

Coorparoo
& Heritage Group
Districts

Invites you to hear

**Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Makarov
& Constantine Drozdovskii**

Speak about

"Centenary of the St. Nicholas Cathedral"

In 2023 Australia's first Russian Orthodox Parish celebrated its Centenary. The community flourished, established a purpose built church, the now historic Heritage Listed St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral on Vulture St. Kangaroo Point. This meeting will give members and guests an excellent opportunity to learn about the little known piece of Brisbane's history.

The Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Makarov was born on March 7, 1958 in Hailar (Manchuria, China). In 1962, the Makarov family moved to Australia and settled in Sydney (New South Wales). Graduated from the New South Wales Institute of Technology with a degree in civil engineering. In 1980 he entered the Holy Trinity Theological Seminary in Jordanville (USA), from which he graduated in 1984. While studying at the seminary, in 1981, he married Irina (nee Lugovoy) in Australia. (In the Orthodox church priests cannot be married but married men can become priests). On July 3, 1983, he was ordained a deacon, and after graduating from the seminary, on June 11, 1984, a priest. He returned to Australia in September 1984 and was sent to serve in the church in honour of the icon of the Mother of God "Joy of All Who Sorrow" in Geelong (Victoria, Australia) in the jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR). He took an active part in the work of the Council of Ethnic Communities of Geelong, where he represented the interests of the Russian community. On December 20, 1998 he was transferred to the Cathedral of St. St. Nicholas the Wonderworker in the Woolloongabba area in Brisbane (Queensland, Australia). Archpriest (1998). Delegate of the IV All-Diaspora Council of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (May 2006). Vice-Chairman of the Council. He spoke at the Council with a report on "Youth Problems and the Path to Their Solution."

Constantine (Con.) Drozdovskii, was born in the far north of China (Manchuria) of Russian/Greek parentage. His family arrived in Brisbane in August 1953 and settled in Woolloongabba, as did many Russian speaking immigrants of the time. Con grew up in the area, attended East Brisbane State School, Dutton Park State School, Brisbane State High and went on to study at University of Queensland.

Constantine took on the role of the Secretary of the Parish Council of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral and was the founding member of the Canon Garland Memorial Society.

Con's work was recognized by the Russian Community when he was awarded the medal "For Diligence" and then by Brisbane's general community in the Lord Mayor's Australia Day Achievement Award for 2018 and the Griffith Australia Day Award for 2020.

Come along and listen to Fr. Gabriel and Con speak about the centenary of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral and its presence in Woolloongabba.

A brief Annual General Meeting will precede this talk.

Where? **St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral**
344 Vulture St.
Woolloongaabba

When? Saturday **3 February 2024** at 2.00 pm

Non-members are welcome, but why not join our group? A small donation to offset hiring charges would be appreciated.

Contact President Ron Baker OAM 0412 944 095 Vice President Richard Jeffreys OAM 0411 511 369

Mail: Hon. Secretary. PO Box 263 Coorparoo Q 4151



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JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2024 and hopefully a year that will be memorable for all. 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 our political representatives at all levels of government, Max Chandler-Mather 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 Christmas 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 several members from the Annerley Stephens History Group attending our meeting. It is hoped that they all had an enjoyable time and will return again. At this meeting Ray Gilbert spoke about the book **Moreton Bay, Queensland in World War II** that he arranged, with the consent of the author Ron Donald, to be slightly amended and republished. Our group purchased a copy of the book and it is now in the Eris Jolly Library. We also thank the Lord Mayor for his donation under the Senior Citizens Celebration Grants Scheme. This grant helped with catering for our Christmas celebration.

Our Annual General Meeting will be conducted at the 3 February 2024 meeting before our Guest speakers deliver their addresses. Members are again urged to consider nominating for positions on the Committee. Committee membership is not onerous and can be fun and very informative. Nomination forms are attached with this newsletter. Nominations close on Thursday 1 February 2024. Members are also reminded that the Annual Membership fees are due on 1 March 2024. A Membership Renewal Notice is also attached to this newsletter.

Our AGM this year will be held at **St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral at 344 Vulture St. Woolloongabba**. Following the AGM, The Very Rev. Fr. Gabriel Makarov and Constantine (Con) Drozdovskii will speak to us about the Centenary of the Parish of St. Nicholas and also about the Russian Orthodox Cathedral at Woolloongabba. They suggested that we have our meeting at the Cathedral so our members could have a look at this wonderful cathedral. After consideration the committee agreed to this suggestion. **Please note that we will be meeting at the Cathedral for this meeting and not at Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre. Parking is available on site but car-pooling is suggested.**

The Eris Jolly Library will not be open for our February meeting as we are not meeting at the Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre. If a member requests a certain book, arrangements can be made to borrow the book but time is needed to retrieve the particular book from the Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre as we will not be meeting there until the April meeting.

We can finally report that our petition to name a section of Coorparoo Creek Park as Wallace Place has been successful and the official naming of the place will take place on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 3.00 pm. All members are welcome to attend. The BCC will provide a light afternoon tea after the naming ceremony. The Place is located at 226 Old Cleveland Road. Following this ceremony Bruce Wallace has invited members to relocate to the Coorparoo Bowls Club, 32 Riddings DT. Coorparoo for

a quiet drink. Please note that this is not a catered event however members are welcome to help celebrate this occasion.

Continuing our articles on prominent Coorparoo identities this newsletter we feature Thomas Blackett Stephens. Whilst he did not live in Coorparoo or the surrounding area he features regularly in the early development of the area and was an original purchaser of a significant parcels of land in the first and second land sales of the area.

The following information was extracted from the Australian Biographical Dictionary.

THOMAS BLACKETT STEPHENS

Thomas Blacket Stephens (1819-1877), newspaper proprietor and politician, was born at Rochdale, England, son of William Stephens, Baptist minister, and his wife Elizabeth, née Blacket, aunt of [Edmund Blacket](#). Before migrating to New South Wales, he owned woollen mills near his home town, and as a friend of John Bright and Richard Cobden acquired life-long political attitudes during the anti-corn-law agitation.

Stephen reached Sydney in the *Bengal* on 12 February 1849, and became a wool-broker. Attracted by the growth of Brisbane, he went there in January 1853, and established a wool-scour and fellmongery near Cleveland. About 1863 the business was transferred nearer town to a site called by the Aborigines Yee-keb-in, now the suburb of Ekibin. When he added a tannery, the enterprise became one of the largest of its type in the colony.

Stephens's radical politics and advanced social and moral views encouraged him in May 1861 to buy the *Moreton Bay Courier*. Although he wrote little, he supervised the paper for four years in which it was enlarged and became a daily. In July 1868 he floated a company, became managing director but retired in ill health in November 1873 and the paper was auctioned.

Stephens was a fervent Primitive Baptist and a benefactor of the sect. With his radical stance, he was associated with most important political issues of the period before and after separation from New South Wales in 1859. When Brisbane was incorporated, he became an alderman for South Brisbane, and advocated development of the area. He initiated the first bridge linking the north and south of the city. He served on a committee to establish water-works and advocated building a town hall. In 1862 he became Brisbane's second mayor.

In 1860 Stephens stood unsuccessfully for Toowoomba in the first parliament but in 1863 was elected for South Brisbane. In 1867-70 he was colonial treasurer, colonial secretary, postmaster-general, and secretary for public lands in the [Lilley](#) and [Macalister](#) ministries. His advocacy of a wider franchise and closer settlement measures made him unpopular with conservatives and pastoralists. In 1876-77 he was a member of the Legislative Council.

Contemporaries described Stephens as upright, enthusiastic and able. The *Week* said of him: 'If he had devoted his wonderfully keen, clear intellect, his unwearying industry and his great business tact and judgment to his private affairs instead of to the furtherance of the public interests, or what he most earnestly and heartily believed to be the public interests, he would have been, long ago, one of the wealthiest men in the colony'. The *Brisbane Courier* argued that 'Politically speaking, he was deficient in dash, but then on the other hand, he well knew how to bit and bridle coadjutors who had that quality in dangerous excess'.

On 10 July 1856 in Sydney Stephens married Anne Connah, daughter of an early love. Aged 58, he died on 26 August 1877 survived by his wife and eight children. Cumboquepa, in South Brisbane, built by his wife in 1890, is now the boarding section of the Somerville House school for girls.

In addition to the above information extracted from the Australian Biographical Dictionary the following information is added.

Before the first sale of land along the road to Cleveland in the Coorparoo area, Thomas Blackett Stephens would regularly travel between Brisbane and Cleveland where he had business interests. When the first and second land sales were held in 1856 and 1857, Stephens was the major

purchaser of five of the ten portions of land in the Coorparoo area offered for sale in 1856. He was also prominent in the second land sale in the area in 1857, purchasing three of the nine portions on offer. He later had land in the Thompson Estate where he built a tannery.



Thomas Blackett Stephens

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COORPAROO AND DISTRICTS HERITAGE GROUP WILL BE CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 2.00PM. **THE VENUE FOR THIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ST. NICHOLAS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, 344 VULTURE ST. WOOLLOONGABBA. PARKING IS AVAILABLE ON SITE.**

FOLLOWING THIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING YOU ARE INVITED TO LISTEN TO OUR GUEST SPEAKERS VERY REV. FR. GABRIEL MAKAROV & CONSTANTINE (CON) DROZDOVSKII SPEAK ABOUT THE CENTENARY OF THE PARISH OF ST. NICHOLAS AND ALSO ABOUT THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

The aim of the group is to Preserve and Record the Heritage of Coorparoo and the surrounding districts. To assist in this endeavour, you are invited to nominate for one of the positions on the Executive Committee.

At the AGM there will be an election of Office Bearers for the 2024 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.

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

Signature of Proposer.....Contact Phone No.....

Renewal Notice

Fees for the annual renewal of your membership of *Coorparoo & Districts Heritage Group* are due on 1 March 2024

Annual Membership fee \$20.00

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

BSB 124062

Account No. 90258888

Alternatively, please make cheque/money order payable to Coorparoo & Districts Heritage Group and send this slip and payment to:

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

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