

Guy Robert Holloway was born at Royal Hobart Hospital in Tasmania on 11 March 1945. He completed his secondary education at Newton High School. Prior to joining the Army as a National Serviceman, Guy was employed with the Scenery Preservation Board (now NPWS) in Tasmania as an assistant to Jack Thwaits, under whom his passion and love for conservation grew. He commenced his service with the first intake on 30 June 1965 as 6708248, Recruit Holloway. Guy was selected for Officer Training and commenced at OTU with Class 1/65 on 16 July. With Gillespie, Gurrie, Lombardo, O'Halloran and Sedgers, he was allocated to 7 Section, 3 Platoon, A Company, in Hut B2 (rear of King's Row) under Captain Larnach-Jones. In his Senior Term Guy was posted as the Section Commander of 8 Section, 3 Platoon where he was not allocated a 'Son'. Section members were Irvine ('Son' Anderson), Banks ('Son' Parker), Cribb ('Son' James) and Bugden. Guy graduated from OTU on 17 December and with Peter Winter was allocated to the RAInf. On 18 December they were to commence a posting to 8 RAR, however, 8 RAR was yet to be raised, so the pair were transferred to Battle Wing at the Infantry Centre, Ingleburn, as Platoon Commanders. Peter Winter recalled that 'being the first NS officers to serve at the Infantry Centre, we were always under the microscope. From the most senior officers, the hard-nosed RSM, and Korea experienced NCOs they were tested constantly, but obviously made an impression because when the time came for them to go to 8 RAR they were told by the Infantry Centre Commander that he had asked to keep them for the duration of their service.'

When 8 RAR was on raised 8 August 1966 Richard Crooks, Geoff Everett and Peter Simpson from Class 2/65 were posted in place of Guy and Peter. By this time Guy and Peter had been officially transferred to the Infantry Centre. Peter further advised that 'while at the Infantry Centre they were befriended by Major Barry Petersen MC who had just returned from Vietnam and Padre John Tinkler. These two became life-long friends. It was during this time Guy met Robyn Podmore through her brother Kevin Podmore who was at the Infantry training centre with Guy. The meeting of Robyn prompted him to buy a VW 'Beetle', so he could travel to Mascot, where Robyn lived, whenever he wasn't on duty. Guy, Robyn, Barry, Father John and I spent many off-duty hours in Kings Cross and at local beaches.'

On 22 April 1967, Guy was the best man at the wedding of OTU Classmate Adrian Lombardo to Pamela. Right: Adrian and Pamela Lombardo with Guy and bridesmaid Jill Wilcox.



Guy was due to complete his National Service on 29 June 1967, however, he extended his time and on 19 October 1967 arrived at 1 ARU in Vietnam. On 8 December 1967 he was transferred to the Defence and Employment (D&E) Platoon at HQ 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF).

During the "Mini-Tet" offensive mounted by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces in May 1968, 1 ATF deployed two battalions to an area 20 kilometres north of Bien Hoa city to intercept and disrupt enemy forces withdrawing from the capital, Saigon, and the Bien Hoa-Long Binh base complex. Several Fire Support Bases (FSBs) were established to provide defended firing points for artillery and mortars which would cover foot patrols to be sent out by 1 RAR and 3 RAR. One of these FSBs was dubbed "Coral", situated 7 kilometres north of the town of Tan Uyen.

The occupation of Coral was begun on 12 May 1968, but the defences remained unfinished when, at about 3.30 am on 13 May, it was attacked following a brief but intense rocket and mortar barrage. The 1 RAR mortar platoon position was over-run, along with one of 102 Field Battery's six 105 mm howitzers on the FSB. With the aid of extensive air support, the attack was beaten off by 6.30 am and the captured gun-pit was retaken, still with the gun in it.

The HQ 1 ATF D&E Platoon, under Guy Holloway, arrived with Task Force HQ on the afternoon of 13 May, after the first attack. They defended TF HQ and were located immediately behind D Coy 1RAR. During the second attack on Coral in the early morning of 16 May, Guy's Platoon, along with most of the Task Force area, suffered severe mortar and rocket hits. Fought over five weeks, the Battle of Coral/Balmoral, as it is now called, was the largest and most costly operation fought by Australians

during the Vietnam War. During the operation, 26 Australians were killed and 109 wounded. It is the only Brigade-size action fought by Australians since WW2.



On 16 October 1968 Guy returned to Australia. He discharged from the Army on 31 January 1969. Guy then went to university, gaining a Bachelor of Science in Botany and Zoology, then joined the NSW Parks Service. He married Robyn on the 9 of November 1969 and the couple would have three children: Andrew (and Natasha), Penelope and Kate. Guy and Robyn had 6 grandchildren Harry, Olivia, Charlie, Archie, Ruby and Jimmy-George that they doted on when he was not pursuing his other loves of traveling around the world and golf. In his last posting with NSW Parks, he was in charge of the Northern Rivers area based in Alstonville, West of Ballina. Following that he worked as an Environmental Consultant until he retired. Robyn died in 2010 from motor neurone disease. In later years Guy met Gloria with whom he formed a close friendship.

Guy and Peter re-established their friendship after Robyn had died. They travelled to Thailand about 5 years before Guy died to visit Barry Petersen. 'It was then that Guy admitted he had a lump in his groin, which he had been ignoring for quite some time. On return to Australia, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.' Throughout the time Guy was being treated

he kept in touch with Peter as Peter had also been diagnosed with prostate and bladder cancer. 'We last spoke about 4 weeks before Guy died.'

Guy Passed away peacefully at home in Pottsville, NSW from cancer on 2 December 2021. Peter concluded with 'As we all know, Guy had a unique view on life (and beyond) and I am one of many that will miss his wise counsel and true friendship.'

Guy's children advised that there would not be a public funeral, but that a Wake would be held at some time in the future. A honourable life well lived!