

Maxwell James 'Max' Napper was born in Bowral, NSW, on 24 November 1945 and completed his secondary education at Bowral High School reaching School Vice-Captain. In 1963 he gained employment with Australian Iron & Steel at Port Kembla as a Trainee Electrical Engineer. Max deferred his National Service and attended Wollongong University College part-time where he graduated as a Bachelor of Science (Engineering) in 1970. Max commenced his NS at 1 RTB Kapooka on 27 January 1971 and was selected for officer training commencing at OTU on 15 February. He graduated with Class 1/71 on 14 July, was allocated to RAEME and posted to 2 Base Workshops, Moorebank, where he completed his NS. On 29 October 1971 Max was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant. He completed his NS on 26 July 1972.



Max and Joan married in 1969 in St Michael's Cathedral, Wollongong. They would live in Wollongong for their 51 years of marriage. Post NS Max returned to the Steelworks reaching the Supervising Engineer Mills position of the Port Kembla Steelworks, retiring in 2002. In 1974 he began a lifetime involvement with the Scouting Movement and was heavily involved in the Mount Kiera Scout Camp up until as late as March 2020. He received many awards for his Scouting Service, including a Silver Emu in 2014 for 'Sustained and Exceptional Service.



A few years ago, Max was diagnosed with a genetic deficiency that led to emphysema. He passed away peacefully at Wollongong with wife Joan at his side on Monday 10 August 2020. He was the much loved father and father-in-law of Andrew and Cora (Netherlands), Glenn and Severine, Deborah and Ryan and a loving Grandpa to 9 grandchildren. Max was a loved brother and brother-in-law of Graham and Heather, Marian and Alan, and brother-in-law of John and Maret.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a small number of Max's relatives and friends were able to attend his funeral service held at St Michael's Cathedral, Wollongong on 17 August 2020. Others were able to view the service on Facebook.