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NEWSLETTER

October-November 2004

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President's message November 2004

We have displayed some of our resources in two displays during September and October, both on the *Then and Now* theme. The display in Chermside Library was very successful. It was a reminder that our district has changed so much over the years, and that change is particularly noticeable along Gympie Road, from Bald Hills to Stafford. In our display at the Hypermarket at Aspley in October, we showed some of the aerial photos of that area.

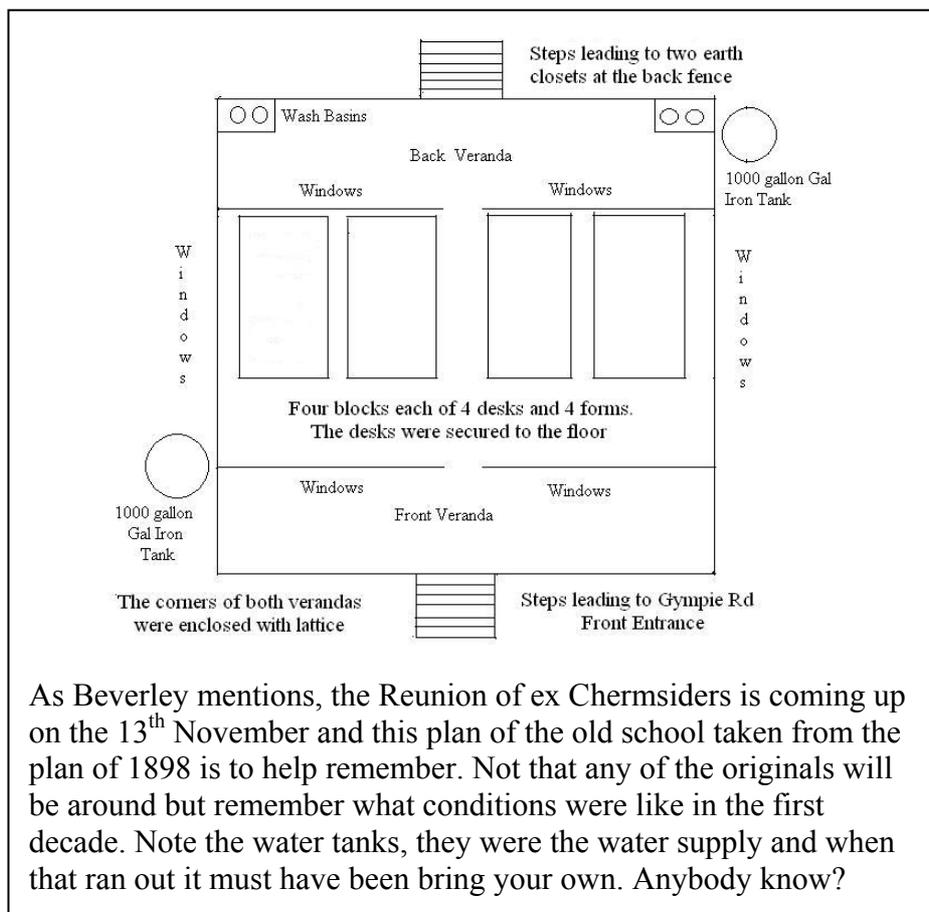
Thank you to all our members who contributed

towards those displays with time and photographs. We appreciated the publicity that *Northside Chronicle* gave us in the lead-up to the displays, particularly as members of the public donated some very interesting pictures of the district.

The Trash and Treasure sale in the Sandgate Drill Hall in September was successful in that many more people now know of our existence. Of course, it was nice to make money on our

Devonshire tea stall but the main result was that people came and looked in our building.

Some Society members are helping a researcher from John Oxley Library to locate addresses for houses in the Wavell Heights area. A commercial photographer operated in the district in



As Beverley mentions, the Reunion of ex Chermviders is coming up on the 13th November and this plan of the old school taken from the plan of 1898 is to help remember. Not that any of the originals will be around but remember what conditions were like in the first decade. Note the water tanks, they were the water supply and when that ran out it must have been bring your own. Anybody know?

the 1970s and many of his photographs were donated to John Oxley Library. Unfortunately, the identifying tags with the rolls of film have been lost, thus the need for members with expert knowledge to identify these houses.

We would like to thank one of our neighbours, Trevor Cowles, for lending us some early real estate posters for land sales in Kedron, Chermside and Geebung. They have been scanned and photocopied – once more, we can see the changes that have occurred since the 1920s.

Our next big function is the Chermside School reunion for those students who attended the school in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s on 13th November. This period represents the highs and lows in school numbers and judging by the number of inquiries, we should have a good “attendance” but I don’t think we’ll mark the roll.

Report on New Road: While the situation is not finalised the road is expected to miss the Historic Precinct and we will be able to use the RSL parking lot for those able to walk from there. It is suggested that the present parking area at the Voyager Centre be reserved for disabled members when meetings and large events are taking place.

Find the Bell that hung in the Gantry to the NE of the school – It rang for many years, sometimes late at night, and was superseded by a buzzer or electric bell rung by the Gr 7 pupils who regarded this as a status symbol for the Seniors. Inspector Ian Reid is in charge of investigations. Answer any questions he asks. Or else.

New Easel and Whiteboard have been donated to the Society. The Easel was cleaned up by Ian Reid, restored to its pristine state and lacquered. It will be used by speakers and others in meetings at the Society and at the many displays conducted by the Society. There are pegs on the stiles so that the whiteboard can be lowered for short speakers.

Christmas Raffle – First Prize: Christmas Hamper in Laundry Basket;
Second Prize: Christmas Hamper in Shopping Basket;
Third Prize: Christmas cake;
Please bring an item to fill the baskets at the next meeting in December.

Father’s Day Raffle - amount raised \$307.79
Remember, the Raffles pay our way.

Search for the Plane that Didn’t Crash – The Chermside locals were all deluded by an event of Mass Hysteria in the year that didn’t happen, said to be 1943. Local people saw the plane that wasn’t

there and, convinced that it was going to crash, raced to the scene of the crash that didn’t happen. They all watched the Fire Brigade that didn’t arrive put out the flames that weren’t there and secure the wreck that wasn’t. Then they all went home as directed by the authorities who weren’t there either. The date wasn’t 1943 as that year never happened. So there - You are all wrong. The authorities in the ASU, Ailartsua and Erehwon know nothing, repeat nothing. And they know it very well. So bug off you’re all mad. However inquiries are proceeding, I think, maybe not, you tell me.

Talk by Ian Reid on the Australian Flag

Ian gave the talk and lavishly illustrated it with a display dominated by two large Australian flags, one faded and near the end of its life the other one new and at the beginning of its life.

Before 1900 the six colonies use a variety of flags including the Union Jack, the Scottish, Irish, French, German, etc. With Federation in 1901 the Government decided that we needed a national flag. So a world wide competition was held to find a suitable design and a prize of £200 (\$21,268 in 2003 values) was offered. The competition attracted some 34,000 entries, five of which were almost identical, so the prize was shared among them.

On the 3rd September 1901, the Prime Minister, Edmund Barton unfurled the new flag on the Exhibition Building in Melbourne. On the 16th September 1901 the Governor General, the Earl of Hopetoun unfurled the new flag for the first time in Queensland at Townsville. Ian hopes to retrieve the original flagpole in the near future.

The flag is divided into four quarters called ‘hoists’. On the left side the upper hoist is the Union Jack of Great Britain, while the lower hoist is the seven point star known as the Federation star; one point representing each of the six States and the seventh point representing the numerous Territories. The right side shows the Southern Cross with four seven point stars and one small five point star. Originally the stars had only six points but in 1908 the Territories point was added.

The size of the flag is fixed at a ratio of 2 units of length to 1 unit of width. Thus it may be 2m long and 1m wide. The flag over the Commonwealth Parliament in Canberra is 12.8m x 6.4m (40ft x

20ft) When a flag is worn out it can be disposed of in any of three ways:

1. Cutting up into small pieces – 2. Burning – 3. Burying.

When flying it with other flags in Australia the Blue Ensign has to take the most prominent position.

New ways of using the flag are continuously evolving such as the custom of wrapping it around one's self; wearing it as part of clothing; draping it over a coffin with the Union Jack over the heart;

Until 1941 the flying of the flag was not encouraged in public although schools had flag raising ceremonies regularly. At that time we were at war and flying of the ensign was encouraged to raise national awareness and national pride as well as national courage.

In 1953 the National Flag Act recommended that King George VI officially approve the national Blue Ensign and also the Red Ensign which was to be only flown at sea. This was done.

The Australian national flag is an inspiring symbol of a proud nation, and rightly so. It must be accorded the dignity required by a national entity.

The members enjoyed the presentation immensely and responded with a series of questions that went on almost as long at the talk and then carried over into afternoon tea.

Memories of Schooling at Chermside
Stan Eddowes 1989

(Stanley Henry Eddowes aged 5yrs 10mts enrolled at CSS on 28th January 1919 – he is No.925 on the roll and started in Grade 1. His father is listed as NCO Defence. Unfortunately the record ends there with the notation 'New Book'.)

In 1919 the residents of Kedron had the choice of having their children educated at either Stafford, Woolloowin or Chermside. Stafford entailed a rather long walk through scrub and barbed wire fencing. Woolloowin could be reached by crossing a rather busy bridge with the prospect of injury by the traffic that also used the bridge. My parents chose Chermside for two reasons. A cousin was a pupil there and also a horse drawn bus that passed through Kedron and Chermside.

The infant class was under the charge of a Mrs Tench, assisted by Miss Agnes Reid, who's family also resided in Kedron. A Miss Rose Wallin was another teacher living in Kedron.

Knowledge was implanted by 'rote' and memory recalls the impression that the word 'again' was the only word Mrs Tench knew. That word signaled a repetition of the exercise of the moment. The infants learned to read with the aid of a little blue book that said 'The cat sat on the mat'. Another period was spent weaving coloured paper mats.

Memory also recalls that the Head Master, a Mr Ackermann, lived in the school house. On one occasion a senior class had difficulty in supplying the answer to a problem. He called on a member of the infant class to give the required answer and so embarrass the older students. The member was supplied with the correct answer and able to display his new knowledge by repeating it in front of that upper class. I was that infant.

(There were two Head Teachers listed for 1919; Robert J Catherwood was there till the end of July when Harry W Lee took over. Another old boy, Jack Thompson mentions that Clyde Acreman's father rented the house. In the Register for 1919 there were three Acreman children listed and a fourth in 1922 but the father is listed as a Lorryman in 1919 and Shop Assistant in 1922 Ed.)

Another memory was of Mrs Tench asking the class to supply a length of bamboo for a demonstration during an object lesson. My father obtained the needed piece of bamboo which I placed on Mrs Tench's table before school began. For some reason it was ignored and substituted with a sketch on the black board.

The horse bus figures in another memory. When my cousin had completed his education and began work at Gallagher's Tannery I travelled to school by bus and walked home. The fare was one penny. There was rather a steep grade up the tannery hill and the bus climbed at a slow rate. The bus was constructed with a set of steps at the rear to give access to the interior. Of an afternoon a group of children would gather at the foot of the hill and some of them used to succeed in climbing on to the steps. The others would run beside the bus.

Mr Plucknett's coach building establishment was often the source of delay on the homeward way. At his works on the corner of Rode and Gympie Roads a very interesting display took place. To fit the iron rim on a wheel it had to be made red hot and then fitted on the wooden wheel. On completion the assembled wheel was submerged in a pool of water causing a cloud of steam to rise.

The school had a large play shed and during the dinner break the students would enter Sammells' paddock to forage for the sweet nuts of the kangaroo grass that grew under the ground.

The best remembered memory was the annual trip down the river on the paddle wheel Government steamer, Lucinda, to Redcliffe. The return journey usually encountered a storm, this was dreaded by the poor sailors but was an extra bonus for those with stronger stomachs.

The six week Christmas holidays held many memories but no one spent them at the school with the exception of Mr Ackerman's two boys, Cyril and Keith. *(One of the Acreman boys was called Cyril. Ed.)*

Reunion of Ex Chermshire Pupils of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s Reunion at the School on the 19th November 2004. Remind your friends of the event and encourage them to come and reminisce about those wild and woolly days at the old school. View the photos, enjoy the Devonshire Tea or Coffee, buy your Society Christmas Cards produced in the school and tell us your memories so they can be included in the History of CSS which is in an advanced stage of production.

From the History of Chermshire State School

Another indicator of the long term rise in educational standards is shown by the following table which shows the number and percentage of males and females who signed marriage certificates with a mark, probably an X. These figures are for adults so that the children in each year would probably be at a higher level of



Chermshire State School Vigoro Team 1936
 Back: Coral Reid, Beryl Basnett, Iris Condren, Flo Garton, Rita Shaw, Dorothy Smith, Isobel Shaw
 Centre: Betty Shackelford
 Front: Hilda Best, Grace Baynes, Jean Harris, Frank Turton (Coach) Joe Rice (Head Teacher) Cynthia Baynes, Peggy Radcliffe holding slate.

education. The improvement in the female literacy rate from twice as bad as the male rate in 1875 to equality in 1921 is indicative of the improvement in attitude to female education. *Source: Statistics of Qld 1921 391.43 1 (1921) Page 9a (John Oxley Library)*

Year	Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%
1875	135	9.08	267	17.96
1880	90	5.82	187	12.09
1885	107	3.76	209	7.35
1900	58	1.72	88	2.61
1910	38	0.80	51	1.07
1915	31	0.5	35	0.57
1921	25	0.41	25	0.41

 In 1900 the average life expectancy for men was 50, while for women it was 60. In 2004 it is 75.5 for men and 81.3 for women;

Infant mortality was more than 100 per 1,000 births due, in part to such diseases as TB, typhoid, gastroenteritis, diphtheria and whooping cough. All of these are now rare and in 2004 the rate is less than 10 per 1,000 births.

There was an average of four children per family, in 2004 it is 1.9 children;
