

*'He has a passion for
justice that seems to glow in
everything he does'*

APLA thanks Rob Davis

American Journalist Walter Lippmann once said: 'The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other people the conviction and the will to carry on.'

Although it is with great regret that we farewell Rob from the position of national president and director of APLA, there is no doubt that he has passed this final test and that the conviction and values so close to his heart remain as strong as ever with others at APLA.

One of the great advantages of being an APLA member is the quality of the people involved in the organisation. For those who know Rob Davis well, there has been the additional benefit of knowing a fine person and a great friend.

You would never learn about Rob from Rob himself. He is one of the most humble men I have ever met. Notwithstanding his outstanding work promoting school bus safety in Queensland and throughout Australia, and his tireless work for the injured and

the underprivileged, he is always the first to downplay his contribution.

He has a passion for justice that seems to glow in everything he does. He is incredibly willing to do the hard things and has done so for APLA for many years. His input in researching and presenting papers, particularly during difficult times over the last few years, has been outstanding.

Rob has been excellent in his dealings with the media and has almost single-handedly raised APLA's profile and credibility, building upon the strong foundations laid by our earlier national presidents.

And among all this, Rob is simply a really nice bloke. He is a strong family man and most of us have experienced his kindness and generosity on many occasions.

When considering what to say about Rob, the first things that came to mind were qualities dealt with by Rudyard Kipling in his poem, 'If'. The poem highlights the need to 'keep your head when all about you are losing



theirs and blaming it on you', the need to believe in yourself, to dream, but not be dominated by dreams, to listen to those around you, to never lose the common touch, to take account of all people, and to make the most of every minute. These are all virtues Rob demonstrates in abundance.

On behalf of APLA, I would like to thank Rob Davis for his wonderful contribution as a board member, member of the national executive, and as national president.

As Leigh Iacocca once said: 'Your legacy should be that you made it better than it was when you got it.' Rob Davis has certainly achieved that goal. **PL**