

Alan Robert Speirs

13th April 1923—13th June 2013



Alan was born in Nelson. His father was a railway man, so the family had to move to new appointments at Arthurs pass and then to Christchurch when Alan was young.

Alan's ambition was to fly, so when war broke out when he was fifteen he wanted to enlist.

He would have had to wait a while to join up but he altered his age to do so. He was stationed at Taieri and Wigram before going to the UK where he was a pilot in bomber Command.

A courageous man, he was shot up three times, and downed once, letting his crew bail out while he landed the aircraft disregarding his own safety. He was then looked after by the underground, and with their help fortunately made it back safely to England.

After the war he went to University and gained a degree in Mechanical engineering. He met and married his first wife in England.

They lived in Chester and Londonderry, where Alan was busy lay preaching. They finally returned home to New Zealand in 1974. He worked for many years until his retirement at the Tasman paper mill Kawarau as an engineer. He carried on preaching at Kawarau, being Parish Steward, preaching, holding other positions of responsibility and leadership in the Church, as well as contributing his time and talents to the community.

The Kawarau church, Grey Power and the RSA benefited from his time given generously. His love of God, attention to detail, and making sure that everything was done right.

As a faithful member of the Waikato Waiariki Synod he travelled great distances to attend meetings. He also attended most Conferences and was a mine of information on Church matters. He also loved a good discussion on things theological as well as other topics.

Alan was a respected long serving Lay Preacher of over fifty four years, and is survived by his wife Allisyn. He is sadly missed by all his colleagues, friends and the community.

Alan is remembered as a person with a good heart and a good mind, who applied the gifts of both heart and mind in respect to family, church and friendships. Memories of him will always be cherished.

