

Many of you have known Hal longer than I have, and he has been a big part of all our lives.

For as long as I have been involved in gerontology Hal was there. Even before I joined AAG, I met Hal through the Public Health Association ageing interest group. I would have been a very early post-doc then, and just beginning to be interested in ageing. At my very first presentation Hal was there, asking questions, and showing genuine interest in the work. This is the Hal that you will recognise, and you will have memories of.

At that time Hal was with the Lincoln Gerontology Unit in Melbourne, just before he moved to Sydney. He introduced me to Colette Browning and Yvonne Wells who remained his close and valued colleagues – and now mine. They were working on the Melbourne Longitudinal Study on Healthy Ageing, which is still delivering information on people into their very old age.

As recognised in the many tributes, Hal was great at making connections between people. He didn't just introduce people, but he put tremendous energy into the relationships and making them work. Every meeting with Hal would start with a round up of where every one of his colleagues was up to, and what we could do to work together. So I heard all about all of you; and I am sure you all heard about me. Likewise, no email went to one person We were all in the loops.

When Hal moved to be Dean of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney, he put those skills in Networking to work to establish the NHMRC/ARC Research Network on Ageing Well. Here he and Matthew Carroll worked together as a super-duo to drive the agenda, and to build networks and capacity for ageing research in Australia.

Hal continued at the University of Sydney heading the Ageing, Work and Health Research Unit – working with people like Kate O'loughlin, Lindy Clemson, and Lynette MacKenzie. Here his interests focussed on the health of people as they moved from mid-life to the retirement years. He collaborated with Kate and others on the Ageing Baby Boomer in Australia (ABBA) project which examined the diversity in this cohort, and the changes and choices as they move into later life.

Kate also worked with Hal on the Life History and Health project which examined how early life circumstances affect the health of people in their 60s. In this project Hal was able to develop strong scholarly bonds and deep friendships with James Nazroo, working with the English Longitudinal Study on Ageing, and with Chris Philipson from the University of Manchester. James and Chris both send their kind thoughts to all of us today.

Later in his career, Hal's interests stretched further afield. In recent years he worked with his long time colleague Judith Healy, and with Vasoontara Yiengprugsawan, to undertake a review of ageing and health in the Asia Pacific Region. He also established an ARC funded project to compare health, productivity and wellbeing in Ageing in China and Australia. This brought him to work again with Merrel Silverstein from Syracuse University in New York state – Merrel remembers Hal being very supportive of him as a graduate student in the 80's - ; and more closely here with Collette Browning and Shane Thomas; and with Cathy Gong and Vasoontara Yiengprugsawan – two early career researchers provided tremendous opportunities through Hal's vision and collaborative efforts. We continue to collaborate on this project, and to do Hal's vision proud.

Hal's interest in ageing was holistic. His research was predicated on the understanding that ageing is a process that accumulates across the lifecourse, and is influenced by by the interplay between individual life experiences and changing social structures. Collectively these factors have impacts on health, well-being, and productivity outcomes in late middle age and later life. Hal saw health as a resource, providing for individual well being, and collective societal capital. Accordingly, he was interested not only in how people age, but also how their ageing was affected by their background and social circumstances, education, housing, work, social resources, and participation in their families and communities. Hal felt that unravelling the complex interplay of how these factors impact on individuals' health is critical to understanding the consequences of personal and policy actions.

Hal was an influential advocate for translating research findings into sound policy and practice. His influence was significant in Australia and internationally. In Australia, he contributed substantially in developing, advocating for, and implementing major aged care reforms recommended by the

Productivity Commission in their inquiry *Caring for Older People* 2011, and subsequently progressed through the *Living Longer, Living Better* legislation. In various submissions, invited presentations, and media offerings Hal made a strong evidence-based case for a sound consumer focus, separation of accommodation and care funding, recognising self-help and contributions of older people, and regional, integrated aged and health care. More broadly, Hal was a leading advocate for evidence-based approaches to 'Ageing Well' conceptualised in terms of well-being, independence, and contributions as valued by older people themselves.

He was a frequent contributor to national debates on ageing, helping to bring awareness and understanding of ageing to underpin much needed policy responses, and to combat ageist stereotypes that limit people's ability to fully contribute to society throughout their later life. He challenged the view that population ageing was a problem to be coped with, but rather presented older people as "part of the solution" acknowledging the social and economic contributions they continue to make as consumers, carers and volunteers and draw on and put to good use the knowledge, skills and experiences they have acquired across their life course.

Throughout his life, Hal's research has been characterised by –

- Collaboration – bringing together similar and divergent ways of thinking to create a more detailed picture of what works for ageing well.
- Generativity – with a concern for guiding the next generation of researchers.
- Complexity – noting the many physical, psychological, social, environmental and structural factors that affect people as they age.
- Coherence – being able to take the many components of these complex systems to create ways of knowing
- Curiosity – applying ways of knowing to discover new principles and evidence.
- Ecclectic – being interested in everything from housing, to psychology, to biological mechanisms, to financing, to aged care.
- Perspective – taking a lifecourse view, recognising that our early origins shape our older selves.
- Equity – with concern for how social disadvantage means that we don't all have the opportunities to age well.
- Advocacy - being a leading advocate for evidence-based approaches to 'Ageing Well' conceptualised in terms of well-being, independence, and contributions as valued by older people themselves. He developed and presented evidence for a strong consumer focus, separation of accommodation and care funding, recognising self-help and contributions of older people, and the need for regional, integrated aged and health care.

and

- Constructive criticism – being first to comment on the latest policy, intergenerational report, or budget.

Hal did all of this with generosity and a strong overriding philosophy of stoicism. Hal's favourite book was the *Mediations* of Marcus Aurelius. Travelling to Chiang Mai to attend the Regional Congress of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Hal left his well-thumbed and densely annotated copy of this book in the seatback of the aeroplane. I was all prepared to drive the airport and airline staff crazy to get it back; but Hal was very philosophical and determined it was time to let it go. I learned a lot about Hal in that moment, and will try to keep a little bit of that with me. Sometimes you need to let it go.

The many tributes to Hal are testament to his influence and to the many people he inspired. So many people have gratitude to Hal for his generosity and encouragement, and his personal and professional support. And I am grateful to have this opportunity today to publicly thank Hal for being a wonderful colleague, a trusted mentor, and a true friend.