

Peter John (Collas) Macfettters (Jim Gilchrist, OCS 1/72 and Peter Eveille RSL ACT)

Peter John Collas was born in Queensland on 9 June 1945 and at 17 years-of-age joined the CMF as 135664 on 30 August 1962 in the 'Pentropic era' and served with the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Queensland Regiment, then based in country Queensland. He completed his CMF service on 29 April 1964. Peter was 'Balloted In' to National Service and commenced at 1 RTB, Kapooka as 1731258 with the second intake on 29 September 1965. Selected for Officer Training, Peter commenced with Class 2/65 on 15 October, graduating on 7 April 1966. Peter was allocated to RAInf and posted to 3 RAR.



In September 1965, 3 RAR had returned from its tour of Malaysia and Borneo to Woodside, South Australia, the official date of 3 RAR's occupation of Kapyong Lines at Woodside being 14 October 1965. The battalion was reformed after leave in 1966 and began training for operational service in South Vietnam. In January 1967 Peter transferred to the ARA. However, before 3 RAR left for Vietnam, Peter had been transferred to 3 TB Singleton, where National Servicemen had recently commenced undertaking Recruit Training.

Peter served for 20 years in the ARA with postings including AHQ prior to serving a tour as a Staff Captain (Temporary) with HQ, Australian Forces Vietnam from 23 July 1970 until 22 July 1971. On return to Australia Peter was transferred to 7 RAR. In 1972 he transferred to the RAAMC. On retiring from the ARA in 1987 and settling in Canberra, Peter served a further five years in the Army Reserve, his final rank being Lieutenant Colonel. He became heavily involved in the RSL in the ACT.

Jim Gilchrist and Peter Eveille worked closely in the RSL with Peter to manage the Woden Valley RSL Sub-Branch. Peter was a former President of the Sub-Branch, the Deputy President, President and Treasurer of the ACT Branch and a member of the National Board. In recognition of his work with the RSL, Peter was appointed a RSL Life Member in 2014.

Peter married Carol and the couple had three children: Chantelle, Jodi and Jason. Adversity was not new to the couple as they lost both Chantelle and Jason.

As part of finding his roots, Peter and Carol went on holiday to the UK and Scotland with Jodi accompanying them for some of the journey. This was a very important trip for Peter as he was able to find his true heritage and ancestral line. While the reasons were personal to Peter and Carol it resulted in Peter changing his name from Peter John Collas to Peter Mitchell MacFettters and Carol became Carol Ann MacFettters. He was advised officially on 27 February 2017 with the receipt of his Change of Name Certificate. He was very proud of this re-birth and moved onto his new name smoothly.

During 2020, Peter and his wife Carol purchased what they described as their 'ideal' home in Ulverstone, Tasmania, on the northern coast about 15 kilometres from Devonport. During the middle of 2020, Peter and Carol sold up in Canberra and along with daughter Jodie, progressively moved to Ulverstone, including undergoing 'COVID' quarantine. They had settled in well to their new home and were looking forward to enjoying the lifestyle that this part of the world offers. Sadly, Peter suffered a brain aneurism on 2 December and passed

away. A combined Funeral Service was held between the Woden Valley RSL in the ACT and the Ulverstone RSL in Tasmania on 14 December 2020.

During the Eulogy Peter Eveille reported that Peter was an avid Swans AFL fan: he kept the record of every game he attended and some he didn't. When the Swans made the finals there was no slowing him down from wearing his jersey and singing their song when he showed up for our Saturday morning walks. Some days he had to walk by himself if the Swans had a big win. This leads on to another little story – Peter had an issue with Mr Murdoch's press coverages. If one was to debate/argue using the Daily Telegraph as back up you were instantly down played to a feral. But, when winter approached and the Swans were in the news the 'Telly' was the only paper. Peter was involved in sport in many facets – he played, he coached, he refereed, he umpired, in sports such as soccer, rugby and cricket. He also volunteered in any role in supporting his young ones with their sports and interests. He was an avid runner, running marathons, half marathons, several 'city to surfs' and other fun runs. However, as his knees felt the strain, he turned his energy into cycling, cycling to work at Campbell and Russell offices.

Jim Gilchrist O1/72 reported that 'I can say that in the 47 years that I knew him, I always found him to be a decent fellow who was totally committed to whatever tasks he assumed or had been given; he was also a very loyal friend to those he took to heart.'