



John Bennett (58-60)

Having already decided the sea was not for him, John joined the Army after Conway, training at Aldershot. Born Charles Goulding in Surrey, he was adopted aged two. His adoptive parents changed his name but he always knew his real origins. Whilst at Aldershot, John found he had a sister and they became very close. After training, John was posted to Germany and whilst awaiting training as a surveyor, was assigned as a clerk. During this time, Hamburg flooded and all personnel with boat-handling experience were assigned to man rescue boats. The conditions were gruelling but many lives were saved. After three years' service, John transferred to the Royal Navy, joining the Fleet Air Arm as an electrical mechanic (Air).

John met Daphne at Aldershot's NAAFI Club and they married in 1966. John went to sea in HMS *Eagle*, HMS *Albion*, and HMS *Heron*. His last sea stint ended in July '69, after which he was stationed at several shore establishments. He also spent 17 months at RAF Boscombe Down. He had many a tale of adventures on board and on visits to exotic places in the Far East, Australia and South Africa! After 12 years, John left the forces to raise a family. His first civilian job was at the Hawker Siddeley Aircraft Factory at Dunsfold but it didn't suit his gregarious nature, so he left and subsequently found his niche as a contract carpenter.

In March 1973, John, Daphne and daughter Sarah emigrated to Australia, settling near Adelaide. John worked as a carpenter before taking up a pest control franchise. He bought an historic house in Wallaroo, where Joanne was born in 1975. Early in 1980, the family moved to Queensland where John worked as a maintenance carpenter, later becoming Maintenance Manager at Brisbane's Myer Centre. John started his own maintenance business and renovated houses. On retirement, he and Daphne built their own house, before selling up and spending the rest of their lives exploring Australia. Together with John Bedford and John Ellis, John helped organise the 2002 Brisbane International Reunion.

John sadly developed aggressive desmoplastic melanoma. He travelled to the UK in 2011 to see family and friends for the last time and bore his illness well, remaining active and cheerful until he passed away suddenly last October. He is survived by Daphne, Sarah and Joanne, son-in-law Josh, and grandchildren Ella & Cameron.

John's life was one long adventure story. He has left his family a legacy of love and commitment, a joy in being of service to the community, and a cheerful and humorous outlook on life. He is fondly remembered by many.

We have heard of the passing of:

Sylvester Bernard (50-52)

Mike Cornick (49-51)

Peter Doering (70-72)

Thomas Harbottle (56-57)

Robert Oaks (53-55)

John Rigby (42-44)

Ian Wilkie (53-54)

Dave Collick (55-57)

Ian Dawson (55-58)

RB Hayward (37-39)

Keith Holdsworth (40-41)

Brian Pritchard (53-55)

Cliff Snell (??)

John Wright (47-49)