

## OBITUARY

Alan Banner

26-year old Alan Banner was a young, enthusiastic graduate marine biologist devoting his energy to the field of applied marine research. On 17 April 1972, while swimming to an offshore island in Western Samoa for a project dealing with turtle management, he was attacked and killed instantly by a six-metre shark, probably a tiger shark.

As a Peace Corps volunteer, Alan Banner spent two years in Fiji before joining the Western Samoan Fisheries Service in January 1971; he had chosen marine resource development in the South Pacific as his life career as he wanted to help the island people. He was planning to return home to Hawaii in less than a month.

Alan's good nature, helpfulness and decisive personality were highly valued by all those who came into contact with him in the course of his work. His loss will be acutely felt for in Fiji, as in Samoa, one came to rely on his help in any new ventures aimed at exploration and conservation of marine resources.

Through the medium of this Newsletter we would like to express on behalf of all those associated with SPIFDA our sincere condolences to Alan Banner's family and, more particularly, to his father, Professor A.H. Banner of the University of Hawaii who, for many years, through his research on ichthyosarcotoxism, has been joining his effort to those who work for the increased well-being of the indigenous populations of the Pacific islands.

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