

Invites you to hear

Brett Mason Speak about The Saving of Lieutenant Kennedy (JFK)

The incredible story of an Australian hero who helped save the life of a future president.

On a moonless night in August 1943, a US torpedo boat commanded by Lt John F Kennedy, on patrol in the Solomon Islands, was rammed by a Japanese destroyer. Left clinging to wreckage within sight of Japanese encampments, the eleven surviving members of Kennedy's crew eventually struggled ashore on a small uninhabited island. Missing, presumed dead, behind enemy lines, with no food or water, and with several injured, the future looked bleak for the shipwrecked Americans. Fortunately, Australian 'coast watcher' Lt Reg Evans witnessed the immediate aftermath of the collision from his nearby jungle hideaway. Working under the searching eye of the Japanese military, over the next five days Evans and two Solomon Islander scouts located Kennedy and his crew and ensured their rescue.

This story of wartime bravery and survival helped create JFK's legend and paved his way to the White House. It also shone a spotlight on Australia and America's shared wartime experience. In *Saving Lieutenant Kennedy* Brett Mason sets the heroic rescue and its colourful aftermath against the background of the Pacific war and the birth of the Australia–US alliance, which remains as vital today as when Kennedy and Evans first shook hands.

Brett Mason is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Justice at QUT and a member of the Council of Griffith University. He was until recently the Chair of the Council of the National Library of Australia. Brett was formerly a politician and diplomat.

Come along and listen to Brett speak about how the life of the future President of the USA was saved by an Australian Coast-watcher.

Where? Alexandra Room (upstairs)
Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre
347 Old Cleveland Rd. Coorparoo
When? 2 August 2025 at 2.00 pm

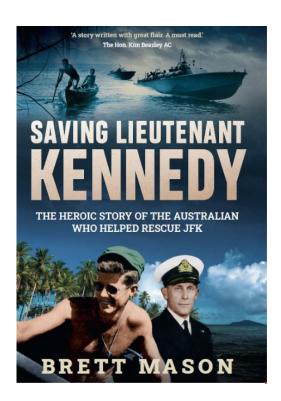
Non-members are welcome, but why not join our group? A small donation to offset hiring charges would be appreciated.

Contact <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



Our State member for the Greenslopes Electorate, Joe Kelly MP gave a very informative overview on the numerous organisations within the electorate at our June meeting. It was enlightening to learn of how many non-profit organisations quietly go about their work in helping the community.

At our 2 August meeting Brett Watson, author of the book *Saving Lieutenant Kennedy* will speak on how the life of John F. Kennedy was saved by an Australian Coast Watcher. Members will recall in June 2023, Betty Lee speaking about the amazing role the Australian Coast Watchers, commanded by Commodore Eric Feldt, played during World War II, risking their lives, while observing and reporting on the movements of the Japanese forces in Papua and New Guinea. Brett is also the author of *Wizards of Oz: How Oliphant and Foley help win the war and shape the modern world.* This book was published in 2022. If Brett is willing, we will attempt to get him to speak at one of our 2026 meetings about these two remarkable gentlemen. Brett will have copies of Saving Lieutenant Kennedy, available for purchase at the meeting. The cost of the book is \$29.95 Our group will purchase a copy of this book for the Eris Jolly Library.



Our move upstairs to the Alexandra Room to test out the acoustics has been rewarding, with the carpeted floor certainly improving the acoustics, and the microphone worked. Hopefully a number of teething problems will soon be sorted out and arrangements made for the Eris Jolly Library to be relocated upstairs. Until this relocation has been achieved borrowing of books is not possible, however, books on loan can still be returned

The Treasurer advises that over 20 members have not renewed their subscription which was due on the 1 March this year. Would you please cheque your records to determine if you have paid or not.

Renewal can be by cash at the next meeting, cheques or by bank transfer. Banking details are: Bank of Queensland BSB 124962
Acct. No. 90258888.



Members may recall that following a request from the management of the Greenslopes Shopping Mall in 2019, our group mounted a display about Crown Stoves, that had previously occupied the site. An actual Crown Stove was loaned to us to accompany the photographic display. Following this, another Crown Stove was donated to our group and it was housed for several years, under a private residence. When to need came for the stove to be relocated, our group approached the Museum of Brisbane offering to donate the stove as an exhibit in the museum. Unfortunately, because we could not provide provenance, our offer was rejected. Several other museums were approached and all rejected our offer. The committee then decided to offer it for sale and was disposed of to a keen collector. The above image is of the restored Crown Stove,

Our group has received a request for information of the Coorparoo Progress, Horticultural and Industrial Association, circa 1912. It is believed that this Association held events at Langlands Park. Would any member have any information about this Association so we can respond to this request Continuing our articles on prominent Coorparoo identities, in this newsletter we feature John Innes King, the last Chairmen of the Coorparoo Shire Council. The information was sourced with a Google search in Wikipedia.

John Innes Brown

John Innes Brown was born in Glasgow Scotland circa 1881, the son of John Brown and his wife Janet (nee Kidston). The Brown family migrated to Australia in 1889 and John attended the South Brisbane State School before commencing work in the family business as a blacksmith at Coorparoo. John was the founding member of the Thomson Estate Harriers Athletic Club in 1900, and the team he captained went on to represent Queensland in the first interstate cross country championships in Sydney a 1905. In 1915 he was awarded life membership of the club.

He married Mary Ellen Thompson on 13 August 1913. Following Mary's death in 1927, john, on 27 July 1929 married Euphemeia Macintosh Galloway Crockatt. Euphemia outlived John and died in 1984 John Brown entered politics in 1919, as an alderman on the Coorparoo Shire Council, rising to be its chairman in 1924. Following the abolition of the Coorparoo Shire Council in 1925, John, in 1928 was elected as an alderman on the Brisbane City Council and remained an alderman until 1936. At the 1935 Queensland state election on 11 May, Brown, representing Labor, convincingly won the seat of Logan by defeating the long serving member, Reginald Mulhall King. He held the seat until the state election of 15 April 01944, when he was defeated by the future Queensland Treasurer, Thomas Hiley.

During his public life he was a member of the Victoria Bridge Board, the Electricity Board, the Water and Sewerage Board and the Brisbane Tramway Trust.

John was awarded life membership of the Queensland Amateur Athletics Club and was a founding member of the Coorparoo Bowls Club.

Following a long illness, John died on 3 December 1949, aged 68 and was cremated at the Mount Thompson Crematorium.

