

Vale Joe McCulloch (14 August 1953 – 4 September 2016)



Joseph McCulloch was of Scottish heritage and born in Queensland on 14 August 1953, the eldest of five boys and two girls. Attending Christian Brothers College in Bundaberg, he was found to be a talented, fiercely competitive sportsman, excelling at Rugby League, hockey, surf lifesaving, gymnastics and squash. He applied and was selected for officer training at the Regular Army Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea, to commence his officer training in July 1972. However he, along with 35 other applicants from his class, was allocated to be in the 2/72 Class of the Scheyville Wing of OCS located at the National

Service officer training establishment, the Officer Training Unit (OTU), located at Scheyville near Windsor in NSW.

When the National Service OTU Class 4/72 commenced at Scheyville on 15 October 1972, Joe was a member of 7 Platoon, Blamey Company in the OTU Battalion of Officer Cadets and was one of those Junior OCS Cadets who were not given a 'Son' after the first three months. When OTU Class 4/72 and OCS (Scheyville) Class 2/72 entered their Senior Term at the start of 1973, the BOC was downsized to be the Company of Officer Cadets and Joe remained in the same Platoon within what was then called Blamey Platoon and was made 'Father' to 'Son' Mark Walker of the 1/73 OCS (Scheyville) Class. His was the middle of the three OCS (Scheyville) classes. Along with his other 2/72 OCS (Scheyville) Class members, he went to Portsea in mid-1973 to graduate with his cohort classmates.

At OTU Joe was one of the characters of the class and words such as 'rogue', 'scoundrel', 'larrikin', and 'mischievous' were used to describe him, all in the spirit of fondness for a classmate. He was good to have in the class, a morale booster for all when they learnt of his latest escapade and it was to follow that he retained his larrikin streak throughout his service.

On graduation on 15 June 1973, Joe was allocated to the Royal Australian Corps of Transport and served-on for over 20 years. His postings included 1st Transport Platoon, 1st RTB, Melbourne Transport Unit, HQ 5th and 44th Transport Squadrons, 12th Chief Engineer Works, HQ 1st Division, Brisbane Transport Unit, Sydney District Support Unit and HQ 10th Terminal Regiment. As well, he served two years in PNG from November 1980 and finished his career in 1994 with the rank of Major when the Army was down-sizing and Joe was offered and accepted a Voluntary Redundancy Package.

After battling cancer for several years, Joe died at Hervey Bay in Queensland on 4 September 2016. He is survived by his second wife, Sherena and children from his first marriage, Candice and Nick and grandchildren Grace, Charlee, Preah and Justus.