

CHERMSIDE & DISTRICTS



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NEWSLETTER

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Vale Colin Judd – Colin, who had been a member of the Society for a couple of years, died on the 8th March. He had been suffering from cancer for at least the last 15 months but carried on in his usual optimistic lifestyle; he was certain he was going to beat the disease. Colin had done extensive work on his family history, and even more in his research on the origin of the street names of Brisbane. Colin worked as a Cabby in Brisbane for 23 years and hence his interest in streets. Farewell Colin, we will miss you.

Talented People in the Society

At the February meeting, four of our members told us about their first jobs. The short talks were thoroughly enjoyed and showed just what a variety of talents exist in the society. It also showed that we are capable of making our own fun, and the stories provided some glimpses of our members' backgrounds. Well Done.

When **Jenny Gilmore** finished Grade 10 in 1973 she decided she would like to try nursing - she liked the uniform - so she applied for a holiday job at Prince Charles. She was accepted, issued with a uniform and put to work in the Geriatric ward and that was a shock. She decided to leave but Dad said **NO**, so back she went the next day, and the day after, for six weeks.

Once she got to know some of the patients the job became much more attractive. By the end of the six weeks she didn't want to leave, but had to go back to school. She still has photos of the patients that she took while there, they became her friends and she still cherishes their memory.

She came back again at the end of the following year. Another attraction was the \$36 a week she was earning, a lot for a young girl in those days.

Leigh Kahlert could not leave school till she got a job, so she applied for, and landed two. A flower shop in the city looked good so she

began her career as the Gopher Girl. She was always going for something; cups of tea, finding her way on the trams to distant places to deliver flowers and annoying the tram drivers by ringing the bell too often, sweeping the floor, being ordered around. Finally, after 3.5 years she was a fully qualified florist and, in 1980, went to London to see the world.

She delivered flowers to No.10 Downing St. for Margaret Thatcher, did a bouquet for the Queen Mother, met Spike Milligan and one of the Great Train Robbers who was also a florist. Leigh has a wonderful collection of photos and newspaper excerpts of her adventures. She is still in the flowers and still with her original firm.

In 1985 when **Stirling Hinchliffe** was 15 he started on a holiday job in the firm where his father worked. His job was at the cutting edge of technology, only he wasn't cutting much technology. The firm was transferring its records to computer disks and Stirling had the 'wild' job of taking a file, copy out the relevant details for the computer, using biro and paper, and then putting the file back in the cabinet; there were hundreds of them.

He had to print each number and letter very clearly and accurately; he learned to cross all his 7s, Zs and zeros so that they were clear. He kept on with the holiday jobs till 1988 when he was at QUT and was involved in student

politics. (That would have been a much more interesting job.)

He told about his younger brother, **Russell**, who had a part time job with Myers. One night a customer asked him how much a roll of linoleum was worth and Russell told him \$12, as that was marked on the roll; actually it was the cost per metre!

The man's eyes popped and he bought it. Russell helped him carry it down to the van and waved a satisfied customer goodbye as he drove off with the roll sticking out the back.

Russell was quite puzzled as to why the man was in such a hurry to leave the shop; he found out later!

Faith Hopkins took a part time job with Woolworths at Strathfield in Sydney when it was a variety store.

At that time the assistants worked from the middle of islands displaying all the goods and served the customers across the display. The new girls were trained by an elderly woman who had worked for the firm for many years. She was proud of working for Woolworths and she instilled a very structured method of handling the goods, taking the money and double checking the amount on the cash register ticket with the amount given. If they didn't do it properly they might get a thump.

Faith contrasted the opportunities that they had in the early 1970s with the lack of opportunities for young student part-time workers today. Most of the jobs seem to be in fast food outlets or retailing, while she was able to move into a job as a purchasing clerk in an aluminium factory making doors and windows.

Speaker for March Meeting was Peter Hine assisted by his daughter They showed us a collection of post cards dating back to the late 19th Century. Peter's collection started when he was browsing around an antique shop in Brisbane and bought some old postcards for 50cents each; he also caught the collecting bug which still drives him on.

Peter has an extensive collection which has to be divided up into different subjects to keep track of them all. He started by asking the assembly if they remembered when we had two postal deliveries each day. Most nodded and said yea – he replied that shows you how old you are! This set the tone for the talk, a light hearted look at post cards which were designed to amuse.

The cards he showed us came out of a cardboard box, naturally, and were enlarged and

laminated for showing and passing around. People became so engrossed with looking at the cards that Peter had his work cut out trying to communicate with the group as they shared the cards with each other. He really needed a bell!

To describe the variety of cards is beyond the means of this newsletter; it was so wide. The earliest ones, dating from about the 1870s, were made in England and it was not until 1900 that they were beginning to be printed in Australia.

The early ones often had poems on them, one of which described a Busman's Farewell to the pests of Queensland and told of an endless list of native and imported ones. Another one was a love sick swain serenading his lady love which made some of the girls giggle and one pretended to swoon; well, maybe she didn't pretend; hard to tell.

They reflected the changing fashions of dress, one showing several men on the sand viewing a beached whale and they were all dressed in three piece suits; they did have their trousers rolled up. Now wouldn't that be a sight to see today on the beach? Another showed about 20 adults all dressed in their Sunday best riding on donkeys, at the beach. Bathing machines also featured with the men in black and white striped neck to knee costumes.

One card was an advertisement for a Building Society offering 5% interest on loans. Another was a small pair of gloves which a girl would give to a swain when she rejected his marriage proposal. Then there was the maxi-taxi with four bench seats holding four people on each. 16 people in the one car and it wasn't a stretch limousine; in fact it didn't have a roof.

There are postcard societies in most States and Peter helped found the Queensland society. Thanks Peter.

Hamilton Diaries – Joan Hamilton has given us permission to make a copy of the diaries of her Grandfather, Thomas Andrew Hamilton, (1860-1951) He began a daily diary recording his business, social, religious, civic, family and general activities in 1890 and the last entry was made by his daughter on the day he died in 1951.

These books cover a time when Downfall Creek grew from a rural village to the proto suburb of Chermside. When he died Chermside was in the midst of its greatest expansion and beginning its growth to commercial dominance of the surrounding suburbs.

These books are a valuable record of life in the growing settlement and suburb. They give

a detailed day to day picture of the life of the people, their activities, their worries, their hopes, joys and sorrows.

Bev Isdale and Carol Cunningham are steadily photographing their way through the hundreds of sometimes fragile pages using our recently purchased digital camera (the wonders of modern technology). Rob Isdale designed and made a special electric light box to hold the camera and provide light source. The resulting photos are transferred to our lap-top computer and thence on to CDs. (Modern technology again.) Then the photos are printed on our printer in the old school (More modern technology.)

The next phase, typing the material, will begin when Peg Endres, a voluntary worker via Centrelink, starts on them. Peg will work for 16 hours a week to do the job. Carol introduced Peg to the Society and we welcome her.

Carol is at present designing a system of storage for the mass of material. She has spent hours going around finding the best, moderately priced, method; and she has done it.

The photography is being done at Joan Hamilton's home each week and Joan provided morning tea and chat. The Society thanks you Joan, for preserving this material and allowing us to copy it.

The History of Chermside is progressing steadily and a present phase of research is into the old School of Arts which used to be on the corner of Hall St and Gympie Rd. During its lifetime from 1909-C1952 it provided one of the most important social centres of Chermside.

Fortunately the minute books of the School of Arts from 1909 to 1947 have been carefully preserved by Jean Tune who inherited them from her father, Sam Harris. He was one of those innovative men who helped to develop the society of Chermside, and built houses.

The S of A fulfilled many functions; a meeting place for many local organisations, a place for dancing and celebrating, for concerts, for wedding receptions, for send-offs and welcome home for local Diggers, for magic lantern and later, picture shows (movies), a library, a reading room where members could read up-to- date periodicals.

The School of Arts was the forerunner of the Adult education in the TAFE Colleges and the libraries of today with their books and computers. At the Annual General Meeting on 9/3/1944 Sam Harris remarked that he was "looking forward to the day when the Library

would be in a building of its own." That day arrived on 21/3/1958 when the BCC Library opened on the site of the old School of Arts; the old grew into, and lives on, in the new which, in turn, gave way to an even newer and bigger library. The founders of the School of Arts would be proud indeed to see the fruits of their labours.

Maybe we should organise a memorial plaque or some such appropriate device to put in the present library in memory of the old School of Arts and its founders. *Does anyone know what happened to the Presidents and Secretaries Honour Board that used to hang in the old Hall?*

The New Road or Kittyhawk Drive extension is progressing steadily and we are using it to access the Historic Precinct. We are the only ones, other than the workers, that are allowed on the new roadbed. On the day of our March meeting the sky opened and the rain poured but we were still able to drive into the Precinct without trouble.

The Westfield Extension is steadily encroaching on Banfield Street which is disappearing into very large trucks to be taken to places unknown. The excavators are cutting the street down to the level of the lower carpark; in future, Banfield Street will end at the entrance to the top carpark of Westfield. Early Street, down our end, will remain and join Playfield Street on to Kittyhawk Drive. I suppose our new address will be Kittyhawk Drive!

Westfield is going to build some high-rise blocks of units on its land beside the Precinct sooner than we thought. This should be to our advantage with people living literally on our doorstep as it may deter our night time visitors. More news on this as it comes to hand.

Chermside in the 1950s and 1960s – Ron Goward, at the instigation of his aunt, Mavis Rye, wrote a 13 page description of the Chermside he knew when he was a child. Ron has illustrated it with several photos of his family and the Chermside scene. In the process he has provided the Society with an excellent source of information to add to our archives. Already, Bev Isdale has used the information which Ron provided to draw a map of Chermside in that period.

This map will take its place with the maps of 1900 and the 1940s so that we will get a better, more detailed idea of the changes which

have taken place here over the 20th Century. Thank you Ron and Mavis.

Book Launch – on Saturday 25th March the Society organised and staffed the launch of “Marching to the Trains” by Dr Jack Ford, at the Chermshire Library. The book is the result of research done by Dr Ford and Dr Sue Keays to provide themes for the Remembrance Wall which the Geebung-Zillmere RSL was building in the late 1990s.

On the completion of the Wall, Jack and Sue obtained a grant from the BCC to produce a book using the material they obtained from 26 interviews with people who were connected with the Chermshire Army Camp in WWII.

The book explores the story of the camp and its effects on the surrounding suburbs and is a valuable addition to the growing stock of information on the local area. It costs \$25 plus \$3.50 postage and you can order by ringing Jack on 3266 3534 at his home address.

A very responsive audience of about 90 people attended the launch, many of them veterans of WWII and Milne Bay. A large diorama of the Battle of Milne Bay from the 9th Battalion War Memorial Museum Collection and Property Trust was displayed and provided a centre piece of the display. Photographs provided by the Historical Society showed a range of scenes from both world war periods in Chermshire.

The formal launch and speeches was followed by Jack Ford signing many copies of the book and morning tea which allowed people to mix and talk.

This is our second book launch and we are getting pretty good at it – anyone for a book launch?

Toowong Cemetery – Councillor Judy Magub is trying to trace descendants of some people buried in Toowong Cemetery. Their headstones are leaning and unstable and Council will have to lower them to the ground so they do not fall and smash. If you are a descendant, or know someone who is, and the ancestor has been buried there for a very long time – mostly about 100 years - please contact: Judy Magub, Councillor for Toowong, on Tel: 3403 2520

Fixed Deposit – Our Treasurer, Carol, has placed \$5,000 of the Society’s funds in the bank at 5.25% on short term. The money is available to us at any time before the date of maturity but the interest rate would drop if we withdrew

before the due date. Much of this money has come from sales of our book on Chermshire State School.

Christmas Raffle – The final result of the raffle is \$379 – thank you all for your support. The next one is the Mothers’ Day Raffle for which tickets are on sale. Please get the money in by the next meeting.

Automatic Electric Jug – Carol has bought this jug to replace the old one that we had in the kitchenette for cups of tea. The old one did not automatically switch off and could boil dry if it was not watched. This constituted a fire hazard and in such an old building, well!

Fees Reminder – Margaret Argo is collecting annual fees at present and there are still some outstanding. Would all members check their budgets and pay up promptly please. Single Membership is \$20 and Double \$30.

Reunion of Ex-Pupils – The date is May 20th and the old pupils are the 1970s – 1980s - 1990s but others are welcome to come. Spread the word – we will have the usual displays; class photos and copies of same, memorabilia and the School History on sale, Devonshire Tea in the Drill Hall which will be much cooler than last reunion, School Registrar for viewing and copying, Chatting, chatting and reliving the old days.

Research – Alf Cardillo, a member of the Chermshire Bowls Club, is using our archives to research the history of the Kedron Bowls Club. We have the full minutes and other records of the old Club. Since we do not let our archives out Alf has to come in and do the job here. However Bev and Carol are photographing designated sections so that he can take the photos home and work at home. That’s the digital way.

Searching for Relative – John Kehrer is searching for his Great Grandfather, Franz Alwyn Kehrer, who came from Hamburg, Germany in 1874 on the ship Herschel. He married Auguste Maria Weir at Nudgee Lutheran Church and they lived at Upper Kedron Brook. His Grandfather, George Adolph Kehrer, was born at Stafford in about 1886.



Left Side from the Top:

The last look at **Banfield Street** – this is what it used to look like

Banfield Street disappears into large trucks to go to some other place. The new Westfield extension will move over below the old street. It was once called Short Street and Church Street, **The Book Launch** – Pat O'Shea scratching his chin – the author Dr Jack Ford and Faith Hopkins – one interesting head in the foreground.

A section of the crowd at the Book Launch and some of the photos on display

Right Side from the Top:

The old **School of Arts** played host for many functions – the top one shows a large family gathering of many generations. It also shows something of the structure of the old Hall.

The second photo shows a Wedding Reception in the Hall and something of the furniture used and the addition on the side which widened the original Hall. Those seats would have got rather hard if the function went too long; it was a no frills establishment which served the needs of the time.

