



Invites you to hear

Jeff Brunne **Speak about**

Brisbane 1925 to 2025 Change and Continuity

In 1925, the twenty towns, cities and shires amalgamated to form the City of Greater Brisbane on 1 October. In October 2025, the city celebrated its centenary and a display of information relating to these towns cities and shires was held at City Hall. Much has changed about the city over the last 100 years and Jeff Brunne will speak about these changes.

Jeff Brunne has always loved history and studied it formally at the University of Queensland, obtaining a double major in History.

It was only when he retired from the Queensland Public Service, though that he became active in Brisbane history groups.

Jeff served on the council of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland for two years while also being three time President of the Annerley-Stephens History Group.

Last year he was on the Coordinating committee of the Greater Brisbane Centenary and led the project which organised the successful Brisbane One 100 event at City Hall.

Jeff is group leader of Kurilpa Scouts and teaches mindfulness in schools and English at Multicultural Australia.

Come along and listen to Jeff speak about the changes and continuity the City of Brisbane between 1925 and 2025.

Where? **Kingsbury Room**
Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre
347 Old Cleveland Rd. Coorparoo
When **7 February 2026** at 2.00 pm

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

Members who bring a small plate for afternoon tea are greatly appreciated..

Contact President Ron Baker OAM 0412 944 095 Vice President Richard Jeffreys OAM 0411 511 369
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JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2026 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, Renne Coffey 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. A thank you is also extended to our Patron Helen Hicks for her donations. Congratulations to all members who won prizes and thanks to those who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets.

Our Annual General Meeting will be conducted at the 7 February 2026 meeting before our guest speaker delivers his address. Members are again urged to consider nominating for positions on the Committee. One of our committee members is stepping down because of other commitments that clash with meetings. So there was at least one vacancy on the committee. Committee membership is not onerous and can be fun and very informative. The committee has also considered the position of membership secretary. If anyone is interested, please forward your nomination before the closing date. Nomination forms have been sent out separately.

Nominations close on Thursday 5 February 2026.

Members are also reminded that the Annual Membership fees are due on 1 March 2026.

At our December meeting we were addressed by Robert Allen who spoke about the wonderful Princess Theatre at Woolloongabba. Robert has conducted numerous tours over the building and had a number of interesting stories about it. Robert spoke about the architect John Beauchamp Nicholson designed the building which was built in 1888. We were delighted to have the great great ? grandson of the architect at our meeting. Meeting attendance numbers were swelled by members of the Annerley Stephens Heritage Society and the Bulimba Districts Historical Society. A grant under the Lord Mayor's seniors Christmas donation enabled us to provide better catering and refreshments. The Lord Mayor was thanked for this donation.

Following the AGM, Jeff Brunne will be our guest speaker. talking about the changes to the City of Brisbane over the last 100 years in his topic, Brisbane 1920 to 2025, Change and Continuity. Jeff studied history at The University of Queensland and obtained a double major in history. Jeff has always had a love of history, and after retirement from the Queensland Public Service became active in Brisbane's history groups. Jeff served on the Council of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland for two years. He has also served as president of Annerly-Stephens History Group. Last year, he served on the Coordinating Committee of the Greater Brisbane Centenary and led a project which organised a successful Brisbane 100 event at City Hall. He is also Group Leader of Kurilpa Scouts. His next big project is engaging with the community in writing a book on the History of Sport and Recreation in Brisbane Southside. He is keen to talk to anyone who has an interest in this topic. Hopefully some members of our may be able to help Jeff in this project.

Following our stories on notable Coorparoo identities, this newsletter features Colonel Edward Charles Deshon, who owned a home named "Kemandine", and whom a street was named after him.

Colonel Edward Charles Deshon

Edward Charles Deshon was born on 3 January 1836 In Belgiaum, Kamataka, part of Bombay Presidency in India. He was the eldest son of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Charles John Deshon of the 17th Regiment of Foot (the Leicestershire Regiment) and Charlotta Jane (nee Adams).

He was educated at Bath Grammar School, England, and in 1853 graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the 68th (Durham) Regiment of Foot (Light infantry).

The regiment's principal engagements in the Crimean War (1853 -56) were the Battle of Inkerman and the Siege and Fall of Sevastopol. In 1856 the regiment embarked for Corfu, and then returned to Britain in 1857. The regiment then embarked to Rangoon on 1858. Deshon attended Staff College in 1861 to gain promotion. He left the British Army as a Lieutenant

He migrated to Australia on board the SS Clifton, arriving in Brisbane in 1862.

On his arrival in Brisbane, he obtained a position as the manager of the Caboolture Cotton Company. But by the next year 1863, he was the accountant at the Moreton Savings Bank.

His career with the Queensland Government commenced In 1872, when he was appointed to the Treasury Department. In 1879 he transferred to the Audit Department and In 1882 he moved to the Lands Department, initially as Chief Clerk and later as Under Secretary.

In 1885 he was appointed as a member of the Lands Board and then in 1889 as Auditor General. Owing to ill health, and after taking 6 months leave he retired in 1901, completing a very impressive career in the Queensland Public Service.

No definite record has been located of his military service after arriving in Queensland, however he attained rank of Colonel, which suggests that he would have served in the Citizen Forces until the mid 1870s.

(United Service Club information)

In King Edward VIII's June 1902 Coronation Honours he was awarded a Companion in the Order of St. Michael and St. George, following his retirement as Auditor General.

Once his health Improved, in 1902 he was appointed as one of the inaugural directors of the Agricultural Bank.

Edward married Emily Marian (nee Sawyer) in 1863 in Brisbane. They had met on the voyage from England. They had five sons and four daughters and 27 grandchildren.

Deshon purchased a large parcel of land along Logan Road. After subdivision of this land, he offered it for sale by public auction in August 1885. The land was known as the Deshen Estate. A street running through the estate was named Deshon Street. Deshon lived in the area for some before moving to a property on Cavendish Rd Coorparoo.

"Kemendine", on Cavendish Rd Coorparoo was the Deshon family home for almost 40 years.

Despite numerous approaches by the Catholic Church to purchase the property, Deshon refused to sell to the catholics . However, following his death, the property was purchased by the Catholic Church. The building, "Kemendine" became the original Loreto College, Coorparoo in 1928

Colonel Deshon was a founding member of the United Service Club in 1892, but never served on any committee. He was elected to Life membership sometime after 1910.

Colonel Edward Charles Dedhon died in Brisbane on 4 September 1924.



Colonel Edward Charles Deshon

THE DESHON ESTATE.
To be SOLD by PUBLIC AUCTION
on the GROUND, Saturday 8TH AUGUST 1885, at 2 o'clock.
ARTHUR MARTIN & CO.
Auctioneers.

TERMS
25 cash, balance P. O. O' and 16
months, bearing 7% interest

The Deshon Estate map.



Kemandine