

# NEWSLETTER



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**President Beverley Isdale 3350 2874 P.O. Box 416, Chermshire Qld 4032 Secretary 3359 3022**

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## **Message from the President**

Welcome back to another busy and exciting year of activities. The Committee has planned some functions and outings which we hope you will enjoy – more of that during the year.

I would like to thank Jean for the happy atmosphere at our final meeting last year – not only was it our Christmas break-up, but it was also Keith's birthday and Jean had put much thought into making it a surprise for Keith, Melissa and our members. It was a very pleasant afternoon on the back lawn – the food and the company were excellent.

We did not completely close during the holidays. The Society has been represented at meetings to plan for the artwork for the Chermshire Hub, opening in March 2004. This is a redevelopment of the areas around Kedron Wavell Services Club, the library and the pool. The plans include artwork, a sculpture, a quilt and a film. We are contributing not only our local knowledge, but also photos and material from our growing archives. Spend some time looking through our photos and files and you might find yourself there.

Glenys and Carol's hard work in applying for grants is showing results. We have bought the scanner, photocopier, printer and notebook computer with some of the money from the Jupiter's grant. They will help us to present our material and make it available, **when** we learn how to use the equipment. We are all on a learning curve and if you have any special talents with these items, please let us know.

Beverley Isdale - President

## **Current Activities**

### **Donation Station**

Two volunteer members went to the BCC annual Christmas Appeal in King George Square to collect donations for the Society on the weeks leading up to Christmas. It was a real learning experience, walking around collecting in a plastic bucket with the society's name on it. Assisted by employees from the Council who staffed the stall, we were able to collect about \$55 in two, two-hour shifts, over two days. We can also add in \$3.60 'rental' for the use of the side lawn by party goers.

### **Carols by Candlelight**

After the December monthly meeting of the Society (7/12/2003) the Historic Precinct was taken over by the combined Anglican parishes of Chermshire, Nundah and Zillmere to celebrate the coming of Christmas in traditional style.

About 150 people gathered in the quadrangle and, led by the Youth Groups' band and choir, sung their hearts out. Traditional, mixed with a leaven of modern carols such as African Noel, were sung by the crowd. The highlight of the evening for the children was the visit by Santa who just 'happened to be passing on the way to his workshop'.

The Craft Group, made up of many children, was busy in the Drill Hall making small 'angels' to be distributed among the people. A sausage sizzle, arranged by Cr Terry Hampson, was conducted in the parking area by the Aspley Lions led by Earle Rawlins.

Kathy Findlay, who organized the very successful evening, summed up the event when she remarked that “everyone raved about the location”. Such community judgment indicates that the Historic Precinct is really fulfilling a local need. Take a bow BCC.



Chermside State School Reunion Organizing Committee. Back Row. Bev Isdale, Lindsay Staib, Keith Hibberd, Greg Hibberd, Sterling Hinchcliffe, Ray Dorr - Front Row: Carolyn Bowser, Carol Cunningham Marion Eaton, the Editor. This was the best function we have had at the Community Room of the RSL. Hundreds of ex students came, some who were at the school before the people in the photo were born.

### **Christmas Raffle**

The large Christmas hamper was won by Nola Ellis while the second prize of gardening equipment was, very appropriately, won by N. Plant. The third prize of a framed picture went to Ms Pat Avery. The net result was \$360.

### **Drinks & Books**

Grab a chair, go out to the back veranda of the old School, take a can of soft drink from the fridge for a \$1 and then sit down and browse for a book, or three, at 20c each. Or if you prefer you can make a cup of tea or coffee for at \$1. Just put the money in the Honour Box and clean up. Cheers. This has been made possible by the installation of the kitchenette. You will also notice the cunning use of the old school signs which act as shutters to keep out the weather.

### **Vandals**

There has not been too much damage or graffiti over the holidays. Even the party goers have been scarce. However some ‘visitors’ made their presence felt by ripping up several garden plants and bashing the hedges beside the bicycle track. The three fluorescent lights on the front veranda were disabled with the middle one being ripped out completely. That leaves only two of the seven outside lights on the school still operational.

### **Folders**

We have several ring clip and lever arch A4 folders available for members if they need one or two. We were given some and we cannot use them all. So just see one of the Executive members and they will show you where to get your folder. A little donation would be appreciated.

### **Proposed Sign for Marchant Park**

Some time back Terry Hampson suggested that a sign commemorating the history of Marchant Park be designed and the Council would erect it. Much work has been done in collecting information on the eponymous George Marchant as well as the Warehouse Cricket Association. The latter being the chief user of the ten ovals in the park. Some photographs, the WCA logo and a couple of brief descriptive passages were worked out and have been submitted to the Council. The sign will be similar to the one at Burnie Brae and will tell visitors something of the history of the park.

### **Bus Trip**

It is envisaged that a bus trip to an interesting and historic locality, to be decided, will take place in April. The details have yet to be worked out and prices negotiated. So keep your diaries vacant and you will be notified as soon as possible.

## Lindsay Staib

### Winding Up the Car 50 Years Ago – 1950s

The Staib family had a four door, black, English made 1948 Vanguard car, which Lindsay's brother gave him after using it as a taxi. It had 300,000 miles on the Speedo. The motor was a wet sleeve one, where instead of having to rebores worn cylinders, they could knock out the lining of the cylinder and slide in a new lining. This renewed the life of the motor, raised the compression and reduced the burning of oil by the worn motor which caused a lot of filthy smoke to be emitted from the exhaust. (Such pollution is illegal today, 2003)

Towing the trailer full of gear, the car loaded with passengers, the boot full and a stop at the Caloundra turn-off would make for a trip of between 2-3 hours. The holiday usually lasted between two and five weeks.

For the first start of the day Lindsay would get the crank handle and give the car engine a few turns before he used the starter motor. One day when he was performing the pre start ritual he heard the voice of his nephew in the entrance of the tent next door, "Say, quick daddy, look at Uncle Lindsay, he is winding the car up." At that time wind up toys using a spring were common but today (2003) they have been largely replaced by battery operated toys.

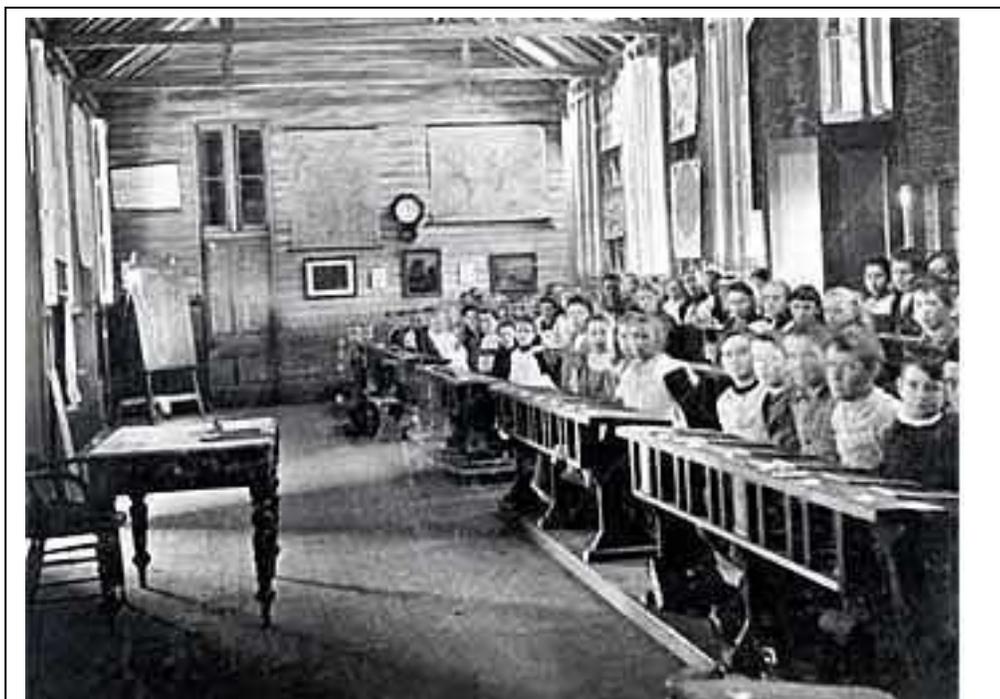
Each year the Staib family, two adults, Lindsay and Claire and three children, Lynette, Graeme and Robert, used to drive their Vanguard from Chermshire to Alexandra Headland beside the surf for a Camping holiday. They used a 15 foot by 15 foot (4.57m) tent on a rented site. Elaine cooked on a 2 Burner Kerosene stove mounted on a cupboard, which fitted neatly into a trailer. Also on the trailer was an upright ice-chest, which held two blocks of ice in the top section to cool the food in the lower section. The

cold air, being heavier, went down. When travelling, the ice-box would be in the trailer and still keeping the food cold even during the hot weather.

The family slept on cross-leg folding canvas stretchers with double bunks for the children.

The camping ground was just behind the sand dunes fronting the beach so they only had to walk a short distance to the surf on the Ocean beach. It was all very handy, and cheap.

On one very memorable Christmas holiday at Alexandra Headlands they read the Junior Examination results in the Courier Mail to find that their daughter, Lynette, had topped the girls of Queensland. The detail that a boy had topped the state did not detract from the joy.



An early school that was probably like the first classroom at Chermshire before the room division  
No uniforms, no ceiling, no teacher?

### Chermshire Today

Have you noticed the changes taking place in the local area lately? Well, since Chermshire is growing area it is also changing. Many changes just creep up on us as old places disappear and new ones appear. It is the nature of cities. Just think of the comments when Pharaoh decided to build another pyramid. The locals probably

complained that it would mean having to demolish the local pub or the Ancient Egyptian equivalent. Now if anyone wanted to demolish one of the pyramids for a block of units there would be a real uproar. But Cairo is growing etc. The story continues.

Westfield is going to expand, again, and a new road will slice the Voyager Centre in half. But a new one will be built. Three houses in Playfield Street were demolished and carted away in bins, just before Christmas. They make way for a multi story apartment building; maybe six stories. Since we have not got the space to spread out then we go up. Such is the nature of cities.

Part of our job is to record these changes. Will you watch your patch, street, to see what is changing? As well as demolitions and moves there are houses being converted into offices; others are being moved sideways and another house built beside or behind on the same block. Renovations on a grand scale are being done on old houses, and the price goes through the roof.

Old businesses are being closed down and new ones taking their place, the corner shops have all but gone to be replaced by specialist shops. Some of these seem to have a short life while others succeed.

We have been in our present house for about 20 years. In that time a nearby trio of a butcher and two corner stores have been through multiple changes. The smaller of the two corner stores was first to go and was bought for a second hand furniture store which lasted for some years then it became an office for a builder. The butcher shop became a pet food shop for a little time and then it became the workshop for a painting contractor. The remaining corner store went through several managements working longer and longer hours seven days a week but finally it closed. Then it was divided in two shops. One side became a 'knick knack' shop and the other was taken by a picture framer. Both folded in a short time. Currently a Hairdresser is in one side while the other seems unoccupied. However the whole place has had a face lift and a big fence built. So what next?

The same story is repeated a couple of hundred metres in the opposite direction on Sandgate Road.

So what is the story of your area? Some of you have been living in the locality since Eve was a flapper. You

must have seen much greater changes. If we are to get a picture of the growth of Chermerside then we need to know what has happened ALL OVER THE AREA. You can supply the data, never mind about not being able to write, just go ahead and write. If you can talk (and can some of us talk) you can write. The members of the executive will help you with your homework. Just do it.



Chermerside Kedron Community Church on the corner of Gympie and Rode Roads, Chermerside. This is the site of the old Chermerside State School. This is not the entrance. The Cross is lit up at night and behind the facade are several rooms such as vestry, music, store, toilets and work rooms. The Church is in the heart of the business district where the people are.

When you were at the old CSS did you ever, in your wildest dreams, think that a building like the one above would ever replace the school? In fact did you ever think that the school would close down?

**Start recording the area in which you live NOW before it changes, again.**

