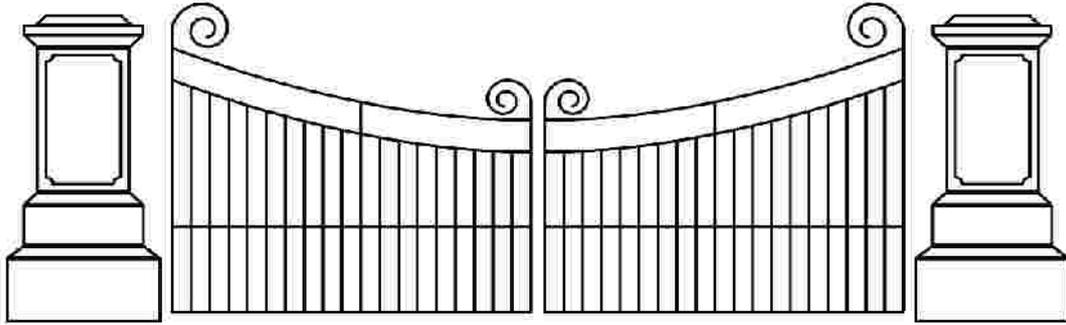


*Preserving our past is our future*



# Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to 2014 and may it be good enough to make us want to live it all again in 1915.

A century ago, viz 1914, 'the guns of August' opened one of the most turbulent periods in history. It signalled the beginning of the end of the European domination of most of the world, but few, if any, realised this at the time. Lord Grey, British Foreign Secretary who, saw further ahead than most, remarked 'the lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.'

The First World War was the culmination of five centuries of fighting among the European powers to determine which one would dominate the rest. Britain, with consummate skill, usually played the 'balance of power game' to try and stop anybody from winning the title as long as she 'ruled (dominated) the waves.'

When all the European nations were exhausted the USA stepped in and terminated the madness with a million fresh, well trained troops and equipment that the rest could only dream about.

Four European empires had fallen - German, Austro-Hungarian, Russian and Ottoman (Turkish) and the victorious powers rushed in to grab the pieces, especially the ones which had oil reserves.

Then followed the cataclysmic Great Depression, so named because it was the 'mother' of all depressions and it was world-wide. Unemployment on a vast scale followed and governments did not know what to do, so they 'balanced the budget' and made the situation worse.

Then back to the European scene where the old scourge began again; who was going to dominate Europe? One leader, who seized absolute power in Germany, thought he could lead the way. World War II began and turned Europe into a wasteland and a charnel house. The British, French, Dutch and Portuguese empires went into liquidation.

Meanwhile the former colonies of the great empires began to win their struggle for independence and, for many the path became, and continues to be turbulent. And the United Nations tries to keep the peace.

Following the war, technology began to develop in a myriad of ways and it is still developing and the pace of change is increasing. Eg: How many people have smart phones today? They were only invented yesterday, metaphorically speaking.

Well, the archivist gathers the documents, the historian tries to write the story, the politician tries to understand the data and govern, the technologist keeps on researching, the factories keep on producing and the consumers keep on buying as long as they have jobs.

So where do we go from here? Small wars continue and we have, so far, avoided WWII, which is good. The destructive power of nations has increased; one bomb can destroy a very large city, which is not good. What does the future hold? We don't know. But one thing we do know is that the nations of the 'global village' have to learn how to live peacefully together.

Martin Luther King Junior said "I have a dream" and a shot rang out. To make sense of this read "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.

**It has been quiet on the history scene except on the CDHS website where three pages have been written.**

**Page No.1** is a link which has been made to the Lutwyche Cemetery Project which is being directed by Bradley Scott. The link is placed at the beginning of the Lutwyche Cemetery Pages and will enable the public to follow the construction of the website.

The present state of Bradley's website is 2,534 names and details have been entered alphabetically on the website; there is about another 7,500 graves to be recorded. The alphabetical list makes it easy to find a marked grave; unmarked graves can still be found on the BCC website grave search function. Bradley has taken some 22,000 photos so far.

All the marked graves have been photographed but the photos have not yet been put on the website, which will be the second stage. Each grave will have a separate page showing the grave and also the detail of the monument.

The final stage will be a long term project which will include a full transcription of the grave as far as it can be read.

The finished website will thus contain a huge amount of information presented in words and photos.

Such a website will go a long way towards telling, very briefly, the stories of thousands of people which otherwise would never be told.



Lutwyche Cemetery fronting on to Gympie Road contains thousands of graves and opened on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1878 when Walter Silcock, aged 5 was interred; the location of his grave is unknown.

**Page No. 2** is the story of Matron Phipps who lived in Victor Drive, now Kidston Terrace. The only item we had on 'Mattie' was one of the essays written by Valma Ross (nee Fullwood) until an email arrived via our website from a great grandson, Kerrie Kilpatrick, who supplied us with a great deal of family research. This was supple-

mented with an intensive search on Trove as 'Mattie' was very much in the public eye.



**Winifred Kilpatrick (nee Huston) a trained nurse had six sons, five of whom served in the Great War 1914-1918.**

Her husband died two years after the sixth son was born. He left Winifred a substantial sum and she set about opening a private hospital in Clermont where the family lived. Further business enterprises in Rockhampton followed.

She raised her family, saw them off to the war and served as a District Nurse in the very remote South-West corner of Western Australia. Returning to the East in 1916 she took over a Private Hospital in Ballina NSW and the following year married a prominent business man Alfred Phipps.

In the early 1930s they moved to Victor Drive (now Kidston Terrace) Chermiside where Valma Ross knew them and wrote about them. (That was where I picked up the trail.)

They moved into the Garden Settlement in the late 1930s and Mattie died in 1947. She is buried in South Brisbane Cemetery together with two of her sons and a sister who predeceased her.

**Page No. 3** is the story of Nurse Alice Mabel Cock whom we first found on the Chermiside State School WWI Honour Roll and that was all we had. Then Rob Isdale was talking to a long-time

friend, Maurice Cock who happened to be Alice Mabel's nephew; he supplied the first part of Nurse Cock's story. Then John Woodside, a nephew of Alice's husband James Woodward, contacted us via the CDHS website and a lot more information became available on the Cock-Woodside story. It is a tragic story for it involves three deaths but it does end happily for those left behind.



The first sighting of the name Miss A. Cock was on a very dilapidated, weather worn and neglected Honour Board. (We will remember them!) At least someone had tried to restore the names using chalk. I don't know who rescued this board but Adrian Turner lovingly restored it.



Alice Mabel was born in Chermiside, schooled at Downfall State School, trained at Brisbane General Hospital enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service and was posted overseas.



At more or less the same time a young grazier from Miles in Central Queensland, James Woodside, enlisted in the Army and was also posted overseas. It can-

not be verified but they may have met when James was in hospital in England; he bought an engagement ring in Melbourne on his way home in 1919.

They were married in Eagle Junction on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1919 and drove their own car home to Miles. A fairy tale romance!

Their first daughter, Elinor May, was born on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1922 and died 8 hours later.

Their second daughter, Helen, was born on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1923 and died soon after. Her mother, Alice Mabel died at the same time, aged 33, possibly from the after effects of the Pneumonic Flu of 1919.

The two girls are buried in Toowong and Alice is buried in the Cock Family grave at Nundah.

Some years later James remarried and they had three children.

## Blast From The Past

Chermside News Dec 1913 & Jan 1914

Chermside State School's break up party was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, with eleven silver medals being awarded to the top scholars in each class. Three of the eleven shared the headmaster's surname – children, perhaps? I suppose one would expect the children of a teacher to be conscientious students, but having taught several myself, I know that this is not always the case!

Twelve acres of unimproved land on Rode Rd were advertised for sale at £210. The price of £17/10 per acre compares rather favourably with the \$1.7 million per acre unimproved price (2012) of the author's property in Chermside West.

Prices have not only changed with inflation, but in relation to each other. An average wage for a labourer in 1913 was £2/15/6 (6-day week) and the following table is calculated with respect to this wage.

Commodity	Price	Amount of Labour
Loaf of Bread	2d	8 minutes
Kilogram of Beef	3s 4d	3 hours
Tailored Suit	£3/10	8 days
Acre of Land	£17/10	6 weeks
'Model T' Ford	£230	1 year, 7 months

1919 Medical & Nursing Staff photo.

Mary de Jabrun sent this photo of the photographer lining up the 119 individuals for the large photo. It is 'behind the scenes' photos like this that reveal much about the final photo. Look at the men standing on two forms, they must have been holding their breath, one awkward movement and the whole structure might have come down. The nurses are in relaxed positions, one in the foreground bending down. The photographer is making last minute arrangements with his camera on its tripod behind him. Judging by the photo below he knew his trade.



### Archives Report Feb 2014

Many of us have read David Teague's excellent books on the histories of Chermside, Kedron and Aspley. They were written in the 1970s at a time when many of the early settlers or their immediate families were still living in the area. Those people gave David stories and photos which would not be available now. The only problem has been a lack of index for each book but that has now been overcome. Bradley Scott, in his spare time between photographing the headstones at Lutwyche Cemetery during his holidays, has indexed all three books. They are now on our computer and work very well. Thank you very much, Bradley – they make a great contribution to our resources.

Our newest book is a donation from Kath Ballard – her book *Geebung: after the 60s* completes her history of Geebung and surrounding suburbs. Anything you ever need to know about Geebung and its people is in her work. She and her son recently brought a photo of one of her World War 1 soldier relatives, Lance Corporal Percy Church, B Company 31<sup>st</sup> Battalion so I could copy it for our archives. Thank you, Kath, for both those items.



**Preserving the Structural Integrity of the School!** The Downfall Creek State School, which became the Chermside State School in 1903, was built in 1900 by local tradesmen to the specifications of the Department of Public Instruction.

The building is solid and should last another 113 years as long as we paint it and keep the termites at bay. But, strangely, the front veranda floor was found to have a little spring in it which was not a good sign; floors should be rock solid. An inspection revealed that the joists, aka floor timbers, were too small for the wide span of the veranda. The floor lasted a long time but it mainly had to

support children and not the, sometimes rather portly, adults common in today's society.

The engineers decided that a new bearer, another floor timber, had to be inserted under the middle of the veranda floor from the south side to the north side. Supported by steel posts, bolted to large concrete footings, it should hold the veranda steady even if the rest of the building should fall!



The new bearer is made of Yellow Stringybark. It is long. It is made up of two pieces of timber totaling 140mm x 75mm (5.5ins x 3ins)

Two tradesmen, both carpenters, assisted by the ready mixed concrete truck, concrete pump truck and an amazing array of battery powered tools were able to install the bearer in a couple of days. The rest of the time they spent on a multitude of small repairs such as reversing a tread in the front steps, putting stirrups on the feet of the same steps, replaced timber which had dry rot, welded the steel posts, bent the steel rods which reinforced the concrete, patched up the paint work with carefully matched fresh paint, rerouted some stormwater drainage and a lot of other jobs too numerous to mention. **BELOW a portable nail gun.**



**On April Fools' Day 2007 a chain of events was set in motion:**



We were in the middle of a graffiti vandalism spasm among the local wildlife, two legged variety, who loved to come and use our veranda as a party venue. It looks like this party was an attempt to bring the house down.

The graffiti on the roof had been there for some time until it was painted out leaving a big red blob on the 'Colorbond' roof. This was at the height of the graffiti onslaught



The repairs were carried out by three members, who are retired tradesmen, working over one and a half days. Fortunately the vandals left all the pieces lying on the ground; it was a carpenter's jigsaw puzzle and we bound it with iron straps.

Later the underfloor was closed in with heavy battens screwed and bolted to the concrete piers. This kept the unwelcome visitors from getting underneath. The tree which kept dropping leaves in the roof gutter had to go and the grass slabs looked good.



Originally there was the above hedge beside the bike track and it hid an impenetrable mass of vegetation. When the blackberries began to grow over the lot the thorny tendrils reached out to prick unwary passers-by.



Finally the lot was cleared out, mechanically, and slabs of turf were laid. Unfortunately that was in the days when it rained in Chermside and some lorries seemed to be attracted to the spot leaving deep, water filled, tyre gouges; that too passed.



Two days after the turf was laid some, night-time thieves stole ten slabs. Two of our younger members carted and re-laid replacements.