



united service club

history & heritage notes

CLUB HONOUR BOARDS



ANOMALIES AND INACCURACIES

There are several anomalies and inaccuracies in the entries on the Club's "Presidents" and "Life Members" Honour Boards – which on display near the entrance of our Montpelier Club house.

Club records from the years of the anomalies have long since disappeared or turned into dust, so we cannot be sure of the sources of the variances, but they have probably arisen from:

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.

ANOMALIES AND INACCURACIES – CONTINUED

- In the case of the “Presidents” Board:
 - bureaucratic sluggishness at Colonial Government level, e.g. failing to formally notify the Club of a change of the (government-appointed) President; and/or
 - creating / refreshing Honour Boards in retrospect, well after the fact – which often relied on scant “hard-copy” records and Members’ memories. This naturally resulted in some errors.
- In the case of the “Life Members” Board:
 - record-keeping in the foundation years was fairly sketchy and some specifics have been lost to the mists of time;
 - some post-nominals recorded in error; and/or
 - decorations awarded after the board entry and the post nominals not recorded on the board.

Club Life Member LTCOL Stephen Maitland OAM RFD conducted an exhaustive review in 2021 on behalf of our History Interest Group (HIG). The results are summarised below, providing an authoritative listing of the Presidents and the Life Members Honour Boards which can be used with confidence in Annual Reports and other publications.

The Club Committee agreed with the HIG’s recommendations, and decided:

- NOT to re-write the Honour Boards – apart from the expense, for all their faults, they (and their quirkiness) form part of the Club history); and
- instead, to record the errors and corrections on the website (i.e. in this document); and
- to leave all ranks and postnominals “as is” on the same basis – i.e. not to specifically update for ranks and awards attained after the Club event (be it election to Presidency or Life Membership), or, for example where “RAN” is used in error, e.g. before the formation of the RAN.

Readers are reminded that biographies of all those listed on the Presidents and Life Members Honour Boards are available in the “Club History” section of the public access Club website.

PRESIDENTS

When the Club was formed as a “Registered Club” in 1892, the Queensland colonial government undertook to provide accommodation and a grant of £50 p.a., but required that the President be appointed by the government. Thus, the Club’s form of control was less than totally democratic, in that the Presidents were not elected by the members.

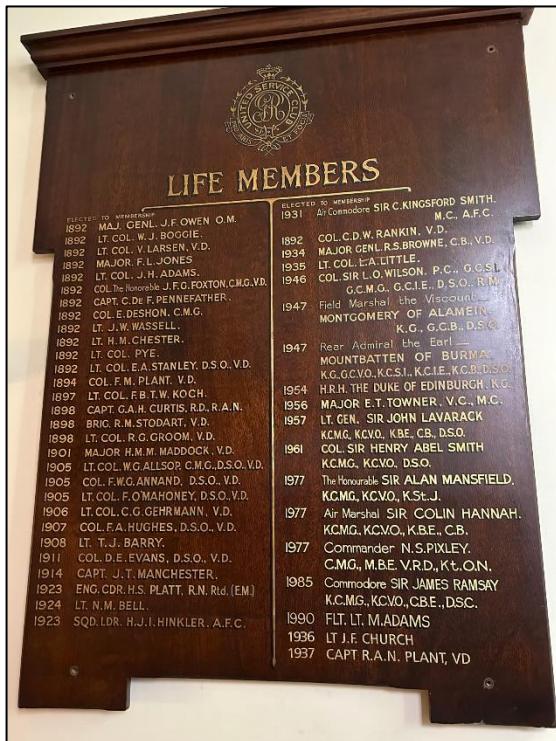
They were alternately the Commandants of the Land and Marine Defence Forces as titular heads – while the work of running the organisation was carried out by a separate Chairman and a Committee including an Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.

1910 marked the end of the alternation of military and naval commandants as non-elected Presidents and the rules were changed to allow the election of any financial member to this office, at the annual general meeting in each year. The first to be so elected was Lieutenant Colonel A Sutton.

The Presidents’ names after this date are more accurately recorded, as the records were more reliable and better kept, and we did not need to rely on a government official to officially notify the Club of the name of its new President.

Year	Honour Board	Reality	Comment
1892	Owen	Owen	Board is correct
1893	Creswell	Drake	Creswell did not serve in Queensland until 1900-1904. (Drake was Commandant Queensland Naval Defence Force 1891-1900)
1894	Gunter	Drury	Gunter did not serve in Brisbane until 1895
1895	Creswell	Drake	Creswell did not serve in Queensland until 1900-1904
1896	Gunter	Gunter	Board is correct
1897	Creswell	Drake	Creswell did not serve in Queensland until 1900-1904
1898	Gunter	Gunter	Board is correct
1899	Creswell	Drake	Creswell did not serve in Queensland until 1900-1904
1900	Finn	Finn	Board is correct
1901	Tickell	Creswell	Tickell was Commandant of the Victorian Naval Forces 1897-1904
1902	Price	Price	Board is correct
1903	Tickell	Creswell	Tickell was Commandant of the Victorian Naval Forces 1897-1904
1904	Price	Price	Board is correct
1905	Richardson	Tickell	Richardson did not serve in Queensland until 1906-1911
1906 onwards	The Board is accurate with the caveat on rank and postnominals noted herein		

LIFE MEMBERS



The Life Member Boards are more confusing – on the Honour Board until about 1928, the year shown against the name is the year the Life Member joined the Club, not the year of election to Life Membership. As a result, the first twelve listings show “1892”, but Life Membership would hardly have been granted in the first year of the Club’s life. We have no records to identify the correct year of election to Life Member.

The review also showed that the Honour Boards were incomplete. Two Life Members were not included in the Life Member Honour Boards:

- Lieutenant J.F. Church – elected Life member 1936; and
- Captain R.A.N. Plant VD – elected Life member 1937

This omission has since been rectified as a mark of respect to these members and their memory. We adopted the most practical method of adding them in previously vacant spaces below Adams (1990); thus, they appear out of chronological sequence on the Honour Board.

There are some other errors that were identified, some minor, but all important in terms of accuracy and respect. These are highlighted in **RED** below and will be addressed in due course by a plaque adjacent to the Honour Board.

- 1892 Maj. Gen. J.F. Owen: **delete OM**
- 1892 Lt. J.W. Wassell: **VD**
- 1892 Lt. Col. **T.** Pye
- 1905 Col. F.W.G. Annand DSO^{**}, VD (three DSOs is a noteworthy achievement)
- 1911 Col. D.E. Evans DSO, **OBE**VD
- 1923 SQD LDR H.J.I. Hinkler AFC, **DSM**
- 2020 COL D.J. Scanlan CSM, RFD: **delete ADC**