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BUSINESS

Ian Mansfield rewarded for work

Rae Wilson | 14th June 2010



AFTER 20 years setting up landmine clearing programs in war-torn countries around the world, Ian Mansfield's work has been recognised at home.

Mr Mansfield, who calls Mooloolaba home, is the deputy director and head of operations at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in Switzerland.

The organisation helps countries deal with landmines and unexploded remnants of war but also supports the international treaties dealing with the issue.

Mr Mansfield oversees all the operational, technical and research activities carried out by the centre, regularly travelling to war-torn countries.

He has published numerous articles and spoken at many international meetings on mine action.

He has also worked at the United Nations headquarters in New York with field postings in dangerous places such as Afghanistan, Laos and Bosnia.

Today Mr Mansfield has been named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for "service to international humanitarian aid through the establishment of global landmine removal, safety and training programs".

"Naturally I am very proud and honoured to have received this award," he said via email from Geneva.

"As all of my humanitarian work for the past 18 years has been outside of Australia, it is particularly pleasing to be recognised at home. There are many Australians doing great work overseas, so for me to be singled out for this award is very special.

"I am particularly grateful to my wife Margaret, who has been with me in all these difficult countries, and she is a constant source of support and encouragement to me."

Mr Mansfield, who graduated from the Royal Military College at Duntroon in 1974, was an engineer officer in the Australian army for 22 years.

He has served in most states of Australia, as well as Papua New Guinea, the USA, Canada and Pakistan.

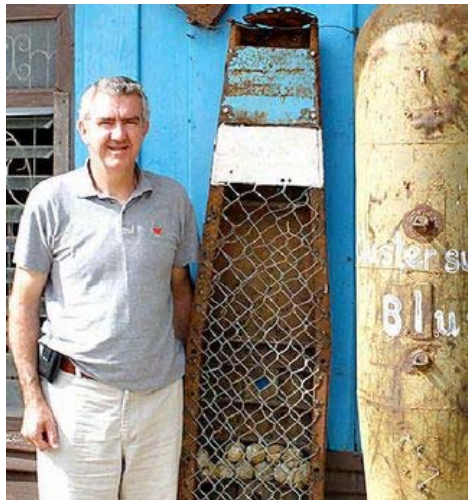
Mr Mansfield's final assignment was as commanding officer of the Australian army team in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the 1993 Australia Day Honours list.

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Mooloolaba's Ian Mansfield.

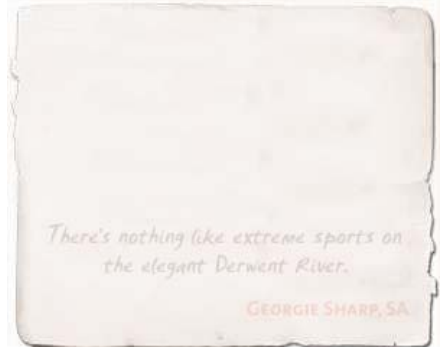
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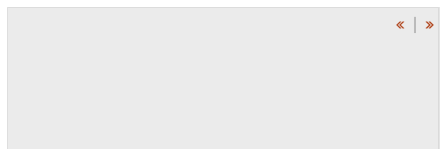


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