

## OBITUARY

### KATHLEEN ANNE MALCOLM

**11 February 1948 – 30 July 2005**

On Saturday 30 July 2005, the Australian Institute of Administrative Law lost Kathy Malcolm, a long-serving and much-loved member of its Secretariat. Kathy passed away, in Canberra, after a 4 month battle with cancer. More than losing a Secretariat member, many of us in the Institute (including many people outside of Canberra) also lost a very dear friend.

Born Kathleen Anne McAlinden in Bright, Victoria on 11 February 1948, Kathy lived on a farm for her early years then moved to Wodonga, where she lived until she moved to Canberra in 1971. While in Canberra, Kathy met Terry Malcolm. She married him in 1973.

Kathy started work with the ACT Division of the Institute of Public Administration Australia in late 1986. It was there that she met Jenny Kelly, who was to become her close friend. It was also through IPAA that Kathy became involved with the Institute when, in the early '90s, IPAA took on the role as Secretariat for the Institute.

In her eulogy at Kathy's funeral, Jenny Kelly said that the Institute was Kathy's "special baby" and that this was a role that she both cherished and put her usual full effort into. As Secretary of the Institute over all that time, I can only say that this was evident to me in the wonderful service that I always received from Kathy.

That said, we shouldn't pretend that Kathy was necessarily blinded by the intelligence and the importance of those representatives of the Institute that she routinely dealt with. As Jenny reminded us at the funeral, Kathy would often say "They're only bloody lawyers – what can we expect?!"

Someone said recently that Kathy was "the human face of the Institute". If this is correct then it is no small achievement, as lawyers often struggle to find anything even approximating a human face. Even if it is not, it has to be said that Kathy was the attractive, welcoming face of the Institute. She was the cheery voice that answered the telephone and was never short of either a caring response or (when appropriate) a witty riposte. More than anything else, Kathy will be missed for her ready and genuine smile, which was seldom absent.

Kathy was particularly missed at the recent Administrative Law Forum, held in Canberra on 30 June and 1 July 2005. She was mentioned fondly in both the opening and closing addresses and was very much in the thoughts of all the attendees who knew her. As I said in my closing address to the Forum, a feature of the annual Forums (for me at least) is that they are fun. A large part of my enjoyment had always been that, at the Forums, I spent lots of time with Kathy and with Jenny. I missed Kathy at this year's Forum and will always think of her at Forum time.

Kathy's funeral was held in Canberra on Wednesday 3 August. As a testament to the regard and the love that Kathy attracted, the funeral venue was filled to overflowing, with approximately 250 people in attendance. The Institute was well-represented, including by the current President and by 6 former Presidents. Moving eulogies were delivered by Kathy's husband, Terry, and by her "twin", Jenny Kelly. There weren't many dry eyes. Mine certainly weren't.

I know that I speak for many people connected with the Institute when I say that I will miss Kathy terribly. I spoke to her several times a week and always looked forward to our too-few encounters face-to-face.

On behalf of the Institute, I extend heartfelt condolences to Terry, to her sons Ryan and Trent, daughter Julie, grandson Jack, and to her brothers, Pat and Frank.

**Stephen Argument**  
**Secretary**  
**Australian Institute of Administrative Law**