



Squadron Leader R.J. MOLONY

[1946 – 2025]



Squadron Leader Molony was President of the Club 2002-03

Robert ("Bob") John Molony was born in 1946 in Brisbane.

He was educated at Brisbane Boys College and from there joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1965 as an officer cadet at RAAF Point Cook.

After graduating as a pilot Bob also commenced pilot navigator training. His principal postings included:

2 Sqn	Active Service in South Vietnam as Canberra bomber navigator.
6 Sqn	flying F4 Phantoms

In 1985 Squadron Leader Molony separated from the RAAF and worked as a pilot - flight examiner in Australia and PNG, with operations worldwide. He was a CASA approved testing officer

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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He then established Arena Aviation at Archerfield.

Squadron Leader Molony amassed over 14,000 flying hours in a distinguished military and commercial aviation career.

Bob Molony joined the Club in 1990. He was elected to the Committee in 1998. In 2004 he was nominated as Vice-president, however the nominee for President withdrew for health reasons, so he was elected President, with Major General Denis Luttrell becoming the Vice President. Bob served as Immediate Past President 2004-05.

He recalls that, when he became President, Club membership numbers were in decline, the Club assets were vested in the Trustees; there was no internet presence; no email data base of members and no web site. Consequently, he initiated and led several progressive initiatives.

The Club moved to be an Incorporated Association, which provided more certainty and less liability for members and removed the requirement for the Trustees. In common with other presidents, he recalls enjoying the relationship and input from the Trustees as they held much of the Club's history.

There was a view that email "wouldn't work with Club members" – however the President was determined that a recovery in membership numbers required the Club to be able to connect with the membership on a more regular basis than the monthly newsletter. An email database of members was established, and numbers were on the road to recovery by the end of his term.

Major General Peter Arnison retired as Governor of Queensland and Club Patron in 2003. The President consulted widely, and the Committee invited Major General Michael Jeffrey (then Governor General) to be the Patron. His connection with the Club extended back to his term as Commander 1st Division in the late 1980s. He accepted and his Patron's Dinners were always a great success.

Club rules were changed to allow gentlemen to lunch in the club dining room in smart business attire - removing the need to wear a coat and tie for lunch. Patronage improved markedly.

Bob recalls that there was no problem with any of the changes as we provided "information sessions" for any intended rule changes, thus getting the questions sorted before the AGM votes.

Squadron Leader Molony died tragically in a light aircraft crash near Toowoomba on 20 July 2025.

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
- Contribution from SQNLDR Molony May 2020