



Colonel R.J. OLIVE AM, RFD



Colonel Olive was President of the Club 2000-01

Richard (Rick) John Olive was born in Brisbane on 14 December 1953, to Gordon and Beryl Olive. His father, Wing Commander Gordon Olive CBE, DFC was a World War 2 veteran having fought as a Spitfire pilot during the Battle of Britain, and was also a past President of the United Service Club [1970-71]. His mother Beryl was active in political circles and is an elected Honorary Life Member of the National Party. Rick has 2 siblings – Denys and Maria (Marchant).

The family lived on a 10-acre farm at Runcorn on Brisbane's southern outskirts. Rick attended Runcorn State School and Coolangatta State School for a short time, and then Church of England

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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Grammar School. During the 1970s he attended the University of Queensland where he studied dentistry and met his future wife Helen, also a dentist. After graduating in 1975, he worked for two years as a dentist in Woodridge and then completed post-graduate training as an orthodontist.

Helen and Rick were married in 1976 and have 4 children – David, Rachel, Claire and Gerard. They are all now married and have provided Rick and Helen with 5 grandchildren.

Rick joined the Army Reserve as a direct entry officer in the Royal Australian Army Dental Corps (RAADC) with his commission dated 1 March 1979. He was posted to 1 Dental Unit at Water Street, Fortitude Valley. He was appointed as Officer Commanding 15 Dental Unit in 1986 and promoted to Major the following year. Then he was appointed OC of 1 Field Dental Unit in 1989 for 3 years. Next was an appointment as Secretary for Officer Selection Boards at the Army Personnel Agency - Brisbane for 3 years, after which he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1995 and posted as the Consultant orthodontist at HQ ADF. He was promoted Colonel in 1996 and appointed as Colonel Consultant - Dental, Defence Centre-Brisbane. He was appointed as Director of Health Services Army Reserve Agency Queensland in 2009 and continued the same role when posted to the Clinical Advisory Group of the 3rd Health Service Battalion in 2012. He chaired the Queensland Defence Health Triumvirate in 2009 and 2012. He was appointed as Head of Corps of RAADC during 2013-14, the first career reservist to be so appointed. He has been awarded the Reserve Force Decoration and the Australian Defence Medal for his military service and retired from the ADF in 2018.

In his professional career, Rick joined the staff of the Dental School in Turbot Street in 1980 but moved into private practice at the Brisbane Orthodontic Group later in 1981. He retired from practice in 2016 after 35 years in the same practice. Rick was active in a number of professional organisations. He served on the councils of the Australian Dental Association Queensland Branch (ADAQ) from 1981 to 2016, the ADA Federal Council between 1986 and 2016, and the Australian Society of Orthodontists (ASO) from 1989 to 2000. He has served as President of all these bodies. He was also involved in professional regulation and was appointed to the Dental Board of Queensland from 1994 to 2007, serving as President or Chairman from 1996 to 2007. During this period, he was also appointed to the Australian Dental Council where he also served as President. His international involvement was as Chairman of the organizing committee for the 7th International Orthodontic Congress, which was held in Sydney in 2010. These are only held every 5 years. He also served on the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Orthodontists. He has been elected as an Honorary Life Member of the ADAQ, ASO and ADA Inc. For his services to dentistry and the RAADC he was appointed as a Member in the Order of Australia in 2007.

Rick continued with his academic interests while in practice and was appointed as an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Queensland in 2002 and as an Adjunct Professor in 2015. He has supervised Master of Dental Science and Doctor of Clinical Dentistry research projects at the university and has more than a dozen publications in refereed journals. He has lectured widely in Australia and overseas.

Rick joined the Club as a civilian member in 1977. After being commissioned he altered his status to Active member. He was first elected to the Club committee in 1990, then elected as Honorary Treasurer in 1996 and 1997, as Vice President in 1998 and 1999 and as President in 2000 and 2001. He served as Immediate Past President 2002 to 2004, completing 14 years' service on the committee.

The most notable event during his presidency was the presentation to the Club of the Don Braben's painting "The Rendezvous" - commissioned and presented by the Club's then most decorated member and Honorary Member Captain George Hunt DSO* DSC* RN. This function was held in a packed Moreton Room and Lieutenant Commander Dr. Michael White QC, RAN treated the members present to a memorable presentation on the then recent discovery of the wreck of the Australian submarine AE2 in the Sea of Marmara.

Another event that led to an art acquisition was the 50-year members lunch, attended by more than 100 of our more senior members who passed around the hat and raised sufficient funds to allow the Club to commission the painting of “the Green House” by Kenneth Wenzel - the Sunshine Coast artist who had previously painted “the Jacarandas” on commission for the Club’s 100th anniversary.

Post-retirement Rick is kept busy with the grandchildren and maintaining their 5 acres of forest at Burbank on Brisbane’s southern outskirts. He also continues to teach part-time and go fishing offshore from the Sunshine Coast whenever the weather is favourable and he has crew for his 6 metre fishing boat.



Helen and Rick Olive

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
- Contribution from Colonel Olive April 2020