

**David Christie 1/68** (Frank Miller 4/67, Mick Hart 2/69, Mick Stone 1/68, Neil Leckie 3/68)

3792686 David George Christie, born Chelsea, Vic, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1946. His early years were spent in the small hillside town of Belgrave in Melbourne's east after which the family moved closer to the city. David completed secondary education at Box Hill Grammar School. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman he was employed as a clerk in the Commonwealth Statisticians Office. David was selected for officer training at Scheyville after two weeks at 2RTB Puckapunyal, Victoria. Having played football for South Belgrave in the MDFA in the same competition as Upper Ferntree Gully's Mick Stone (also 1/68) it was known that David was a highly competitive person who would excel at almost every sport he played. He is particularly remembered for his inspiring performance in the cross country run. The trophy given for that event proudly bears his name. Whilst at OTU David was appointed to the rank of Corporal. He received the Athletics Prize and on graduation on 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1968, was allocated to Royal Australian Infantry and posted to 2 RAR at Enoggera.

David enjoyed the life there very much and elected to make a career in the army.

Following an appointment as an instructor at JTC he joined the SAS Regiment in January 1973. With the continual and demanding personal challenge this involved, he had found his true vocation. To quote his son Ben in delivering his eulogy, 'David just loved being in the Special Forces – the parachuting, the danger and the adrenalin'. Much of his career involved working with, and secondment to, elite units in the US army. He was well respected in his field of expertise.

David retired from the Regular Army in 1994. He transferred to the Army Reserve and retired from the Army on his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Most of his life thereafter was spent on North Stradbroke Island, Queensland where he ran the BP service station. He also put much of his time into working with disadvantaged young people – another strong fit where he could use his enthusiasm for adventure combined with his outstanding teaching and mentoring abilities. David passed away on 14 May in the Ramsay Private Hospital at Greenslopes in Brisbane, after a battle with cancer. His funeral was held at the Star of the Sea Church, Cleveland, Queensland on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Well represented at the service were people from the SAS/Commando fraternities and Scheyvillians. We have lost a classmate and friend, a fine soldier and a man who was a credit to OTU. Our sincere condolences go to his family. RIP Dave Christie.

Dave Christie (below) and with Mick Stone(1/68) on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

