

Sadly, Allan Cox died on the 4th July 2025 at Hobart Repat Hospital aged 94 after a short battle with cancer. Allan will be remembered by many in the Armidale district as an eminent sportsman, academic and friend.

Born in Sydney in 1931, Al was recognised in his youth as a highly successful academic and sporting student at the selective Canterbury Boys High. Sporting achievements at school included athletics, cricket, rugby league and rugby union. He laughingly claimed to have clean bowled Richie Benaud for 2, in a CBHS vs Parramatta High cricket match. As an incredible fast sprinter, he played winger for the CBHS rugby team that beat (Joeys) St. Joseph's College in 1948 in the CHS grand final.

After completing high school, Al attended the Sydney Teachers' College, 1949-50, graduating with a Diploma of Physical Education.

Al taught Phys. Ed at Forbes High and then Macksville High in the 50's, where apart from starting his family with his wife Judy, he really excelled in cricket and football. He captained the Macksville High cricket team, teaching himself to be an opening batsman after formally being known as a good medium paced bowler. Notable knocks included 167 for Macksville on the day his son Peter was born in Feb 1961 after "Wetting the baby's head"! He was selected to be opener in the Nambucca Valley representative team alongside friend and teaching colleague Brian Connolly; on occasions captained this representative side until moving to Armidale in 1962.

Joining the Waratahs Cricket Club in 1962/3 he enjoyed many years as a 1st grade player. Most worthy mention is a long standing opening partnership and club record of 164 with Allan Gray in 1963. In 1965, Al moved to Canada to further his studies, gaining a Master degree, followed by a PHD in (Phys. Ed.) Human Movement Sciences, significantly being the first person in the Commonwealth to ever attain this degree.

Returning to Australia in 1969, Al became senior lecturer and head of the department of Physical Education at the Armidale College of Advanced Education; later he became a principal lecturer and dean of Teacher Education. Judy became a teacher at Armidale Demonstration School. (Now- City Public)

He played with the very successful Waratah Vets for many years following. Moreover, a few father and son games were played with son Peter as also recorded by many Waratah players including family friends, Brian and Michael Connolly.

Since retirement in 1987, his life had been full-on, with Masters' Track and Field; deep sea fishing; frequent camping and bushwalking throughout Australia; growing nearly all of his own vegetables; and enjoying the development of his 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

In Masters athletics he held the national pentathlon championship several times until 70 when my knees decided to object. In 2000, Allan's considerable contributions to sport were recognized by the country when both he and his wife Judy were each awarded the Australian Sports Medal.

In his final days he said to Judy, ' we have had a marvelous life and could never have imagined a more wonderful family.' He had incredible strength and determination right up to the end. A life well lived.

By Peter Cox