

MINUTES

Sunnybank District Historical Group

Sunnybank Hills Library- Conference Room,

Date | time April 1- 2017 1pm-3pm

Meeting called to order by Dr. Neville Buch, (Chairperson)

In Attendance

Dr. Neville Buch; Dasharathi Karamchedu, Lyn Rao, Margaret Waller, Paul Rao, Brenda Ford & Guest Speaker Dr. Jack Ford,

Approval of Minutes

March 2017- Minutes Approved by Dr. Neville Buch. Seconded by Dasharathi Karamchedu

Management Committee

The Secretary and Chairperson informed the Committee; they would attend the CBA Sunnybank Hills before the week ending 7th April to complete necessary paper work to arrange new signatories.

The following was confirmed as correct contact details.

Contact details for Committee Members:

- o Neville Buch. Nbuch61@gmail.com. 0416046429
- o Dasharathi Karamchedu Dasharathi@outlook.com.au 0410699329
- o Lyn Rao paul.rao@optusnet.com.au 0433230775

Business Meeting

- o Dr. Buch has provided details of a Business Planner that outlines the agenda for the balance of 2017.
- o Dr. Buch was keen to start meeting promptly as the Guest Speaker was ready to present an in depth presentation named "Yanks drove us to distraction"
- o Dr Jack Ford was introduced as professional historian specializing in military history and the history of *Brisbane's* various suburbs or buildings. ... Since 2001, he has been a historian with the Heritage Unit of the *Brisbane City Council*.

General Discussion and

Dr. Ford gave presentation highlighting the role of QLD with a timeline of critical points that defined WW2 leading in to the years between 1942 and 1945. The presentation highlighted below key points:

- o Qld role as support base for the war effort in S.W Pacific

- Sunnybank and nearby suburbs role with respect to fortifications, airfields and civil defense including manufacturing, became immediate priority
- New camps that were established for US Forces and Australian soldiers returning from Middle East in the Sunnybank, Coopers Plains, Chermerside and Zillemere areas and other Brisbane suburbs
- Qld vulnerability with the rapid capture of Singapore by the Japanese forces, subsequent bombing of Darwin etc.

A book titled "Marching To The Trains *The Chermerside Army Camp Remembered*", along with a pamphlet titled "American Civil War Heritage Trail Queensland", sponsored by Brisbane City Council and authored by Dr Ford were displayed and were made available for purchase at the meeting.

The Secretary, Lyn recommends that in view of so many bullet points in the Presentation, a copy will be emailed out upon request by contacting her on c/- paul.rao@optusnet.com.au so that it could be used as a reference point in the future.

Dr Ford's well researched presentation gave valuable insights of Sunnybank District as a bigger demographic during the WW2 periods and played a valuable part. Some extracts include:

- Munitions Factory at the area where Salisbury Hotel now located;
- Importance of Archerfield Airport as the only Aerodrome in Brisbane;
- The role played by the Oasis Sunnybank swimming pools as a vital R&R location;
- Opening of hospital in Greenslopes for general and repatriation purposes;
- Sacrifice of men from Sunnybank region to serve their country;
- The site where existing Sunnybank United Church in Hellowell Street was used by Women Air Force personnel as a community service to provide Mission style recreation venue for under privileged children; a
- The versatility of the Munitions Factory to become proficient at repairing aero engines.

These are some of the key points. For those interested Dr. Ford suggested a visit www.ww2places.qld.gov.au for information on places across the state for dates, places and people in the history of the period of time when Australia was in the firing line. It was also highlighted that this website will also serve as local historical record for interested general public to research about the significance of the neighborhood they live in.

Dasharathi recalled that with the establishment of the Queen Street Mall, many decorative tiles and Fountain were removed and ended in a Brookfield District acreage property. During the Presentation, the Lennon's Hotel was mentioned and Margaret confirmed the hotel in point was not the one that was in George Street City a few decades later. Lyn had indicated that from her family home at Provincial Road she had direct view to the Holland Park US camps which remained there for a period after end of war but stood where the Housing Commission area followed.

The meeting concluded a short period after the very informative and widely appreciated presentation by, Dr. Ford who answered questions with his knowledge of heritage location.

Comment [A1]:

Next Meeting

Saturday May 6th 2017 - Sunnybank Hills Library. Sunnybank Hills Shopping Centre 1-3pm inclusive.