

Invites you to hear

Robin Kleinschmidt OAM

Speak about

The Early German Presence in the South-East Brisbane Area

Of all the Australian colonies, Queensland attracted the largest number of German migrants in the 19th century. Whilst the majority settled in more distant rural communities, there were also significant clusters of German families who established themselves in what later became the suburbs of Brisbane on farms, in the trades and the professions. These early settlers had a significant influence on how the area developed into what it is today.

Robin Kleinschmidt OAM is of German ancestry and has made a study of 19th century German migration to South-East Queensland. Robin won an open scholarship to the University of Queensland and graduated with a BA (First Class Honours Latin language and literature).

Robin commenced his teaching career at Brisbane State High School in 1960 and in 1965 transferred to St. Peters Lutheran College in 1965. He later became Deputy Headmaster and then Acting Headmaster. In 1980 he became founding Headmaster at Redeemer Lutheran College at Rochdale and retired in 2001. In retirement he has published 7 books (one a collaboration) of church, school family and migration history, including the 150th anniversary history of Nazareth Lutheran Church at Woolloongabba. He has made a study of 19th century German migration to South-East Queensland.

In 2009 Robin was invested as a member of the Sovereign of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, an ancient charitable knightly Christian order. He received the award of Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2015 for services to education and the Lutheran Church.

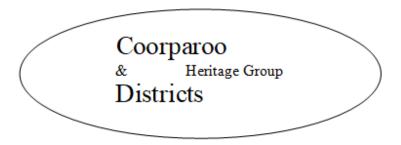
Come along and listen to Robin speak about the influence early German settlers had on the South-East Brisbane area.

Where? Kingsbury Room
Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre
347 Old Cleveland Rd. Coorparoo

When? Saturday 5 February 2022 at 2pm

Non-members are welcome, but why not join our group? A small donation to offset hiring charges would be appreciated. Bring a plate to share at Afternoon Tea.

Contact <u>President</u> Ron Baker OAM 0412 944 095 <u>Vice President</u> Richard Jeffreys OAM 0411 511 369 **Mail**: Hon. Secretary. PO Box 263 Coorparoo Q 4151



JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2022 and hopefully the current pandemic easing up soon and we can get back to a normal life again. It is hoped that all members had an enjoyable Christmas and the opportunity to catch up with family and friends.

The Committee would like to thank members who generously donated prizes for our Christmas Raffle. A special thank you is extended to our political representatives at all levels of government, Terri Butler MP, Member for Griffith, Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes, and Councillor Fiona Cunningham, Councillor for the Coorparoo Ward, for their generous donations towards the raffle. Congratulations to all members who won prizes and thanks to those who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets.

Our numbers at the December meeting were increased with a large contingent of members from the Annerley Stephens History Group attending our meeting. It is hoped that they all had an enjoyable time and return again. At this meeting Dr. John Jell AM gave an interesting talk about an extremely remarkable woman, Professor Dorothy Hill who was a Coorparoo resident for most of her life. We thank John for his very informative address. We thank the Lord Mayor for his donation under the Senior Citizens Celebration Grants Scheme. This grant helped with catering.

In February Robin Kleinschmidt will speak to us about the influence the early German settlers had on the South-East area of Brisbane. Robin is very knowledgeable on this subject having published seven books on this topic. We look forward to Robin's talk.

Our Annual General Meeting will be conducted at the February meeting before our Guest speaker delivers his address. Members are again urged to consider nominating for positions on the Committee. Committee membership is not onerous and can be fun and very informative. Our newest committee members agree that meetings are very enjoyable. Nomination forms are attached to this newsletter. Members are reminded that the Annual Membership fees are due on 1 March 2022. A Membership Renewal Notice is also attached to this newsletter.

The groups' Facebook page is progressing well. Members are urged to provide Greg Doolan, our Facebook editor, with anything interesting relating to the district. Our Facebook page can be easily accessed at **www.facebook.com/Coorparoo1991**. Thanks Greg for taking on this project. The Eris Jolly Library will be open for our February meeting. Please return any currently borrowed books. We have a number of new books added to the collection and these will be available to borrow for reading and research.

As we are still under COVID-19 restrictions members are reminded to please observe the COVID-19 Safety Plan whilst at the Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre. The wearing of masks is once again mandatory whilst inside. Keep abreast with the latest news.

Continuing our articles on prominent Coorparoo identities we thank Michael Ryan for his story on Patricia L. Ryan.

Patricia Laurie Ryan (nee Ward) led a long and fulfilling life characterized by a deep commitment to her family, surrounding communities and to herself through continuous learning. Pat held firmly to a work ethic and lived it by example. She contributed much as a volunteer to a range of causes including the Red Cross, the Queensland Art Gallery Society, Mt. Carmel Church and the Coorparoo & Districts Heritage Group.

Pat was born on the 10th April 1924 into a family with two older brothers, Maurice & Brian and later a younger sister, Valerie. Her father, Geoffrey Ward was an early member of the Coorparoo Shire Council before its amalgamation to form the Brisbane City Council. He was also a successful and prominent Brisbane businessman who developed a transport company after returning from WWI military service. In the 1930s Pat attended All Hallows School all the way from Prep to Senior. One can imagine her watching the Story Bridge being built from a classroom window and celebrating when it was completed in 1940.

World War 2 was a tumultuous time for Pat, a young woman growing up in St. Lucia and later in Coorparoo at "Petersham", the family house at 303 Cavendish Road. Her brother Maurice eagerly signed-up with the RAF after travelling to Great Britain at the start of the war. Tragically, the Wellington bomber that he served on as a Flight Sergeant gunner did not return from a training mission over the North Sea in November 1940. During the latter part of the war, she maintained friendships (some very long-lasting) with American servicemen. Around three marriage proposals were rebutted by Pat and her father.

Pat graduated from UQ in 1946 and briefly practiced as a physiotherapist with her close friend Aileen Anderson. As part of the pioneering class of UQ physiotherapists, she retained links with the university well after professional retirement and was an active member of the UQ Alumni Association. Pat married a local paediatrician, Dermot (Steve) Clark Ryan on 24th February 1949 and this union persisted until Steve's death in 2009.

Juggling two big jobs, as a mother and as an office manager for the newly established Cavendish Road Clinic (which was also the family home), Pat raised a family of four boys: John (1950), David (1952), Peter (1953) and Michael (1956). In 1956, the family moved to the heritage listed house, "Belgaum" at 56 Marriott St, Coorparoo. This house was previously owned by Arthur Deshon, son of Colonel Edward Deshon who originally developed the suburb. In 1965, the house was moved (by sliding it on soapcoated beams) to its present location in Lade Street. This was to allow the construction of a modern brick house fronting Marriott Street. That house was sold and demolished in 2020.

Politics was always of interest to Pat. This may have come from her father who was one of the founders of the Liberal Party in Queensland. She was a keen reader of local and national newspapers and the weekly Bulletin. Pat was well known to the Editor of the Courier Mail and had her letters published many times over 3 decades.

Pat was a prolific letter writer, maintaining correspondence with her brother (at war), her sister (on a grazing property near Roma), American servicemen (post-war), and a large circle of friends from her local community, professional associations and from overseas travel. Her long-standing correspondence with her sister over forty years is particularly poignant and revealing. The two sisters raised large families (by today's standards) and dealt with events in the middle of the "baby boom". She also wrote for herself, maintaining diaries, travelogues and biographies of her family. She published a book, "Friends for 40 Years: History of the Queensland Art Gallery Society, 1951 to 1991" – and had it launched by the Governor of Queensland, Leneen Forde AC in 1993.

By the turn of the century, Pat became grand-mother to eight grandchildren and just managed to welcome one great-grandchild before she died. She loved her grandchildren dearly and always made herself available (often at short notice) for baby-sitting duties and excursions around Brisbane.

Pat took up long-distance running and walking in the early 1980s. She often won age awards at charity events. A regular running buddy and friend was the then Premier of Queensland, Wayne Goss. This was despite her allegiance to the State and National branches of the Liberal Party. Pat was a tireless supporter, fundraiser and friend of the successful Lord Mayoral candidate, Sally-Anne Atkinson.

Late in life Pat struggled to rehabilitate after a severe hemorrhagic stroke that left her physically and verbally disabled, but she re-learnt how to walk and talk again. She died aged 95 on 14 July 2019 and is buried with her mother, Ellen at Hemmant Cemetery.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Coorparoo and Districts Heritage Group will be conducted on Saturday, 5 February 2022 at 2.00 pm. The venue for this annual general meeting is the Alexandra Room at the Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre, 347 Old Cleveland Road, Coorparoo.

Following this annual general meeting you are invited to listen to our Guest Speaker, Robin Kleinschmidt OAM, speak about the early German presence in the South-East Brisbane area.

The aim of the group is to Preserve and Record the Heritage of Coorparoo and the surrounding districts. At the AGM there will be an election of Office Bearers for the 2022 year. Please consider nominating for a position on the Committee or nominating someone else who you consider could contribute to the running of our group
Please detach and return the completed Nomination Form to the Honorary Secretary by <u>3 February 2022</u> .
Nomination Form
I(proposer) nominate
for the position of
PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER COMMITTEE MEMBER
(Please strike out positions not applicable)
Has the nominee accepted nomination?Yes/No

Renewal Notice

Fees for the annual renewal of your membership of *Coorparoo & Districts Heritage Group* are due on the 1 March 2022

Annual Membership fee \$20.00

Please make cheque/money order payable to Coorparoo & Districts Heritage Group

Please send this slip and payment to:

Hon. Treasurer Coorparoo & Districts Heritage Group PO Box 263 Coorparoo Q. 4151

Alternatively fees can be transferred directly into the group's Bank of Queensland account.

BSB 124062

Account No. 90258888

Please make sure you put your name on the direct deposit so we know who has paid.