

William ‘John’ Michael Ferguson was born on 10 July 1945 and entered OTU with Class 3/66 on 29 July 1966 as an Air Cadet. On graduation on 23 December 1966 John was allocated to AAAvn. He attended Basic Flying Training School with Course 64 (1967) and Advanced Flying Training at Amberley with Course 12/67. The Army had hired two QueenAir twin-engine aircraft from Toowoomba and Ferguson had been undertaking Army aerial survey work near Shepparton in one. On 30 November 1969 Ferguson, to ‘use up the hours’, took six local passengers for a flight after a day of social inter-club competitions involving members of the Royal Victorian Aero Club from Moorabbin and the Goulburn Valley Aero Club. During the flight the aircraft lost power to one engine and hit the ground in a paddock at Kialla East, just south of Shepparton. All onboard were killed. A plaque was unveiled on 30 November 2019 on the 50th Anniversary of the crash by family members of the locals who died.

