

## ***Remembering Ian Wall***

**Speech by Professor Don Markwell**

**at a dinner in memory of Dr Ian Baker Wall AM,**

**Adelaide, 16 December 2022**

We are here tonight to remember Ian Wall, to celebrate and to honour him – a remarkable man who leaves an enduring, indelible legacy in so many ways in this city and far beyond, and in our hearts.

We remember Ian with admiration, gratitude, and love.

Dr Ian Baker Wall AM – son of Syd and Rita, husband of Pammie, father of Annabel and Lucinda Jane; electrical engineer, business pioneer and industry icon, exceptional philanthropist; colleague, friend, and mentor. Much missed by us all.

In celebrating Ian tonight, there is perhaps no need to repeat everything that Steven Marshall and I said at his funeral about Ian's extraordinary life, the influences that shaped him, and his profound impact. You may be interested to know that a video of the funeral service, along with the texts of those eulogies and of the Archbishop's inspiring sermon, are online in the News section of the St Mark's College website.

We all know Ian's story – how the only child of modest, devoted, and generous parents, shaped by Pulteney, Saints, the University of Adelaide, and five years immersed at St Mark's, enthralled first by electronics and then by Pammie Hogon, went on through vision, drive, and tireless work to co-create Codan, seeing it to global success, and become, in time, with Pammie, South Australia's greatest modern philanthropist.

We all know his character – his clear-minded intellect, his precision, his energy, his determination and capacity for hard work, his economy of expression, his wisdom born of experience, his decency, his gentlemanliness, his principles and integrity, his humility, his loyalty, his gratitude to the institutions and people who shaped him, and always his generosity.

You may have noticed in the tributes columns of The Advertiser in the days after Ian's death, amongst so many other and larger tributes to him from Codan and from so many institutions and organisations which he supported, a small, anonymous tribute. The message was unsigned, and was so obviously straight from the heart.

It simply read:

“Wall, Ian

15 May 1931

26 Oct 2022

Ian was one of the nicest and most generous men that you would wish to know. I have the fondest memories of him from my days at Codan. Sincere condolences to Pam and Annabel and to all who counted him as a friend.”

What more needs to be said than that?

Thank you, Ian, for all you meant to us all; and thank you, Pammie and Annabel, for sharing Ian with us, and for this chance to remember and to celebrate him with you tonight. We are forever in his debt, and in yours.