



THE EULOGY DELIVERED AT THE FUNERAL OF
CHEVALIER ANTHONY FREDERICK SALLMANN
AO LVO GCLJ GCMLJ GCrLJ

16 APRIL 2012



I am honoured to have been asked to deliver the eulogy of Anthony Frederick Sallmann.

Tony was born on the 18th March 1927. He attended Melbourne Grammar from 1933 to 1939 and was selected to join the Royal Australian Naval College at Flinders. Thus started an illustrious career in the Royal Australian Navy during which he met his wife Ann. They were married on the 4th November 1948. They had four children, Peter, Christopher, Jeremy and Jane. Tony was a devoted husband and father.

So at 13 he joined the Naval College at Flinders. The college was modelled on the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Tony was a cadet midshipman and the course took 4 years. He became Chief Cadet Captain and was awarded the King's Medal on passing out.

There was apparently no room for midshipmen in Australian naval ships at that time and so Tony was sent on an exchange service to various Royal Navy Ships. He returned to Australia in 1947 and joined the cruiser Australia. Specialisation was now a requirement and Tony chose gunnery. That required training in England and the young Sallmann family departed for the Royal Naval College in 1950.

King George VI died in 1952. By tradition, the sovereign is drawn to his last resting place by a gun carriage. Tony was the officer in charge of the naval catafalque guard. For his services involved in this task, Queen Elizabeth II appointed Tony a Lieutenant of the "Royal Victorian Order".

The Sallmann's returned to Australia in 1954. Tony was "Flag Lieutenant" to the Chief of Naval Staff. That position produced many interesting visits to allied fleets.

In 1957 Tony joined the aircraft carrier "Melbourne" as Fleet Gunnery Officer". During service on the Melbourne, Tony reviewed his career options. His family was growing. Jane was on the way. A future navy career would require overseas appointments and a long term commitment. Tony resigned in 1959 with the rank of Commander. He was the youngest Commander in the Royal Australian Navy.

And so, Tony's second career was underway. He joined the Property Consultancy and Real Estate business founded by his father Morris Sallmann. When Tony joined it in 1960, it was a small, but very successful, niche business dealing primarily at the top end of the Melbourne market.

On his father's death, Tony became Chairman and Managing Director.

The business acquired a very high profile. Projects included BHP House, Collins House and the Rialto – to name just a few.

As the firm grew under his direction, it became part of a major international group and was probably the leading Melbourne firm in the '80s known as Richard Ellis.

When Tony retired in 1985, The Herald business pages ran an article headlined "The man who sold Melbourne steps down".

Tony was now free to pursue his many many other interests. A major activity was the development of St. Vincent's Hospital.

He had been invited to join the Advisory Council of St Vincent's Hospital in 1968. Tony stayed for 25 years. The last five as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

It would be fair to say that Tony guided that organisation to a point where, on his retirement in 1993, this monolithic institution resembled a battleship altering its course toward a new future – from which there was no return.

There is no doubt that if these major redevelopments had not taken place; St Vincent's Hospital would have been forced to follow Prince Henry's Hospital into oblivion.

During that period, it was also decided that the medical school be elevated to the status of an Institute. Tony became Chairman and arranged a major gift from the Potter Foundation.

Catholic Health Care, College of Surgeons, the State Opera Company, and the National Theatre are but a few that benefited from his involvement and support.

Another Major interest of Tony was the restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral. He was approached to chair the Appeal Committee for that project.

When the project was sufficiently advanced, Tony and the Archbishop convinced John Ralph, then the head of CRA, to take over the Chairmanship so to improve the pool of donors. The restoration cost many millions and was a great success.

For his services to the community and to St Vincent's in particular, Tony was appointed an Officer of Australia in 2002.

Chevalier Tony Sallmann joined The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in September of 1986. What attracted Tony – as with all members of the Order – is the ecumenical nature which transcends the denominational differences.

Tony had an outstanding career in the Order.

He became Chancellor of the Australian Grand Priory.
And that was followed by him becoming Grand Prior of Australia.
After which term he was made a Grand Prior Emeritus.

Tony was also very much involved with the international activities of the Order. He was President of the Governing Council of the Paris Obedience before re-unification.

Throughout his years of membership, Tony always had a passionate dream for the unification of both obediences and was instrumental in initiating the early steps.

Tony will also be remembered as a strong supporter for the establishment of the International Public Relation Commission.

Ann and Tony had always been ardent international travellers. The work for the Order added to that task and they both developed a strong sense of the international community.

In recognition of his work, Tony received

The Knight Grand Cross
The Grand Cross of Merit in the Companiate of Merit.
And then the highest decoration, - The Grand Collar of the Order.

One of Tony's great achievements and one of which he was very proud, was the establishment of Green Cross Project Inc.

It provides a health management service to homeless, disadvantaged and marginalized young and adult members in our community.

That service is provided from a refitted bus owned by Green Cross.

It was initially staffed by volunteers mostly trained by Mary Barry who was the Director of Nursing at the St Vincent Private Hospital. When she retired, Tony convinced her that she should recruit and train volunteer nurses to staff the buses based in Dandenong and later another one in Footscray.

Tony was always most resourceful.

Tony was an active member of the Board of Management of Green Cross and only recently attended a meeting in Springvale.

Tony was also a very active member of his beloved clubs. The Australian Club and the Melbourne Club. He left instructions for me to keep the eulogy brief so "that the chaps can go back to their club and have a drink".



Rest in peace my dear friend.

Chevalier John Herbig KLJ GOMLJ