

Richard John McEvoy was born in Sydney on 10 May 1946 and completed his secondary education as School Captain at Wyong High School in 1963. He went to Teacher's College in 1964 and was a Primary School Teacher at Cootamundra with the Department of Education, NSW, prior to undertaking his National Service.



On 1 February 1967 Richard enlisted as 2786395 in the ARA Supplement (NS) and commenced his Recruit Training at 3 TB, Singleton. He was selected for OTU and commenced there with Class 1/67 on 17 February. In his Senior Term at OTU he held the rank of Under Officer as Company Sergeant Major, C Company and was Vice-Captain of the Rugby Union 1st XV Team. Known as Dick to his classmates, he

graduated on 13 July. Dick was allocated to RAInf and although he volunteered to go to Vietnam, he was posted to 1 PIR, Port Moresby, TPNG, arriving there on 4 August 1967. Right: Dick in TPNG, third from left, centre row.

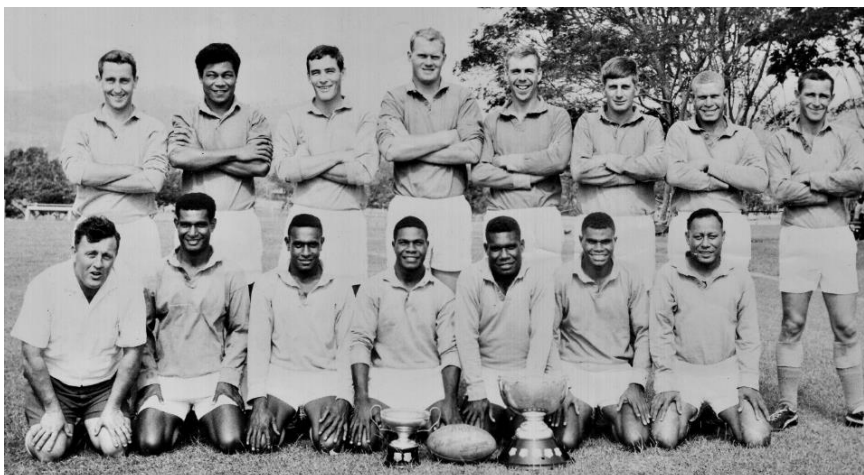


While in TPNG, Dick was a member of the 1968 Army Rugby Union Team that played in the Port Moresby District Rugby Competition. The team, that also included Keith Hopkins (2/67) and a couple of other Nashos, won the Grand Final by one point! Another Nasho in the team, Sergeant Teacher Norm Hunter (RAAEC), said:



‘Dick hardly had to jump (in the lineouts): he just reached up & caught the ball.’

Above Dick could jump!



Left: from Norm Hunter (rear, 3rd from left), the Army 1968 Rugby Union Premiership Team.

There were several Nashos in the team including Norm. Dick McEvoy (1/67) is the tallest in the rear and 3rd from right in the rear is Keith Hopkins (2/67). Dick and Norm represented Port Moresby in the National Rugby Carnival held in Lae that year.



Richard returned to Australia on 25 November 1968 and was discharged on 31 January 1969. The following day he commenced in the CMF with 17th Battalion, RNSWR, from where he was discharged on 4 June 1970. Richard married Lynnette Pyke on 19 June 1970 and along the way the couple would have two daughters and one son: Venessa, Meaghan and Ben. They would have ten grandchildren: Adam, Samantha, Rex, Molly, Chloe, Peggy, Tianna, Magnus, Kyle and Chester.



In a change of occupation, in 1971 Dick, who had been a very good junior golfer, commenced a three-year course at the end of which he became a professional golfer and the Club 'Pro' at the Wyong Golf Club. Later he became the Secretary/Manager of the club

In 1978 there was another career change when Richard and Lynn took over the Hamilton Station Hotel in Islington, a Newcastle suburb, where they stayed for over 5 years. The family then moved to the Hunter Valley region and purchased property at Martins Creek (between Dungog and Paterson), from where Richard and Lynn would also manage the Courthouse Hotel in Paterson before moving to PNG in 1983. At Mount Hagen in PNG Richard and Lynn managed the Pioneer Club and the Golf Club. Returning to Australia Richard and Lynn then took over the Ocean Beach Hotel at Umina Beach, south of Gosford.

Then for eleven years Richard was the Manager of the Ourimbah RSL (just south of Wyong) before his health deteriorated, driving him into retirement. He and Lynn moved to Harrington; a beautiful town located on the North Coast of NSW. After several years and a lot of travelling and fishing, Richard and Lynn settled back on the family property in Kanwal, a suburb of Wyong. This was a property purchased by Richard's parents many years ago: the poultry etc are long gone. From there, he and Lynn enjoyed gardening and the occasional fishing adventure.

After a battle with lung cancer Dick died in Wyong Hospital on St Patrick's Day, 17 March 2021. His funeral was held on 25 March 2021 at the Mackay Family Funerals on the Central Coast, where he was fondly remembered for his smarts, wit and humour. His body was cremated.
RIP Dick McEvoy!

