

## Vale Ian Furlonger (1952 – January 2012)



**Ian Thomas Furlonger** was born in NSW in 1952 and applied in 1971 for entry into the Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea commencing in January 1972. However, Ian, along with 36 other applicants, was allocated to the newly-raised wing of OCS at the National Serviceman's Officer Training establishment, the Officer Training Unit (OTU) Scheyville. He commenced training at Scheyville in early February 1972 and was assigned to 3 Platoon, Monash Company of the OTU Battalion of Officer Cadets. In May he made was 'Father' to allocated 'Son' Ray Carlin of the 1/72 OTU Class, and in July to Brendan Sforcina of the 2/72 OCS (Scheyville) Class. During his final three months at Scheyville, he held the appointment of Platoon Sergeant of 3 Platoon.

Ian graduated into the Royal Australian Infantry Corps on 16 December 1972 and was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR) on completion of his initial Corps Training. His time in 2RAR was followed by postings to 1RAR, 1<sup>st</sup> Recruit Training Battalion and 5/7RAR before he left the Regular Army and transferred to the Army Reserve in January 1978.

After his Army career, Ian worked as an accountant in the insurance industry, the wholesale/retail industry and later, for a while he drove taxis in Canberra. Ian started showing signs of health issues in the mid-1990s, but it was not until about 2005 that he was formally diagnosed as having the very debilitating disease, Huntington's Chorea. By this time Ian's life had turned upside down and he withdrew to become a virtual recluse.

Ian died in Canberra in January 2012 following a long battle with his illness and is survived by his wife Chris and his daughter Carlie.