



Captain R.C. NEEDHAM

[1928 – 2010]



Captain Needham was President of the Club 1992-93.

Robert Cust Needham was born in Brisbane on 19 May 1928. As a child he was raised in Clermont, Qld then attended Nudgee College Brisbane to complete his secondary education. He was Dux of the School in Grade 12 which gained him an open Scholarship to the University of Queensland. He graduated in medicine.

Bob was the Resident Medical Officer at the Mater Hospital, Brisbane then later became a leading dermatologist in Brisbane in private practice.

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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Bob met Annette O'Rourke in Sydney while undertaking post graduate study, they married and returned to Ascot Brisbane where they lived for the next 50 years. Bob and Annette had five children and ten grandchildren.

As a dermatologist, Bob had his practice in *Ballow Chambers* and *Morris Towers* on Wickham Terrace for more than fifty years. He also attended the Mater Hospital as an honorary visiting dermatologist twice per week. He served two terms as Chairman of the University of Queensland Medical Faculty and was actively involved in the management of public and private patients for more than two generations.

Bob was a very diverse person. He loved life and was engaged in many activities with his family and outside. During his life, he was Deputy Director of the Blood Bank, on the Board of Directors of both Channel 7 and FM 104. He was President of Tattersalls Club for a long time and a Life Member of the Queensland Turf Club.

Bob was a keen golfer, poker player and a very enthusiastic racing man. He and Annette raced and bred their own horses.

Bob served in the CMF having been called up for National Service upon graduating from medicine.

He told the story of his first day in uniform having reported for duty. First, he was issued a uniform (greens but no badges of rank or other embellishments) and next told to report to the RAP for the morning sick parade. He saw the usual Monday morning crowd and was still harried and trying to sort out the paperwork when told the Base Commander would be visiting the mess and his presence was required, then and there. After the expected speeches of welcome from the Mess President and the Base Commander, the Commander ran an eye over Bob's tatty appearance and asked if he had been in the Army long. Bob's answer was "All bloody day, Sir!" Bob left the Army after his 2 years' obligation.

Described as a very "clubbable" bloke, Bob became a member of the United Service Club on 1 February 1955, was on committee from 1985 until 1995. He was Club President in 1993 and 1994.

Bob Needham died on 4 January 2010 at the age on 81.

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
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