

**Paul Thomas Kearney** was born in Melbourne on 29 June 1951 being brought up in Brunswick and later in Burwood. He completed his secondary education at Marcellin College in Bulleen and had worked with the Victorian Railways as a Clerk before a change of direction saw him study Applied Chemistry at Swinburne College in Hawthorn. Paul was working as a Trainee Chemist with Dunlop Rubber before commencing his Nasho with a bus trip to 2 RTB Puckapunyal on 29 September 1971. At this time Paul's mother Eileen joined 'Save Our Sons'. Paul commenced Officer Training at OTU Scheyville on 15 October with Class 4/71, where he met Officer Cadet Kim McDonald who would become a life-long friend. Kim, who had been injured, started OTU with Class 3/71 and would continue in Paul's platoon, but unfortunately did not graduate with Paul on 19 April 1972.

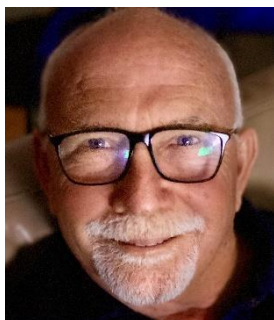


Paul was allocated to RAASC and posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Mobile Petroleum Laboratory in Melbourne. This posting would see Paul deploy with 9<sup>th</sup> Petroleum Platoon where he conducted field quality assurance, mostly on aviation fuel. Captain Peter Baker, a former OC of 9 Pet Pl, ran the Puckapunyal Petroleum Platoon and he became another of Paul's life-long friends.

On 2 February 1973 Paul transferred to RAAOC. He was due for discharge from National Service on 28 March 1973 but decided to continue serving and on 19 June 1973 transferred to the ARA. On 2 November 1975 was promoted to Lieutenant. Postings followed to 33 (and later 32) Supply Battalion, The Officer Cadet School, Portsea, various Army Headquarters postings where, due to acquired (or perhaps he might have said perceived) computer skills, he eventually took over as SO1, Budget Management. His later postings included being on the Australian Defence Staff in Washington. While serving at Headquarters Logistics Command, Paul discharged from the Army on 8 January 1996 with the rank of Lt Col.



In 1978, while serving at OCS Portsea, Paul met Julianne, who became his first wife. The couple would have two children. In 2006 Paul married Sue, who also had two children. The family grew to include six grandchildren ranging from 7 months to 9 years by 2020. Paul and Sue travelled extensively in the last 19 years. This included Paul completing the Kokoda Track with some Laminex work colleagues. Paul's post-Army work included, not surprisingly for an Ex-Army Officer, working in supply chain and logistics executive roles with such companies as Smorgon Steel, Adidas Australia, and The Laminex Group.



In January 2020, Paul participated in Peter Baker's funeral, Peter having died from cancer. One month later, Paul found that he himself had cancer. Sue wrote: 'As 2020 unfolded, Paul was want to reflect that even if he never got to travel again, he was happy and grateful for having done as much as he had in his life. He was a happy man - happiest in the most simple of pursuits, and proudest of all about his big happy family.' Paul, having fought valiantly against cancer, heart disease and stroke, died peacefully early on 10 November 2020 with family at his side.