

**Richard Warren Jarrett** (John Lowis, 2/69)

Richard Warren Jarrett was born on 16 July 1946 in Murwillumbah, NSW, and completed his secondary education at Toowoomba State High School in Queensland. He enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces as a 19-year-old serving in 51 Royal Queensland Regiment (RQR) in North Queensland before joining the 9RQR. From 9RQR he enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in September 1967 and headed off to 1st Training Battalion Kapooka to complete his recruit training. Rick was posted to the School of Signals, enrolled in the electronics technician's course at Ingleburn in western Sydney and then Balcombe south of Melbourne, an 11 months course. Upon successfully completing the course he was posted to 2 Sig Regiment, however Aviation called and he was accepted for flying training.

Rick entered OTU as an Air Cadet. His Army experience shone through in his Junior Term with Class 2/69 and in his Senior Term he was given the rank of Under Officer as Battalion Quartermaster Sergeant.

Rick graduated on 4 October 1969 and was allocated to the Australian Army Aviation Corps and posted to the 3rd Training Battalion in Singleton, NSW, as a Platoon Commander.

He married Carmen in Innisfail later that year. One of his OTU classmates bought the same brown suit in a Sydney disposal store as Rick bought so was a natural selection to be groomsman at the wedding. The mate ran out of money in Innisfail and prevailed on Rick and Carmen to travel south with them on their honeymoon. The wonderfully tolerant Carmen agreed, as did Rick through gritted teeth.

After about 3 months as Platoon Commander, Rick joined 5 Army Pilots Course at the Basic Flying Training Squadron at Point Cook on 12 January 1970. On 27 April 1970 Rick was posted to 162 Independent Recce Flt as an Admin Officer. He later completed the 12 month course qualifying as an Air Traffic Controller. This was followed by postings to 1 Aviation Regiment and the School of Army Aviation. Whilst at the School, he was instrumental in developing a pre-selection course for ATC. At the time, the failure rate at the ATC training at RAAF East Sale was about 50%. Students had to pass the same psych and assessment tests as pilots, however many were not able to handle the team work or be able to visualise many aircraft in the 4 Dimensional world. The two week course developed was designed to simulate ATC operations at an airport and put candidates under pressure, and identifying those who could handle the pressure and the 4D world. The failure rate at EAST Sale course fell to 10% as result of this better selection method.

After returning to 1 Avn Regt, Rick was posted to the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan as an Observer in 1978 with main duties in Kashmir. Apart from the great experience, it was a wonderful adventure with Carmen and for part of the time, their “married quarter” was a houseboat. From UNMO, Rick returned to Oakey serving at 1 Avn Regt and the Army Aviation Centre, before getting a non-corps posting to Local Administration in Canberra in 1983. His first daughter Emma was born in 1984 and christened in the Duntroon Chapel. He was posted as Officer Commanding Base Squadron at Oakey in 1987 and his second daughter, Riah was born the same year.

Carmen returned to her work as a nurse at Toowoomba Hospital.

After leaving the Army in 1988, Rick joined the newly created Queensland Correctives Services Commission which just started the amalgamation of Prisons, Parole, Probation and Community Corrections into one organisation. Rick and Carmen’s life focussed on family life in Toowoomba and both looked forward to retirement. Tragically, Carmen was taken early when a minor leg injury developed into a life threatening infection over a few days. Rick was devastated and became a virtual recluse. He emerged from that, taking up Rock and Roll dancing, renewing his skills with the guitar and enjoying the freedom of the road with the “Patriots” bikie group. He was most concerned about the Qld Newman government laws about motor cycle gangs! Through the dancing, he met Irene, hit it off and they moved to settle in Hervey Bay in 2014. Soon after Rick was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and in typical Rick fashion, he fought it off, and he and Irene enjoyed life to the full, enjoying trips away and continued with the dancing, daughters marrying and arrival of grandchildren. The cancer remained in remission until early 2018, when it came back with a vengeance. Rick quickly got his affairs in order, married Irene, organised his funeral and fought until the end on 30 May 2018. His funeral was on 6 June, was conducted as a “Poppy Service” and was attended by family, Scheyville, Army Aviation and Patriot mates. Rest in Peace Mate.