

Coorparoo  
& Heritage Group  
Districts

**OUR CHINESE PAST**

COORPAROO AND SUROUNDS

A TALK EXPLORING THIS LOCAL HERITAGE

DR JANIS HANLEY

At: Coorparoo and Districts Heritage Group

5 APRIL 2025

2:00 pm

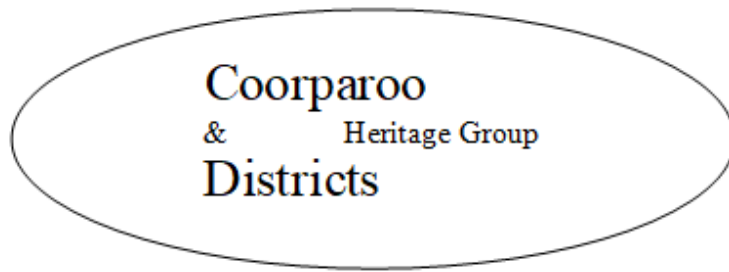
Address: Queen Alexandra Home Community Centre  
347 Old Cleveland Rd

Contact Ron Baker OAM for more information: 0412 944 095

**Please note that this meeting will be held in the Alexandra room. This is the upstairs room.**

Everybody is welcome, but why not become a member? A small donation to offset hiring charges are always appreciated.

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



## MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter but your scribe has been in hospital, hence its brevity.

The notice of the next meeting was designed by our guest speaker Dr. Janis Hanley. What do you think of it? As you can see the next meeting will be on the 5 April when Dr. Hanley will speak about Our Chinese Past with reference to Coorparoo and surrounds. **Please note that this meeting will be held in the Alexandra Room which is on the first floor of Queen Alexandra Home. There is a lift available as well as the steps.** We are moving upstairs in order to test the acoustics. We have requested better acoustic treatment in the Kingsbury Room but the Education Department is reluctant to carry out such modifications.

The Annual General Meeting was held at our February meeting and all committee members were re-elected unopposed. Following the AGM, Mark Baker spoke about Service Stations. His talk showed us the evolution that has taken place with service stations over time. Many of us can remember the old service stations when they were actually service stations where an attendant would fill the car with petrol, look under the bonnet to check the oil and water for the radiator and check the tyres. It was an interesting talk and some of us would have remember some of the service station shown.

Membership Renewal Subs. were due on 1 March. 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.

The Eris Jolly Library continues to expand, with new acquisitions. constantly being added to the collection. A complete catalogue of all holdings will be held at the library for all members to peruse. As noted in the January newsletter the group is in need of a library custodian. The custodian's task is not onerous as all it entails is recording the borrowings and book returns in the book of borrowings.

Continuing our articles on prominent Coorparoo identities, in this newsletter we feature on our past Patron Bruce Hunter.

### **HERBERT BRUCE HUNTER (BRUCE)**

Bruce arrived in this world on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1938 in Clayfield, Brisbane., a young brother to six year old sister Lynette. His parents were Elder and Muriel Hunter. They grew up in East Brisbane as childhood neighbours. It came as no surprise to those around them when romance bloomed and later in life they married.

Bruce's father was with the Queensland National Bank and this saw him transferred to different country towns. Bruce attended primary schools in Bollon, Allora, Ingham and Ascot before commencing at the Church of England Grammar School, "Churchie" prep school as a boarder. Commencing at a new school, in a new town, and in midterm was quite confronting for a young boy. Churchie provided a rich learning environment and excellent sporting opportunities for Bruce. It was during this time that he established lifelong friendship with several day boys. Bruce was a good sportsman and played in the school's First XI in cricket and the First XV in rugby. He distinguished himself, winning the DS Parkinson Prize for scholarship and sporting achievement. Bruce was Magnus House Captain, a Prefect and a Cadet Under Officer.

After finishing at Churchie in 1956, Bruce studied pharmacy at the Central Technical College. In those days, before commencing lectures, students needed to find a pharmacist for whom they could be apprenticed. Guy Clark in Carina oversaw and guided Bruce for three years. Bruce registered as a pharmacist in 1960, and after graduating, carried out locum work across the state. In 1963, Bruce at the age of twenty-four, purchased McBride's Pharmacy at Coorparoo, located on the South West corner of the Cavendish Road, Old Cleveland Road intersection, and later changed the name to Bruce Hunter Pharmacy. In 1968 he purchased Saunder's Pharmacy at Camp Hill.

In 1970, Bruce spread his wings, visiting the United States, India, Europe and the United Kingdom on his around the world trip. While in England, Bruce visited his sister Lyn who had moved to England with her husband.

Bruce met Helen Scott at a friend's wedding and a friendship followed. They married in 1972 in Churchie's Chapel. Bruce and Helen had three children Dougal, Mary Jane and Caitlin. Bruce subsequently became a father-in-law to Sonya, James and Alastair and loving Grandpa for Emily and Hamish Hunter, Henry and Abigail Capp, Marnie, Hugo and Cressida Flett.

Bruce had a major setback in February 1984 when the Coorparoo pharmacy burnt down. The site was later redeveloped and the Westpac Bank relocated to the site. It is now a gym and physio rehab centre. He relocated diagonally opposite to 322 Old Cleveland Road, where, in April 1984, he opened his pharmacy. This site is now the St. Vincent de Paul shop

He amalgamated with pharmacist Ian Young in 1991 and the pharmacy became the Young and Hunter Pharmacy. The Camp Hill pharmacy was closed shortly after in 1992.

They served the community well and enjoyed a strong partnership. Ian Young retired in 1994, but the pharmacy retained its name until Bruce sold it to the Coorparoo Day and Night Pharmacy in July 2000, but remained as a partner until it was later sold to Terry White. The pharmacy continues to trade in Coorparoo Junction today as Terry White Chemmart

Being community minded he contributed to many charities and in October 2021 he Joined the Stones Corner Rotary Club. He was an active member and served on numerous committees. In 2010 he was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship (Rotary's highest award) for his community work.

Bruce and Helen were active parishioners at St Stephens Anglican Church, Coorparoo since 1972 Being a Churchie "Old Boy", Bruce maintained strong links with the school all his life and for many years served on the Executive Committee of the Churchie Old Boys' Association, and was Chairman for two years in 1976 and 1977.

Bruce became a Patron of the Coorparoo and Districts Heritage Group in the early 1990s and remained so until his passing. His wife Helen was offered, and she gratefully accepted to take over the position of Patron of the group.

Bruce's love of cricket was with him all his life. When he was 10 years old his parents gave him a Gabba membership and for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday he became a Foundation Member of the Queensland Cricket Club, of which he later became an honorary member. He was at the Gabba in December 1960 to witness the Tied Test between Australia and the West Indies.

Bruce was also a mad keen golfer and was a member of the Brisbane Golf Club from 1960. He was a member for more than 50 years and when he retired from playing, he was bestowed with an honorary membership.

Bruce died suddenly on 10 November 2024 while watching cricket on the TV after watching a great win by the Wallabies at Twickenham.

Bruce was well liked and loved throughout the community as was evidence at his funeral at St. Stephen's Church, Coorparoo where the church was packed to capacity. All the pews were occupied and additional seating had to be brought in from the adjacent hall. Even then several attendees had to stand. The refreshments after the funeral, was held in the adjacent hall and it also was completely packed with guests spilling out onto the courtyard.

Bruce was a gentle giant with a big smile and a legendary laugh. At all times, he was a true gentleman and loved by all who knew him.

