



**Brigadier C. D. F. WILSON OAM, RFD, ED**

[1928 – 2014]



**Brigadier Wilson was elected to Life membership of the Club in 2001**

**Brigadier Wilson was a Trustee of the Club from 1989 to 2002**

**As Lieutenant Colonel Wilson in 1975, and as Colonel Wilson in 1976, he was President of the Club.**

Colin David Francis Wilson was born on 24 January 1928 in Yerongpilly, Brisbane. Son of Thomas [1900-1970], a timber seller, and Althia Narelle (née Wilkin) [1901-1973]. He had 2 younger brothers – Bruce and Allen. The family moved to Auchenflower, where he attended primary school, and then to Clayfield from where he attended Brisbane Grammar School.

Colin married Diana June (née Greasley) [1931 – 2007] on 8 September 1954 at St. John's Cathedral, Brisbane. They lived at Holland Park where their daughter Suzanne was born in 1955. The family moved to Greenslopes where son Craig [1959-2008] was born. Colin and Diana later lived at Mansfield and at Labrador.

*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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Colin was the principal of Wilson Timbers. The business of T. Wilson & Sons Pty Ltd was established by Colin's father, Tom (a longstanding "timber" man) in 1955 and together they grew it to become a major timber supplier in South East Queensland – originally at Annerley Road, Dutton Park, and then at Davey Street, Moorooka, and later also at Yatala and Ipswich/Yamanto. Colin changed the name to Wilson Timbers in 1971 after Tom died.

Colin became very involved in the timber industry and various industry associations. On his retirement in 2005, his son-in-law Nigel Shaw managed the timber business.

Colin was also a member of Lions International, and a supporter of many charitable causes.

His military career followed the following path:

1948	Enlisted in 9 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Citizen Military Forces
1951	Commissioned
1952-55	Regular Army (#17555)
1953	Rifle Platoon and Assault Pioneer Platoon Commander in 3RAR in Korea
1954	BCOF Japan; and a Company Commander at the Army Apprentices School, Balcombe
1954	promoted Captain
1955	Rejoined the Citizen Military Forces - served in 9 Bn & HQ 7 <sup>th</sup> Brigade
1958	promoted Major
1958-66	postings to 9 Bn, 1 RQR (Pentropic), and Command and Staff Training Unit
1966	promoted Lieutenant Colonel
1966	GSO1 (CMF) HQ Northern Command
1967	Commanded Officer Cadet Training Unit
1968-70	Commanded 49 <sup>th</sup> Battalion RQR ( <i>The Bushman's Rifles</i> )
1971-73	Commanded 2/14 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse ( <i>Queensland Mounted Infantry</i> )
1974-77	SO1 (Operations) HQ 1 <sup>st</sup> Military District
1977	promoted Colonel
1977-79	Training Wing 1 <sup>st</sup> Training Group
1980	Commander, 1 <sup>st</sup> Training Group
1980	promoted Brigadier
1980-83	Assistant Commander, 1 <sup>st</sup> Division
1983	Reserve of Officers

1980 – 1983 Honorary Aide de Camp to the Governor General (Sir Zelman Cowan)

1982 – 1989 Honorary Colonel, 2/14<sup>th</sup> Light Horse (QMI)

It is very unusual, and possibly unique in modern Australian Army history, to have commanded both an infantry battalion and an armoured regiment, as well as an officer training unit.

Colin was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 1977 Australia Day List for "service to the Australian Light Horse Association".

He was awarded the Efficiency Decoration in 1967, with 2 clasps to 1981; and the Reserve Force Decoration was awarded in 1982.

Colin was a Life Member and Patron of the Queensland Branch of the RAAC Association. After his retirement he became the President (and Life Member and Patron) of the national RAAC Association. He also played a major role in the establishment of the Australian Light Horse Association - and became a Life Member and Patron.

Colin joined the Club on his commissioning in July 1951 – and was a member for 63 years.

He served on the Committee from 1969-70 to 1972-73; was Vice President 1973-75; President 1975-77; and Immediate Past President 1977-79.

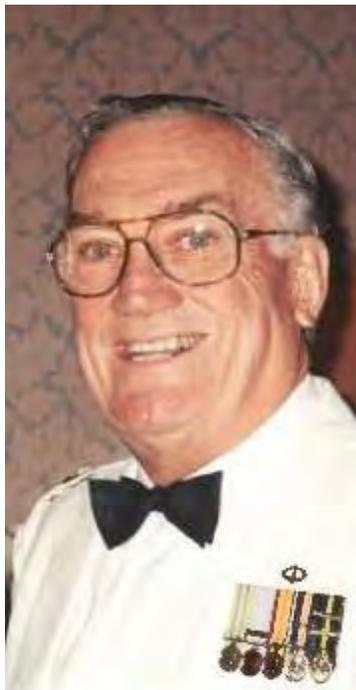
He was an energetic and enthusiastic member and gave freely of his commercial and business acumen – as well as his Army connections. He (together with others such as Brigadier Harrison and

Colonel Mullins) were very active in recruiting Club members from the newly commissioned ranks of the officer producing units in South East Queensland in the 1960s and 1970s. He was also a strong advocate of expanding the civilian membership of the Club.

The Club history records that “Lieutenant Colonel Wilson, then commanding the 49th Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment, also held frequent dinners for his officers in the Club. These dinners were rarely quiet or sedate occasions.” – which illustrates Wilson’s gregarious nature.

The Club History also records several instances where Wilson took a firm stand in debate on ensuring the financial viability of the Club; and with others advising on at least two occasions (1972 and 1981) on the Club’s deliberations of offers for re-development of its Wickham Terrace properties. He was a constructive voice at the Club as a Life Member.

Brigadier Wilson died 28 July 2014 Brisbane.



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
- “Measure twice, cut once” January 2018
- Contribution from Brigadier Wilson’s daughter Suzanne Shaw June 2020