



Vale Peter James Schmidtchen

Lieutenant Peter James Schmidtchen passed away on 17 December 2009 following a relatively short, but very brave battle with lung cancer.

Pete was part of the young group of 1960s gunners at the Ipswich Q, later 14th Battery of 5th Field Regiment RAA. He progressed quickly through the ranks to be commissioned, but the pressures of work with Telstra and family obliged him to leave the CMF in the 1970s.

However, Pete never forgot these Gunner roots and, as a life subscriber, was a regular attendee at RAA Association functions.

A very keen sportman, he was the grey-bearded 'Pappa Smurf' of the Good Life Cycling Club and a staunch bush walker.

At the celebration of his life on 23 December, Pete was described in many ways, but the following aptly sum up his being: generous, conservationist, 'keep it simple', hands of a craftsman, skinny legs of an emu, a perfectionist, bad jokes, terrible hats and an odd dancer.

Peter Schmidtchen will be most remembered by his friends for his stoic last months in this world—he endured his lot with dignity, was never bitter and his last thoughts were for his family, friends and his house.

Vale Peter James Schmidtchen —Gunner, officer, gentleman and devoted family man. Taken to the Great Gun Park up above at only 66 years young.

A Tribute to a Gunner

The following very poignant poem by former WO2 Lex McCoombes was read by Major David Burgess ED (Retd) as a tribute to Peter Schmidtchen at his funeral:

*From a civvy to a Gunner
There is much to gain,
'For training in Sunshine and in rain'
In times of tremendous strain.
From Gun Bay to Tin Can Bay
(Some say we come here to play.)
Others come to train and stay
For not much pay.
A Gunner's friendship is very strong
For in time it lasts so long.
In the days of glad and sad,
We Gunners gather here to hear
'Detachments rear,
Stand 'Easy'.
Ubique—Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt.*

Arthur Burke

28 February 2010

RAAHC