

**Brian Harold Driscoll** was born on 7 December 1929 at Elsternwick in Melbourne. He went to the Elsternwick State School then onto Caulfield Grammar for five years.

Brian's first job was collecting laundry and delivering it to the cleaners. He also had jobs at Standard Cars, Driscoll & Drury, Gibbs Bright and Ferguson Tractors. Brian was a "rev head" owning a Harley Davidson motorbike long before he owned a truck. He crashed and wrote off the bike. He also owned a sportscar.

Brian joined the Citizens Military Forces (CMF), later known as the Army Reserve, on 10 August 1948, just a few weeks after the CMF had been reformed post-WW2. He was initially posted to 105 Infantry Workshops. He recruited his future brother-in-law, John Lee, in 1951. By late 1951 Brian had transferred to RAEME (Electrical and Mechanical Engineers)



Brian met Dawn Lee at an Army dance. He had partnered another girl but noticed Dawn straight away. At the end of the evening, after he took his girl home, Brian returned to the dance to see if he could catch up with Dawn. He always remembered what she was wearing and the ribbon in her hair. Brian said he knew on that night she was the girl he would marry.

Brian moved from Melbourne to Camperdown to work as a dairy herd tester. Brian and Dawn were married 2 and ½ years later in Terang on 27 November 1954. Following their marriage, they moved to Ballarat where Brian worked as a semitrailer driver. After a short time, they were on the move again, this time to Colac where Brian worked on a farm. He sought a change in jobs again and worked at the Colac Dairying Coy at Cororooke. He made enough money to buy his own truck, which saw the beginning of his business: carting peas, briquettes, gravel and super over the course of many years.

Brian, Dawn and their children Amanda, Jo, Megan, Peter and Lyndell moved from Cororooke to Roycrofts Road, Boorcan, which is just east of Terang. They lived there for a few years, eventually buying the block on Princes Highway where they built the house of their dreams, living there happily with their children.

Brian's CMF career blossomed. He served with 106 Infantry Workshops (1953) and in general transport with 33 Company RAASC (1955) before transferring to the Artillery with 38 Light Anti-aircraft Regiment in 1956. This was followed by 8 Medium Regiment (1957) and 10 Medium Regiment on the commencement of the Pentropic System on 1 July 1960. With the failure of the Pentropic system, the Warrnambool depot transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (2 RVR) on 9 February 1965 as Support Company. By the late 1970s Brian held the rank of Warrant officer Class 2 and was Company Sergeant Major for Support Company. He was then further promoted to Warrant Officer Class 1 and posted as the Regimental Sergeant Major (ARes) of 2 RVR. This promotion saw Brian being the first ever Army Reservist to be appointed to this rank; a role he took up with immense pride and conviction. His aim in that posting was 'to look after the soldiers!' On reaching retirement age, after 36 years of service, Brian retired from the Army Reserve on 7 December 1984.

The Driscoll truck, driving school, bus hire and drive business operated from Boorcan until Brian's retirement. There were many amusing driving lesson stories told. Quite a few times Brian said he was very glad he had a second set of pedals on his side of the car giving him control. There were occasions he came home and said, jokingly, he needed to change his underwear.

During his service Brian was awarded the Reserve Force Medal with four clasps, the National Medal with one clasp, the Australian Defence Medal and the Efficiency Medal with two clasps.

Brian was an active member with the 8/7 Bn – 2 RVR Association for over 20 years, eventually joining the committee. For many years he and Barbara Birthisel would travel from Warrnambool and Terang to attend

meetings and functions in Ballarat. Brian was well known by association members, attending both the Warrnambool and Ballarat annual dinners, always with his 'Movember' donation tin in hand. In 2020 'The Standard' newspaper reported that Brian had raised over \$10,000 for the 'Movember' cause of men's mental health and suicide prevention, prostate and testicular cancer.

Dawn died on 24 January 2012 and Brian lived on at Boorcan up until three days before he died. He passed away peacefully at Camperdown Hospital with his girls and granddaughters beside him, bidding him goodbye. He leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A Requiem Mass was held for Brian at St Thomas' Catholic Church, Terang, on 28 February 2023. The Burial Service followed at the Terang Cemetery. His funeral was attended by in excess of 30 association members.



Former Commanding Officer of 8/7 RVR, David Cadogan-Cowper, posted on the Funeral Directors website: On behalf of myself and the RSMs from my tenure at the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, I would sincerely like to express our condolences to Brian's family. Brian provided us with many great memories during our time, but the over-riding feeling was his wish to look after the junior members of the battalion. Always there with a kind smile and a joke, it was a pleasure to chat with Brian and we sought him out at every get together just to share some laughs. He will be missed. His service now done. RIP.



Left: Brian's RSM Battle Dress in the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

Right: Brian, second from the right at ANZAC Day, Ballarat, 2013.