

EULOGY - ALLAN HOLDEN HOBSON - Dec'd 22.11.94

---

To Beth, Tim & Jennifer, Martin & Karen, Simon & Maria and Rod, we extend our deepest sympathy on your great loss of one so dear to you all.

I was much moved when asked by Simon to say a few words about the life of a wonderful husband and beloved partner & companion, fondly revered father of four fine men, grandfather to their lovely families and a special friend of us all and I wondered whether I was fit for this most privileged of duties, namely, to speak in praise of one, Allan Holden Hobson. I will endeavour to do my best, as I knew him, for whilst our close friendship extended over some 46 years, there was much in the life of this greatest of friends, of which I have no knowledge.

Allan was an infantry officer in the British Army and served in the bitter campaigns of Greece and Crete in World War 2. Whilst we enjoyed our special friendship at many meetings, the matter of our respective services in the forces was never mentioned. I do know that Allan was much loved by his fellow officers and men and almost to the time of his passing, had kept in regular touch with two of his special mates who served with him. Allan had longed to re-visit Greece with one of these mates, some 18 months ago, but regrettably was not up to the tiring travel schedule.

In 1948, soon after completion of my exams, I commenced practice as an accountant in Bulwulla Chambers, Castlereagh Street, Sydney when one day, a Mr. George Hunt, accountant of the Wales Bank at 228 Pitt Street, phoned to say he had clients, ladies hairdressers, looking for an accountant and would I care to look after them. Of course, I said I would be only too pleased and soon met the two principals, Allan Hobson and Norman Mills, trading as Raymond and Allan in the St. James Building, Castlereagh Street and so our special friendship began.

Allan was such a manly man, I wondered "how could this man be a ladies hairdresser" and soon discovered that Allan and Norman were skilled tradesmen whose services were much in demand and their clientele included lots of quite famous people and ladies at the top of the social scene.

Raymond and Allan was a successful business and this partnership endured for many years until Norman's retirement. Allan, if you like, was also the manager of their business and was a born businessman. He loved a bargain - two and more for the price of one - but all his business transactions had to be above board. His integrity was second to none. In the business circles of the hairdressing trade and suppliers, Allan was well and favourably known and respected. I so enjoyed our many discussions of business problems - he was so well informed and had a ready understanding of enterprises having no connection with his own. Then, too, he was the first to congratulate someone whose hard work and endeavour had achieved a good and profitable result. Need I add, Allan Hobson was a hard worker and he quite properly expected his staff to be hard-working also, he was never ungenerous in expressing his appreciation.

The onset of acute arthritis, in his arms and legs some time back slowed this dear man down to a snail's pace and confined him to barracks at 21 Cheddar Street, killing his zest for business and its interests. This was a sad and frustrating period for him. He felt robbed of his independence and so wanted not to burden anyone. He said I can't even do my shoe laces up - Bethy, you know, is a wonderful girl - how lucky am I to have someone like her to help me and it's so unfair to her, I feel so uselss, but I can count my blessings. One grows old and parts wear out. Here was a unique partnership of husband and wife. Allan, on many occasions, has professed to me his great love and devotion for this selfless lady - Beth.

As time passed at home, when almost immobile, Allan had a bad fall, fracturing his hip and breaking his arm - he was admitted to hospital where he endured insufferable pain over quite some weeks before his passing last Monday.

Allan Hobson's endearing qualities were his love for his family and his stature as one espousing the finest attributes of manhood as a provider and protector. He was so proud of his family and its members have been a great team of mates and supporters - his greatest joy was his family.

I believe we have all been moved by Allan's exemplary life - his loving memory will remain long in our hearts.

*Bruce Rickard*

Bruce Rickard

25.11.94