

Windsor and Districts Historical Society Inc

**Volume**

**37**

**No 1**

**February**

**2025**

*Featuring*

**Society News**

**Windsor WW1**

**Memorial 100th**

**Greater Brisbane**

**100th**

**Tom Wallace**

**Palmer Street**

**& more**



**See page 5**



# Journal

Volume 37 Number 1

February 2025

Produced and edited by  
**Rob Price B.Pharm UQ**  
Secretary WDHS

*Much of the historical material was sourced from  
the Society's record collection, Trove and other  
online data bases.*

Circulation manager  
Gem Cowlishaw

*Delivered by email to members.*

*Recent issues are viewable online at  
[www.windsorhistorical.org.au](http://www.windsorhistorical.org.au)*



We are dedicated to preserving the history of the  
old Windsor Shire / Town areas of :

Albion \*  
Alderley \*  
Eagle Junction \*  
Grange  
Kalinga  
Lutwyche  
Newmarket \*  
Wilston  
Windsor  
Wooloowin



And now extended to cover  
Gordon Park and Herston.

\* part of this suburb

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## Our home

We open to the public  
each Sunday and Monday

1—4 PM

Closed public holidays and  
the Christmas/New year period

# Society News

## The Annual General Meeting was held at the Chambers on Sunday 17 November 2024.

The President and Treasurer provided their annual reports and the committee members for the next 12 months were elected.:

**President:** Matthew Crook

**Vice President:** Joanne Sweetser

**Secretary:** Robert Price

**Treasurer:** Gem Cowlshaw

**Councillor:** Alison Courtice

**Councillor:** Rosalie Raciti

At the conclusion of the meeting 2 videos were screened. One of which was a rare film of the first meeting of the newly elected members of the first Greater Brisbane City Council March 1925

### INVITATION

Everyone is invited to a **general meeting** at the Windsor Council Chambers on **Sunday 16 February at 4pm.**

The speaker will be **Arthur B Palmer**, the Great Grandson on Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer, the premier of Queensland 1870 –1874. This will be a very interesting story about the man after whom Palmer St Windsor was named.



Arthur B



Arthur H

## New Society merchandise for sale

After collaborating with Debra Hood, an award-winning Brisbane based artist, the Society is excited to release 4 new items on our online shop. (Also available onsite at the chambers).

A tea towel featuring both the Chambers and the War Memorial, a key tag with the Chambers and two cards, blank inside waiting for your own message/memories/greetings



The Society is also happy to announce that the popular book "Brisbane House Styles 1880 to 1940" has been reprinted.

Copies can be purchased through our online shop or at the chambers on opening hours.



\$ 30





# Vale

## Alan Webster

13/08/1932—16/12/2024

### **Alan Keith Webster was a foundation member and a past president of the Windsor & Districts Historical Society.**

The society was formed at a special meeting held at the Wilston State School on 3 November 1988. 22 signed up to become foundation members. Alan and his wife Joan attended and were part of the foundation membership. David Hinchliffe was elected the first President.

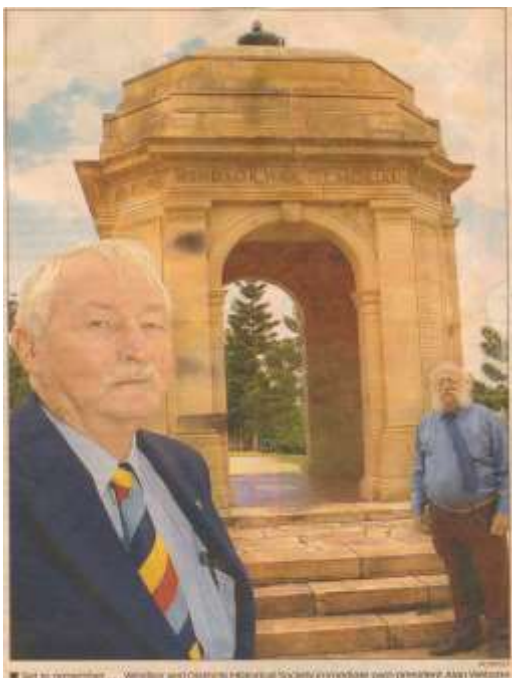
Alan became Senior vice president in 1990 and was elected President in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1999.

*In Alan's eulogy, he was described as Hard Working, having a sense of humour, Dependable, Strong Character and Loyal.*

It was with these qualities that Alan (in late 1990 and early 1991) was able to help resolve some management issues that were affecting the smooth running of the society. .

Alan was responsible for obtaining society incorporation and was a major contributor in the wording of the society's original constitution which was adopted in April 1991.

After stepping down from the presidency at the end of 1993, Alan continued his loyalty to the society by being part of the Anzac Day sub-committee.. (The society conducted the services from 1994). Alan was the Marshall for ten years (2002-2012) and again in 2019.



The society recognised Alan's devoted service by awarding him life membership in 2012.



# ESTABLISHMENT OF GREATER BRISBANE

The Greater Brisbane Scheme was proposed because the town and shire councils in the Brisbane area were having difficulty making infrastructure improvements and providing local government services in an even way across twenty council areas. The Joint Board System in place was inadequate.

Brisbane Town had been proclaimed a municipality on 7 September, 1859, under the New South Wales Municipalities Act 1858. South Brisbane had been separated from Brisbane Municipal Council in 1888.

A Royal Commission in 1896 recommended some amalgamations occur, after which Booroodabin Council amalgamated with the Brisbane Municipal Council.

At the 1915 state election, both the Liberal Premier, Digby Denham, and the Labor Leader of the Opposition, Thomas Ryan, supported the Greater Brisbane concept.

Two bills were introduced to Parliament – a hurried one in 1917, which did not proceed beyond introduction, and a huge bill in 1923, which was considered too complex and failed to pass.

The Assistant Under Secretary of the Home Secretary's Department, Charles Chuter, redrafted the bill, which was introduced to Parliament and passed as the **City of Brisbane Act 1924**.

It created the Greater Brisbane City Council and came into effect on 30 October, 1924.

## THE CITY OF BRISBANE REPLACED TWENTY LOCAL AUTHORITIES...

### Two Cities

Brisbane & South Brisbane

### Six Towns

Ithaca, Hamilton, Toowong, Windsor,  
Sandgate & Wynnum

### Ten Shires

Balmoral, Belmont, Coorparoo,  
Enoggera, Kedron, Moggill, Sherwood,  
Stephens, Taringa & Toombul

### Plus parts of two Shires

Tingalpa & Yeerongpilly

**The Greater Brisbane City Council** comprised a Mayor, who was elected by the people, and 20 Aldermen, one for each ward, who were elected at triennial elections.

The first election was stipulated under the Act to be on 21 February, 1925, and the first meeting of the Council was held on 18 March, 1925, in the Central Technical College (now QUT) in George Street, Brisbane.

The old Councils continued to have meetings during 1925, effectively winding up their affairs, and Greater Brisbane came into effect on 1 October, 1925, under the leadership of Mayor William Jolly.



Centenary information compiled by  
The Greater Brisbane Centenary Committee.  
Graphic Design by K. Forzyth 2024



[greaterbrisbanecentenary.com.au](http://greaterbrisbanecentenary.com.au)



# ANZAC DAY 2025

## Windsor War Memorial

Windsor Memorial Park

100th Anniversary of the opening

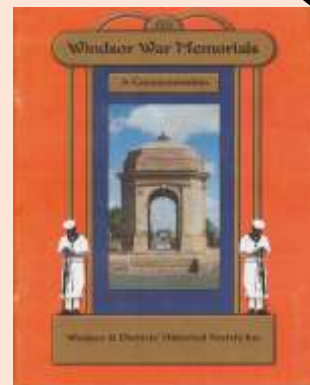
- Be part of this historic day. 9am.



The story of the Windsor Memorial Park can be read on following pages



**Visit the chambers on a Sunday  
or Monday 1—4pm to view a  
display of historical information  
and photos relating to the  
memorial & the WW1 soldiers.**



**The history book \$5**

# The Windsor Memorial Park

## Then and Now

*With the upcoming 100th anniversary of the opening (on Anzac Day 1925), of the Windsor WW1 memorial, it is interesting to know of the previous history of the site.*

1890 land plan



2014 aerial



**THE SCHOOL** The Rev. George Wight (1817-1900) arrived in Brisbane from Edinburgh in 1858 and in 1859 he had obtained 47 acres of land on the southern slopes of Eildon Hill. In the early 1860s he set up a chapel which was a focal point for the local people for meetings and lectures. Nearly 50 children attended his Sunday School. George was concerned that the children were not receiving any schooling apart from this. This prompted George and others to start up a quest to establish a school in the area. Committees were set up and planning took place. Eventually a site on the small hilly area across from Robert Lane's Mt Pleasant home was chosen. The Colonial architect Charles Tiffin drew up the plan and the school was built in 4 months. The school was then named the **Bowen Bridge Road School**. The first students commenced on Monday 17 July 1865





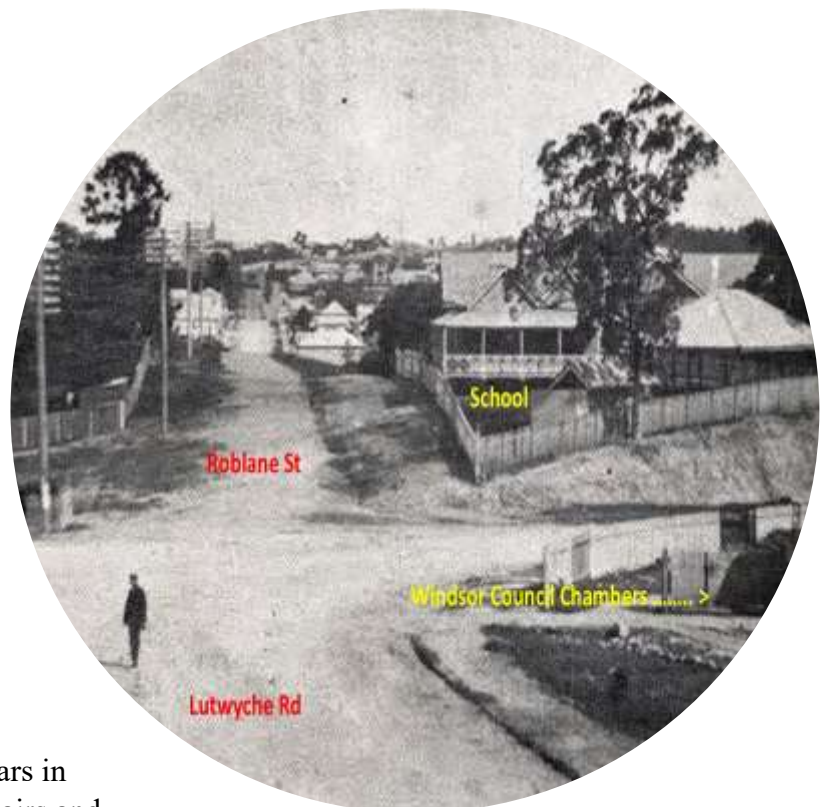
Additions to the school building took place over the years to accommodate the increasing numbers of children living in the area. (In 1888, there were 630 pupils, and by 1890 there were 800).



**Teachers in 1912**



**School crest after Federation in 1901  
Bowen Bridge State School**



By the early 1910s and after nearly 50 years in existence, the school buildings needed repairs and with limited playground areas for the increasing number of pupils, it was decided to build a new school across the road. This was to be called **Windsor State School** and was opened 5 August 1916.

The Bowen Bridge Road School was then demolished by a private contractor in November. After this, returned soldiers were employed to perform the task of beautifying the grounds and turning it into a **park** which was then acquired by the Windsor Town Council in 1919.





**THE WAR MEMORIAL** After the end of WWI the citizens of the Town of Windsor decided to build a memorial in the grounds of the former Bowen Bridge Road State School to recognise and record the names of the men from the Town of Windsor who gave their lives in the war.

This drawing illustrating the original concept for the War Memorial .



It is interesting to compare his drawing with the completed cenotaph and see how a professional architect was able to incorporate all the significant elements of the concept in a dignified and graceful design

The Windsor Town Council made an application to the Commonwealth Government for one of the captured German guns, to be placed in the park. State Governor Sir Matthew Nathan presented the gun to the Town Council at the chambers on 26 August 1922. Windsor Mayor William Jolly stated that the gun was exhibited *not for the glorification of war, but as a memorial of superb sacrifice*.

The gun was placed on a concrete foundation in the grounds of the council chambers as a temporary measure until it was placed in the memorial park. However **this did not happen** and the gun remained in the grounds for over forty years.



With regard to the memorial, a committee was set up to raise funds. Money was scarce at that time but after many fund raising events including fetes, the 1300 pounds needed was raised including the final 350 pounds from the Council. In January 1923, at a meeting, held at the Council Chambers, the committee decided to call tenders for the construction. Before discussing the tenders, a meeting of subscribers with the committee was held to which the general public was invited in order to discuss the erection and final arrangements.

In January 1924, at a well attended meeting, the committee chairman Ald. William Jolly, reported that the tender from Mr P Frew for the erection of the memorial had been accepted. The design of the memorial was devised by Ald James McDonald with honorary architects Francis R Hall and W Allan Devereaux providing the drawings and supervision.

The cenotaph, octagonal in shape, was constructed from brown Helidon sandstone on a large raised platform of local pink Brisbane Tuff from the local council quarry. Four arches and four external corner panels on which the names of the fallen were recorded. The domed roof was surmounted by a bronze lantern with a red light which represents the eternal flame.



On 25 April 1925, exactly ten years after the fateful landing at Gallipoli, the Windsor War Memorial was opened. It was draped with Australian and Union flags. Chairman of the committee and former Mayor of Windsor, William Jolly, introduced Mr Charles Taylor Qld MLA who opened the cenotaph.



## Windsor Memorial

### Unveiled on Saturday

### Australia Worth Defending

"It is the anniversary of Anzac Day, the memorable landing of our troops on the shores of Gallipoli on April, 1915. It is an event that should never be forgotten. It certainly was one, if not the most heroic, achievement of the war."

"Australia is a magnificent heritage of which we are justly proud. We are proud of our association with the great British Empire, which we trust may long continue. Australia is worth defending. It is the homeland of those of us who are present here to-day, and will be the homeland of our children and our children's children. Let us use every endeavour to make it safe for those who shall follow in our footsteps, and we would say to any foreign power, 'Hands off Australia.'"

The above remarks were made by Mr. C. Taylor, M.L.A., on Saturday afternoon, when unveiling the Windsor war memorial, which has been erected in Memorial Park, Lutwyche road, Windsor. There was a very large attendance of relatives and friends and the general public. A large number of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts were also in attendance.

*Telegraph 27 April 1925*



A group of the officials at the unveiling ceremony at Windsor, Australia.



# The naming of Palmer Street



## Named after Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer 1819—1898

Sir Arthur Hunter Palmer (1819-1898), pastoralist and politician, was born on 28 December 1819 in Armagh, **Ireland**, son of Arthur Palmer, naval lieutenant, and his wife Emily, née Hunter, of Dublin and Downpatrick. Educated at Youghal Grammar School and by a private tutor in Dublin, Palmer sailed in the *City of Edinburgh* and arrived at Sydney in 1838. In 1839 he worked on a property in the Illawarra district, probably as a jackeroo, and in 1840 became manager of the New England pastoral holdings of Henry Dangar. In the 1860s Palmer moved to **Queensland**.

In 1866 Palmer was elected for Port Curtis to the Legislative Assembly and as expected aligned himself with the squatter party. After the Macalister government fell in 1867, Palmer became colonial secretary and secretary for public works under R. R. Mackenzie. In this 'political apprenticeship' Palmer proved his worth as an administrator. The ministry had come to power in difficult times, and Palmer initiated stringent economies in the government departments. Because of his affiliation with the squatter party and his retrenchment policy, he was bitterly criticized by the liberal faction, odium that he was to carry long into the next decade. The Mackenzie ministry fell in November 1868 and Palmer joined the Opposition

In 1878 he retired as leader of the Opposition in favour of McIlwraith and was elected for **North Brisbane**; McIlwraith became premier and in January 1879 Palmer was appointed **colonial secretary**, secretary for public instruction and president of the Executive Council. In 1879 their affairs became further intermeshed by McIlwraith's marriage to Harriette Ann, sister of Palmer's wife. For a time in 1879–1880, Palmer **acted as premier** while McIlwraith was in England negotiating an ambitious loan of £3 million for public works.. Palmer was appointed K.C.M.G. In December he resigned from the assembly and was called to the Legislative Council. From 2 May to 6 November 1883 and from 9 October 1888 to 1 May 1889 he acted as **administrator of the colony** in the absence of the governor and from 15 November 1895 to 9 April 1896 was the **first lieutenant-governor of the colony**.

*Extracted from the Australian Dictionary of Biography*



### The Windsor connection



While Palmer was the member for North Brisbane, he rented the historic home OAKWAL.

In the November 2024 journal, the memoirs of Thomas Hamilton recalled him seeing Sir Arthur Palmer living there and travelling in a landau (carriage) with a pair of fine horses.

A newspaper notice stated that Oakwal was to be sold by auction on Saturday 8 September 1888 (showing Sir Arthur Palmer as the resident). James Cowlshaw then obtained the property.





# Homes of historical interest visited by Jenny Roemermann Pt. 4

I love old houses, especially in Brisbane with wide verandahs and space around to appreciate their construction. Small cottages with tiny front verandahs and a bit of iron lace were my first love as a child passing along in a tram through Clayfield and Albion, then Toowong and Milton, later Red Hill and Paddington.

Now I collect pictures of pre-1920's houses and relish seeing old places still lived in and loved, in older suburbs like Highgate Hill, West End, Paddington, Windsor and Spring Hill, Albion and Clayfield; and going to towns to admire genuine Queenslanders, especially places like Ipswich, Toowoomba, and Maryborough, Gympie, in fact any place with old houses tucked away like Yandina and Maleny.

So, this is in four parts--

1. those with personal connections
2. Combined personal and work
3. Community work over 40 years
4. Those that have been demolished

## Part 4: Those that have been demolished

It's sad to think old places are altered and moved but if even parts of buildings can be preserved, I think it important not to waste resources and to preserve our social and cultural history. Of course some experts disagree. My home was assessed by a BCC heritage architect but as it had been altered so much was only of "heritage interest." This is another reason to document the changes of social history so we know details of our past and our locality.

Other places that have been demolished in our area include the old Lutwyche Post office a wooden building on the corner of Chalk Street and the Lutwyche/Kedron Police station, both destroyed for the construction of the traffic tunnel, both of which I had been to in the eighties.

### **Stoneleigh** Cnr Albion & Lutwyche Rds.



This was a house built from local quarry stone, Brisbane tuff, from the Windsor quarry just up the hill at the top of Albion Road and the junction with Lutwyche Road. It had a simple verandah across the front on which I recall standing to talk with a client when I went to visit in my years in community health work. Now I just have the impression of old stonework. Sadly this building was demolished Sept 1996 just to suit the need for space to expand business. It was one of the first houses ever built in Windsor.

### **Dalkeith** 26 Rose St Woolloowin



This was a private hospital in the 1920's opened in 1927 built by Hornibrook's on a previous home of the Stewart family. It was a popular maternity hospital. I can remember walking there from our home in Clayfield aged 4-5 years along Junction Road with my mother to visit a friend to see her youngest child. I recall being on the front steps. It was demolished to make way for the depot of Main Roads while works were conducted in the seventies



Later I remember getting off the tram at Grange terminus to visit this friend at the top of Grange heights with my mother. Why? They had a rocking horse to ride and I was pre-school age.

Another place I have been in, owned by these family friends in fifties and sixties is at the crest of Montpelier Street Wilston, a large home with tennis court where we used to share with gatherings of friends for tennis. The space enabled them to accommodate care of an ageing parent. This family has always had connections to our area as the grandfather had a home 56 Rose St Woolloowin — Eboracum-- and ran the picture theatre at Lutwyche in early days. (The Fenwick family).

### **Eildon/Wilson Ophthalmic Home for Children/Youth Hostel Cnr Fifth & Tenth Ave Windsor**



Half a block from my house was an early stately home: “Eildon” built for Reverend Wight who set up a Congregational church on the lower slopes of Eildon Hill. It was eventually taken over by the state government and a large brick building was constructed in 1938 as a home for country children with eye problems brought to the city for treatment then rehabilitated here. Yet, when I first began my nursing training in 1962, in my first ward I had to escort a child from the Children’s hospital to this home and I have a memory of going onto the verandah of the original wooden building to hand over relevant information.



So years later, living a few hundred yards down the street, we would regularly be disturbed by a screeching fire engine flying past to the summons of the fire alarm, usually set off by teenagers in the facility as it was then designated a home for young offenders. Sadly one escapee left and ended up on the south side where a crime was committed. Many visitors to the inmates seemed to use information gleaned by them to commit robberies in the vicinity as they had a good view of the surrounding streets and houses. In the nineteen-nineties neighbours complained of this issue and of burglary by visitors to the home. After extensive public consultation the local member (and later premier) had it closed. The police told me crime had reduced amazingly in this area once the facility moved to Wacol. So then, after efforts to use it differently, that large brick building was demolished in 2001 and the land sold for new housing.



These are the places I’ve seen in many years working and living in this area. Homes contain our social history and our environment gives us experience and meaning.

So let’s preserve and value them, share the history and record the details.

*Jenny*



# Who remembers Tom Wallace ?

This article is part of the society's historical records and was researched and written by foundation and life member **Beres McCallum OAM** *Photos added by the editor*

If you grew up in the Windsor Shire or maybe even further afield in the 1920's and 1930s' you certainly would remember Tom. You probably bought your push bike from him at his first premises under his house in Lowerson St. Lutwyche (or 20 Wilson St. as it was then known) and took it back and forth to get free air in your tyres or have running repairs done. He was that friendly fatherly bloke in faded overalls with black grease on his hands who treated you as he did all the local kids almost as part of his family. Mention Tom Wallace to anyone of that era and they would have a story to tell. His advice to first time push bike riders was to take your bike out in to a paddock but first put a kerosene tin in the middle of the paddock. Get your balance and ride towards it and you will hit it for sure!

Tom Wallace was born in Gympie (1902), the son of the local butcher. He got his first second hand clapped out bike in his early teen years to deliver meat to customers for his father. He got to know that there was a Bike Club in Gympie and went to look on. They invited him to join in a race – old bike, bare feet on metal pedals – and believe it or not he won! From then on he was hooked. The family moved to live in Brisbane at O'Connell Terrace and later at Bellevue Terrace Clayfield. In 1928 Tom married Lillian Maud Burton and they made their home at Lutwyche (20 Lowerson St.) where the top car park of Lutwyche Shopping Centre now is. Lowerson St. was then known as Wilson St. It was here that Tom began manufacturing cycles under their house. He made everything himself from the *lugs* which are the head of the bike through which the handlebars fit right through to the main frame.



There was an old wooden velodrome near the Exhibition Grounds and he raced there. If you fell off, you got splinters but didn't stop to pull them out. You just waited until they festered and then squeezed and they popped out. In this rough and tough world of the pre war cycling fraternity he met lads and young men who were to be his lifetime friends and the hub of the business he established at Lutwyche.



Tom's daughter Valda had scrapbooks and trophies of her father's successes in competition cycling in the 1920's but as his business grew he gave racing away and took to training.





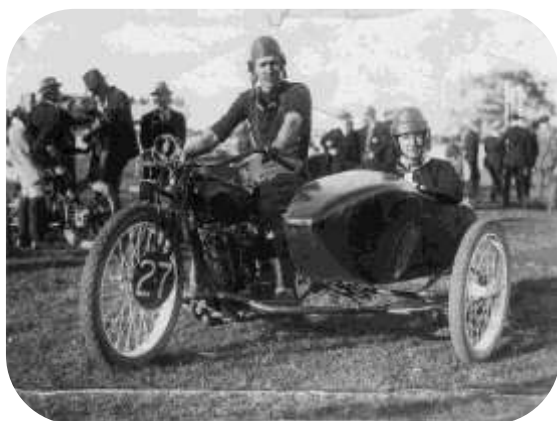
Tom trained many to compete, and they travelled far and wide. The name Tom Wallace Cycles appeared as graffiti on fences, rocks and outstanding features all over the eastern seaboard.



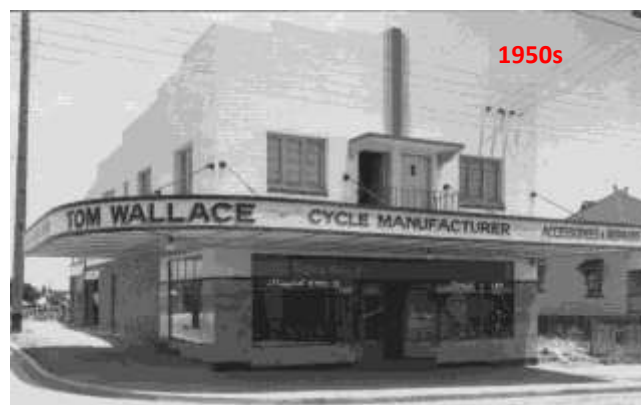
This was the way they thanked their mentor who gave total support by training them and caring for their bikes. If a contestant had a fall competing in Mackay or some other country centre and broke a crossbar or some such he would put the cycle on a plane and phone Tom. He would pick it up at the airport, often spend all night repairing it and send it back on an early flight the next morning so that the rider could compete again the next day.

He once took a rare holiday of one week to the sea because Valda had lead poisoning. She remembered that he bought her a *Cherry Ripe* every day.

His business expanded as he began building for wholesalers in the city, but as he had no money to buy motor transport he and one of his riders got a long pole and threaded the frames and wheels on the pole. With a rider on a bike in front and Tom bringing up the rear on another cycle they transported the parts into the city. Later he bought a motor cycle and side car. Imagine this on Lutwyche Road today! His *Special* brand was hand printed and in later years he also was willing to print the name of the owner and other identifying details on the top bar.



In the 1940's he bought the blacksmith's shop which once belonged to Charlie Lyons on the corner of Swinburne St. and Lutwyche Road. Here, with Mrs. Wallace always in the shop helping, he prospered.



Tragedy struck when Mrs. Wallace and her household help were dry cleaning curtains in the laundry of the dwelling above the shop and the fluid exploded. Tom raced out of his workshop to see them on the back verandah with Mrs. Wallace beating the flames on Palma Goeldner's back. Mrs. Wallace was very badly burned about the face and hands and was in hospital for several months. During this time Valda lived with her grandparents and an aunt and was not allowed to see her mother for two months, at which time they knew she would pull through. When she came home she went every day to Dr. Berg's wife who had been the matron of a hospital in Germany. Mrs. Berg massaged the burn scars every day on her face and hands to stop them from tightening. It was a terrible time for the family but before long, Mrs. Wallace was back in the shop beside Tom. Valda left Woolloowin School in Grade 6 and went to St. Margaret's where she did a Commercial Course and later helped in the business also.

In the 1960's the shop had to be demolished for road widening and Tom was operating the business from a shed behind the shop. Dozens of Charlie Lyon's horseshoes were dug up when they put the foundations in for the new shop.

The Wallaces were convinced by family and friends that it would be a good time to take an overseas trip while the new shop was being built and on their return moved into the premises from which Tom Wallace Cycles operates to this day.



Mid 1960s

Sadly they had only been there a short time when Mrs. Wallace died (1965).

Valda came in to help her father every day.


Tom rode his bike every day – right up to his seventies. One day when Valda and the staff arrived at the shop he was nowhere to be seen and they found he had died of a heart attack during the night of 2 December 1981. It was just after his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Tom was honoured with the naming of Wallace Place



*Tom's Funeral cortege on Gympie Road  
to the Pinaroo Lawn Cemetery*



## New bikeway christened

Lord Mayor Ald. Sallyanne Atkinson, pictured left, last Friday christened the "Tom Wallace" bikeway with a ride on the last bike built by the late Mr Tom Wallace, a ladies bike featuring a special lightweight alloy frame he developed.

Also on the inaugural ride as Ald. John Osborne from Toowoomba who is the proud owner of Tom's last machine and Beppo the clown alias Barry Cannon who was riding another Wallace special.

Ald. Atkinson said the bikeway was named after Tom Wallace to honour his contributions to Brisbane and to the Lutwyche area in particular.

"There can be no better way to pay tribute to one of Australia's cycling greats and a favourite son of Brisbane," she said.

Tom Wallace was born in Gympie in 1902 and in his cycling career established several state and national records, retiring from the sport at the age of 31.

His influence in the Lutwyche area began in 1928 when he set up his first shop. Tom continued to cycle regularly until his death in 1981.

Mrs Valda Byth, the only surviving daughter of the cycling veteran, paid tribute to all who contributed to the realisation of this project as a memorial to her late father.

Among the other guests of the ceremony were other past and present bike champions, some who were regular visitors to Tom's cycle shop.

Also present were Tom's grandson, Greg and grandsons Ben and Craig 4 and 2 respectively, all avid cyclists themselves.

The bikeway along Kedron Brook was called the "Tom Wallace Bikeway" in the 1980s, but now it is named the "Kedron Brook Bikeway"



Wallace Place is a little triangular Park or large traffic island / road reserve at 381 Lutwyche Road (Lutwyche Road and Truro Road median, Lutwyche). It is almost entirely covered by Pop's fig which is a large Ficus Benjamina. This tree is at least 20 metres tall and has a canopy diameter of more than 30 metres. There are also some exotic palms and natives underneath it. At one point there used to be an Air Raid Shelter here, now there is just an old-style concrete bus stop shelter.



# Ballymore Park

## Hallowed Ground ?

*This story by the Late Murray Spinaze was featured in the Society's journal in 2008*

*"While travelling in the 360 City Council bus to Newmarket recently I noted with interest the large Rugby Union sign placed strategically on the corner of Clyde Road and Butterfield Street, Herston stating it was **"hallowed ground"**. This aroused my interest in the history of the area now known as Ballymore Park".*

Breakfast Creek, which flows through this area forms the northern area of the park. With the arrival of white settlers to the Herston area in the 1860's it was found that the low lying area of land adjacent to Breakfast Creek, including Ballymore, was frequently covered by flood waters during heavy rain. This swampy mosquito infested ground designated Crown Land as of 1862 was used by the police of that era as the Police Paddock Reserve.

This reserve was close by the large stone house known as Ballymore House built on 11 acres of higher land by the first Police Commissioner of the new state of Queensland David Thompson Seymour in 1864.



Seymour had been born at Ballymore Castle in Ireland on 5th November 1831 son of Thomas Seymour, gentleman; educated Ennis College; entered army 1856, lieutenant 1858, Sydney 1859; arrived in Brisbane 1861 in command of the first detachment in Queensland after separation; aide de camp and private secretary to the first Governor Sir George Ferguson Bowen 1861; Acting Police Commissioner 1864 and confirmed in office in July 1864 (after retiring from the army); retired from police force 30 June 1895 on £700 (\$1400) pension.

By 1875 a section of the reserve was designated for use as a manure depot for horse waste and later used as a night soil reserve (human waste). The city of today with sewerage is a far cry from the Brisbane of the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which used outhouses or dunnies in the backyards. This human night soil had to be disposed of in areas away from the town one of which was the present Ballymore oval.

With the settlement of Herston as a suburb, this practice ceased and the reserve was used for household garbage. By the 1920's part of this area had become a small dairy. The area was later filled with ash and soil and grassed over and used as the Kelvin Grove Sports Ground. for a number of years before becoming headquarters for Rugby Union in Queensland. The 1974 flood covered the oval and surrounding area with over a metre in places of silt and 50 truckloads were removed before the turf could be restored.

So all you Rugby fans the next time you watch a footy match at Ballymore **think of what lies under the hallowed turf you all hold so dear!**



# Snippets

From our historical collection

## George Lyons - smells

The first smell to come to mind is the appalling stink that emanated from Gibson's wool scour on Stafford Road, Stafford and which hung over the district for weeks, or maybe months at certain times of the year. Today the much sweeter smelling Stafford City shopping centre occupies the site.

The glorious aroma of fresh baked bread that wafted from local bakeries, one of which seemed to exist in every suburb, is one which I remember with excruciating pleasure.

Another smell that brought me pleasure came from the fragrant clouds which seemed to surround every member of the United States of America's women's services, many of whom were stationed in Brisbane during World War 2. I think most of them would have been nurses and that the US military had a regulation that they had to bathe daily in Chanel No. 5! I'm not complaining. I thought they smelled great and I and my 15 year old mates used to follow them round the city drinking it in.

When I was six years old (1935) we lived for a time in a house in South Street, Newmarket and in the back corner of the yard was a ginormous Camphor Laurel tree, It was the first tree I ever climbed and my brothers and I spent many happy hours in its canopy. In life's journey, whenever I have encountered a Camphor Laurel, I have always taken a leaf and crushed it in my hand and the scent always takes me back up that old tree in Newmarket. That's my favourite smell of all !



## Anonymous

I remember the cheese of my childhood,  
And the bread that we cut with a knife,  
When the children helped with the  
housework, and the men went to work,  
not the wife.

The cheese never needed a fridge,  
And the bread was so crusty and hot

The children were seldom unhappy  
And the wife was content with her lot.

I remember the milk from the bottle,  
With the yummy cream on the top,  
Our dinner came hot from the oven,  
And not from the fridge in the shop.

The kids were a lot more contented,  
They didn't need money for kicks,  
Just a game with their mates on the road,  
And sometimes the Saturday flicks.

I remember the shop on the corner,  
Where a pen'orth of sweets was sold  
Do you think I'm a bit too nostalgic?  
Or is it...I'm just getting old?

I remember the 'loo' was the lav  
And the bogey man came in the night,  
It wasn't the least bit funny  
Going "out back" with no light.

The interesting items we perused  
From the newspapers cut into squares,  
And hung on a peg in the loo,  
It took little to keep us amused.

The clothes were boiled in the copper  
With plenty of rich foamy suds  
But the ironing seemed never ending  
As Mum pressed everyone's 'duds'.

I remember the slap on my backside,  
And the taste of soap if I swore  
Anorexia and diets weren't heard of  
And we hadn't much choice what we wore.

Do you think that bruised our ego?  
Or our initiative was destroyed?  
We ate what was put on the table  
And I think life was better enjoyed !