reminisces

October 6th Charley Nolan to speak on Honour Boards

11th September – Bev, Terry and Pat will speak at North Pine Country Park, Petrie 10am – Topics are Mountains to Mangroves and the short History of Chermside & Districts.