

Ray Maxwell Sheedy Ian Crook (2/70) was born on 6 September 1945 in Fairfield, a suburb of Melbourne. He attended a number of primary and secondary schools including Mordialloc and Edithvale, completing his secondary education at Mordialloc High School. He studied Law in the late 60's at Melbourne University, an institution that was to influence both his future career and life, graduating with a Bachelor of Law in 1968. Before entering the Army as a National Serviceman, Ray was employed as a Solicitor with Keith A. Ness & Son, Solicitors.

Ray was conscripted in 1965 but his enlistment was postponed until 1970 where he became a member of OTU Class 2/70 and on graduation he was allocated to Legal Corps and posted to Headquarters Southern Command in Victoria Barracks as a Temporary Captain Legal Officer where he completed his National Service.

What followed was a varied and successful career in law involving both commercial and private practice. In 1980 Ray accepted a position as the Assistant to the Dean of the Melbourne University Law School. This is where he met Karen who he married in 1985. Karen and Ray travelled regularly to the UK and Ireland in recent years, in part to indulge Ray's Irish Ancestry and his sense of humour.

Ray was kind, empathetic and measured. He loved art and literature, and Shakespeare and Dickens were amongst his favourite writers. This love, coupled with his creative ability and imagination produced poetry and many stories, either written and illustrated, or simply told, for his children and grandchildren.

The staff at TSA Lawyers and his many clients held Ray in high regard. His professional manner and his empathy and understanding endeared him to all. This was particularly true of his long established clients who valued his carefully considered advice and counsel highly.

Ray had many and varied friends, but above all he cherished his family. His relationship with his grandchildren was particularly special, and for whom he has left an exceptional legacy of words and art. His friends will remember him in many and different ways. It seems we did not know all there was to know about Ray, but all of us will remember a man who was both a gentleman and a gentle man.

Ray was determined, best illustrated by his success in overcoming a sporting injury so he could exchange his blue beret for a peaked cap during his junior class at OTU Scheyville. He was competitive both on and off the sporting field. His beloved Collinwood Football Club was both a source of joy and frustration. Ray was known to berate the TV and cast dispersions on the competence of the various team coaches over the years. He continued to enjoy cricket, and played for what his family affectionately referred to as his "Dad's Army" team for many years.

Ray was a Legacy Member and played cricket with the Bulleen Cricket Club for many years where he was Club Secretary for 4 years and long term Committee Member before moving to live in Doncaster. He captained the Bulleen 2nd X1 in 1972 and won both the batting and bowling that year, not only for Bulleen but the association as well. For the club his best bowling figures were 6/37 and his highest score was 134.

Ray died unexpectedly on 21 April 2018. His funeral was held at the Federation Chapel, Lilydale Memorial Park, on 30 April 2018. He is survived by his wife Karen, sons Anthony and Christopher, daughters Emma and Elizabeth, 8 grandchildren, his brother John and sister-in-law Miffy.