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NEWSLETTER

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

Extensions to Westfield were opened on the 19th October 2006 amid frenzied activity with uniformed police on duty to direct traffic and security people patrolling the site. The editor, on his trusty pushmobile, managed an early preview of the roof, an exhilarating descent down the eastern ramp and into the undercover parking lot before the onslaught began.

He has been a keen observer, and photographer, of the building since the site was cleared and was well aware of the size of the building, or thought he was. Nothing prepared him for the sight of the vast low roofed cavern on the ground floor. With the roof supported by a forest of pillars, brilliantly lit by fluorescent lights reflecting off the gloss ceiling, a sight of squashed grandeur greeted him.

Clear of cars, cycling was unimpeded as he went from east to west and then from north to the farthest reaches of Hamilton Road in the south. He even did wheelies on the undercover section of Banfield Street as the doors shut out any traffic. It is even air conditioned under the new part.

In 1957 Allan & Stark started it all with the first drive in shopping centre in Australia. Their building covered about 8,000 sq metres and cost, in today's values about \$20 m with parking for 700 cars.

The Westfield extension has brought the total floor space up to 122,000 sq metres and cost \$200 m. The whole complex can park 6,200 cars, with parking today on the hockey field at Kedron-Wavell for another 300 cars; then there are the streets around about.

It is claimed that an extra 2,500 jobs will be created in the new section; probably not all will be full time.

2006 CDHS Bus trip 7 October – Beverley Isdale

The CDHS annual bus trip this year took us to the Fassifern Valley and we had a few visits to interesting places along the way.

Our morning tea at a favourite spot, Warrill View, was provided by our bus driver but it was cooked by the mother of the owner of the bus. It was beautiful home-cooking and there were only a few left-overs.

We visited Kalbar. It is a small farming village just off the highway which is why many of us have seen the sign but never called in. We learnt something of Kalbar's history during our visit to the Kalbar Emporium, a large shop (which doesn't seem the right word) which is slowly being restored to its former grandeur. It was one of those country shops that sold everything from groceries to clothing. Kristine is working on the restoration in between working on her own cottage next to the emporium. We were all impressed by the amount of work she has done and the period lights now installed.

Boonah is a thriving town and many of us walked the main street and then admired the driver as he made the tight turn around the roundabout. The district had had a few showers so the countryside seemed to be enjoying a "green drought" – grass looked green but apparently the rain did not go far into the ground.

We all missed the sign for the Lavender

Farm but we did get to know the road and side streets in a small area. It was worth the wait. There was some lavender in flower across the hillside and the shop had some beautiful souvenirs. Our lunch in the winery was worth the wait. – baked lamb roast and a delicious lemon meringue pie and perfect coffee. I would have liked the recipe.

The Coochin Coochin homestead showed us how life was lived on large estates in the early part of last century. The house shows the loving care of several generations and the gardens, while showing the effects of the drought, have great historical importance. The bunya pine is enormous.

Afternoon tea at Rathdowney was a welcome stop. We are grateful to Faith and Stirling's offices for our morning and afternoon teas and Terry, as usual, gave us a guided tour full of information on the Fassifern Valley

Bus Trip 2007 – Sunday 2nd April

Terry Hampson has arranged for 23 members of the Society to join with the Kedron-Wavell Services Club to visit the Rathdowney Heritage Festival. **The cost is \$25 plus the cost of lunch and Admission to the festival.** You will not get this sort of deal easily so the first 23 to pay up are in. **Contact Terry for all bookings.** So hurry, the tickets are going fast!!

April Meeting – no doubt you will have noticed that our April meeting is on the same day as the Bus Trip, so we **will have a meeting** for those not going on the bus trip– in the usual place at the usual time.

Museum of Brisbane – coming exhibitions – for details ring 3403 8888.

- Stitch in support of local artists – from 6th Oct till 3rd Dec. 2006
- A Man's World – about masculinity – from 5th Oct till 19th Nov. 2006
- Heirloom – paintings and historical furniture from 5th Oct to 10th Dec. 2006
- Miss Australia – 5th Oct to 4th Feb 2007

Help – Researching the History of Chermside, I have found, in our archives, several pages from what was a newsletter of the Methodist Church in Chermside. They are dated 1958 and the information seems to have been culled from Church minute books. One page in each newsletter is dedicated to the history of the local church. We have Installment No. 3 dated 1958 and No. 5 dated January 1959.

Does any reader know about, have copies of or know where I can find any more? They contain such snippets as:

An item of expenditure on Sept. 23rd 1888 was for a padlock and chain for the gate of the Church, presumably to keep people out. To-day a similar method might be adopted to keep people in. (Dated 1958)

Speaker for October – was to be Mick Simpson but he was not too well and could not make it. Mick ran the last sawmill in Chermside, off Mermaid Street, and then transferred it to Sandgate Road Virginia where he finally 'snatched his time' or 'slung his hook' at 84. And that was almost 10 years ago. So, since he could not come he sent a DVD along for us to watch.

Fortunately, with the help of Faith Hopkins' DVD player, we were able to hook it up to our Data Projector, pull down our big screen, close our curtains, chew our lollies and view the story of the timber industry in the Pine Rivers. Mick appeared in the show with a few words of wisdom for the viewers. So he did actually make it to the meeting after all.

The DVD, sponsored by the Pine Rivers Shire Council, was made by a local firm and told the story from the earliest white settlement of timber cutters and millers. It traced the location, development and naming of several mills and milling families, along with the problems they faced and how they overcame them.

The final section outlined the efforts being made by local groups to preserve the local ecosystems and retain some of the forest giants; they even showed a huge red cedar – now that is something worth looking at, and preserving. There were tens of thousands of them once, and they were cut like the supply would last forever, but that was progress 19th Century style.

Speaker for November – was Frank Chalmers who is curating an exhibition for the Museum of Brisbane entitled "Brisbane goes to the Pictures" which will be staged in April 2007. Accompanying him was Elizabeth Bates from the Museum of Brisbane.

Part of the exhibition will be a recreation of an old time Picture Show with ticket office, milk bar, lattice ceiling, screen showing newsreels, playing God Save the King, Jaffa cartoon, maybe a serial.

Frank is seeking stories from elderly picture patrons, cinema operators, anybody con-

nected with the old picture shows. He wants to interview them on video and use the results as part of the exhibition. He says that the older people know the stories but the younger people don't know them – so this is one way of bridging the “Generation Gap”.

He emphasised the changes that have taken place in the last 50 years or so. We used to go to the old picture show once a week at the local theatre, which was often a tin shed, at a set time, where you had no choice of film, but it was a night or afternoon out and you met people and socialized. We older people remember this well.

Today a person, including us elders, can go to the video shop and hire a tape, take it home and play it on their own video or DVD players, watch it on their own monitors, in their own lounge room, order a pizza and a few tinnies, turn the sound up or down, alter the colour on the screen, stop it and start it when convenient. There is so much choice today; of course it comes at a cost, doesn't it?

The old picture shows clustered around the railway stations and tram lines because that was how people travelled; cars were rare. Saturday night was entertainment night of the week, and the entertainment was dancing or the pictures, some would even go to the dance after the pictures.

The silent pictures are to be represented, hopefully with a pianist playing to provide sound. Slow music for the serious scenes and frantic music for the exciting scenes such as the inevitable chase. Notice how many modern videos or movies have a chase scene, often near the end. This is one thing that has not changed since the Keystone Cops and Charlie Chaplain days.

Where have all the Drive-ins gone? They came in with the motor car and they went out with TV. Frank tells a story about a man called Frank who had a job at a Drive-in and first off each day he had to go around and pick up all the speakers, 20 to 30 of them that had been accidentally ripped out by drivers. He used to shake them and reconnect them hoping that they would work; Sometimes they did. One day while shaking he dropped a speaker, reconnected it and it worked. So from then on if the speaker didn't work he dropped it, and he swears that it did reduce the repair bill.

From tents to local halls, the Chermside School of Arts, to the local cinema, the Dawn, remember them? Everybody went, the whole family went, and all watched the same picture.

Ken Ryley tells me that his family used to book six seats every Friday night at the Dawn.

Today the movies are tailored for special audiences; children, youth, adult shows, cult shows, art shows and others.

Times they are a'changin but we need to remember the old times; its called experience. If anyone wants to contact Frank his number is 049741165.

Commonwealth Electoral Rolls for Queensland – Bev Isdale has secured three CDs with the complete rolls for 1903, 1913 and 1922 from the Qld Family History Society. These disks contain a vast amount of information about the people in our local area over the early part of the 20th Century. Being on disk, the information is easily accessible because the computer does the work of finding the relevant information, provided you give the computer the correct instructions.

I have already been dipping into the rolls to find such things as how many tanners were in the local area in 1903. They are useful for people who are trying to trace ancestors from anywhere in Queensland over the three periods.

We can add this information to our Register of C'side State School which is now all on disk, the Hamilton Diaries which are in the process of going on disk and the couple of thousand photos also on disk.

Next year we hope to put the Minutes of the C'side School of Arts and the Minutes of the C'side State School Committee, belonging to Jean Tune, on disk. You could almost say that we are living in Diskworld.

Graffiti Problem at the School – this is a continuing problem for the whole of the Precinct and costs the BCC quite a sum of money painting it out. However the Drill Hall and the Voyager Centre used the talents of the Street Artists to paint murals on their walls and this has eliminated most of the problem for them.

The executive discussed the offer of the Street Artists to work on the school when the other buildings were done. We decided to wait and see what would happen – and you can see for yourself what has happened – the graffiti on them has been minimized.

Either way the school building is going to be painted, by graffiti pests or Street Artists doing some murals. If we want the BCC to keep cleaning up the graffiti then we have to do something to help, or clean it up ourselves. Bev Isdale

and I have both tried to clean it up, it is a lousy job and we wouldn't ask anybody else to do it. And nobody joined the Society to clean up after graffiti daubers.

Some people feel that we should not give in to the graffiti people, but others say we are simply heading them off.

So topic will be discussed at a Monthly Meeting so that everybody can put their point of view and their solutions.

Speakers for 2007 – we are currently approaching people who have been nominated by members, to speak to us next year. There will be no speaker for the February meeting as that is a time of members talking. The topic for that meeting will be “My most memorable or unusual holiday.” So think about it and have something in mind, you don't have to talk for any set time, just tell us about the incident and listen to the others. It is a yarn swapping session; of course there are other names, some rhyming with pork pies.

Alfredson Family Reunion – Saturday 10th February 2007 at the Geebung-Zillmere RSL Club – this is a celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the arrival of Alfred and Mette Alfredsen (later Alfredson) in Brisbane on the RMS Roma. Contact: Peter Alfredson (07) 5529 3669 or email pgaca@bigpond.net.au

Peter and his wife attended an Alfredson Family Day in Denmark two years ago and some from the Danish branch are coming.

How is your memory? – You have all heard the joke about the person who signed up for a memory course and forgot to go to the lesson. Well it actually happened to one of our members and I forgot who it was. So who was it? Who said this was a joke?

The Boer War

(From the History of Chermside – in process)

What Australian's call the Boer War was the third Anglo-Boer War known in the British Empire as the South African War and called by the Boers, the Second War of Independence. It lasted from October 1899 to May 1902 when a negotiated peace was concluded after both sides were exhausted.

The Boers, who were largely Dutch civilian farmers numbering somewhere between 65 and 85,000 irregulars, faced the might of the British Empire, the 19th Century super power, in the form of some 450,000 trained troops, including between 12 and 16,000 Australian colonials.

Not all of these troops were in the field at once but included reinforcements and withdrawals.

The Boers were very mobile being well mounted, armed with rifles, able to live off the land and highly motivated as they were fighting for their homeland. They fought a guerrilla war in groups of Commandos by ambushing the British and then disappearing quickly; they proved to be a formidable, but hard to find, foe; this was not the sort of enemy the British soldiers had been trained to fight. The Australians adapted to the Boer tactics and formed mobile, long range attacking forces. In the process they lost 251 men in battle and 267 from disease, especially typhoid.

Australian troops were valued for their ability to "shoot and ride", and they performed well in the open war on the veldt. Australians at home generally supported the war, but as it dragged on became disenchanted, especially as they became aware of its effects on Boer civilians (20,000 died in British concentration camps) and through cases such as the conviction and execution of Lieutenants Morant and Handcock in 1902. (AWM Website)

Boer War Memorial Plaque on Marchant Park Memorial Gates

- Pte George Ridley No. 97 1st (Qld Mounted Infantry) Contingent
- Pte Hugh McNeven No 94 1st (Qld Mounted Infantry9) Contingent Invalided to Australia arriving 18/8/1900
- Pte Harold A Reed No 71 1st (Qld Mounted Infantry) Contingent
- R. G. Bridges – of the 8 Bridges listed on the Nominal Roll at the Aust War Memorial in Canberra there is only one from Queensland and he is Thomas George Pte No.365
- Pte Timothy Hennessy No.63 5th (Qld Imperial Bushmen) Contingent.

Only the surnames and initials are listed on the Gates the remainder of the information came from the Boer War Nominal Roll on the Aust War Memorial website.

If any reader has information or photos about the Boer War or of these men the editor would be pleased to hear from you.

The war ended 104 years ago, just 28 years before the editor was born. Doesn't time fly? Look what's happened since.



Chermerside Historic Precinct from the top of Westfield L to R: Drill Hall, old Chermerside State School, Voyager Centre.



Sculpture garden at Westfield



Morning Tea on the Bus Trip to Boonah



The S bend in the new Kittyhawk Drive beside the Historic Precinct.



Assembled for Lunch on the Bus Trip



Remember this? They call it the Good Old Days.