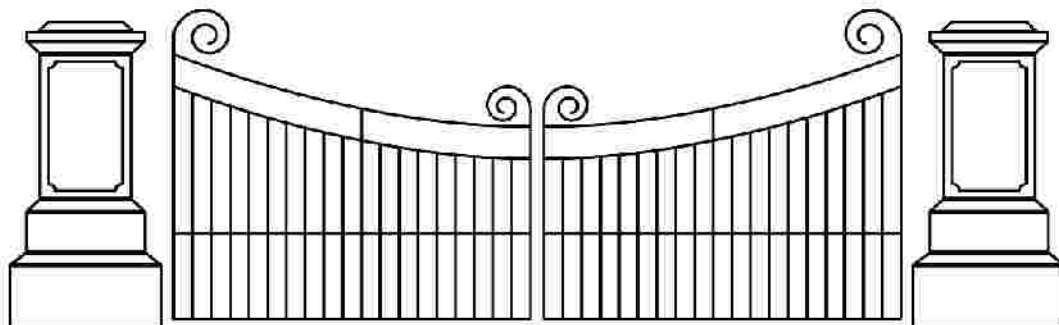


*Preserving our past is our future*



# Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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We bsite: <http://www.chermsidedistrict.org.au>

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NEWSLETTER

Aug-Sept 2013

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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.

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## Annual Fire Drill



*The secretary marks the roll of members near the hockey park.*

As required by law the annual fire drill was carried out at the last meeting. The members moved out in good order and assembled beside the car park well away from the School and had their names checked by the Secretary using the signing on book. There was no notice given before the drill, only the executive knew that it was going to be called.

So far there have been no fires in the building but there has been at least one in the nearby bush. Once a stolen car was dumped in the precinct and torched. It created a rather spectacular blaze. In both cases the local fire brigade was quickly on the scene and extinguished the fires.

# Blast From The Past

Chermside News Aug & Sep 1913

In this column I will be writing about events that happened in the Chermside area 100 years ago. By 1913, Chermside had acquired its current name and the state school was in its second decade. The suburb was about five times as large in area as it is now, due to new suburbs being created up until the 1970s. Many of the features that were to put Chermside on the map such as Wheller Gardens (1936), the tram terminus (1947) the drive-in shopping centre (1957) and Kedron-Wavell Services Club (1970) did not yet exist.

## KEDRON SHIRE COUNCIL CHERMSIDE, Sept 2 1913

The monthly meeting of the Kedron Shire Council was held last evening in the Shire office, Chermside, when there were present Councillors, Wallin (in the chair) Burges, Hamilton, Macpherson, Gibson and Packer, and the clerk, Mr C Willis. The Kedron Progress Association called attention to the habits of some of the larger holders who were exempt from the sanitary rates. It was decided to enforce the by-law concerning the time of the disposal of night soil.

Accounts amounting to £191/10/8 were passed for payment leaving the council overdrawn £1,191/6/2. The Department of Agriculture and Stock insisted upon action being taken to prevent the straying of cattle, and the steady spreading of the tick pest and the resultant fever. It was decided to impound stock straying at night and to dip all tick infested stock at owners' expense. A bill for £40/7/0 was received for the treatment of cases from the Shire in the Wattlebrae Hospital. It was regretted that patients who could pay, could not be made to pay. The engineer's report called attention to the state of Kedron Brook, and a petition was received for the erection of a bridge over Kedron Brook at Chalk Street. It was decided to approach Windsor in the matter.

## Major Items in the Annual Reports

- Support of Kedron-Wavell social Club and Brisbane City Council
- New vinyl floor covering in the Meeting Room
- 2013 Marchant lecture by Air-vice Marshall Julie Hammer (Ret.)
- 2014 Marchant lecture by Everal Compton (AM)
- CDHS participated in:
  - 70<sup>th</sup> Ann. of the Battle of Milne Bay
  - Burnie Bray Fair
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Ann. Aspley East State School
  - Memorial Service for 'Billy' Sing WWI with 31<sup>st</sup> Batt. & Light Horse
  - Supplied data to four local schools on Local History
- Photographed and collated 11,000 graves in Lutwyche Cemetery (Bradley Scott)
- Newsletter emailed to 56 members and organisations.
- Society Website attracts around 2000 hits per month
- A steady stream of enquiries comes via the Website. Lutwyche Cemetery is the most popular page
- Our digitised photo collection numbers over 900.
- Digitising of our paper records is well underway.
- Bris. City Council has announced that it will reinforce the front veranda floor of the school.

**Our speaker for August** was Major John Wright, Manager of Victoria Barracks Museum. He

outlined the history of the Barracks.

The original barracks were in the centre of Brisbane Town where the Treasury Building, now the Casino, was built. It appears that Governor Bowen wanted some troops stationed in town for, mainly, ceremonial appearances. He finally got a British platoon, about 30 men, and they were here till 1869.

During this time the shift was made to their present location where permanent buildings were erected. The hospital was built in 1866 and mainly used for convalescence of soldiers wounded in the New Zealand Maori Wars. It was built to the latest design pioneered by Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War.

It must be remembered that Great Britain was the dominant world-wide great power of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and had Barracks all over the world. So the Victoria Barracks buildings followed the pattern of similar establishments in the Empire.



*The Volunteer Rifles of the Colony of Queensland with a muzzle loading cannon on the right*

The living standards of the troops were better than most Brisbane citizens. The hospi-

tal, bathing and toilet facilities, accommodation, messes, hygienic kitchens, etc. were all state of the art.



*Volunteer Rifles, Queensland Army – some of them seem to be wearing the German Style spiked helmet.*

From 1875 to 1885 the Queensland Police Force was in occupation and built extensive stables for the mounted police. This building became the present United Services Institute, which during World War II, was used by the Women's Australian Army Corps (WAAC's) for coding and decoding work. They decoded Japanese messages and sent the proceeds by motor cycle courier to General Blamey's HQ at the University of Queensland, St. Lucia.

The main building is the Rank and File Accommodation (Barracks) built for about 100 soldiers. It is a two story brick building with a slate roof and the balcony has a traditional cross pattern of a wooden veranda rail; it is designed for the sub-tropical climate. It is used as a staging place for troops being moved around.

The hospital also acted as an admission centre for the Lunatic Asylum and also for Prosti-

tutes to have their annual medical. Venereal Disease has always been with us and this was to prevent it spreading.

The Commandant's Residence was originally one story but another story was added as the barracks grew. For ten years it was the Queensland Police Commissioner's Residence while the Colony of Queensland Army was elsewhere.

British control of the colonial defence ended in 1870. For the next five years the Barracks were vacant and then the Police took over till 1885.

In 1884 the Qld Defence Act was passed into law and a Militia was organised as a disciplined force and they occupied the Barracks till the Commonwealth took control of the Australian Army in 1901. Now the three Australian services occupy the Barracks and will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014 which is the first centenary of the start of WWI.

Snippet: the present Museum occupies the old Small Arms Magazine built in 1899. The walls are made of double brick laid in English bond, one row of stretchers, bricks laid end to end and next row laid headers, bricks laid side by side. The floor is laid with a slope towards the middle, so that an explosion is channelled to that spot while the ceiling is domed towards the middle so that the explosion is directed upwards. The result the middle of the roof would be blown off while the rest of the roof would suffer minimal damage. So far the theory has not been tested.

Beverley Isdale - Archivist writes:

Pat has asked me to write about some of our archives. Our collection is gradually growing and I'm pleased to say that we have information that is NOT held in some of the large libraries, thanks to many thoughtful donors, over the years.



*A photo of the construction of the new overpass at Geebung showing some of the construction on concrete pillars beside the existing train line*

I have been asked to give a talk on Aspley to the Aspley Trefoil Club in October and found material for the talk that I didn't know we had. Many years ago, Marion Eaton, one of our former members, compiled a book on Aspley, Bald Hills and Bracken Ridge. Another of our former members, Pat Smith, gave Marion details of land at Aspley and her mother's house. Pat is also a niece of 2 brothers who enlisted in World War 1 --Harold and Maurice Gardiner. Both were killed. Marion was very interested in houses, so the book contains photos of some early houses that have been renovated in recent years. The book also has copies of photos of the Slaughter property, "Gladville", at Bracken Ridge where they grew pineapples.

Lynette Bodley collected photos of houses in Rangeview Street Aspley some years ago and Rona Arndt, who lives in that street, supplied details of some of the residents. That area has rapidly changed from a dairy farm in the 1950s, the Craigan Jersey Stud, to an estate that is now zoned for denser housing. I recently bought some title deeds from the Titles Office and they show the

purchasers of some of the land in Rangeview Street when the dairy farm was sub-divided.

We are also building a collection of aerial photos of the rail overpasses at Bracken Ridge and Geebung. The contractors are sending photos as they take them. These would otherwise be unobtainable and they come with accurate captions. I'll show some of the photos at our December meeting.



*This photo of the construction of the Geebung overpass showing something of the massive concrete walls needed to stabilize the structure.*

I have had phone calls recently from people asking about our archives as a result of looking at the website. There are several schools celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries this year – Aspley East, Aspley State High School and St Kevin's. We have some information for St Kevin's but will rely on them to provide extra details, as happened with Aspley East State School who produced a very good history, using some of our photos.

**Pledge to perpetuate memory of war hero Billy Sing (Quest Newspapers 4-9-2013 p.5)**

A FALLEN war hero buried in Lutwyche Cemetery would be remembered with a \$50,000 memorial if the Coalition wins on September 7.

LNP Lilley candidate Rod McGarvie, opposition member Bronwyn Bishop and President of the Brisbane Branch of the 31st Infantry Battalion Ray Fogg announced the Coalition's promise last Friday.

"Billy Sing was a man recognised with such great honour for his loyalty, bravery and valour, yet died alone in Brisbane in abject poverty," Mr McGarvie said.

"This memorial will show that our community and our nation remember his courage and distinguished service to our nation.

"His service at both Gallipoli and on the Western Front was widely acclaimed, earning him the Distinguished Conduct Medal."

Members of the 31st infantry battalion association held the first commemorative service for Mr Sing in 2009 on the anniversary of his May 19, 1943 death

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Subsequent annual memorials have been reported in earlier editions of this newsletter. William (Billy) Sing's grave is in the Lawn Portion of the Anzac Part of Lutwyche Cemetery.



**The print on the photo reads:**  
As far as grave tasks go, Bradley Scott's is the pick of the bunch. The Chermside West music teacher has been documenting the 24,000 plots in Lutwyche Cemetery, a magnificent obsession which began after he drove past and wondered who was buried there.

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**The report continues page 4**

IT MIGHT sound like a grave task but documenting the occupants of Lutwyche Cemetery is the perfect project for Chermside West's Bradley Scott.

Mr Scott, a music teacher at Citypointe Christian College, Carindale, and Calvary Christian College, Carbrook, has started on a mission to accurately list those buried in the 24,000 or so plots.

"It started because I was driving past the cemetery and wondered who was buried there," Mr Scott said.

"My interest isn't in famous people. It's for people who are trying to find their grandparents."

Mr Scott said he traced his wife's family tree back to the 1500s and hoped to help other family researchers locate their ancestors.

He said it took several hours every day for three weeks during the 2012-2013 Christmas holidays to photograph 11,000 headstones at the Gympie Rd site and he expects to spend between five and 10 years transcribing the details to an online register, a task made difficult by the erosion of headstones.

"To actually transcribe them is quite an arduous process because a lot of the headstones are quite eroded and I have to crosscheck them," he said.

"You know how some people do Meals on Wheels? I do this. So far I've transcribed about 1000 names," he said.

When he is not helping to document recent history, Mr Scott squeezes in a day's work each week on his Doctorate in Music.

Anyone interested in helping/donating time to the project, after a one hour training session, can contact Mr Scott by email at:

bradleyscott83@ gmail.com or visit:

lutwyhecemetery.bradleyscott.org.au

**Interested in brushing up on the history of the local area?**

The Chermside and Districts Historical society aims to preserve the history of Brisbane's northside by researching and recording the stories of the people who have lived here.

Visit the website at: [cherm-sidedistrict.org.au](http://cherm-sidedistrict.org.au)

Reminder – The Marchant Lecture is Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 10am - 12am, Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Cost \$10.

The 2014 CDHS Calendar is on sale for \$10 + \$2 postage. Historic pictures on each page.