

## OBITUARY

## Thomas Charles Triffitt

Members of the Australian library community will be saddened to hear of the death of Tom Triffitt in Canberra on 4 November 1985.

Tom was born in Tasmania in 1935. He held a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tasmania, the LAA Registration Certificate and later gained a Diploma in Public Administration from Canberra College of Advanced Education. He began his professional career at the University of Tasmania as a cataloguer and was subsequently in charge of government publications from 1962-1966. Tom was appointed as Senior Specialist Librarian in the Training School at the National Library of Australia at a time when it was providing lectures for the Registration Certificate. He became Director of Training in 1971 and continued in that post until his retirement on medical grounds in 1979.

After his retirement, Tom was a familiar figure at the Australian National Gallery and taught photography at the AME School and at Pearce Primary School.

As head of the Training and Liaison Service Section, Tom presided over the transition from normal profession training to training for lib-

rary staff as a whole. He was responsible for the development of a program of continuing education for the professional staff which in terms of excellence has not been matched since. Papers prepared by staff for this program, especially those describing the history and strengths of the library's collections, are still regarded as authoritative documents. Training packages for Assistant Library Officers were developed on behalf of the Public Service Board to train clerical staff to perform the technical jobs of library officers. Staff from other departments used these successful audio-visual packages.

Tom was particularly interested in the applications of audio-visual technology to training and did pioneering work on the use of closed circuit television for trainers.

Involvement in the International Training Programs for librarians organised by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau created an interest in the Pacific region, especially in library services, an interest which developed into long-term contact with Fiji and Fijians. Tom has provided personal support for many Fijians, especially students, living in Canberra.

During his career, Tom Triffitt trained many people at a variety of levels. His interest in young people and his ability to get on easily with them were elements of his success. He will be sadly missed.

## OBITUARY

## Rodney East

Rodney Vernon East, Chief Librarian of the Noarlunga Library, died suddenly on Sunday 10 April at his home. His death shocked his numerous friends and colleagues in public libraries, in TAFE, and in the local community, and removed from the library scene in South Australia a librarian of rare quality and individuality.

Rod East began his career in the State Library of South Australia, subsequently moving to Sydney, where he took his BA degree, and then to Papua New Guinea. After seven years as librarian at the Administrative College, Port Moresby, he completed a Master's degree at the College of Librarianship, Wales, before returning to Australia in 1979 to the position of TAFE Regional Librarian at Lismore, NSW. In 1981 he came back to Adelaide, spending a year as a lecturer in library studies at Hartley TAFE before taking up his position at Noarlunga.

As the first Chief Librarian of the largest print-use library in Australia, Rod succeeded, within a very short time and with the able assistance of a dedicated and devoted staff, in creating an outstanding service. Within four years of its opening, the Noarlunga Library has become one of the busiest service points in the state, with more than 100,000 items in stock, over 33,000 registered borrowers, and some 100,000 loans a year.

Despite his heavy work load at Noarlunga, Rod found the time for active participation in professional affairs, being at various times a member and Treasurer of the SA Branch Council of the LAA, a member of the Executive of the Chief Librarians Association of SA, and a member of the AACOBS State Committee. He played a leading role, as chairperson of the Steering Committee, in promoting the concept of a Public Libraries Automated Information Network (PLAIN), which has gained strong support in principle from the Libraries Board and the State Library Executive. In addition, he was Secretary/Treasurer of the Australian Dataphase Users Group, a member

of the Committee of Review of the Crawford Report on library services in SA, and an office bearer in the Municipal Officers' Association.

As a member of the Noarlunga Library Management Committee from its inception, I came to know Rod well, both as a friend and as a librarian committed to the pursuit of excellence in everything he did. I admired the persistence with which he fought for the resources he believed to be essential if the library were to meet the ever-increasing demands made on it; at the same time he displayed a sureness of touch in 'managing' the Committee itself, knowing by instinct and experience when to press his point and when to give in with good grace. His lasting monument will be the service he built.

His sudden death is a great loss to the library staff, to the Noarlunga College and to the community which he served so well. The large numbers attending his Memorial Service attest to the high regard in which he was held. To his parents and his partner Marie, and her children, we offer our deepest sympathy.

*Tony Brown*

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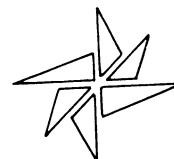
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