

Vale Ray Dousset (21 April 1950 – 29 October 2019)



Raymond Allan Dousset was born in Chelsea, Victoria, on 21 April 1950. After serving for three years with 2nd Commando Company in the Citizen Military Force, Ray joined the ARA in 1970 and undertook Recruit Training at Kapooka where he was awarded Top Recruit of his intake. He was allocated to RAEME and went to Bandiana, completing Corps training and the 48 of 1970 Adult Trades Electronics Course at the RAEME Training Centre. Following this, he was posted to 3rd Base Workshop, Puckapunyal as a Radar Mechanic.

In 1972 he applied and was selected for officer training at the Regular Army Officer Cadet School (OCS), Portsea to commence his officer training in January 1973. However he, along with 30 other applicants from his class, was allocated to be in the 1/73 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. Ray was appointed Colour Sergeant of Monash Platoon of what was then the Company of Officer Cadets, in the Senior Class remaining at Scheyville after the march-out of the 2/72 OCS (Scheyville) Class in June 1973. His was the last of the three OCS (Scheyville) classes. Along with his other 1/73 Class members, he went to Portsea in December 1973, to graduate with his cohort classmates.

Ray graduated to RAEME and was posted back to 3rd Base Workshop. In July 1976 he achieved his lifelong dream of becoming an Army Pilot and graduated from 23 Army Pilot Basic Course at No1 Flight Flying School, Point Cook. He, along with the other trainees, passed the rigorous training by supporting each other to the maximum; something Ray was known for at Scheyville and for which he was to become known throughout his selfless life. This was followed by completion of Advanced Flying Training Course 1 of 1977 (Rotary Wing). He served until 1981, had a break in his service, becoming a highly-praised rescue chopper pilot working in Gippsland, Victoria and North Queensland and re-joined the Army in 1986 in the Army Reserve, to fly with 1st Aviation Regiment. In 1989 he commenced a period of Continuous Full-Time Service, flying with 162nd Reconnaissance Squadron in 1st Aviation Regiment. After another short break, Ray re-joined the ARA on a Short Service contract, serving a further two years, this time with 5th Aviation Regiment.

By early 1992 Ray had ceased flying at his own request due to emerging mental issues and assumed a Squadron 2IC role but soon after, he was diagnosed as a manic-depressive and medically discharged in September 1992. After the breakdown of his first marriage and a long road to recovery, he eventually embraced religion and did some missionary work in China and Hong Kong with his new partner Suzanne. They adopted a young Chinese girl who had been abandoned, as she suffered with physical and mental limitations and she came back to Australia with them. Ray was the author of two books, 'Rotor in the Green' and 'With Wings as Eagles'. He and Suzanne eventually settled in Mackay, North Queensland enjoying retirement.

Sadly this was cut short when Ray was killed in a car accident on 29 October 2019. He left behind his wife Suzanne; his children, Michelle, Christine (Matt), Damian (Catharine), Deborah, Joslin (Merv), Chad, Donna (Nathan) and Melinda (Anthony).