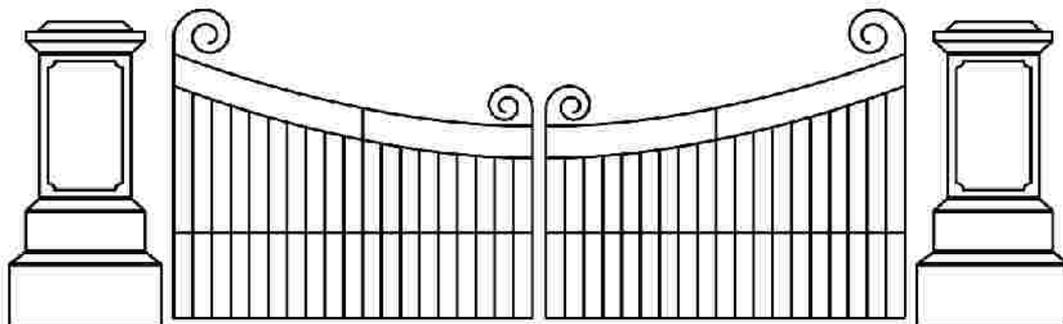


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

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NEWSLETTER

Oct - Nov 2014

(Issued Dec. Meeting)

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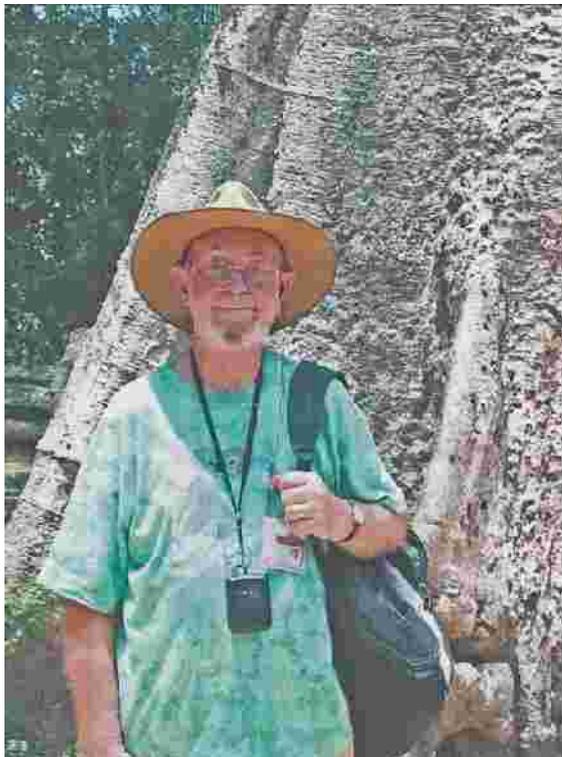
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Located in the Chermside Historical Precinct at 61 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside but DO NOT send post to this address. Printing courtesy of Cr Fiona King.



Terry dreamed of giants; one of them is right behind him. He made the dream happen. They are his memorial. Hail and Farewell little green man.
Terry Hampson's Funeral: A gathering of about 300 friends and colleges of Terry seated, and another 100

standing at the back of the Kedron-Wavell Community Centre farewelled Terry in a moving ceremony.

Conducted by Sue Yarrow, the ceremony opened with a song from the Dubliners after which Sue welcomed the gathering. Following was a recording of Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker) reading her poem the 'Aboriginal Charter of Rights'. A recorded message from Fran Ross, Terry's biographer, followed.

The moving Eulogy was given by Greg Hampson for his father. This was followed by the Tribute Song 'If I Were Free' sung by the Combined Unions Choir.

The tributes were given by two of Terry's long-time friends and collaborators, John Sinclair and Jim Soorley. Both men dug deep to describe Terry's character, achievements, his commitment to helping those in need in Australia and beyond, his great ability to work and keep on striving until his goals were achieved.

The reflection which followed was from two of Terry's favourite singers Edith Piaf singing 'Non, je ne regrette rien' (No, I regret nothing.) and Bob Dylan with 'Boots of Spanish Leather'.

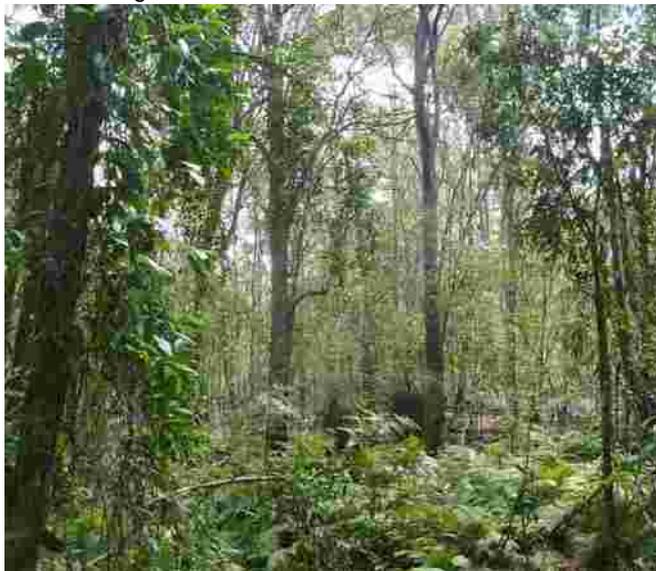
Greg Hampson played 'Carrickfergus', as his and our farewell, just before the coffin was taken out of the hall to the waiting hearse.

The Members and Friends of the Chermside & Districts Historical Society extend their profound sympathy to Anne and Family in their sorrow.

Beverley Isdale's Talk on Edgar Huxtable.

This November marks the 150th anniversary of the completion of the survey of the local area by Edgar Huxtable. It was just one of the many surveys done at the time but it is special to us because many of us live on land which he originally surveyed.

Edgar was born in Bristol in 1840, the only son of Edgar and Mary Huxtable. Edgar Sen. was an Anglican minister and he sent his son to Cambridge University matriculating in 1859. Edgar came to Brisbane on the ship Sultana as a cabin passenger - which means he could afford to pay for his fare. He arrived on the 1st November 1862 after a voyage of 87 days via the Cape of Good Hope. Brisbane in the late 1850s had a population of about 5600. The first licensed surveyor, James Warner, lived at Kangaroo Point and it's possible that Edgar lived there too.



This is a modern scene; Huxtable would have faced much larger old growth trees to obscure his sighting. Somehow he managed to divide the land into small parcels and laid the basis for future development.

In mid-1863, he gained his surveying licence. Surveying was essential before land could be sold and land was about the only asset the fledgling colony of Queensland had in abundance.

A surveyor didn't go out into unknown territory by himself. His party consisted of a group which usually included a pupil assistant, chainmen, and most im-

portantly, a cook-cum horse tailer (looked after horses). The group travelled by horse to the area where they set up a home camp near water. The loads were very heavy and the work was labour intensive; tents, survey instruments, bag of pegs, spade, crowbar, axes, tucker bags, water and food. The survey equipment consisted of a perambulator, Gunter's chain (for measuring distances) and a compass supported by a Jacob's Pole or Staff.

As the work progressed, the group moved further away from the home camp but it took too much time to travel long distances every day so "flying camps" were established - very basic tent fly and equipment. It's likely that Edgar set up his base camp near Downfall Creek or Cabbage Tree Creek. If their food supplies ran low, they lived off the land with plenty of birds and animals to trap. Aborigines sometimes helped surveyors with information and food sources.

The cook was essential to the success of any trip. He cooked over an open fire using heavy iron camp ovens and packed food that could survive - fresh meat for a couple of days, salt beef, flour for damper, jam and tinned food but there was a lack of fresh food unless they lived off the land.



The present scene in Chermside shows Gympie Road across the bottom and Wallace Street on the diagonal. The Prince Charles hospital crowns a hill and beyond it housing slopes up into the tree clad hills.

During the day, Edgar recorded his observations (bearings and distances, vegetation and soil types) in a field book. That night in his tent, he calculated and plotted information from the field book, using log tables or a mechanical calculator to draw survey plans. When he returned from the trip, he lodged field book and plan with the Surveyor General where measurements were checked.

In the local survey, he marked 64 blocks, each between 10 and 15 acres. It was a cadastral survey, that is, boundaries for the subdivision of land which is essential for land ownership. He used trees which he called gum, bloodwood, ironbark, apple, oak as markers and added creeks and waterholes.



Bradley Scott superimposed Huxtable's plan on a current map of the same area. The map shows how Huxtable got the 'best fit' for the blocks with small frontages on to the major roads.

Shortly after he completed surveys in the Parishes of Kedron, Bulimba, Toombul and Enoggera, in November 1864, he sailed for Sydney and then to England where he married Henrietta Frances Hewett at Weston-Super-Mare on 16 March 1865.

Edgar and Henrietta arrived back in Brisbane on Queen of the Colonies in October 1865. Both had land grants – Henrietta's was for Rockhampton and Edgar's for Bulwer.

He conducted many surveys in the Rockhampton area and took part in community activities associated with St Paul's Church of England. He was on the Committee of the Church of England Aid Society and chaired meetings to send delegates to synod meetings in Brisbane. In September 1867 he was appointed head master of the Collegiate school in Rockhampton and was also a member of the Rockhampton Masonic Lodge, taking the position of Worshipful Master. But by the end of January the following year, he held an auction of his household goods, including a piano.

Edgar and Henrietta returned to England and in June 1870 he was ordained an Anglican priest in Exeter Cathedral and was appointed deacon at Camborne. He served in Exeter, Camborne, Torpoint, Barfield St Martins, Piddlehinton, Truro, Calstock, Stanwell, and New Fishbourne where he died in 1911 and lies buried in the attached cemetery.

The children, Mary Augusta Christine (1876), Frances Edith (1879) and Arthur Hewett (1880) were all born at Torpoint, Cornwall.



Huxtable's last parish and burial place, the village of Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex, S. E. England.

Edgar Huxtable's work is remembered in the naming of Huxtable Park at West Chermside. The land was part of William and his son Hedley Barker's dairy farm until the land was re-zoned for housing. The area beside Downfall Creek became part of the Packer and Knox wool scour. After the closure of the wool scour in the early 1970s, the land was a wasteland until some neighbours formed a group to clear the area and lobby the Council for a park. It is now a very popular area, especially at Christmas time.

Speaker at November meeting was Jacqueline Dinan, co-author of *A Woman's War: An insight into the women on the home front*

The idea to write this book started when Jacqueline's husband John was reading a book on war which was rather technical and Jacqueline wondered if she could write a 'war' book from a woman's point of view; an introduction to war books for women. The thought gave rise to the action and she set about researching the effect of World War I on the people in Collingwood, Melbourne where she grew up.

Her Grandfather fought in the First World War leaving Australia on board the first convoy to leave in 1914. He went to Egypt where they trained for the landing at Gallipoli and was wounded in the siege of Anzac.

Jacqueline set about researching the 'home front' by contacting History Societies, newspaper files on Trove, history books, interviewing some very old people with very long memories. The aim was to write about real people, living in real places. She spoke about her researching at many places and appealed to women to

write to her and tell her their stories of war time and some 300 women replied.

The story is about Rosie who has twin boys living in an inner city, working class suburb. How she dealt with the boys joining the army lured by the sense of adventure in the far distant lands. When the boys were in France and the reality of the war was dawning on the people at home, Rosie had to face the possibility that they may be wounded or even killed. This was the stuff of nightmares. There were regular reports in the newspapers listing the names of the wounded and the dead soldiers; the lists were long.



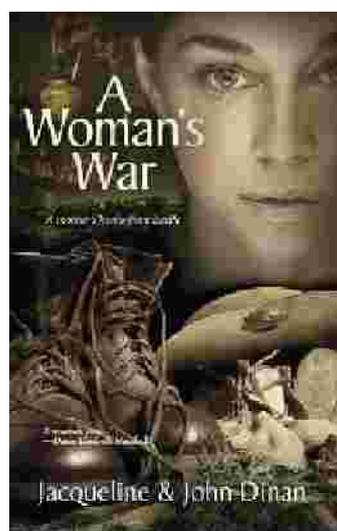
Jacqueline Dinan answering a question.

Rosie lived in a rapidly changing local world. Newspapers were widely read; telegrams brought news to families of the wounded and dead soldiers, Billy Hughes was the Prime Minister and he was always appealing for more young men to enlist, Irish Archbishop Mannix opposed him in the bitter debate that ensued. The Conscription Referendums of 1916 and 1917 were lost with 52% and 54% against conscription. Public demonstrations for and against conscription took place and tensions ran high with those opposed often broken up by police with some arrested and jailed. The Women's Peace Army led by Vida Goldstein and Adela Parkhurst attracted thousands of women who usually stayed at home to march.

Pro-conscription supporters also marched and sometimes the two groups clashed.

The community was split between Protestant and Catholic, Conservative and Labor, working class and affluent class, English and Irish. Even the football clubs split, the predominantly Protestant clubs decided not to play during the war while the predominantly Catholic clubs went on playing.

On the other hand both sides could work together to supply goods for the troops. Such organisations as the Red Cross, the Country Woman's Association, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and a host of smaller groups supplied endless amounts of knitted goods, especially socks, food parcels, cigarettes and tobacco, soap etc. etc. There was no division among them. General Sir William Birdwood, affectionally known to the Australians as Birdie, commented that troops of other nations envied the Australian Troops for the help they received from home.



This and much more is covered by Jacqueline in her book and several of them were bought on the day.

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Blast From The Past

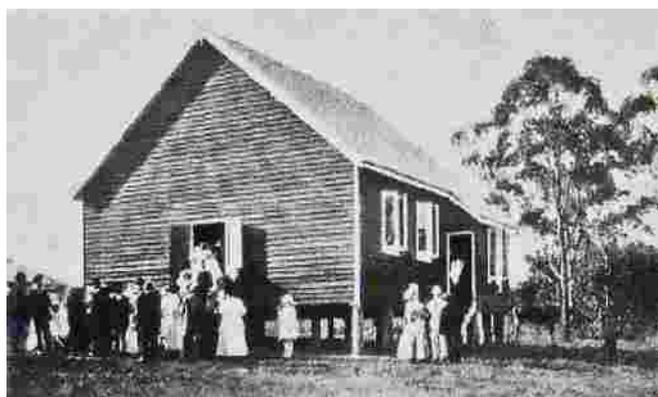
Chermside News Oct & Nov 1914

One of the news items from 100 years ago that caught my eye was the unfortunate tale of Edward Skye. Not only was the 18-year-old butcher thrown from his horse, but his foot caught in the stirrup, dragging him along. To add insult to injury, the horse (who was probably enjoying the incident about as much as Edward) gave him a few kicks for good measure.

Much of the rest of October and November's news was taken up with news of concerts and donations aimed at the war effort. The Red Cross dance realised over twenty pounds due to the sale of flowers, cushions and cakes.

The Chermside Church was opened by the Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr. Donaldson on the 15th of November.

The Brisbane Courier of the 21st of November ran a picture of the new Church of England.



1914 The original All Saints' Church

Proposed speakers and activities at monthly meetings for 2015. Members have asked for more speakers to concentrate on the local area, the problem is to find such people; so we have decided to get local people, such as our members, to talk a little about their own experiences, ideas, memories, etc.

Jan – Nil – Holidays

Feb – Lindsay Packer

Mar – Show & Tell – Photo, a toy, a piece of knitting – sewing – tool – kitchen object – walking stick – war souvenir -

April – Event - Photo (on screen) identification and story attached (1974 flood – prominent buildings – houses)

May – Speaker – Donna Edwards – Northern Catchments – Downfall Creek

June – Event - Anzac Commemoration – Tour of the Drill Hall – the new display will be in place.

The Refurbishment of Lutwyche War Cemetery.

Towards the end of 2013 a very large project was undertaken to stabilise the memorials, headstones and plaques, of the war veterans in Lutwyche Cemetery.

We have all probably noticed that some headstones and monuments in our cemeteries get a lean this way or that way and some topple right over. For most the cause is earth movement while vandals account for the rest. There is not much that can be done about the latter but the former can be corrected or prevented. This has been the aim of the expensive work in the

War Cemetery; several hundred thousands of dollars have been spent!



This idyllic scene of the English country churchyard at Fishbourne shows what can happen when the ground moves. A lot of the stones have disappeared but doesn't the grass look good?



Late last year the headstones were removed and long slabs of reinforced concrete poured with double buttresses at the head of each grave. The headstones were put between the buttresses and wedged in place with wooden wedges, straightened, aligned and permanently grouted in place with cement mortar. Nothing short of a major earthquake will shift them now.

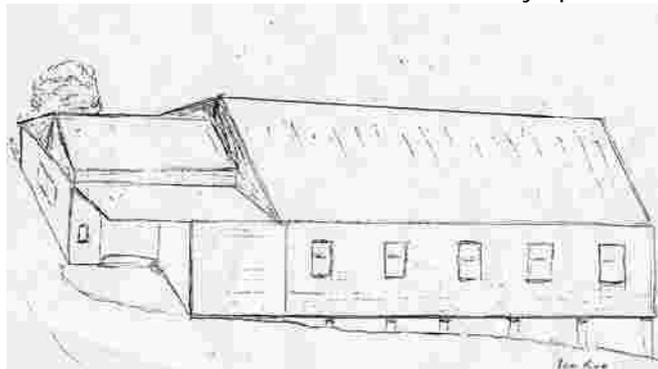
In the Lawn Cemetery long slabs of reinforced concrete have been laid to permanently fix the memorial plaques in place.



Many diggers do not have plaques.

New Library for Chermside.

On 13-10-1898 the first library was founded in the Alliance Hall on the corner of Hall St. and Gympie Rd.



On 21-6-1909 it became the Chermside School of Arts and continued till 9-9-1952 when the assets were handed over to the BCC and it became the First Chermside Municipal Library. It lasted about 60 years.



In about 1957 the old timber building was shifted back and a new brick building was erected on the corner and opened 20-3-1958 as the Second Chermside Municipal Library and first Purpose Built Library, 300m² in size. It lasted about 40 years

The present building was opened on 13-1-1997 on the corner of Kittyhawk Drive and Hamilton Road with 1,500m² of floor space. It lasted about 7 years.

Another 500m² was added and opened 20-3-2004. It lasted about 10 years.

In 2008 I wrote "So the story, begun in 1898 continues, and the dream of the founders lives on. What will our dreaming find after the next 110 years?"

Now 6 years later I still don't know but today 12-11-14 the Northside Chronicle announced the pending demolition of the present library and the erection of a new five floor, two basements and three upper stories, on the same site.

This is the story of Chermside; when we run out of room to build we have to expand upwards and downwards, the two basements are for parking. It's called growing pains and is a sign of a vibrant, expanding community.



Artist's Impression of the new library soon to be built on the site of the present Chermside Hub Library. (Photo courtesy of BCC)

The Chermside (Cattle) Dip was opened in 1908 on Gympie Road opposite the present Aust. Tax Office. Over the last ten years we have been gradually transforming the old concrete bath into an item of historical interest. The first step was to clear some of the vegetation so people could see where it is. The next step was to design, make and erect a sign outlining the nature and function of the old dip. The third step was taken earlier this year with the erection of a traditional post and rail fence around the dip.



Next step – still thinking!

Try downloading the two Newsletters below.



'The Maranoa Enquirer' Oct 2014.pdf

The Windsor & District Hist. Soc. Inc. Newsletter [downloaded here.](#)

Have a peaceful and joy filled Christmas.