



Gold Coast Mail
Thursday 28/07/2011

Page: 8
Section: General News
Region: Gold Coast QLD, AU
Circulation: 28309
Type: Regional
Size: 112.32 sq.cms.



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Story of Mr LJ Hooker published

HE WAS a part-Chinese orphan struggling against the White Australia policy during the 1920s.

Leslie Joseph Tingyou changed his surname to Hooker in 1925 and most would now, almost 20 years after his death, link his name to one of the most recognised real estate companies in Australia.

In Queensland it all started in a Palm Beach office in 1957.

Current Palm Beach principals Neil and Robyn Shorrock said they were delighted Mr Hooker's story had been researched, written and released by his granddaughter Natalia through the book *LJ Hooker The Man*.

The Shorrocks purchased the office from Ron Theobald for just \$5000 in 1981 and said the business was still based around "old-school family

connections".

Having established his real estate business in New South Wales in 1928, Mr Hooker started a development company in the 1950s.

A subdivision at Palm Beach was his first entree into Queensland and, in order to attract purchasers this far up north, free flights and accommodation were arranged for potential purchasers on an obligation-free basis.

The biography contains more than 400 historical images, including photos of Australian cities and suburbs as they changed over the 20th century.

The book is being distributed by Macmillan publishing.

It is available in bookstores across Australia and is also available online with free delivery at ljhookertheman.com.