

# NEWSLETTER



**Volume 7 No. 2**

**April-May 2004**

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

## **Message from the President**

Our Society had some very good publicity last month with the opening of the Chermside Hub. Some of our members and friends of the Society took part in the video produced by the Big Bridge. Bev Connolly, Norm Pflingst, Ken Fisher, Joan Hamilton, Coral Rance, David Burgess and Jim Hannah told stories about their ancestors, or their own lives, in the Chermside district and I linked the stories and the photographs. It was an enjoyable experience, if slightly nerve-wracking at first.

It was commissioned by the Council as part of the Chermside Hub opening celebrations on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The video which includes interviews, photographs and scenes around the district has been produced as a VHS video and a DVD. We have been given a copy of each and copies should be available for purchase soon.

We are grateful to the Council and Big Bridge for the opportunity to record these stories of the beginnings of our district and to keep them for posterity.

We also put on a display of historical photographs of Chermside for the Hub opening. That display is now in our rooms.

The next display in Chermside Library, 8-16 May, is called "Beacons of Faith" and will be presented as part of National Trust's Heritage Week. There will be photographs of all the churches in our district – about 60 of them!

The Probis Club visited our rooms in April, on one of their regular Tuesday morning walks and many of their members had links with Chermside. One even went to the school, even if only for a couple of days.

**All Saints Anglican Church, Chermside** will be celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The first church was built in 1914.

The celebrations will begin on the anniversary of the Stump Capping on St James Day, 25<sup>th</sup> July 1914 which was the equivalent of the laying of the foundation stone. But since weatherboard buildings do not have a foundation stone.....



THE 1916 OPENING

This photo is from the 1956 Canvass brochure. The first service in the new Church was on 11/10/1914 and it was Dedicated by Abp St Clair Donaldson on the 15/11/1914. The dark colour of the weatherboards is caused by oiling them.

On that day, 25/7/2004, the History of All Saints will go on sale. It has been in preparation since last

January and is nearing the editing stage at present. The Society is playing a major part its compilation as part of the service we make to the local community.

The book will cost \$20 and a page may be dedicated to a family, friends, congratulations offered, etc for a cost of \$10. See Pat O'Shea for details.

The celebrations will go on till November and a full list will be published in the next issue.

### **The Chermside Hub and the Video**

See the stars of the Chermside Historical Society perform for your edification. They were fantastic, enthuses the President, Bev Isdale, who was largely responsible for putting the show on the road.

Guess the identity of the character who had his face powdered by a pretty lady. He said it was the first time he had powder on him since his mother dusted another part of his anatomy with baby powder.



**Local celebrity, Coral Rance, holds centre stage in a Chermside block buster.**

---

### **Maps of Chermside Business Area**

The Society has a sketch map, drawn from a photograph, of Gympie Road, Chermside in about 1900. The buildings are identified, labeled and placed in relation to the cross streets and creeks. There is much bush land and open spaces in the area.

In recent years, **Norm White**, now deceased, drew up the map which shows the Chermside Business District around Gympie Road in the period 1941 – 1945. The Society members have been adding information to the map to make it as complete as possible. The time frame was when Norm was a boy

at Chermside and he drew it from memory. The members who are working on the map are also depending on their memories to add information to the map.

Incidentally, the aerial photos that the Society holds of Chermside in 1946 show a surprising amount of open space or bush. The town must have been a very small place in those days.

To complete this trilogy, the Society is undertaking to photo the existing Chermside Business District on Gympie Road and draw a map of the area in 2004. The three maps will show a century of development in the area.

---

### **Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund - – Hi Tec Office & Kitchenette**

From a Jupiter's grant of \$10,000 the Society has been able to put together the above facilities to help us achieve our aims of bringing high quality history services to the people of Chermside and Districts. Jupiter's kept a sharp eye on the ordering and spending, making sure that the money was well spent. It was.

Many people helped but four in particular made up the driving force that accomplished the transformation. Glenys Bolland, Beverley Isdale, Margaret Argo and Carol Cunningham worked as a team to search out the best price, order the items and supervise their delivery/installation. It was a good job well done and took a lot of time. Thank you muchly.

To our lone Computer we were able to add a Printer, a Scanner, a Photocopier, an Aura Desk and Pedestal and a Laptop equipped with MS Office Pro 2003 program. This enables us to process both text and photographic material as we receive them and make them available to the public.

To the Kitchenette which included fabrication, installation and plumbing there was: a Two Door Frig, a 10 litre Hot Water Urn, a small Microwave, Fire Blankets, a First Aid Cabinet and a list of kitchen ware that is literally as long as the proverbial arm.

The Society extends its thanks to Jupiter's and to all who helped, especially the four indefatigables.

---

## **The Last Round Up – Norm Steers For Home**

The last cattle are moving out of Chermside after being part of the scene for the last 150 years. Only a few hundred meters from the centre of Chermside's business hub, and even less from the frenetic roaring Gympie Road, is a quiet rural scene that could be in the heart of farming Australia.

Norm Steers, that actually is his name, has to move his small herd of 20 cattle from the area which stretches behind the Chermside Regional Business Centre to Downfall Creek. He has leased the area since 1996 but the lease is not going to be renewed as Weller Gardens needs it for expansion. So the old gives way to the old and one of Chermside's best kept secrets will disappear.

Norm has other things he can do such as grow bananas. He holds the only license to grow bananas in the Brisbane area.

The cattle will go to various destinations and refused an interview.



**Norm, with his blue heeler on the grazing lease. The grass looks good.**

## **Working Bee at Historic Precinct**

On Saturday morning, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2004, a flight of 'old bees' descended on the jungle surrounding the School and slashed it. With the good rains the grass grew like trees and made the place look like the bottom of the cocky's cage.

Mountains of vegetation were cut and shifted, some strewn on the surrounding lawns where the Council mowers chewed it up. Some went to John Hopkins' trailer where a couple of budding balletomanes danced on it to compress it for the dump.

The team was made up of: John Hopkins, Bev Isdale, Norm Pfingst, Pat O'Shea, Carol Cunningham, Bett Weston, Ian Reid, Robert Isdale, Carolyn Bowser, Lindsay Staib and Keith Hibbard. And it only took us three hours.

A down side was that some of our nocturnal visitors had been busy and ripped out some electric cable on the front veranda. We nailed it up and switched off the lights so that the cable was dead. Reg Hodgson came and fixed it up on the following Saturday.

---

## **Police Meet with Precinct Committee to Discuss Security at the Precinct**

On Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, Senior Sergeant Glenn Allen, Officer in Charge of Boondall Police met with the Precinct Committee and the Executive of the Hist. Soc. Also present was Mr David Carsons from Westfield security, Terry Hampson and the meeting was chaired by Faith Hopkins.

Sergeant Allen outlined the methods used by the police to identify the people causing graffiti and other vandalism around the Precinct. A lot depends on the cooperation of local people, us, reporting everything we see happening in the vicinity. The police always answer calls as soon as possible and collect intelligence. The more that is collected the better the chance of fitting the jigsaw together.

He emphasized the need to be friendly with young people and treat them fairly. If we can keep them on side then we are half way to solving the problem of vandalism. Offenders are treated fairly with 85% of those cautioned never offending again. There are very few really hard core young offenders and they have to be isolated and dealt with.

7/10/1940	6,000 troops to go into AIF Camp in Sparkes' Paddock (7 <sup>th</sup> Brigade Park) Geebung (Police File 25/8/1940)
13/11/1943	Plane crash at Chermside near Corrie Street (Andrew Hamilton Diaries)
20/5/1946	Chermside Radio – Ron Rice opened. Closed 30/6/2002 (Archives C'side Firms)
13/12/1946	Plan to convert play shed at Chermside State School into 2 classrooms for 80 infants and 2 teachers. Original shed built 1906 and has a sand floor. Cost £350 + £156 for furniture (CORR2) Was converted see 21/10/1954 (CORR2)
1/1/1947 C	Post Office C'side Telephone Exchange opened with 400 lines in Mermaid St. (DRT 47)
30/3/1947	Opening of the tram line to Hamilton Road Chermside (T A Hamilton Diary)
29/1/1948	Chermside Bowling Club formed at a meeting in the School of Arts (C'side Bowls Club – D G Self p.13) Opened C 5/10/1950 p. 16.
1/1/1949 C	Kitchener Road Methodist Church founded (CKCC)
6/3/1949	Housing Commission have built C300 houses + C100 privately built up to this date in the Chermside Police Division (Police File 5/3/1949) (See also 6/3/1952 & 4/8/1954 & 7/4/1961)
6/3/1949	Inspector to Comm. re setting aside part of the Police land for a new Fire Brigade station – Site plan attached (Police File Chermside)
17/3/1949	Inspector to Comm. recommends an extra Constable at C'side Police Station (Police File Chermside)
1/8/1949	Post Office – the Non Official Postmaster, Mr. B.C. Arndt (Son in law to Mr. Reid) became the Postmaster. (POR)
6/3/1952	Housing Commission + private builders have built up to 800 houses along or near to Hamilton Rd Chermside and there is sub division for a further 700 houses. (Police File 6/3/1952) (See also 6/3/1949 & 4/8/1954 & 7/4/1961)
12/2/1954	C'side Fire Brigade station on Hamilton Rd opened (DRT 54 <i>(Now moved to the other side of Gympie Rd – POS)</i> )
1/7/1954 C	Tuberculosis Hospital – Chermside Chest Hospital - later Prince Charles - established – (Beneke's Bush Report) - Cost \$4m (Telegraph 7/9/1987) - First hole in the heart operation performed on 7/4/1964 (DRT 53)
1/1/1957 C	Rotary Chermside commenced in staff cafeteria at the new C'side Shopping Centre (Archives C'side Firms – Telegraph)
30/5/1957	C'side Shopping Centre - Allan & Stark's Drive In Shopping Centre (Cr Hamilton & Gympie) (Mr. T J Weedman planner & developer) 1976 reconstructed and enlarged (DRT 30) – <i>1999 Massive redevelopment (PO'Shea)</i>
21/3/1958	C'side Municipal Library replacing the School of Arts on Hall & Gympie Rds – (Plaque in foyer of present library) - School of Arts had been handed to the BCC in C1952 (DRT 51)
1/9/1959 C	Chermside Shopping Centre – Allan & Stark bought out by the Myer Emporium (Archives C'side Firms)
12/9/1959	12 September the Ambulance Transport Brigade opened in Banfield St. with a three cars and a staff of nine (Now in Hamilton Rd) (DRT 54 also Telegraph 10/12/1966)
2/11/1959	BCC paid £14,000 (\$28,000) for land bounded by Hamilton, Banfield, Playfield Streets and Gympie Road for park purposes. (Telegraph 2/11/1959 p.3) (Archives Chermside File.)
1/1/1960 C	Craigslea Methodist Church founded (CKCC)
1/1/1961 C	Post Office - PMG – later Telecom - Training School established before this date with 100 trainees and staff. (Police File Chermside) The school was demolished in C2002/3 -
1/1/1961	War Service Homes propose to build several hundred homes between Newman, Ellison and Murphy Roads. (More Geebung than C'side?) (Police File Chermside)





