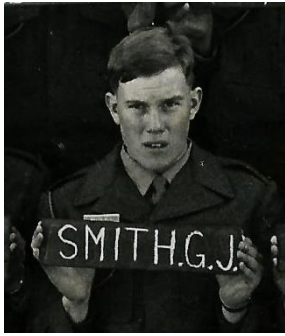


Graeme James Hodgman Smith was born in Melbourne on 23 September 1947. He completed his secondary education at Ballarat College. Before entering the Army on 17 July 1968 as National Serviceman 3794142, Graeme was employed as a Sales Cadet with Lanes Motors in Melbourne. Graeme commenced OTU on 2 August 1968 with Class 3/68 and graduated high in his class on 20 December 1968 and got his preferred corps, the Armoured Corps. Following Corps Training, on 10 May 1969, Graeme was posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment. This was followed with a posting to A Squadron, 3 Cavalry Regiment on 21 July 1969. Graeme was then posted to B Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment in South Vietnam from 12 November 1969 until 3 September 1970, extending his National Service. Graeme was discharged on 16 October 1970. Back to civilian life in 1971 Graeme returned to Lanes Motors and served from 17 October 1970 until 20 May 1971, in the Citizen Military Force.



Graeme married Jeannie in 1972 and together they had a son, Adam, in 1974 and a daughter, Miranda, in 1976. From these two children there are 4 grandchildren Abby, Taima, Heidi and Lucy-Jean. Graeme and Jeannie bought a business in Noosa, Queensland in 1978 and five years later sold that business and moved to Brisbane and back to Motor Industry. Graeme and Jeannie moved back to Melbourne four years later with Graeme remaining in the Motor Industry. The 1990s saw the couple buy another business building tennis courts, car parks, roads, etc., Graeme retired in early 2000s', however, PTSD had really kicked in by then.



Above: 3/68 Classmates Neil Leckie and Graeme Smith at Coronet Bay in 2009.

Graeme & Jeannie retired to their holiday house at Coronet Bay (on the way to Philip Island from Melbourne) in Victoria. Graeme was actively involved in Vietnam Veterans Museum on Philip Island, his Rifle Club, Corinella Probus Club, Corinella Men's Shed and in recent years The Peninsula Boys Car Club. During his life he has restored two Austin Healeys and enjoyed his time in that car club, plus he owned an MG for a while. His last sports car was a Mazda MX5. Graeme crammed a lot into his 70 years, sadly he was also quite ill especially in the last 2-3yrs.

Graeme passed away on Monday 13 November 2017 as a patient at Knox Hospital. His Funeral Service was held on Friday 24 November 2017 at Heritage and Heritage Funerals in Wantirna. There were about 200 attendees with Vietnam Veterans well represented. RIP Graeme Smith.