Allen was Dux of Coffs Harbour High School in 1948. His wife Barbara, also attended the school and was in fact school captain one year later. Allen’s six children all attended CHHS and the school honour board boasts six entries; four Duxes and two Captains in two generations. Allen later became CHHS P&C President.

After school Allen worked locally at the Coffs Harbour Hospital before working elsewhere in the state, returning to Coffs in 1955 when he founded the very successful accountancy firm of HQB Chartered Accountants. He was also a well-known city centre property owner and was a life member and past President of the Coffs Harbour Chamber of Commerce.

Allen was actively involved with many local charities and community organisations and his name has become synonymous with civics and community service.