Brief Bio Details – Peter James Bruce, OAM

Peter was born in Victoria but spent most of his formative years in Queensland, growing up at Surfers Paradise in the 50’s and 60’s. After leaving school he joined the local CMF unit before transferring to the Australian Regular Army two years later in 1969.

Peter was allocated to Artillery and following 12 months of intensive training he deployed to South Vietnam with 4th Field Regiment for a 12 month tour of duty. The following years saw him posted to various units in both operational and training positions. Overseas postings included Singapore as part of 28 ANZUK Brigade, the School of Artillery at Larkhill in England where he completed the Long Gunnery Staff Course. He also spent time in Germany and Canada working with British Artillery units during their training cycles.

Peter rose through the ranks to Warrant Officer Class One with Regimental Sergeant Major appointments at 2/15 Field Regiment in Melbourne and 8/12 Medium Regiment in Sydney. Peter was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1990 for services as RSM of 8/12th Medium Regiment. His final posting as a WO1 was as the Regimental Master Gunner, the senior WO1 appointment in the RAA. He then accepted a Prescribed Service Officer (PSO) commission to Captain and served as the Career Advisor for the RAA at the Soldier Career Management Agency (SCMA) and as Adjutant of 2/15 Medium Regiment. Peter’s final posting and promotion to Major was as Officer Commanding Support Wing at the relocated School of Artillery at Puckapunyal in Victoria.

Discharging from the Army in 1999 after 30 years’ service, Peter went farming at Peak Hill in the Central West of NSW. It was here he met his second wife to be, Susie. They stayed farming for several years before joining the Grey Nomads and touring Australia in their caravan. After a couple of years touring, they settled in Myrtleford, Victoria where Peter held several jobs including working for National Parks, a winery and an irrigation company. By 2010, the cold weather of North East Victoria was getting less attractive and Peter and Susie moved to the Mid North Coast.

Peter has been active with various RSL Sub-branches in both NSW and Victoria for over 30 years and has been involved with Legacy for about the same time. Peter and Susie have six children between them and a growing number of grandchildren and one great grandchild.