

## Vale Tim Bakker (4 April 1950 – 24 July 2018)



**Timothy James Phillips Bakker** was born in Sydney, NSW on 4 April 1950. He was raised in a farming community in the Hunter Valley, was educated at Farrer Agricultural College in Tamworth and played Rugby for the School's 1st XV. He was initially a National Serviceman who served in RAA and saw active service in the Vietnam War from 4 May to 5 December 1971 as a Gunner with 104<sup>th</sup> Field Battery of 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RAA. On several occasions his battery fired in support of what later turned out to be OCS (Scheyville) classmate Allan Lowe who was, at that time an infantryman in Delta Company, 3RAR, most notably during the Battle of Long Khanh (Operation Overlord 6–7 June 1971).

Tim was selected for officer training at the Regular Army Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea, to commence his officer training in January 1973. However he, along with 30 other applicants from his class, was allocated to be in the 1/73 Class of the Scheyville Wing of OCS located at the National Service officer training establishment, the Officer Training Unit (OTU), located at Scheyville near Windsor in NSW. He was appointed Colour Sergeant of Blamey Platoon of what was then the Company of Officer Cadets, in the Senior Class remaining at Scheyville after the march-out of the 2/72 OCS (Scheyville) Class in June 1973. His was the last of the three OCS (Scheyville) classes. Along with his other 1/73 Class members, he went to Portsea in December 1973 to graduate with his cohort classmates. Always cheerful, his preferred greeting was 'Are you one?' to which the only acceptable reply was 'One what?'

Tim graduated to RAA and was initially allotted to 1<sup>st</sup> Field Regiment in Brisbane where he served the majority of his subaltern years. He married in the late-1970s and later re-married in September 1981 while posted as Adjutant of 23<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment, Kogarah. Shortly afterwards, he moved to the Army School of Instructional Training (ASIT) at Middle Head serving there from 1982 to 1983. He then moved to the School of Artillery at North Head for two back-to-back postings from 1984 to 1987. He then undertook a year's full-time tertiary education in Information Technology during 1988; this was followed by an IT skills-related posting to Headquarters 4<sup>th</sup> Military District at Keswick Barracks. By late 1990, Army had need of Tim's expertise in Canberra and the prospect of this posting led to his decision to leave the service. He felt he had contributed enough of the best years of his life to the Nation and elected to resign so that he and his family could return home to Scotland Island on the Hawkesbury River for priority family time and personal pursuits. He maintained his interest in Rugby during his military career, occasionally playing for Army at the representative level.

Tim retired from the ARA at the rank of Major on 28 March 1991 after completing 20 years of service. After an eight-week battle with pancreatic cancer, he died on 24 July 2018. He is survived by his widow Therese, daughter Alexandra and son Murray and is fondly remembered by his friends, both military and civilian.