

Kenneth George Lee was born on 31 April 1942, a brother to Donald, John and Graham (all deceased) Thelma, Shirley and Peter. Ken married Harriet Ann, known as Nancy. They had many children. Nancy died in 2006. Ken was known in civilian circles as ‘Gandhi’, due to his swarthy complexion, but was known as KG to his Army mates. KG worked as a drover, riding a donkey, later working for the Ballarat Council. At one time KG owned his own truck in which he delivered grain and furniture.

KG was a man who couldn’t say no. Once, after a bit of a dispute with Nancy, she made him a sandwich with a cardboard filling, which he took with him. When he returned home Nancy asked: ‘How was your lunch?’ to which KG replied: ‘Beautiful, thank you!’ which took the sting out of their dispute.

KG joined the then Citizen Military Forces in late 1970 and served for five years before discharging. He re-enlisted in the now Army Reserve and was still serving as late as the 2 RVR Eildon Camp in 1985. Dick Wilkie, President of the 8/7 Bn – 2 RVR Association, spoke about KG and his Army times. ‘He was a unique character in the Army’s ranks. A typical Fair Dinkum Digger’. KG would do the jobs that no-one else would do, eg keep the toilets clean and light the ‘choofas’. The ‘choofas’ were a petrol fuelled water heater that needed to be ‘fired up’ well before the soldiers got up in the morning. About 5.30am. KG delighted in starting the ‘choofas’ as they went off with a loud bang when started, waking all in earshot of the ‘choofas’.



Once when on a driving task KG’s truck ran over an embankment. The truck needed chains attached to it to pull it back onto the road. Sgt Kevin Fiscalini tried to hurry him up, but KG simply told him ‘Where to go, and what to do!’ and got on with his work, recovering the truck.

The Commanding Officer, Lt Col Ted Lynes, had asked KG to do something for him. KG hadn’t done it. KG said he ‘will do it when he can’ and said to the CO: ‘If you want to do it quicker, do it yourself!’ All people were equal in KG’s eyes!

KG joined the 8/7 Bn - 2 RVR Association about one year after it was formed and often drove the bus taking the association members on outings. He kept them entertained, and also the people at the places where they went.



KG Lee died on 24 March 2023. His funeral, attended by a large contingent from the association, was held on 3 April 2023 at Pat Cashin Funeral Centre. Ballarat. KG was a Truck Driver and also a Driver with the Army Reserve. He was a Slim Dusty fan and Slim’s songs *Lights on the Hill (are a blindin’ me)* and *Looking Forward, Looking Back* were played during the service. RIP KG.

Left: KG, trying to be serious, with Kevin Moschetti at an association dinner in Ranger Barracks.