



Captain A.H. CRAIG OAM, RAN (Rtd)



Captain Craig was elected to Life Membership of the Club in 2023

Captain Craig was President of the Club 1998-99

Captain Craig was a Trustee of the Club in 2005.

Andrew Craig was born in Sydney on 28 February 1943 to Hugh and Berenice Craig. Hugh was serving in the Army at the time and the family moved onto the land at Uralla after the war. They had one other child – a daughter, Mary.

The family moved to Melbourne in 1950. Andrew was educated at Melbourne Grammar School before entering the Royal Australian Navy.

In 1971 Andrew married Prudence Dunlop and they had three sons and a daughter

- Will – now a Captain with Cathay Pacific
- James – an anaesthetist at the Sunshine Coast hospital
- Tom – who became an Army Officer and entered the commercial world when he left the Army
- Alexandra – an Occupational Therapist on the Sunshine Coast

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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Andrew was widowed in 1992. He subsequently married Susan Cantamessa – in a ceremony at the Club on 18 December 1998. Susan’s father, Dr “Sid” Cantamessa, was a long-standing Club Member. Susan (usually “Susie”) brought her son and two daughters to the family:

- Angus – Army officer who entered the commercial world when he left the Army
- Sophie – Flight Attendant with Qantas
- Jemma – Pilot with Qantas

Andrew had a successful 30-year career as a seaman officer and helicopter pilot in the Royal Australian Navy retiring with the rank of Captain.

He Joined the RAN College (HMAS *Creswell* at Jervis Bay) in January 1959 and graduated in 1962. Following usual sea postings for training he then went to Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth U.K. Returning to Australia his subsequent deployments included HMAS *Vendetta* to the Far East (Confrontation) in 1965.

In 1966/67 he was selected to attend US Navy Flight Training Command, Pensacola, Florida – where he qualified as a Naval Aviator. In 1968/69 he served in South Vietnam – initially detached to 9 Sqn RAAF and then with the RAN Helicopter Flight. While serving he was injured when his aircraft was shot down. This RAN unit operated as part of the US Army’s 135 Assault Helicopter Company; and in August 2018 was presented with the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry.

In 1969/70 he was Flag Lieutenant to the Australian Fleet Commander; and in 1971/74 resumed squadron flying duties in Wessex helicopters. In 1974/75 he was Senior Pilot of the RAN Sea King Flight UK taking delivery of the new RAN helicopters from the Westland factory at Yeovil and “working up”. On return to Australia in 1975 he was posted to Navy Office; returning to the UK in 1977/78 to attend the RN Staff Course at Greenwich.

He took command of 817 Squadron (Sea King) at HMAS *Albatross*, Nowra in 1978/79. In 1979/82 he was posted as Executive Officer at his service *alma mater* the RAN College, HMAS *Creswell*. Subsequently he moved to Navy Office in Canberra in various postings - finishing as Project Director for the Seahawk helicopter acquisition program in 1985/87. Captain Craig “paid off” on 28 Feb 1988.

Andrew engaged in studies whilst serving and on leaving the Navy – including at Deakin University (MBA); Melbourne University (Advanced Management Program), University of New England (Diploma, Company Director).

On leaving the RAN, he was appointed as Managing Director of Sikorsky Aircraft Australia Limited in Sydney. At that time, Sikorsky was manufacturing, testing and delivering 39 Blackhawk helicopters for the RAAF/Army and 16 Seahawk helicopters for the Royal Australian Navy.

Moving to Brisbane in 1989, Andrew was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Brisbane office of the national law firm, Clayton Utz (initially Henderson Trout) and remained with the firm until 1994.

He was then principal of his own consulting firm focussing on the Defence and Aerospace industries.

In mid-1997 Andrew was appointed as the Executive Director of the Queensland Division of Australian Red Cross (a position that had also been held by Club past President Brigadier Lee Greville DSO in the late 1980’s). The Division embraced 143 Branches throughout the State, some 4,500 Branch members and 500 other volunteers who assisted in the delivery of Red Cross services to the community.

From January 2000 until August 2002 he was the Chief Executive Officer of Commerce Queensland, Queensland’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry and peak employer association.

From April 2003 until December 2006 he was the Queensland Director of the Australian Industry Group. The Ai Group is Australia's largest national industry association focusing on the manufacturing sector.

He was appointed as Queensland's Trade and Investment Commissioner in the Americas in January 2007. The position was based in Los Angeles and was responsible for representing Queensland's trade and investment interests in North and South America

In April 2008, he was posted to London as Agent-General for Queensland and Commissioner, Europe, Russia and Africa – he held this position until June 2011. The Agent-General is Queensland's only diplomatic post and has been extant since 1868. The duties of the Agent-General are much expanded by the Commissioner's role to promote Queensland's trade and investment interests in the UK, Europe (all parts thereof), Russia and sub-Saharan Africa. He returned to Brisbane on completion of this posting in July 2011.

Since returning to Brisbane, Andrew has been involved in civic affairs, including Chair, Queensland Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the Anzac Centenary (2013 -2019), Vice Chair, Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council (2013-2020) and President of Legacy Brisbane (2020 - 2022)

Captain Craig joined the Club on moving to Brisbane in September 1989.

He joined the Committee in 1991, was Vice President 1996-98; President 1998-2000; and Immediate Past President 2000-02.

He was appointed a Trustee in 2005 for one year, before the Trustees transferred the Club's assets to the corporate trustee 183 Wickham Terrace Pty Ltd.

Captain Craig was recognized for his services to veterans by the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia in the June 2021 Queens Birthday Honours.



[l to r] LT James and Mrs Jody Craig; CAPT Tom Craig; Ms Sophie Cantamessa-Heatley;
CAPT Andrew and Mrs Susie Craig
Patron's Dinner - 2000

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
- Interview with Captain Craig March 2020