



Brigadier R. N. McNAB CSC, RFD



Brigadier McNab was President of the Club in 2014-15

Overview

Raymond Neil McNab was born in Brisbane on 21 February 1950, the third of four children to Dougald Duncan McNab and Iris Maud Audrey (nee McCoombe).

He attended Newmarket State School and Kelvin Grove State School, then Brisbane State High School before starting a public service career with the Queensland Government and later local government.

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

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

He married Aileen Margaret McNab (nee Holt), in 1968. Aileen died on 4 Dec 2002, and Ray and his late wife Aileen have two adult sons, Andrew and Ian. Andrew has recently retired as a Colonel in the Regular Army, while Ian is a manager in private enterprise and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve.

Ray's current partner is Janis Day-Lewis and she provided great support especially during his term as Club President.

Brigadier McNab retired from the Army Reserve in 2015, after 33 years' service in the Active Reserve, mainly in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, in a range of postings.

Military

He enlisted in the Citizen's Military Forces in March 1974, and was commissioned in October 1975 after graduation from the Officer Cadet Training Unit, 11 Training Group, Townsville. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, and posted to the 42nd Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment (42 RQR).

Ray served with the 42nd Battalion in a number of regimental postings, interspersed with postings to 11 Training Group as student or instructor at Reserve Command and Staff College.

In mid-1988, the McNab family moved to Brisbane, and he was posted to 1 Training Group as an instructor. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on 1 December 1990 and posted as Chief Instructor, Officer Cadet Training Unit (OCTU), 1 Training Group until 28 February 1994.

He then served as Commanding Officer, 9th Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment (9 RQR) from 1 March 1994 to 31 December 1996, after which he was posted to the Army Personnel Agency-Brisbane, as Staff Officer Grade One, Officer Career Management (SO1 OCM).

On 1 July 1997, he was promoted Colonel and served as Deputy Commander, 7th Task Force, until he was posted as Chief Instructor, Training Wing, Regional Training Centre (South Queensland) on 1 January 2000, and later that year was posted as Commandant until 31 December 2002.

He was promoted to Brigadier on 1 January 2003 and posted as Assistant Commander, Headquarters Training Command-Army, where he led the Active Reserve Training Model project team, and later the Hardened Network Army Training Model project team. He transferred to the Standby Reserve at the end of 2007.

He was awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration in 1991 and the Conspicuous Service Cross in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1997.

Civilian

Ray is a keen student and presenter of Australian Military History.

He worked in Local Government in Queensland for over 37 years (Mackay City Council, Albert Shire Council, Gold Coast City Council, and City of Gold Coast) in the fields of environmental health, community facilities, community and recreational services, and more recently specialising in Major Events.

In 2018 he retired from the City of Gold Coast where he was responsible for securing major events for the City and facilitating their staging and development.

Club Service

Ray's service with the Club is summarised as:

- Joined the Club in 1992
- Elected to the Committee in 2008
- Elected Vice-President in November 2012, and was
- Elected President at the 122nd AGM in September 2014 (succeeding Jenny Walker).
- Director of 183 Wickham Terrace Limited (as President 2014-15)

The major events during his Presidency included a strong development of a varied social calendar, including many prominent dinner speakers including the Governor General of Australia (His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove), Queensland Governor and Club Patron (His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey), Chief of Army, Major General Mike Jeffery (previous GG and Patron), and the former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer.

During and since his Presidency he has shown great interest and involvement in all facets of the club's history:

- Member of the History Interest Group since 2012
- Chairs the Club's History Interest Group since Nov 2016
- Established the 'History' tab on the Club's website in 2014
- Prepared the initial 20-30 History Notes to populate the 'History' tab
- Initiated the Club's participation in Brisbane Open House program
- Detailed research and presentations on the history of the Clubs buildings since establishment
- Coordinated and conducted the USC Western Front Battlefield Tours in 2013 and 2017
- Prepares the History page in the Club's newsletter/magazine since December 2015
- Delivered presentations focused on the Great War WW1 during the centenary of WW1 (ANZAC to Armistice)
- Delivers presentations on the history and heritage of the Club and its buildings and members, and conducted tours for members and visitors.
- Promotion of the wider task of preserving and celebrating the Club's physical and social heritage.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- Recollections by Brigadier McNab April 2020