

A JP WHO IS ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP

IF Alun Hughes were paid for his daily outpouring of community spirit and goodwill, he would be a very wealthy man.



Alun Hughes

But wealth has many meanings. Far from seeking recompense or even recognition, this modest father of 11 from Salisbury North measures his returns from the satisfaction of helping others, which he has been doing for the past 39 years.

As a Justice of the Peace, he attends local libraries every second week and additional hours as requested to help witness and certify documents upholding a judicial oath that calls in part on JPs to “do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this State, without fear or favour, affection or ill will”.

Alun has proudly lived in Salisbury North since 1975 after building a house on the block of land he and his wife, Victoria, purchased the year before. Their 11 children grew up in that house and attended local schools.

Born in England, Alun and his five siblings came to Australia with their parents in 1962. He completed his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic after settling in Adelaide and embarked on a long career in the motor industry, rising to training and management roles with the RAA, for which he worked for 28 years.

From 1975 to 2005, he was a leader in the Anglican Boys’ Society, including roles as Branch Governor at St Barbara’s Anglican Church Parafield Gardens, District Commissioner for the Northern Federation and State Training Officer.

For 25 years, he was a member of the Salisbury High School Council, including periods as Secretary and Chairman.

In 2006, the then Minister for Education Jane Lomax Smith presented Alun with a certificate for his ‘voluntary contribution to education and care of children in South Australia’. In 1989, Alun was inducted into the Rotary Club of Elizabeth later serving in various roles including President, and Governor for Rotary District 9500 covering 53 separate clubs around the State. With Northern Volunteering he engaged with employment agencies and other volunteer organisations to help young people find jobs and establish career paths.

Alun has been a local JP since 2003 and recently joined the training team of the Royal Association of Justices of South Australia. “When I was branch manager of the RAA’s Elizabeth Service Centre, I was regularly asked for advice about the Road Traffic Act and had many inquiries about where people could get legal documents witnessed,” he said.

“I thought it would be worthwhile to become a JP, and I successfully applied for the position. It is an important public service helping people with legal matters, including documents that need to be witnessed or certified. It gives me a lot of pleasure assisting people in these circumstances.”

A JP is authorised to witness and attest documents such as statutory declarations, affidavits, wills, divorce documents, power of attorney and guardianship documents, and to certify copies of original documents.