

CHERMSIDE & DISTRICTS



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NEWSLETTER

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Our Physical Address is 61 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermiside but DO NOT send post to this address.

Good News – We have a physical address which is now on the letterhead. But we cannot take mail there as we do not have a post box and the vandals would soon wreck one. However, our rate address is 384 Murphy Road, which seems a long way off. But ours is not to question why; great are our Lords and Masters, inscrutable their ways

Annual Report – was given at the August meeting and an abbreviated form is below. This time the President used the new Data Projector which is a computer controlled magic lantern the Society obtained with a grant from the Marchant Ward Community Parks & Development Fund 2005/2006. The Data Projector enabled the use of photos to illustrate each section of the report.

Thanks to the Executive and the three members who resigned, Glenys Bolland, John Hopkins and Ian Reid. Thanks to all the members for their loyal support over the year.

The publication of the “Chermiside State School 1900-1996” book was a great success, as was the launch in the Library. This was the result of the work of many people. We have sold 240 copies, one to the USA. Also we launched “Marching to the Trains” authored by Jack Ford which commemorated the local effort in WWII.

Visiting Speakers

Feb: First Job – Jenny Gilmore, Leigh Kahlert, Faith Hopkins and Sterling Hinchliffe

March: History of Postcards – Peter Hine

April: US Navy Submarine base in Brisbane during WWII – David Jones

May: History of bicycles – On Your Bike – Noel Stapleton

June: Childhood in Chermiside – Des Lee – Local builder and raconteur

July: 50 years ago – Caroline Bowser; Terry Hampson; Robyne Needham

Our Speakers to other organisations:

Wheller Gardens; John Wesley Geebung; Holy Spirit Carseldine; Aspley Uniting Church; Geebung Neighbourhood Watch; Chermiside Probus Club; Burnie Bray Respite Centre; Wavell Slimmers Club; Carseldine Probus Club; Nundah Sighting Impaired Support Group.

A major project is the processing of the Hamilton Diaries written by Thomas Hamilton between 1890 and 1951. It involves photographing each page using a digital camera, copying to disk, making a typed copy on disk and then printing a hard copy – so we have a photographic, typed and disk copy. This covers a large segment of the history of Chermiside.

The History of the School of Arts written from the minutes kept by Sam Harris, father of Jean Tune. We are placing a plaque in the Chermiside Library commemorating the men, and their wives, who launched the first Chermiside Libraries in 1898 & 1909.

Donations come in a steady stream and we are grateful to the many donors. These have to be recorded, indexed, stored and letters of thanks sent. This all takes time and so we need more volunteers to help.

Displays take a lot of time to arrange, erect, record and store. There are about 25 sets of displays in our files and they can be taken and displayed with only a few hours work. We do not display original photos, only laminated photo-

copies, all of which we process here with our own equipment.

Second and Fourth Saturdays 2-4 pm – The School is open for use and inspection by the public and members. We need volunteers to help with the work.

Meetings have been well attended with average of about 35 – Thanks to the members who bring goodies for afternoon tea - Need volunteers to prepare the room, help with the afternoon tea and clean up when finished.

Reunion of the 1980s and 1990s was not well attended partly due to the lack of preparation which was caused by not having enough volunteers – Proposal to set up a permanent committee to prepare biennial reunions or open days on a long term basis.

Publicity – This is difficult to do in the Northside Chronicle due to the competition for space from so many local organisations, about 150 of them, but we had more success with the Bayside Star – lot of constant work goes on here but little to show unless we have a big event on.

Bus Trips have been successful in the past, but now due to the rising cost of petrol and the rising cost of buses, the cost is also rising. We are in the process of selling tickets for the current trip to Boonah Shire.

Acquisitions – the Digital Projector, curtains on the southern windows, a large retractable screen on the wall of the meeting room and a portable retractable screen, both screens were bought at a garage sale.

Grant Applications – we currently have two in the pipeline – One with the Qld Gov Dept of Communities for a Computer and Cost of Postage of Minutes and Newsletter – Another with the Volunteer Small Equipment Grant with the Dept of Family, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs for a TV Monitor plus a VCR and DVD player.

Conclusion – after that event we were all exhausted and needed a cup of tea.

Research

Box & Beck Saddlers and Sandal

Makers – a prominent Chermside firm that employed up to 70 local people. Herb Carr, who worked for the firm, has charted the history, drawn a plan of the factory and sketched, in colour, the actual building that still stands at Kate Street, Kedron. Herb has spent a lot of time to carefully research this project which is a major

addition to the Industry section of the History of Chermside and District.

Playfield and Eastleigh Streets – Research work is continuing into the genesis and development of these two streets. Both experienced rapid development in the early post WWII house building boom period when the population rose dramatically. Now both are experiencing rapid and drastic change as the wave of unit building replaces the earlier houses. A lot of social change is rapidly taking place – Future Shock in Chermside.

The work has been researched by Lyn Currie, who came to **Eastleigh Street** in 1947 when it existed in name only, and still lives there. Other residents helping are Tony Lloyd (1967) and Ray Woodford (1947).

Playfield Street research has been done by Maura Tuite one of the original residents (1954) and still staying put while the units rise. **Incidentally**, does anyone know the reason for the name Playfield – was it connected with the Army Camp in the 1940s or the Pony Club in the 1950s, or something else?

Street Art – the Historic Precinct now has the best set of Dunny Doors in Chermside with an original painting by the BCC Street Artist Team – in fact the Precinct will soon have one of the largest collections of street art in Brisbane and it is all on public display. A sign of the Times?

Father's Day Raffle

1st Prize: Brewing Kit – Joan Doherty

2nd Prize: Gardening Tools – Marie Webber

3rd Prize: Thermometer – Pat O'Shea

The raffle netted \$.....

Christmas Raffle

Please bring items of food for the Christmas Hamper to the November meeting; the tickets will be available at the meeting.

Movies of the 1930s was presented at the September meeting by Colin Briggs, assisted by Gordon Hunter who set up and monitored the rolling movie show. Colin is a real trooper who, in spite of a heavy cold that impeded his hearing, soldiered on with a continuous commentary spiced with endless stories about the stars, producers, studios and personalities that I, for one, was utterly bedazzled. Apart from that I had to scribble furiously to keep about five steps behind him.

The two presenters are movie experts who have watched movies, absorbed the essence of the genre, interviewed endless numbers of

stars, analysed their characters, followed their courses, charted their rising and falling and distilled it all into a 40 minute fast moving show.

Colin started with a fast, snappy tour of the main theatres of Brisbane in their glory days, when the 'pictures' were king of the entertainment world.

He started with the Metro which showed MGM films and where the queue used to stretch around the block on Saturday night with standing room only left. All under the control of the lordly uniformed Commissionaire, ex Colonel Snowdon. Quickly jumping to St James across the road which showed RKO films, a Hoyt's theatre, where the Sound of Music first screened in Brisbane. Then on to the Tivoli which was not a glamorous place but had a roof garden with a roof that could be rolled back to let the stars shine in on the movie.

A quick visit to the Pig and Whistle milk bar where they made the most wonderful frosted shakes. Even the ones spiced with crème de menthe, which were soon banned.

Hustle on to the News Theatrettes where one could spend an hour watching the latest news reels showing all the news worth reporting. Alas, the advent of television made their short life even shorter.

The Wintergarden with its huge foyer lined with mirrors and scenes from past, present and future movies. Inside, another foyer with banks of flowers and carpet into which one sank, seemingly ankle deep. All this, only the prelude to the world of dreams and fantasy, or was it real? These were real Picture Palaces.

The poorest theatre was the Lyceum; it was what some used to call a 'bug house'. It always had the smell of phenol lingering in the atmosphere; maybe to reassure the patrons that it was really clean?

After covering the City, Colin branched out into the suburbs to look at the local, less glamorous and cheaper picture shows. One that held a special place for him was the Boomerang Theatre, which only closed about five years ago. In the old days the proprietors did not issue pass out tickets at interval. So enterprising young fellows, like Colin, could get in free for the second film. There was one drawback, the interloper used to have to move seats when the paying patrons returned and claimed his seat. He took his girlfriend one night and they finished up in widely separated seats; she wasn't impressed.

Then followed an incredible session of reminiscing about the many stars, what they did, what they were like off screen, where they ended up; reeling off lists of names and all without a script or a note. What a memory!

Last March, Colin and Gordon drove to Sydney to meet the luxury liner, Crystal Serenity, when it docked. They then took Ann Rutherford, 87 and Ann Jeffery, 83 to lunch. These were only two of the galaxy of stars that they had interviewed over the past 50 years.

Colin writes for two movie magazines as well as Brisbane Seniors Newspaper and speaks on Sydney and Brisbane radio stations.

It all started when Colin was a very small child who ran away crying from the wicked queen in Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, his first movie. After that he was hooked.

This wasn't just a trip down memory lane but an expose of a world that the ordinary picture fan never saw and probably never even knew existed.

History Written by Politicians

Currently, several politicians are talking about making the teaching of Australian history compulsory in all schools. That seems all right but we need to know who will decide the content to be taught and how will it be taught.

The following quote came from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald 4/9/2006 on the revision of Chinese history by the government:

JPMorgan, Bill Gates, the New York Stock Exchange, the space shuttle and Japan's bullet train are all highlighted. Mao's Long March, colonial oppression of China and the Rape of Nanjing are taught only in a compressed history curriculum in junior high.

"Our traditional version of history was focused on ideology and national identity," said Zhu Xueqin, a historian at Shanghai University. "The new history is less ideological, and that suits the political goals of today."

This is what happens when history is written by politicians and not by historians.

Time Capsule – we are presently discussing with the management of Westfield the placing of a capsule in the shopping centre as part of the commemoration of their 50 years of operation. We are seeking suggestions as to the content keeping in mind that the capsule will probably be pipe shaped object with limited capacity.

Electronic Age at the Society – In addition to our computers (PC and Lap Top), back up system, scanner, photocopying machine, filing cabinets, laminating machine, digital camera, data projector, screens, curtains, book cases, folding trolley, fully equipped kitchenette, etc we are now investigating a sound system aka a ghetto blaster. This has become necessary as we now know how to project digital video disks from the lap top to the digital projector. Since these disks have sound then we have to project it so the watchers can hear it.

All this gadgetry may seem complicated but we have learned to use it by gradually acquiring the different items and learning by experience. We are gradually sending more items, such as newsletters, by email as more of our members acquire the facility. **If you have not yet given us your email address please do so and enable us to keep you up to date, and reduce the postage bill.** You also get the piccies in colour.

The Changing Scene at the Precinct –

Once we were a little backwater in the park behind the playing fields behind the Kedron-Wavell Service Club. Now, we are beside a very busy major road in the centre of the fast growing Chermshire mini Central Business District with tower blocks of units rising up almost beside us.

Kittyhawk Drive is almost complete with only the traffic lights to be activated; traffic is already using it. Bicycles and pedestrians can use the concrete footpaths from the new footbridge beside the new road bridge over Downfall Creek.

The photographs on the next page give something of the changes taking place.

No. 1 – The view down Kittyhawk Drive from the Precinct to Hamilton Road is about 300 metres and two sets of traffic lights. The newly planted trees along each side are Kauri Pines (*Agathis robusta*) which, when fully grown, will be towering giants some 30m high and over a metre in diameter; of course that will take some time, about a century! Now that's history. On the right hand of the photo is the location of a two tower blocks with 72 accommodation units.

No. 2 – Shows the S bend in Kittyhawk Drive which was designed so as to miss the Voyager Centre and will help with traffic calming, along with the further traffic lights leading up to Murphy Road. The big white arrow shows the turning lane into the Precinct. In the background is the northern wall of

the new extension of Westfield.

No. 3 – Looks at the eastern side of Kittyhawk Drive with the high fence along the playing field (Have you ever seen a field play?) The grass is all turf carefully laid over the bare earth and watered by mobile tankers, for the time being; the trees are Forest Red Gums or *E. terreticornis*.

No. 4 – The concrete in the foreground and right side is the new entrance to our parking lot and the roadway giving access into the Precinct. The large earthen platform in the foreground is earth excavated from the building of the extension to Westfield; it levels the ground right across Somerset Creek which is underground in that area. This area is 1.478 hectares in size and is suitable for building 468 apartments in tower blocks – all for \$20 million – any takers? This was Commonwealth land used by the PMG and later Telecom which Coles-Myers bought in the 1990s and the BCC included it in the plan for a regional business centre. In the background is the northern wall of the extension to Westfield

No. 5 – Shows the exit gates of Somerset Creek from its journey under the shopping centre from Hamilton Road. The screens, thee only the bottom three are reflections in the pool, form the catchment of a Gross Pollutant Trap which filters out rubbish before it goes into the original bed of the creek. In the background is the north-western part of the Westfield extension with Kittyhawk Drive running past on the way to Murphy Road.

No. 6 – What is the photo showing – could be a lot of Girl Guides following a girl's band? What would the building in the background be?

Research – Does anybody have any idea why the 3rd Chermshire Scout Group became the Sea Scouts Group, East Chermshire in 1959? The Voyager Centre, then called Landship Voyager, was their headquarters till they disbanded – but when did they disband? It was dedicated as a memorial to the men of the second Voyager after the disastrous sinking in 1964.

This space is for you to tell the editor about the unimportant little incidents that have happened in your lifetime. See if I can fit them into the bigger picture.



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