

The Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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Volume 19.No.3

NEWSLETTER

June - July 2016

(Issued Aug. 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.

Our speaker for the July meeting was Lindy Sugars the President of Ashgrove Historical Society Inc. Lindy traced the development of Ashgrove from 1856 to 2006 covering the first 150 years.

The land around Enoggera Creek was the home of the Turrbal people who had occupied the land from time immemorial. This counted for little in the eyes of the Government of NSW and they were given the usual, for those days, short shrift; the Whitefella had arrived and the first land sales were held in 1859.

In 1864 Daniel Somerset built a house out of granite and, rather whimsically, named it St. John's Wood. It was later bought by Judge Harding who extended it and it still survives to the present as the oldest building in Ashgrove.

In 1866 the Enoggera Waterworks aka Enoggera Dam was built on the creek and became the source of Brisbane Town's first reticulated water supply. It is an earth wall with a core of clay and sand 27m high and holds 4.5million kilolitres. It was raised to this height after the 1974 floods when the water went over the spillway

1876 saw the Ashgrove State School opened with 66 pupils in a 'tin and timber' structure; by 1925 the enrolment had risen to 206 when the building was moved across the road to where its brick successor, built during the Great Depression, now operates.

1877 Glen Lyon House, a magnificent two storied

brick mansion, was built by Alexander Stewart on 200 acres which he had bought. It was extended in the 1890s and was bought by Archbishop James Duhig in 1924 who sold it to the Marist Fathers in 1925. They sold it in 2000 and it is now in private hands.

1880 Ithaca Divisional Board was formed and later the Council Chambers was built on Enoggera Terrace. It was a very substantial brick building which eventually became part of Windsor Shire. It contrasts with the Council Office in Chermside which was only a tin and timber structure indicating that Enoggera was a much more prosperous area at the time.

1888 the Grove Estate of 200 building blocks began selling beside Glen Lyon House but the sales were slow. By 1924 it was revamped with street gardens, parks and playgrounds, water, electricity, trams for public transport and was offered for sale as the Glenlyon Gardens Estate. It became a modern commuter suburb with direct transport to the Brisbane CBD as the trams arrived in 1924 just in time for the launch. Also it is thought that the name Ashgrove comes partly from the name Grove Estate, anybody know where the Ash part came from?

1900 the third Ithaca Creek Bridge was built of reinforced concrete which was state of the art for the time and it was strong enough to carry the trams. Consequently in 1924 the first tram arrived in Ashgrove and the line was extended until, in 1969, the trams were scrapped and the motor cars

took over transport so that in 2003 another bridge was built alongside to carry the motor vehicles. This little story is an excellent example of the development of the infrastructure of the region. As the population grew and the methods of transport changed the creek remained so the bridging (infrastructure) also had to change. (Here endeth the lesson.)

1925 saw the Sisters of Charity arrive and began teaching on the veranda of Grantully and in 1927 moved to St. Finbarr's Church on Waterworks Road where a new primary school had been built underneath

1927 St. Michael's College opened in Grantully and was followed by other buildings. Today Grantully is the administration hub of the College.

1931 St. Jude's Tower was built as a training college for Catholic priests but closed in 1938 and was bought by the Marist Brothers who renamed it St. Mary's College.

1934 Oakleigh State School, an imposing three floor brick building was opened and, in the early 1960s was educating over 1,000 students.

During World War II the Marist St. Mary's College was taken over by the Australian Army from 1942 to 1944. The College relocated to Eagle Heights at Mount Tamborine and returned after the war renaming it Marist College Ashgrove.

1957: The war memorial to honour those killed in the two world wars was built on land once owned by Alexander Stewart. Today it is the site each year for the Ashgrove ANZAC Day service. The former tram waiting shed now houses a memorial to the 61st Battalion Queensland Cameron Highlanders.

The Great War 1917 – The Breaking of the Armies Continued. Attrition – which army will be the last one standing? Which nation will be the first to run out of men to feed the war machines?

February: Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare which finally drew USA into the war and led to the defeat of Germany.

Feb-April: German forces withdraw into the deeply dug in, reinforced concrete, Hindenburg Line

where a garrison of 20 divisions was accommodated. This was a defensive operation as they were unable to launch any new offensives at the time.

March: The Russian Tsar abdicates and the first revolution takes place. Russia had endless supplies of men but they were underarmed, poorly led and were giving up and going home. Unfortunately Tsar Nicholas was hopeless as a commander.

April: USA declares war on Germany and prepares to send fresh troops to France.

The Nivelle Offensive, a Franco British major offensive begun and captured the German defences to the West of the Hindenburg Line but failed to force a decisive battle on the Germans and was abandoned.

The Allies attacked with 1.2 million men and had 187,000 casualties while the Germans defended with about 480,000 men with 163, 000 casualties. It was a German victory and Nivelle was replaced by Petain.

Mutiny breaks out in the French Army because of the very heavy casualties, too many Frenchmen were dying or being badly wounded. Almost half of the French divisions refused duty but did not shirk defending against any German attack; and the Germans never found out about the mutiny. This must have been the best kept secret of the war.

Petain became the peacemaker by talking to the soldiers, he was regarded as a 'soldier's soldier' and the men listened. There were many Court – Martials but few executions. He made it clear that he was waiting for the Americans before the final battles to win the war. He is supposed to have had a slogan 'lavish with steel stingy with blood' indicating that there would be no more bloodbaths on the front. The French had finally found a modern general who understood modern warfare: he was later honoured with the title of Marshall of France.

June: The first US troops arrive in France and soon after Pershing asks for a million men to follow. The American troops brought the latest and the biggest artillery, immense amounts of munitions, hospitals, trains complete with signals systems, trucks and lorries, the best equipped infantry in the world but most importantly, the troops were

fresh and they had come determined to end the war. And the German High Command knew it; they had to act before the Americans were fully prepared for battle.

July: The Third Battle of Ypres, Bloody, Bloody, Passchendaele, a major British offensive took place from July 31 to November 11. It was a controversial decision to attack in view of the failure of the earlier Neville Attack and the desire of the French who wanted to wait till the Americans were battle ready and then attack.



The farming area of Flanders had a complex drainage system which was destroyed by the shell fire resulting in extremely muddy conditions. Soldiers actually drowned in the mud pools if they fell off the duck boards. The trees give the area a hellish appearance, very appropriate. (Wikipedia Photo)

The British commander Douglas Haig a cavalry man, still believed that if they could break through the German lines and send the cavalry through to clear the way then victory would be achieved. He even brought cavalry to reserve positions behind the front lines on a number of occasions but they were never used. Haig's thinking was, to say the least, old fashioned and it resulted in 'blood baths'.

There was even controversy over the manpower and the casualties of the operation. 50 British and 5 French divisions attacked between 77 and 83 German divisions. The Allied casualties were between 200,000 and 448,614 while the Germans lost between 217,000 and 410,000.

The result was inconclusive both sides stayed where they were before the battle which meant the Germans had won.

November: Second Bolshevik Revolution in Russia brought Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin) to power and he was determined to take Russia out of the war; he began negotiations with Germany on 22nd December 1917. The Germans were delighted; they would no longer be fighting on two fronts and would be able to move some 70 divisions to the Western Front in France.

**Annual Report of the Chermiside & Districts
Historical Society Inc.
Sunday 7-8-2016**

Patrick O'Shea, President:

We appreciate and thank the following bodies for their continuing support: the Executive which meets monthly to manage the day to day affairs of the Society; the members many of whom were presented with framed certificates thanking them for their continued loyalty; the Kedron Wavell Services Club Inc., for its constant support in managing the legal and financial responsibilities of the Society; the Brisbane City Council and the Community Service workers who keep our extensive lawns looking their best.

We face the problem of declining membership as our community ages, several are foundation members, and younger people are not replacing them. This is understandable as people seem to become interested in local history only when they are in their middle years. At present we have 51 paid up members, which is more than enough to conduct the research and publication of the history of the local area. This, with grants, creates an income stream sufficient to cover running costs of the Society and the maintenance of the fabric of our premises.

Our website continues to expand as continual research reveals more information about the local area. 78% of the website hits come from Australia, most of them within the Brisbane area which is to be expected for a Local History organisation. Our Facebook presentation is proving a valuable source of local information as people make comments along with the photos that are recorded. (See below.)

We are continuing our custom of a mixture of visiting speakers to our monthly meetings interspersed with presentations by our members. The latter is a way of getting members to recall incidents in their own lives in the local area which can then be stored in our archives.

The photographing of the graves in Lutwyche Cemetery is complete and the transcribing is proceeding steadily by a small team of volunteers. There are some 11,000 plots in the cemetery, all the data is being posted to a dedicated website.

Recording the changes in the local area continues by photographing existing buildings, parks etc., before they are demolished, removed or altered and after, by recording the finished product. This is a very big job as the rate of high rise apartment building is continuous while Westfield Shoppingtown is adding to the mix by expanding upwards as well as horizontally. Many of the houses built in the post-World War II building boom are being upgraded as well but we are unable to record these.

We investigated the prospect of digitising our hard copy archives, which are extensive and, at present are beyond our capabilities so for now we are concentrating on the flow of new material. Hopefully as technology improves we may be able to tackle the backlog.

The bimonthly six page newsletter continues to be published and of the 72 copies sent, only 15 are posted, the remainder are sent by email; this not only saves paper but is also much cheaper and reaches a wide range of readers.

At last we have managed, with the help of a grant from Kedron Wavell Social Club Inc. to put a sign on the south side of our premises. It faces a very busy bicycle/pedestrian track through 7th Brigade Park and informs passers-by who we are, our website and Facebook URLs, the former function of the building and its venerable age of 116 years. This means that it is probably the oldest building in Chermside; of course there older graves of Chermside residents in Lutwyche Cemetery!

After an intensive inspection of the premises by a Fire Safety Advisor we are currently upgrading our safety measures with the help of Kedron Wa-

vell Services Club Inc. This includes emergency evacuation measures which we practice regularly.

Archives Annual Report 2015-2016 Beverley Isdale

Our collection continues to grow, mainly with the assistance of donations from members and other interested people. Information from newspaper files comes from the Courier Mail, Northside Chronicle and Bayside Star. These references have been very useful for people writing local school histories.

The photo collection is growing also with nearly 6000 photos on our database. We have many photos of houses, mainly because of the numbers of houses that are being demolished to make way for high rise unit buildings. Suburbs such as Chermside, Geebung, Kedron, and Zillmere are changing so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up the new developments.

We receive requests for information via email and this is often as a result of browsing our website. We can supply most enquiries with some information or else details on where to search for further information.

Pat and I have given several talks during the year. They were mostly on the history of Chermside and listeners seemed to enjoy them. We had a display in Zillmere Library in conjunction with the National Trust Heritage celebration; another celebrated the life of Joan Hamilton and her contribution to the Society and the area. We also put together a collection of Terry Hampson's contribution to our community in association with the launch of his biography in November last year. This function brought many visitors to our rooms.

Some of our resources have been digitised, mainly photographs, but much of the content in the filing cabinets needs digitising – that is a large project for the future.

Facebook Annual Report – Carol Cunningham and Bradley Scott

I have been publishing articles in the CDHS Facebook site since January this year. A number of my articles were sourced from Marion Eaton's works and were popular anecdotes of earlier times. I placed a few old recipes where it was expected that the household would have access to homemade stock of fowl, rabbit, beef, etc. which is interesting reading and the Marchant Park Gates story was a favourite. There is a fair variety. The articles are placed about once a week. There is a long list of followers of the Facebook now.

Bradley Scott published articles in Facebook up to December, and there are many comments still arriving from his work. The interesting thing about Facebook is how far the articles travel and for how long.

The Facebook page received over 200 thousand page views in the 2015-16 year, for a total of over 350 thousand. With over 550 people liking our page, it is the second most popular page by a local history society, after the Museum of Brisbane.

The society becoming a Facebook contributor has been a great boost to the number of people who read about us regularly. It would be great to receive a photo and article from our members, one sentence or one paragraph to explain the picture would be enough.

The Castle in Chummy Town Bev & Rob Isdale

The month of July on the Chermshire and Districts Historical Society calendar has a photo of a house that is quite different from the average 'old Queenslander' that we would expect to see in this area of West Chermshire.



The house belonged to my Aunt Alice and Uncle Albert, and I visited it a few times as a child. The house and land were later sold to the BP Oil Company, and the house was demolished to become the BP Service Station on the corner of Hamilton Road and Maundrell Terrace. That too has now gone.

I cannot put an actual date on the photo, but it would be about the 1950's. If we take a guess at all the flags and bunting etc., and remember that Alice and Albert Freeman were both born in England (met and married here, almost 20 years later), and remember that that little corner of Chermshire was known as 'Chummy Town' because the local residents in that area were predominantly ex- English immigrants, and then recall that the Queen's first visit to Australia was in 1954, - - - -hmmmm, well , perhaps / maybe.

When our family visited, from Norman Park via public transport, the tram stopped at the cemetery on Gympie Road, then it was the cream and green bus to Hamilton Road, followed by the walk to almost Maundrell Terrace, carrying the usual assortment of play clothes and 'something for lunch'. The walking pace accelerated to a run as we passed the smelly Packer and Knox wool scour at the bridge (now roundabout).

Albert's sister, Bertha Evans and her husband, Bill, had acreage land beside theirs on Hamilton Road, and the Evans' operated a poultry farm which was, no doubt, hard work for them, but a delight for young children to visit. They also had ducks, and I recall herding the ducks down the paddock to the little creek behind the farm, to have a swim. I can't recall why I thought the ducks needed a swim, but they seemed very obliging. That little creek and pond is now about 20 feet under the Craigslea High School oval.

From my visits to Aunt Alice and Uncle Albert Freeman's home, I remember that they later had a water feature pond in the front of the house, with large splendid goldfish cruising through the reed vegetation, and they later had a pigeon loft in the side yard. The original inhabitants of the loft were magnificently pure white pigeons, but for some mysterious reason the future generations became more speckled with colours, similar to that of the local bush pigeons.

In the fish pond, it later became difficult to find traces of the gold fish, but this situation improved when it was re-stocked and a sturdy wire mesh cover was erected over the top.

Note the prolific bush foliage in the background, and think what is there now.

Albert had a business supplying crushed marble chips for the terrazzo floors that were popular in those years. His 'working yard' was on a marvellous piece of real estate further along Maundrell Terrace on the top of a hill, and I was delighted and amazed that the view took in a marvellous panorama of the mountains to the west and Moreton Bay to the east.

As a child, I stayed for a 'sleep-over' for a few days and we enjoyed a summer evening having our meal on the roof (are those the chairs and table on the porch, that I carried up the steps at the side?).

There was an opportunity there that I now regret that I did not take. A group of us local kids were having a game of cricket in the yard, when Aunt Alice called out – 'did I want to go across the road to Bassnet's dairy with my cousins Madge and Ivy Evans, to get the milk?' I decided to stay with the cricket. Off they went with the billy cans, up to the milking sheds, and I missed the opportunity to see the dairy, and to maybe meet Wally Bassnet then, instead of about 50 years later as we sat side by side at a CDHS meeting.

Alice and Albert had business interests on Bribie Island, and when Albert and some other men were travelling along the notoriously corrugated Torbul Point Road, there was an accident.

A teenage 'hoon' driving his father's Ford V8 car (without permission) crashed head-on into Albert's car. One of Albert's passengers died at the scene and Albert died a few days later in hospital. Other one of the injured passengers, coincidentally, became our neighbour in Cairns in the early 1970's. His injuries had been severe and even years later, contributed to his early death.

The shock to Alice was extreme, and she left the home to take up residence in another area. BP Australia bought the house and land, and you know the rest of the story from there.

Freeland Lane in that area was originally named Freeman Lane, but the BCC street naming department already had a Freeman something in that area, so it became Freeland.

They say that an Englishman's home is his castle. It is a just a co-incidence that the local nickname for Albert's curious architectural style was - - "The Castle".

The Maranoa Enquirer

Newsletter of the

Roma & District
Family History Society Inc



Number 80

June 2016



Right click on the picture and go to Acrobat Document Object and click Open.

Research into the Cherside School of Arts continues with new material coming to light from the minutes and the photo below.



This photo was taken of the building of the new 1958 Library but it also gives new light on the construction of the 1926 addition to the School of Arts; more in the next issue.