

# Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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### Newsletter

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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

On 1 February 2001, my older brother died suddenly at the age of 36, leaving his wife and three daughters aged 8 to 2. As I am sure all Society members could imagine this fact has effected myself and my family deeply.

While the pain will change and subside allowing us to get on with this changed life, there is one thing that will not change in the next few years. That is that my nieces deserve to have an uncle who can spend time with them generously, without letting others down.

It is in this context that I have resigned as President of the Chermside & Districts Historical Society.

The Society, while still in its infancy, is made up of a tremendous group of individuals with a great capacity to contribute to our goals and aspirations. I am confident of their abilities to continue the Society on its progressive path in preserving and promoting the history of our local community. Because of this confidence, I have stepped back from the peak of my involvement for a few years at least.

I will of course remain a member of the Society and hope to make some more contributions of a historical nature rather than an administrative bent. I thank members for their support in establishing the Society and their support for my family and I in these particularly trying times.

Stirling Hinchliffe



#### **COURIER MAIL – AUGUST 4 1962**

This article appeared in *The Courier Mail*, Saturday Aug 4 1962 and may bring back memories to past residents of Eastleigh Street, Chermside. A few of the 10 women involved were Betty Skinner at No. 3, Phyllis Cowie at No. 5, Mrs Wolfe at No. 8, Lyn Currie at No. 9 and Rita Hayes at No. 13. A remarkable victory at the time.

#### **A VICTORY AT CHERMSIDE**

**The 14 angry women of Eastleigh Street, Chermside, yesterday won their own private “war” with the Brisbane City Council.**

**On Tuesday morning they arrived unannounced at the City Hall, to wait on the works committee chairman (Alderman Doyle).**

**They were prepared to wait until they saw him, to press for the sealing of their dusty street.**

**Alderman Doyle, who was attending a meeting of the Municipal Labor caucus, sent word that he would go out to see their street. They left quietly.**

#### **A PROMISE**

**Alderman Doyle and the Works Department manager (Mr. G. B. Mott)**

**saw the street yesterday – and 10 women left their houses to see them.**

**Alderman Doyle said late yesterday that the street would be sealed. Men and equipment sealing a nearby street would be transferred to it soon.**

**FOOTNOTE: Three women members of the "Pullen Road dust elimination committee" called on Alderman Doyle yesterday afternoon. He promised to investigate their complaints. Pullen Road is in Everton Park.**

### ***LIST OF SPONSORS TO THE CHERMSIDE HISTORICAL PRECINCT***

Queensland Government  
Brisbane City Council  
Kedron Wavell Services Club  
Kedron Wavell RSL Sub-Branch  
Chermside/Kedron Uniting Church  
Chermside Westfield Shoppingtown  
Colin Higginson Town Planners  
Gem Print  
O'Brien Glass  
Ken's Renovations  
Wayne Swan, MP Federal Member for Lilley  
Terry Sullivan, Member for Stafford  
Terry Hampson, Councillor for Marchant  
Quick-as-a-Flash, Westfields Chermside

### ***FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES***

Over 700 letters individually addressed have been forwarded to small businesses throughout the Society's district. This follows postage of over 400 letters to visitors to the centenary celebrations of the Chermside School in July 2000. A letter that you, as a member, received. All donations are greatly needed and if you can urge friends to donate as well, please do so.

There was a very efficient working bee of 7 Society members stuffing over 700 envelopes to the accompaniment of a very noisy folding machine at

Terry Hampson's office on Monday 13 March. Terry has very generously paid the postage, provided the envelopes and photocopying to enable this project to happen.

### ***MARCHANT PARK MEMORIAL GATES***

In 2000 the Historical Society chose as its letterhead a sketch by Adrian Turner of the above gates. The gates are a very prominent historical landmark in Chermside.

In 1922 the Kedron Shire Council erected the gates on behalf of the citizens of the shire. They stood proud and prominent bearing the names of the sons of Kedron who went to fight in the South African War (Boer War) and the Great War 1914 - 1919. The latter one was called the war to end all wars and, at the time the people believed it. They had much to learn.

The gates commemorate the suffering of the people of the old Kedron shire in the war that changed Europe, and consequently Australia, forever. Four great empires fell, several others were fatally weakened and new nations arose. Old Europe died and amid the Jingoism Australia, far away and very small, paid dearly for the change.

The tiny shire of about 1456 males farewelled some 283 young men including most of those aged between 18 and 25 years. They were to travel to the other side of the world and fight in one of the bloodiest conflicts in history. After four years of unremitting hell, for those at the front and those waiting at home, 53 of the young men were dead and another 100 were wounded, some permanently shattered. The reality of modern war came home to Kedron in a very bloody manner.

"Lest We Forget" is a fine sentiment but forget what? On Anzac Day we remember but remember what? The men who paid, yes - but what of the causes and other costs? How many visit the Memorial Gates or even think what those gates are all about when they pass through?

Some years ago a cartoon appeared in the Courier Mail captioned "Lest we forget - to question the call to war". What is the answer? Perhaps it lies within those old gates.

Pat O'Shea

## ***THE SCHOOL BELL***

The school building at the beginning of 1930 was small. The next 10 years saw a rapid expansion of both student numbers and in the number of classrooms. The children were called to assembly by the ringing of a hand bell until the school became large enough to have a large bell mounted on a tall frame, set in the school grounds.

An older student was nominated to be the bell ringer. The bell rang out and the sound of the chimes could be heard over half a mile away. It reminded us that in a few minutes it was time to fall in for assembly, and if we were not yet at school, it was time for us to hurry along.

That arrangement seemed to work well and please everyone, until some prankster thought it would be fun to ring the bell in the middle of the night. The sound of the chimes in the still of night could be heard all over Chermside. Next morning at school assembly, an admonishment was given the unknown culprit. The whole affair was a joke, we believed that would be the end of the matter.

Not so! Frequently, within the next couple of months, during the late night the bell's chiming woke the residents of Chermside. The joke ceased to be funny, the chiming, now had become a nuisance that had to be stopped. The bell, stripped of its pride of place, was partly dismantled; there was silence once again.

Valma Ross (nee Fullwood)

## ***EARLY 50's***

Who can remember "Tony the Ice Cream Man" coming around on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, ringing his bell for the children to come out. He was really an Italian who had a motor bike, with an oblong box where you would normally have a sidecar. How he kept the ice cream hard I don't know. Our dog hated him and was nearly run over twice trying to attack the bike.

Lyn Currie of Chermside



## ***LEFT HANDED***

Not many children wore shoes to school, the 1940's and 1950's were financially hard on our parents. For myself, I was born left-handed, and school became a terrible place for me, because I was going to be made right-handed, regardless of my will power.

I was placed in a strategic part of the class room, and the teacher would have the class do some writing on slates. She would walk down the centre of the room towards the back wall, and my left hand would be hit on her way through. I would put the pencil in my right hand and in another second it would be back in my left hand. The teacher's return would be timed accurately to catch me again using my left hand. This treatment lasted a fortnight.

The habit of writing with my right hand was established forever. In spite of all this no one was able to make me use a needle and cotton, a pair of scissors, or a knife in my right hand. Unfortunately such treatment only served to destroy any friendship developing between student and teacher.

Valma Ross (nee Fullwood)

## ***BRIDAL DISPLAY***

Marion Eaton and Joan Hamilton were responsible for that excellent bridal display at the Chermside Library for Heritage Week.

The photos and bridal wear acted like a magnet. It proved irresistible to most library patrons who entered the library. It was like magic the way every patron either completely stopped to inspect the photos or made a slight detour to pass more slowly beside the photo display.

Our society's name was very predominant and this good publicity is exactly what we need during our fund raising endeavours.

## ***HISTORY TO BE LOST AS ARCHIVES ARE PULPED***

**An article by Rob Black from the Sunday Mail dated March 18, 2001**

**Invaluable Queensland archives dating back to Federation will be pulped or trucked off to Canberra with the imminent sale of the Australian Archive Building in Brisbane.**

**And the irony is that it's happening in the year of the Centenary of Federation.**

**As part of the sell-off of Commonwealth properties, the Archive Building at Cannon Hill will be auctioned on March 29.**

**In Adelaide a similar sale has meant up to 95% of files have been destroyed or are being sent out of South Australia.**

**Queensland is next on the hit-list with the Northern Territory to follow.**

**Archives that include sensitive Commonwealth material, army pay records, shipping lists, telegraph files and pictures and a cohesive potential to assist historical research are all in jeopardy.**

**Queensland historians are outraged. The Centenary of Federation Queensland chairman, historian Ross Fitzgerald, said he knew nothing of the sale.**

**"I'd be very concerned if any files were being culled**

**or moved interstate," Professor Fitzgerald said.**

**"Much of the history of Queensland is contained in the archives."**

**Queensland historical societies are lobbying politicians after discovering the sale only when the auction notice went up on the Wynnum Road site this month.**

**Steve Stuckey, from the National Archives of Australia in Canberra, confirmed the archives would be leaving Cannon Hill and some would be destroyed.**

**Purpose-built archival buildings, with airconditioning and humidity control, are proving expensive to maintain and the sell-off is to continue around Australia.**

**Premier Peter Beattie said Queensland's federal archives should remain in the state and called on the Federal Government to reverse the decision to sell the building.**

**"In this Centenary of Federation year we should be increasing the availability of our history not decreasing it," he said.**

**Federal Labor member for Griffith Kevin Rudd said the move was a national disgrace.**

**\*\*Remember\*\***

**All Donations to the Society are urgently needed.**