



Volume 8 No. 2

NEWSLETTER

April – May 2005

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President's Message

Our community involvements in May have taken us from the City Hall to Zillmere. We had our display in the Museum of Brisbane on 8th May. The theme was Inheritance. I tried to match the theme to our Society's activities and decided that our inheritance was the suburbs from the old Kedron Shire – its people, places and past-times and Chermside State School – records and photographs. Fortunately, we had lots of laminated photos available to put up in the display. We had a very good position in front of the stage and saw all the activities. Thank you to Ian, Margaret, Carol and Carolyn who came to help.

Zillmere Multicultural Festival was a great success with many nationalities and interest groups at O'Calligan park. Marion, Herb and Ian looked after our books on Zillmere history. We have a marvellous collection of information on Zillmere and Marion has been our chief researcher of that suburb.

When you next go to the back verandah, be prepared for a big surprise. The roller shields have been installed and look very good. It makes the area very dark but as long as it keeps the vandals away, that's OK. We'll be able to use this valuable area for weatherproof storage now. Cost \$2,880.

Our collection of display material is growing and now we can set up displays for a few suburbs. Kedron Street Party is planned for October so if you have any photos of that area, we'd like to borrow them to scan.

The builders are making great progress on the units in Playfield Street. We can look forward to more of that kind of development so we had better take our "must-do" photographs soon for the next generation.

New Road – Friday, 1/4/2005. Donna Marshall, Consultant to BCC and Robert Mackay, Traffic Engi-

neer for BCC, met with representatives of the Historical Precinct, Faith Hopkins and Terry Sullivan.

A very lively and frank meeting took place with Donna explaining the project in detail. The plans are posted in the meeting room of the Society. Note the widening of Hamilton Rd near the entrance to Kittyhawk Drive, traffic lights at Way St, access for heavy vehicles to Westfield, traffic lights at Murphy Rd., 48m three span bridge over Downfall Ck and a 50kph speed limit. Work is expected to start in mid 2005 from the Murphy Rd end.

Suggestions offered were a turning circle be built at the entrance of existing car park for safety reasons; also to limit the use of car park to a drop off point; cars could then park at the RSL and people use footpath/bike path to Hist Precinct.

Talk by Pat O'Keefe on the battle of Milne Bay – 2005 is the 60th Anniversary of the end of WW II and it is time to remember the battle of Milne Bay which was the first defeat suffered by the Japanese in World War II. And it was inflicted by Australians. In fact it was the first time in 400 years that the Imperial Japanese Army admitted to a defeat.

Milne Bay lies at the extreme eastern end of the large island of New Guinea and had to be secured by the Japanese in order to complete a pincer movement to capture Port Moresby. The aim was to capture the entire island which could then be used as a base to secure the whole of the South West Pacific.

The other arm of the pincer was the long drawn out see-saw battle of the Kokoda Track. That was also won by Australians. We were pretty small beer in a very big war but our young men held the line and passed into immortality.

Apart from the deep water anchorage of Milne Bay, another attraction for the Japanese was the three

airfields there from which they could attack Port Moresby and allied shipping.

The allied force defending the bay consisted of some 9,000, mostly Australians with the 2nd Bat, 43rd Regiment of US Army Construction Engineers who were responsible for the airfields. The Australian troops varied from the under trained 9th Bat Militia of very young men; one Sergeant was only 19 and in charge of 30 men; to the battle hardened veterans of the 2/9th Bat AIF from the Middle East.

Additionally there were the 75th and 76th Squadrons of the RAAF flying Kittyhawks. There was one RAN vessel, the Arunta, which had to be withdrawn as it was too exposed on its own. Thus the battle involved the co-ordination of all branches of the Australian armed services for the first time in WWII.

The battle extended from 25th August to 7th September, mostly in mud, heavy rain and/or water up to their chests. Apart from the moisture, the action was similar to that at Anzac but with the sides reversed. The Japanese invasion force consisted of 2,100 Marines storming ashore at the wrong place to attack the entrenched defenders.

The RAAF had to use Marsden Matting, which consisted of many steel mats spread over the soft soil to prevent the plane wheels from sinking into the soft earth. It was a tricky business as the wet steel was slippery but the planes kept coming and prevented the Japanese from using their landing barges during daylight hours.

The battle of Milne Bay was a turning point in the Pacific war and the beginning of the end for the Japanese militarists.

Memorandum of Understanding – On Friday 15/4/2005 a meeting, consisting of the Precinct Committee, Faith Hopkins and Terry Sullivan, was held at the old school to draw up a draft set of rules to run the Precinct. The meeting was lively and long; about 2 hours as we went through the document line by line. This process is slow but it will save a great deal of time in future once we get the guidelines clear. There will be more meetings.

M2M – Mountains to Mangroves – The final day of this year's celebrations will be 9th July in 7th Brigade Park. The Precinct will be open and on display with the Army and band on parade. The Society has agreed to staff the BBQ which will be provided by the Voyager Centre. More details later – we need volunteers.

Security Door on Front Doors – The possibility of putting a security door on the front doors is being investigated. This would enable the existing doors to be left open but still secure the opening to prevent unwelcome intruders on week days when only one or two people are working inside.

Heritage Week Display at C'side Library – This featured the Industrial background of the early Chermside. It was on display for the month of May and was arranged by Bev Isdale, Marion Eaton and Carol Cunningham.

Annual Bus Trip & Tour to Jondaryan Woolshed and Westbrook Homestead

Leaves Precinct on Saturday 18th June at 7 am sharp – Returning 6 pm

Morning tea, lunch and Wool Show included. A comparable commercial trip would cost about \$80 – our charge is \$55.

Garden Care of Precinct – The Precinct Committee contracted with a gardener to clean up our surrounding gardens for \$290. This has been done and he will spray the weeds three times for \$45. This should remove the old, wild garden eyesore for good.

Mother's Day Raffle

1st Prize – Cordless Kettle – M. Turner

2nd Prize – Toaster – Keith Ellis

3rd Prize – Blender – Jean Jacobs

Takings \$

Show and Tell at May Monthly Meeting

Pat O'Shea gave a version of an eight year old pupil telling the class about the birth of her little brother, Luke. It was an interesting talk on reproduction using unique 'technical' terms.

Coral Rance told about her school days at Chermside S/S and how the family coped with running the local Grocery store, Post Office and Newsagent after the loss of their mother. This was a graphic account of one family's efforts during the Great Depression and WWII.

Glenys Bolland – pupil and teacher at Wavell Heights S/S, contrasted teaching today with that of the 1950s. Glenys did a study in contrasts showing the changes from slates to writing books; tiny libraries to large information management centres; corporal punishment to class management; spelling bees to computer spell checks; free milk to the modern Tuckshop, closely directed curriculum to free choice within the curriculum. And many more changes.

Ian Reid – presented the Society with a copy of Aspley S/S's centenary (1990) book and gave a short history of the school. Founded in 1890 with 74 pupils it rose to almost 1400 in the 1970s settling back to 545 in 1990. Originally called Cabbage Tree Creek S/S, the name was changed in 1897 to Aspley S/S. The school and principal's house cost £788/10/0 to build. One early Principal, Ernest Bilbrough, used to march the children to the flagpole, hoist the flag, sing God Save the King and Advance Australia Fair; any child who did not sing got a wack on the bottom. (I bet that produced a few lively notes! Ed.)

Service Book – Record Book

Charles Christian Vellnagel's record of his service in the Senior Cadets from 1912 to 1915 and Military Service from 1916 to 1922 was lent to the Society by his daughter, Audrey Twining (nee Vellnagel). Usually a boy would join the Junior Cadets at school and then go on to the other two grades as he got older. The Military Service would have been the Militia or citizens forces.

Each year they were expected to train on 4 whole days, 12 half-day and 24 nights, partly in Drill Halls. He trained at Nundah, Sandgate and Albion as Chermerside had no drill hall.

Charles was the eldest son of August who founded the family business in C1895 at the intersection of Murphy and Gympie Roads when horses and carts were all the go. The firm moved to its present site in 1921 and continued till sold in 2004.

The Lakes of Paddington and Aspley

As told by Enid Dortkamp to Marion Eaton

George and William Lake arrived in Brisbane from the UK aboard the steam ship "SS Duke of Argyll" in 1899. They settled in Paddington where the parents bought a shop with living quarters at the back. It was opposite the Petrie Terrace Police Barracks.

George met a young woman named Sarah who was born in Queensland and of Scottish parents. They married in 1904 and in December 1906 the first of their 11 children was born

Victor, the second eldest son, did not like school and he had an idea - he asked his parents to make some meat pies. Since they lived across the road from the Petrie Terrace Police Barracks, he thought the policemen would come and buy them; they did.

He had another idea – he would get a basket, fill it with pies, cover with a clean tea towel, walk to George Street and sell them. He sold out very quickly. After a few weeks, selling pies took the place of school lessons.

"Lakes" O'Dinki-Di Hot Pie Factory

Because of the amount of pies that had to be made, Dad bought a larger shop in Caxton Street but after a few months, he decided to build a two-storey factory, opposite the Caxton Hotel; living quarters upstairs, pie factory on the ground floor and, from the back verandah, stairs up to a roof top garden. In the back yard stables were built for the horses, rooms for the pie carts and the coal which was used to heat the big pie oven. A lane at the back allowed the pie carts into Caxton Street; by 1922 it was the largest pie factory in Queensland.

After the sixth child was born, Sarah and John had twins, a girl and a boy. The girl was healthy; the boy was not. The family doctor, Harvey Walsh, advised Dad to shift to the country to help his son im-

prove in health. In 1926 the property in Albany Creek Road was for sale so Dad bought the 61 acres which became "Parkview", 259 Albany Creek Road, Aspley where "Aspley Keep" Housing estate is now being built.

Only a small house had been built at the acreage so the older half of the family lived in Petrie Terrace.

All the work at the pie factory was done by the family; as you left school, you started at the factory. We worked long hours 11pm to about 9am – fresh pies every day. We would drive daily from Aspley to the pie factory, except Saturday night as we didn't work on Sundays. The day you turned 17 years, you got your driver's licence.

We had a special permit to sell pies at all the big football and cricket matches, the races, the Grovely Army camp and a stall at the Royal National Exhibition from 1922.

Lakes' Farm at Aspley

When the pie factory closed in 1946 Dad decided to work the farm. We always had a few cows, the milk was separated for cream, we made our own butter, also had thick cream on scones, cakes, bread jam.

Next came the poultry; big sheds were built, one especially for the incubator where our own chickens were hatched. We had hundreds of fowls and took the eggs every week to the Egg Board at Normanby.

Small crops were grown on a couple of acres near the creek - lettuce and beetroot. We had to be out of bed early to cut the lettuce and pack it in boxes, along with the beetroot; then once or twice a week, it was all taken into the markets in Roma Street, City.

The farm was known as G. Lake and Sons. It was a mixed farm – cows, horses, one donkey called Freddy, a black goat called Billy, 3 good farm dogs and a couple of cats

The last five children liked sport and played cricket, football, basketball and Vigoro for Aspley and Bald Hills; they all went to Aspley State School.

As the farm was successful, the boys built a tennis court near the house – men's tennis fixtures on Saturdays, ladies mid-week fixtures on Wednesday. Thursday afternoon was men's social players; very good players – it was good to watch.

Sunday evening at home was great; we always had a sing-song. Lennie, the eldest played the piano, Dad on violin, Dorothy piano accordion, Enid piano and steel guitar. Mum had a good singing voice; we girls were blessed with good voices.

We have all been blessed and we had wonderful parents. Of the eleven children, only four Enid, Dorothy, Harvey and Florence are still living in 2005 and Enid still lives in Aspley.

REGISTERED on ⁵ 16 January, 1912 (Date)
 in Training Area No. 5 B.
 NUNDAH AREA 5 B.
 by Wagner Cohl
 Date _____ Signature of Officer.
**TABLE I. AREA OFFICER,
 PERSONAL INFORMATION. 5 B. NUNDAH**

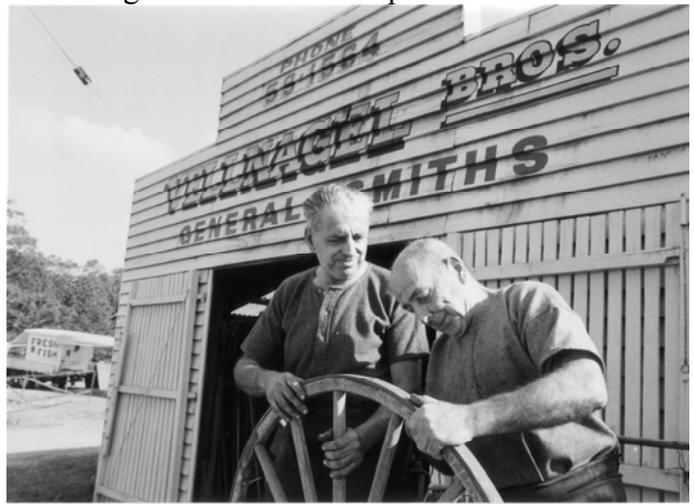
Surname Velluagel
 Other Names (in full) Charles Christian
 Occupation* Blacksmith
 Postal address of Place of Abode Chermside.
 Father, guardian, or other person acting in loco parentis
 Surname Velluagel
 Other Names (in full) August Christian
 Postal Address of Place of Abode As above
 Year of Birth 1898

* Alteration of Occupation or Address to be subsequently entered on page 12. Schoolboys to be entered as such. Students, Apprentices, &c., to any trade or profession to be entered as such, e.g., "Medicine," "Electrical Engineer," &c.

Even in 1912 they were worried about defence so the young boys and men were encouraged to train in the Cadets and Militia. Many of them went to the front in 1914-1918 and their names are on the Memorial Gates at Marchant Park.



Right up until they sold the business the brothers used muscle and struck while the iron was hot at Vellnagle's blacksmith shop.



The brothers took over from August in later years and still were able to fit an iron tyre on a wooden wheel right into the age of the automobile. The old shop still stands beside Gympie Road but its future is unknown.



Lakes' Pies factory at Caxton Street – It all started when young Victor Lake wanted to leave school so he began selling home made meat pies in the street.



Air raid shelter in the 1940s – Kedron