



Major T.G. MacMINN

[1905 – 1958]



Major MacMinn was President of the Club 1956-57

Thomas Gibson MacMinn was born 28 April 1905 in Brisbane. His parents were James Thomas Gibson McMinn [1869–1925] and Mary Patterson (nee Ross) [1865-1936]. His father was a prominent businessman and Alderman of Greater Brisbane. Lived at “Brooklyn” Villiers Street, New Farm.

Thomas was the youngest of the family - his siblings were sister Isabella White [1890-1924], brother James Cameron [1896-1933], and sister Mary Alexandra Cameron [1902-1977].

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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MacMinn received his formal architectural training at the Brisbane Central Technical College (a predecessor institution of the Queensland Institute (later University) of Technology). He was registered as an architect on 3 Oct 1929 at the Department of Public Works, where he worked for a number of years.

In 1937, Thomas married Gwendolyn Marian (nee Campbell) [1907-2003] in Brisbane. They had two children – Lesley Jean [1939-1965] and John Cameron “Macca” [1942-2019] – who became an architect and a keen sailor in Gladstone.

He served in the Royal Australian Engineers, AIF during World War II. Briefly, his service career was:

September 1939	Lieutenant (provisional) RAE (Fd) Militia
June 1940	Temporary Captain
December 1945	Major, 12 th Australian Army Troops Company,
February 1946	Mentioned in Dispatches “ <i>in recognition of services rendered in the South West Pacific Area during the period 1 October 1944 and 31 March 1945</i> ”
November 1952	Major MacMinn transferred to the Retired List

The architectural firm of Moulds & MacMinn was established shortly after the War. Bill Moulds¹ and MacMinn were both experienced field engineers and enthusiastic club members. Their offices were originally in the Colonial Mutual Building in 1946, and later at South Brisbane. Prominent Brisbane architect Robin Gibson was employed at the firm in the 1950s. MacMinn was at one time, the Honorary Club Architect.

In 1954 he oversaw the closure of the tennis courts on the lower level and after acquisition of the property on Upper Edward Street, and their conversion to a car park. On 28 June 1954, the committee heard from Major T G MacMinn “... that when the cottage was removed from Upper Edward Street, a ramp would be constructed, and the tennis courts covered with a load of decomposed granite. Then the area would be graded so that the water would run into existing spoon drains.”

He joined the Club in 1946 and joined the Committee in 1950. He was Joint Vice-President 1954-55; and was elected President 1956-57.

He tragically died in office as the result of swallowing part of a toothpick in the Club dining room on 11 February 1958. He was succeeded by the Vice-President - Wing Commander G.F. Christensen.

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
- National Archives of Australia

¹ Major William Jestyn Moulds MBE [1909-1984]. Architect, of Brisbane. World War II service in RAE Field Companies in Middle East (Tobruk and El Alemein) and South West Pacific (Lae, Finschaven, Huon Peninsular). MBE awarded for his SWPA combat sweervice.