



Major M.L. DOYLE

[1931 – 2016]



Major Doyle was President of the Club
Major Doyle was a Trustee of the Club from 2003 - 2005
Major Doyle was elected to Life Membership of the Club in 2015.

Mervyn Lawrence Doyle was born on 11 April 1931 at Paddington Sydney, the eldest child of Alan Aloysius and Kathleen Bridget Doyle (née Coogan) - his grandparents having immigrated to Australia from Southern Ireland. He had three younger sisters, Joan and twins Dawn and Norma.

He spent his youth in Dapto, NSW where his mother was a shopkeeper and his father a Main Roads foreman - who died working on roads in the Northern Territory when Mervyn was 14. After his father's death, he left school at the Christian Brothers College Wollongong and the family moved to Railway Parade Wentworthville in the western suburbs of Sydney where his mother spent the rest of her life. He went to work as a telegram boy delivering on a pushbike before working at the nearby Prospect quarry where he ended up working in the office. By all accounts he was a bit of a tear-away running around on motorbikes (Aerials, Indians, BSA's, Triumph's and the like) attracting the interest of the local constabulary.

In 1952 at age 21 he married Mary Therese Curran on 31st May in St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta

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

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- one day short of her twenty-first birthday, which then required parental consent. Sadly, tragedy struck early in their marriage with a son Shane Patrick still born in 1955. Subsequently two sons and two daughters were also born to the couple.



Doyle enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1954. He was immediately nicknamed “Blue” – which stuck with him for the rest of his life. He deployed to Japan with 1RAR in 1955 en-route to Korea where he continued to serve with 1 RAR during the Korean War. He returned to Australia in 1956 prior to being deployed overseas again with 1RAR to Malaya when he saw active service from 1959 to 1961. Whilst serving in Malaya he was unsuccessfully nominated for a BEM (British Empire Medal).

Promoted Sergeant, he served as an instructor at The Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1962-63. In 1964 Blue was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Australian Army.

In 1967 Blue was deployed overseas to Vietnam on active service with 3 RAR commanding the Mortar Platoon as a Captain. In February 1968 at Fire Base Anderson he sustained significant wounds during a mortar attack by the Viet Cong. Despite his injuries Blue stayed in Vietnam and later played an important role at the battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral.



On his return to Australia Blue served as the Adjutant of 9 RQR in Brisbane from 1969 to 1972 when he was promoted to Major and posted to 9 RAR as the Officer Commanding Support Company and later as the Operations Officer. He was subsequently posted to HQ 7th Task Force as the S02 Ops (Brigade Major). After serving the Australian Army with distinction for 20 years he took retirement in 1974 to pursue private business interests. At this time, he was also nominated for an MBE (Member of the British Empire) award which did not progress due to the cessation of Imperial Awards by the Whitlam Government.

In business as a newsagent, Blue operated agencies at West Chermside and subsequently Strathpine, Kennington and Bells Pocket. He rose to be the Vice-President of the Australian Federation of Newsagents and the Chair of ANCOL Queensland. He was also active as the owner of video stores in Wynnum and Woodridge, and a caravan park at Karumba. Not surprisingly Blue became the Charter President and Life Member of the Strathpine Chamber of Commerce; and was the Strathpine Rotary President and awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship. In 2000 Blue was the recipient of the 'Pine Rivers Citizen of the Year' award. He bought a wonderful 100(+) acre property at Rush Creek with some leasehold land attached overlooking Lake Samsonvale and built a home he called 'Lake Samsonvale Lodge'. This home won the 1990 Housing Industry Association award for 'House of the Year'. On the property he created a Santa Gertrudis cattle stud and was involved in owning some racehorses.

Blue joined the Club in 1985 and by 1988 had become an active member of the Club Committee. He served as the Club Vice-President in 1992 and 1993 before serving as President in 1994 and 1995. During his time as President Blue was the driver and steward of significant renovations to the Club's facilities. These included extending the Main Dining Room, creating the Military and Members Bars, remodelling and renovating the kitchen and commencing the renovations of accommodation rooms. He was consequently known by many members as "Builder Blue"

Blue also served as the Immediate Past President and ultimately as a Club Trustee.



Blue Doyle died in Brisbane on 1 January 2016 – the year in which his son Paul (an Assistant Commissioner of Police and Army Reserve Major) became President of the Club.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- Major P. Doyle APM (son)