

Anthony Ashley Brooker was born in Grahamstown (17 March 1939), son of Ashley Brooker and Margaret (nee Houghton).

Educated at St Andrew's Prep (1947 – 1952) and St Andrew's College (1953 – 1956), UCT (Physics) and the University of Cambridge (Education).

Tony was a true leader of people. Inspiring, supportive and committed to getting the best out of those around him: students, staff, communities and team members.

At St Andrews he excelled at running and hockey, going on to represent Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in international hockey.

He taught at Peterhouse School in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia); Radleigh and Stowe in the UK and then at Melbourne Grammar School. He was an excellent school master, introducing Nuffield Physics at Melbourne Grammar and taking on roles of acting house master and head of department.

Appointed in 1978 as Principal at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School he led the school through a period of growth and consolidation to become one of the excellent educational institutions in Western Australia. He was well loved by his staff and saw them achieve fabulous successes. He was a strong advocate of whole of school drama productions, of "Outward Bound" camps, of team sports (particularly hockey), and of the Former Student's Association. He pioneered "Cottage" boarding houses, lower high school rolling elective subjects, and oversaw massive building projects. He was an active member of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, a member of the church Synod and promoted spiritual development of students in myriad ways. He championed the important contribution of an independent school in a rural town, as providing a way for a town to maintain their professional workers and to grow in intellectual and cultural ways.

1992-1996 Tony resigned a Principal at BCGS to give his wife (an accomplished Environmental Scientist) a turn to have the main career. He took the opportunity to study, initially in the humanities and then obtaining a Master's of Education at UWA with an emphasis on Indigenous Education. He followed this interest by taking up a position as Deputy Head at Morowa District High School.

During this time he also held a position as an active and contributory board member for Francis Irwin School in Mandurah.

1996-2002 Tony was approached initially to become a voluntary inaugural Board Member for Geraldton Grammar School and was then asked to take on the task of being the Inaugural Principal; a post he agreed to fill for 5 years. He was pivotal in the school becoming an entity, in securing funding and in setting the ground work for another excellent educational institution which has gone from strength to strength. During this time he was an active member of the Anglican synod in Geraldton.

2003 – Since "retiring" in 2003 Tony's contributions (largely voluntary) to the community and particularly to education in the mid-west were far-reaching and exemplary.

He joined the Mid-west development commission. He held a pivotal position in securing Federal Government Support for the Mid-west bid for the SKA radio telescope to be located in the Mid-west. Following the successful bid, he became Chair of the Local Area Interest Group, using his diverse skills in lobbying and diplomacy to smooth the way for the project to get underway.

He became a foundation member of the Geraldton Universities Centre, acting as their first CEO and seeing the fledgling institution get underway and provide tertiary education to hundreds of rural people, many indigenous, who would not otherwise have had a chance at tertiary education. He was a champion for rural people, and instrumental in seeing that the university provided a human face,

indigenous support workers and continuing innovation to allow students the greatest access to excellent tertiary education.

He was appointed to the board to the secondary residential college in Geraldton which provides boarding facilities for high school students from the Mid-west and further north. He was passionate about the importance of the College providing safe and appropriate care so that students could maintain quality education regardless of their home address.

He, along with his wife Jenna, also volunteered in local environmental endeavours. For the local and state herbarium, they spent hours, days, weeks, even months collecting, documenting, cataloguing and photographing rare and endangered plant species of the Mid-west. They have promoted the Bluff Point foreshore, and Chapman River community group's successful efforts toward rehabilitation.

Tony is survived by his wife Jenna and three daughters.