

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE HEFFERAN PARK AREA

Hefferan Park is situated in the traditional land of the Yerongpan clan group, who occupied the sandy (*yerong*) country between Brisbane River southside and the lower Logan River. The Yerongpan were part of the Chépara People of the 'coast' river and creek (*warril*) water catchments into Moreton Bay, all of whom spoke a common language often referred to as Yuggara or Yuggarabul.

The Chépara dreamtime creation stories tell of how rivers, mountains and other landforms of this region were formed long ago. One legend tells of how returning land animals, mortally wounded after a major clash with sea animals trespassing on their territory, are immortalised in these places.

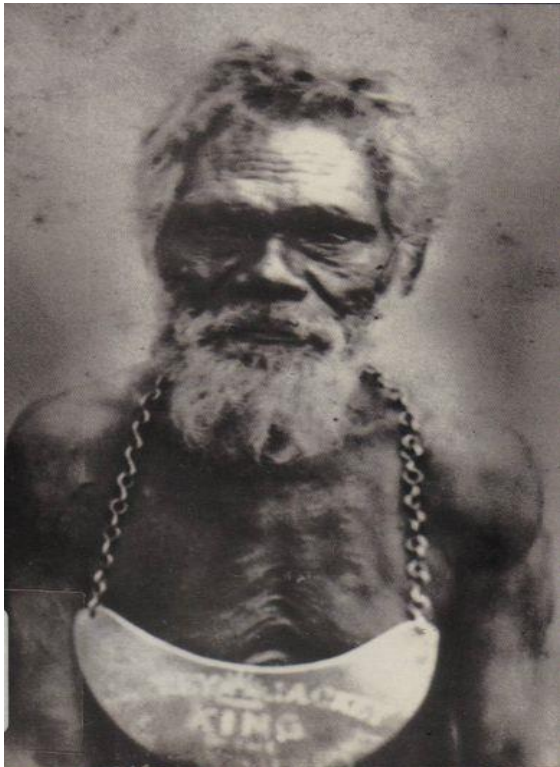
Brisbane south of the river was extensively used and occupied by Aboriginal peoples long before European arrival and afterwards up to the mid-1800s. One 1840s resident recalled up to 400 people having seasonal camps on the ridges near the Woolloongabba waterholes. They also hunted in the scrub and fished in the waterholes of area between Hefferan Park and the river.

The landscape was criss-crossed with Aboriginal pathways, some of which formed the basis for modern roads – such as Annerley Road. There were frequently used campsites in nearby Annerley (in the Franklin and Horatio Street area) and in Dutton Park.

At the time of European settlement from 1824, 'the south Brisbane tribe of Aboriginals' was led by a celebrated chieftain called Malrooben (Malrobin) who was murdered in 1852 near Doughboy Creek. At least by 1863, if not earlier, King Jackey Jackey (*Bilinba*) became the leader of the Yerongpan until his death in about 1900. In the early 1880s King Jackey staged a public corroboree near White's Hill, Holland Park (traditionally called *Bulimba*) with a penny entrance fee which he collected in a hat.

In 1891 Dr Joseph Lauterer stated that King Jackey was "*often to be seen in Stanley-street*". His son, who was named *Karlungaba* (aka Jacky Logan), sang Yerongpan songs in language. One song about *Mirrigen*, the star, was originally composed by King Jackey's father in about 1830.

Descendants of King Jackey continue to live in their ancestral country and teach their culture and songs to their children, according to Aboriginal lore and custom.



Jackey Jackey King of Logan and Pimpama, Ca.1895  
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland Neg: 63306

## ANNERLEY AND DUTTON PARK IN TIMES OF PEACE AND WAR



Tram terminus at Dutton Park, Brisbane, ca 1929. John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld, Rec No: 53556

In 1901, the Dutton Park Tram Terminus was established at the junction of Brisbane Street and Annerley Road, extending the city tramline from Highgate Hill. The efforts of the Brisbane Tramway Company to develop the Dutton Park reserve into a leisure resort during 1908-15 played a great part in boosting the popularity of this area among Brisbane residents. The last electric tram in Brisbane ran on 13 April 1969.



Night-time shot of the WWII Air Raid Shelter in Hefferan Park. Photo: Sven Abrahamsson

Peace-time development and recreation was interrupted by the threat of invasion during the Second World War. Following the Japanese bombing of Darwin and north Queensland in 1942, Brisbane City Council built 235 shelters. They were often sited under fig trees to aid in camouflage and designed in a way that would allow them to be used as bus and tram shelters post-war. The Hefferan Park public air raid shelter is one of the few which has survived.

## **WILLIAM VINCENT HEFFERAN**

Hefferan Park Annerley is named in honour of William Vincent Hefferan who served as the Alderman for South Brisbane from 1934 until his death in 1937.

The Park was initially created by Brisbane City Council in March 1927 and called Annerley Place as it was deemed too small to be a designated with a park name. In 1935 Alderman Hefferan campaigned to establish a children's playground but due to its size and proximity to major roads the greenspace was kept for tree planting and general park purposes.

Following his death, Council renamed the area as Hefferan Park in memory of the Alderman.

Born in Tiaro, Queensland in 1873, he served in the Queensland Defence Force artillery unit on Thursday Island from 1897 to 1899. He then worked as a machinist at Ipswich Railway Workshops for 13 years before becoming a shopkeeper and, an Ipswich City Councillor serving three terms of 10 years in total.

He was the organizer of the ANA Eisteddfod for many years and served on numerous community organisations, on Brisbane City Council's Town Planning, Finance and Water Supply and Sewerage Committees and as the Chairman of the South Brisbane Library Committee.