

Vale Alan Appleton (1934–2014)



Alan Appleton joined the South Australian public service in 1971 and was a Technical Assistant with the Geophysics Section until 1990 in the Department of Mines. He was then transferred to the

Mineral Exploration Division within the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy until he retired in 2005. He assisted with the organisation of many events, field trips and special occasions for staff throughout the agency. Alan was always able to procure required items for projects, events and conferences and was happy to help with anything, sometimes appearing like a genie at one's side [Editor's note: I can also vouch for Alan's uncanny abilities in this regard!]. Alan was a key contact for explosives which was a critical issue for seismic surveys that were undertaken by the department up until 1990. For many years he was also an OH&S representative for the Geophysics Section.

Alan was rarely without his hat which featured on his coffin at his funeral service. He was conspicuous by the row of pens in his pocket and various lanyards and other accoutrements he carried, indicating that he was ready, willing, able and prepared for action. Alan was always well presented, unfortunately the same could not be said about his office! He was one of the true characters of the agency.

Alan was a strong supporter of the Australian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (ASEG). He joined in 1977 virtually at the start of the South Australian branch of the society. Over many years he was a part of many meetings, events and conferences, arranging transport and procurement of a wide range of necessary items. He was also on the state branch committee for many years. His support to the society was recognized in 2001 when he was awarded the ASEG Service Certificate. He continued his association with the society after retirement till 2008.

Alan is survived by his wife, Pat, sons Chris, Philip and Duncan, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. On behalf of his former colleagues in the Department of Mines, subsequent named agencies and the ASEG, he will be remembered as a kind and gentle soul who was always willing to give a hand.

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