

Coorparoo
& Heritage Group
Districts

Invites you to hear

Ray Gilbert

Speak about

Moreton Bay Queensland in World War II

The book, **Moreton Bay, Queensland in World War II** was originally written by Ron Donald. After a career in newspaper journalism, Don, on retirement, moved to Bribie Island and was fascinated to find that old wartime Naval and Army buildings still existed in the area, especially on the ocean side of the island. This inspired Don to undertake research into the importance such establishments played in the defence of Australia against the Japanese invasion. The book was first published in 2005.

Ray Gilbert first came across this book while he was still involved in the Active Army Reserve after a long career in the Regular Army as a Nursing Officer. After retiring from the Defence Force in 2016, he became committed to investigate the background of the book. Ray approached the original Printers 'Victory Press' on Bribie Island and also the author Ron Donald and gained permission to get the book reprinted.

The funding required to reprint 400 copies of the book was obtained by a Grant from RSL Queensland through a request by the Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub-Branch. Ray is an active member of this Sub-Branch as well as being a member of the Battle for Australia Commemorative Committee. The book was reprinted as a 2nd Edition in 2022 with total support and satisfaction of the Author.

Come along and listen to Ray speak about the book and the important role Moreton Bay played during World War II.

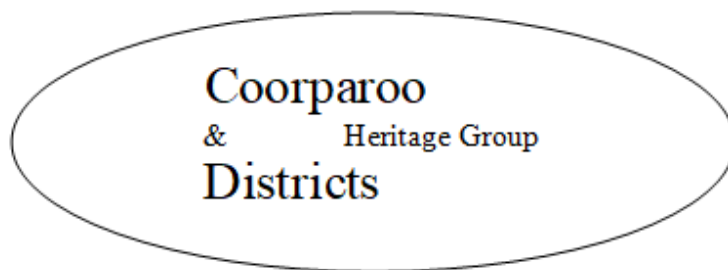
This meeting will also be the group's Christmas Celebration with the usual Christmas raffles.

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

When? **Saturday 2 December 2023** 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



NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The planned October bus tour of the Hamilton/Ascot area had to be cancelled owing to an insufficient number of participants to make the tour viable. In lieu of the bus tour President Ron conducted a virtual bus tour of the area showing images of many of the historic homes that would have been viewed on the tour. He was able to add many other homes that would not have been possible to see on the tour owing to the narrowness of some roads in the area. Ron also explained the history of these homes. Ron proposes to compile a booklet of this presentation so members can conduct their own drive around the area.

On 2 September the group conducted a very successful seminar Women of Coorparoo & Districts. 5 prominent women; **Caroline Barker**, artist, **Dame Annabel Rankin DBE**, Australian Senator, **Vida Lahey**, artist, **Dr. Dorothy Hill AC CBE**, outstanding scientist, and **Patricia (Pat) Clark Ryan**, prominent Coorparoo identity, were featured. Coorparoo has more prominent women that could also be featured possibly at another time. The seminar was well attended by almost fifty people who enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea catered for by Busy Bake.

At our December meeting it is proposed to have Ray Gilbert speak about the book **Moreton Bay Queensland in World War II**. He has obtained permission from the original author of the book, Ron Donald to have it reprinted with some amendments. Copies of the book will be available for sale. As this will also be our Christmas meeting, we are hoping for a large turnout. As in past years we will be inviting members of the Annerley Stephens History Group to join us in our celebrations. We have made an application to the Brisbane City Council for a Seniors Celebration Donation which if successful, will assist in helping fund this function.

Members are reminded that books borrowed from the Eris Jolly Library should be returned at the December meeting. Additional books have been added to the collection and will be available for borrowing.

The book *From Law to War* written by about Chisholm Wilson is in hot demand. Would the member who has this book please return it at the December meeting so that another member can read it. The group still needs a volunteer librarian who can manage the borrowing and return of books. It is not an onerous task and the member may find it beneficial in knowing more about the holdings of the group.

Members are also reminded that at the February meeting Membership Renewal will be due. Payments can be made at the door or by funds transfer. Renewal notices will be sent out with the January 2024 Newsletter. Membership remains at \$20.00 per person.

The Pat Ryan Park in Lade Street Coorparoo was finally officially named on Wednesday 18 October. Members of the Ryan family assisted Councillor Fiona Cunningham in the unveiling of the park sign. Councillor Cunningham's support for our group's petition is greatly appreciated.



Our group is now waiting on confirmation on its other petition to have a section of Coorparoo Creek Park named Wallace Place.

Continuing our articles on Coorparoo identities, in this Newsletter we feature John Donald MLA.

JOHN DONALDSON MLA

John Donaldson was born at Purdeet, Mount Rouse, Victoria on 15 October 1841, the son of pastoralist Alexander Donaldson and his wife Bridget, nee McElroy. Following his father's death, he began to follow pastoral pursuits in a small way and in time became an active partner in Moody, Donaldson, Inglis & Co.

He then relocated to New South Wales in 1876 to manage Pangee Station, and then in 1881 moved to Queensland to manage another station, Mount Margaret. (98 km west of Quilpie and 177 km south of Windorah).

With an interest in politics, he contested the 1883 election and was elected to the Queensland Parliament as the Member for Warrego in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 5 October 1883 and held that seat until 19 May 1888. In 1887, the Warrego electorate was divided and he retained part of his old electorate which he then contested in the 1888 election, winning as the member for Bullo, which he served as their member from 26 May 1888 to 25 April 1893.

After a time out of politics, and following pressure from his friends, Donaldson consented to return to politics and contested the 1896 election, being elected as the member for Logan from 4 April 1896 until his death on 25 July 1896. (At this time Coorparoo was included in the Logan Electorate).

In the Thomas McIlwraith Government, Donaldson was appointed Postmaster-General of Queensland and Secretary for Public Instruction on 13 June 1888. When the ministry was reconstructed under Boyd Dunlop Morehead, on 30 November 1888 he continued to retain the same ministries until 19 November 1889, when he succeeded William Pattison as Colonial Treasurer.

In August 1890, Donaldson together with his colleagues resigned owing to opposition of the Assembly to his financial proposals.

In March 1891, Donaldson was one of the Queensland delegates to the national Australasian Convention in Sydney where he unsuccessfully urged that control of all the railways be given to the Federal Government.

By 1891 Donaldson had become a local director of the Commercial Bank of Australia, a director of the Queensland Deposit Bank and building Society, a member of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce and President of the Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland. Proud of his Scottish ancestry, he was Vice-President of the various Scottish societies and was also associated with many different sporting organizations. With an interest in the pastoral industry, he was Vice-President of the

Queensland Stock Breeders and Graziers Association and a Trustee of the United Pastoralists Association. In addition, he was President of the Queensland branch of the Australian Natives' Association.

Always straightforward, Donaldson was popular and became known as 'honest John'. Donaldson died from kidney disease on 25 July 1986 at his Coorparoo home, Knowsley. His funeral cortege departed from Knowsley following a short religious service and travelled to Toowong Cemetery. The procession consisted of approx. 150 vehicles.

In parliament, John 'Plumper' Hoolan paid tribute to Donaldson: *'Although not of the same politics as myself, I learned to respect him long before I met him on the floor of the House, for his generous and magnanimous dealings in certain commercial enterprises'*.

