Council delivering leading development assessment practices

In January this year, Ipswich City Council endorsed the Commitment to Planning Reform developed by the Council of Mayors South East Queensland Planning Reform Taskforce. The Taskforce represents a collaborative approach by SEQ Councils and participating industry bodies to achieving leading development assessment practice and planning through an action based agenda for implementation by the Council of Mayors (SEQ) and individual participating SEQ Councils. Ipswich City Council is actively represented on the Taskforce by Council’s Planning and Development Committee Chairman, Cr Paul Tully and Council’s Development Planning Manager, Jo Pocock.

The ‘Commitment to Planning Reform’ requires SEQ Councils to review their existing development assessment services in accordance with industry best practice and it is the responsibility of individual Councils to resource any identified improvements to ultimately deliver on the commitment. Ipswich City Council is well placed to deliver the objectives of the ‘Commitment to Planning Reform’ with recent initiatives such as the development assessment complexity matrix, fast track processing for simple development applications, electronic assessment processes, decision ready operational works program and the electronic pre-lodgement meeting facilities amongst others.

Where are we now?

With the assistance of the Planning Reform Taskforce, Council has recently undertaken a benchmarking exercise to evaluate the current state of Council’s services against industry leading practice. This review process concluded that Council’s existing services are performing strongly against leading practice within SEQ. This strong position is reflective of the ongoing business improvement initiatives undertaken to enhance Council’s development assessment services.

In a continuing approach to business improvement, Council’s Planning and Development Department has identified a range of actions to further enhance our service to the community. Utilising the Leading Practice Framework, a two year Action Plan has been prepared to deliver important business improvement activities, which principally involves the assessment activities of both the Development Planning and Engineering and Environment Branches of the Department.

Continued on Page 3
Awards are certainly the flavour of the month. Congratulations to our Planning and Development Department for their 2 recent awards from the Queensland National Trust for the Queens Park Audio Trail and the Ipswich City Council / University of Queensland Local History Student Bursary.

Entries have now closed for the Ipswich City Council Awards for Excellence in Heritage Conservation, Design and the Environment. It was great to see 30 entries in the various awards categories. I look forward to seeing the winners unveiled at the Awards Ceremony on 15 October 2013. No doubt I will see many of our Development Industry partners at the awards.

This Edition of our Planning and Development Update is again packed full of interesting information about Planning Reform, Planning Scheme Amendments, Public Art, the new Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code and interesting historical information about digitised newspapers, the James Ivory Diaries, South Sea Islanders and how retailing has changed over the years.

Additions to the Planning and Development Pregnancy Club roll on, with the tally now reaching 35. The two staff profiled in this Edition - Mitch Grant and Michael Simmons are soon to be new dads. John Adams is wondering when it will stop.

The benefits of these improvements to the community and Council’s customers will become more apparent, particularly over the next 12 months.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Planning and Development Department on its 2 recent Awards from the Queensland National Trust. Well done Cr Tully, Cr Casos and the Planning and Development Team.

Mayor Paul Pisasale
City of Ipswich
Council’s Strategic Planning Branch was recently the proud recipient of 2 Queensland National Trust Awards for:–

• the Queens Park Audio Trail (Gold Award); and
• the Ipswich City Council / University of Queensland Local History Student Bursary (Special Commendation).

Ipswich City Council Library Services also received a silver award for the Viva Cribb Historical Research Bursary.

Following the completion of the public notification of Major Amendments Package 03/2012 and consideration by Council of the submissions that were received, the Amendment Package has been forwarded to the State government for its final approval to enable Council to adopt the amendments.

Key matters addressed in the amendment package include:–

• updates to the key resource areas and haul routes, locations and buffers to reflect State mapping;
• changes to the Mining Influence Areas Overlay Map based on updated expert advice and information;

Better and to develop a specific Development Assessment Customer Service Charter;
• Alignment of reporting systems with a SEQ regional performance monitoring framework;
• Refinement of information request processes and particularly minor requests for information;
• Review of the Risk Assessment Framework with the view to streamlining other assessment types;
• Development of a streamlined assessment model for signing plans of subdivision;
• Enhancement of e-Planning capabilities through e-Planning Strategy development.

Central to the ‘Commitment to Planning Reform’ is the delivery of benefits to the community and customers. Council will be seeking further dialogue with customers to obtain feedback on business and development assessment activities. The SEQ Council of Mayors has given strong recognition to Council’s current and emerging development assessment activities and Ipswich City Council is committed to leading the way in best practice within SEQ.

Council’s Strategic Planning Branch was recently the proud recipient of 2 Queensland National Trust Awards for:–

• the Queens Park Audio Trail (Gold Award); and
• the Ipswich City Council / University of Queensland Local History Student Bursary (Special Commendation).

Infrastructure, Planning Scheme Schedules 2, 3 and 5 and to Planning Scheme Policies 3 and 5; and

• amendments to references used in the Planning Scheme.

Minor Amendment Pack 03/2013 came into force and effect from 12 July 2013. Key matters addressed in the amendments included:

• Changes to the Dictionary, clarifying the term ‘Minor Utility’ with regards to the installation of solar panels; and
• Amendments to the Assessment Categories and Relevant Assessment criteria – ‘Other Development’ assessment tables in all zones and overlays to clarify the assessment trigger intent for carrying out operation work for reconfiguring a lot or

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in association with a material change of use.

Council also adopted Administrative Amendments 04/2013 on 23 July 2013, which came into force and effect from 2 August 2013. As well as updating references in the planning scheme and planning scheme policies, the amendments included updated references to local laws to be consistent with the newly adopted local laws.

In June, Council released Planning Scheme Fact Sheet No.7 entitled Flood Regulations – Historical Overview. The Fact Sheet provides an historical overview of flood regulations applying to development throughout the Ipswich Local Government Area and provides further information about future flooding provisions.

For further information regarding any of the above, please contact the Strategic Planning Branch on 3810 6251.

### Development News

Set out below are the main development applications that have been determined since the last Newsletter.

Further information regarding these applications can be accessed via Council’s web site and following the links to PD Online. When prompted, insert the application reference number which appears below (eg DA 1234/10).

#### Commercial / Industrial Uses
- Services / Trades Use - Car Wash at 56 Robertson Road, Eastern Heights (DA 6244/12)
- General Industry (Outdoor Storage, Warehouse and Ancillary Office) at 45 River Road, Redbank (DA 6523/12)
- Bulky Goods Sales at 456 Warwick Road, Yamanto (DA 22/13)
- Storage Depot at 12A Lower Cross Street, Goodna (DA 673/13)
- Extension to Existing Industry Use at 176 - 180 Cobalt Street, Carole Park (DA 1744/13)

#### Residential Uses
- Veterinary Clinic at 19 Mining Street Bundamba (DA 2118/13)
- Area Development Plan for Motel Extension at 1 Springfield Lakes Boulevard, Springfield Lakes (DA 1940/13)
- Permissible Change at 246 Brisbane Road, Booval (DA 21/09)

### Strategic Planning News Continued

Continued in association with a material change of use.

In June, Council released Planning Scheme Fact Sheet No.7 entitled Flood Regulations – Historical Overview. The Fact Sheet provides an historical overview of flood regulations applying to development throughout the Ipswich Local Government Area and provides further information about future flooding provisions.

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### Multiple Residential (35 Townhouses) and reconfiguration of one lot into 2 lots at Eagle Street, Redbank (DA 5443/12)
- Permissible Change at 11 Collingwood Drive, Redbank (DA 1945/06)
- Permissible Change at 1 Thurso Street, North Booval (DA 5827/10)
- Three lots into 311 lots at 120 Pisasale Drive, Deebing Heights (DA 7215/11)
- One lot into 2 lots at 26 Clifton Street, Booval (DA 4524/12)
- One lot into 6 lots at 55 - 63 Holt Street, Brassall (DA 4826/12)
- One lot into 2 lots at 183 Raceview Street, Raceview (DA 1141/13)
- One lot into 2 lots at 49 Omar Street, West Ipswich (DA 1313/13)
- One lot into 2 lots at 97 Woodend Road, Woodend (DA 1519/13)
- Boundary realignment at 13 Burton Street, North Booval (DA 1849/13)
- Boundary realignment at 108 Dances Road, Mount Marrow (DA 2643/13)
- One lot into 2 lots at 4 Stathis Place, Bundamba (DA 3315/13)
- Extension to Character Dwelling at 49 Frederick Street, Newtown (DA 1139/13)
Community Uses

- School Extension - Westside Christian College Primary School at 132 Alice Street, Goodna (DA 1380/13)
- Amendment to Springfield Town Centre Concept Master Area Development Plan for DA12G(M) Mater Health Precinct at Wellness Way, Springfield Central (DA 3206/13)

Other

- Crematorium at 12 Anderson Day Drive, Willowbank (DA 1046/13)
- Telecommunications Facility at 456 Pine Mountain Road, Muirlea (DA 1640/13)
- Amendment to MADP and ADP - Robelle Domain Produce Craft Markets and Outdoor Entertainment at 155 Southern Cross Circuit, Springfield Central (DA 1420/13)

- Advertising Device at 227 - 263 School Road, Redbank Plains (DA 3224/13)
- Advertising Device at 1 Brisbane Road, Bundamba (DA 3227/13)

Digitised Newspapers

If you are tracing your family tree, the history of your house or are interested in local history you should visit the ‘Trove’ website (www.trove.nla.gov.au). This website is a National Library of Australia project that provides online access to digitised newspapers, photographs, journals, articles, maps and other resources.

The digitised newspapers contain a wealth of information which may not be found in any other resource.

An advanced search can be undertaken which allows you to select a range of years to search from selected newspapers.

Trove is currently expanding their database with the digitising of the following local newspapers:

- Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser for period 1861 - 1862;
- Queensland Times, Ipswich Herald and General Advertiser for period 1863 - 1908;

Once the digitising process has been completed, you will be able to perform key word searches on any of the above publications (over 11,800 pages of data).

A Fly Farm

The only fly farm and training stable for insects is owned by Mr F P Smith, a young official in the service of the Local Government Board (writes a London paper of November 13). In demonstrations at the fly-farm at Mr Smith’s house in Islington highly-educated flies perform remarkable antics. A fly will lie on its back and keep a ball revolving with its feet for hours at a stretch, or sit on a chair, dressed in a specially-cut silk gown and cap and nurse a doll. So perfect are the performances that cinematograph records have been taken of them. Other insects besides flies have been trained by this young Government official. He has taught a spider to run up a stick and take food held out to it. A lizard which he has in his possession will take and hold a cigarette in its mouth, but resolutely refuses to smoke it.
Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code

Implementation of the SEQ Water Supply and Sewerage Design and Construction Code

On Monday 1 July, the State Government gazetted the SEQ (Water Supply and Sewerage) Design and Construction Code to take effect immediately. The SEQ Code is a comprehensive set of technical standards relating to the design and construction of water infrastructure in the SEQ region. This code covers the activities of the SEQ water service providers (Gold Coast City Council, Logan City Council, Queensland Urban Utilities, Redland Water and Unitywater). The Ipswich City Council Local Government Area is administered by Queensland Urban Utilities.

The SEQ Code includes an Accepted Products and Materials listing; Design Criteria; requirements for planning, design and construction of Water Supply assets, Sewerage assets, Sewage Pumping Stations, Vacuum Sewerage Systems and Pressure Sewerage Systems; and a Specification for preparing Asset Information.

The SEQ Code was developed cooperatively between the water service providers in South East Queensland – Gold Coast City Council, Logan City Council, Queensland Urban Utilities, Redland Water and Unitywater. Development of the SEQ Code commenced in 2011 and included consultation with the development industry, with the final SEQ Code adopted by each service provider and gazetted by the Minister for Energy and Water Supply.

The SEQ Code prevails over existing provisions within Council’s Planning Scheme which currently determines water supply and sewerage infrastructure outcomes and supersedes all previous standards.

Items of Significance

There are changes to standards and design outcomes as a result of the implementation of the SEQ (Water Supply and Sewerage) Design and Construction Code compared to previous standards contained within Council’s Planning Scheme and Standard Drawings. These amendments vary in their significance and impact to Council business process and to Council customers. The significant changes worthy of note are as follows:-

- Easements are now required over all sewers located within private land. The widths of these easements vary from 3.0m wide to 10.0m wide, depending on diameter and depth of sewer.

- Easements are required to provide access to all access chambers where they are located within private land. Easements are 1.0m wide and are generally located from the road reserve along the side boundaries of lots.

- Rubber ring jointed uPVC pipe construction for sewer is no longer acceptable. All sewers must be constructed in polyethylene (PE) pipe that can contain both horizontal and vertical bends, as well as intermediate access chambers not constructed from concrete. Previously this type of construction was restricted to the Springfield area and was not used in the balance of the Ipswich local government area.

- All concrete access chambers must be “cast insitu” construction. Precast concrete access chambers are no longer acceptable.

- Sewers must now be located within either road reserve or at the rear of lot. Alignments in front of lot now do not comply with the code.

- Water main scour valves are to discharge to kerb and channel as well as to existing stormwater drainage structures.

- Vacuum Sewerage Systems and Pressure Sewerage Systems are now an acceptable solution for areas that are difficult to service with conventional gravity systems.

Implementation Process

The SEQ Code came into effect on 1 July 2013. Any new assets delivered after this time must comply with the SEQ Code. It is recognised by the SEQ water service providers that it would be unreasonable from an economic and time delay perspective for assets that are already significantly progressed along the delivery process to be altered to make them comply. Therefore, there are transitional arrangements in place.

Designs that were substantially commenced prior to 1 July 2013 will not need to be amended to meet the new standards. They will be assessed and approved against the standards in place when the design was commenced. However, any design work commenced on or after 1 July 2013, and any design submitted for approval after 1 October must comply with the new standards.
A striking metal sculpture for the Ipswich City Centre is set to be gifted to the City to mark the construction of its newest landmark.

Deputy Mayor and City Management and Finance Committee Chairperson, Councillor Victor Attwood said the sculpture would be installed on the corner of Bell and Brisbane Streets outside the entrance to ICON Ipswich’s Tower A.

Cr Attwood said the ICON Ipswich site had an historical and special association with Benjamin Cribb who commenced a successful business in Ipswich in the 1850’s.

Benjamin Cribb went into partnership with John Clarke Foote in 1855 and the firm traded under the name Cribb and Foote for many decades.

Over the years, Cribb and Foote evolved to become a modern and progressive department store.

In 1977, Cribb and Foote was purchased by Walter Reid and Company Limited and the store then became known as Reids.

The catastrophic Reids fire in 1985 and the subsequent demolition of what remained of the department store completely erased the CBD’s visual link with the glory days of Cribb and Foote.

Up until this time the fire damaged buildings in Brisbane and Bell Street had occupied the site for well over a century.

Despite the destruction of the building the people of Ipswich continued to identify this site with the name Cribb and Foote and to this day, many still do.

“In its day, Cribb and Foote was a true icon for Ipswich and the iconic nature of the new artwork will reflect this, drawing people’s attention to the sculpture and the historical information installed on its fascia panels.”

Cr Attwood said Council was pleased to be able to accept the offer of the artwork from Leighton Properties (Brisbane) Pty Ltd and Ipswich City Properties Pty Ltd.

“This offer provides a fully funded opportunity for Council to establish a significant piece of public art in recognition of the history of a prominent streetscape in the Ipswich CBD.”

Ipswich City Properties Pty Ltd Chairperson Paul Tully said the joint venture partners wanted to ensure that the history of the site was captured and recorded for the future.

“This public artwork will provide a unique way to honour this history,” Mr Tully said.

“The ICON Ipswich site is one of the foundations of Ipswich’s CBD and has been part of the continuing evolution of Ipswich’s city centre. ICON Ipswich is one of Australia’s largest regional urban renewal projects and will be a catalyst for future growth in Ipswich.”
James Ivory was an early settler who had large land holdings in and around Ipswich.

Transcriptions are now available of James Ivory’s diaries written between 1863 and 1883. The transcriptions can be viewed at the Picture Ipswich web site: www.picture.ipswich.qld.gov.au

The information is contained in four parts:
- Part 1 - Glossary and Index;
- Part 2 - 1863 - 1870;
- Part 3 - 1871 - 1880; and
- Part 4 - 1881 - 1883.

The diaries provide a fascinating and often intriguing insight into the lives of the Ivory family in Scotland and Ipswich. In his diaries, James Ivory comments on the weather, politics, his many experiments and inventions as well as making reference to many early settlers in South East Queensland.

In 1840, at the age of 20 James Ivory travelled to Sydney and 3 years later, in partnership with David Graham, he took out a squatting licence for Eskdale run (Esk). James went on to acquire vast land holdings including Jinbi Jinbi, Charley’s Creek Clooyar, Nukinenda, Town Marie and the former Bremer Mills at Bundamba which he purchased on 10 February 1868.

The mills had been established by Joseph Fleming and included Steam Saw Mills, a three storey flour mill, a boiling down works, tramways connecting the mill with the river, a church and school house, superintendents residence, cottages and huts for the workmen and a private dwelling for the owner and his family. The estate which consisted of 640 acres also included a quarry, stables for 20 horses, hay lofts, fruit and flower gardens.

Under the ownership of James Ivory, the former Bremer Mills property grew cotton, sugar cane and tobacco.

In 1866, James Ivory made his first comments about South Sea Islanders in his diaries when he mentioned Ryland passing by his property with a Polynesian servant. On 3 February 1868, he wrote “With South Sea Islanders I ought to turn in a handsome revenue yearly.” Three years later, James was using Polynesian labour on his Bremer Mills property.

Following are two examples of diary entries about South Sea Islanders who worked for James Ivory.

Saturday 6th January 1872
Rainy. Planted Acacia Seeds along fence. Initiated Kanakas into sawing & splitting timber, very apt & amusing pupils. Had a hearty laugh at young Mithin who decorated himself behind with some long feathering grass & made his foundation very like a Peacocks tail, the Kanakas also had a good laugh on my saying “I believe Mithin chookie chookie.”

Saturday 1st November 1873
Found some eels in the mud when cleaning out. Old boat builder busy at my boat. Took Willie over to the other side to look for coal shaft, saw where we supposed it to be. Taromie (Kanaka) rowed in the queerest zigzag fashion imaginable, & I was so disgusted with him that I gave up speaking & he eventually ran us into a tree on the bank, which disgusted him also. The cattle on the other side looking well.

The Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) 150 Project is a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first arrival of South Sea Islanders transported to Queensland along with later arrivals and the impact that had on them and Queensland.

Commemoration events and activities were held through South East Queensland in August 2013.

South Sea Islanders were employed at the following places in Ipswich:
- Bell’s Cotton Plantation on the Bundamba Creek (1867);
- Ipswich Agricultural Reserve picking cotton for John Smith (1868);
- Mr Lindsay’s (1874);
- William Dance’s farm at Marburg;
- Bremer Mills site at Bundamba operated by James Ivory;
- George Challinor’s Cotton Plantation;
- J and G Harris’ store in Ipswich; and
- Woodlands at Marburg.

Information Sheets in relation to South Sea Islanders and their Ipswich connection can be found on Council’s website: www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/community/multicultural/assi
Neville Bonner

Neville Bonner overcame a childhood of poverty and minimal education to become Australia’s first Aboriginal Member of Parliament.

Neville’s mother had grown up at Deebing Creek Mission, but she moved to the Tweed River area where Neville was born. His mother died when he was a child and he was then brought up by grandparents. He acquired little schooling before starting work as a stockman. He married his first wife Mona in 1943 and lived on Palm Island for a few years, becoming the Assistant Settlement Overseer in charge of a workforce of 250 people.

In 1960 the family left Palm Island to settle in the Ipswich area where he worked on a dairy farm at Lake Manchester before opening a boomerang factory at Tivoli, using the trade name ‘Bonnerang’. Unable to compete with cheaper souvenir replicas, he took a job as a bridge-builder with Moreton Shire Council.

When he returned to Ipswich, Neville had joined the local branch of OPAL – One People of Australia League where his speaking and organisational abilities, as well as his hard work, attracted attention. He became a state director and eventually state president. He also became interested in politics. The 1987 Referendum on Aboriginal matters had bi-partisan support and the Liberal party asked for his help in handing out how-to vote cards. He ended up joining the party. His local branch elected him to the state executive of the party, and Neville was soon on first name terms with many leading politicians.

When a casual senate vacancy occurred a year later, he made history by being appointed to the Senate. His first wife Mona died in 1969. In 1972, he married Heather Ryan. The couple continued to live in Ipswich. Neville remained in the Senate for 12 years and later listed two results of this historic achievement.

“People say to me ‘What do you think you’ve achieved?’ It proved to the community that, given an opportunity, there’s no end to where an Aboriginal person can go. I was treated equally in the Senate, just like any other Senator.”

“Secondly, for the first time, an Aboriginal voice was heard in the place where everything happens, where laws are made, where all policies are implemented – the Federal Parliament. I spoke on issues that were important to all Australians.”

In 1979 he was chosen as Australian of the Year. However he was very outspoken on many issues and in the 1980s, he criticised the Liberal Party’s state branch and was then relegated to the un-winnable third position on the Senate ticket. He campaigned as an independent but was not successful.

After leaving politics, Neville was appointed to the board of the ABC and became involved in many organisations, ranging from Ipswich Women’s Shelter to World Vision Australia. He was a member of the Griffith University Council and the chairman of the university’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee. The university granted him an honorary doctorate. He was Senior Official Visitor for all Queensland prisons from 1990 to 1997 and was chairman of the Indigenous Advisory Council.

In 1999, he was the Ipswich Citizen of the Year, and the Queensland Government named a major building in Brisbane in his honour. However, at this time, he was seriously ill with lung cancer, and Prime Minister John Howard made a special visit to Ipswich to see him at Ipswich Hospice. He died later that year.

The former Moreton Shire Chambers at Yamanto were also named in honour of Neville Bonner.
Staff Profile - Mitch Grant

Mitchell Grant is a proud 5th generation Ipswichian with Scottish, English and German ancestry. Mitch grew up in Raceview and Chuwar and attended primary school at Bethany Lutheran and high school at Ipswich Boys Grammar.

His maternal ancestors settled on land in the Fassifern Valley at Frazerview which they used first for food crops, then dairying and later, beef cattle farming. As well as working on the farm, his grandfather was employed at the Jacaranda Dairy Farmers Cooperative in Booval for over 20 years until his retirement. His paternal great-great-grandfather was a tailor who worked in his own business, Grant Parker Tailor, in Ipswich. His great-grandfather was a carpenter who built houses in the Ipswich district for 35 years, then worked at the Ipswich Railway Workshops as a coach builder for 15 years. Mitch's grandfather was a cabinetmaker who completed his apprenticeship at Ingram's Joinery in Bundamba, then started his own business, Brian Grant Bathrooms & Kitchens in Bundamba. Mitch's father worked in and developed the business for over 30 years.

Mitch has worked within the Development Planning Branch since 2007 and currently holds the position of Senior Planner (Development) within the Central Team. More recently, Mitch has enjoyed a lengthy stint acting as the Team Co-ordinator for Central Team whilst Natalie Plumbe has been on maternity leave.

In his personal time Mitch enjoys sports, gardening, travel and nature. He has a keen interest in exploring new places and does so by almost any way possible whether it be foot, 4WD, mountain bike or motorbike.

Staff Profile - Michael Simmons

Michael Simmons joined Council in 2006 as a part time student planner. Following a stint with Council, Michael took up a full time role with a Brisbane based planning consultancy, during which time he was not only employed as a planning consultant but was also seconded to Brisbane City Council where he worked as a development planner.

Michael returned to Ipswich City Council in 2008 where, after a short period, he was promoted to the position of Senior Development Planner. In recent times, Michael has shared the role of Acting Team Co-ordinator (Central) with Mitchell Grant. Michael has also gained State government experience working with the Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning where he assisted with the rollout of the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA).

Michael is a passionate planning and development professional who has a keen interest in project management, land use planning and fostering good development outcomes. Michael's qualifications include a Bachelor of Built Environment (Urban and Regional Planning) as well as a Diploma in Advanced Management.

On a personal note, Michael is a proud Ipswich resident and when he is not busy restoring his character house he enjoys spending time in Moreton Bay fishing for snapper (without much luck) and spending time with family and friends.

Michael and his wife Kathryn are looking forward to welcoming their first child in November this year. Whilst Michael is excited at the prospect of becoming a father, he has now come to the realisation that this new life journey will make it even harder to catch those elusive snaper!

Pregnancy Club Update

Congratulations to:-
- Ben Williams and his wife on their recent pregnancy;
- Sally Holznagel on the announcement of her first pregnancy;
- Kylie Reynolds on the recent announcement of her pregnancy; and
- Ross Simmons and his wife on their recent pregnancy.

Congratulations also go to:-
- Natalie Plumbe on the safe arrival of her second son Patterson Patrick Plumbe weighing in at 3.6kg (ie 7lb 15oz); and
- Artemis Phipps on the safe arrival of her second child Alexander Edward Phipps.

For those keeping count, the number of pregnancies for the Department since June 2011 is now 35.

The Planning and Development Department continues to support the growth of the Ipswich community.
The shopping experience has changed over the years. We have gone from a strong service-oriented experience to where we now scan and process our own purchases.

The following provides some of the major retailing highlights for Ipswich residents.

1904 - 1914

Big Department Stores Served Ipswich

Cribb and Foote (C&F) headed the list of Ipswich retailers. When the firm celebrated its jubilee in 1899, it was well established with a large main store in Brisbane and Bell Streets, a machinery store in Nicholas Street, an agricultural implements store and a bulk warehouse. There were also branches in Lowood, Laidley, Fernvale, Gatton and Brisbane, although all except Laidley and Brisbane had been closed by 1903.

In the next few years, the firm continued to expand, constructing additional buildings including a new bulk store in Bremer Street and new stables in Martin Street for the horses which hauled its fleet of delivery vehicles.

In 1906, C&F established the London Pharmacy with a qualified chemist in charge. New premises were built in Brisbane Street two years later, with a veterinary hospital at the rear. The firm also took over Kate’s former flour mill in the ‘Top of Town’, using it as a stove and hardware department.

The main expansion was to construct a new three-storey building in Bell Street which demonstrated a progressive attitude and confidence in the future. Completed in 1912, the building was supplied with electricity from its own power house and was equipped with a six-person lift – the first, and for many years, the only one in Ipswich. The building also had a pneumatic tube system for cash and account dockets and an elevated water tank and Wormald system for fire prevention.

The firm was innovative in its promotions, although not all events would appeal to modern sensitivities. Before Christmas in 1917, Santa was welcomed with a street parade and then a flock of pigeons was released; any customer who managed to catch a pigeon received a prize.

Displays were organised at local agricultural shows to promote farm machinery and other equipment. C&F also had a large mail order department.

Irish retailer T C (Tom) Beirne started a store in the Valley in Brisbane in the late 1880s and also started a small branch in Ipswich in August 1893. Large new premises were built in 1902 for the Ipswich store on the corner of Nicholas and Union Streets.

Tom Beirne’s younger brother Mick started a store in Mackay the same year, but in 1918, a fierce cyclone struck the town, blowing in the front windows of the store.

According to family stories, Mick was away on a buying trip and his wife found being alone with their five children a frightening experience. This is said to have prompted the family’s move back to the south and in February 1919, he took charge of the Ipswich store. The firm then became “Beirne’s Ltd of Ipswich and Mackay – the House of the People”.

It was a family business, with Mick’s sons Tom, Leo and Bernard all joining the firm, while Mick junior later managed Mackay.

Working Life in the Horse and Cart Days

On 2 May 1911, Vic Hoerlein started work at Cribb and Foote at age 13. He began in the grocery section where white-aproned assistants served customers behind a long timber counter. But young Vic had a more humble job. He weighed and packed.

“In those days, things didn’t come packaged, you had to weight up as you went,” he said.

Mr Hoerlein said his day began at 7am when the boys came in to sweep the floors.

“At 8am, the seniors arrived and we went to sit on the Post Office steps to warm up. We started at 9 and worked until 6. My pay was eight shillings a week.”
How Retail Has Changed

Continued

Ipswich was well-served by a number of other large local stores. The only one which is still trading today is Rawlings which was started in 1898 by William Rawlings on the same site as its current premises. Others included Bayards department store, Martoo’s and Colthups furniture store. In general, Ipswich stores were owned locally and employed a large number of staff. Newspaper reports indicate that their owners took part in city activities and supported the community.

Shopping Methods Begin to Change

Early shops were strongly service oriented and labour intensive. At grocers, customers waited while shop assistants took items down from shelves and even weighed some foods out into small packets from bulk supplies. In Cribb and Foote, shopwalkers made sure service was up to standard and customers were offered chairs to sit on while they looked at goods brought out from drawers. The items purchased were often put on accounts which were paid monthly. Larger parcels were usually carefully wrapped and delivered to the customer’s home.

For the Brisbane Exhibition, Cribb and Foote sent 10 or more railway wagons of farm machinery to be sold. A steam traction engine was also driven down to demonstrate threshing corn.

Other Local Stores

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Others included Bayards department store, Martoo’s and Colthups furniture store. In general, Ipswich stores were owned locally and employed a large number of staff. Newspaper reports indicate that their owners took part in city activities and supported the community.

The streets outside the store were of dirt and dotted with horse manure. When this dried out and a westerly blew, the dirt came in all over the counters. Pollution isn’t just a modern thing,” he said.

Mr Hoerlein went to World War I and on his return was put into the delivery section.

“I had a cart and my own horses – they got to know the run as well as I did,” he said.”

“The horses worked only half a day and they were changed at noon. They were stabled in Martin Street, then at weekends they were taken out to a paddock near the cemetery. It was a sight to see all those horses going through town.”

He graduated to driving the first motor vans bought by Cribs, then after sitting for exams, went into the forwarding and receiving office which dealt with mail orders and home deliveries. In those days, stock arrived and country orders were despatched by train.

For the Brisbane Exhibition, Cribb and Foote sent 10 or more railway wagons of farm machinery to be sold. A steam traction engine was also driven down to demonstrate threshing corn.

A rival store Penneys (which later evolved into Coles) opened in 1938 in Nicholas Street.

Two new local retailers in this period were R T Edwards, founded by Roy Edwards and is still in operation and Big Whites, founded by John White. A third local enterprise Mathers has grown into a huge chain of shoe stores. As a boy, William Mather started work in a Brisbane shoe shop, attracted by a cowboy advertising poster in the window. After serving in World War I, he studied at business college then worked in several places before taking a job at Beirnes in Ipswich. In the 1920s, he borrowed money and opened his own shoe shop in Nicholas Street.

When he later found himself overstocked due to slow sales, he reacted in a positive way and opened a second store in Brisbane. This"
was the start of the Mathers chain which, by the time of its diamond anniversary, had 133 stores.

Too Close for Comfort

The geographical position of Ipswich was initially a great advantage, poised at the centre of a road, river and rail transport network. But as years passed and technology and aspirations changed, it became increasingly clear that the provincial city Ipswich was too close for comfort to the bigger capital city of Brisbane.

Brisbane retailers such as Allan & Stark (later Myer), McWhirters (later David Jones) and MacDonnell & East had been advertising locally for some time.

Although Ipswich businesses were offering exceptional service, the lure of capital city shopping was strong – a quick train trip, or a drive in your new motor car, and you could be shopping in Queen Street. While Ipswich was familiar, Brisbane shops represented a day out for people now seeking different experiences.

A Country Shopping Expedition to Ipswich

Doreen Perrett of Harrisville recalled that her family made shopping trips into Ipswich when she was a child in the early 1920s:

It was a big day in my life when it was time to go to town, standing on the station at Munbilla shivering with excitement in the early morning chill while the train came in. That would be perhaps half past seven and we wouldn’t get back until about half past nine at night, which was a long, long day. That would only take place in our case about twice a year, no getting in the car then and running off for an hour or so.

When we got to Ipswich in the morning, we had breakfast at Berkeley’s Café in Nicholas Street and then we always had a hot dinner at Whitehouse’s Café, and possibly a cup of tea before we came home. It was always the big thrill of the day to go to Whitehouse’s where it was set up nicely with starched table cloths and silver and cruets which one never sees now in any eatery. But in those days, that was the leading café and it was really set up very nicely, hot roast dinner or whatever you chose.

Perhaps sometimes Mum took a cab and went out to a friend or relative who lived fairly close and we’d have the afternoon with some friend, then back to the station to catch the train home and get there about 9.30 at night.

The goods that were bought or ordered at the stores weren’t brought home with us. They were made up into huge brown-paper parcels – Cribb and Foote were noted for their secure packaging, with acres of brown paper and string which was all saved – that would come up by train, perhaps two or three days later.

Then my mother would set to work to make our school clothes, perhaps the winter things or summer things according to the season, pyjamas for the household, night gowns, hem the sheets and make pillowslips.

The men in those days almost invariably wore Ipswich grey flannel shirts. This was a woollen material and there were several woollen mills in Ipswich, and the men wore their flannels instead of singlets. It was considered a very risky thing to take one’s flannel off or to go into a different type of shirt. So men wore those for work and the women made them up. They were very plainly made, they weren’t hard to make, a standard item of dress for the menfolk.

1939 - 1945

Rationing

General rationing as a result of World War II started in Ipswich in 1942. Ration coupons were issued and advertisements for clothing began to note the number of coupons required, as well as the price. Stores had a weekly quota, and when sales reached that level, the store or a particular department was closed.
Neighbours swapped coupons according to their taste and what they considered indispensable, for example swapping butter coupons for tea coupons. Many everyday items such as chocolate and stockings became rare luxuries.

1945 - 1970

When Life Was Simple

Ipswich was a simpler place in the late 1940s and the 1950s, and most households were basic compared with today’s relative affluence. Immediately after the war, many families still used an ice-chest instead of a refrigerator. The “ice-man” arrived daily at the kitchen door with a block carried in large tongs or on a hessian sugar-bag thrown over his shoulder. Washing was still done in some households using a copper boiler, and it was considered quite an advance to buy a hand wringer which clamped onto the concrete laundry tubs.

Milk was delivered early each morning to the front door and the baker still arrived in a horse-drawn cart. Cribb & Foote sent a staff member around to sit in kitchens and take orders for groceries; these would be delivered the next day right to the kitchen table. There were two postal deliveries each day and urgent messages arrived as a telegram, delivered by a boy on a bicycle. Most households did not have a telephone.

Many families also did not own a car and adults commonly rode bicycles to work. This was particularly noticeable at the Railway workshops where a stream of bicycles came through town at “knock-off” time.

As post-war shortages gradually eased and greater prosperity returned, families in the 1950s began to purchase appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines and the wonderful new electric Mixmaster.

The food they prepared, however, was fairly unadventurous and choice was limited. The humble zucchini, for example, was almost unknown in Ipswich and it would be almost 20 years before the influence of the New Australians from Europe and Asia had an impact on our food and cooking.

A New Concept

When the Big W Family Centre opened at Booval in 1969, it was considered “revolutionary”. It was the culmination of a process which had started with the original Woolworths stores of the 1920s, where people had been invited to walk around the aisles and look at goods on display. The next step was the opening of self-service food supermarkets where customers used shopping trolleys.

The new Big W Family Centre included a large self-selection department store, as well as the more familiar supermarket and speciality stores. The idea was so new that the manager of Woolworths Queensland had to explain it carefully: “The basic principle is that customers will help themselves. They will take a shopping glider, select the goods they require from a packet of pins to a motor car tyre and make a total payment at one of the 15 centrally-located cash register stations.”

Free buses were provided to the store for the opening day and 4,000 people poured in when the doors opened. The carpark filled immediately and staff with walkie-talkies directed drivers to free spaces as they became available.

The new centre at Booval was a threat to existing CBD businesses who responded with their own innovations. A week before the Big W opening, Cribb & Foote opened a carpark in Bell Street, built on the site of the demolished Ritz cinema. It was the first multi-storey carpark in Ipswich and the first in Queensland outside Brisbane. The firm had installed the first escalator in a provincial area in 1964.

Other stores such as Rawlings announced a major facelift for their premises.

1970 - 2004

Reids Fire: When Ipswich Lost Its Heart

One of the most tragic events in Ipswich’s retail history was the day that Reids burnt down.

On Saturday morning, 17 August 1985, Ipswich people stood in stunned silence opposite the smouldering ruins of Reids department store – formerly the historic firm of Cribb & Foote. Overnight, a huge fire had destroyed the buildings which had been the heart of Ipswich since 1849.

A taxi driver had been the first to notice a glow in the window in the early hours of the morning. He radioed his base and the fire brigade arrived quickly, but the fire had already raced through the store.

As walls collapsed into Bell Street, it became apparent that the building could not be saved and by daylight, only smoking rubble remained. On the opposite side of Brisbane Street, the heat had been so intense that it had melted the clock-face on the Post

How Retail Has Changed Continued
Office tower where renovations had been completed only four days earlier.

Smoke continued to rise for almost a week as local people made a sentimental pilgrimage into the city centre and reminisced about the grand old firm that had departed so abruptly – the cheery people who operated the lift, the shop assistants who knew them by name and the many different services the store had provided.

Secondary school students had used the corner as an after school meeting place for many years, and the spring fashion parades and cages of singing birds in the store each September were highlights on the shopping calendar.

Because of the speed with which the fire had spread, police suspected arson. Four young people were arrested, tried and found guilty, but they were later acquitted after an appeal and no-one was ultimately held responsible.

The fire came at a bad time for Ipswich. Kern Corporation had just exercised an option to purchase the site prior to redevelopment. A staged relocation of Reids had been planned as part of the process but this was now thrown into disarray.

With 170 jobs threatened, a great effort was made to find a short term location for the store. Fortunately, the new Council administration building had opened the same week as the fire. Within a few days, Council announced that Reids had signed a lease for the Old Town Hall and the adjacent building which had been used as a Rates Office. Renovation was fast-tracked and a reduced-size store reopened only three months later. The Reids chain, however, closed before the end of its lease and the Ipswich branch did not ever relocate into the new Kerns development.

The empty fire site in the city centre remained vacant for what seemed a very long time to Ipswich people - a symbolic gap which has been hard to fill.

Ipswich City Square and the Mall

The biggest physical change to the city centre in the entire century was the Kern redevelopment.

In the 1980s, Kern Corporation came into the city and bought almost all the buildings in four large blocks of the CBD. Their plan was to demolish everything and build a new retail development, Ipswich City Square.

People concerned about heritage were opposed to the scheme because some important buildings were to go, including Cribb & Foote (then Reids), the Ryan Memorial Trades Hall and the North Star Hotel.

Others were opposed on planning grounds – that the scheme blocked the CBD off from the river, and that it was unwise to place too much of the inner city in the hands of a single owner.

On the other side, people argued that Ipswich urgently needed new shopping areas to try to reclaim business being lost to Brisbane. Many people also thought that some inner city areas were looking old and tired: they simply wanted a fresh new CBD.

With the backing of both the State Government and the Council, Kern pushed the development through.

Before work started, Reids burned down and although it was relocated quickly to the Old Town Hall, things were not the same with a big empty space in the city centre.

A few months later, the Ipswich Central City Traders was formed in response to competition from the proliferating suburban shopping centres, the aftermath of Reids fire, and tough economic conditions. The situation worsened as shops closed to make way for the Kern redevelopment.

It was a difficult time as buildings were torn down and the inner city was progressively rebuilt. The first stage of Ipswich City Square opened on 19 August 1987. The Ipswich Mall was opened the same day, and the first “Limelight Festival” was held, including a zany and very successful “Mall to Mall” race from Brisbane.
The development included a 1,050-vehicle carpark, and residents successfully protested against a proposed 20c per hour parking fee. The charge was lifted temporarily as a gesture of goodwill, and ...still has not been introduced.

The final stage was completed in November 1988 when a Woolworths supermarket was opened at the northern end of the Mall.

Kern had also bought the development over the railway station, and there were complaints from businesses in this centre when refurbishment was delayed for a considerable time.

The opening of the City Square project was greeted with great optimism by the community. It was successful for several years, then began to slow down. As its major department store, Kern had signed up MacDonnell and East. A short time later, this firm closed statewide, leaving a large amount of empty space for several years. A multi-cinema complex now occupies much of this area, a welcome new attraction which filled a need within the inner city.

2004 - Present

Riverlink Shopping Centre

In 2007, a new retail development “Riverlink” was opened at North Ipswich. This shopping centre included a link to the Ipswich CBD via a pedestrian bridge (Bradfield Bridge). This link has been a popular addition with many people taking advantage of shopping opportunities on both sides of the river.

Technology

Of course, the most significant change to retailing has been the internet. We have gone from the days of having a shop employee visiting our homes to take orders to now being able to order online 24 hours a day 7 days a week. It is difficult to imagine what further advances in the retail industry are yet to be discovered.

(Source: Ipswich in the 20th Century: Celebrating 100 Years as a City 1904 - 2004, Robyn Buchanan)