

Ken Parish's Story

When i left Wagga I was posted to 1AD MTRS and then in 1958 to Base Squadron Darwin. I had my 21st birthday in Darwin which was a wild affair. On return to civilisation I was posted to Melbourne Telecommunications Unit, Froggnall where I stayed until 1966 except for a six month stint at 2ACS East Sale. I married helen in 1961.

In 1965 I decided I wasn't going very far as an MT Fitter so I applied for a Language course at RA AF LANGSCL Point Cook. I was accepted to study Indonesian in 1966. It was ironic that after I was accepted for language training I got promoted to Corporal MT Fitter. In 1967, as an acting Sergeant Linguist, I was posted to 3 Telecommunications Unit Pearce which was when I commenced my association with Western Australia. I remained at 3TELU until September 1969 when I was posted to Singapore. In singapore I worked for GCHQ until they pulled out in 1971. Then I helped set up our own station at Kranji. All the time I was in Singapore I was working towards my B.A. (Asian Studies) degree at W.A.I.T. (now Curtin University)

I was posted back to Western Australia in 1972 and in August of that year I was commissioned in the Special Duties (Intelligence) branch, and was posted to Russell Offices in Canberra. I stayed there until 1975 working first at the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence (DAFI) then at JIO.

In 1975 I decided to resign my commission and do a post graduate Diploma of Education at Curtin under the S.V.E.T.S. scheme. On completion I took up a job as an Indonesian teacher at Guildford Grammar School in Perth. In 1977 I moved to Christ Church Grammar School in Perth where I remained until 1986. During this time I also studied Japanese at Curtin.

In 1987 I bought a 5 acre property in Westbury, Tasmania where I stayed until 1994 when I returned to the Bunbury area in Western Australia. During this time I became involved with the RSL first as sub-Branch Secretary in Westbury and as a regional representative on the State Executive in Bunbury. After 2000 I became involved with Welfare and pension work in the RSL and studied all the various T.I.P.S. Courses at DVA until last December, 2007, when I became a Level 3 Advocate. with over 400 members in Bunbury sub-Branch this keeps me busy and I still hold my position on the State Executive. This keeps me honest and off the streets.

I have two sons, Symon and Jason. Symon, born in 1965, lives in Manly and has two boys and a girl. Jason, born in 1969, lives in Perth and has a baby daughter.

Ken Parish,

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