

## Obituary

# Vale Dexter Palmer

Dexter Palmer and his wife, Irena were tragically killed in a road accident in Victoria on 28 March 2004. Dexter spent most of his working life, from 1975 to 2002, in TAFE, first as a lecturer in Adult Matriculation and more latterly as a lecturer in the Library Studies Unit, at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE. Prior to joining TAFE he taught at a number of high schools around South Australia, including Clare and Naracorte.

Dexter was one of those rare people who managed to find the balance between work and leisure. He and his wife were members of the Birds Australia Gluepot Reserve 'family', spending their time remapping the Reserve and surveying the Gluepot for mallee fowl. He was also a keen hiker, enjoyed orienteering until his back gave in, kayaking and bird watching (the feathered kind!). Another great love of Dexter's was his family and grand children and he moved to Victoria in 2002 to be closer to his daughters. Whilst Dexter was a very private person, whenever he spoke of his children it was with obvious pride in their achievements.

On many occasions Dexter was the master of ceremonies at the Library Studies graduations, and those who graduated during Dexter's time with the Unit will recall his uncanny ability to remember all the students' names and to recall some interesting aspect of their student life.

Dexter was also the chief mover and shaker behind the moves to convert the

library studies certificate subjects to the online environment. He was one of the first staff at Adelaide Institute to take this on board and many of those who followed him went to Dexter for advice and assistance. He was endlessly patient and willing to provide support, even when our queries must have seemed rather silly.

I was shattered when Dexter decided to retire and move to Victoria to be closer to his family — all the excuses I could think of made absolutely no difference to his resolve to enjoy an early retirement, whilst still keeping his hand in by doing some contract and part-time work at Charles Sturt University. In those early days after his retirement his presence was sorely missed, but he certainly enjoyed the change and the chance to do some work outside TAFE.

Dexter's quiet influence spread far and wide, amongst students, work colleagues and those friends he made participating in a wide range of activities, both at work and outside. Many of us will remember him fondly for his support, advice, his excellent teaching and the work he did in online delivery. We are all saddened by the sudden loss of such a kind, generous and unassuming friend, work colleague and teacher who did such a lot for both students and staff and whose sense of humour and quiet dedication did such a lot for so many of his students and colleagues who had the pleasure and privilege of working with him.

*Pia Pilcher, manager, Learning Resource Services, Adelaide Institute of TAFE*

## A memorial to Margaret Trask, AM

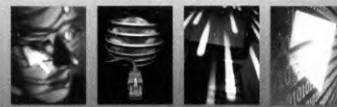
The February 2004 issue of the *Australian Library Journal* celebrates the life and influence of Margaret Trask. Margaret, over the course of her long and distinguished career, was involved intimately, creatively and in many cases for extensive periods with nearly every aspect of Australian librarianship.

In this special festschrift, contributors — W Boyd Rayward, Gerard Brennan, Tony Blake, John Levett, Mairéad Browne, Joyce Kirk, Alex Byrne, Hans W Groenewegen, Ian McCallum, Sherrey Quinn, Maureen Nimon, Maurice Saxby, Eric Wainwright and David Jones — commemorate the contribution of Margaret to the aims and objectives of ALIA. Contributions to this special issue were identified by Professor Boyd Rayward, Professor Mairéad Browne, Dr David J Jones and the late Warren Horton, and commissioned and edited by Professor Boyd Rayward.

Copies of the festschrift are available for \$15.00 (including postage), and can be ordered from the Australian Library and Information Association, ph 02 6215 8222, fx 02 6282 2249, or e-mail [enquiry@alia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@alia.org.au). Or why not subscribe to the *Australian Library Journal*? Subscriptions start from just \$65.50 per annum for ALIA members living within Australia. Contact the Association on the phone number above, use the subscription form on p40 of this issue, or see <http://alia.org.au/publishing/alj/> for details.

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