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NEWSLETTER

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### President's Report

*Our Society has joined the ranks, unfortunately, of others in the community who have suffered from senseless robbery. Our fridge, as well as a few other things, was stolen in mid-March by thieves who picked the back door lock and then re-locked it as they left. The locksmith, police and scene-of-crime police have all looked at the situation.*

*We've had quotes from roller shield firms to make the back verandah more secure but the bottom line is that we're vulnerable to anyone who is really keen to enter our building. The best we can do is to back up our records and photographs but some things, like original records, are impossible to protect. You would be amazed at the number of visits committee members make to the building to check that everything is in good condition.*

*On a brighter note, we have had access to some of Mick Simpson's photos of his sawmill in Foundation Street, Chermside. We will be able to use some of them in our Industrial Heritage Display in the Chermside Library in May. If you know of any industries, other than fruit canning and tanneries in the district, please let us know.*

*Pat's history of the Chermside State School is nearly ready for the printer. If you wish to make a page dedication, please contact him as soon as possible. While many of us did not attend the school, our education was very similar to that described in the book.*

### Graffiti Problem - Community Service workers

Claire Walker from Dept of Communities, N. Brisbane Youth Justice Service and representatives of the three organisations in the Precinct discussed the Graffiti problem at the Precinct on the 9/2/2005. It was agreed that murals be painted on some walls of the buildings by Community Service Youths as a means of preventing the destructive graffiti that has been defacing the Precinct.

The Service looks for creative ideas that can be used by the young people and enable them to own a project and be proud of same. The young people, in conjunction with the Precinct and with the guidance of a professional artist, design and execute the murals. The BCC supplies the materials.

It is not clear why graffiti vandals operate. One theory is that some are into chroming (sniffing) from spray cans and then go and use the rest of the paint to graffiti the nearest object. Others take a pride in putting their tag on a graffiti mural to gain respect from their peers. Putting them to work cleaning up and restoring a graffitied space hopefully develops their sense of responsibility and civic pride. And it keeps them out of jail; usually these people do not offend again but jailing them sometimes simply trains them to be better criminals.

The first to be 'muralised' will be the

**This is a page dedication that you can sponsor for \$20 in the History of Chermside State School. You can congratulate, remember, name, praise, tell a story, anything.**

Voyager centre so keep looking; if you wish you can join in too. Some people feel that by putting murals on the walls we are giving in to the vandals. Maybe we are but has anybody got any other practical suggestions to deal with the problem? So far the Council has painted out the rubbish at its own cost but we cannot depend on that service indefinitely. If BCC stops painting then we will be faced with a much bigger and costlier problem.

**The First Chermside Show 1904** This was a one day event held in the grounds of the local school and would probably have attracted wide support in the days when entertainment had to be home or local made. Transport was slow and was either animal or human powered; they drove a sulky or buggy and rode a horse or bicycle.

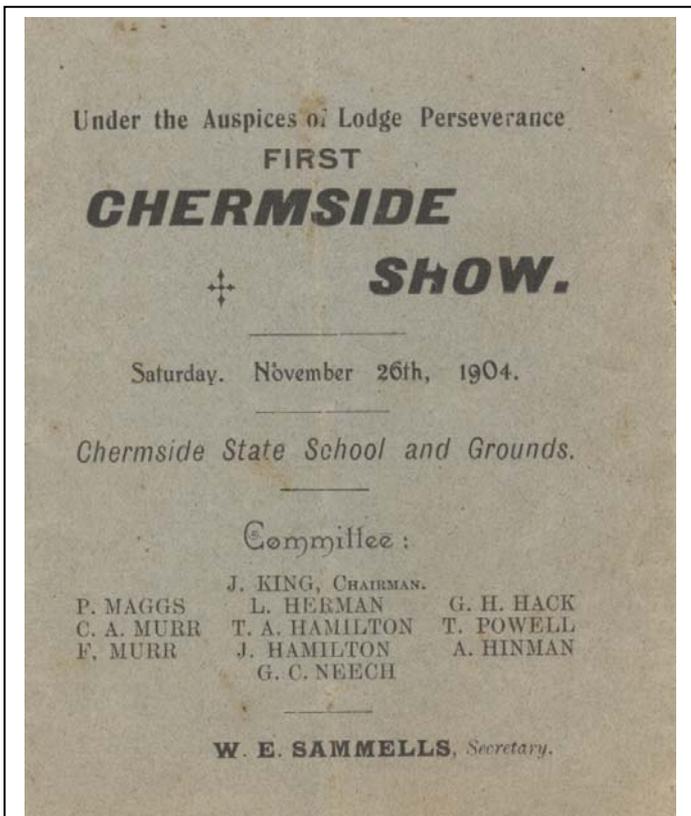
The advertisers who sponsored pages in the program booklet give a small insight into the culture of the, then recently named, Chermside. It offers a strong contrast with the present situation 101 years later.

First is insurance against fire available through the local agent W. E. Sammells;

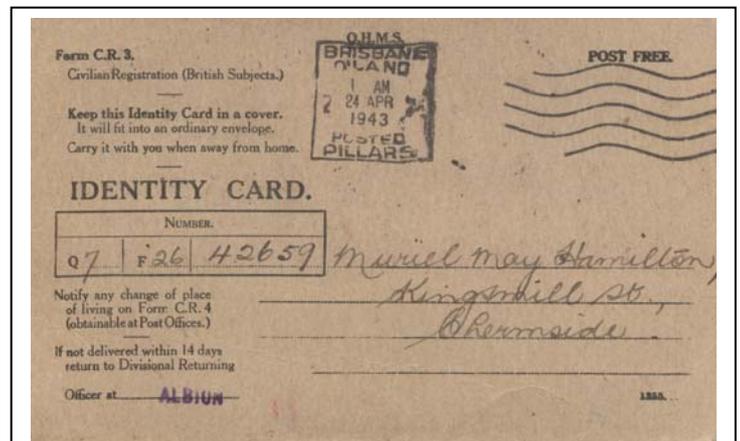
Boots and shoes from the Valley; Paul & Gray in Eagle Street offered Shirley's Manures because 'they pay'; the Dispatch had 'an eye on your interests'; two lots of soft drink manufacturers offered their wares and not a drop of liquor in sight; J. Steer offered fuel supplies which consisted of wood, coke and coal. Petrol or benzene hadn't made an appearance; everybody had back yard chooks so J. T. Shaw offered settings of chicks; J. King ran the Public Telephone & Telegraph Office at the Kedron Post Office Store; A. Hamilton offered the 'Latest Improved Sulky' and a wide variety of horse powered vehicles direct from the workshop; J. Hamilton, Builder Joiner and Glazier, offered prompt attention to jobbing works.

**WWII Identity Card:** This card was issued to British Subjects and that included Australians as we were all members of the Empire 'on which the sun never set'. It was part of the Civilian Registration system and was part of an attempt to account for all persons in Australia at the time.

This was a legal document which had to be carried at all times. If you didn't have



The program for the 1904 Show was donated by Janet Brandon. It is, in effect, a time capsule of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chermside.



This card was donated by Muriel Scott. It was her identity card during World War II when she was working in the Phonogram section of the GPO in the City. Everybody, adults and children used to have to carry an identification card of some sort for the duration of the war.

one when called on to produce it you had some explaining to do. Today we worry about terrorists, in the early 1940s we worried about spies. There was also the fear of air raids which meant that victims had to be identified quickly and this card was the simplest way of doing it. Today we all seem to carry a plastic

credit card or a driver's licence with our name and signature displayed. But in 1943 the former did not exist and few people had the latter. Children had a card that they could carry in their pockets or around their necks.

**Mervyn Royal**, the President of Brisbane History Group, addressed the CDHS at the March meeting on the subject of Kedron. The name, given by the German missionaries who came to the area in 1838, was from the Kedron Brook that flows, in wet weather, around the old city of Jerusalem. He examined the topography of the area and explained the importance of the natural drainage system to the early settlers. They depended on the creeks for their water supplies before the town supply became available in the 1920s.

The land was first surveyed by James Warner in 1845 and farm blocks were made available by 1857. These were bought by speculators who intended to resell them when the market was favourable. Some, such as the Chinese market gardeners, settled and farmed their blocks; they continued, in a small way, up till about 1960. The Barron family ran a dairy farm at the junction of Stafford and Gympie Roads, which became known as Barron's Corner. One of the boys, James, set up a blacksmith's forge there which evolved into Barron's Garage as the automobile took over the roads. Later it became the Mobil Service Station which is at present going through another metamorphosis.

Later in the 1960s Edward Huxtable surveyed the bulk of Kedron and divided it up into smaller blocks. The smaller blocks encouraged home owners to move into the area but it was not until the extension of the tram-line in late 1920s that the population rose markedly.

Mervyn examined some of the prominent families who came to occupy the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Among them was Judge Lutwyche who gave his name to the suburb and built the Kedron Lodge, which stands out prominently amongst the suburban houses in present day Kedron.

As an outpost of the city the Kedron area became a haven for noxious industries such as the smelly tanneries, fellmongering, wool scouring, slaughtering, brick making and the noisy timber milling. Joe Gibson, whose tannery was on the site of Stafford City once remarked of the smell "It smells like

money to me." The tanneries smelt but the houses of the owners were palatial and well removed from the smells. Multi storied, stately drives, stone fences and gates, water lily gardens; one even had a bowling green.

He tracked the relentless march of the tram lines from the City. They reached Windsor in 1914, then on to Kedron Brook where there was only a low foot bridge so they stopped. A line, complete with its own tram, was built on the north side to Lutwyche cemetery and the passengers would cross the Brook on foot to continue their journey on a second tram. There was the problem of the bridge being flooded until a new bridge was built in 1927. This connected the two lines and passengers could ride to Lutwyche cemetery and finally, from March 1947 they could continue on to Chermerside. Then it was Chermerside's turn to grow. Finally, the whole kit and caboodle was scrapped in 1968. The internal combustion engine had won the day.

Mervyn stayed for afternoon tea and was besieged by a solid stream of members who wanted to ask him questions or discuss some point of family history. I know because, being small, I was unable to get near him until all the others left. Mervyn has done his homework and researched the area in detail.

### **Donation of teacher's books**

Miss Isobel Mary Robertson, born in 1905, trained as a pupil teacher in 1920 and taught in primary and infants till her retirement in 1965. She taught at many schools in Queensland and was Head Teacher at several, the final one being Yeronga Infants. A keen tennis player, she had a great love of children and always delighted in teaching them. She died in 2005 aged 98.

Her nephew, Evan Daniels, donated a lot of her books and teaching material to the Society. We are gradually sifting and classifying it, keeping a selection of the material as a resource for research into teaching.

### **Our Break In that wasn't; was it?**

Nothing was broken and the fridge was taken along with the drinks. One small society member, who shall remain nameless, was on the back veranda and did not even notice that it was missing. Well, talk about blind Freddy.

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March all was well for a cup of tea and milk from the fridge. On Wednesday, Blind Freddy noticed that a bag-

ful of Isabel Robertson's material had been emptied out and the large plastic bag was gone. Freddy remarked "Looks like one of the girls wanted a bag; they are always looking for them." His partner agreed.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Freddie was again at the school and noticed nothing amiss. However one member who was parched went to get some cold water. There wasn't any, and there wasn't any FRIDGE either.

A diligent search failed to find either water or fridge so we concluded that someone may have borrowed it. A ring around soon squashed that theory. But how did the thieves get in? There was no sign of forced entry and the back security door was still locked.

Finally our fearless leader was called in and she did not dither; she acted with alacrity, and Robert. All keys were accounted for. A locksmith was called in from his Saturday night relaxation. At once he saw the problem; at a glance the intrepid lock conjurer saw that seraphile had been at work. The thieves had used locksmith tools to open the deadlock and relock it after they had performed their clandestine sorcery. So you see it is not only 'love that laughs at locksmiths'; our fridge knickers did too.

Well now to security, we have to face

the problem, again. The locks only keep out honest persons (I'm being P.C.) The security screens on the back veranda have had securing bolts removed; they have been replaced by Freddie. And now one or more of our visitors has found that the wire mesh can be cut with a pair of pliers and a strong hand.

Now some good news; the ends of the back veranda have been secured by wooden bands across the old Chermyn notices so that even if a visitor wanted to cut its way in through the mesh s/he would get nowhere; which is a very good place for them to go.

Now for some not so good news; what are we going to do to protect our school and its contents?

### **The WWII CSS Honour Board**

The honour board is now complete, at least for the time being, we hope. Adrian Turner has finalised the changes, additions and deletions. It is back up in its place, so go and have a look. Note the three divisions of the first three columns and the key below to indicate further information about the men. Adrian has restored several of our Honour Boards over the last few years. He is our oldest member, and still has a steady hand and a straight eye. If you don't believe me come and see his latest effort. Well done and thank you Adrian.



A view of the interior of Butt's Cannery in April 1956 shows the non agitating atmospheric cooker. –If any member can explain what is happening in this photo please tell us so we can classify it. Was it located in Butt Street off Murphy Road in Geebung?

**Notice**  
**If anyone objects to having their photo in the forthcoming History of Chermyn State School please contact the Editor as soon as possible.**