

My Life

I don't have a very colourful life during or after the RAAF to interest many. No funny experiences, not a drinker so was never with the in crowd in fact was marked down on my 207 as having a poor Service Attitude because I didn't frequent the Sgt's mess to discuss work over a beer. I have a poor memory but still remember many past members even though they will not remember me.

I joined as a 15 year old appy and my first posting was to 481 SQN. I was employed in the Mirage hangar for about 18 months before being posted to 3SQN. Was a part of Operation Thoroughfare in 69. Whilst in Malaysia I married to a local girl and recently celebrated our 50th anniversary. (Who said it wouldn't last.) We returned to Aust Jan 1972 to Point Cook. I was welcomed to the "Point Cook Country Club"

Servicing a Winjeel is not much different to servicing the family car of that period. After 3 years I was posted back to 481 where I ended up in the PMEL (Later name changed to BCC). I finished my service there eventually being the NCO IC of it. Having completed 20 years I took a job with Newcastle TAFE on my discharge in 85 where I was employed initially as an electronics tech and later as a part of the IT team looking after the whole Hunter Inst's computer networks. That lasted for 23 years when I retired and became my wife's full time carer. At that time I was already getting my DFRDB and then added the more generous NSW State Super. We have just recently moved to Brisbane to an over 65's retirement facility for the support of our near by family (and better weather).

Spent my years having fun and enjoying life. Never made it rich but don't want for anything. Did knock off a few things on the bucket list. Due to failing health problems my wife and I just sit back and enjoy each others company. We returned to Malaysia as often as possible before our health put an end to that. I miss the time spent in 3 SQN on the Malaysian posting and later staying with my in-laws. I feel I owe the RAAF a great deal as it did set me up for a successful civilian life and a good family. I still have a few good ex RAAF friends whom we are still in close contact with and tend to consider them extended family

I drove passed WLM base to get to work for 23 years and often felt a bit sorry that I had left but then I was at work enjoying my new career and the old one was again out of my mind. At present I have 3 children, 6 Grand kids, and 4 Great Grand kids. My transition was a complete success.

Ken Watson
(Pod)