

# Russell (Russ) Gordon Johnston & Lola Joy JOHNSTON, nee DARNELL

Biography as published in 1995

**Russell (Russ) Gordon Johnston** b. 28/5/1933, Subiaco, Perth.

Parents : Ruth Weller Johnston (nee Long) & Gordon James Johnston

Grandparents : Elizabeth Ann Johnston (nee McLEAN) & Matthew Johnston

G-Grandparents : Margaret McLean (nee Tannahill) & Hugh (the younger) McLean

G-G-Grandparents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

Occupation: Tailor. His own business is "Russ Johnston Tailor - Tailoring Alterations & Military Regalia" at Robert Crescent, Wodonga, Victoria.

Married: **Lola Joy Darnell** (b. 8/11/1936, Busselton, W.A. - also given as Margaret River, W.A.) at North Perth, W.A.

History: Russell's mother died when he was three months old and he was raised by his grandmother Elizabeth Ann Johnston, aided by her daughters Margaret and Ivy. His father kept in touch as much as his work allowed.

After growing up and being educated in Inglewood, Wagin and Maylands, Russell left school aged 14 years and served a five year apprenticeship in the tailoring trade, then worked for his two aunts Margaret and Myrtle at M 8-M Johnston clothing factory until 1966.

In 1950 he joined the Army Reserve and August 1951 was called up in the first intake of National Service. In 1953 he was selected to be Regimental Tailor with the rank of Sergeant.

Russell was married in 1956 to Lola Darnell, they had three sons - Graham in 1959, Ian in 1962 and Bradley in 1965. In 1969 they were thrilled to adopt a daughter, Annette.

In 1966 he joined the Regular Army as Command Tailor with the rank of Sergeant and served 8 years in Swan Barracks, Perth. A posting in 1976 found the family moved to Wodonga, Victoria and Russell became Area Tailor, Instructor and Trade Testing Officer for 31st Supply Battalion, Bandiana, Victoria.

After serving 36 years Russell retired from the Army and opened up his own tailor shop in Wodonga. It was decided after having two shops in town, to build a large workshop at the rear of the family home and the business is still going strong.

While in Perth Russell became interested in lawn bowls and played for 18 years. After arriving in Wodonga, he assisted in the building of a new rink for the army Twin City Bowling Club. At the same time in Wodonga he was a foundation member of the Military Historical Society and still enjoys membership.

Children:

1. Graham Russell Johnston b. 17/4/1959, Mt Lawley, W.A. Occupation: Aust. Regular Army, Cardo Tech. , Married: at Albury, N.S.W. Debra Lyn Pickrill (b. 16/1/1960, Wodonga, Vic). Residence: Bendigo, Vic. Five children – 1983, 1985, 1987, 1990 & 1993 – all born in Bendigo.\
2. Ian Edward Johnston b. 17/4/1959, Mt Lawley, W.A. Occupation: Tailor. Married: at Wodonga, Vic. Lynda Ellen McGuire (b. 1/2/1968, Wodonga). Residence: Hereford St. Wodonga. One child – born in 1994 in Woden, A.C.T.

3. Bradley Shane Johnston b. 30/10/1965, Mt Lawley, W.A. Occupation: Salesman. Residence: Rockhampton, Queensland. Married: Allison Julia Walton (b. 5/5/1968, at Rockhampton, Queensland).
4. Annette Lola Johnston b. 9/5/1969, Subiaco, Perth. Occupation: Clerk. Residence: Urana, N.S.W. Married: at Wodonga, Vic. David Stacey Stripeikis (b. 20/6/1958, Mt Beauty, Victoria).  
One child born 1994 in Woden, A.C.T.

- SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 562 & 563.
- COLONIALISTS : Christina and Donald McLean and their ten children migrated from Argyllshire to South Australia in 1837. This was in the earliest years of the colony. The McLeans initially settled near Adelaide where they grew the first wheat crop in SA. Then in about 1840 they pioneered the Strathalbyn area. There are now well over 20,000 descendants spread across Australia and elsewhere.
- CHANGES : Please contact us with additions, corrections or suggestions about any part of this family tree.
- CONTACT : Visit our website [www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com](http://www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com) or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.