

Frederick (Fred) Alan Atkinson was born on 7 May 1948 in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to Australia with his family in 1956. He grew up in Melbourne's bayside suburbs, attending Hampton High School where he first met Vivienne and also completed his secondary schooling. Prior to commencing as National Serviceman 3794843 on 29 January 1969, with the first intake of that year, Fred was working as a Clerk with the Victorian Education Department. On 14 February Fred commenced Officer Training at OTU Scheyville with Class 1/69. He quickly established a reputation as a good team man and always calm under pressure.



When Class 1/69 graduated Fred undertook the 'Honours Course' graduating on 4 October 1969 with Class 2/69 and was then posted to the RAASC and undertook Corps Training at the RAASC Centre at Puckapunyal. On completion of this training he was posted to 2 Supply Depot at Randwick in Sydney on 24 November 1969.

A few weeks later he was to renew his friendship with Lawson Ride (3/69), a Junior with Fred's Graduating Class at OTU Scheyville, but then at the School of Military Engineering. Lawson and Fred found they shared very similar attitudes to the military and life in general. In Sydney Fred's FE Holden covered ground

between the Messes at Randwick and Middle Head (Lawson's posting) many times and good fun was always had. This was the beginning of an ongoing and very close friendship between the Atkinson and Ride families. Soon after completing his National Service commitment, Fred married Vivienne.

Fred and Vivienne travelled the world for two years. Upon returning to Australia, Fred studied and uncovered a passion for teaching. He was a natural teacher across all grade levels and enjoyed time both at Sandringham Primary and Malvern Primary. Fred and Vivienne had two daughters, Sasha and Renee. Sasha and Vince have given Fred and Vivienne two grandchildren Massimo and Sylvie.



In recent times, with the freedom that Scheyvillians are finding in our advancing years, Fred was able to attend some of the Victorian OTU monthly lunches and was great company there. Fred passed away from the effects of cancer on 8 February 2018 with Vivienne by his side.

In accordance with Fred's wishes a private cremation was held on 14 February with a wake to be held at a later date. The wake took the form of an afternoon tea at the Malvern Bowls Club, on Sunday 25 February 2018.

The attendance by many of his former students and colleagues at the remembrance gathering in Malvern on 25 February is testimony as to how they viewed "Mr A". There was a big turnout with about 200 people gathered at the Bowling Club to celebrate Fred's life. His daughters Sasha and Renee gave a heartfelt speech, obviously with huge love and respect for their Dad and Vivienne made sure everyone had a refreshment while remaining staunch in her grief.

OTU was well represented by Fred's classmate Mick Hart (2/69) and his wife Tricia from Queensland, who were in Melbourne following a visit to Tasmania where they caught up with Lawson Ride and others and Peter Don (3/69). Trish Kelly, Ian Kelly's wife, who taught with Fred over some years also attended along with Rick Thomas (1/69), Ian Millar (1/69) and Brian Cooper (3/69).

Right: Rick Thomas, Brian Cooper Peter Don, Mick Hart and Tricia Hart

