

## Farewell Alan Raphael

22nd July 1933 to 17th September 2011

Alan had a holiday house near Chiton Rocks overlooking the railway and for years the family all enjoyed watching our trains steam past. He joined the Society in November 1971 and his first trip with us was "The Metroliner" on 9th April 1972. This was a suburban Shakedown tour which we usually scheduled in one form or another to ensure that our steam engines were in good working order for the busy steam season to follow and also as a travelling sales exercise to attract the attention of as many of the public as possible. Rx 224 and Rx207 did the honours with an 11 car train visiting East Grange, Hendon, Semaphore, Outer Harbour and Hallett Cove. Adult fare was \$3.20. Society Treasurer Jack Whittle, another accountant, introduced me to Alan at Adelaide station at the end of their trip and it was pretty obvious that Alan was now a very enthusiastic steam tours man.

In the years that followed, Alan booked on nearly every steam tour that we ran, usually good for 4 tickets but on occasions as many as 10. My records show that he travelled on 86 SteamRanger trains during the period 1972 to 1979 alone and of course lots more in the 1980s.

Alan was appointed Senior Vice President in 1977 and from 1983 to 1990 was Secretary of The ARHS. On several occasions he accompanied me on appointments with top Brass including the Minister of Transport and other members of Parliament. When the Society was in need of a suitable room for Council meetings in the City he arranged for the use of the Board room at the Accounting firm where he was a Senior partner.

Alan was the youngest of 5 children born to Ralph and Lily Raphael. Sadly Lily died when Alan was only 8 years old and older sister Marj did most of the hard yards in raising the young fellow. Didn't do a bad job either because we all knew him to be a clever and considerate man. He attended the University of Adelaide as a young man and graduated with a Diploma of Commerce. Alan married Carlien Anderson in 1958 and together they took on several tasks sub contracting the building of their first house at Edwardstown where they lived for 8 years. Their next house was at Urrbrae where they spent 40 years before moving to Encounter Bay 3 years ago. Concurrently they owned the holiday house at Chiton for 48 years and spent a lot of time in our hot summers at that delightful location.

Alan was a very experienced and capable Chartered Accountant but of the old school - amazingly he never owned or actually used a computer but of course his staff made use of them for routine data entering. He was a Certified Tax Agent, accredited as an official Liquidator and was a Fellow of the Institute of Accountants (FCA). He was as "smart as a tack" and used to amaze me by adding up long columns of figures faster than anyone could enter the items on a calculator and was unerringly accurate. In his profession and in his life's dealings generally he was often described as a "Belt and Braces" man.

Alan and Carlien were inveterate travellers. They made 19 trips to UK and Europe, a few to Asia and New Zealand and travelled extensively within Australia. I used to wonder some times if perhaps there was a bit of gypsy blood in their genes a long way back because they always seemed to be on the move or busy planning the next one. Alan, nevertheless was a first class ARHS secretary and did us proud. He handled all our complex paperwork and correspondence in a very efficient manner and nothing was too much trouble. As befits a highly qualified and professional man, Alan made the Secretary's duties look all too easy but really they were not. He had a phenomenal memory for just about everything and when he met anyone just once would never forget their name even years later. I used to stay at his holiday house occasionally in connection with SteamRanger commitments and he had a ritual on Saturday nights to go to the Port Elliot Hotel next to the station for dinner. After the meal an old bloke would start thumping away on the piano playing all the old tunes and Alan and Carlien would sing their hearts out in fine voice. They knew the words for all the verses of song after song off by heart. I was lucky if I could remember the chorus and anyway I couldn't sing for nuts.

**R.I.P. Alan Raphael    A staunch friend.    Nature's gentleman.    A kind and generous man.**

Dean Harvey