

**NEW SOUTH WALES Inc.**

**VALE**

**GROUP CAPTAIN JAN (JOHN) STAAL (Retd)**

Jan Staal was born in Holland and his family immigrated to Australia when he was 10 years old.

After completing his education, he joined Qantas in 1959 but then transferred to the Air Force in 1961 and graduated from No. 41 pilot’s course in 1962.

John was in the initial Caribou contingent to Vietnam which was then RAAF Transport Flight Vietnam and later become 35 Squadron RAAF.

John, along with his aircrew mates, was awarded the United States Air Medal for conspicuous flying achievements during the war.

In 1969 he graduated with Distinction from the Advanced Navigation Course and in 1979 was promoted to Squadron Leader and appointed CO of TSF Butterworth which carried out support operations including the evacuation of the Australian Embassy during the fall of South Vietnam.

John was then posted to Pont Cook and lectured at the RAAF Academy before being promoted to Wing Commander and appointed CO of 35 Squadron based in Townsville flying both the Caribou and UH-1H in support of Army Operational Deployment.

He was then posted to Canberra as Senior Air Force Planner for Joint Policy and promoted to Group Captain in 1982 and was posted to Williamtown as Commandant of the Joint Warfare Establishment developing policies and training for Navy, Army and Air Force operations.

John retired in 1984 and commenced a business career in Bathurst and in 1995 joined Rockwell as General Manager of Avionics and Communications and later appointed General Manager of that Division and then appointed Managing Director of Rockwell Aerospace and Defence, Australia.

He retired in 2001 and became very active in supporting the veteran community and was President of the Air Force Association (NSW) from 2012-2014.

John viewed command as an honour and a privilege to be of service to Australia and mates regardless of rank.

**DUTY DONE**

**A TRUE AND BRAVE AUSTRALIAN**

