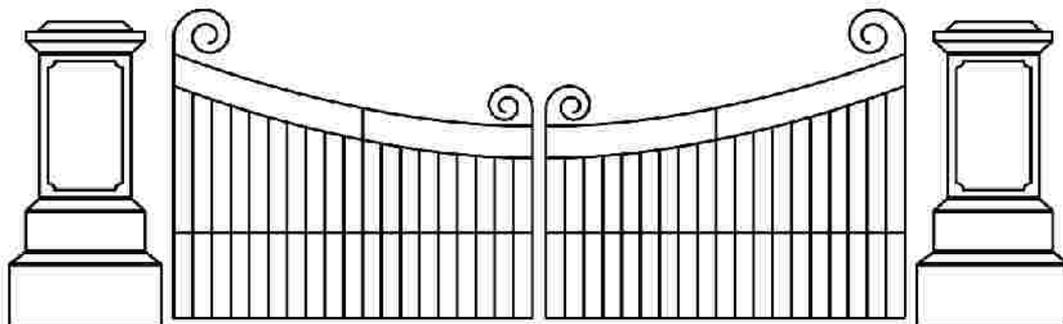


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

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NEWSLETTER

Aug - Sept 2014

(Issued Oct. 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.

Vale Terry Hampson:



Died Monday 22-9-2014

Dear Friends

It is with heavy heart that I have to tell you that Terry Hampson, the President of the Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc., died suddenly on Monday. He and Ann were on their second trip to Vietnam and had

been looking forward to it for some time. Mercifully the end was quick; he had just boarded the bus to go on a tour when he quietly died.

On behalf of the members of the CDHS I extend our sympathy to Ann and family in their bereavement.

As President of the Society, Terry was a great innovator, a man of ideas and, I for one had to scramble to keep up with him. He worked very hard for the Society instituting such things as the annual Marchant Lecture; the near continuous exhibition of

our collection of framed historical photos in public buildings; the organising of regular speakers for the Society's monthly meetings as well as carrying out the President's duties.

He also found time to work for several other community organisations; he cared greatly and worked for the ordinary people amongst whom he lived. A politician who never let politics get in the way of helping others. A highly skilled story teller, he had stories for all occasions and he told them with great gusto; he made people laugh. Terry never retired he just kept on heading into new adventures.

Farewell old mate, we miss you. Rest now in Peace.

One of the last jobs that Terry did for the Society was to deliver the ANNUAL REPORT 2014.

- Thanked the Members, Executive, Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Councillors Fiona King and Kim Flessner, Brisbane City Council for their assistance over the year

- Listed the eight speakers who addressed the monthly meetings as well as Beverley Isdale's talk "World War One Local Stories of Sacrifice".
- The annual Marchant Lecture "Creating a Suburban City at Chermside" delivered by Everaldo Compton. The 2014 Lecture is to be delivered by Con Sciacca on the Anzac Centenary and Its Significance.
- The framed pictures of historical photos have been displayed at all the local libraries and the Kedron-Wavell Services Club for extended showings
- The program of illustrated talks to various community groups continued during the year.
- The CDHS took part in the Ageing Expo at Kedron Wavell Services Club.
- The photographing, indexing and exhibiting on the World Wide Web, of the 24,000 plots in the Lutwyche Cemetery organised by Bradley Scott continues.
- The annual bus trip was to the Landsborough Museum and Bribie Island, the latter being hosted by James Lergessner.
- The Brisbane City Council carried out extensive strengthening of the front veranda floor to enable it to carry the weight of adults who are seated there on ceremonial occasions.
- The Community Service Workers keep the Chermside Historical Precinct in good order by regularly cleaning and mowing the lawns.



- A fine piece of historical preservation was the erection of a traditional post and rail fence around the old Chermside Cattle Dip which fronts Gympie Road opposite the Australian Tax Office. The work was done by the Brisbane City Council under the direction of Councillor Fiona King. This continues the development of the sight begun some years ago with the erection of an illustrated sign marking the location and explaining the function and historical significance of the old dip.

- With a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund a Short Throw Projector will be installed in the Meeting Room of the CDHS.
- The 'beating heart' of the CDHS, the Archives, under the supervision of Beverley Isdale, continues to expand. There are now some 977 photos on disk and our newspaper cuttings are being loaded on to the computer. This will greatly improve the accessibility of the stored information; the computer does the searching. New material is continually coming to light, often on email via the website.



- The old society computer has had surgery and is being loaded with pdf data from the new computer so that members and visitors can use it to access material and print it out. However they cannot add to or change the contents.
- CDHS Facebook Page was set up by Bradley Scott and is flourishing with thousands of viewers. A spin off is the increased number of 'hits' on the CDHS Website
- With the co-operation of Westfield Shoppingtown and the Brisbane City Council, the CDHS erected a Tram Memorial Sign at the Chermside Bus Interchange.

Alonzo Sparkes Research: In the course of this endeavour we have been exploring the activities of Alonzo's father, William Jackson Sparkes. He seemed to lead a rather eventful life especially in the Sydney of the 1840s. The following excerpt is from the Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser 9-8-1841, p.2

COMMITTAL for HIGHWAY ROBBERY: On Thursday last, William Smeaden, Henry Perry, Luke O'Brien, Bernard M'Manus, Peter Byrne, Hugh Kelly, Thomas O'Brien and John Norris, all assigned servants to Johnston of Annandale were brought before the Police Court, and charged with having committed a

highway robbery on **William Jackson** Sparkes, of George-street South, upon the first of July last. It appeared by the evidence adduced, that as the prosecutor, on the day in question, was returning from Bathurst in his cart, he was accosted, in the immediate vicinity of Prospect by a number of convicts who were in charge of a dray, the property of Mr. Johnstone of Annandale. The convicts induced the prosecutor to buy from them, about twenty native cats, a dozen opossums, and a magpie: for these purchases he paid thirty shillings in money and also agreed to treat the party to five shillings worth of Colonial beer, when they arrived at the Frenchman's public-house, which is situated within a few miles of Parramatta. The prosecutor then proceeded in company with the convict party, and when they reached the public-house, the liquor bargained for, was brought out and drunk. The prosecutor then entered into conversation with Mr. Evans, the veterinary surgeon at Parramatta, and whilst he was speaking to him, one of the convicts started off with the prosecutor's cart; the prosecutor, together with the remainder of the convicts set out in pursuit and in a short time came up with the cart and convict. One of the convicts, named Perry, then offered to sell the prosecutor a pair of trousers and another of the convicts named Henry Smeaden, pressed him to buy from him a silk handkerchief. The prosecutor, however, refused to buy either of these articles. The prosecutor then lingered behind, and the party of convicts went ahead of him about a mile. In a short time, however, Perry returned, and demanded the prosecutor's watch and money; to this demand the prosecutor made no reply, but knocked Perry down, and pulling out a pistol, compelled him to proceed with him (prosecutor) as a prisoner to Parramatta. The prosecutor, however, left his cart on the road. Upon his arrival at Parramatta, the prosecutor gave the prisoner in custody to the chief constable of that place, and then requested the constable to send some men with him (the prosecutor) to apprehend the rest of the prisoners. Instead of complying with this request the chief constable directed the prosecutor to be locked upon a charge of drunkenness, and on the following morning the prosecutor was convicted of that offence and was fined in the sum of five shillings. After his liberation, he found his cart and some of his property in the possession of the police, but he soon discovered that

the sum of £16 in one pound notes, and one five pound note, all of the Bathurst Bank, had been abstracted from his pocket book. In consequence of his complaining of his loss, the whole of the party of convicts was apprehended. The charge of robbery was however dismissed, but three of the men were ordered to receive fifty lashes each, as a punishment for disorderly conduct. After the men had been returned to Annandale, Mr. Johnstone, who was of opinion that they were guilty of the robbery, came to Sydney and informed Inspector Ryan of his suspicions, and requested the Inspector to be on the look-out, as some of the men were coming into Sydney in order to attend chapel on the following Sunday. Inspector Ryan, in consequence of this information, had an interview with one of the men who told him that the prosecutors' watch and money were in the possession of the other convicts, and also that he had been employed to get change for one of the notes and also to find a purchaser for the watch. It was afterwards discovered that one of the stolen notes had been changed for the thieves by a freeman, at Toogood's public-house. It also appeared **that a person saw the robbery committed, but** neglected to mention the circumstance when the investigation was made at Parramatta, but that he afterwards told it to Mr. Johnstone's superintendent at Annandale. The prisoners were fully committed for trial.

A close reading of this lengthy paragraph gives us, not only information about Alonzo's father, but many insights into life in Sydney Town of the 1840s. Much of that transposes into life in Brisbane Town of the same era. (If you think this is a history lesson, you are right, it is. Get cracking!)

Website Activity:

25July to 24 August

Hits: 3,285

New: 2,779 84.6%

Returns: 505 15.4%

Blast From The Past

Chermside News Aug & Sep 1914

From the diary of Thomas Hamilton, 5th Aug:

"War declared between Britain & Germany. Attended practice (choir) in Church."

There was no more mention of the war in Hamilton's diary for either August or September.

The Chermside area quickly mobilised to support the war effort. £38 was raised by the Chermside Patriotic Fund by the end of September and a sub-branch of the Red Cross was formed.

It appears that nobody commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Huxtable survey of Chermside. Perhaps the war had taken up all of their thoughts or perhaps early settlers were not as concerned with anniversaries as we are.

Installed - One Epson Short Throw Projector:

Mentioned in the Annual Report above, the projector was installed on Friday 12th September. It replaces the old large projection screen that we erected over the north windows in the meeting room some years ago.



The projector enables the operator to sit facing the audience and speak directly to them. It also is a permanent set up and does not have to be assembled each time it is used. There are no trailing electric cords for people to trip over, the screen is bigger than the one we used previously which enables bigger images to be shown and it can easily be seen from all parts of the meeting room. It is wired for sound so that documentaries complete with commentary can be displayed. There remains the, hopefully, minor problem of the operators learning to use it.

While this is not the latest technology it does show how fast technology is changing as our laptops are not able to operate it fully. So the next step may be to invest in more technology. Remember the days of 'chalk and talk'?

This projector does not replace the old data projector which we previously used in the meeting room; that one is still operated when we give a talk to one of the many groups in the community.

No Speaker – Show and Tell at the September Meeting.

Instead of a speaker, the September monthly meeting featured a Show and Tell session; bring a photo and speak about it for a few minutes. Sounds simple but when people arrive with about 40 photos there isn't much time to talk about each one. However here is a sample of the photos presented.

Several of our members have been travelling overseas in recent years and, like many travellers, they bring back photos. Terry and Ann Hampson are on their second trip to Vietnam to take more photos like this one. This Vietnamese farmer is on his way to market with four pigs on his motorbike.



How did he get them on the bike?



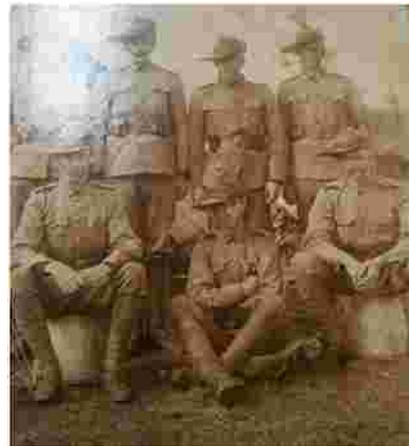
Bev Doohan presented several photos taken by her father in the 1920s. This one is a sideshow at the Brisbane Ecce and shows the styles of clothing worn by the patrons. Hats for everybody, suits for the men and ankle length dresses for the ladies.



Gay Sparkes brought this small, bright sign board. The

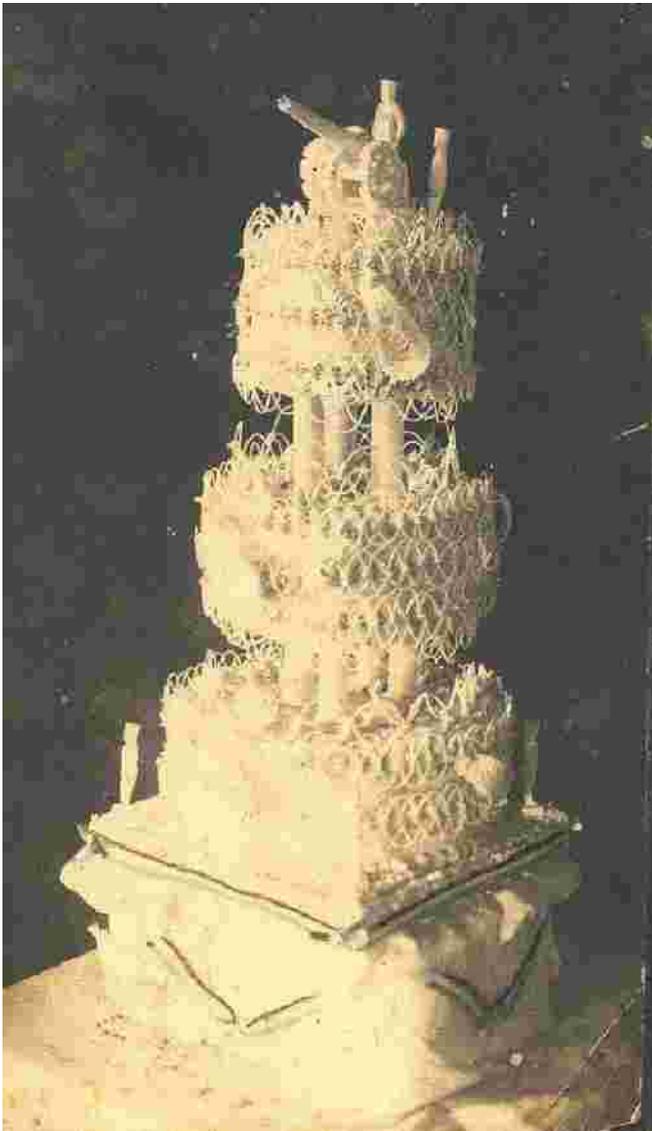
story behind it began in WWI when there was heavy fighting around the town of Charleroi in Belgium. Gay's grandparents had a problem: they owned a fine German piano and they had a son fighting in the area of Charleroi. They were extremely incensed by the German invasion of Belgium but what could they do? They had the sign board made and they fastened it over the German name on the piano. There it remained for many years but was finally removed. The piano is still in the family having passed through several generations in the process. The Germans made good pianos.

unlikely. I wonder if the soldiers and artillery were eaten.



Caroline Bowser showed several photos from WWI. This one of Six Diggers from the First World War are wearing 'puttees' which were cloth bandages wound around the lower leg to give strength and

protection. They probably did not help much in the mud and slush of the trenches. They were devised for earlier conflicts when battles were fought on the surface of the land. Also the allies were not issued with steel helmets, 'tin hats', until 1916 and the head wounds were atrocious. Much of this damage was done by shrapnel shells which exploded in the air above the soldiers driving masses of steel scraps downward like bullets.



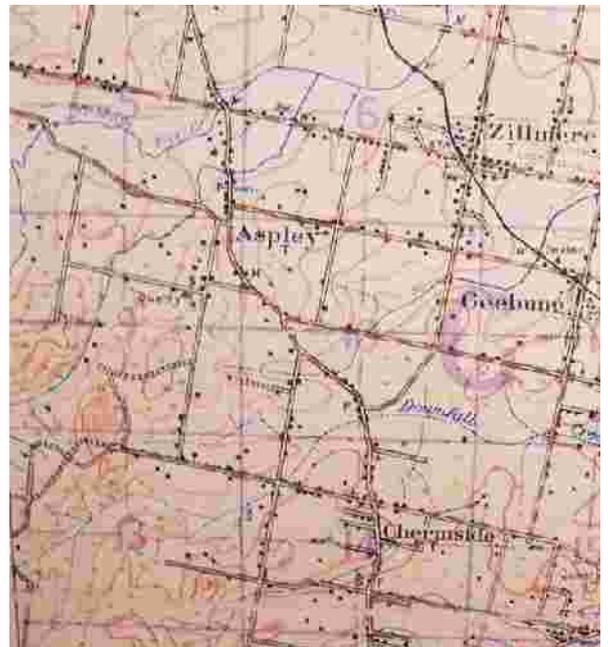
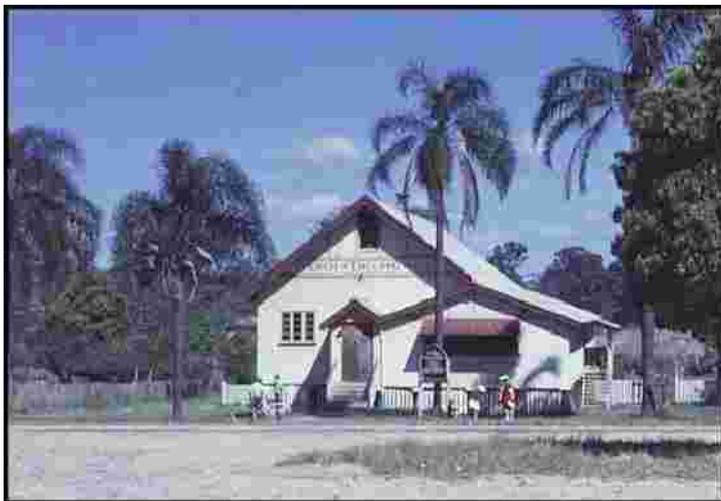
A Wartime Marriage took place in Roma in 1916 for Beverley Isdale's maternal grandmother Ada Janet Dean and grandfather Robert Vincent Rice. In keeping with the times a military motif was chosen for the cake decoration. Soldiers stand at attention on the base and two more man the artillery piece on the apex. The cake was probably made in Roma by a skilled cake decorator as transporting such delicate tracery from Brisbane would have been most



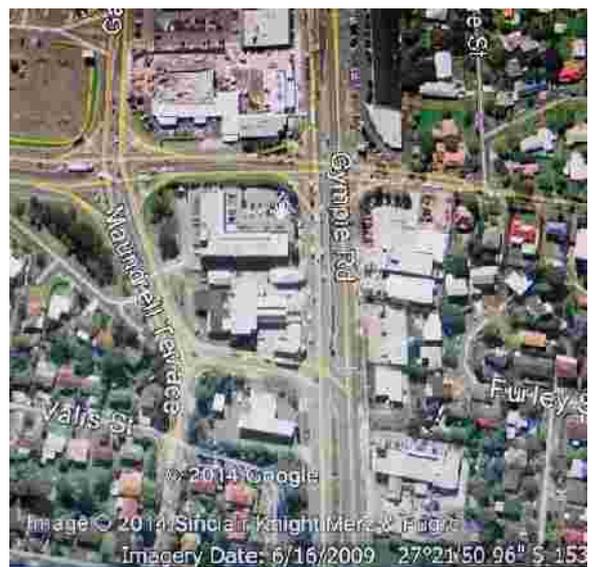
Terry showed this photo of him and Ann in happier times. The robes look impressive and the angle of the photograph accentuates the effect; a mandarin and wife arriving at the Embassy Ball in the Forbidden City.



The S&S Gravel Office, the Aspley Assembly Hall and St. Paul's Anglican Church stood on the west side of Gympie Road opposite Robinson Road in the 1920s – 1930s. One of the owners of the Gravel business was James J. Jenson who later operated a sawmill in Chermside off Mermaid Street.



Aspley in the 1920s was mostly small farms and scattered farm houses. The 1925 map shows the name Aspley with about 30 houses etc., along the roads of the district but no streets in the hamlet. There was a Post Office, a school, a quarry which might have been operated by S&S Gravel, a well, a hotel; there may have been slaughter yard and possibly a tannery.



The above photo shows the view from Robinson Road looking west to Albany Creek Road in 2014. The Google map on the right gives an aerial view of the same location and shows the development that has taken place over the past 80 years.

