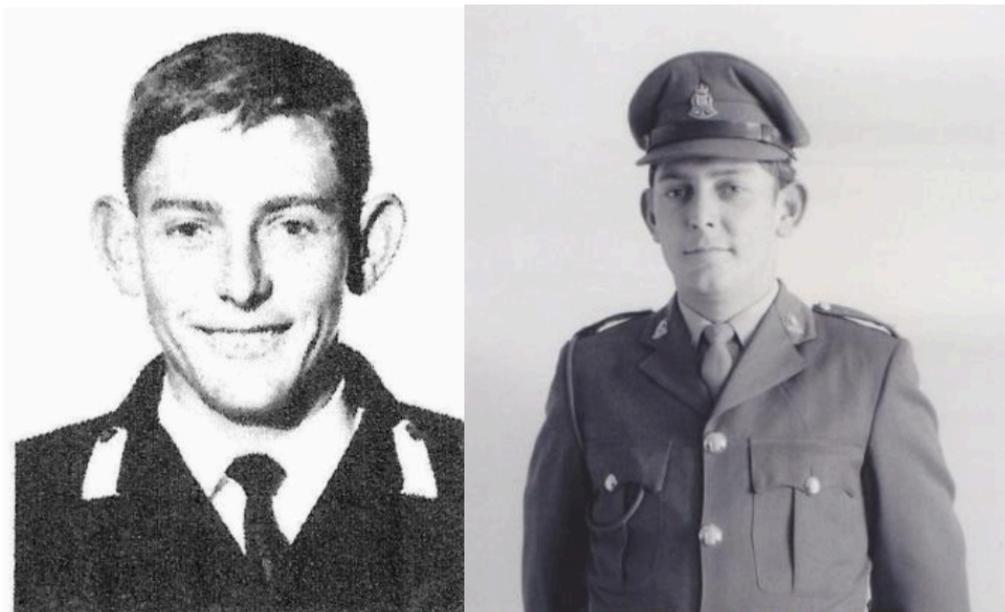


Noel Dalton (3/70)



Noel Richard William Dalton was born in Sydney on December 19th, 1945 at Hurstville. In 1948 the family moved to Dural when Noel was three years old and set up farming. It was his experiences on the farm that provided Noel with of lifelong passion for horticulture. The family's unregistered 1928 Chevrolet bush basher on the farm provided Noel with the opportunity to learn to drive at a very early age and to develop his skills in gear changing. These driving skills later extended into flying along dirt tracks, rallying with the Galston Car Club in his Rotary R100 and it was at this club he met Gay Oliver. Noel completed his secondary education at Macquarie Boy's High School and undertook a cadetship as an Industrial Chemist at Coates Bros (Aust) Pty Ltd. Noel's National Service (NS) was deferred until 1970 whilst he completed his Chemistry Degree. Noel commenced training with Class 2/70. Noel's philosophy was "just do everything they tell you and a bit more to stay ahead of the pack!" Noel took on the training with calmness, self-discipline and humour.

After the 2/70 senior term Noel was interviewed by the Chief Instructor, Colonel Flint, and told to "go and marry that girl and come back with more aggression". So he did, both!

He married Gay on the 6th October 1970 and graduated with Class 3/70 on his 25th Birthday. On graduation Noel was allocated to the Royal Australian Ordnance Corps and posted to 1st Base Printing Company, no doubt taking the same posting once held by David Maiden (4/68) (see Issue 2 of 2014). Noel was discharged from the Army on completion of his NS and returned to Coates. Noel's management potential was seized by Coates and in 1980 he was sent to rescue the Queensland branch. Four years later he returned to NSW to manage the State's branch. Noel finished his time with Coates as a Director.

Noel and Gay bought some acreage at Cattai where Noel pursued his passion for horticulture and supported the local Rural Fire Brigade. His self- preservation was tested when on duty at the Maroota Forest fires. He and his crew were saved from incineration by sheltering under his truck. Noel decided that when the children came along he would forgo his rallying, and took up radio controlled model aircraft. He did some flying at the old OTU site.



Above: David Phillips(also 2/70 and 3/70) with Noel in Sydney – weak in body but not in spirit!

In recent years Noel had attended a number of OTU events and although wheelchair bound and battling pulmonary fibrosis was able to attend the 2013 Sydney reunion. Noel and Gay moved from Cattai to Glenhaven, a north western suburb of Sydney and enjoyed their time there.

Noel succumbed to his illness on 4th November. His funeral was held at Castle Hill on 13th November. He is survived by his wife Gay, two children and four grandchildren, his brother and sister.

Noel was described as a “tough competitor, but a kind and generous friend”. For now Noel has ‘gone fly’n!’



Above: OTU attendees at the funeral: Greg Fraser (3/70), Greg Jenkins (3/70), Andrew Frazer (2/70), Booka Bushell (4/69), Jim French (1/65), and Stu Jones (2/70).