

Dr Ian Baker Wall AM

To know Ian Wall, was to know a gentleman of enormous intellect and generosity, both in spirit and in kind. Ian was born at home in Toorak Gardens on May 15 1931, his father was a master butcher with shops at Knoxville, now Glenside, and Walkerville. His Dad was well known in the district and would often deliver orders in an Austin 7 which had been elegantly modified into a utility. Ian learned to drive in the Austin 7 and it began a lifelong love of cars. His own first car was an MG TC and later his passions expanded to Rolls Royce, Maserati and other Italian marques. Ian started at Pulteney Grammar in grade 3 and continued until Leaving, which he completed at St Peters College. As Pulteney did not offer Physics and Chemistry during the war years, Ian attended the School of Mines on North Terrace to cover these subjects. In 1950 Ian went to the University of Adelaide to study Electrical engineering. On a salary of 250 Pounds per annum and without a teaching qualification, he was engaged by Canon Ray to teach sub intermediate Maths and Science while he was at University.

Supported by his wife Pammie, Ian founded EILCO – the Electronics, Instrument and Lighting Company Ltd, with university friends Alastair Wood, and Jim Bettison in 1959, with a vision to tackle a range of challenges in electronics engineering. At the time he also had a “day job” at electronics company Philips, where he helped design televisions. EILCO became Codan in the 1970s and won its first Australian Export Award for Outstanding Export Achievement. Further milestones would follow, and the company was listed on the ASX in 2003.

Ian’s impact on society through his leadership and achievement in electronics engineering has been significant. Since its early days, Codan has developed and supplied high-frequency radio equipment for the School-of-the-Air network and the Royal Flying Doctor Service across Australia. The United Nations adopted Codan radio equipment for their relief efforts in Uganda in 1980 helping establish Codan as the leading global supplier of high frequency communications to humanitarian organisations.

Ian’s influence extended to broader communications with a legacy reaching deep into today’s society. Codan pioneered equipment that supported the launch of Australia’s

first domestic satellite system in the 1980s and launched the world's first commercial modem for fast and fully automatic high frequency fax and data transmission in the 1990s.

Codan Ltd is now a global high-tech company with manufacturing and corporate offices in Australia and Canada, and overseas representative offices in USA, UK, Ireland, Brazil, Denmark, Mexico, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates. The company employs more than 400 people across the globe to support the design and manufacture of a range of electronic communications, mining and defence technology and associated software used by governments, businesses, humanitarian aid and customer markets. Ian retired from his executive position at Codan in 2004 but remained on the board, stepping down in 2009 after 50 years.

Together with wife Pammie, Ian was a long-term benefactor to a range of charitable organisations including St Anne's College; the Burnside Hospital Foundation; the Starlight Children's Foundation; Adelaide Botanic Gardens; the National Trust of South Australia; and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Ian and Pammie are the biggest benefactors in the history of Pulteney and have provided seed capital for all major building projects since the 1990's. Their extraordinary gift of the 175th Anniversary Quadrangle will serve as a reminder of Ian's love for Pulteney. Initially reticent to be publicly recognised for his generosity, Ian realised the potential benefit to Pulteney in becoming a philanthropic advocate amongst his peers. Always earnest, humble and self-effacing, he was held in very high regard by his peer group and indeed, the broader Old Scholar community.

Awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2008 for service to business and to the community, Ian Wall was again recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2019 for his significant service to the community through philanthropic initiatives. He was the Hall of Fame recipient of the 2016 South Australian Impact Awards, which recognise South Australian companies and business leaders with global impact and influence. Positions as National Trust SA Sir George Kingston Patron 2013-2020; Governor of the St Mark's College Foundation; and Founding Ambassador of SAHMRI acknowledge Ian's significant philanthropic contributions.

As a graduate, donor, businessman, leader and philanthropist, Ian Wall demonstrated sustained and significant contribution through a legacy of professional excellence and support of various humanitarian and community projects. He is widely recognised by peers – both within Australia and internationally.

In 2022 Ian was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University of Adelaide, the highest honour a university can bestow.