

Charles Anthony (Tony) Bailey

Life Member ARHSnsw

18/4/1947 – 18/9/2018

Tony passed away on 18 September 2018 after suffering a heart attack the previous day. He was well known not only to NSW members but nationally as the enthusiastic and knowledgeable manager of the ARHSnsw bookshop between 1976 and 1994, and in more recent times as the Managing Editor of *Transit Australia* magazine.

Tony was born and raised in Newcastle. As a child he contracted polio, which affected his legs and as a consequence he required crutches to get about, though this never seemed to limit his mobility. In later years, unfortunately, as his condition worsened, he became confined to a wheelchair.

Tony moved to Sydney in 1968 to work in the accounts department of Schweppes at Mascot. He soon made himself known at railway enthusiast gatherings and he volunteered on Saturdays at the newly-established ARHS bookshop set up by Geoff Lillico in rented premises. When the Society purchased the building at 27 Belmore Street Surry Hills in 1974 Tony lived upstairs as caretaker, with the bookshop and archives housed on the ground floor. With the growth of the bookshop and the refurbishment of the building, Tony was employed by the Society as the bookshop manager from 1976.

The bookshop became a gathering place for enthusiasts, especially on Saturdays, and many will attest that Tony's knowledge, interest in and enthusiasm for all aspects of railways became a shared and enduring commitment. This contributed to the Society's standing and to its revenue. Tony was internationalist in outlook and would source books and magazines from publishers worldwide, building a loyal customer base.

Tony met his wife-to-be, Canh, appropriately enough on a train, when he was travelling to Melbourne on the *Intercapital Daylight* for a tram and train riding holiday. They married in Sydney in 1984 and their daughter Kim was born in 1991.

Tony left the Society's employ in 1994 to pursue other business opportunities. In recognition of Tony's long and valuable contribution,

he was awarded life membership of the Society. Tony purchased a travel agency at Maroubra and built up a loyal customer base by providing customised services. With industry consolidation and the growth of internet sales, he closed the shopfront and ran the specialised business from home. He retained his agency licence until his death.

The Bailey family were inveterate travellers, in Australia and worldwide. Tony had a special love of the London Underground, and through advance research he was able to navigate that complex system and its interchanges, by pinpointing stations with lifts and level passageways.

In later years, as Tony was confined to a wheelchair, his travels were mostly limited to Sydney public transport. He retained his ARHS connections. He was a regular news contributor to *Railway Digest* and he volunteered in the bookshop when it was located on the Sydney Terminal concourse, and thus accessible. He was also involved in the setting up of the monthly ARHS Luncheon Club outings to places of railway interest, and he participated whenever access was possible.

Never afraid of a new challenge, he took on the role of managing editor of *Transit Australia*, which fitted in nicely with his interests in urban transport, and which he could accomplish from his home office via the internet. Nevertheless, if he was short of an image for an upcoming issue, he would be out in his motorised chair to photograph a train or bus or tram or transport facility.

Those of us who had the good fortune to know Tony personally remember someone who never complained about his infirmity and never sought sympathy. He was entrepreneurial at business, and was able to tailor his various careers to his circumstances. He was someone of intellect and wisdom, who encouraged and mentored others, maintained confidences and offered wise advice. He was greatly loved by Canh and Kim, and by his wife's extended family.

Vale, Tony. A life lived well.

Tony McIlwain



Tony and Canh at their wedding, on 1 July 1984.
John Beckhaus