

Grahame Francis Loadsman was born in Lismore, NSW, on 24 February 1945. The family lived on a dairy farm with no electricity. He was the oldest of seven children, his siblings being Terry, Chris, Ken, Janice, Peter and Kay. He attended the nearby one-room school at Lindendale. His secondary schooling was with the Marist Brothers at Lismore where he was selected as School Captain in his final year. Grahame started work with the Bank of NSW at Tenterfield.



Grahame entered the Army as National Serviceman 2782438 with the second intake on 29 September 1965. After spending his early days at 1 RTB, Kapooka, Grahame found himself at OTU Scheyville on 15 October 1965 with Class 2/65. Around this time Graeme was involved in a car accident and while in hospital met his future wife, Cheryl Ann. Grahame graduated from OTU on 7 April 1966 in the RAASC and commenced Corps Training after which he was posted to HQ 8 Transport Company as an Admin Officer. Graeme must have liked the Army as he took

a Short Service Commission (SSC) on 8 January 1967. Grahame served in Vietnam from 10 December 1968 until 28 November 1969 with 2 Transport Platoon. Graeme served on after his SSC ended and on 2 November 1973 transferred to the newly raised Corps of Transport, at that time serving as 2IC of 16 Transport Company. Graeme left the Army on 2 March 1986 with the rank of Major.

Graeme and Cheryl Ann found that their lives went in different directions and they divorced in the late 1980s. Their children Anne-Maree, Greg and Matthew remained loyal to him. Both sons saw service, one in the RAAF (a PTI) and one in the ARA (now a mechanic in NW WA). Both have been posted overseas. Anne-Marie is a fitness instructor and environmental manager.

After a shaky start back in civilian life, Graeme got into safety audits, and was good at it. He prospered. In 2012 Graeme retired and took on the life of the 'Grey Nomad'. In recent years his health declined. Cancer set in and cut his life short. He was living at Seaford when he passed away on 23 February 2018. His Funeral Service was held at St Anne's Catholic Church, Seaford on Friday, 2 March 2018.

Former National Serviceman and Vietnam Veteran John Biles (4 RAR, 21 May to 16 December 1968) performed the RSL Service. Post-NS John had served with 22 RVR (The Bushmen's Rifles) at Puckapunyal with Neil Leckie (3/68) and rose to the rank of Sergeant while there.

Post service the attendees retired to the Seaford RSL. OTU-A's Rob Youl (2/65) and David Sabben (1/65) attended the funeral.