

## OBITUARY

### James Edward HERON (at TGS 1959-62)

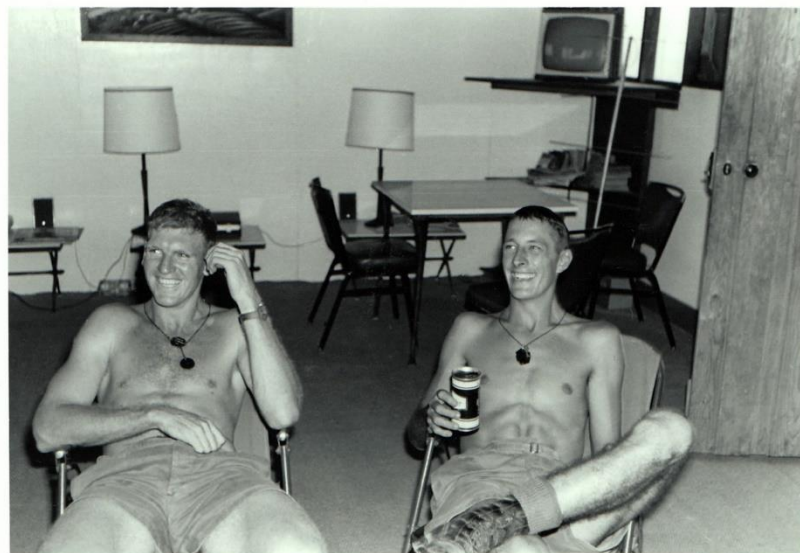
Jim came to Toowoomba GS in 1959 from Wallangarra, a typical humble country boy with an impressive physique, very likeable, respected by all and a good sportsman - particularly in Rugby as a winger in the 1961 and 1962 (Vice -captain) teams and selection in the combined GPS Third XV 1961 and Second XV 1962. 1<sup>st</sup> XV coach Russ Gillies in '61 and '62 described him thus "Impressed with determined running and tackling improving every match. A powerful attacking player and very sound in defence." A fine athlete, he was a member of the athletics teams from 1960 to 1962. Also, a handy cricketer playing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. In 1962 he was appointed Senior Prefect and filled the role with humility and an understated but firm manner which gained the respect of all.



*J. Heron,  
Senior Prefect.*

On leaving school in 1963 Jim followed in the steps of his father and joined the Army as a Private soldier but his talents were soon recognised and in 1965 he entered the Officer Cadet School (OCS), Portsea and then at the end of that year graduated as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Army Service Corps (RAASC) later to become the Corps of Transport (RACT). He's remembered by one of his classmates as the "consummate, reserved, conservative gentleman". While at Portsea Jim represented OCS in the Victorian Rugby competition and subsequently Army in the Australia-wide combined services Rugby competition. While at OCS Jim met Bernadette and they married soon after his graduation.

Jim served in Vietnam for a year from January 1968 as a Lieutenant and had postings in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia with overseas postings to Papua New Guinea and overseas exchange postings in both the United Kingdom and West Germany. As a Major, Jim attended the Australian Command and Staff College at Queenscliff and not long after he was promoted Lieutenant



Lt Jim Heron

2Lt Geoff Adler - 1968

Colonel, the rank he held on retirement in 1990. He was a senior instructor at the Army School of Transport 1983-84.



After the Army Jim retired to Box Hill Victoria with Bernadette and their five children. He spent much of his time on their country property enhancing the natural environment and revegetating along waterways and boundaries. He also spent time developing Box Hill halls and facilities as Halls and Facilities Coordinator (City of Whitehorse) and later in a similar position with the Nunawading Council.

Jim passed away on 22 June 2019 after a long illness which he fought bravely without complaint. He'll be missed by many.

(Submitted by Mick Storrs (1959-62))