

## Mack James (Jim)

24 August 1937 - 11 March 2021.

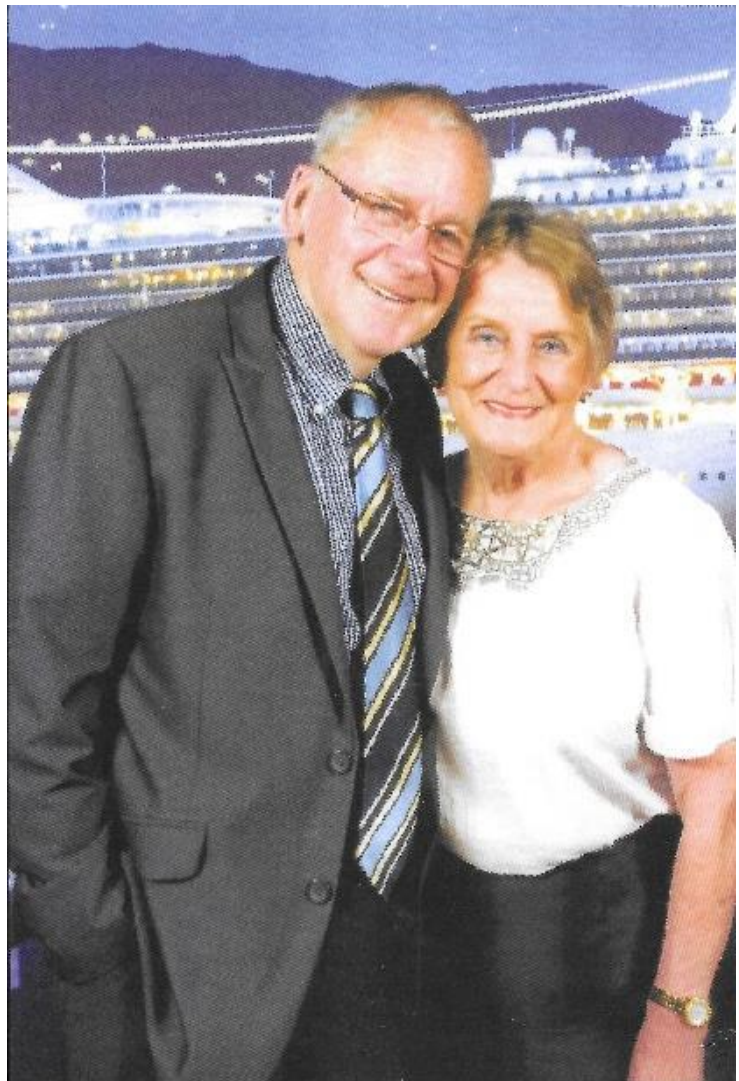
**38 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, 10th Medium Regiment, 2 RVR, 5 RAR, 3 Trg. Grp**



**James Nicol Despard 'Jim' Mack** completed his schooling at Geelong Grammar and was hoping for a career in Aeronautical Engineering. However, his father, Victorian Legislative Council Member Ronald Mack (Warrnambool, 13 May 1950 – 5 December 1952 and Western, 18 June 1955 – 12 February 1968 on death) was away from home for long periods so Jim found a job in the ANZ Bank to remain closer to home. He remained working in the 'financial sector' for most of his working career. Jim was called in to the Army for his National Service as 3/727321 on 7 August 1956.

Completing his 'three months' with 14 National Service Training Battalion at Puckapunyal, he transferred to the Citizen Military Force as 3139551 with 38 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment at Warrnambool. Newsletter of the 8/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion – 2RVR Association Inc. A0035094M

Jim married Iris Ross in February 1960. Shortly afterwards, on 1 July 1960, the Pentropic system was introduced into the Australian Army. The country infantry battalions were combined to form the Second Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (2 RVR) and the city battalions formed 1 RVR. Changes were also made to the supporting arms and services and the artillery in Warrnambool now became a part of 10th Medium Regiment, so Jim transferred to the 10th Medium Regiment.



On 2 December 1964 Jim, along with fellow Warrnambool RAA member Frank Norton, was commissioned as a Lieutenant. On 9 February 1965, when the Pentropic system was disbanded, the Warrnambool artillery unit transferred to the infantry with 2 RVR. Now serving with the infantry Jim was one of the CMF officers who were fortunate to be able to do a CMF 'Tour' in Vietnam. He served with 5 RAR in Vietnam from 29 October to 12 November 1969. Jim rose through the ranks and from 12 February 1975 until 6 June 1976 was attached to Command and Staff Training Unit of 3 Training Group. He then returned to 2 RVR. The Mack family moved to Ballarat with Jim's work in 1977 where Jim would take over the Manager's Role at Victorian Savings & Loan Credit Union. On 24 January 1979 he returned to CSTU where he completed his promotion course for Lieutenant Colonel. He returned again to 2 RVR on 31 October 1980 and took over



as Battalion 2IC (now Executive Officer). At the end of the tenure of his good friend Lieutenant Colonel E. T. 'Ted' Lynes as CO 2 RVR, Jim was handed the Commanding Officer's Cane for 2 RVR on 1 July 1981, a position he held until 16 August 1984. Jim in turn handed command of the battalion to a former ARA member Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Skardon. Jim retired from the Army 15 days later. Lieutenant Colonel Skardon was responsible for the change of number of 2 RVR to 8/7 RVR to align with the battalion's historical roots.

Jim's last work saw him as the owner of the 917 Gymnasium in Ballarat. On retirement, Jim and Iris became heavily involved in Probus from 2000, with Jim taking on the Presidency in 2004. This involvement saw them take a number of overseas cruises (photo above). They also enjoyed caravanning around Australia. Jim went into care in 2018. He passed away on 11 March 2021.

Jim and Iris have four children: Heather, Lenore, Elizabeth and Ross, nine grandchildren and their second great-grandchild is due soon.