

## Robb in the Past

Founded in 1960, Robb College is named after the first Registrar of the University of New England, Mr William Menzies Robb. Originally established as a men's college, female students were accepted from 1977. The College is non-denominational.

The first Head of College, the late Mr BCJ Meredith, OBE, was appointed by the University Council in January 1960 and served until the end of 1966. The second Head of College, Mr J D Sinclair- Wilson, took up his appointment in January 1968 and retired in December 1980. He was succeeded by Dr Jim Irvine (1980-1991), Dr Penny Warwick (1991), Mrs Jan Wyles (1992-1998), Dr Ray Nyland (1999-2001), Mrs Jill Spilsbury (2001-2003), Mr Michael Maas (2003-2006), Ms Jan Moran (2006-2009) and Dr Jack Hobbs (2009-2010).

Robb College is known for its strong community spirit and the emphasis placed on leadership, character, integrity and participation. Robb College is proud of the very strong bonds that exist between current and former College students.

The Robb College motto is "Fellowship in Learning".

## William Menzies Robb *A Brief Biography*

William Menzies (Bill) Robb was born in Dundee, Scotland, on the 14th November, 1910. He emigrated to Australia, attended Sydney Boys' High School, then Sydney University where he completed the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Diploma of Education.

From 1929 to 1941, he taught with the N.S.W Department of Education until enlisting in the Australian Army in World War II as an Education Officer. He attained the rank of Major.

From 1946 to 1948 he was the Deputy Headmaster of Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School at Tamworth.

In 1948 he was appointed Registrar of the New England University College. In anticipation of the granting of autonomy to the University College, Bill Robb went abroad in 1952 to study residential accommodation in the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, and the United States. On his return, he planned a "hall of residence" (which later became Mary White College) on a site which ironically was later used for building Robb College.



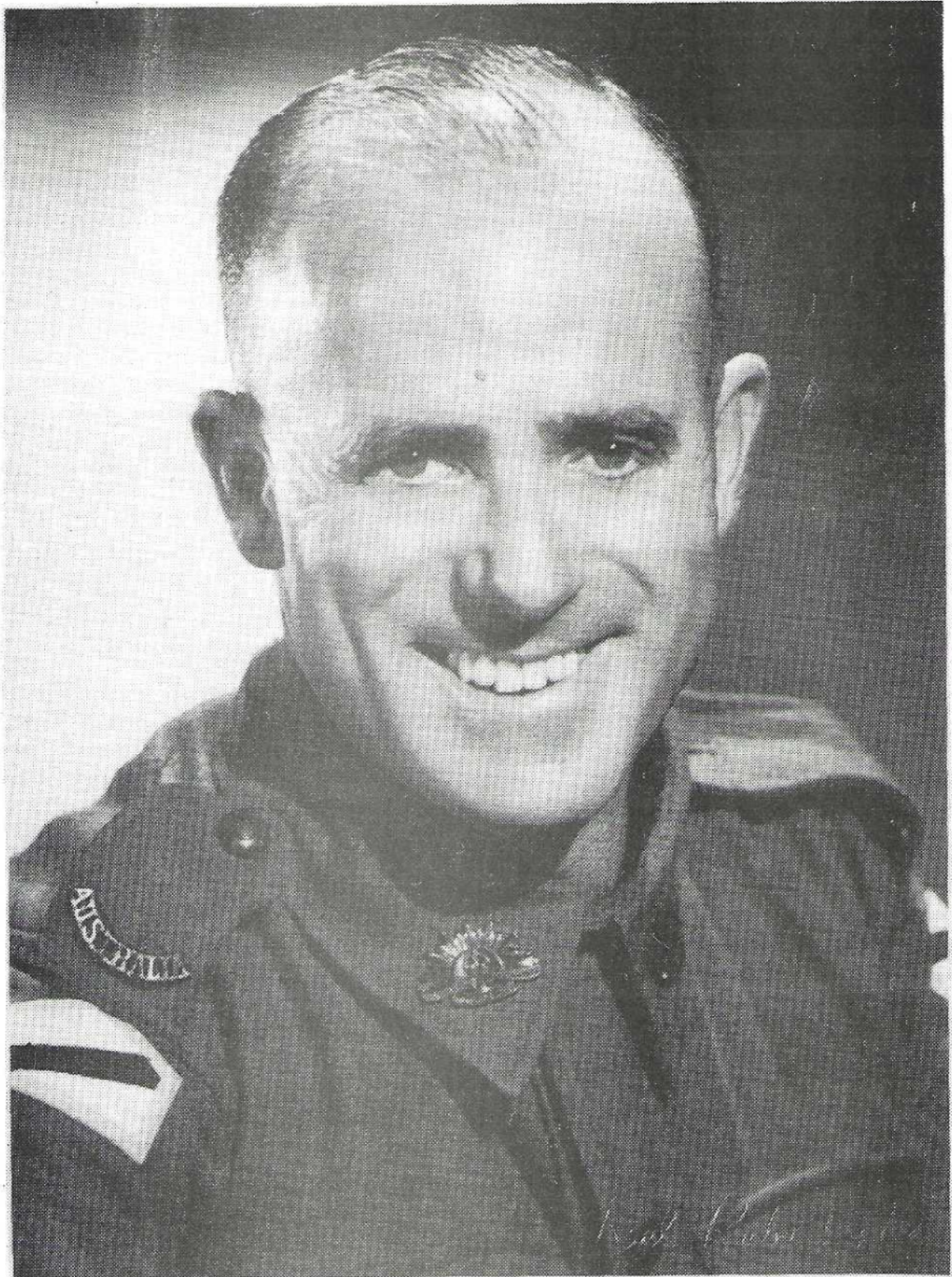
The University of New England College gained autonomy and became the University of New England in 1954, with Bill Robb as its first Registrar. He lived in "Boooloominbah" and worked tirelessly to develop the grounds, and to plan the Collegiate system for which this University has become famous.

Bill Robb's efforts took considerable toll on his health. He suffered a heart attack in September 1957 and was granted leave. Unfortunately he returned too soon to his work, and died suddenly at the age of 48 on 14th May, 1958.

On a recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor to Council, the second men's college, which opened in 1960, was officially named "Robb College", in honour of William Menzies Robb, the University's first registrar.

Mr G.E. Forster met the cost of Mr Robb's portrait, which was commissioned by Council and painted posthumously from an available photograph. This portrait hangs in the dining room of Robb College.

The Robb family motto, "This I'll Defend" is in keepings with the ethos and proud spirit of this College.



*Bill Robb served during the Second World War as an Education Officer, attaining the rank of Major. Photo: Courtesy of UNE.*