

Vale Air Commodore (Retired) John Stewart “Stew” Back (AFC)

27 July 1937 – 1 January 2026

EDUCATED – KYEEMAGH INFANTS SCHOOL, ROCKDALE PRIMARY,

CANTERBURY BOYS’ HIGH - 1949-1953 MATRICULATED AGED 16

Entered No 7 Course RAAF College 18 Jan 1954, flight grading – May 1954 , age 16

Graduated with pilot wings and Weapons proficiency trophy as a Pilot Officer Dec 1957

No 23 Sqn Amberley 1958 (Meteors, Vampire and Wirraway), as AdminO

No 2 OCU - No 1 Sabre course Jan-Jun 1959

No 77 Sqn Butterworth – Jul 1959- Jul 1961

OTS Point Cook Sep1961 – Feb 1962

Feb 1962- Jun1963 -Aide-de-Camp(Air Force)to Governor General(Lord-de-L’Isle)

Jul 1963- Dec1963 Flying Instructor Course (Winjeel and Vampire) – East Sale

Jan 1964- Jan 1966 1 AFTS Pearce Flying Instructor and (secondary duty) DCA Examiner of Airmen –Perth

Jan 1966-Jun 1966 2OCU Fighter Combat Instructor Course

Jul 1966- Jul 1967 2OCU(OI/C - CO) Sabre and Vampire instructor/(conversion courses)

Jul 1967-Sep 1967 Mirage Conversion

Sep 1967-Jan 1972 No 76 Sqn as Flt Cdr, XO and CO

Jan 1972- Dec 1972 RAAF Staff College Course (RAAF Fairbairn)- awarded AFC

Jan 1973- Dec 1974 Staff Officer(ORG1A) DG Org Directorate(Russell Offices)

Jan 1975 – June 1975 US Joint Staff Course (US Navy Base Norfolk VA)

Jul 1975- Jul 1978 Staff Officer to HADS and Assistant Defence Attache
Washington Embassy

Aug 1978 – Jan 1980 Staff – RAAF Staff College(RAAF Fairbairn)

Jan 1980- Jun1981 Staff and Director Air Force Plans(Russell)

Jun 1981 Macchi Conversion and flying refresher – CFS East Sale

Jul 1981- Dec 1983 XO and OC RAAF Butterworth

(Sep 1981 RAAF Williamtown –Mirage refresher, Feb 1982 RAAF Richmond
Caribou conversion)

Jan 1984 – Jan 1987 Director Operational Requirements(A) Russell –
(fighter, weapons, strike, recce, air defence, Air Traffic Control, Intell)

Jan 1987-Jun 1987, Director Air Force Safety

Jun 1987 – Jun 1990 Director-General OTHR Project Anzac Park West

Jul 1990 – Jul1992 DG Personal Services(Personnel Branch)

27 Jul 1992 Retired from RAAF – 38.5 years

Jul 1993 – Dec 2005 Consultant – part time, based in Canberra, to Lockheed
Martin Electronics Division – Syracuse, NY

Mid 2006 – mid 2020 President and social player, Weston Creek Tennis Club

April 2020 – current, retired at Kangara Waters Village and member of
Independent Residents' Committee for 3 years

Other info

Married Lydia Diana Oostdam – Jun 1966 (b) 06/04/1944 Netherlands

3 children, Ingrid (b) 1970, Michael (b) 1972, Andrew (b) 1979 all living with
families

Numerous other RAAF activities/deployments/courses, numerous visits to
Syracuse for LM, numerous Holidays to US, UK, European Countries, Malaysia,
Singapore, NZ and within/around Australia

Played social tennis for many years, plus other sports while in the RAAF

Many Kms, on pushbike, hiking, regular walks, surfing, sailing

Several civilian courses – woodwork, bricklaying, picture framing, car maintenance, gardening etc

Member of the Australian Aviation Club Canberra since 1994