

Daren John Greenwood (O12672): 1933 – 2014

- Enlisted RAAF 26Feb1951 at age 18
 - Air Force then numbered around 12,900 personnel, down from a WWII ceiling of 164,340
 - Young and impressionable lad like many of his age and time.
- Trained at Edinburgh, SA
- Serving at Darwin 1960-66 i/c Base Tailor-shop.
- Commissioned 24Jul1966; one of 60 airmen commissioned that year from the ranks
 - This was a big decision for a senior ranking airman to transition to commissioned rank and start the climb all over again.
 - Non commissioned airmen in those days were only offered 3 or 6 year contract engagements – this changed in 1983 but it worked as a recurring insecurity for many airmen with the approaching end of each engagement wondering if a reengagement would be offered.
 - While Darren's outstanding performance was never in question, there was always the lingering doubt and pressure on many families.
- Attended OTS in the second of three tranches due to his remote location from Point Cook where OTS was located.
- From there to No 23 Equipment Officers Initial Specialist Course at Tottenham, Vic.
 - 13 weeks with course mates; Polly Farmer, Kev Dillon, Bob Wheeler, Col McCauley, Bob Ward, Graham Loten, Scottie Bray, Denis Phillips, John Power, Keith March, Dave Hood, Tim Clough, Graham Campbell. There were a few others whose names I can't recall and I was there too.
 - Graduated in early Dec 1966 and posted immediately to join units all over Australia
- Promoted to Flt Lt 24Jul1969 while at HQSC at Victoria Barracks in Melbourne.
 - One of about 100 supply provisioners in Supply Division of the SESO Branch located in Q Block – an old cream and green wooden building dating from the WWII period and famous for its “rabbit-warren” corridors, sloping floors and brown linoleum.
- From this miserable workspace in the period 1970-72, Daren was thrust into the role of outfitting the entire Air Force population, by that time numbering over 24,000, with a new “all-seasons” uniform.

- This was a significant change which struck at the heart of Air Force culture moving from its traditional Air Force blue to a new light blue or sky blue – and supposedly suitable for all seasons.
- Daren’s project team copped a lot of heat over the colour choice but the decision on colour was taken at the highest level in Canberra. For the Team it was a given.
- The project team comprised Tony Cummins, Bob Mouatt (another former airman) and Daren. Daren was the “point man”.
- This was, arguably, the most challenging supply project undertaken since the war years and there was no experience remaining in the post-war air force of undertaking a project on this scale.
- Every man and woman had to be outfitted with an entire new uniform from the socks to the hat. Everything changed except the shoes and cap badges.
- More importantly, the decreed in-service date was 1Apr1971, allowing very little lead time.
- Well, they did it! Against all odds, ridiculously short lead-times for anthropometric requirements determination, competitive tendering for bulk material supply, garment design and supplier tooling, packaging and distribution.
- These three guys with Daren at the helm and their supporting team outfitted on time to full entitlement the then entire Air Force of 24,000 - located all over Australia and overseas.
- Just recently, Daren’s colleague Bob Mouatt remarked to me that the then Air Member for Supply and Equipment, Air Vice-Marshal “Clance” Cleary, described the preferred colour choice to match the then “blue biro”!
- As Daren and Bob could see the project end stage finally in sight, they took some time out with their wives to attend the box office hit Paint Your Wagon, starring Lee Marvin and Clint Eastwood. There is a point at the end of the movie which Daren likened to their experience of the last few years; he remarked “sure is better than watching TV”.
- Having achieved the in-service date for the initial outfit, Daren was able to turn his mind to other uniform components such as a redesigned forage cap dropped from the uniform since 1946, the light-weight nylon raincoat and a crew necked woollen pullover.

- Daren's reward for this very significant achievement was an on-time promotion to Sqn Ldr on 1Jul1974 and posting to the Air Force Staff College in 1976.
- Following his completion of the Staff Course, he was posted to Air Force Office for duties in the Supply Policy Branch where he immediately got caught up in the reorganisation of Air Force Office and HQ Support Command – a project which didn't end until 1984.
- Daren was promoted to WGCDR on 1Jul1980 and posted to Butterworth Malaysia as the SEO. Some bonds formed there would endure for the rest of their lives.
- On his return to Australia in Jul1983, Daren was transferred to the Active Reserve where he continued for a further 5 years in Canberra, finally retiring on 30Mar88.
 - The Air Force bosses were keenly aware of his outstanding accomplishment with the introduction of the “all-seasons” uniform project and the HQSC reorganisation.
 - They could also see storms brewing in various other forms where his experience and determination would be invaluable.
 - Projects such as the big supply related changes associated with the introduction of desk-top computing,
 - The Defence Supply Retail Mini-Computer System - or DSRMS - as Air Force suppliers familiarly knew it,
 - The Depot mini Computer System rollout to replace the accounting machines at the four wholesale depots,
 - Transition from a liquid to gaseous fuel supply for on-base heating,
 - Preparing the Air Force for eventual rollout of the tri-service Supply Systems Redevelopment Project.
 - In some way, Daren had a hand in all of these very complex projects.
- He accrued a total period of continuous full-time service of 37 years and 32 days.
- During this time, wherever his Air Force employment took him, Daren also established and maintained a happy and loving home with Irma raising their two lovely daughters, Karen and Sherry and later welcoming the arrival of their grandchildren.
- Daren never shied in the face of challenge or adversity. He was truly a quiet achiever. It is a fitting tribute that we remember him in this way today.

- And now dear friend... your last parade is almost at its end – your friends and colleagues salute you one last time and wish you a final safe journey to your God.