

**Mick Hart (2/69)** (David Jervis, 2/69)

Michael (Mick) James Patrick Hart was born in Townsville on 11 May 1946 to the late James (Mick) and Dorothea Hart. He did his secondary schooling in Townsville then a law degree as an external student at the University of Queensland while working as an articled clerk for five years at the Townsville law firm of Wilson, Ryan and Grose. He was conscripted for National Service but deferred to finish his degree. He married Trish on 14 May 1967 and Brett was born on 26 February 1968. In his final year of study, he came top in taxation law and he was admitted to legal practice in early 1969.



Mick commenced his Army service on 22 April 1969 with basic training at 3 TB Singleton and arrived at OTU Scheyville on 9 May 1969. Tall, dark, handsome and gregarious he stood out which was not necessarily a good attribute at OTU. He kept out of mischief by spending his weekend leave with Trish and Brett who lived with Annette Paull, the wife of classmate Ian Paull, in a rented house in Windsor.



Trish recalls she and Annette had to share Army ration packs as Mick and Ian ate all the fresh food in the house. His mates used to tease Mick about slipping out of the barracks to pay his family nocturnal visits, but this was always strongly denied.

Mick was very capable graduating on 4 October 1969 as a second lieutenant in the top third of the 2/69 class without incident. The OTU Chief Instructor at the time was the formidable Lt. Colonel Stan Maizey - some may find it ironic that

Mick became his friend and lawyer giving a eulogy at his funeral.

Allocated to the Provost Corps, Mick was posted to the Eastern Command Provost Company and attended the RAAProv School at Watson's Bay Sydney. On 20 October 1969 he was transferred to 4 SIS (Special Investigation Section). In July 1970 he transferred to the Legal Corps at HQ Eastern Command (South Head, Sydney) at his own request, primarily because his promotion to acting Captain would come with a pay rise which enabled him to better support his family following the birth of Anthony (who Trish says could have been named "Scheyville") on 26 April 1970.

Mick completed his service at Ingleburn and after his discharge in April 1971 was transferred to the Army Reserve with HQ Central Queensland Area and on 20 March 1972 was attached to 42<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment under the North Queensland Area Training Group. He was discharged from the Reserve on 30 March 1973.

After leaving the Army Mick was a senior partner of a law firm in Rockhampton for 18 years during which time Christopher, Anne-Maria and Alison were born. He joined the legal firm of Cleary Hoare in Brisbane in 1990 where he became managing partner a position Brett now holds.

A lawyer for 50 years (he never retired) he was one of Australia's leading taxation and estate planning practitioners - he fought tenaciously for his clients and was involved in many battles with the ATO. He was entrepreneurial and had many business and charitable interests. Mick's laconic drawl, unhurried affable manner and social skills endeared him to clients from Far North Queensland cane farmers to CBD businessmen.

In September 1993 he was one of the heroes of a siege in the Cleary Hoare boardroom when a man armed with a loaded shotgun held him and 12 other members of the firm hostage. Mick ensured that all of the hostages were released until only he and another lawyer remained - they eventually overpowered the gunman and the siege ended.

After the OTU Association started in 1985 Mick, the somewhat reluctant Scheyvillian, threw himself into its activities and became a life member. He was a prominent member of the OTU Queensland Chapter, always a part of its "inner cabinet". A prime organiser of its monthly lunches which together with the annual black-tie mixed dining in nights he rarely missed. The Christmas lunch was a boisterous affair often concluding late at night at Mick's office or residence. He enthusiastically embraced the Chapter's motto "Fade away with dignity but drink all the funds first".

He was also the de facto leader of the 2/69 group - its "Godfather". From 2002 he was a major contributor to the organisation of sixteen reunions for Class 2/69 in Hong Kong, the south of France, Norfolk Island and cities/towns in every state of Australia including Townsville where his brother Wayne still lives. Since 1993 he coordinated the 2/69 attendance at the National reunions - he and Trish never missed a reunion. While Mick delegated and his secretaries Stephanie Mauchlan and Melanie Griffin did much of his "organising" he also made a lot of his so called "executive decisions" which saved all of us time and effort.

Mick was a compassionate, generous and empathetic man. He helped many OTU graduates with legal and other personal matters including when they were sick or had fallen on hard times. He would often travel long distances to comfort them.

He and Trish always attended the funerals of 2/69 graduates (and others) whether they were in Brisbane or interstate. When his OTU friends visited Brisbane, he would always make the time to wine and dine them. He simply loved sitting around reminiscing about Scheyville while drinking a good red wine of which he was particularly fond.

A man of strong religious faith he would always accompany Trish to the local Catholic Church on Sundays at reunions after often getting to bed in the early hours of the morning. He was also a Lay Preacher conducting services on North Stradbroke Island, where he had a holiday home, if the Priest was unavailable.

Mick's life was full with his own family, the Scheyvillians, Cleary Hoare and many other friends. He travelled extensively both for business and pleasure, but his own family always came first. He was fortunate to have the love and support of Trish for nearly 53 years of marriage. Their legacy is five children and twelve grandchildren aged between six months and 27 years. Daughter Alison and grandson James (Brett's son) will be admitted as lawyers in Brisbane later this year - the tradition continues!



Mick died in Wesley Hospital on 3 May 2020 from a blood infection while being treated for a type of bone marrow cancer. This was an incredibly difficult time for Trish and the family as due to COVID-19 restrictions it was hard to visit Mick in hospital. During this period Trish was very brave.

On behalf of the OTU family condolences are extended to Trish and all Mick's family.

Mick will be greatly missed but never forgotten - what a legend!