

## **BIOGRAPHY FOR MAJOR IAN FINLAYSON**

Major Finlayson graduated from Officer Cadet School, Portsea in December 1978 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps. He has had a number of postings over 37 years including ten years of staff and regimental appointments in 6 and 7 Brigade units. After three years on the staff of the Royal Military College, he was promoted in 1992 and spent five years as the Executive Office in the Army Commercial Support Programme, Directorate of Plans and Analysis, Army Headquarters.

Major Finlayson graduate from Army Command and Staff College, Queenscliffe, in 1998 and has been Staff Officer to Chief of Staff Support Command (1999) and Director General Future Land Warfare, Army Headquarters (2003). Major Finlayson also worked in International Policy Division from January 2000 until December 2002. During this time he gained considerable experience in Defence Attaché management including the establishing of a number of Defence Posts (Dili, New Delhi, Islamabad, Brussels, Ottawa and the Defence Liaison Officer to The Hague).

Career highlights include being selected as the second Chief of the Defence Force Fellow in 1997 where he authored a paper on the impact of environmental change on ADF force structure. He was Staff Officer Administration in the Australian High Commission (London) from August 2003 until September 2006.

In 2007 he was posted to Army International Engagement, Army Headquarters, with particular responsibility for managing Army's non-operational overseas posting portfolio. In 2008 Major Finlayson was again posted into the position of Executive Officer Attaché and Overseas Management. He provided administrative and policy support to the 30 countries where the ADF retains Attaché Representation. He has extensive experience in crisis management, having providing support to overseas Australian Defence staff during the 9/11 attacks in New York (2001), the Honiara Evacuation (2000), the Timor Crisis (2000), the London Bombings (2005) and the Japanese nuclear accident (2011).

In September 2008 he spent six months in East Timor as the first J4 on the Headquarters of the International Stabilisation Force. During this time he developed infrastructure options for post-International Stabilisation Forces, as well as a vehicle/equipment drawn down/rationalisation plan for ISF equipments. His last Regular Army posting was as Staff Officer Coordination in Army Headquarters where he managed a range of issues including Army's parliamentary exchange program, the Chief of Army Scholarship, unit administration for Army Headquarters and coordination of Army Headquarters events. Major Finlayson has now retired from the Australian Regular Army into the Inactive Reserve and in this capacity works for the Australian Army History Unit as an historian. He is currently working on a book about the 3rd Australian Division's failed attack at Passchendaele on 12 October 1917.

His academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Economics (Monash University), Master of Public Administration (University of Queensland), Master of Defence Studies (University of NSW) and Master of Strategic Studies (Deakin University). He enjoys military history and travel.