

Alan Young
Tribute by David Maher
Funeral: North Hobart
Friday 31 December 2021

The death of Alan Young occurred in the Hobart Royal Hospital on Tuesday, 21st December. Alan's passing was in consequence of Parkinson's disease and lung complications. Alan had celebrated his 81st birthday on the 6th May.

Alan and Leah had moved permanently to Hobart on the 15th March, 2020 to be closer to family.

Alan joined the North West Inspectorate team in January, 1979 as its English/History Inspector in consequence of a State-wide restructure, the nature and scope of which was written by the Regional Director's team and accepted in its entirety by the Director-General, albeit after some animated negotiations. Alan remained in this position until a further restructuring which resulted in his appointment as District Inspector, Tamworth North.

A listing of Alan's qualities follows: gentle by nature; always pleasant and bearing an infectious smile; steadfastly loyal and faithful; the bearer of an even temperament; dedicated to his role and functions; totally equipped for his personal and professional duties; a genuine team member; and an exemplary doyen among his colleagues. I was so privileged to have Alan as a team member for most of a decade and never had reason to question his inspectorial judgements and his loyalty and trust. The indelible memory of Alan standing at my office door with his likable and youthful Aussie smile will remain etched in my memory.

Alan had the capacity to generate a high level of application and camaraderie among his personnel. Young and older teachers found a receptive ear in Alan and benefited from his personal wisdom and from his professional skills. His appreciative friend, John Fox, remembers this capacity thus: "He was liked and respected by his peers, classroom teachers and school executive. At the same time, he had a great love for education."

Alan's friend and colleague, John Fox, recalls an event that illustrates Alan's calmness in the face of an imminent threat. Driving together to Walgett one Sunday afternoon for inspectorial work in the following week, a tyre blow-out occurred near Burren Junction. John claims Alan's countenance was deathly white as he wrestled with the steering wheel and proceeded to mow down several coolabah saplings. Immediately after this incident Alan was calm, assured and quick to offer counselling to the distressed driver. Alan indeed had an enviable capacity to exhibit composure under stress.

Ever thoughtful, in 1984 when I was about to depart for New Zealand to undertake the Milford Track Walk, Alan presented me with a book that was written by a veteran walker detailing his experiences on the Track. The book and its inscription remain in the remnants of my personal library, testimony to Alan's thoughtfulness.

Farewell Alan; rest in peace knowing that you were not only a highly respected friend and professional but also that you were a loving, faithful and enduring husband to Leah and a caring and inspirational father of Stephen and of Cate. Your family will miss you dearly and will always remember you with immeasurable affection.

Alan's funeral service video is available at:

<https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/authorise.php?k=1640197381155586>