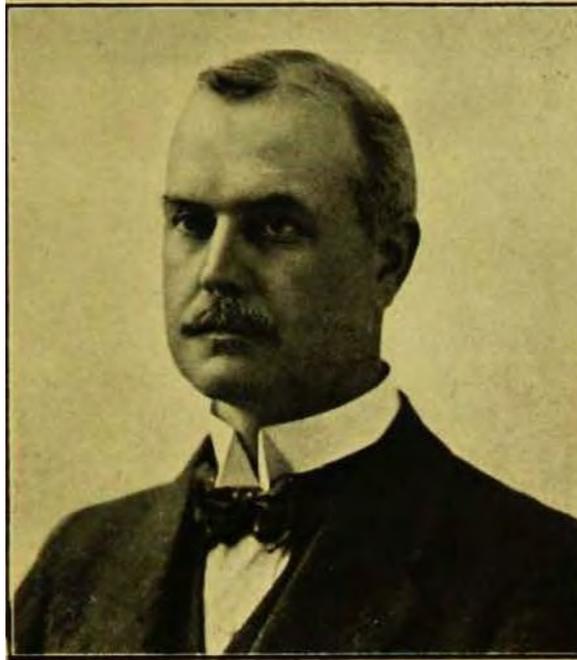




Lieutenant N.M. BELL

[1873 – 1948]



Lieutenant Bell was elected to Life Membership of the Club in 1924

Norman Mcleod (sometimes MacLeod) Bell was born on 13 June 1873 at Paisley, Scotland. He was the elder son of John Bell [1830 -1911] of Paisley, Scotland, a warehouseman, and Euphemia (née Foulis) [1843-1922] from St. Andrews, Scotland. They had married in 1870 in Glasgow, Scotland and had another son – Alexander Foulis Bell [1876-1940] He married Grace Miriam (née Stewart in Brisbane in 1911.

The family arrived in Brisbane in 1886 and lived at “Hazelwood”, Beaconsfield Street, Highgate Hill. Norman was educated at grammar schools in Paisley, and at Brisbane Grammar School, finishing in 1888.

On 14 April 1909 he married Isobel Amy (née Elworthy) [1880 – 1976]. They had no children and lived at “Tigh-na-Baruich” Wellington Street, Clayfield. It appears that Norman and Isobel separated in 1927. She remained in Brisbane and later died in Victoria. Norman lived in Fortitude Valley, South Brisbane, and Taringa.

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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On leaving school, he entered an apprenticeship with the engineering company of Evans, Anderson, and Phelan. On qualifying in 1891, he then spent two years as the Assistant Mechanical Engineer for Queensland Railways.

He then spent five years in England, Scotland and America studying and gaining practical experience in engineering workshops. On his return to Scotland, and after a three years' course in mechanical engineering at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, Norman successively filled positions as draughtsman and designer to the Arrols Bridge and Roof Co, and to Messrs. A. and W. Smith, Ltd., of Glasgow, for whom he also acted as workshop manager.

On the conclusion of a short appointment as chief draughtsman and superintendent of outside works for Messrs. A. and P. Stevens, hydraulic engineers, he again left Scotland for Queensland and went into practice as a consulting engineer in Brisbane. For many years he was actively engaged on the design and supervision of important engineering schemes, especially in the gold fields, where his services as consultant were retained by many large mining concerns. He was also responsible for the introduction of electric lifts into Queensland.

In 1924 he converted his business, which had long been highly successful, into a proprietary company and established the firm of Messrs. Norman Bell and Company (Pty.), Ltd., mechanical engineers and electrical contractors at 403 Adelaide Street, Brisbane – where he was chairman and managing director. The company was the Queensland agent for General Electric & Co (England) and Standard & Waygood [lifts]. In addition to lifts, he installed large lighting plants for the State Government and the Commonwealth and was also interested in the supply of labour saving machinery and refrigerating plant.

In 1940 Bell disposed of his holding in Messrs. Norman Bell and Company to the British Electric Co, but continued to act as a director in the new management. Ill health, however, obliged him to retire in the following year.

Norman Bell was a founding member of the Australian Institute of Engineers, and a Past President of the Queensland Institute of Engineers.

Norman had a brief military career in Brisbane:

January 1904	Lieutenant, 13 th Australian Light Horse
October 1907	Reserve of Officers
July 1908	13 th ALH
October 1910	Reserve of Officers
November 1914	2 nd ALH
October 1915	Adjutant 2 nd ALH
August 1916	Assistant Camps Adjutant - Engineers Camp at Enoggera
December 1916	Demobilised
August 1918	Reserve of Officers
June 1932	Retired

Lieutenant Norman Bell died in Brisbane 15 January 1948.

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
- Who's Who in Australia 1927
- NAA service Records