

Ian Reginald Sinnott (1/67)



1201166 Ian (Nino) Reginald Sinnott was born in Brisbane on 21 August 1946 and completed his secondary education at Harrington High School. Before entering the Army as an Air Cadet on 13 February 1967, Ian was a bank clerk - ledger keeper with the National Bank of Australasia. On graduation from OTU Ian was posted to 1 RTB Kapooka with the RAA Corps awaiting a Basic Flying Course at Point Cook. Ian commenced his flying training in June 1968 and in September was posted to 1 Aviation Regiment (Amberley) for Pilatus Porter training. After postings with 16 Aviation Squadron (Amberley) and 183 Independent Recce Flt (PNG), Ian was next posted to 161 Independent Recce Flight in Vietnam from August 1970 to August 1971. Post-Vietnam Ian continued flying with the Army, becoming the Officer Commanding 173 General Support Squadron in 1979, until his retirement from the Army on 5 August 1984.



In early May Ian took delivery of an ultralight aircraft in Tasmania and flew the 'plane to southern NSW. On 15 May Ian took off from South Murwillumbah on the South Tweed River in his 'grasshopper' – named after its bright green colour. Ian and the 'plane went missing. Two days later Ian Sinnott's body and the wreck of his 'plane were found in Limpinwood, 25 kilometres west of where it took off. One report stated that a wing of the ultralight was missing from the wreck and had yet to be found.

Ian died what he loved doing – flying! He leaves behind his wife Carol, whom he married in 1969 while serving in PNG, two children and three grandchildren.

Former Army Aviation Mechanic Len Avery said he met Mr Sinnott during his 12-month stint as a fixed wing pilot in Vietnam in the early 1970s. He said Mr Sinnott was well-liked and highly regarded as a pilot, was promoted to the rank of Major and at one time was in charge of his own squadron. "He became a very accomplished pilot." Avery said.

A celebration of Ian's Life was held at St Paul's Anglican Church in Palm Beach on 31 May 2017. Along with a number of other Scheyvillians Ralph Bertinetti (1/67) was in Brisbane on a pre-planned business trip and was able to attend Ian's service. 'It was a very moving and well attended Military funeral with RSL honours. Retired Brigadier Bill Mellor gave a wonderful address covering Ian's service career'.