

## Donald Tyler Baird (1939–2018)



Donald (Don) Baird passed away peacefully on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018, aged 79 years.

Born 26<sup>th</sup> April 1939, Don attended Wellesley from 1948 – 1951, and Wellington College from 1952 - 1956.

He was the loved husband of Joy, father and father-in-law of Hannah and Sarah, Duncan (who also attended Wellesley) and Catherine, and Charlotte and 'Gumpy' to his granddaughters Gemma, Eva and Greta. Brother of Fergie (Tasmania).

Don completed his Diploma of Architecture in Auckland in 1962 and married Joy in 1963.

Don had a distinguished career in architecture. He and Joy lived in London for two years where Don worked at York Rosenberg & Mardall designing tower blocks to replace slums and war-damaged housing. Returning to New Zealand in 1966, Don worked for Koefed & Arnold as project architect on James Cook Hotel in Wellington in 1970.

Don worked with Athfield Architects 1972-1983 and as part of the design team, he was associated with many residential and commercial buildings in the Wellington region and beyond.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Don's many projects included Huia and Naenae pools and Wellington Regional Aquatic; new homes in the Eastern Bays; renovations to Te Omanga Hospice, Muritai School and St Albans Church Hall, and was instrumental in working with the Eastbourne Cricket, RSA and Rugby clubs to bring the three organisations together under one roof.

Don is fondly remembered by his children as a man who deeply loved his family and his home, his food, jazz music and who was a passionate supporter of the All Blacks and his beloved cricket. Don was very involved in the Eastbourne Cricket Club where he served as president and was also a life member.

Don was diagnosed with mixed dementia in 2016. This affected his mobility and cognitive processes. He was cared for at home until August 2018 and spent his final months at Enliven, Woburn Presbyterian Home in Lower Hutt.