

Van Panotidis was born in Perth on 24 December 1945 and completed his secondary education at Applecross High School in Ardross, a southern suburb of Perth. He attended Western Australian Institute of Technology and graduated as an Associate of Pure Chemistry in 1970 and was employed as an Analytical Chemist by Inman and Farrell. Having deferred his National Service, Van entered the Army on 27 January 1971 as 5718092, commencing OTU with Class 1/71 on 15 February. He graduated with his class on 14 July and was allocated to the RAAMC. The following day he was



posted to Army Headquarters (Melbourne) in Southern Command and served as a Staff Officer, Dental Services. Van served his eighteen months and was discharged on 26 July 1972.



Left: Receiving his OTU Graduation Certificate from The General Officer Commanding Eastern Command, Maj Gen Ken Mackay.

Classmate Lawrie Stanley wrote: Van was a proud OTU/Scheyville member,

he was very popular and active especially with Class 1/71. His quiet, softly spoken demeanour disguised a strong and determined man with great leadership capabilities. He qualified as an industrial chemist and was highly respected, reaching the top of his game in the food industry. He loved fine dining, wine and travel. He was wise, honest, loyal and the definition of integrity, a true gentleman. He also had a wonderful mischievous fun personality.



Tragically, he was diagnosed with Dementia in 2017 and his gradual demise was heart breaking for those who knew him and those who loved him. Van succumbed on 10 May 2022. He is survived by his devoted wife Jan (married 53 years), daughter Nikki and son Lee. Rest in Peace mate! Van's Funeral Service was held in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral St Constantine and Helene, Parker Street, Northbridge on Monday, 23 May 2022. The service was attended by numerous Scheyvillians. As Van wished, a private Cremation was held.