

# NEWSLETTER



**Volume 5 No. 3**  
**President 3350 2874**

**P.O. Box 416, Chermshire Qld 4032**

**June/July 2002**  
**Secretary 3359 3022**

## *Message from the President*

We are gradually settling into our new home and enjoying the experience. Our meetings this year have been well-attended and we have some new members. We welcome them and hope that we can all contribute to a better understanding of life in our district - past and present.

Our first bus trip was a very happy event. We went to Crows Nest and visited the current home of the first car brought to Chermshire – a Belsize. Sadie and Mark Nutt made us very welcome and Mark gave us a ride in the sparkling car. We also visited the Crows Nest Historical Museum but several hours would not have been long enough – there was so much to see.

We have started our Tuesday openings for members and visitors to see our building and the collection, which is very small at present. We plan to have one committee member and some members to work on the collection each Tuesday. No job is too small or insignificant – anything from stamping to gardening. We welcome all assistance.

The Community Jobs Project is in action again and this time, major work is being done on the Sandgate Drill Hall in preparation for the big celebration in August. The school is also getting some finishing touches – infilling of the gap in the hall, repaired shelving, picture rails and fan lights. We now have power to our building and security lights should protect us from some of the graffiti.

**Beverley Isdale**

## *Where do you live?*

By Stirling Hinchliffe

Recent reports in local and metropolitan newspapers have highlighted the desire by some in our community to use so-called historical place names instead of the more generic suburbs we generally know.

Specifically, some local residents in Stafford have publicly pushed for their corner of the suburb to be officially re-named “Sparkes Hill”. I presume they mean the area of Stafford roughly to the south-west of the Stafford Road/Shand Street intersection which is bounded by the Sparkes Hill Reservoir Reserve.

Over time in our district, locality names have varied and fluctuated in their usage. The reasons for these changes are many and varied (as are the derivations of the names themselves).

For example, Downfall Creek became Chermshire and Happy Valley became Stafford by way of community expressions of an ill-defined “progress”. Various locality names have arisen from commercial real estate promotions – some have survived, some have been sidelined – Carseldine, Craigslea, McDowall, Rode Estate.

The separate phenomenon raised by these latest reports is that of traditional localities within modern suburbs. Across Brisbane we recognise this phenomenon – Rosalie, Kalinga, Grovely. Indeed, locally, in the early 1990s Gordon Park re-emerged

from its submergence within Kedron.

However, “Sparkes Hill” is a different matter. There is no question that it is a local geographic feature – like Milne Hill or Somerset Creek – but I find no history of its use as a recognised locality name. Perhaps it falls into the other category of locally understood localities, where the names of local landmarks – such as family farms or shared facilities attained a common name.

As the site of land used by the Sparkes family for many years, this makes great sense and the Society would appreciate to hear from you and others about other such local names and the other types of locality names mentioned in this article.

In conclusion, however, “Sparkes Hill” strikes me as inappropriate for a select number of suburban streets when “Stafford” has a heritage worth celebrating and promoting.

Please let the Society know about your thoughts and reflections on local place names.

## *Poetry of Youth*

I remember the days of my childhood and the bread we cut with a knife.

When children helped with the housework and the men went to work, not the wife.

The cheese never needed an ice chest, the bread was so crusty and hot, the children were seldom unhappy, the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the Billy with yummy rich cream on the top.

Our dinners came from the oven, not from the fridge in the shop.

The kids were a lot more contented, they didn't need money for kicks, but a game with their mates in the paddock and sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner where a penny worth of lollies were sold.

Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic, or is it that I'm just getting old!

Submitted by Joan Hamilton

## *Memorabilia Evaluation Morning Tea with Rick Milne, 4BC Broadcaster Wednesday 19 June 2002*

Commencing 10.00 am  
Community Hall  
Kedron Wavell Services Club, Hamilton  
Road, Chermside.

The type of items suggested for evaluation are toys, advertising signs, street directories, swap cards of all kinds especially sport, comics, postcards, badges, money boxes, dolls, radio memorabilia, historical documents, letters, maps, photos of early Brisbane, eg the floods, suburban newspapers pre 1950, items from general stores. There are many other items of interest not listed here. Please bring your unusual items along for evaluation.

Would members please reserve and pay for your seat at the June meeting and definitely before 16 June 2002.

\$15.00 per person

You may reserve your seat by phoning Carolyn on 3359 3022

or post your cheque payable to the Chermside & Districts Historical Assn Inc, P.O. Box 416, Chermside Qld 4032.

## *HONOUR BOARD C.S.S.*

By Adrian Turner

The C.D.H.S. has inherited its tally of memorabilia from various sources; some from personal reminiscences of pioneer families or documentary evidence from diarists. Other sources are of pioneer homes either no longer standing, or moved to another

site, but carefully researched by Marion Eaton. Among our most valued records is the Chermside Honour Board of past scholars who enlisted in the holocaust of World War I.

The names of three brothers of the Hopper family appear on the Board as among former scholars who enlisted in the first AIF; Bertram, John Victor William and Thomas Henry.

This pioneer family emigrated to Australia in 1878 when James Hopper, his second wife and two children landed in Brisbane from the ship *Rodell Bay*. The family was to expand to ten children, the youngest son, Bertram being born at Ipswich in 1895. The coachbuilding business of James Hopper was among the casualties of the 1890's depression and he took a position with Hamilton's coachbuilding shop in Chermside, a position he retained until his death in 1912. The names of three of the youngest Hopper children appear on the attendance register of Chermside State School in the year 1900 but after three years the rolls show they left the school. Thomas Henry Hopper was 11 years of age when enrolled but left at age 13 to start work and assist with providing for the large family. While James Hopper worked for the Hamilton family, his wife ran a small shop in the Valley (Fortitude Valley) and occupied a house, probably attached to the shop.

On 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 the crash of artillery in Europe signaled the entry of Britain (and Australia) into a global conflagration that was to cost our country 60,000 lives of a total population of only five million. Bertram Hopper (or Bertie, as he was known) enlisted at age twenty on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1915 and embarked with the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion as private (shoemaker) on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Casualties in France were heavy and by 6<sup>th</sup> August 1916 he was promoted temporary sergeant to replace the platoon leader, but on 13<sup>th</sup> November he himself was wounded and did not rejoin his unit until September 1917. He returned to Australia on the troopship *Suffolk* 19<sup>th</sup> April 1919.

All three Hopper brothers received **The 1914-1915 Star, The British War Medal and The Victory Medal**. Past students of Chermside State School and members of the Chermside & Districts Historical Society are proud of their association with these "diggers" of the AIF.

We record our indebtedness to Mr Tony Hopper (grandson of Bertie) who kindly donated to the Historical Society photocopies of the service record of his grandfather and of his two great uncles, Thomas Henry Hopper and John Victor William Hopper.

### **Aspley Classes for Seniors**

10.30 am Aspley Uniting Church, Robinson Road,  
Aspley Enquiries Margaret 3263 4023

Thursday

- 06.06.02 "The Magic of Mt Isa" Bob Greenelsh
- 13.06.02 "The Story of the Life of a Pioneer Woman in the Outback" Helen Challinor
- 20.06.02 "The Outback and You" – Wayne Kelly

### **Article from the Brisbane Courier, Saturday 19 February 1927, Page 26**

#### **"North Coast Roads**

It was fine and hot along the north coast today. With the exception of a very rough section through Chermside the road from Brisbane to Petrie is very fair, but from Petrie to Caboolture the main road is fairly rough, and some of the traffic is at present using the old Gympie Road through Nerangbah. From Caboolture to Elimbah it is still necessary to use the old Gympie Road and not the roads near the railway line. From Elimbah to Landsborough is more or less rough and is very bumpy between Beerwah and Landsborough, although this section is being repaired. The best road at present to Caloundra is through Landsborough, as the short cut road from Beerwah, although dry, is fairly rough, as the washouts have not been repaired.

From Landsborough to Nambour the best route is up the range towards Maleny, and across to Montville, this road being at present in very fair order. From Landsborough to Palmwoods the Missing Link road and also the road from Mooloolah to Kudlo can be used, but they are fairly rough. The road across Meridan Plains to Buderim and Maroochydore is not recommended for this weekend. On the road to Caloundra the left hand road at the fork just over Little Mountain is now in very good order. The roads

in the Caboolture district , including the road from Caboolture to Kilcoy are mostly in fair condition again, with the exception of the road from Caboolture to Toorbul, which is at present impassable owing to bridges being out of repair.”

Article submitted by Beverley Isdale

## **Chermside Shoppingtown**

### ***First in Australia***

By Marion Eaton

Hands up those who still refer to the Westfield Shoppingtown at Chermside as the Drive-in Shopping Centre. Imagine how old Bill Hacker must have pondered the viability of such a business venture back in 1955 when the idea was first mooted. Bill owned Hacker's Produce Store across the road and most of his customers did not even own a car and here was a shopping centre opening up with parking for 700 cars.

Times were certainly changing by the time the Chermside Drive-in Shopping Centre opened in May 1957.

The complex was developed by Mr T G Weedman then general manager of Allan & Stark. Not only was it the first shopping centre of its kind to be developed in Australia, it was the first outside the U.S.A. It cost \$1,200,000 and Allan & Stark's turnover alone for the opening day was \$20,000 – an extraordinary amount for the times. The Myer Emporium was to take over Allan & Stark's within two years.

The other main store was the B.C.C. Supermarket (Brisbane Cash & Carry) which had already been established on the Hamilton Road corner in the early 1950's plus the 22 specialty stores which included Fulchers Shoe Store, still operating in 2001.

By 1965 the centre was so successful that extensions costing \$2,500,000 were added including modern amenities like escalators, air conditioning and a restaurant. Woolworths opened a \$500,000 store the following year.

1972 was a dramatic year with Target opening in September. This was followed by a devastating fire in December which virtually destroyed Woolworths and caused extensive damage to Myer and Clark Rubber as well as a number of specialty stores Finlayson Menswear, Chermside Drive-in News, Choice Paks Self Service Meats, Fulchers Shoes, Nurseryland Toy Shop, Bradman Shoes and Katies Vogue. The damage bill at the time was estimated at \$1.5 million.

Another rebuilding program was embarked upon and for the next 15 years the complex was in a fairly constant state of upgrading as changes in tenancy, more fire and even hailstorms and flooding were contended with.

1987 saw the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations attract the top personalities of the day appear on centre stage. Many a local lad will remember seeing international cricket star, Ian Botham, in the lineup.

The 1990's saw more fires and flooding and in 1996 the Westfield Trust purchased the shopping centre with the official name of Westfield Shoppingtown Chermside being established.

In 1999 work began on the Shoppingtown's proposed \$225 million redevelopment including its doubling in size, another 100 specialty shops and a 16 cinema megaplex.

During all this change, the old Chermside Police Station disappeared from the Hamilton Road corner to be replaced by the Chermside Bus Exchange and the small line of shops that was once there was also swallowed up by the redevelopment.

If any of the readers were present at the opening of the Drive In in 1957 we would like to hear from them, also if anyone has memories of attending any of the early day promotions, please contact Marion on 3865 1021.

Article by Marion Eaton with details from Westfield Centre Management.

**Newsletter articles can be forwarded via Email to [carolchermside@optusnet.com.au](mailto:carolchermside@optusnet.com.au) or Carol Cunningham P.O. Box 416, Chermside, Q , 4032**