



Mount Albert Grammar School

Hall of Distinction Citation



TED VAN ARKEL

At Mount Albert Grammar School 1957 - 1958

Eduard Koert van Arkel (known as Ted) attended MAGS for just two years, leaving at the end of the fourth form (Year 10). His family had arrived in New Zealand in 1954 and they first settled in Ohakune but after about a year moved to Auckland.

During his relatively short time at MAGS, Eduard, as he was then known, became a keen librarian and was awarded the Junior Librarians Prize in 1958. He has fond memories of the then Headmaster, Murray Nairn, and would later assist him when Mr Nairn was shopping at the Woolworths store in Queen Street.

In 1959, at the age of 15, Ted joined Woolworths New Zealand as a Cadet Trainee and within four years was promoted to Store Manager, the youngest in the history of the company. Ted's drive, energy and willingness to make the most of every opportunity saw him identified as senior management material and he was sent to Australia in 1967 for further management experience with Big W. He returned two years later as a Regional Manager for Woolworths NZ, running 11 variety stores in the Auckland area.

This success was followed by a move to Wellington as a Regional General Manager looking after 30 stores. He returned to Auckland in 1973 to initially assist with the integration of the Self Help stores. Following the acquisition by LD Nathan of the McKenzies Company, Ted was appointed to integrate the supermarkets into the Woolworths structure, and later was appointed as General Manager responsible for around 100 General Merchandise Stores within the combined group.

In 1980 he left Woolworths and was appointed General Manager of Bing Harris Sargood, a Brierley Investments subsidiary, which allowed him to diversify his skills into importing and distribution.

After five years Ted joined Fletcher Challenge subsidiary PlaceMakers as General Manager of Mixed Markets, in charge of 40 stores nationally.

In 1990 Ted took on a special project for PlaceMakers to introduce the Joint Venture Partner Programme, which is still in operation today.

In 1992 Ted saw the opportunity to become a joint venture partner himself and took over the ownership of Placemakers in Pakuranga for six years.

In 1998 Ted was approached to join Progressive Enterprises Ltd, operators of Foodtown Supermarkets, as Deputy Chief Executive and in 1999 was appointed Managing Director of that organisation.

As Managing Director he was instrumental in co-ordinating the acquisition of Woolworths' Supermarkets by Progressive, which in 2002 resulted in him heading a business comprising 163 stores, 6000 team members and with an annualised turnover of \$4 billion.

Despite his humble origins, Ted's focus, determination, perseverance and his ability to get on with people saw him prosper in business, which continued after his retirement in 2004 when he became a Professional Director.

Ted is a highly experienced Public Company Director. He is currently Chairman of Restaurant Brands, a Director of Allied Workforce and Abano Healthcare Group and he has just retired as Chairman of The Warehouse Group Ltd. He was formerly Chairman of Charlies Group and a Director of National Property Trust.

Ted has also made a valuable contribution to a number of private companies as a Director of Paper Plus, Lockwood Homes, Pioneer Seeds and Danske Møbler.

Ted has been Chairman of Unitec NZ, Chairman of Health Benefits Ltd, and is a Director of the Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a Rotarian and Patron and Past President of Youthtown.

Ted's longstanding contribution to New Zealand business has been recognised through his Fellowship of the New Zealand Institute of Management and his status as a Chartered Fellow of The New Zealand Institute of Directors.

Ted is married to Wendy and is a proud father of two adult children and four grandchildren.

Eduard Koert van Arkel, highly respected business leader, professional director, community leader, Albertian, Member of the Mount Albert Grammar School Hall of Distinction.