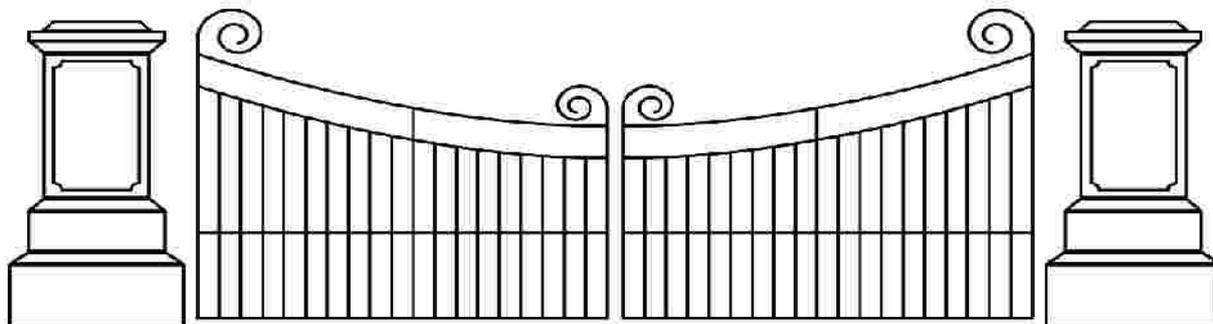


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

Volume 18.No.3

NEWSLETTER

June - July 2015

(Issued Aug. Meeting)

President 3260 7384
Pat O'Shea

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

Secretary 3359 3022
Carolyn 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.

Catafalque – A raised platform on which a coffin may be laid. Catafalque Party is soldiers guarding the body on the Catafalque. Ancient origin maybe Etruscan (Tuscany), Late Latin (Medieval), used in French 17th Century, Italy. English, Army. More broadly interpreted today as at Billy Sing's Monument, where there was no coffin or body.

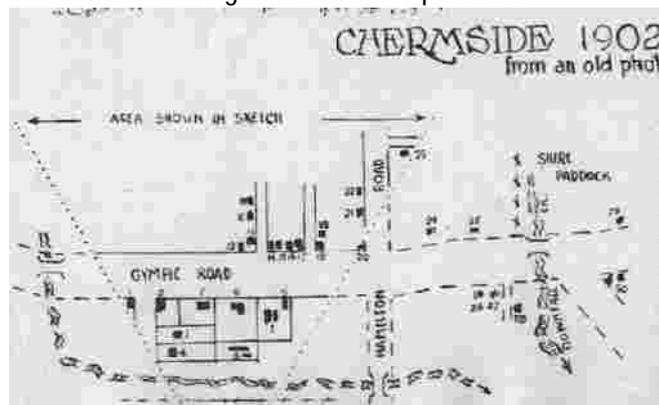
The speakers for June were Beverley Isdale and Pat O'Shea who gave the second part of an illustrated lecture entitled "Why Chermside". It is an attempt to show why a hamlet called "Dead Man's Gully" or later "Downfall Creek" and finally, after 1903 "Chermside", grew into the vibrant Northside growth centre of 2015.

The story centres around the Great Northern Road (Gympie Road) replacing the Old Northern Road via Cash's Crossing (Albany Creek) when a bridge was built over the South Pine River at Bald Hills and opened in May 1865.

The first settler could have been Alexander Duff at about the same time; he was followed by John Patterson who, in about 1870 opened the first shop on the Northern Road where the Green Motel is situated

near Banfield Street today. Soon after Andrew Hamilton opened the first blacksmith and carriage building works. The little settlement had begun.

By 1902 the hamlet had grown into a more or less self-sufficient village of about 150 persons.



A local historian, Stan Eddowes drew the sketch of Chermside using a photo taken in 1902-3 and listed some 23 families. There would have been more families on the small farms surrounding the village. By this time the village had a variety of food shops and small businesses supplying consumer goods. Slaughter yards, tanneries, saw mills, transport facilities and the Shire Council provided employment.

The growth of the small town was slow but steady up until the end of the Second World War when expansion became virtually meteoric. This was the first building boom of houses; people were coming to buy land and build.

Chermside was well placed, especially after the tram arrived, making it much easier to travel to the city centre; it was in the right place at the right time. The huge hospital complex was begun, the first drive in shopping centre opened in 1957 and it hasn't stopped growing. Legal, banking, financial, medical, pharmaceutical, dental and many other services were established and continue to grow. Two of the largest parks in Brisbane were established beside the centre of Chermside.

By the 1980s Chermside had run out of space for building so more space had to be built by higher and higher rise apartment blocks. The sky, it seems, may be the limit but parking is a major problem and growing on and below the ground.



Playfield Street, Chermside photo taken 2013. In 1950 this was open space; by the mid-1950s there were 52 family houses and at present there are 13 left of which at least four are used by businesses. Kittyhawk Drive now extends all the way from Hamilton Road to Murphy Road with complex sets of traffic lights at both ends.

Notice:

Qld. Family Hist. Soc. Inc. will hold an Open Day at QFHS Library and Resource Centre 58 Bellevue Avenue, Gaythorne 22 August 2015 - 10.00 am to 3.00 pm to discover your Family History.

Request:

I am looking for an old friend named Paul Bailey who lived at 10 Markway St. W. Chermside, Brisbane, Australia about 35 years ago. Can you help me locate him? Ron Shelden. (Any replies to the Editor.)

Edward Huxtable's Unforeseen Gift to Chermside. Have you ever wondered why Chermside-Aspley has one of the biggest park areas in Brisbane? Maybe you haven't! But there is more! How has the large area of Murphy's Paddock managed to survive as an open space for so long. After all, it would make a fine area for houses, and indeed 1,300 houses were built on it in the post-World War II house building boom.



Map of the original paddock. Why such a large a block surrounded by small allotments from 10ac to 20ac with some as big as 100ac? Did Huxtable, the surveyor, decide that the area needed a large park or a race course? No one knows. William Murphy, a Brisbane solicitor, bought the paddock in 1872 probably as a speculation. When he died in 1881 he left it to his sister, Mary Murphy who was living in Sydney.

It has the largest creek in Chermside running through it and that was a source of fresh water mullet which grew to about 30cm and there were eels as well.

Gradually the area was divided into sections. The first division was made by the local people who had a short cut across the paddock from Downfall Creek (Chermside) to Zillman Waterholes (Zillmere). Sometime after 1875 the track was gazetted as a road and called Murphy Road.

On 10-2-1885 Miss Murphy sold the paddock to Michael Ballinger who may have been a dairy farmer. He made the second division of the paddock by selling, or giving, the smaller section on the northern side of Murphy Road to his son John on the 29-4-1892

In 1897 William (Billy) Hacker bought 4 acres from John Ballinger on behalf of August Vellnagel to set up his blacksmith's forge on the corner of Gympie and Murphy Roads. Vellnagel was not naturalised at the time.

On 24-8-1899 George and Mary Marchant bought the remaining 97 acres as a spelling paddock for their delivery horses; the Marchants manufactured soft drinks. The area was used for military training during the Great War.

In 1918 the Kedron Shire council offered to buy 10 acres and the Marchants offered them the whole lot as a gift. The Council dithered, but pushed by the Colonial Government, they accepted. The deal was sealed on 9-9-1921 and included shifting Vellnagel across Gympie Road. He protested vehemently but had to go.

Thus was born Marchant Park which is now home to Warehouse Cricket Club with 10 turf ovals and where cricket is played all year round. It also has three soccer ovals, a large Scout Hall and a Guide House.

Today Marchant Park is 39 hectares – 96.33 acres. (Lion's Park and Murphy Road deducted)

In 1925 with the amalgamation of the small councils the Brisbane City Council became the owner of Marchant Park.

Meanwhile on the other side of Murphy Road Michael Ballinger retained the larger part of Murphy's Paddock after the division on the 29-4-1892, some 401 acres – 162 Hectares.

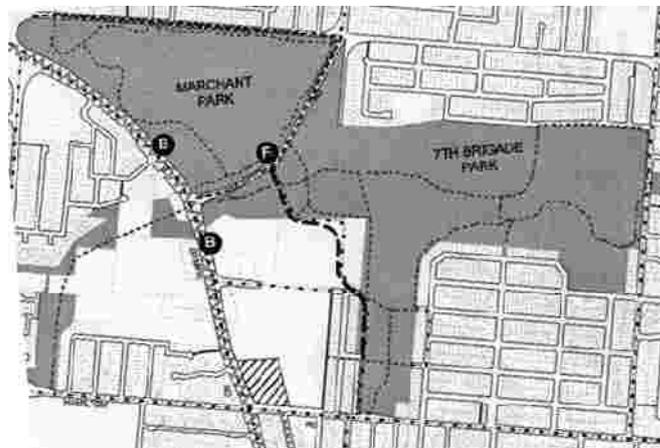
A Mr Cowlshaw is listed as the next owner by Kath Ballard but nothing is known about him.

The fifth owner, John King, a shopkeeper of Kedron, is much better known. David Teague on p. 29 of his History of Kedron notes of King "He had a herd of Jersey cattle. The milkers were kept on his Kedron property whilst the others were kept in his Hamilton Road paddocks at Chermshire."

The sixth owner to give his name to the paddock was Alonzo Sparkes a very well-known entrepreneur who owned six butcher shops in Brisbane. He bought the paddock in 1909 and built a slaughter yard with plenty of room for holding paddocks.

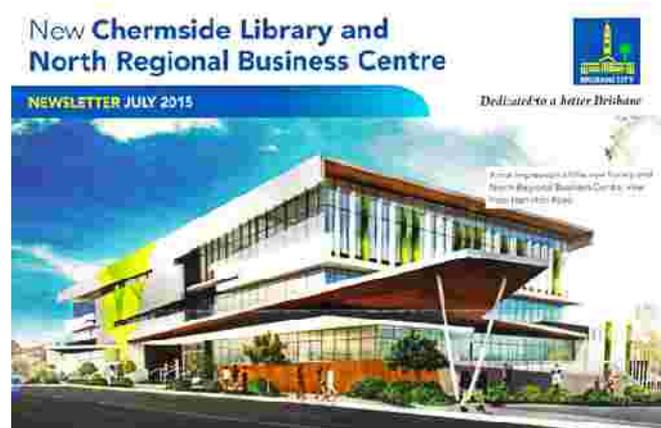
After the closure of all private slaughter yards in C1931 the area was used as a holding yard till the outbreak of World War II in 1939 when it was taken over by the Commonwealth Government for a military camp.

In 1959 the Brisbane City Council bought the paddock and in 1996 named it 7th Brigade Park which is 73 hectares which transposes into 180.3 acres. (Land for 1,300 houses, Library, K/W Service Club, Aquatic Centre, Historical Precinct and Parking deducted) With the high rise apartment blocks in Playfield St., and Kittyhawk Drive many more people will have immediate access to the parks.



While Marchant Park is almost its original size 7th Brigade Park is less than half 45% of its original size.

The Ibis Rookery is open again off Kittyhawk Drive in 7th Brigade Park – over Downfall Creek – first sighting Sunday morning 28th June 2015. It seems to be more spread out than last year which makes it more difficult to get some good photos.

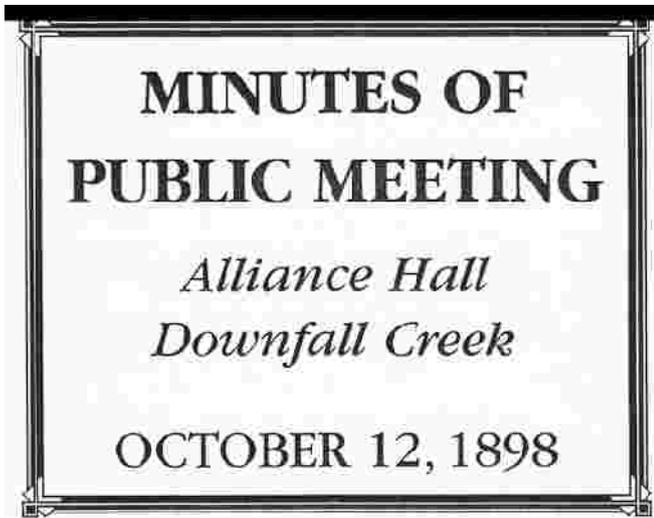


This is the artist's impression of the new library for Chermshire and District which is expected to be opened in late 2016. It will be the fourth library in Chermshire since the first one opened in the old Alliance Hall in October 1898. It later became the Chermshire School of Arts.

The present library, number three, was opened by the Lord Mayor, Jim Sorley, on 17-1-1997. It is a one floor building which was state of the art at the time. On 20-3-2004 the Hub was opened by the Lord Mayor, Tim Quinn, which increased the floor space to 2,000m² the total cost of the whole building was some \$4.7m.

The new building will serve two purposes - a Library and Offices for BCC on the Northside.

Since we have no photo of the original library the notice of the public meeting held to establish that first library will have to do. It was a local attempt to help



people to improve their education. There was a Colonial Government subsidy for books but the rest was up to the local people to staff it and keep the precious books locked up in cages because the hall was used for other activities. Self-help was the name of the game in Downfall Creek 117 years ago.



This photo was taken in 1938, according to the calendar on the wall in the School of Arts. It shows the librarian's desk and a newspaper viewing stand on the left and it was state of the art for small libraries of the time. The entire room is made of wood - no plastic, no chipboards, no stainless steel. The doors were made on the job, hung on T hinges, locked with barrel bolts and rim locks.

The School of Arts library served Chermside for 60 years till the first purpose built Municipal Library was opened on the corner of Hall Street and Gympie Road on 20-3-1958. It was only 300m² but it was welcomed as a great step forward, as indeed it was.

This second library lasted 39 years when the current one opened on the corner of Kittyhawk Drive and Hamilton Road. It will be replaced after only 19 years.

How long will the new fourth library last as the speed of change seems to be getting faster?

Mosaic Seating Wall at Chermside Library



The wall is on a north-south axis and this is the east side of the nine metre long structure. The long blue streak represents Downfall Creek around which are many small icons representing various activities which form parts of Chermside's history.

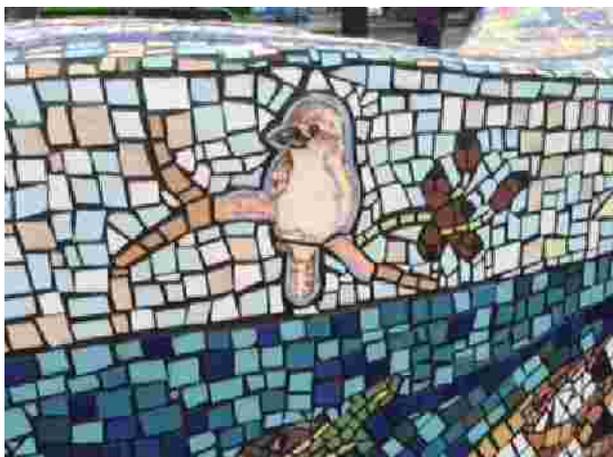
The wall was the brainchild of Terry Hampson when he was Councillor for Marchant. The designer was Cate Collopy and the work was done by a group of nine young persons under the supervision of Shane Kelepper and Hendrick Jimmink. It was officially opened by Terry Hampson on 20th March 2004.

It is a magnificent piece of public art but it has to go to make room for the new library which will be completed in 2016. It is too bulky to just cut it up and lift it out piece by piece as its structure is unknown. So ten of the icons have been removed and carefully packed for future use. Also when the tradesmen were lifting the fragile mosaics it was discovered that rainwater had seeped beneath them and they might have peeled off anyway.



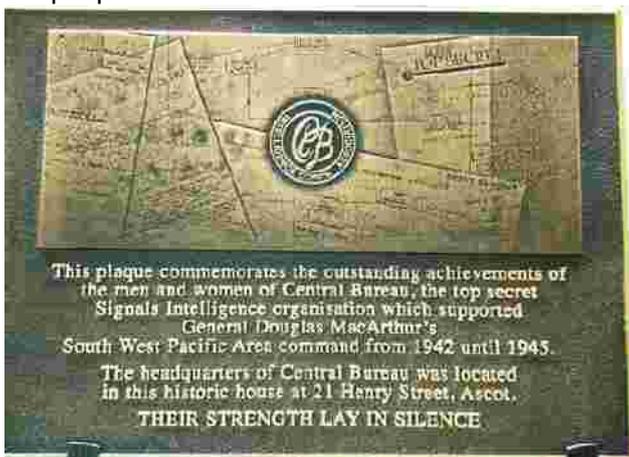
This view is from the west side showing the blue creek motif surrounded by descriptive icons.

The above mentioned icons, including the one shown below, are in the keeping of the CDHS and are stored in the premises in the Chermside Historical Precinct. When and how we will be able to use them remains to be seen.



One of the preserved icons shows a Kookaburra 'sitting in the old Gum Tree'.

Central Bureau, Nyrambla 21 Henry St., Ascot
 At 11am Thursday 9th July, 2015 in the presence of representatives of the Australian and US armed services, the Australian and USA Intelligence Community and many 'interested' people such as 'us' by invitation the plaque below was unveiled.



The reason why the CDHS is interested in this event is that many of the women who worked at Central Bureau were living in the Chermside Army Camp. So they were some of us, and they still are. They were the Australian Women's Army Service and they were camped in the area bounded by Hamilton Rd., Kuran St., Pfingst Rd. and Kingsmill St.

A young officer, Helen Rex, now Bond, ran the camp, which was in bushland among gum trees. The road to the camp was dirt, and crossed a gully, sometimes flooded. A cattle grid at the entrance and barbed wire fence were more farm-like than military. Each fibro hut held three girls.

The only men on the site were those who cooked and chopped wood for coppers in which we washed our clothes. Cooking was done on fuel or Soyer stoves. Lavatories were un-sewered, and green snakes and frogs frequented the rec. hut and latrines,

much to the surprise of many, including Madeline Chidgey and Coral Hinds. (Helen Kenny CBIC – Central Bureau Intelligence Corps)

They worked around the clock in shifts of eight hours at 21 Henry Street, transported to and from sitting, and bouncing, in the back of army trucks under a canvas cover. They worked in the large garage behind Nyrambla using what we would today call very remote forerunners of the modern computer.



Entrance to Nyrambla 21 Henry St. in the early 1940s. The photo, which would have been against regulations, shows a half concealed sentry, an entrance without a gate, a fence of sorts; security? But then there would have been very few Japanese tourists in those days!

The girls look happy and the photo is worth thousands of words as it shows something of the ones who toiled in secret literally battering their heads against the brick wall of secret codes until the wall was breached and allied lives saved.



A group of AWAS from Chermside Camp sitting outside the garage at 21 Henry St., Ascot where they worked on code breaking for Central Bureau from 1942 to 1945.



On Remembrance Day 2011 these ex AWAS gathered in Melbourne to be presented with the Bletchley Park Broach which is a civilian equivalent of a medal. From left to right: Helen, Joyce, Mary, Ailsa, Joy, Madge and Noni.



The Bletchley Park Broach is inscribed GC&CS which represents Government Code and Cypher School, 1939-1946, Bletchley Park and Its Outstations.



Two of the original AWAS who served at Central Bureau, 21 Henry Street, Ascot. Helen Kenny is the one on the right who has helped CDHS with photos and information on the dark days of the early 1940s.

Below is a link to ABC report on the awards at 21 Henry St. Just control click to cross to the ABC website.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/central-bureau-veterans-recognised-for-top-secret-service/6609498>

There will be more on the AWAS when I get time to put them on our website along with the Chicken Coup d'etat.

Blast From The Past

Chermside News Jun & Jul 1915

I was very surprised to read that in a social event 100 years ago at the Chermside School of Arts, there was a hat trimming competition for gentlemen. There has been a lot written about women taking on what would have been traditionally considered male roles during the war, but I have never seen anything concerning the opposite.

Given the state of war at the time, it should not be surprising that there was talk of forming a Chermside Rifle Club. A meeting was held at the School of Arts building, presided over by J. Gibson Jr., who was at the time president of the Kedron Shire Council. Although the sentiment was overwhelmingly positive, with almost all present applying for membership, I can find no further mention of the club between 1915 and 1925.

Rona Arndt: Influence of the 16th Century on today. Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence, the custom today of the bride carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children; last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying - Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water..