

## CPL **Greg Morrison**. Armament Fitter.

Being posted in to 3 Sqn as part of the first group of Armourers was a great feeling for me. It was my first posting to an operational unit. To be able to work on the Mirage was a big step up from the Sabre and Vampires of 1 OCU.

As the Squadron built up to a full complement of aircraft we started to move into weapons programs, after several months I was tasked with being part of the armament equipment servicing with Clem Saxton as my immediate boss. Unfortunately this led to me spending most of my time there over the next 4 years.

After our time in Butterworth I was posted back to Williamtown to 76 Sqn. In December 1971. When 76 Sqn was folded by the Government, I ended up as supernumerary in 481 Maintenance for 12 months, then to 2 Sqn at Amberley, not a great posting for an armourer.

In January 1980, 2 Sqn was down to about 4 serviceable aircraft and close to being closed down. I was due to re-engage in January, I found out I was being posted out, my 20 years' service was up, so, like many others of my apprenticeship group, I retired.

Life as a "civvy" sure had its good and bad points, as a majority of ex-serviceman with SNCO ranks found, employers at the time were not really interested in taking us on, "you are over qualified for the position, you will only get bored". One day I noticed a job applications notice for qualified tradesmen to train as Manual Arts teachers for Qld Education. I went for an interview at the end of the interview, I was offered a place on the course with 3 other Defence Force retirees, 1 RAAF, 1 Army & 1 Navy. After 2 Years of study, with 11 other ex-tradesman we all graduated as 1<sup>st</sup> year teachers of Technical Drawing, Woodwork & Metalwork, plus a 2<sup>nd</sup> subject, in my case History.

After 5 years of teaching I was appointed the Manual Arts/Technical Studies Co-Ordinator for St. Peter Claver College, a role I continued with for 23 years before retiring. During this time I met Shane O'Rielly, 3 Sqn *Instrument Fitter*, who was like a lot of others finding it difficult to find employment, luckily, SPCC was looking for a laboratory assistant, which Shane applied for and ended being employed at SPCC for longer than I was.

I continued to teach part time for another 4 years as a relief teacher in Ipswich/Brisbane area High Schools. My last school Faith College in the Lockyer Valley in Qld.

Noela and I built our final home and settled down travel in Australia and The World in general, most of our travels have been in the UK & Europe.

The skills that I learnt in the 20 years of RAAF life certainly set me up for my life as a teacher, which in many ways was, most of the time, a very fulfilling career.