



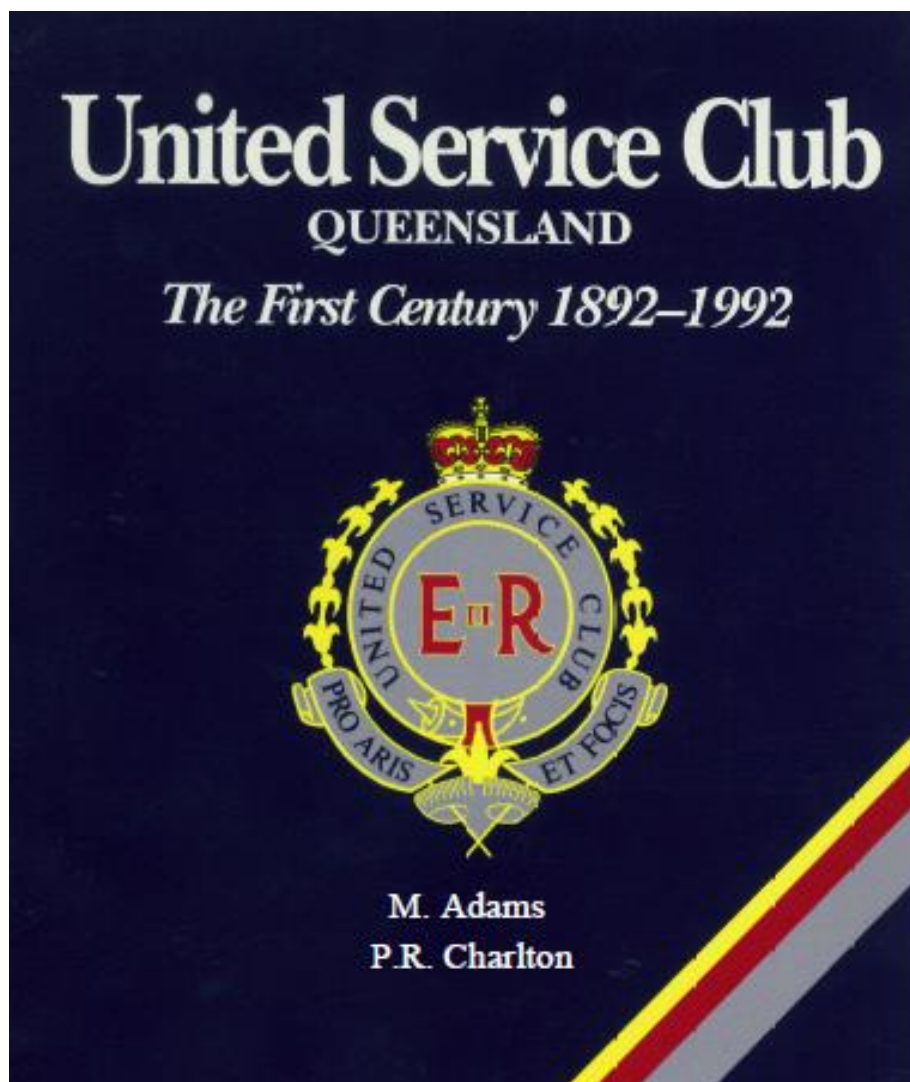
united service club

history & heritage notes

Club History 1892-1992

SECTION 5

(Chapters 14 to 15 & Appendices)



In the 1990s the Club 'commissioned' the late Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and the late Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton to compile a book that outlined the history of the United Service Club from its founding in 1892 to its centenary in 1992. Writing the Club's history had been planned and abandoned many times in previous years, and researching this compilation was a challenging task as our record-keeping was less than fastidious and much deduction and reliance on memories were required. The book is now out of stock.

*As we hold no more copies of the book, this electronic version was prepared in January 2016 to enable today's Members to appreciate the stories and personalities of the Club's first 100 years. There are some recurring themes across the years that may resonate today, eg membership, finances, social functions, catering quality and property proposals. Almost all the original format has been faithfully retained, including page-breaks, (to the limit of our volunteer's ability) with a few minor and inconsequential variations here and there. It is presented in pdf format after scanning, Optical Character Recognition (OCR,) and conversion to Word format, then to pdf. As the consolidated version is over 7Mb in size, the book is presented here in pdf format **split into five sections** for shorter downloads.*

We may have missed an occasional typographical error for which our volunteer apologises and blames on the OCR and the manual conversion processes combined with his unfortunate level of attention to detail.

Civilians to the Rescue

Under the pressure of reduced usage and difficult trading, the controversial question of civilian membership was finally faced by the United Service Club in 1974. In its history, the Club had always prided itself on its military origins, and on the military service of its members. In all its premises, it had much of the atmosphere of officers mess or wardroom; the same, easy, gentle rules prevailed; the same polite but not obsequious deference to rank, the same feeling of belonging to an organisation with a common purpose and being with fellows of a common background. Yet by the late 1960s the proportion of the population that were potential members - those with commissioned service in one of the armed forces - was declining. The future of the Club was at risk.

By the early 1970s, however, it became apparent that, were the Club to survive, it would have to open its books to members who might not have had the required service background. Already it had done so to a limited extent, with the introduction of the highly successful associate membership class. Now, however, it was possible that the entire nature of the Club might change with the influx of civilian members. The 1974 annual report simply noted:

Following two special general meetings, and the largest postal vote on record, an amendment to the rules to admit civilian members was approved by the large majority of 84 per cent to 16 per cent, demonstrating that most members recognised the necessity of some such step. Prominent business executives, professional men, and respected citizens of the community are now eligible for civilian membership. They can be proposed and seconded only by full members of the club, and they have no voting rights [sic] nor are they eligible to stand for the positions of president, vice-president or member of committee. This category will permit members to propose their sons for membership, and already a number of such applications have been received.

Those remarks of the president, Group Captain Smith, however, do not convey the extent of the debate over this category of membership at the time. At various times during the late 1960s and early 1970s, the question of widening the Club's membership arose during committee meetings, often in a desultory or less than convincing fashion. It was also the topic of conversation where members gathered and lamented that, perhaps, the Club had passed its heyday. Membership of the United Service

Club had distinct advantages for the many professional men with their offices or surgeries in the area. The medical profession, with its close links to the armed services,* was a clear source of potential members. So were the professions of architecture and engineering, as many firms had moved into offices in Spring Hill where the rents were less steep than in the central business district. Accountants, lawyers and business consultants, often faced with long waiting lists to the other city clubs such as the Brisbane Club and Tattersall's, found advantages in seeking membership of the United Service Club. Indeed, during the 1970s, the area between Wickham Terrace and Gregory Terrace started to be transformed with both residential and office developments. Each new professional office that moved into the area provided some potential members for the Club.

But among some of the more traditional members, those who clung rigidly to the idea that the United Service Club should be only for officers and ex-officers, a fierce resistance to expansion of membership existed. At the bottom of this resistance was the fear - perhaps real, perhaps irrational - that the Club would somehow be 'taken over' by civilians of less than suitable background. The experience of the sister club in South Australia, which had welcomed civilian members from before World War II, was often put forward as an example of the changes likely to take place. With this kind of resistance, often expressed more loudly than representatively, it is understandable that successive committees were content to duck the question. And, of course, there were other issues to occupy the minds of busy committee men.

In the early 1970s, new members slowed to a trickle, often just two or three a meeting, with as many or more former members offering their resignations. At the time, the entrance fee was \$30; the membership sub-committee thought, perhaps not unreasonably, that an entrance fee should be higher than the annual subscription, which was then about \$50. As one bulletin pointed out to members, this membership fee was between \$30 and \$90 less than reciprocal clubs (unspecified). Members were being implored to make more use of their Club. In the meantime, the membership sub-committee, under the leadership of Flight Lieutenant Tuckfield, was busily compiling statistics that would help the arguments for opening the books to civilians.

There was no doubt that the membership was ageing rapidly. A survey had shown that, at April 1974, 154 members were eligible for continuous honorary membership; this number would increase to 420 by 1979. 'It was apparent,' noted the minutes, 'that an examination of the possibilities of broadening membership had become necessary.' The imperatives were no longer those of preserving the Club's character, but perhaps of preserving the Club itself.

*In peacetime and in war, the armed services have always drawn on Reservists to make up the bulk of their medical officers.

The critical early months of 1974 also saw the Club experiencing some tight financial conditions; the minutes for this period include terse references to ‘interviews with bank managers’ about the size of the Club’s overdraft, then running at about \$40,000. At the time, the Club committee entertained ideas of imposing a levy of \$12.50 on members, an idea that met with the wholehearted support of the Club’s patient bankers. From the surviving accounts, it is possible to gain a picture of a Club that, under reasonable trading conditions, was battling to break even or end with a small surplus. ‘Montpelier’ was an expensive building to maintain; the Club’s amenities - in the kitchen, the bars, the accommodation and the dining room - were barely of a standard sufficient to entice members to return often. What was good enough in the 1950s and even into the 1960s was not good enough in the 1970s. Brisbane had changed, become rather more sophisticated, lost much of its ‘big country town’ feel. Restaurants and modern hotels were competing with the Club and were, in many cases, winning. It is fair to say that the United Service Club in the early 1970s was somewhat fusty and old-fashioned.

Other problems existed. It is impossible to be certain about the causes, but during this time the percentage returns from bar and food trading were very low, despite some good trading. This suggests, at the very least, a less than diligent approach to supervision. As one member who examined the accounts for these years recently commented, ‘the bats must have been in the belfry’. Under these circumstances, with financial worries and an ageing Club population, it is little wonder that some farsighted members sought to expand the membership base.

On 14 May 1974, the membership sub-committee considered a detailed statistical analysis. A complete copy of this analysis does not survive; we know, however, that the number of town members had increased by only 10 between April 1973 and April 1974 while the number of under 25 members had actually declined. This is partially explained away by the Whitlam Government’s abolition of national service in December 1972, and the immense impact that decision had upon the Citizens Military Forces at the time. Fewer young officers, and thus fewer potential Club members, were being produced by the CMF. (Many young men who were members of the CMF left when their legislative obligation ceased in December 1972, including a number of junior officers who might have been active members of the Club.) More importantly, the age of the existing members was a cause for concern. In 1974, the average age was 53.5 years, with 210 members over the age of 65, 505 over 60 and 922 over the age of 55. The membership sub-committee noted:

(We are) united in the opinion that some disastrous results could occur if the present downward trend in membership figures and usage of the trading department of the Club continued. After lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the full committee that a broadening of membership be proposed to the special general meeting

of the Club to be held on May, 10 June 1974 as follows: -

‘That the following new class of membership be approved "civilian member"; These members to be prominent business executives, professional men and respected citizens of the community; That this class of membership not to exceed 40 percent of the full membership of the Club, with the same restrictions of rights as apply to allied members and associate members: e.g. no voting rights, not permitted to nominate or second applications for membership, including civilian membership, except to nominate their wife as an associate member. Further that the entrance fee and subscription be the same as for present members. That reciprocity with reciprocal clubs be granted only to those clubs which have a similar category of membership.’

Thus the proposed levy and the new category of civilian membership were clearly linked; a special committee meeting held on 22 May decided to call a special general meeting on 10 June to consider both questions. That 10 June meeting was attended by 107 members, including the president; as might be expected on such an important and fundamental issues, provoked wide and at times heated discussion.

The first question considered was that of the \$12.50 levy. Lieutenant Colonel Colin Wilson presented the case for its imposition. He pointed out that the Club was experiencing a very difficult trading period: The 1971-72 year had resulted in a profit of \$12,000; 1972-73 had seen a loss of more than \$5000 and the trend for the current financial year was to a loss of about, or more than, \$18,000. The reason for these losses was spiralling wages. Administration wages had increased by 30 percent, from \$34,000 to \$46,000, a pattern that was evident in all departments. It was clear that trading profits could not make up this deficit and so a levy had become necessary. The committee calculated the amount of the required levy would be \$10 to cover the expected losses. However, experience had shown that similar levies imposed in the past had resulted in a spate of resignations. To cover this contingency, the levy was increased to \$12.50.

The second contentious item that evening was, of course, the motion to extend the membership. Discussion on this issue began with some minor procedural difficulties, in which the committee was embarrassed to have a former president and prominent lawyer, Brigadier McEachern, submit that the meeting should have been called under rule 39, which provided for 21 days notice to be given. The president, Group Captain Smith, also a lawyer, disagreed with his learned colleague; the meeting had been convened under rules 36 and 37 was therefore constitutionally correct. However, during the later discussion among members, the very strong feeling emerged that this meeting should have been convened under rule 39, which

also gave all members the right to vote by post on important issues. Indeed, this feeling dominated the meeting and finally the following motion was put:

That a special general meeting be convened under Rule 39 of the United Service Club rules and by-laws, on a date to be fixed. And that the proposal [to extend membership to civilians] put to this meeting....be circulated to every member.

Here was the membership, or a significant slice of it, exerting an important and very reasonable power; the right to make collective decisions on matters affecting the Club. As the minutes note, the feeling about civilian members varied greatly from 'downright opposition to complete agreement'. Although Flight Lieutenant Tuckfield had cogently argued the case for extending the membership, the feeling existed that this was not merely a matter for the committee or for a limited meeting of 100-plus members. This was, properly, a matter for the Club membership at large. The decision was deferred until the members could vote.

July, August and September 1974 saw a spate of resignations by members, as predicted. Unfinancial members resigning were reminded of their obligations; some, it seems might have even met those responsibilities. When the important issue, that of civilian membership, went to the members in July, it was overwhelmingly approved. More than 84 percent of the large number of members - a record of the actual number who voted does not appear to have survived - supported the idea of civilians joining the Club. The realists, particularly those with commercial experience, realised that bringing new members, people who would use the Club and its amenities, was the only hope for the Club's future viability and survival. But there were others who thought that the influx of civilians would mean the end of their Club as they knew it. These members made their continued opposition felt.

Now the difficulty to be faced was the method by which civilian members would be selected; the membership sub-committee minutes for 27 November note that 'members....express their disappointment over continuous endeavours each month, by some members of the committee to alter the method of selecting civilian members'. The sub-committee members pointed out, with much justification, that the postal vote on the issue brought the largest ever response; 'the 84 percent in favour of the rule change shows that the members of the club were behind this new category of membership'; although from the minutes, it is clear that some committee members did not totally support this new category of membership.

The introduction of civilian members brought some other problems. Could they, for example, wear the Club tie? Yes. They were members, albeit civilian members, and thus entitled to the tie. Was it appropriate for a member to propose or second a close business associate? No, thought the committee.* What of the risk of a black-balling,

*Quite clearly, a sentiment which has been unfashionable in recent years.

embarrassing to all concerned? This could be avoided by careful screening through the membership sub-committee. Originally it seemed that the committee, and the membership sub-committee, had some difficulties in determining whether potential civilian members met the criteria. It was hoped that the new category would enable many sons of members to join; this was indeed the case and the early minutes following the introduction of this category of membership show a satisfying number of sons being proposed by their fathers. Occasionally, however, some difficulties arose. The committee balked at one membership proposal where the occupation was listed as 'plumber'. This was for the son of a respected member; the father pointed out that as his son worked for the Government, the occupation could easily have been listed as 'public servant', which would have caused the committee no particular worry. In other cases, further information was sought where it was thought the occupation as listed was somewhat ambiguous.*

The matter was resolved with much common sense; the committee determined that there should be 'no prejudice', which is perhaps a more polite way of saying 'no snobbery'. It added, 'Responsibility as to the suitability for membership rested with the proposer and seconder and the rules for guidance, when published, should assist members in this regard.'

Leaving aside some minor teething problems, the new category of membership worked well; the members so introduced were clearly of benefit to the Club. Although they might have lacked the appropriate service background, the new civilian members adapted well to the ethos of the Club. Over the 18 years since civilian membership was introduced, the Club has grown, become more financially secure and had its future assured. Civilian membership was the initiative of insight of the decade, perhaps the most important single factor of the time and certainly a contributing cause of the Club's current financial standing. As the president was able to note in the following year's annual report, 209 civilian members had joined in the year since the category had been created. Importantly they had made an important contribution to the improved trading position, a surplus of \$15,126.

But trading was still difficult. According to the president in the 1975 annual report, the improved trading position that year, after adverse experiences for the previous three, had come about because of actions taken by the committee, including the initially unpopular decision to impose a levy. Without that levy in 1974, the Club would have experienced a very large deficit and, given the difficult circumstances of the times, might not have survived as a Club. That year, 1974, also saw improved patronage of the Top Bar which the committee had thought about closing. The

*Early civilian members include some names now extremely prominent in Queensland business, including Barry Maranta, part owner of the Brisbane Broncos rugby league team. Maranta did not keep his membership current for very long. Another name was that of an accountant and businessman who later went to jail for offences against the Companies Act.

other decision, albeit that of the Club as a whole, was to admit civilian members. Perhaps this move, more than any other, ensured the Club's financial viability.

As the president noted in the 1975 annual report, trading figures indicated clearly that the Club could avoid mammoth increase in charges. But the committee was also forced to take other, unpopular decisions. That year, 1975, saw the end of the category of continuous honorary membership which was worked out according to a formula but meant, effectively, that their contributions from subscriptions diminished alarmingly. Early in 1975, the Club committee began to look at this category of members. The annual meeting that year amended the rules to provide for a new category, continuous membership, which provided a free subscription only to those members with 35 years on the books and who had retired from full-time work. This was badly drafted and needed to be rectified at the next annual general meeting.

This meeting also saw the membership reduce the size of the committee from 12 to 9 members, a move that was to make for more efficient committee work and a much more wieldy structure. Progressively the members had given the committee more powers, including the power to impose levies, to set entrance fees and subscriptions. The sum effect of these changes was eventually to bring the Club onto a more business-like footing, with the committee being equated to a board of directors and the secretary as the chief executive. However, this final step was still some years away.

* * *

The mid 1970s saw a decline in popularity, perhaps even the beginning of the end, of the Club's annual ball. What had begun as a splendidly colourful occasion immediately post-war* was now less than popular with the members and a continued battle on the committee's part to ensure that it ran without a loss. Suitable venues were difficult to find; Cloudland was long past its prime and the Club was also long past being able to fill this singular building. The City Hall had been tried on a number of occasions but it, too, was large and cavernous and difficult to fill. In March 1975, the sports and social sub-committee recommended that the ball be discontinued unless a suitable military venue could be found. The sub committee's reasons included: catering and service provided by private caterers were sub-standard, although top prices were charged; the control of the function was taken out of the Club's hands and therefore it was powerless to take action that would ensure members received value. Added the sub-committee:

*And, of course, had been a major social event before World War II.

Nowadays the ball has not the appeal, nor is it the service spectacle of past years. Furthermore it is doubtful if these admirable features could be revived. They certainly cannot unless the function reverts back [sic] to Club control and is held at a suitable venue. The question must be asked whether or not the Club is flogging a dead horse in persisting with the function. Our sister Clubs think so since none of them now hold this event.

The 1975 annual ball, planned to be held at the Crest Hotel (now the Mayfair Crest) on 8 August, was cancelled by the President, Group Captain Smith. At the time, Queensland was experiencing a series of power cuts caused by disruptions to coal supplies. As well, beer supplies were threatened, clearly an unsatisfactory state of affairs for a ball. The president's decision provoked some criticism at a subsequent committee meeting; it had been made, according to one committee member, 'precipitately' and without reference to the full committee. While that criticism might be justified, it is difficult to see whether the full committee would have made any other decision. Indeed, the president was justified in making the decision as quickly as he did, because of the urgency of the position. No debutantes had been nominated for presentation at the ball, and so the large parties that normally accompanied these young ladies could not be expected. Indeed, by the mid 1970s, the practice of 'presenting' debutantes survived only in rural pockets.*

The decline of the Ball as a Club institution has several explanations. First, and perhaps most obviously, was the ageing membership. The immediate post World War II balls were huge successes but the bright young men, recently returned from the war with a chestful of miniatures on colourful mess kit, were now middle-aged gentlemen. And the more youthful members of the Club had not been brought up in quite the same ball-going tradition. If they were ball-goers, there were other, competing attractions at that time of the year. For the others, while many might have owned a dinner jacket, few would have had white tie and tails, another form of dress that added to the glamour of the spectacle. Secondly, there were the changes to drinking and driving habits. Even before the days of random breath testing and 'booze buses' in Queensland, a man wearing a dinner jacket and black tie, and driving home in the early hours of the morning presented an easy target to an enthusiastic police officer. Thirdly, there was the cost: taxis, baby sitters, new dresses for the ladies...all added up to an expensive night out for younger members, many of whom had family responsibilities. Fourthly, a factor that contributed to the decline of the ball as a spectacle was the decision of the Army to abolish winter dress in Queensland in the mid-1970s. This meant that few young Reserve officers commissioned

*The Club's rules had long provided for the Ball to be an opportunity for debutantes to be presented. That rule no longer survives and the practice of presenting debutantes has been superseded by the holding of school formal balls at the end of Year 12.

after this time went to the trouble and expense of acquiring winter mess kit; the summer 'ice-cream jacket' became mess dress for the year. Reservists, rather than regulars, were by far the larger proportion of the active list service members, both then and now. Thus the sight of officers in their multi-hued winter mess kit - red and white for the infantry, black and red for the artillery, maroon and yellow for armoured corps - disappeared. As the sub-committee said, military balls were no longer a 'service spectacle'.* And, while the abandonment of the annual ball was covered in the president's report to members, the topic provoked no discussion at that year's general meeting.

All was not yet lost. The sports and social sub-committee met in January 1976 to prepare the social calendar for the year. Under the energetic efforts of Lieutenant Colonels Rod Fay and Vern Mullins, both artillery officers with a fine appreciation of balls and social life, and with the younger, equally energetic Captain David McMaugh helping, this sub-committee produced a very full program. Importantly from the ball's point of view, this sub-committee recommended holding it on the premises. 'The sub-committee considers that by careful planning and by making full use of the entire Club ... the ball could be successfully held at the Club. It is believed that a ball offering much better value for money could be offered to the members and that the ball would have a more intimate and club atmosphere as the size of the parties would probably be smaller.'

The sub-committee proved to be accurate in its assessment. The 1976 Ball was held at the Club, with more than 250 members and guests attending, a full house. The Band of the 1st Military District played on the Terrace; the army assisted with the loan of chairs, suitably insured, of course, and, according to the president's annual report the event was reminiscent of past years. 'No doubt with a determined effort this event will return to the splendour of yesteryear. That will be the aim for 1977.' So it was; the Club also managed to encourage the presentation of some debutantes to the Governor and patron, Commodore Sir James Ramsay. The following year, the ball was held at the Club but, perhaps inspired by the successes of the previous years, the 1979 committee aimed for a bigger, better ball at the Riverside Ballroom. Originally the sub-committee had been content with holding the Ball at the Club but ambition intervened. The Riverside venue was not a success; the ball lost more than \$1500 and the committee's enthusiasm for future ventures of this kind was markedly dampened.

If enthusiasm for the Ball was declining, there was no lack of support for another important item on the Club's social calendar, the Patron's Dinner. Over the years,

*Indeed attempts by various commanders of the 1st Military District, effectively Queensland, to hold an Army Officers Ball in Brisbane have not always been successful. In recent years, regular officers have been virtually ordered to attend such functions to ensure their success. The effect of such an order on the Ball's popularity can only be imagined.

succession of former service officers as Governors;* thus the Patron's Dinner, which began in the days of Sir Henry Abel Smith, has from the beginning had a distinctly service atmosphere. The Club rarely has had difficulty attracting sufficient members to a Patron's Dinner. During the mid 1970s, the other important social occasions included the Anzac Day luncheon, the Melbourne Cup Calcutta, the Annual Art Exhibition, the President's Mixed Dining Night and the Family Christmas Dinner at the Club. Some of these functions have disappeared or been replaced by other activities but the extensive heavy social calendar continues.

* * *

By the late 1970s, 'Montpelier' was certainly showing its age. The Club's documents of the time tell of a continuing battle to keep the premises in good repair. For example, in the 1978 annual report, the president, Captain O M 'Ossie' May outlined the improvements to the Club made during the year.

Some of these improvements will be obvious to members such as the redecorating of the Dining Room, the installation of better equipment and fittings in both bars and the completely remodelled bottle department. Not so readily observed will be the measures taken to improve the safety and efficiency of the premises and the comfort of members, namely rewiring and electrical installations, re-modelling of lift machine room and lift maintenance area and overhaul of plumbing throughout the Club resulting in improved hot water service to all Club areas. Considerable work has been carried out to improve kitchen efficiency and service including a new freezer and serving area.

The 'improvements' were, as can be seen, merely maintenance of a large building. Six months later, the mid-year bulletin of the Club, Uniser, returned to the same theme of improvements. It noted that all five suites had been air-conditioned, refurnished, wall-papered and painted; hot water reticulation had been improved; electrical breakdowns were 'now a thing of the past'; fire extinguishers had been fitted; the snack bar had been repainted; the servery bar had also been repainted and the billiard room carpeted. This latter improvement was long overdue; guests in the suites below the billiard room often complained of players banging the end of their cues on the floor between and before shots. 'It was,' complained one guest, 'like living inside a kettle drum.' This period also saw the refurnishing of the reading room, including a memorial to the late Lieutenant Colonel Little.

*The only exception in recent years has been Sir Alan Mansfield whose lack of service background did not diminish his popularity as Governor or as patron of the United Service Club.

Little had died three years earlier; in December 1974, the convenor of the house and finance sub-committee, Flight Lieutenant Jock Tuckfield raised the question of a memorial to Little. Tuckfield felt strongly on this issue; he had joined the Club in 1947 and had been one of the post-war beneficiaries of Little's drive and enthusiasm. Under Tuckfield's guidance, this sub-committee recommended that the Little memorial take the form of a suitable antique bookcase 'to house the [Australian] War memorial collection of books known as the "Lal Little memorial library".' The minutes for the annual general meeting in 1978 comment simply:

A number of members spoke on the matter of a memorial for the late Dr Little. The President spoke on the matter and indicated that the new committee would be considering a suitable memorial to Dr Little and suggested that the matter could safely be left in their hands during the coming year.

There is, however, the suggestion that some members believed that the committee was not moving sufficiently quickly on this issue. The committee, perhaps impressed by the feeling of the members at the 1978 annual general meeting, responded; in the 1979 report, Captain May wrote: 'In accordance with the request of members at the last annual general meeting, an antique bookcase has been purchased and war histories from the War Memorial in Canberra have been installed in memory of the late Lieutenant Colonel L A Little MBE, ED'. It was a fitting memorial to Little, for whom the reading room and library had always been an important part of his Club.

A Decade of Great Changes

The 1980s opened with the United Service Club in reasonably good shape. In the time since the category of civilian membership had been created, the opposition among some older service members had eased and increasing numbers of civilians were being accepted into the Club. For example, the 1980 annual report shows 615 civilian members, a significant increase on the 501 members in 1978 and the 577 in 1979. Certainly the civilian members had helped to boost the overall rolls: 2417 members were on the books at the end of August 1980, compared with 2377 in 1979, and 2304 in 1978. The minutes and other records of the period suggest pressures from some committee members to increase the numbers of this category. Colonel Colin Wilson, in particular, was one who argued for an increase in the proportional size of the civilian membership, then at 40 per cent of members entitled to vote. He was not successful. In this area, the Club moved only slowly.

Despite the boom in computer accounting and stocktaking systems available in the late 1970s - early 1980s, the Club also moved only slowly into the computer age. Indeed, at times it seemed that successive committees might not have been too happy with the advances of modern technology; the Club bought a photocopier only after long and deliberate discussion; the first computer appeared in 1982 after some extensive investigations were carried out by a member and computer expert, Colonel Denis Luttrell.* The April 1982 members' accounts were the first produced on this small computer system. What seems now like a relatively straightforward and simple acquisition for the Club was the subject of long discussions. It is possible to detect in the minutes a certain reluctance on the part of some committee members to embrace the new technology.** Yet the Club needed to improve its internal book-keeping practices.

In mid 1980, the Club suffered from lax book-keeping procedures. Writing in the 1980 annual report, the president, Major General Kelly told members that profit for

*Now a major general and head of the Army Reserve, Denis Luttrell was at the time a senior computer official with SGIO, later Suncorp. His expertise assisted the Club greatly in the acquisition of a computer. Through its history, the Club has been fortunate in being able to draw on members with particular expertise for particular projects.

**That reluctance was not confined to committee members of the United Service Club. In May 1980, journalists around Australia were involved in a five-week strike over their reluctance to use computers in newspaper production.

that year had been reduced by the writing off as a bad debt the unrecovered sum of an amount of \$5573 which represented signed chits from three days' trading in June 1980. The minutes of that annual meeting suggest a certain sanguinity on the part of members to this debt, with no discussion recorded on the issue. In general business certainly, the members seemed more interested in discussing the state of their lavatories and indeed, moving quickly to the end of the meeting and the 'usual drinks' in the Top Bar. But the problem was rather more serious than this cursory attention by members indicates.

A wad of trading chits for three days in June that year had been misplaced. The procedure was that chits were collected from the bars, dining room, and bottle shops, sorted into alphabetical order and then later entered to members' accounts. Once sorted, the chits were kept in a wooden box next to the accounting machine. Today these procedures might seem lax; the chits, although valueless to anyone, represented sales revenue to the Club. Three days trading of more than \$7000, in this case. Once the chits were discovered to be missing, a thorough investigation was launched. The results of this investigation survive in the minutes today; it was inconclusive, despite the assistance of the police. It is possible that the chits were thought to be waste paper and thrown into the rubbish; it is also possible that someone, possibly an employee, with a grudge against the Club removed the chits. At the time, no one could discover where the chits had gone or why they had disappeared. The investigation concluded:

The president has recommended that June accounts sent out in the first week of July are to include all chits together with a letter...that members who had made purchases in the bottle department, servery and top bars on June 6th, 7th and 9th had not been charged as those chits had been mislaid. Accordingly if members found that they had been undercharged for purchases on those days, they are requested to contact the secretary with a view to payment of the undercharged amount.

The president's recommendation was duly followed. However, as the finance subcommittee minutes for July note, albeit somewhat forlornly: 'The secretary advised that to-date only \$1520 had been recovered. It was recommended that a further letter should be despatched with the July accounts pointing out that the overall account had been less than anticipated.' In the event, only an additional \$63 was recovered from members. It was not an episode in which either the Club's management or its membership could take much pride. A similar failure is far less likely to occur today; improvements in accounting and security procedures, including a modern computer system, ensure that members accounts are quickly and accurately entered.

**At the time, the chits were debited to accounts and then forwarded to members at the end of each month, presumably so they might be checked for accuracy. Increases in postage costs meant this practice ended soon afterwards.



The Light Horseman, a statuette by Peter Dornan.

*Brigadier Colin David Francis
Wilson RFD ED. Born 1928.
President 1975–76. Trustee
1989.*

*Captain Osmonde Marshall May OBE
VRD RANR. Born 1923. President
1977–78.*

*Major General The Hon Jack
Lawrence Kelly CBE. Born
1920. President 1979–80.*





Colonel Vernard William Mullins ED. Born 1935. President 1981–82.



Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams. Born 1919. President 1983–84. Life member 1990.



Brigadier Murray James Brown MC ED. Born 1919. President 1985.

Jacarandas and rear view of the Club, a painting by K Wenzell.



The early 1980s also saw the introduction of the credit-card style membership card which persists to the time of writing. This membership card was introduced only after long discussion and consideration by the committee; the advantages over the previous cardboard membership card were obvious. However, the June 1981 issue of the Club bulletin observed: 'For greater efficiency, the accounting system in the bottle shop and the dining room has been changed. This should eliminate losses and mistakes and members have been asked to assist by carrying their Club card when making purchases in the bottle shop or dining room.' The introduction of the new membership card and the improved accounting procedures were attempts by the committee to bring the Club's operations to a more business-like footing. One important consequence of introduction of the new systems was the ability to carry out random checks on any line item; another was to process members' accounts on a daily basis.

Some Club stalwarts retired around this time. The chief steward, Jack Collins, had been with the Club since before World War II, during which he served in both the army, briefly, and the Merchant Navy. A testimonial fund raised more than \$5000 for this loyal and valued Club employee. Mrs Armanasco, the well-liked 'Mrs A', the dining room supervisor for many years, retired at the end of June 1982 because of ill-health. She, too, received a testimonial fund. As Colonel Mullins, then the Club president, noted at the time, she would be greatly missed by all members. In August 1980, too, the Club lost Flight Lieutenant Cash, then a committee member, who died suddenly while in office.

In 1982, Brisbane was host to the Commonwealth Games. Many observers see this event as an important contributing factor to the maturing of Brisbane as a capital city from its days as a large country town. Certainly the 1982 Games and Expo six years later resulted in huge changes to Brisbane, not all to its physical appearance. The Club prepared for the 1982 Games as early as September 1980 when the house sub-committee sought policy directions on the use of accommodation by members of overseas and interstate reciprocal clubs. As the sub-committee noted, 'acceptance of such bookings at this time could jeopardise a country member's opportunity to attend.' The policy direction was subsequently given; members were encouraged to book early and, for the time being, bookings were not to be accepted 'other than from members'. This decision raises a difficult issue about reciprocity; at times of peak demand for any club's facilities, are members of reciprocal clubs to be given any preference or is it, simply, a case of looking after own members' first? Clearly the committee thought that the latter policy applied. Later in the decade, the experiences during the Commonwealth Games proved to be valuable to the committee in making policy for the strong accommodation demand. Both the Commonwealth Games and Expo, in 1988, meant increased trading for the Club, not just in additional demand for accommodation, but also in dining and entertaining by members.

One of the most enthusiastic recruiters of new members was Colin Wilson, who retired from the Army Reserve in 1983 with the rank of Brigadier. Colin Wilson* is chairman of Wilson Timbers, and a very successful and significant businessman in Brisbane. As a committee member, as president and later as a guiding 'elder statesman' of the Club, Wilson was always looking for new members. He was also an early and forceful advocate of civilian membership. In early 1981, while holding the position of assistant commander, 1st Division,** Wilson wrote to every Army Reserve officer in Queensland. The letter is worth reproducing, at least in part, because it is the first recruiting campaign targeted at a specific group - in this case, officers of the Army Reserve - embarked upon by the Club. Other recruiting campaigns, aimed at recent graduates of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, were to follow. In the letter, Colin Wilson's message was clear:

Membership of the Club carries with it privileges not available to people outside...such as reciprocal rights with other Clubs within Australia and overseas. Membership fees are not expensive and I believe that all A(rmy) Res(erve) officers can easily afford the fees out of their non-taxed army pay. Additionally special rates apply for country and remote members. The United Service Club could well do with your membership and support...The numbers of service members are steadily falling and the future of this great Club is really in our hands. How about your support?

After an appropriate discussion, the committee decided that it would meet the cost of posting Brigadier Wilson's letter. A similar letter was sent to the naval officer in charge, Brisbane and to the headquarters, RAAF, Amberley. Membership support by Army Reserve officers had varied over the years but the Club always managed to attract a fair percentage of these officers, particularly those whose business or professional offices were in the city and who could make use of the Club during the day. Regular officers were in a different category when it came to attracting them to join. In seeking members from the ranks of serving regular officers, of any service, the Club always faced difficulties. For a regular officer, the mess I - or should be - the focus of social life, particularly if he or she is young and living-in.*** If the mess is

*With Vernon Mullins and 'Sam' Harrison, Wilson was in an ideal position to recruit members of the Army Reserve to the United Services Club. Indeed, it used to be said - in jest of course - by some Queensland reserve officers that the prerequisites for promotion were service with the Queensland University Regiment and membership of the United Service Club, not necessarily in that order.

**An Army Reserve brigadier's position which no longer exists. Colin Wilson, a veteran of the Korean War in which he served as an infantry subaltern, was a forceful and dedicated officer who had the distinction of commanding both an infantry battalion and an armoured personnel carrier regiment. He was unlucky not to command the Reserve formation based in Brisbane.

***A phenomenon that is less and less common as officers marry younger and seek life outside the army.

well-run, with an active committee and a majority of enthusiastic young - under 30, for example, - members, then the social programme is active and full. Particularly for young officers serving in regimental postings, there is not much time for any competing social program such as the one offered by the United Service Club. The advantages of membership of a club thus are not always apparent to young officers. However, as they become more senior, travel more, serve on a formation headquarters* and begin to look to a life after the army (or the navy, or the air force for that matter), the advantages become more obvious. Later, we will look at the efforts to recruit and to retain the young graduates of institutions such as the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

As assistant commander of the 1st Division, Colin Wilson was also in a singular position to persuade some relatively senior former professional soldiers to join the Club. Among the new members to join at this time were three regular or former regular lieutenant colonels: Jack Innes, David Rankine and John Oxenham. At the time, Innes was assistant commander of the 1st Training Group at Wacol; David Rankine and John Oxenham had recently left the regular army and were serving with the Reserve. Both commanded reserve units, Rankine the 9th Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment and Oxenham the 2/ 14th Queensland Mounted Infantry.**

* * *

In June 1981, the Club hosted a reunion for members of 463 and 467 Squadrons of the Royal Australian Air Force. Here, the Club rules not to mention the licensing laws, had to be followed with care; the squadron members who were not Club members were invited as guests. It seemed a curiously convoluted process, but one that was necessary under the strict laws that then applied. The reunion was a splendid occasion and the Club's facilities were favourably commented upon by many members and non-members alike.

But once again, the question of redevelopment began to emerge. In March 1981 a 'future development sub-committee', as it was now entitled, met. This sub-committee included such stalwarts as Vernard Mullins, Richard Cameron and Colin Wilson. Again it is worth looking at this committee's deliberations in some detail, if only for the recurring themes that run through the Club's history.

*Or worse still, a military district headquarters where youthful officers are relatively thin on the ground.

**In Vietnam, David Rankine had won a well-merited Military Cross and was mentioned in despatches as a company commander; 20 years later his soldiers from that time were instrumental in having him selected as Queensland Father of the Year. John Oxenham achieved a measure of fame when serving in Townsville; some infantry subalterns, led by an officer who was later killed fighting with the Rhodesian army, painted his armoured personnel carrier a shade of bright pink. It was known ever after as the 'pink panzer'.

A number of options were perceived to be open to the Club. These included: sell all the property and move to new premises which could either be bought or leased; sell part of the property and develop the remainder; develop all the property together; develop all the property in stages; retain the Club building, but not the Green House and develop the remainder, and decide whether the Club should sell, lease or rent any portion of the developed properties.

Using an approach similar to that of a military appreciation the sub-committee then moved to the next factor to be considered: 'If we develop, then what type of development should be undertaken. Commercial car parking, units or office block?' And then, what was the timetable for the development? In typically forthright fashion, Brigadier Wilson made his views clear; 'whatever the decisions, the Club should in future provide...members with...facilities of a standard and elegance no less than those currently provided: ample parking; accommodation; dining and snack bar facilities; bar and lounge facilities; function rooms; billiard rooms; reading room; administration areas; bottle shop and cellar facilities.'

In considering all these options and requirements, the sub-committee was faced with a number of difficulties. One was the different zonings of the Club's properties: the Club itself and the Green House were zoned commercial A; San Remo and the lower car park zoned residential C; the entrance to the Club from Edward Street commercial B and the exit to Berry Street residential C. Thus any development that covered all the Club's properties would require rezoning of some, if not all, the titles. Rezoning was neither an easy nor a speedy process. Results could not be guaranteed. Councils and government departments could be remarkably fickle. As well, at the time the State Government and the Brisbane City Council were disagreeing over the future use of Spring Hill.* This disagreement was expected to be resolved when the 1983 Town Plan was issued.

Although the maintenance requirements of the Club building were heavy in the early 1980s, the Club was trading well, in a sound financial position and under no apparently urgent financial problems. Committees of this period were busy with the detail of running the Club and solving problems on a day-to-day basis; the forward planning that existed concerned largely the future of the Wickham Terrace site. Replacement with a comparable building, offering comparable facilities, would cost about \$2 million. That could only be achieved, the sub-committee thought, by selling the existing premises and moving. Yet all agreed that the Club had to remain in a central location; the current site was 'excellent'. This is important because this subcommittee consisted of men who, although far from elderly, were no longer young, who used the Club on a regular, even daily basis, and who had no complaints to make

*Which was then in the early stages of the process, since much accelerated, known as 'gentrification', the restoration and refurbishment of older buildings.

about 'climbing the hill'. In the event, this future development sub-committee decided to recommend that nothing be done with the site until after publication of the Spring Hill plan in 1983. The sub-committee also recommended that purchase of the site on the Wickham Terrace side of the Berry Street exit be investigated 'if it becomes available'. There, the recommendations rested, much to the relief of at least one future president who thought that more urgent problems needed to be solved.

In the following year's report, Colonel Mullins, then the president, noted: 'The Future Development Sub-Committee has not yet reported on options for development but is expected to do so in the current year'. However, important improvements were made to the Club during this time. Eleven air-conditioned, modern self-contained suites were available for members and guests; a PABX telephone system had been installed and progressive refurbishment of the premises was continuing.

The early 1980s also saw a resurgence of popularity in the Club Ball. Support by members for this occasion had varied over the years. In the late 1970s, declining numbers meant the Ball was transformed into a formal dinner dance; the problems facing ball organisers outlined in earlier chapters were still apparent in the early 1980s. But it seemed that with an enthusiastic committee, good planning and a suitable venue, support for the Ball in the early 1980s was good. In 1981, the ball subcommittee consisted of a number of younger members, including Captain Richard Palk, then serving with the Queensland University Regiment, but now a regular officer and, at the time of writing, senior army public relations officer at Headquarters, Land Command, in Sydney. With Palk also was Major John Dowsett, also a QUR officer and now a Supreme Court judge. John Dowsett's capacity for painstakingly detailed work and Dick Palk's enthusiasm for social events were contributing factors to the success of the 1981 Ball and indeed, to its re-emergence as a social event. As Colonel Mullins wrote in the June 1982 issue of *Uniser*: 'The annual ball is firmly re-established as one of Brisbane's premier social events and, last year, the ballroom was booked to capacity. The Ball committee is working to ensure another glittering occasion ...' That year, the Ball was indeed a 'glittering occasion'; some members who nominated late had to be placed on a waiting list; more than 260 members and guests enjoyed the night. As Colonel Mullins remarked in the annual report, 'it was pleasing to see two generations of some Club families having a thoroughly enjoyable time at a Club function.'

Social life of the Club settled into a comfortable routine in the 1980s: the Ball, the Patron's Dinner, musical evenings....each managed to attract a good level of support. Music hall evenings, deriving from the old 'sing-a-long' concerts were suspended, however, in favour of a dinner dance at which the Clare Hansson jazz trio entertained members and guests. Ms Hansson and her long-time drummer Bob Watson are superb jazz musicians; their style of jazz is both easy listening and most

Suitable for dancing. This was the beginning of a long, happy association between the Clare Hansson trio and the United Service Club which continues at the time of writing.

Inflation and increased operating costs continued to make life difficult in the 1980s. The Club rules had been changed in 1974 so that entrance fees and subscriptions could be set by the committee, rather than by a meeting of members. Throughout the 1970s, various committees faced the always difficult task of increasing subscriptions; members became used to the fact that such rises were inevitable. In May, 1981, the house and finance sub-committee recommended that fees be increased from 1st September: town service and civilian members would pay \$100 joining fee and \$100 subscription; country members would pay \$50 subscription with associate and remote members each paying \$20. At the time, the sub-committee went to the trouble of obtaining comparable figures from other Brisbane clubs. The Queensland Club had a joining fee of \$500 and a subscription of \$360; the Brisbane Club's joining fee was \$480 with a subscription of \$240 and Tattersalls Club was \$200 to join and \$50 in subscriptions. The Johnsonian,* then a near neighbour of the United Service Club, was \$50 to join and \$150 a year. Sister clubs in Sydney and Melbourne had comparable fees: The Imperial Service Club was \$125 for males to join and \$300 a year for town members, with appropriate reductions for country, interstate and remote members. The Naval and Military Club** in Melbourne was \$100 to join and \$175 for town members. Each club offered discounted joining fees for newly-commissioned officers.

Apart from a minor variation to the fees for country members, the full committee accepted the sub-committee's recommendation and the higher fees were imposed. Little reaction from members was apparent. That year's annual report covered the need to increase fees in some detail:

An increase in subscriptions, which was foreshadowed in last year's annual report, became necessary. Although a careful watch is kept on expenditure this will almost inevitably continue to increase if current economic trends are maintained as appears likely. Every effort must therefore be made to attain a corresponding increase in income and subscriptions are obviously a significant item. In addition there are items of expenditure which have been approved by the committee since the end of the financial year for improvements in Club accommodation and for the introduction of a fire warning system for the protection of members, visitors and staff and of the Club's property. In the circumstances the fact that this is the first increase in three years may be regarded as a matter for some satisfaction.

*Now, alas, departed.

**At the time of writing, the Naval & Military Club has an annual subscription of \$500. A fee at that level is a real disincentive to potential new members and a source of continuing problems for that club.

And so it was by members at that year's annual meeting. The question of increased subscriptions did not arise. Members were concerned about the age of the Club's lift and the possibility of a sinking fund or special reserve for its eventual replacement. In discussion about staff turnover, Major Peter Henderson warned the committee that, on legal grounds, the reasons for dismissals should not be made public. Other members raised questions about the poor trading in the Top Bar on Friday lunchtimes - drink driving laws were blamed - and about the changed entrances and exits to the Club. But the annual meeting that year was over in an hour and 20 minutes and again, members joined the President for the 'usual drinks' in the Top Bar.

Other annual meetings in the early 1980s followed similar patterns. Members had few causes for complaint; the Club was trading profitably, providing popular services to members and guests; socially the level of activities was at what the Club could adequately and profitably support. The Ball was popular but, with a maximum of 260 members, was nothing like the glittering occasion of the immediate post-war years. The wine sub-committee during this year was notable for its enthusiasm, and indeed, occasionally had to be reminded that there were limits to the Club's cellar capacity. But there was also about the Club's activities a certain comfortable sameness, a feeling that one year followed the next with predictable reality. Reading through the minutes and the bulletins for the period reinforces the impression of a Club comfortable in its complacency and imbued with the notion that too rapid change is not necessarily always welcome. This was not the fault - if, indeed, fault is the right word - of the committees of the time. Even until the mid 1980s, the committees were overly occupied with much of the detail of running the Club, while the secretary/manager was perhaps not allowed to fulfil the role of the chief executive of a by-now large, small business. But by the mid 1980s, it was also apparent that several factors were combining to threaten the Club's future.

Certain difficulties for the Club began to emerge in late 1984. In that year's annual report, the president, Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams, reported a 'near parity of income and expenditure'. However this was despite efforts to economise; the president said such a result emphasised the wisdom of a recent decision to increase subscriptions each year. This increase was to take account of inflation. Without that policy, said Adams, the Club would have run into a substantial deficit. A glance at the finance reports for that year reveals the potential seriousness of the problems. Total departmental sales for the year to 31 August were \$1,087,782, a decrease of \$1365. Total department gross profit was \$188,230, or \$25,725 below that of the previous year. Gross revenue or income, excluding subscriptions, was down; expenditure was higher and it was only, as Adams said, an increase in subscriptions that produced a small net surplus of \$427.

All effort was continued [wrote Adams in the annual report] during the year to restrain costs but yet provide that standard of maintenance of the Club's property, facilities and services that Members expect. Members will appreciate from the financial net result that the margin of income to costs is extremely fine.

The careful phrasing of the annual report, however, does not disguise the difficulties faced by the Club at the time. Revenues were declining, simply because fewer members were using the Club's facilities. Certainly the Bottle Shop was facing increased competition from liquor barns. This was a time of great competition in the bottled liquor market and Club loyalty for many members did not extend as far as passing up a bargain in bottled beer or whisky. At the annual meeting that year, Adams blamed the liquor barns and changed drinking habits for the lower result but one member, Squadron Leader Trevor Alley, an astute businessman, disagreed. He told the meeting that a more active marketing campaign would improve Club sales. Alley was right; Adams was being loyal to his committee and to his staff. Brigadier Brown also had a point when he argued that beer sales on a national basis had fallen by nearly 10 percent. But it was also clear that the Club's marketing and catering functions needed improvements.

This was an important meeting on another issue. Rule 13 (j), which dealt with the civilian members, was before the meeting for amendment. In effect, the amendment sought to increase the percentage of civilians from 40 to 50 percent of service members. In financial terms, the time was appropriate for an increase in the percentage of civilian members; the trading result was not very good and it was clear, from previous experience, that civilian members were good Club supporters. There was still some residual opposition to the idea; Flying Officer Harvey and Squadron Leader Alley both spoke against the idea, even going to the extent of using the dreaded phrase, 'thin edge of the wedge'. But Air Commodore Kingwell, a forceful man of definite opinions, spoke for most members when he said the arguments being advanced by both Alley and Harvey were a repeat of similar arguments used when civilians first joined the Club. Kingwell believed that civilians wanted to join the Club, wanted to make a contribution to the Club and they should be encouraged to do so. Service members, however, should continue to control the Club. A brief extract from the minutes should give the flavour of this meeting.

Squadron Leader Alley requested information as to what had been done to encourage regular service and reserve officers to join the Club. Colonel Mullins responded and stated that major efforts were made by previous presidents but the nature of service mess life was such that the Club could not compete. Major (Stephen) Maitland stated that he was in favour of the motion and could not see that an increase in civilian membership would affect the Club. Brigadier Brown stated that he had heard the same story in

Washington and London. It is a universal problem and concerns aging membership. Lieutenant Colless pointed out that civilian expenditure in the Club was in the order of 45 percent of total receipts. The motion was put. The motion was carried by 50 votes in favour, including 20 postal votes, to 12 against.

But this motion still limited civilian membership to 50 percent of the total number of members eligible to vote in Club elections, in other words, the service members. The big expansion of civilian members was yet to come.

The period immediately after the 1984 annual meeting was difficult for the committee and the president. It was clear that trading was below expectations and budgets. A meeting of the house and finance sub-committee on 30 November, chaired by Brigadier Murray Brown, heard of a net operating loss of nearly \$30,000 for October. Only after the application of subscriptions and entrance fees was this deficit reduced to \$5335. The wisdom of applying entrance fees, in particular, to cover operating losses of any magnitude had to be questioned yet the committee was more concerned, it seems, with reducing the size of those losses, admittedly a much more immediate problem.

The house and finance sub-committee was very concerned at the 'very poor', to use the words in the minute, catering return for October. Sales were 10 percent below budget, but the gross profit ratio of sales to cost of sales was also well below the norm. As a result the sub-committee recommended that catering figures be extracted and examined weekly (the ability to do so existed on the computer system) and dining room, snack bar and function prices be increased by 10 percent immediately. At the same meeting, the sub-committee heard of a loss of about \$120 on the Ladies Melbourne Cup luncheon and a shortfall of nearly \$30 in the collection for the Club Calcutta. Small amounts, admittedly, but indicative of some larger problems. These problems were undoubtedly the cause of the resignation of the then Club manager, Wing Commander Whytcross, whose relations with some key members of the committee had become strained. It would be wrong and unfair, however, to attribute all of the responsibility for the Club's position at this time to Wing Commander Whytcross.

The committee, collectively and some members rather more quickly than others, was coming to realise that the United Service Club required a different style of management. Unusually, although perhaps not so under the circumstances, the house and finance sub-committee met on 3 January to review the accounts; significant improvements were apparent in the catering account, although the Club was still returning net operating loss for November of about \$19,000. This should have been a good trading period for the Club and, although liquor sales were above Budget, the margins in the dining room and other areas of the Club's operations were still disappointing.

For several months in early 1985, the Club was virtually run by the President who

had, fortunately enough, sufficient time available to take on the demands of a busy operation with more than its share of difficulties. A job specification for the secretary and manager's role was drawn up in January and the position advertised. The selection panel, comprising the president, Flight Lieutenant Adams; the vice president, Brigadier Brown and the immediate past president, Colonel Mullins, were determined to find the man who most nearly fitted their specification, and not to be satisfied with the best of an indifferent list of applicants. This took time and a second advertisement, but after nearly three months of trying, they were able, with confidence to offer the position to Lieutenant Colonel G M Bagot. Guy Bagot's background of permanent army service, including Vietnam, experience in business and admirable personal qualities were judged to be adequate for the task. There was also a bonus that his duties as aide-de-camp to the Governor General in 1971, and as Equerry to the Queen in 1982, had made him well versed in protocol and in dealing with people of all ranks. Once settled in the job, he was given the opportunity to make recommendations for the future management of the Club and, six years later, it is reaping the benefit of control systems and management practices superior to anything it had in the past.

Just before the arrival of the new secretary and manager it had become necessary to make appointments in other key positions, notably the assistant manager for catering and the head of the accounts department and their contributions in these areas have been valuable in improving standards of control and efficiency. These changes in 1985 represented a turning point for the Club which set it on a progressive path, leading to financial viability. This has enabled extensive improvements to be made during the past five years. Most notable among these have been the redesign of the rear entrance and the refurbishment of the dining room and function areas.

In the 1985 annual report, the president, Flight Lieutenant Adams described the most important achievement of the year as 'the upgrading of club management by redefining objectives and responsibilities and by bringing in new people, with appropriate skills, to fill key staff positions. The financial results for the year clearly reflect the benefits of effective management and adequate controls in operational areas. This more than justifies the higher cost of professional staff. A foundation has been laid for continuing improvements in efficiency and service which should carry on well into the future'.

After a difficult period in the latter half of 1984, the financial position of the Club improved markedly. However total gross revenue, or income, while about \$30,000 more than the previous year, was more than matched by total expenditure, itself about \$20,000 above that of the year before. The Club returned a net surplus only after applying members' entrance fees and subscriptions.

One of the early tasks to which the committee turned in 1986 was the problem of senior and continuous members. Research by the newly-elected president, Brigadier

Murray Brown, produced for the committee in graph form, showed the potential problems arising from the growth in the numbers of members who were entitled, by virtue of their length of membership and their age, to much reduced subscriptions. This was a recipe for financial problems. The potential problems were appreciated outside the committee as well. At the 1985 annual meeting, Major Peter Henderson, as always an astute observer of trends within the Club, expressed his concern at the growth in the category of full continuous members. Major Henderson's concern was justified: this category had increased from 321 in 1983, to 323 the following year but had risen sharply, to 443 in 1985. By comparison, the number of town members - those members who might be expected to make most use of the Club - had declined, down from 757 in 1983 to 738 in 1984 and to 694 in 1985. Group Captain Smith, a former president, added that he thought the new committee should examine the Club rules closely. He thought they had become out of date. And so they had. Brigadier Brown, then newly in the chair as Club president, promised the annual meeting a thorough review of the rules and a review of the membership list.

At the same time, legislative changes by the Federal Government in the area of sexual discrimination meant that Clubs such as the United Service had to examine closely their rules. A working party on the Club rules, convened by Colonel Mullins was established in December 1985. Submissions were sought and these were to be in the hands of the working party by the following March. In early 1986, another working party was examining the possible establishment of a United Service Club Foundation, with the aim of providing the Club with true liquid reserves. After a careful consideration of the possibilities, this option was discarded. The establishment costs, of about \$400,000, were too great. A far simpler solution was proposed by Brigadier Brown and accepted. The Club capitalised entrance fees wherever possible, beginning in 1987, and segregated them into a trustees' account, thus giving the Club manoeuvre room for hard times.

The notice for the 94th annual general meeting included proposed rule changes. In particular the changes affected town, country and remote members who had been members for not less than 35 years. The proposed change saw these members classed as senior members, whose subscription would be fixed at one-third the annual fee which would otherwise have been paid. Changes to the existing category of continuous member were proposed. Eligibility for this category depended upon both age and period of membership. For example, a member of 65 who had been a member for 35 years paid no subscription, because the total of age and membership was 100 years. A total of age plus membership of 95 years attracted 15 percent subscriptions; age plus membership of 90 years 30 percent and a total of 85 years attracted 50 percent. The minutes of the annual meeting are notably brief on the debate that followed but the result of the vote was clear enough: 79 votes in favour (including postal votes) with 25 against. Even so, the issue had the potential to be divisive within

the Club and, if not rectified, also quite serious in its possible consequences. At the same time, this change of rule safeguarded the rights of those continuous members who were enjoying reduced subscription rates under the previous scheme. These members would retain their rights but would not progress to lower rates. Their subscription fees would be frozen at the current proportion of the full rate, unless they opted to transfer to senior membership when eligible.

The following year saw members discuss the results of the major rules review which had been carried out by teams of working parties chaired by Flying Officer Alex Overett, the vice president, and assisted most notably by the Club's solicitor, Mr William Boyd of Cannan and Peterson. In the report that year, the president, Brigadier Lee Greville, set out the reasoning behind the rule changes. First, the eligibility of membership provisions. The Club had to comply with the provisions of the Federal Sex Discrimination Act of October, 1984. 'This requires that both males and females be eligible to be elected to service or civilian membership in accordance with their appropriate category,' he wrote. Secondly, on the issue of voting rights, as civilian members now comprised almost 30 percent of the membership and were very supportive of the Club, the committee believes they should be entitled to vote at meetings or ballots.

However, in terms of representation, the committee believed that principal management should continue to be vested in service members. Civilian members should be eligible to stand for election for up to two of the eight committee positions. In his report, Brigadier Greville told members that the proposals needed to be seen as a whole. The committee had sought to balance preservation of the Club objects with an inevitable decline in service member numbers over the next 10 years, together with equity for what he described as 'very supportive civilian membership'.

In earlier years, committees might have been tempted to seek approval for rule changes, even significant rule changes such as those proposed here, on the night of the annual general meeting after 21 days warning on the notice of meeting. Such was the importance of these changes, however, that the 1987 committee decided to give members maximum time for discussion, first taking opinions at the annual general meeting and then coming back with the revisions, if any, to the next annual meeting. In effect, members were given a year's notice.

The first change proposed, dealing with eligibility of membership, provoked some useful discussion, but the significant contribution to the debate was made by the Club's solicitor. This change, Bill Boyd told the meeting, was a matter of legislative necessity. The United Service Club was operating in a very different legislative and social climate to that which prevailed at the time of the great expansion in membership soon after World War II.

The annual meeting's consideration of the other proposed rule changes was comprehensive, without being exhaustive. Proposals on voting rights and committee

representation attracted good support from the floor, again an indication of the by now complete acceptance of civilians within the Club. A suggestion that civilian membership of committees be directly proportional to numbers within the Club was put but discarded after discussion on the practical difficulties inherent in such an idea.

After some discussion on the methods of proposing new members, it was clear that the meeting thought the proposals had been debated fully enough. The president thanked the members for their contribution and, just to underline the continuing commitment to the need for new service members, reminded the meeting that he would again soon be addressing the graduating class of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, 'to enlist as many as possible of these young officers immediately after they were commissioned'. This was an initiative taken, not surprisingly by the Duntroon graduate president and Duntroon graduate secretary and manager on a thought by Brigadier Max Simkin, a Duntroon graduate and committee man, and father of another Duntroon graduate and Club member. In the past, there had been some mild feeling - antipathy is certainly too strong a word - to Duntroon graduates among some Club members, a remnant perhaps of the sad old militia-staff corps rivalries of World War II. Lee Greville was not the first Duntroon graduate to become president of the United Service Club. That distinction belongs to Major Douglas Murphy. But Murphy had left the army at the end of World War II, gone to university and established a successful stockbroking firm. Among those members for whom the staff corps-militia rivalry still had importance, Murphy's military origins could be overlooked.

But there was no mistaking the origins or the careers of people such as Lee Greville, 'Digger' James, Max Simkin or Guy Bagot. The growing maturity of the Club, in all sense, was evident in the acceptance of these officers as office bearers and executives of the Club; the initiative to recruit young RMC graduates was welcome and long overdue. Indeed, had such an initiative been taken earlier, particularly given the number of service officers who have retired in south-east Queensland, the number of service members in the Club might have been significantly higher.

Since June 1987, about 50 from each graduating class of between 110 and 120 Duntroon cadets have joined the Club. Of these, 31 percent have retained their membership for two years or more. The Club has also received strong support from various commandants of the Royal Military College including Major General Murray Blake and Brigadier Rod Curtis.* The scheme has been very successful. With a similar scheme used to attract OCTU graduates, the Club now has 350 members under 29 compared with 21 in 1987.

*Major General Blake, AO, MC and Brigadier Curtis AM, MC are both Club members of long-standing and frequent visitors when in Brisbane.

During 1987, the committee commissioned Tim Walsh and Associates, marketing consultants, to carry out an additional survey of the Club. This was designed to provide the committee with an internal audit of the Club facilities and usage, with the main thrust being an investigation of member' attitudes. The first stage, a qualitative survey, covered the attitude of 233 members. The results of this survey were communicated to members during the year through the newsletter. In summary, the report revealed that members found the changes to the Club, particularly the growth of civilian membership, 'regrettable but largely inevitable'. Equally, however, the members doubted the wisdom of trying to recapture what they saw as the 'lost military atmosphere and influence'. Most importantly, according to Tim Walsh, the civilian members who joined the Club were 'on-side' with the military atmosphere and in favour of retaining the military influence. 'It is important for the Club to retain a unique identity,' he said. 'Most members are, generally, satisfied with their Club as it is. Yet they are aware of the need to provide improvements for the future. A significant change from group usage to individual usage [was] discussed. The need for stimulating more group usage is addressed.'

Independent attitudinal surveys, such as the one commissioned at this time, have several important values. Firstly, and most obviously, they give management and boards an independent assessment and audit of their operations; secondly, and equally important, they allow customers - in this case the Club members - a practical say in the operations of their Club of perhaps a different nature to an appearance at the annual general meeting or a comment made in the suggestion book.

Yet equally these surveys can be so general in response and report as to be little real help to committees. Take, for example, a comment about the Club premises: 'A strong affection for the present building exists, but some would have it pulled down or restructured, modernised, etc ... There are variations of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with all facilities and varying levels of satisfaction.' Such general comments are of little use to the committee member who would be well aware of member sentiment about redevelopment.

The survey was useful, however, in assessing how well young civilian members had fitted into a service Club of quite precise and distinct origins. For example, one young businessman was asked about military links. He replied: '...it represents a standard which I admire. I've got no hassle with the dress regulations and requirements of the Club; in fact, I prefer them...if they take away the military background, they'll lose their difference....then, it becomes just another club....' Another respondent put this view on civilian membership: 'The often contentious issue of civilian membership has long ago been successfully resolved by the Club'. However, he went on to put, in admirably succinct terms, some of the major attractions for prospective civilian members. 'I would presume most civilian members have joined because of its proximity to the CBD and its standard of service. I also suspect the

relatively short waiting period has encouraged many to seek membership. I believe the usage of the Club by civilian members would probably be higher than that of service members, particularly luncheons...’

Here is an important attraction of the United Service Club, particularly in Brisbane which has, still, a relatively small business community - relative, that is, to Sydney and Melbourne - and several competing clubs for the businessman. There is no doubt that the short waiting time, the low entry fees - compared, say, to the Brisbane Club or Brisbane's newest addition to club life, the Polo Club - and the proximity to the CBD have attracted civilian members. Equally, however, there is the important qualification; the civilian members who have joined admire, and wish to continue, the military aspects of the Club. They are sympathetic with the Club's origins, aspirations and ideals. No doubt had the nation been unfortunate enough to experience another conflict of the size of World War II (and survived), many would have served in the armed forces in commissioned positions and thus been eligible for service membership.

Many of these civilian members proudly wear the Club tie, and embrace the military ethos with all the enthusiasm of the recent convert. And there is no doubt that civilian members, as has been pointed out before in this narrative, have been an important part of the conservation of the Club in its present form. Of similar importance have been the continuing initiatives in recruiting young regular and reserve officers on commissioning (notably from RMC and OCTU) as well as widening the associate members to include the children of members (male and female) under 30 years. The Club's demographics have been dramatically changed, so that it has now an equal number of members under 29 to those over 70 years. This will be of huge importance in preserving the Club into the second century of its life.

The laborious task of reviewing the Club rules continued through 1988. In August that year, a special meeting was called to discuss the draft of the rules which had been prepared by the Club's solicitors after long hours by various sub-committees. As the president, Brigadier Lee Greville, wrote in the 1988 annual report, the detailed review of the rules followed the previous year's acceptance by the membership of the general direction of changes. The review required a re-write, detailed discussion at sub-committee level, review by the Club solicitor, promulgation to members, further discussion and final drafting. After this process, it is not surprising that the new rules passed at the annual meeting with very little debate. Not for the first time was the committee made aware of the value of full communication to members.

On 18 August, 1988 more than 70 members and friends attended the Club's first Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon. The previous year, a hugely-successful march in Sydney - a 'welcome home' long after the event - indicated public acceptance of the Vietnam veterans and acknowledgement that they had been shamefully treated when they returned from that war two decades earlier. It had taken a long time for

such a public reconciliation but it had finally happened and the march was a most emotionally moving experience for many veterans and their families. The Club's luncheon was another way of expressing support for members who had fought in that war—members who included the president, four committee members at that time,* and the secretary and manager. Guest speaker at the luncheon was the then commander of the 1st Division, Major General P M 'Mike' Jeffrey, a Club member since 1981. Jeffrey had won a Military Cross commanding a company in the 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment; an extract of his address was included in that year's annual report. In a thoughtful and considered address, Jeffrey remembered the experiences of the ordinary rifleman in a section, both national serviceman and regular, with affection and no little pride. He concluded by asking the question that so many veterans of that war had asked themselves over the previous two decades: Was it all worthwhile?

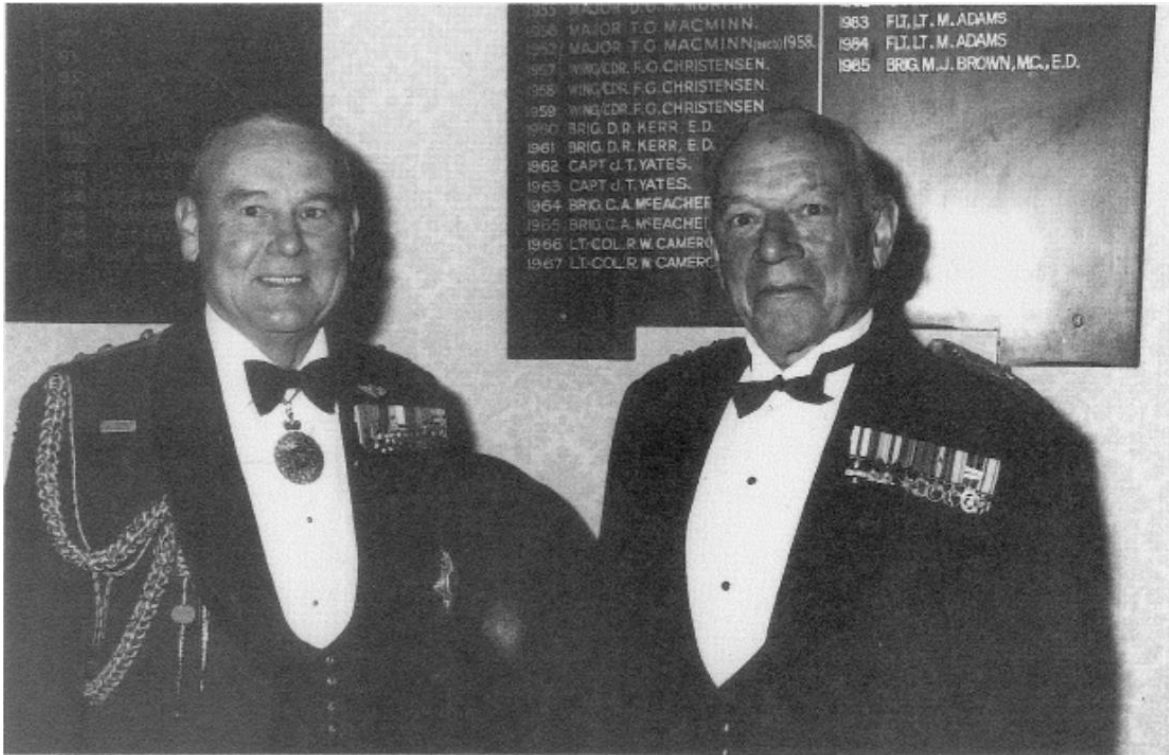
'As a serviceman, I believe we can all hold our heads high for what we tried to achieve *and did achieve* [emphasis in the original] in Vietnam and for doing our duty as directed by the elected government of the day. If our governments have learnt that never again must we fight an unpopular war; that if committed, military and political objectives must be clearly defined and closely aligned, and that once a decision is taken to fight, we go in to win, then our service will not have been in vain..' It was a moving address and impressed all who heard it on that day, and the many more Club members who read the extract in the annual report and who pondered 'Mike' Jeffrey's words. However, at the annual meeting, a Club member, objected to both the holding and conduct of the Vietnam Veterans' Luncheon at the Club. The member, who need not be identified, had long held strong views, both about Vietnam and about officers who were graduates of the Royal Military College. The minutes record simply: 'His views were not supported by any other members who were present. The President on behalf of members and committee disagreed with the spirit and intent of [the member's] remarks.' Even 20 years later, the Vietnam War has not lost its capacity for division and disagreement.

That Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon was the first of what has become an annual, and successful occasion. Subsequent speakers have been distinguished officers who were battalion commanders in that war: Brigadier I R W 'Lou' Brumfield, Brigadier J J Shelton and Brigadier Greville. The invited speaker for 1992 is Brigadier Colin Khan.**

The 1988 annual general meeting was also told the committee had reached a 'heads of agreement' for redevelopment of the Club's property on Wickham Terrace

*Vietnam veterans on the committee include Major General James, Brigadiers Greville, Ewing and Simkin and Major P L 'Blue' Doyle.

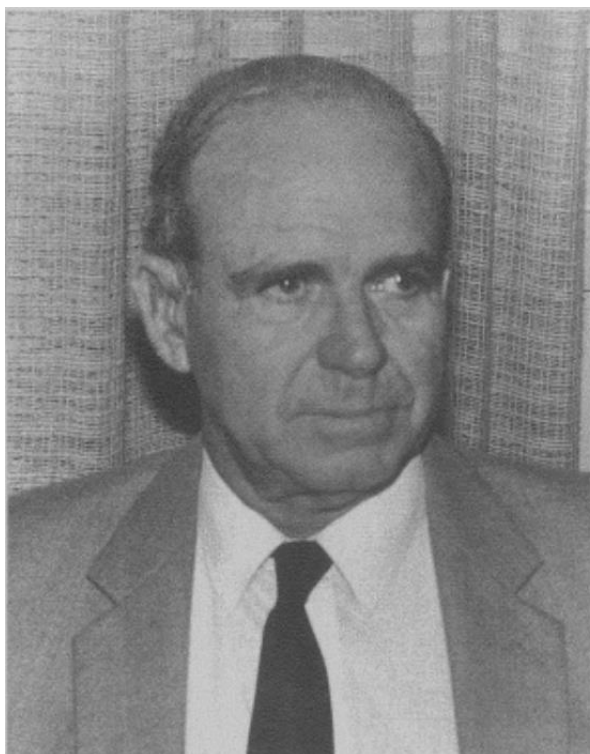
**Brigadier Brumfield CBE DSO commanded 1RAR on its first tour; Brigadier Shelton DSO, MC commanded 3RAR on its first tour and Lee Greville commanded 4RAR. Brigadier Khan, DSO, known inevitably to his soldiers as 'Genghis' commanded 5RAR on that battalion's second tour. The Club hopes that Brigadier Colin Townsend DSO will speak at the 1993 luncheon



Lieutenant General Sir Phillip Bennett AO KBE DSO and Brigadier Murray Brown MC ED on the occasion of the first CDF dinner, 1986.

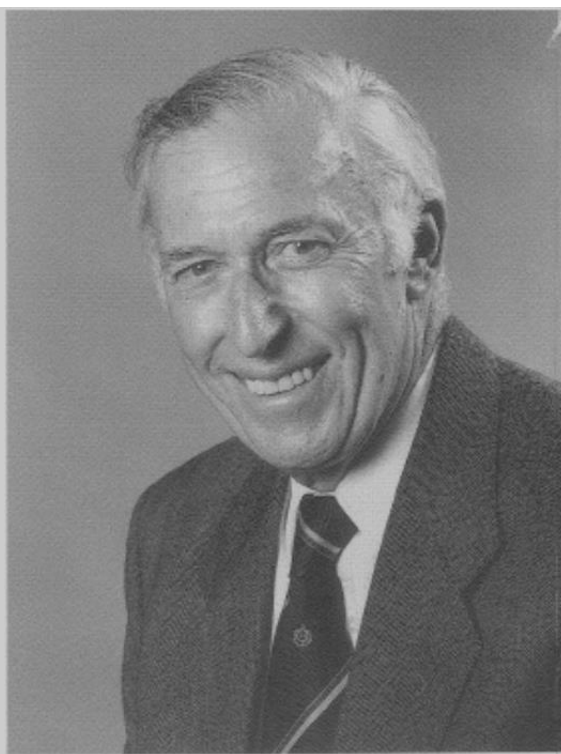
The main Club building and the Green House on Wickham Terrace.





*Brigadier Leon Roderic Greville DSO. Born 1927.
President 1986–87.*

*Major General William Brian James AO MBE MC.
Born 1930. President 1990–91. From a painting
by Joshua Smith.*



*Flying Officer Alexander Overett. Born 1924.
President 1988–89*

The front door.





The dining room.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Blacket Stephens. Born 1902. A Club member since 1924.


Lieutenant Colonel Guy Montague Ragot I.V.O. Born 1946. Secretary and Manager since 1985.





HRH The Duchess of Kent at the Club, 25 February 1992.

A telegram received from HRH The Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

 ROYAL COURT TELEGRAM					
SERIAL NO.	TIME HANDED IN	OFFICE OF ORIGIN AND SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS	WHERE	RECEIVED AT	DATE OF OFFICE STAMP
<hr/> <i>To</i> THE PRESIDENT, UNITED SERVICE CLUB, BRISBANE. <hr/>					
I HOPE ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLUB ATTENDING THE PATRON'S DINNER HAVE A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE EVENING.					
I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DINNER MARKS THE START OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS. MANY CONGRATULATIONS AND I AM ONLY SORRY THAT I CAN'T BE WITH YOU IN PERSON TONIGHT.					
PHILIP					
TUESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1992					

with what Brigadier Greville called a ‘well-respected developer whom, for commercial reasons, we have agreed not to name until various formalities have been completed’. In fact, this was the Hospitality Corporation Pty Ltd. Brigadier Greville told the meeting that the proposal sought the construction of what would be a five star hotel in the carpark area. ‘It provides for the complete refurbishment or reconstruction of our present Club, in its present position and on a stand-alone basis, reflecting members’ views expressed in our recent market survey. It provides for underground parking for the same number of cars....for and on behalf of members. It provides for the Club a complete no-risk and no-outlay deal with built in safeguards at every step of the way. It provides a handsome yearly rental of the site with the land and the buildings reverting to the Club after 75 years.’

At the time, the committee was examining the merits of refurbishment as opposed to reconstruction. However, as Brigadier Greville reminded the members, the Club building was more than 80 years old and was not designed as a Club but as a boarding house.

Refurbishment [he said] would ensure the retention of the attractive features - high ceilings, stained glass windows and the like; together they make a well loved ambience which we all appreciate. Refurbishment would limit us in certain directions on the design and layout of the finished product. Rebuilding, on the other hand, would permit us to have the first building ever designed exclusively* for the United Service Club. Provided that we can retain in a new building the highly desired features of the old, many advantages are forthcoming.

For a while, it seemed that the redevelopment proposal would go ahead, or at least reach the stage of being put to members. However, over the next few months, it became clear to the committee members that the developers simply did not have the ability to meet their promises. For example, in February 1989, just a few months after the annual meeting, the house and finance sub-committee reported that it had ‘no confidence in, or enthusiasm for, development of the Club site, and that the committee should therefore now set about an orderly progression of renovations on the basis that the Club sees no likely benefit in a major redevelopment...’ Although the stock market crash occurred in October 1987, it was some months before the effect on business confidence and on equity values began to percolate through. Now, too, under the pressure of a rising current account deficit, the Federal Government began to increase interest rates in an attempt to dampen demand for imports. The impact of the tightening screws and the lower business confidence, combined with the proposed developer’s own problems, meant that the proposal, which looked so

*Here, Brigadier Greville was mistaken as Murray Adams’ early chapters show. The building at 70 George Street was designed and built for the Club in 1914.

promising at the previous annual meeting, now was shelved.

Certainly 1988 had been an excellent year for the Club. Brisbane had hosted World Expo 88, originally feared to be something of a disaster, but actually a huge success. For six months, including the mild Brisbane winter, the city hosted a continuous party on the south bank. It was also a boost for the Club, as Brigadier Greville told members at the annual meeting:

Expo, a marvellous success for Brisbane, has given a great boost to the Club's activity level and to its finances. The accommodation was fully booked throughout the Expo period, and this had a beneficial effect on bar and dining room usage. The net result of this was a first class trading year, with the Club's financial base being further improved. The Investment Fund is now nearly \$50,000 and entrance fees for 1987-88 were again capitalised.

The investment fund was first foreshadowed to members in Brigadier Brown's 1986 report to members. Then, he said the committee was examining the possibility of capitalising entrance fees: 'this is a radical change which cannot be accomplished in one year, because entrance fees have been applied, traditionally, towards covering expenses of the Club, but this change, when fully implemented, will make a significant contribution to the investment fund. The aim of this fund was to provide capital reserves which would complement the Club's considerable fixed assets.' In the 1991 accounts, the investment fund had reached nearly \$180,000.

At the 1988 annual meeting, members were told that a two-man working party, consisting of Flight Lieutenant Adams and Major Peter Charlton, had been convened to begin work on preparation of the Club history. At first, the committee was hesitant about the idea of a history: Did sufficient information exist to enable such a history to be written? Would members be interested in buying the book, once it was written? Murray Adams began the research, rummaging around in what remained of the Club's archives for the early committees, and indeed, many of their successors, were not exactly noted for their sense of history. It was not long before the two-man working party realised that sufficient material did exist and the task was begun.

For the committee, 1989 was a year of consolidation. The post-Expo trading period was not as quiet as had been expected, but the proposed development - the five star hotel at the rear of the Club - did not go ahead. As the president, Flying Officer Alex Overett told members at the annual meeting that year, the committee turned its attention to substantial refurbishing.

To that end the Club architect has developed a tentative plan for redevelopment of some areas to more accommodation and for substantial changes to the ground floor and to the rear entry of the Club premises. It is envisaged that these improvements and refurbishing would be carried out over a period of three to five years and will, when completed, be of great benefit to members. Much work remains to be done in getting the 'mix and match' and the costings of such renovations into proper order.

The results of such renovations were soon apparent to members. The dining room, the bottle shop and rear entry areas were all substantially improved while, at the time of writing, work is beginning on the bedrooms overlooking Wickham Terrace. At the same time, the committee is mindful that, probably in the next property boom, a redevelopment proposal will actually be translated into action and the premises which the Club has enjoyed for nearly five decades will be replaced.

Planning for the centenary occupied the committee's mind during 1990 and into 1991. As always in the Club's history wine occupied an important part. After much effort, the wine sub-committee chose a splendid red, a Penfolds Bin 389, Vintage 1986 which was offered to members at \$174 a case. By the time of the 1991 annual report, more than 300 cases of this wine had been sold. The monthly wine tastings, although still popular, were touched by the severe recession which affected Club trading and the membership in 1990 and 1991. The bottleshop, under the supervision of Einar Altmann, in its renovated form was a splendid service for members and attraction for so many who entered the Club from the carpark.

As the Club entered its centenary year, it was experiencing tough trading conditions. At the same time, however, it was clear that financially it was in fine shape. The Club was debt free, the investment fund stood at nearly \$180,000, membership support was strong and the programmed maintenance, so necessary in a building this age, was continuing. In its staff team, the Club had valued employees with some, like Dining Room supervisor, Mrs Margaret Evans, having long experience of the Club and affection for its members. The Club's renovated bottleshop, under Mr Einar Altmann, offers one of the finest ranges of wines and spirits to be found in Brisbane at more than competitive prices. Indeed, the success of the Club in recent years is due, in no small measure, to a staff team whose members had the best interests of the Club at heart. The committee and members could look forward to their Club's centenary year and, indeed, to the next 100 years for a grand old Club on the hill.

THE END

Appendices

Appendix I

PATRONS

1933-46	His Excellency Colonel The Rt Hon Sir Leslie (Orme) Wilson GCSI GCIE CMG DSO
1947-57	His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir John (Dudley) Lavarack KCVO KBE CB CMG DSO
1958-65	His Excellency Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith KCMG KCVO
1966-71	His Excellency Sir Alan (James) Mansfield KCMG KCVO
1972-76	His Excellency Air Marshal Sir Colin (Thomas) Hannah KCMG KBE CB
1977-84	His Excellency Commodore Sir James (Maxwell) Ramsay KCMG KCVO CBE DSC
1985-	His Excellency Sir Walter (Benjamin) Campbell AC QC

Appendix II

TRUSTEES

1914	Major General R S Browne CB VD, Colonel The Hon J F G Foxton CMG VD, Colonel R A Moore
1915-27	Unknown
1928-38	Colonel F W G Annand DSO VD, Colonel FA Hughes DSO, Lieutenant T J Barry
1939-48	Colonel F W G Annand DSO VD, Colonel FA Hughes DSO, Colonel J Craven DCM
1949-51	Colonel F W G Annand DSO VD, Colonel FA Hughes DSO, Brigadier J Craven DCM
1952-57	Colonel F W G Annand DSO VD, Lieutenant Colonel Byrne Hart MC, Brigadier J Craven DCM
1958-63	Lieutenant Colonel LA Little, Lieutenant Colonel Byrne Hart MC, Brigadier J Craven DCM
1964-67	Lieutenant Colonel LA Little, Lieutenant Colonel Byrne Hart MC, Commander N S Pixley MBE VRD
1968-69	Lieutenant Colonel LA Little MBE, Lieutenant Colonel Byrne Hart CBE MC, Commander N S Pixley MBE VRD
1970-73	Lieutenant Colonel LA Little MBE, Lieutenant Colonel Byrne Hart CBE MC, Commander N S Pixley CMG MBE VRD
1974-83	Lieutenant Colonel LA Little MBE, Lieutenant Colonel Sir Byrne Hart CBE MC, Commander N S Pixley CMG MBE VRD
1984-87	Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED, Lieutenant Colonel Sir Byrne Hart CBE MC, Commander N S Pixley CMG MBE VRD
1988	Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED, Brigadier J L Amies CBE ED, Commander N S Pixley CMG MBE VRD
1989-	Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED, Brigadier J L Amies CBE ED, Brigadier C D F Wilson RFD ED

Appendix III

PRESIDENTS

1892 Major General John Fletcher Owen RA (1839- 1924). Born in Wales, educated Royal Military College, Woolwich. Commissioned Royal Artillery 1857. Commanded a mounted Gatling gun battery with Wood's Column at battle of Ulundi, 1879. Commandant South Australian Defence Force, 1885-88. Commandant Queensland Defence Force, 1891-94. Promoted to Lieutenant General, 1899, invested with CB, 1902; promoted to General, 1904; raised to KCB on his retirement in 1906 and honoured with appointment as Honorary Colonel Commandant, Royal Artillery. His obituary, in *R.A. Regimental News*, August 1924, ended with these words: 'At bottom he was thoroughly kind-hearted, eminently just and a very good friend. He entered into sport with the same zest that he threw into work and was a good shot and a very keen (fly) fisherman.'

1893, 1895, 1897 & 1899 Commander Walton Drake RN (1850-1940). Acting Commandant Queensland Naval Defence Force, 1891-1900. Came to Brisbane, 1885, as 1st Lieutenant, HMS *Wolverine*. Appointed training officer of Naval Brigade. Promoted Captain, 1902. Some time Administrator, Norfolk Island. District Naval Officer, Hobart, 1914-18.

1894 Colonel Robert Edward Drury (1832-96). Born in Brussels and migrated to Australia in 1852. Joined NSW Volunteer Rifles, 1854. Commissioned in Queensland Volunteer Rifle Corps, 1861, and on its disbandment in 1866 transferred to the Queensland Volunteer Artillery. Acting Commandant, Queensland Defence Force in 1883 pending the arrival of Colonel G A French and again in 1894 until the arrival of Colonel H Gunter in 1895. Awarded CMG, 1885. General manager, Queensland National Bank from its inception in 1872 until his death in 1896.

1896 & 1898 Colonel Howel Gunter (1844-1902). Commissioned from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, into the 73rd Regiment of Foot. Commandant, Queensland Defence Force, 1895-99.

1900 Colonel Harry Finn. Commandant Queensland Defence Force, 1900-01. Late 21st Lancers.

1901 & 1903 Captain William Rooke Cresswell CMG RN (1852-1932). Joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1866 and commissioned in 1871. Resigned from the Royal Navy in 1878, migrated to Australia and worked on pastoral properties in Queensland and the Northern Territory until 1885, then rejoined the Royal Navy with appointment to the South Australian Naval Force, becoming Commandant, 1893-95. Commandant, Queensland Naval Force, 1900-04. Director, Commonwealth Naval Forces, 1904-11 and, on formation of the Royal Australian Navy, Chief of the Australian Naval Force, 1911-19, as Vice Admiral Sir William (Rooke) Cresswell KCMG.

1902 & 1904 Colonel T Price CB. Commandant Commonwealth Military Forces, Queensland, 1902-05.

1905 Captain Frederick Tickell CMG CNF (1857-1919). Naval Commandant, Queensland, 1904-07. Also Naval Commandant Victoria 1897-1904 and 1907-10. Later Rear Admiral Frederick Tickell CMG RAN.

1906 & 1908 Colonel John Sanderson Lyster. A subaltern in a Scottish regiment prior to migrating to Australia as a civilian and gaining employment in the Premier's Department, Queensland, and rose to be Secretary of the Department. Simultaneously progressed through the ranks in the Defence Force and became Commandant Commonwealth Military Forces, Queensland, 1906-12.

1907 & 1909 Captain John Tracy Richardson CNF (1860-1941). Commandant, Queensland Naval Force, 1907-11.

1910 Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sutton. Born 1863. Served in the Australian Army Medical Corps and for some time was Principal Medical Officer, 1st Military District. At the end of World War I was Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sutton CB CMG VD.

1911 Lieutenant Colonel George Herbert Hopkins. Served in the 8th Infantry Regiment.

1912 & 1916 Brigadier General George Leonard Lee CMG DSO. Born 1860. Commanded 2nd Military District in 1918, as Honorary Major General. Aide de Camp to the Governor General, 1915-20.

1913-14 Lieutenant Colonel Henry Arthur Goddard (1871-1955). Migrated to Australia in 1890 and was commissioned in the Queensland Defence Force in 1899. Commanded the 7th Infantry (Moreton) Regiment in 1913 and, after service in World War I, became Colonel H A Goddard CMG DSO VD. Occupation: Merchant.

1915 Commander George Arthur Hamilton Curtis RAN (1860-1933). District Naval Officer, Brisbane, 1911-22 with the exception of service on HMAS *Psyche* in 1917 and on HMAS *Penguin* in 1918. Came to Queensland, 1893, as navigating officer for the *Gayundah*.

1917-18 Brigadier General Godfrey George Howy Irving (1867-1937). Commandant 1st Military District. Committee of the Naval & Military Club, Melbourne, 1900.05 and 1923-27.

1919 Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Pye. Born 1862. Commissioned in 1906 and served in the Australian Engineers. An architect by profession.

1920 & 1931 Lieutenant Colonel Francis Augustus Hughes DSO VD (1881-1951). At one time Commanding Officer, 2nd Australian Artillery Brigade. For many years company secretary of Castlemaine Perkins, owners of the Milton brewery.

1921 Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Currie CMG DSO (1883-1949). Commanded the Senior Cadet Battalion. Distinguished career in World War I.

1922-24 & 1936 Colonel Daniel Edward Evans DSO VD (1885-1952). Served with the Corps of Australian Engineers, World War I. A founder of the engineering firm of Evans Deakin Ltd.

1925-26 Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Augustus Stanley DSO VD (1883-1930). Served with Corps of Australian Engineers, World War I.

1927-29 Captain Thomas Renney Beamish (1883-1946). Served with 11th Infantry Battalion in World War I and with 2/25th Infantry Battalion in World War II.

1930 Lieutenant Colonel Hubert Reginald Carter VD. Died 1934. Served in South Africa and World War I.

1932-33 Engineer Lieutenant Commander Henry S Platt RNSR. Died 1963. Served in RAN, South West Pacific, World War II. Club committee 1927-50. Proprietor of an electrical engineering business.

1934-35 Colonel John Hill MC (1888-1958). Australian Army Service Corps. Served World War I.

1937-38 Lieutenant Commander Norman Stewart Pixley VD RANR (1898-1989). Joined Royal Australian Naval Reserve as a junior member in its first year, 1911, and was commissioned in 1917. World War II postings included Darwin, NOIC Cairns and NOIC Finschafen. His grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel John McDonnell commanded the Queensland Volunteer Force, 1877-79 and his uncle, Commander Walton Drake RN, was acting Commandant Queensland Naval Force 1891-1900. His father, Lieutenant Arthur Pixley was an early member and his brother, Sir Neville (Drake) Pixley MBE VRD and his son, Sub Lieutenant A S Pixley, are current members of the Club. Later, Commander Norman Stewart Pixley CMG MBE VRD K.tON.

1939 Flying Officer Alan Gordon Grant (1904- 83). Enlisted Royal Australian Air Force, 1928. In 1930 Pilot Officer Grant was piloting a Walrus aircraft from HMAS *Albatross* near Hobart, observing gunnery when he spun into the water. His injuries caused him to be invalided out of the service after which he studied pharmacy and set up a business in Wickham Terrace which dispensed prescriptions, but sold neither patent medicines nor cosmetics. Served as a

Served as a Royal Australian Air Force administration officer in World War II, retiring with the rank of group captain. Then studied medicine and later practised at Australia House, London and in Brisbane.

1939-40 Lieutenant Eric Houlton Voss (1893-1966). Served in both World War I and World War II.

1941-42 Major General James Murdoch Archer Durrant CMG DSO. Born 1885. Brigade Major 12th Brigade Area 1913, Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General, 2nd Division, 1918; Assistant Quarter Master General, 1st Military District, 1920. Commandant Queensland Lines of Communication Area, 1941-42.

1943 Major Bob Thompson Cowlshaw MC (1888-1974). Trained as a Midshipman on HMS *Worcester* and served on Orient Line ships, gaining a master's certificate. He left the sea and settled in Australia, serving with the 5th Light Horse Regiment on Gallipoli and in France. In 1919 was appointed Aide de Camp to His Excellency Major Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams GCMG CB, Governor of Queensland. During World War II he was Officer in Charge of British evacuees in Queensland and was an Honorary Aide de Camp to His Excellency Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson GCSI GCIE CMG DSO.

1944 Captain Donald Augustus Dowling (1895-1979). Served World War I and later in the Australian Army Medical Corps. At some time Medical Officer 1st Military District.

1945-46 Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Alfred Little (1903-74). Graduated in medicine, Melbourne University, 1928, and came to Brisbane as a resident medical officer at the Mater Hospital where he was later senior honorary surgeon, 1938-56. President Queensland Branch, British Medical Association, 1957-58. Chairman, South Brisbane Hospitals Board for many years. Club committee 1939-41, 1943-67. Life member 1947. Trustee 1958-74.

1947-48 Major George Crowe Reid MC (1894-1972). A veteran of both World War I and World War II. He inaugurated the El Alamein dinner for officers of the three services involved in that battle.

This dinner is still held in the Club each year on the anniversary date of 23 October. Manager of Howard Motors in Adelaide Street for many years.

1949 Lieutenant Colonel Sidney Lewis McIntyre MC (1887-1952). Served in World War I. Commanding Officer, 2nd Queensland Battalion, 1942.

1950-51 Lieutenant Colonel Jack Lowell Amies OBE ED. Born 1913. Joined the Club in 1935. Service World War II with the 2/41st Infantry Battalion, England, Middle East and Papua New Guinea. Chairman, Services Canteen Trust, Queensland, 1953-72. President, United Service Institute, 1961-64. President, Royal Automobile Club of Queensland, 1965-67. Later, Brigadier J L Amies CBE ED, Commander 7th Infantry Brigade, 1954-58. Honorary Aide de Camp to His Excellency Field Marshal Sir William Slim GCB GCMG GCVO GBE DSO MC Governor General, 1954-58. Club Trustee 1988.

1952-53 Wing Commander Allan Francis McSweyn MC AFC. Born 1918. Royal Australian Air Force pilot, World War II. Shot down and captured at Bremen in June 1941, made many escape attempts before reaching Britain in September 1943 and became known as Australia's most persistent escaper. Later Brisbane manager of Trans Australia Airlines.

1954-55 Major Douglas Gordon Murtagh Murphy. Born 1914. A graduate of the Royal Australian Military College, Duntroon. Initially served in the Infantry and later in Signals before appointment to staff positions. Resigned from the Army after World War II, completed a university degree course and became a Brisbane stockbroker.

1956-57 Major Thomas Gibson MacMinn (1905-58). Served in the Royal Australian Engineers, AIF during World War II. Profession: Architect. Died in office as the result of swallowing part of a toothpick in the Club dining room.

1957-59 Wing Commander Frederick George Christensen (1913-62). An eminent dental

surgeon whose appointments included the Chair of Oral Surgery, University of Baghdad, 1960-62. President of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Dental Association, 1956. Consultant oral surgeon to the Royal Australian Air Force.

1960-61 Brigadier Donald Ross Kerr ED (1910-85). Served 2/10th Field Regiment, AIF, World War II. Prisoner of war, Malaya. Later Major General DR Kerr CBE ED and Aide de Camp to Her Majesty The Queen, 1958- 60. Profession: Bank manager.

1962-63 Captain James Thomas Yates. Bom 1914. Served Australian Armoured Corps, World War II and later with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. Engaged in the motor trade.

1964-65 Brigadier Cranston Albury McEachern DSO ED (1905-84). Commissioned Australian Military Forces, 1924. Officer Commanding 2/4th Tank Attack Regiment, 1940. CRA 8th Division, AIF and POW Malaya. President, United Service Institute, 1946-61. Profession: Law.

1966-67 Lieutenant Colonel Richard William Cameron DSO ED. Born 1916. Served pre-war with the 61st Queensland Cameron Highlanders and during World War II with 2/2nd Machine Gun Battalion, 9th Division, AIF. Post-war served with the 9th Battalion, Moreton Regiment. A principal of the old and respected family real estate firm of Cameron Brothers.

1968-69 Captain Kenneth Carlisle Campbell. Born 1912. Served World War II with 61st Infantry Battalion. Chairman of Riverside Coal Transport Company since 1946 and director of other companies.

1970-71 Wing Commander Charles Gordon Chaloner Olive MBE DFC AE. (1916-88). Joined the Royal Australian Air Force as air cadet in 1936 and was serving with the Royal Air Force in England at the outbreak of World War II. Flight Commander, 65 Squadron (Spitfires) during the Battle of Britain and later served in SW Pacific. Aide de Camp to Her Majesty The Queen, 1961- 63. Chairman, Commonwealth Youth Council, Queensland, 1950-72. Chairman, Brisbane Metropolitan Fire Brigade, 1979-88. Promoted to CBE, 1978.

1972 Air Commodore Deryck William Kingwell CBE DSO. Born 1916. Joined the Royal Australian Air Force as air cadet in 1936 and served in SW Pacific during World War II. Air Attache, USA, 1952-54; Air Officer Commanding, RAAF Overseas (London); Senior Air Staff Officer, HQ Operational Command 1961-63; Officer Commanding Amberley 1954-56 and 1967-71. Official Secretary to His Excellency, the Governor of Queensland, 1972-81.

1973-74 Group Captain Percy Raymond Smith. Born 1920. Served as a pilot with the Royal Australian Air Force, SW Pacific, in World War II. MLA Queensland Parliament 1957- 69 and member Law Reform Commission, 1969-76. Deputy Judge Advocate General RAAF, 1964-76. President, United Service Institute 1977-90. Profession: Barrister.

1975-76 Colonel Colin David Francis Wilson ED. Born 1928. Joined 9th Infantry Battalion, Citizen Military Forces in 1948 and was commissioned in 1951. From 1952 to 1955 served in the Australian Regular Army in Korea and in Japan. Rejoined the Citizen Military Forces and in turn commanded Officer Cadet Training Unit (1967); 49th Battalion (The Bushmen's Rifles) (1968- 70); 2/14 Queensland Mounted Infantry (1971-73); Training Wing 1st Training Group (1977-79); 1st Training Group (1980) and finally, as Brigadier, Assistant Commander, 1st Division (1980-83) Honorary Aide de Camp to the Governor General. Principal of Wilson Timbers. Club trustee, 1989.

1977-78 Captain Osmonde Marshall May OBE VRD* RANR. Born 1923. Served in Royal Australian Navy ships in SW Pacific during World War II. Commanding Officer Brisbane Port Division, 1958-73. Aide de Camp to Her Majesty The Queen, 1971-72. Deputy Commonwealth Statistician and Government Statistician for Queensland, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

1979-80 Major General The Honourable Jack Lawrence Kelly. Born 1920. Served Australian Imperial Forces, SW Pacific, World War II. Private Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer, 1950-52. Commanding Officer 9th Infantry Battalion, Moreton Regiment, 1957-60. Judge,

Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea, 1970-72 and Judge, Supreme Court of Queensland, 1973-90. Judge Advocate General, Australian Army, 1976-82. Awarded CBE, 1982.

1981-82 Colonel Vernard William Mullins ED. Born 1935. Served Royal Australian Artillery. Seconded to United Nations Military Observation Team, Kashmir, 1966-68.

1983-84 Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams. Born 1919. Served as a fighter pilot with the Royal Australian Air Force and the Royal Air Force in the Middle East and Europe, World War II. At various times grazier, beef industry adviser and, from 1966 to 1984, State Director of the National Safety Council of Australia, Queensland. Life Member 1990.

1985 Brigadier Murray James Brown MC ED. Born 1919. Served 2/10th Australian Infantry Battalion, World War II. Commanded Queensland University Regiment, 1953-56; commanded Northern Command Signals Regiment, 1958-60; commanded Northern Command Troops, 1961. Chief of Staff (CMF) Northern Command 1969. Honorary Aide de Camp to the Governor General, 1959-62. Profession: Chartered Accountant.

1986-87 Brigadier Leon Roderic Greville DSO. Born 1927. Graduated Royal Military College, Duntroon, 1946; British Commonwealth Occupation Force, Japan, 1946-50; 3rd Royal Australian Regiment, Korea, 1951-52; Commanding Officer, 4th Royal Australian Regiment, Vietnam, 1968-69. Military and Defence Attache, Tokyo, 1972- 75; Director General Army Development, 1975-78. Executive Director, Queensland Division, Australian Red Cross Society, 1979.

1988-89 Flying Officer Alexander Overett. Born 1924. Royal Australian Air Force pilot World War II. Principal of The Overett Group, auctioneers and valuers.

1990-91 Major General William Brian James AO MBE MC. Born 1930. Graduated Royal Military College, Duntroon, 1951, commissioned in the Royal Australian Infantry. Served with 1st Royal Australian Regiment, Korea, 1952, and wounded in action losing a leg. Graduated in medicine, Sydney University, 1963, and held various posts in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. St John Medical Relief Team, Biafra, 1971. Director General, Army Health Services, 1982-85. Now company director.

Appendix IV

CLUB COMMITTEES

Founding Committee 1892

Chairman
Major J Gartside
Major J F G Foxton
Major W K McClintock
Captain R McKie
Captain R Dowse

1908-09

Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel C J Reade CB
Honorary Treasurer
Major R M Stodart
Lieutenant Colonel A Sutton
Major A J Boyd
Captain H Wasteneys (resigned 8.6.09)
Major F H Russel (elected 23.6.09)
Captain P J Thorn
Captain F E Walsh
Captain T Pye
Captain W G Allsop
Captain J A Austin
Lieutenant J A H Beresford
Lieutenant J F Ure
Lieutenant] C Browne (resigned 22.6.09)
Lieutenant H P Phillips (elected 23.6.09)

1909-10

Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel A Sutton
Chairman of Committees
Lieutenant Colonel C J Reade CB
Honorary Treasurer
Major R M Stodart
Lieutenant Colonel G H Hopkins
Major A J Boyd
Major F H Russel
Captain W G Allsop
Captain H R Carter
Captain F J D Darvall
Captain T Pye (on leave 26.4.10)

Lieutenant J H A Beresford
Lieutenant R L Higgins (elected 13.1.10)
Honorary Solicitor
Lieutenant J F Ure
Lieutenant H P Phillips

1927-28

President
Lieutenant T R Beamish
Chairman of Committees
Lieutenant Colonel R A Stanley DSO VD
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Captain J H Crombie
Captain K A Willis
Lieutenant Colonel] Hill MC
Captain F V Sharpe
Major J V Duhig

1931-32

President
Colonel FA Hughes DSO VD
Vice President
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Honorary Treasurer
Captain K A Willis
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Major H R Carter VD
Major J H Russell
Major C A McEachern
Honorary Solicitor
Lieutenant G H Mocatta RANR
Lieutenant A L Elliott

1932-33

President
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR Vice President
Captain K A Willis
Honorary Treasurer
Major H R Carter VD
Colonel FA Hughes DSO VD
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Major J H Russell
Major C A McEachern
Captain T R Beamish
Honorary Solicitor
Lieutenant G H Mocatta RANR

1933-34

President
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel] Hill MC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Colonel W W Alderman CMG DSO
Lieutenant Colonel] Craven DCM
Captain O C D Gower
Colonel FA Hughes DSO VD
Major C A McEachern
Lieutenant Colonel E C P Plant DSO OBE

1934-35

President
Colonel J Hill MC ED
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel E C P Plant DSO OBE
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Captain H B Blackburn
Captain J G Drew
Flying Officer A G Grant
Lieutenant Colonel G H Kirwood
Major C A McEachern
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR

1935-36

President
Colonel J Hill MC ED
Vice President &
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Captain H B Blackburn
Flying Officer A G Grant

Major N M Gutteridge
Lieutenant Commander N S Pixley RANR
Lieutenant Colonel E C P Plant DSO OBE
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR

1936-37

President
Colonel D E Evans DSO VD
Vice President
Lieutenant Commander N S Pixley VD RANR
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Captain H B Blackburn
Flying Officer A G Grant
Major N M Gutteridge
Lieutenant Colonel G H Kirwood
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Pay Lieutenant F L Strevens

1937-38

President
Lieutenant Commander N S Pixley VD RANR
Vice President
Flying Officer A G Grant
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Captain H B Blackburn
Lieutenant Colonel G H Kirwood
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Commander E C Rhodes RAN
Captain H R Seddon
Pay Lieutenant F L Strevens

1938-39

President
Lieutenant Commander N S Pixley VD RANR
Vice President
Flying Officer A G Grant
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Captain H B Blackburn
Lieutenant Colonel G H Kirwood
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Captain H R Seddon
Major F V Sharpe
Lieutenant E H Voss

1939-40
President
1. Flying Officer A G Grant (resigned
21.12.39)
2. Lieutenant E H Voss (elected
17.1.40)
Vice President &
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Immediate Past President
Lieutenant Commander N S Pixley VD RANR
Major H B Blackburn
Lieutenant A Boyd
Captain B T Cowlshaw MC
Engineer Lieutenant Commander W K
Kircaldie VD RANR
Major LA Little
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Captain H R Seddon
President
Captain E HVoss
Vice President &
Honorary Treasurer

1940-41
Lieutenant Colonel G H G Smith MC
Immediate Past President
Lieutenant Commander N S Pixley VD RANR
Lieutenant A Boyd
Major B T Cowlshaw MC
Captain D A Dowling
Pay Lieutenant R Kennedy RANVR
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Captain H D Skinner MC

1941-42
President
Major General J M A Durrant CMG DSO
Vice President
Major B T Cowlshaw MC
Immediate Past President
Major E H Voss
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Captain D A Dowling
Lieutenant Commander I de J Pryce:Jones
RANR
Pay Lieutenant R Kennedy RANVR

Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Captain H D Skinner MC
Commander R B Thomson RANR

1942-43
President
Major General J M A Durrant CMG DSO
Vice President
Major B T Cowlshaw MC
Immediate Past President
Major E H Voss
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Captain D A Dowling
Lieutenant N B Harper
Lieutenant Commander I de J Pryce:Jones VD
RANR
Engineer Lieutenant Commander H S Platt
RNSR
Pay Lieutenant R Kennedy RANVR
Captain H D Skinner MC

1943-44
President
Major B T Cowlshaw MC
Vice President
Captain D A Dowling
Immediate Past President
Major General J M A Durrant CMG DSO
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Captain H D Skinner MC
Engineer Commander H S Platt RAN
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Major E E Collins
Lieutenant Commander H P Jarrett RAN
Lieutenant F Gillespie RANVR

1944-45
President
Captain D A Dowling
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Immediate Past President
Major B T Cowlshaw MC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Commander J Abbott RAN
Major E E Collins
Lieutenant Commander HP Jarrett RAN
Engineer Commander H S Platt RAN
Major G A Regan
Captain H D Skinner MC

1945-46
President
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Vice President &
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Immediate Past President
Captain D A Dowling
Engineer Commander H S Platt RAN
Major G A Regan
Major E E Collins
Lieutenant Commander F L Strevens RANVR
Lieutenant Colonel J L Amies OBE
Lieutenant Colonel S L McIntyre MC MM
Captain W A Hawkins

1946-47
President
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Vice President &
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Engineer Commander H S Platt RAN
Major G A Regan
Lieutenant Commander F L Strevens RANVR
Lieutenant Colonel J L Amies OBE
Lieutenant Colonel S L McIntyre MC MM
Captain W A Hawkins
Major O D O'Brien

1947-48
President
Major G C Reid MC
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel, J L Amies OBE
Captain G W Hardcastle
Lieutenant Colonel F Cox
Captain W A Hawkins
Engineer Commander W K Kirkcaldie VRD
RANR
Wing Commander C G C Olive DFC
Lieutenant Colonel H R Love
Engineer Commander H S Platt RAN
Lieutenant Colonel C H Wilson

Lieutenant Colonel S L McIntyre MC MM

1948-49
President
Major G C Reid MC
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel J L Amies OBE
Lieutenant Colonel F Cox
Captain G W Hardcastle
Engineer Commander W K Kirkcaldie VRD
RANR
Lieutenant Colonel S L McIntyre MC MM
Wing Commander C G C Olive DFC
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Engineer Commander H S Platt EM RN (Rtd)
Captain R S Purssey DCM
Lieutenant H K Steele
Lieutenant Colonel C H Wilson

1949-50
President
Lieutenant Colonel S L McIntyre MC MM
Vice Presidents
Lieutenant Colonel J L Amies OBE
Lieutenant Colonel C H Wilson
Immediate Past President
Major G C Reid MC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Major J H Butler
Captain G W Hardcastle
Engineer Commander W K Kirkcaldie VRD
RANR
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Wing Commander A F McSweyn MC AFC
Wing Commander C G C Olive DFC
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Engineer Commander H S Platt EM RN (Rtd)
Captain C R Richards
Lieutenant H K Steele
Lieutenant] T Yates

1950-51
President
Lieutenant Colonel J L Amies OBE ED
Vice Presidents
Colonel C H Wilson ED

Wing Commander A F McSweyn MC AFC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Major G C Reid MC
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Engineer Commander W K Kirkcaldie VRD
RANR
Wing Commander C G C Olive DFC
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Captain C R Richard
Lieutenant J T Yates
Captain G W Hardcastle
Captain W R Provan
Major D G M Murphy
Major T G MacMinn

1951-52

President
Lieutenant Colonel J L Amies OBE ED
Vice Presidents
Colonel C H Wilson ED
Wing Commander A F McSweyn MC AFC
Immediate Past President
Major G C Reid MC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant E W Croke RANVR
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Flying Officer D M Locke
Flight Lieutenant F Martin
Major D G M Murphy
Major T G MacMinn
Wing Commander C G C Olive DFC
Engineer Commander W K Kirkcaldie VRD
RANR
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Captain W R Provan
Captain J T Yates

1952-53

President
Wing Commander A F McSweyn MC AFC
Vice Presidents
Brigadier C H Wilson ED
Major D G M Murphy
Immediate Past President
Lieutenant Colonel J L Amies OBE ED
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant E W Croke RANVR
Lieutenant Colonel L A Little

Flying Officer F Martin
Major T G MacMinn
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Captain W R Provan
Captain J T Yates-
Captain C R Richards
Captain E R Johnson
Lieutenant J A McLeish

1953--54

President
Wing Commander A F McSweyn MC AFC
Vice Presidents
Brigadier C H Wilson ED
Major D G M Murphy
Immediate Past President
Brigadier J L Amies OBE ED
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Flying Officer D M Locke
Flying Officer F Martin
Major T G MacMinn
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Captain E R Johnson
Lieutenant J A McLeish
Captain J T Yates
Captain C R Richards
Lieutenant G K J Slater
Major V C Thomas MC

1954-55

President
Major D G M Murphy
Vice Presidents
Brigadier C H Wilson ED
Major T G MacMinn
Immediate Past President
Wing Commander A F McSweyn MC AFC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel L A Little
Captain J T Yates
Lieutenant J A McLeish
Major V C Thomas MC
Brigadier J L Amies OBE ED
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Flying Officer D M Locke
Lieutenant Colonel D R Kerr ED
Captain C R Richards
Lieutenant G K J Slater
Flight Lieutenant F Martin

1955-56

President
Major D G M Murphy
Vice Presidents
Major T G MacMinn
Lieutenant R M Pendlebury RANVR
Immediate Past President
Wing Commander A F McSweyn MC AFC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant A Boyd
Brigadier J L Amies OBE ED
Wing Commander F G Christensen
Brigadier D R Kerr ED
Lieutenant Colonel L A Little
Lieutenant J A McLeish
Captain C R Richards
Lieutenant G KJ Slater
Lieutenant Colonel J E Staley MC ED
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Brigadier C H Wilson ED
Captain J T Yates

1956-57

President
Major T G MacMinn
Vice Presidents
Wing Commander F G Christensen
Brigadier D R Kerr ED
Immediate Past President
Major D G M Murphy
Honorary Treasurer
Brigadier J L Amies OBE ED
Lieutenant A Boyd
Brigadier C H Kappe OBE
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Lieutenant G KJ Slater
Major General A B Steele CBE
Lieutenant Colonel J E Staley MC ED
Major V C Thomas MC
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Colonel W J Wain DSO ED
Brigadier C H Wilson ED
Captain J T Yates

1957-58

President
Wing Commander F G Christensen

Vice Presidents

Brigadier D R Kerr ED
Brigadier C H Kappe OBE
Immediate Past President
Major D G M Murphy
Honorary Treasurer
Brigadier J L Amies CBE ED
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Lieutenant G KJ Slater
Lieutenant Colonel J E Staley MC ED
Major General A B Steele CBE
Major V C Thomas MC
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Colonel W J Wain DSO ED
Brigadier C H Wilson ED
Captain J T Yates
Squadron Leader R A Yeowart

1958-59

President
Wing Commander F G Christensen
Vice Presidents
Brigadier D R Kerr ED
Captain J T Yates
Immediate Past President
Major D G M Murphy
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader R A Yeowart
Brigadier J L Amies CBE ED
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Captain D J Normoyle
Captain AFT Noyes
Major D M Russell
Lieutenant G J K Slater
Major V C Thomas MC
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Brigadier C H Wilson ED

1959-60

President
Wing Commander F G Christensen
Vice Presidents
Brigadier D R Kerr ED
Captain J T Yates
Immediate Past President
Major D G M Murphy
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader R A Yeowart
Brigadier C H Wilson ED

Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD
RANR
Major V C Thomas MC
Captain D J Normoyle
Major D M Russell
Captain AFT Noyes
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant G K J Slater

1960-61

President
Brigadier D R Kerr ED
Vice Presidents
Captain J T Yates
Brigadier C A McEachern DSO ED
Immediate Past President
Major D G M Murphy
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader R A Yeowart
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant G J K Slater
Brigadier C H Kappe OBE
Major V C Thomas MC
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO
Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Captain D J Normoyle
Lieutenant Colonel J L Kelly

1961-62

President
Brigadier D R Kerr ED
Vice Presidents
Captain J T Yates
Brigadier C A McEachern DSO ED
Immediate Past President
Major D G M Murphy
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader R A Yeowart
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant G K J Slater
Brigadier C H Kappe OBE
Major V C Thomas MC
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield

Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VDR RANR
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO
Lieutenant Colonel TP McManus
Captain D J Normoyle
Lieutenant Colonel] L Kelly
President
Captain J T Yates
Vice President

1962-63

Brigadier C A McEachern
Immediate Past President
Major General D R Kerr CBE ED
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader R A Yeowart
Major D G M Murphy
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO
Major V C Thomas MC
Captain D J Normoyle
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Lieutenant Colonel L A Little
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Wing Commander F G Christensen
Lieutenant Colonel J L Kelly

1963-64

President
Captain J T Yates
Vice President
Brigadier C A McEachern DSO ED
Immediate Past President
Major General D R Kerr CBE ED
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader R A Yeowart
Major D G M Murphy
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED
Major V C Thomas MC
Captain D J Normoyle
Lieutenant A Boyd
Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Captain K C Campbell
Lieutenant Colonel J L Kelly

1964-65

President
Brigadier C A McEachern DSO ED
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED
Immediate Past President
Captain J T Yates
Honorary Treasurer
Flight Lieutenant A D Izatt
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Lieutenant Colonel J L Kelly
Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Lieutenant Colonel A J P Walker
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Major D G M Murphy
Major V C Thomas MC
Captain D J Normoyle
Captain K C Campbell
Captain R B Gardiner
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield

1965-66

President
Brigadier C A McEachern DSO ED
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED
Immediate Past President
Captain J T Yates
Honorary Treasurer
Flight Lieutenant A D Izatt
Major D G M Murphy
Major V C Thomas MC
Captain D J Normoyle
Lieutenant Colonel AJ P Walker
Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Captain R B Gardiner
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Captain K C Campbell
Lieutenant Colonel J L Kelly

1966-67

President
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED
Vice President
Captain K C Campbell
Immediate Past President
Brigadier C A McEachern DSO ED

Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Lieutenant Colonel LA Little ED
Lieutenant Colonel J L Kelly
Lieutenant Colonel AJ P Walker
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE
Captain R B Gardiner
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Flight Lieutenant G L Cole
Lieutenant Commander H Campey VRD
RANVR
Group Captain F G Christensen

1967-68

President
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED
Vice President
Captain K C Campbell
Immediate Past President
Brigadier C A McEachern DSO ED
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE ED
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Lieutenant Colonel J L Kelly
Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Lieutenant Colonel A J P Walker
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay ED
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Captain R B Gardiner
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Flight Lieutenant G L Cole
Commander H Campey VRD RANVR
Group Captain F G Christensen

1968-69

President
Captain K C Campbell
Vice President
Colonel J L Kelly
Immediate Past President
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE ED
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Lieutenant Colonel T P McManus
Lieutenant Colonel AJ P Walker
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR

Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Group Captain F G Christensen
Flight Lieutenant G L Cole
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay ED
Captain V E Coventry
Captain W Kidston
Flight Lieutenant M Adams

1969-70

President
Captain K C Campbell
Vice President &
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE ED
Immediate Past President
Lieutenant Colonel R W Cameron DSO ED
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Lieutenant Colonel A J P Walker
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Lieutenant Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Group Captain P R Smith
Flight Lieutenant G L Cole
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay ED
Captain V E Coventry
Captain W Kidston
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Flight Lieutenant D J Dyer

1970-71

President
Wing Commander C G C Olive MBE DFC
Vice President
Air Commodore D W Kingwell CBE DSO
Immediate P President
Captain K C Campbell
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel A J P Walker
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Flight Lieutenant G L Cole
Captain W Kidston
Lieutenant Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Squadron Leader D J Dyer
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay ED
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Group Captain P R Smith
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins

1971-72

President
Wing Commander C G C Olive MBE DFC
Vice President
Air Commodore D W Kingwell CBE DSO
Immediate Past President
Captain K C Campbell
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE ED
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Lieutenant Colonel A J P Walker
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Captain W Kidston
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Lieutenant Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Group Captain P R Smith
Squadron Leader D J Dyer
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Flight Lieutenant J C L Henning

1972-73

President
Air Commodore D W Kingwell CBE DSO
Vice President
Group Captain P R Smith
Immediate Past President
Wing Commander C G C Olive MBE DFC
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE ED
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Lieutenant Colonel A J P Walker
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Lieutenant Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Squadron Leader D J Dyer
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins
Flight Lieutenant J C L Henning
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Major K J Hansen

1973-74

President
Group Captain P R Smith
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Immediate Past President
Air Commodore D W Kingwell CBE DSO

Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE ED
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Lieutenant Colonel AJ P Walker
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay ED
Squadron Leader D J Dyer
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD
RANR
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Captain J A Bonenti
Major K J Hansen
Flying Officer D C Harvey

1974-75

President
Group Captain P R Smith
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Immediate Past President
Air Commodore D W Kingwell CBE DSO
Honorary Treasurer
Lieutenant Colonel R I Harrison MBE ED
Captain J K Kempthorne MBE
Lieutenant Colonel AJ P Walker
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay ED
Squadron Leader D J Dyer
Captain R S Purssey
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD
RANR
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Captain J A Bonenti
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Major D S Molock MBE MC

1975-76

President
Lieutenant Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Vice President
Captain O M May OBE VRD RANR
Immediate Past President
Group Captain P R Smith
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader D J Dyer
Lieutenant Colonel A J P Walker
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Lieutenant Colonel R G Fay ED (resigned May '76)
Lieutenant R J Palk (appointed June '76)
Major D S Molock MBE MC (died April '76)

Major K H Hansen (appointed June '76)
Captain R S Purssey
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD
RANR
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Flying Officer D C Harvey

1976-77

President
Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Vice President
Captain O M May OBE VRD RANR
Immediate Past President
Group Captain P R Smith
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader R J Dyer AE
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Captain R S Purssey
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD
RANR
Major D R McMaugh (resigned April '77)
Lieutenant Colonel B A Smithurst ED
(appointed May)
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Squadron Leader J N Parker AFC DFM
Brigadier C T W Dixon

1977-78

President
Captain O M May OBE VRD RANR
Vice President
Flight Lieutenant J W Tuckfield
Immediate Past President
Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader D J Dyer AE
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD
RANR
Captain R S Purssey
Lieutenant G M Colless (appointed Dec '77)
Squadron Leader J N Parker AFC DFM
(resigned Jun'78)
Flying Officer D C Harvey (app Jul '78)

1978-79

President
Captain O M May OBE VRD RANR
Vice President
Major General J L Kelly

Immediate Past President
Colonel C D F Wilson ED
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader D J Dyer AE
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Captain R S Purssey
Lieutenant G M Colless
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Flight Lieutenant K Cash

1979-80

President
Major General The Hon J L Kelly
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Immediate Past President
Captain O M May OBE VRD RANR
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader D J Dyer AE
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Captain R S Purssey
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Major J A Dowsett
Lieutenant G M Colless
Flight Lieutenant K Cash (died Aug '80)

1980-81

President
Major General The Hon J L Kelly
Vice President
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Immediate Past President
Captain O M May OBE VRD RANR
Honorary Treasurer
Squadron Leader D J Dyer AE
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Major J A Dowsett
Lieutenant G M Colless
Lieutenant S W Cameron

1981-82

President
Lieutenant Colonel V W Mullins ED
Vice President
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Immediate Past President
Major General The Hon J L Kelly CBE

Wing Commander D J Dyer AE
Brigadier M J Brown MC ED
Wing Commander D D Champion
Lieutenant G M Colless
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR

1982-83

President
Colonel V W Mullins ED
Vice President
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Immediate Past President
Major General The Hon J L Kelly CBE
Honorary Treasurer
Wing Commander D J Dyer AE (part year)
Wing Commander D D Champion (part year)
Brigadier M J Brown MC ED
Group Captain J M Francis AE (part year)
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Lieutenant Commander R J K Sinclair RD
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR

1983-84

President
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Vice President
Brigadier M J Brown MC ED
Immediate Past President
Colonel V W Mullins RFD ED
Honorary Treasurer
Wing Commander D D Champion
Lieutenant G M Colless
Lieutenant T H A Cross
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Pilot Officer I C Selvage
Lieutenant Commander R1 K Sinclair RFD RD
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR

1984-85

President
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Vice President
Brigadier M J Brown MC ED

Immediate Past President
Colonel V W Mullins RFD ED
Honorary Treasurer
Wing Commander D D Champion
Lieutenant G M Colless
Lieutenant T H A Cross
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Flying Officer A Overett
Pilot Officer I C Selvage
Brigadier M B Simkin CBE
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR

1985-86

President
Brigadier MJ Brown MC ED
Vice President
Brigadier L R Greville DSO
Immediate Past President
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Honorary Treasurer
Pilot Officer I C Selvage
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Captain F C B Haly AM
Flying Officer D C Harvey
Major D F Jackson (resigned Dec '85)
Captain W L Owen RAN (appointed Dec '85)
Captain R C Needham
Flying Officer A Overett
Brigadier M B Simkin CBE
Lieutenant Commander N O Vidgen VRD RANR

1986-87

President
Brigadier L R Greville DSO
Vice President
Flying Officer A Overett
Immediate Past President
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Honorary Treasurer
1. Pilot Officer I C Selvage (died Jun '87)
2. Captain F C B Haly AM (appointed Jul '87)
Brigadier M J Ewing CBE
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Commander J H Burrow RFD RANR
Captain F C B Haly AM (until appointed Treasurer)
Major General W B James AO MBE MC
Captain R C Needham

Brigadier M B Simkin CBE

1987-88

President
Brigadier L R Greville DSO
Vice President
Flying Officer A Overett
Immediate Past President
Flight Lieutenant M Adams
Honorary Treasurer
Captain F C B Haly AM
Captain G L Boyd RFD RD RANR
Commander J H Burrow RFD RANR
Brigadier M J Ewing CBE
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Major General W B James AO MBE MC
Captain R C Needham
Captain W L Owen RAN
Brigadier M B Simkin CBE

1988-89

President
Flying Officer A Overett
Vice President
Major General W B James AO MBE MC
Immediate Past President
Brigadier L R Greville DSO
Honorary Treasurer
Captain F C B Haly AM
Captain G L Boyd RFD RD RANR
Captain S W Cameron
Lieutenant G M Colless
Major M L Doyle
Brigadier M J Ewing CBE
Lieutenant Colonel S J Maitland RFD
Captain R C Needham
Brigadier M B Simkin CBE

1989-90

President
Flying Officer A Overett
Vice President
Major General W B James AO MBE MC
Immediate Past President
Brigadier L R Greville DSO
Honorary Treasurer
Captain F C B Haly AM
Captain G L Boyd RFD RD RANR
Captain S W Cameron
Lieutenant G M Colless

Major M L Doyle
Brigadier M J Ewing CBE
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Lieutenant Colonel S J Maitland RFD
Captain R C Needham

1990-91

President
Major General W B James AO MBE MC
Vice President
Captain F C B Haly AM
Immediate Past President
Flying Officer A Overett
Honorary Treasurer
Captain G L Boyd RFD RD RANR
Lieutenant G M Colless
Major M L Doyle
Brigadier M J Ewing CBE
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Lieutenant Colonel S J Maitland RFD
Captain R C Needham

Major R J Olive
Lieutenant Commander M L Russell RFD RANR

1991-92

President
Major General W B James AO MBE MC
Vice President
Captain R C Needham
Immediate Past President
Flying Officer A Overett
Honorary Treasurer
Captain G L Boyd RFD RD RANR
Lieutenant G M Colless
Captain A H Craig RANEM
Major M L Doyle
Brigadier M J Ewing CBE
Squadron Leader A G Greig
Lieutenant Colonel S J Maitland RFD
Major R J Olive
Lieutenant Commander M L Russell RFD

Appendix V

SECRETARIES

HONORARY SECRETARIES		SECRETARIES	
1892	Captain J W Green	1943	Commander R B Thomson RD RNR
1893-1900	Not known	1944-45	Captain R B Thomson RD RNR
1901	Captain F B T W Koch	1946	Commander E A Feldt OBE RAN
1902-08	Not known	1947-48	Captain L G Hitchcock
1909-10	Captain H M M Maddock	1949-52	Flight Lieutenant J B Riddall
1911-13	Not known	1953-56	Major A W Booth MM
1914	Lieutenant D H Cannan	1957-58	Lieutenant W J E West
1915	Captain H P Phillips	1959	Major General A B Steele CBE
1916-18	Not known	1960-73	Lieutenant Colonel N E Aley ED
1919	Lieutenant Commander W J Weatherill	1974-76	Lieutenant Colonel AD Swift
1920-21	Not known	1977-78	Flight Lieutenant J I Coleman
1922-23	Captain H P Phillips	1979	Squadron Leader J N Parker AFC DFM
1924-26	Lieutenant Colonel W G Allsop CMG DSO VD	1980-84	Wing Commander E H Whytcross
PART-TIME SECRETARIES		SECRETARY AND MANAGER	
1927-28	Lieutenant Colonel W G Allsop CMG DSO VD	1985	Lieutenant Colonel G M Bagot LVO
1929-31	Lieutenant W E Darvall		
1932-34	Lieutenant G R F Burlinson		
1935	Colonel W W Alderman CMG DSO		
1936-42	Lieutenant Colonel R G Groom VD		

Appendix VI

LIFE MEMBERS

Prior to 1928	General Sir John Owen KCB	1936	Lieutenant J F Church
	1928 Lieutenant Colonel W J Boggie	1937	Colonel FA Hughes DSO VD Captain RAN Plant VD
	Lieutenant Colonel J P V Larsen VD	1941	Colonel F W G Annand DSO VD
	Major F L Jones	1944	Engineer Commander H S Platt RNSR
	Lieutenant Colonel J H Adams	1946	Colonel The Rt Hon Sir Leslie Wilson GCSI GCMG GCIE DSO
	Colonel The Hon J F G Foxton CMG VD	1947	Lieutenant Colonel C G Gehrman Lieutenant Colonel LA Little
	Captain C de F Pennefather		Field Marshal The Rt Hon The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein KGGCBDSO
	Colonel E Deshon CMG		Rear Admiral The Earl Mountbatten of Burma KG KCB GCSI KCIE GCVO DSO
	Lieutenant J W Wassell VD	1954	HRH The Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh KG
	Lieutenant H M Chester	1956	Major E T Towner VC MC
	Lieutenant Colonel T Pye	1957	Lieutenant General Sir John Lavarack KCMG KCVO KBE CB
	Lieutenant Colonel F B T W Koch	1961	Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith KCMG KCVO
	Captain G A H Curtis RAN		
	Lieutenant Colonel R G Groom VD	1977	The Hon Sir Alan Mansfield KCMG KCVO
	Major H M M Maddock VD		Air Marshal Sir Colin Hannah KCMG KCVO KBE CB
	Lieutenant Colonel W G Allsop CMG DSO		Commodore N S Pixley CMG MBE VRD
	VD Lieutenant Colonel F O'Mahoney DSO	1985	Commodore Sir James Ramsay KCMG KCVO CBE DSC
	VD Lieutenant TJ Barry	1990	Flight Lieutenant M Adams
	Colonel D E Evans DSO VD		
	Captain E J T Manchester		
	Lieutenant N McL Bell		
1928	Squadron Leader H J L Hinkler AFC DSM		
	Lieutenant Colonel RA Stanley DSO VD		
1931	Colonel C F Plant VD		
1933	Air Commodore Sir Charles Kingsford Smith		
1934	Colonel R M Stodart VDMC AFC		
	Colonel CDW Rankin VD		
	Major General R S Browne CB VD		

Acknowledgements

Many people, both privately and as representatives of organisations, have helped in a great variety of ways to create this book. Their assistance has enabled the researcher to fill, in some measure, the gap left by the absence of early records; their anecdotes have added colour to the narrative and their photographs have provided a pictorial dimension.

Credit is due Brigadier Murray Brown for initiating the idea of a history to commemorate the centenary of the Club and to succeeding presidents, Brigadier Lee Greville, Flying Officer Alex Overett and Major General Digger James for their encouragement for the project. Without their support this book would not have been produced.

Some preliminary research had been undertaken a few years ago by Lieutenant Commander Paddy Vidgen and later by Flying Officer Don Harvey and their work provided the basis for further investigation. In the early stages, Helen Gregory, an historian in her own right and the daughter of Club trustee Brigadier Jack Amies, gave valuable pointers to sources of information concerning the early life of Brisbane and the development of the Queensland Defence Force. L

Likewise, the British High Commission in Canberra indicated the way to go in seeking biographical information on the founder of the Club, Major General Owen, and the history of the original United Service club. In regard to the former quest, The Royal Artillery Historical Trust and the National Army Museum, London, were particularly helpful.

The search for information on the now defunct United Service Club in London led to the British Institute of Directors, the present occupiers of its former home, the National Trust owned building at 116 Pall Mall. Their response was both prompt and comprehensive.

Other organisations which rendered valuable assistance included Group Archives of the National Australia Bank, the Australian Archives in Canberra and the Department of Defence. But the greatest volume of material came from the excellent collection of old journals, books and photographs held by the John Oxley library in Brisbane and special thanks are due to the staff of that institution for their helpfulness on numerous occasions.

Very many individuals helped in diverse ways in providing information concerning past members and by lending photographs which have been used in this book. Some copies were made, without charge, by Queensland Newspapers Ltd.

The authors express their considerable gratitude to the people and organisations mentioned in this list and to many others too numerous to mention who offered services or, maybe, just a word of encouragement in time of need.

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