



Major General The Honourable P. M. ARNISON AC, CVO



General Arnison was elected to Life Membership of the Club in 2004.

General Arnison was Patron of the Club from 1997 to 2003

Peter Maurice Arnison was born in Lismore, New South Wales in 1940. The eldest of six children, he attended South Lismore Primary School and Lismore High School. He was a Boy Scout and a member of the Lismore High School Army Cadet Unit and the Air Training Corps, 26th (City of Lismore) Flight.

He completed the Leaving Certificate in 1958 and was accepted into the Royal Military College, Duntroon, where he undertook the four-year course, graduating in December 1962. Upon graduation he was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. As a junior officer he served in 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment including the battalion's tour of duty in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966. He was posted to the 11th Brigade, US Army at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, where he served for a year prior to his appointment to the Infantry Centre. He was then posted as a Company Commander to 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, including the battalion's second tour of duty in Vietnam in 1971.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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His senior command appointments included Commanding Officer 5th/7th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment; Commandant Land Warfare Centre Canungra; Commander 3rd Brigade; Commander 1st Division and Commander Land Command.

His senior staff appointments included as SO1 Plans, Headquarters Field Force Command; Chief of Staff, Headquarters 1st Division; and Director General Joint Operations and Plans, Headquarters Australian Defence Force.

He is a graduate of the Army Staff College, Queenscliff, the Joint Service Staff College, Canberra and the Royal College of Defence Studies, London.

Peter and Barbara Arnison were married on 15 August 1964 in the Presbyterian Church in Drummoyne NSW; and have two children – Tracy and Andrew.

After his retirement from the Army in 1996, he worked in industry for a year as Executive Director Allied Rubber Products, Queensland prior to his appointment as the 23rd Governor of Queensland from 1997 to 2003.

As Governor, as well as undertaking the full range of Vice Regal constitutional responsibilities, and a large number of Patronages, he travelled extensively throughout Queensland, supporting Queensland's economic development in the agriculture, mining, manufacturing and tourism industries and overseas to Japan, China, Thailand and Indonesia supporting Queensland's sister state relationships.

Following his term as Governor he held the following appointments:

Chancellor, Queensland University of Technology

Chairman, Panbio Limited (ASX PBO)

Chairman, the Centre for Military and Veteran's Health

Chairman, the Queensland Museum Foundation

Chairman, the Australian Bravery Decorations Council

Chairman, the Community Futures Taskforce (Proposed Traveston and Wyaralong Dams)

Chairman, MacArthur Museum Brisbane

Bid Chairman, BrisConnections (Cross River Tunnel)

Bid Chairman, BrisConnections (Airport Link)

Chairman, Lower Franklin River Infrastructure Project Business Case

Governor, the Queensland Community Foundation

Director, Energex Limited and Energex Retail

Director, Velocity (Brisbane City Office of Economic Development)

Director, The Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Townsville

Director, The Order of Australia Foundation

Director, The Australian Multicultural Foundation

He is currently serving as Chairman, The Brisbane Airport Community Aviation Consultative Group.

Major General Arnison was appointed an Officer in the Military Division of the Order of Australia in 1992, a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2001, and was invested as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, by Her Majesty The Queen during her visit to Queensland, in 2002. He is a Knight of Grace in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (1997).

He holds a degree in economics from the University of Queensland and was awarded honorary doctorates from Queensland University of Technology, the University of Queensland, Griffith University, the University of Southern Queensland and Southern Cross University.

His paper, *Australia's Security Arrangements in The South West Pacific*, was published by Seaford House Papers, (RCDS) London, 1990

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- Major General Arnison