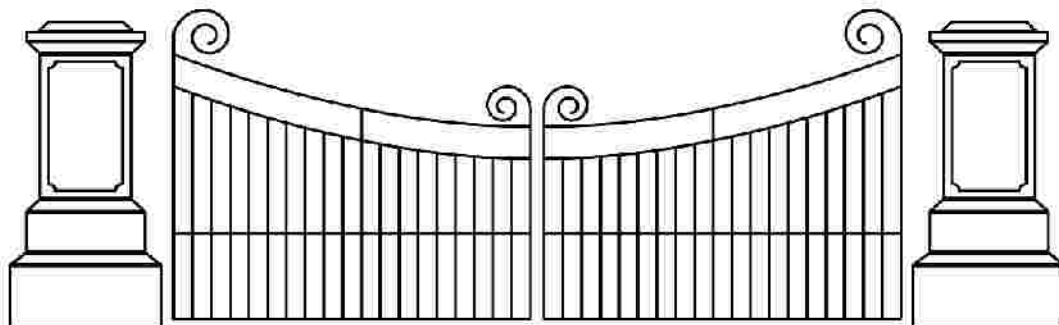


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

Volume 17.No.6

NEWSLETTER

Dec - Jan 2015

(Issued Feb. Meeting)

**President 3260 7384
Patrick O'Shea**

**P.O. Box 416, Chermside Qld 4032
Editor: Pat O'Shea 3260 7384**

**Secretary 3359 3022
C yn 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.

A long-time resident of Henry St., Chermside has drawn our attention to the changes that have taken place in the Henry-Ethel Streets area since 1946. Then the tram terminus was at Lutwyche Cemetery and you walked there; some people had a half hour walk, morning and evening, to go into the city to work. They got plenty of exercise; back then few had problems with obesity.

Blocks of land were commonly 24 to 30 Perches, (600m² to 700m²), and the cost was about £150; to-day, blocks in the area cost between \$350,000 and \$400,000, partly due to inflation and increased value as the city has grown.

In 1946 Henry and Ethel Streets were really dirt tracks, no bitumen, no gutters, no footpaths and lots of trees. On the northern side of Ethel Street was a creek (Somerset Creek) which had a garden wire fence and cattle grazed there. The cattle were owned by the Fortitude Valley butchers Anderson and Cameron. The creek, now underground, goes under Gympie Road, under Westfield and empties into Downfall Creek in 7th Brigade Park. The Council water main stopped at Parkhill Street and residents beyond had to

pay for a Galvanised Iron water pipe to be laid to their houses.



1946 aerial photo between Rode Rd and Wallace St. Henry St ends at Parkhill St and Ethel St ends at Davenport St. Somerset Ck., is open, goes under Gympie Rd and over Kuran St.

About 1952 the owners of all the properties beyond Lot 6 to Davenport Street offered to sell all the land for £1,100 (\$2,200), (there are six houses there now.) Resident bought a car instead!
Resident recalls that the owners of those properties were:

Alf Wells, born Alf Ludham, whilst being a prisoner of war fought a Japanese boxer; he came home and became a champion boxer. He was a lightweight and retired at 38.

Noel Douglass 'Stumpy' Butwell (1925-2013) was a Queensland flyweight boxer. Old State Champion 1944 and Aust. Champion 1944-5, 1950-51

Some of the good neighbours Resident remembers were the: Rodger family, Wood family, Priestly family, Rycroft family and Gillmister family

There were few home phones when we first went there, so we had our phone near the front door so that our neighbours could also use it. I suppose it was good neighbour policy.

The Chermside School was at our front. It had a Head Master's house and the headmaster was Mr Stevens, whose son lived in Parkhill Street

The late Mr Holdsworth built four of the houses in the demolition zone. Those were the days of hammer, handsaw and manual labour.



A recent Google photo of Ethel & Henry shows a change from country village to city suburb. And another change from individual homes to units is well underway.

Today, as the song goes, 'the times they are a changing' and as many as eight houses may be marked for removal or demolition. Two five floor buildings have been approved, while applications have been made to build two others of six and seven floors with a nine floor building in Henry St. Most of the widespread unit buildings in the area are only two or three floors so these multi floor buildings herald another big change; higher apartment buildings.

Resident comments: Ethel Street is going from being a semi-rural type post war area to be part of a prized area with all facilities available locally and no need to go to the city for anything. Sadly, units are the way of life now, instead of houses, in developed areas.

Editor Comments: Units represent a new way of life, smaller space, smaller families, private car transport, basement garages, close to public transport, shopping, financial and legal services. And it is not just young people going into them; many people are retiring into them.

F. G. Butt and Sons – A summary: (Marion Eaton) Francis Gustavius Butt was one of the few tinsmiths in Brisbane. In 1910 he bought a pineapple plantation and home on Murphy Road in Zillmere. Small crops like tomatoes were also planted. After some time Mr. Butt found that farming on its own did not provide sufficient living for the family and he decided to try canning some of the pineapples.

He started under his house, using his skills as a tinsmith to hand-make cans. Slowly but surely the canning developed into a viable small business to supplement his income. Later a building was erected for packing pineapple as sales on the fresh fruit market sometimes paid better than canning.

However as the canning processes improved he ceased fresh fruit production and concentrated on canning. Supplies were purchased from a large number of growers in the Zillmere, Aspley and Bracken Ridge districts. In later years this was extended to the north coast.



In 1923 the family bought a Ford one ton truck. It provided much improved mobility for social events when such entertainments were all done locally.

The range of products increased from canned pineapple to include pineapple juice, tropical fruit salad and a large variety of jams.

Automatic machinery gradually took over from the old hand process with the increase in demand especially during the Second World War with products being sent to the armed forces.

F. G. Butt and Sons fruit canning and jam manufacturing business was sold in the late 1960s. During the fifty years of operation valuable employment was provided for local people with up to 50-70 employed during busy seasons.

The 25acre property on which the old homestead and factory stood is now a residential area bounded by Murphy Road, Orville, Pomery and Margerley Streets.



Two of Butt's colourful labels showing some of their products

You can now read the story of the Butt family on our website in the section on Manufacturing or just go to the search engine and dial in Butt Family Cannery; let the computer find it for you.

"HANDS UP" A CHERMSIDE STORY

Brisbane Courier Wednesday 2-5-1923 p.10

The following item is a Court Room summary of the trial of Richard Elliott who burgled Hacker's store and another store at Woollowin. He then sold the goods to another store keeper who, no doubt was also charged later.

In the Central Police Court yesterday, Mr. W. Harris, P.M., heard charges against Richard Elliott, alias Joseph James Jarvis (1) that on April 21, at Chermside, he broke and entered the shop of William Henry Hacker, with intent to commit a crime-, (2) that on April 18, he broke and entered the same shop, and stole tobacco and groceries valued ,it £14/9/9; and (3),that between March (.....) and 27, at Woollowin,

he broke and entered the shop of Charles Huot, and stole cigarettes, tobacco, and a kit bag, valued at £11/10/8.

Senior Sergeant O'Sullivan prosecuted.

Detective McLean said that on the night of Friday, April 20, he went with Detective Rochford and Constable Johnson to Hacker's shop, in Gympie-road, Chermside. They arrived about 10 o'clock, and, after a conversation with Mr- Hacker, took up positions in the yard of the shop, two doors of which faced Gympie road. About 4 a.m., they saw the defendant coming along the road from Kedron. At the shop door he stopped, bent down, and struck some matches, and appeared to be looking underneath the building. After a minute or so he moved along to a sliding door, and witness heard noises as if it- was being forced open. Then they saw him enter the shop. "T went to the sliding door" continued Detective McLean. "I tried it and it opened. I entered the shop, closing the door behind me. It was dark, and I switched on my electric torch. Then I saw the defendant inside the shop. I had a revolver in my hand, and I pointed it towards him and said, 'Police here, hands up! He turned round and took a couple of steps to-wards me. I said to him. Put up your hands. This time he stood and did so."



Hacker's store on Gympie Road was on the site now occupied by Beaurepairs opposite Westfield. The sliding door referred to above was on the left with the dray in front.

Detective Rochford gave evidence corroborating that of Detective McLean. He also said that he questioned Elliott regarding a robbery at Hacker's shop on April 18. Elliott admitted he was the man. He said he had sold some of the stuff", but most of it was hidden under the store. Constable Johnson crawled beneath the

shop and came out with a quantity of tobacco, cigarettes, and groceries.

Regarding the third charge: Detective Rochford said that at the watch house Elliott admitted he was the thief at Huet's store. He said he sold them to a South Side storekeeper named Holzberger.

"How much used he to give you for this stuff?" asked witness. Elliott replied, "I used to take it to him and he used to just give me what he liked. The most ever I got from him for one lot was a little over £2."

Detective McIvor gave evidence of recovering from Holzberger's shop a quantity of tobacco, cigarettes, and groceries, and a kit bag, which defendant admitted formed portion of the stolen goods.

On the application of Senior Sergeant O'Sullivan, defendant was remanded until Tuesday, May 8.

Unfortunately that is where the story ends at present as I have not found any further newspaper reports of the case. Someday maybe!

You can read the story of William and Alice Hacker Produce Merchants in the Commerce Section on our website.

Blast From The Past

Chermside News Dec 1914 & Jan 1915

As could be expected, most of the news in the papers at this time was concerned with fundraising efforts for the war. So for this instalment, we will delve into Thomas Hamilton's diary. His record of meetings shows the amount of community activity in what was still a very small town:

2nd Dec: "Attended service in Church, also teachers Annual meeting, at which I was elected Superintendent for another year"

7th Dec: "I attended bus directors meeting this evening"

9th Dec: "I attended [Church] leaders meeting"

All Saints' Anglican Cathedral was presented with a new altar on the 25th of January, 1915. Certain sections of this altar were incorporated into the present one, which is now 52 years old.

Re: Thomas Hamilton and the Horse Bus.

In 1912 when the Brisbane horse bus firms amalgamated to form the Brisbane Motor Bus Company, Chermside was left without public transport. The response was typical of the people; they clubbed their cash and formed their own Kedron Omnibus Company to carry people to Wooloowin station and to Aspley. This was a short term measure as the firm was sold in 1915 but the horse bus continued to be used in the area into the 1920s.

After 1914 the buses could also take passengers to Kedron Brook where they had to cross a foot bridge and catch the tram which, by that time was terminating there. When motor buses replaced the horses they took people to the same places but it is not known if they competed with the trams into the city.



This Horse Bus was on display in the Brisbane Museum; it was built in the Hamilton body building workshop and the iron work was forged in the Hamilton blacksmith shop.

About twenty years ago the Hamilton family rescued the old bus from a backyard, fully restored it, including the painting and scroll work, and presented it to the Brisbane museum. The family was not happy when, unbeknown to them, it was transferred to the Cobb and Co museum in Toowoomba.



Two of Andrew Hamilton's Carriage plates

Water Harvesting in Marchant Park



Google map shows the place in Marchant Park where the first 250,000 litre tank will go to drought proof the park. As the climate grows hotter the amount of rainfall becomes uncertain, this is insurance against longer dry spells. The water will come from Ovals 2 and 4 by drainage and be pumped to ovals as needed.

\$400,000 Irrigation Project for Marchant Park

Councillor Fiona King of Marchant Ward has announced that Brisbane City Council will spend \$400,000 on water harvesting and irrigation at Marchant Park Chermside in Stage 1 of a program to upgrade the irrigation of the wicket blocks at Marchant Park. Work is expected to commence in January, 2015 with work to include:

- Circling Turf wicket blocks on all 10 Ovals with **automatic (pop-up) sprinklers**
- Two large storage tanks (250,000) to receive harvested (run-off) water
- Upgraded new water lines throughout Marchant Park to replace old lines, many being old clay pipes that break down from time to time.

Courtesy of the Warehouse Cricketer 25-11-14



Two tanks have been erected on the above site.



A closer view shows something of the structure.

Archive Report - Beverly Isdale Archivist

Our collection continues to grow, mainly as a result of donations from members. We also receive information from people who read our website and realize that they have information that might interest us. We've received photos, an obituary, and information in this way.

We also receive many requests for information via emails and these inspire research to answer their inquiries. One lady asked for details on the Daffodil factory on Handford Road. I did find some information in one of Marion Eaton's books but it's often quite amazing that so much recent history has been lost or forgotten. Another example of "lost history" is the Foster Pool at Albany Creek Road. Hundreds of children must have attended learn-to-swim classes but there is very little information available. Many people are also interested in the history of their houses and ask for photos. This is not always possible but there are a few sources we can use.

A few of our members keep watch on what is happening in our local streets. Playfield Street has had many changes in the last few years and Ethel Street is changing with houses being demolished. The first houses were built in Ethel Street just after the war so it really has a short history. Photos and memories of early/long term residents are the ways that we can record the history of these streets.

Some of the framed photos that we rotate between libraries are now hanging in the Fitzgerald Room and we plan to put more into the Youatt Room. This collection was Terry Hampson's idea a few years ago and

he would be very happy to see this use of the collection.



This photo of class 3B Chermshire State School in 1967 was contributed by Stephen Leek who is in the photo.

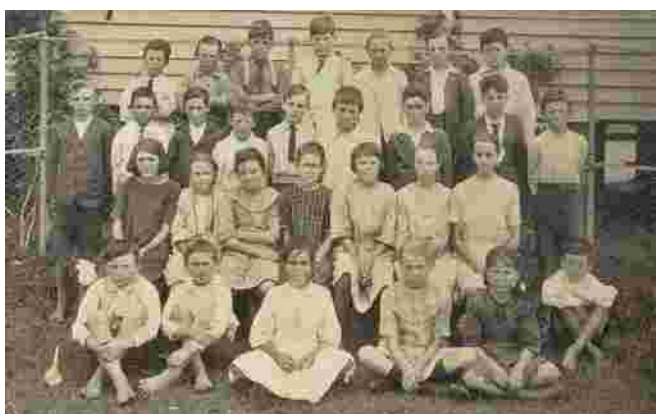
These children would have been about 7-8 years old which makes them about 48 years old now; old enough to be grandparents, how time flies!

Of the three boys with feet visible, two are barefooted and one is wearing thongs. This was not unusual at the time. All the girls in front are wearing shoes and socks. Children's school dress does not vary much from decade to decade but by the 1960s uniforms were predominating.

The boys have the traditional short back and sides haircut while the girls have short hair with only one having moderately long hair.

The teacher is very much in one of the several 1960s men's fashions. He wears long sleeved shirt, possibly with buttoned down collar, skinny tie and fitted or 'Mod' pants. His haircut is the traditional short back and sides.

Note how many of the children, especially the girls, are smiling.



Contrast the 1967 photo with that of 1923: Forty four years earlier the pupils of Grade 5 Chermshire look very different from the 1967 class. Generally they are much older, only one girl might be smiling, no uniforms, boys and one girl barefooted

Some new information has just come from Lindsay Stabe via Robert Isdale re the Bomb Dump in the bush above Hillcrest Street in 1942.



This composite photo shows the approximate location of the WWII US Army bomb dump near Hilltop Avenue in what is now the location of Holy Spirit and Prince Charles Hospitals

A section of the light scrub about 200 feet (61m) by 15 feet (4.57m) had been cleared and levelled by hand near Hilltop Parade. A single row of bombs were placed side by side on the ground with each bomb resting against the one beside it. A second row was placed on top of the lower row, and the upper level bombs rested in the grooves of the lower layer. There was no separating material either sideways or between the upper and lower level rows or the lower level and the earth. In the haziness of memory, Lindsay estimates that there were up to about 10 such rows, each about 30 feet (9 m) long. Guessing again, there would have been about 40 bombs in each row. Even conservatively guessing, the total stockpile would have been over 300 bombs.

As far as we know there were no complaints from the residents; they were relieved to know that the Americans had arrived and would, hopefully, take care of the enemy.

The full story will be added to the Staib Family section of the CDHS Website.