Obituaries

Craig Keith Grimison

18 February 1956 — 5 April 2006

The metadata for Craig's career would include commitment, staff development, copyright, professional and humour. Craig was proud to be a librarian and believed that the profession contributed enormously to the community. He had a rare ability to be totally committed to his work without taking it too seriously.

He believed that every member of the profession had a duty to support the Association. Craig was an active member of ALIA through the ACT Branch, the New England Regional Group, the Distance Education Special Interest Group and the NSW Branch. He was president the Distance Education group and of the NSW Branch, and represented NSW on the ALIA General Council for several years, where he was also a member of the Executive Committee with responsibility for the finance portfolio. Craig's particular interest was copyright law and its impact on library services. He chaired the ALIA Copyright Advisory Committee and represented ALIA on the government's Copyright Law Review Committee.

After leaving Canberra in 1983, Craig joined NSW TAFE as regional librarian at Tamworth. Within a short time, the bright lights of Armidale lured him to the University of New England where he was loans librarian from 1984 to 1989. Colleagues remember that 'there was always something happening when Craig was around. He brought a buzz to the workplace'. His next appointment was as information services librarian at the University of Wollongong. In those days, the University was Decemberendeavouring to establish itself as more than just a regional university and the library had adopted quality assurance as a basic management tenet. Craig made a significant contribution by championing liaison librarians, staff development and information literacy.

In 1991 he was awarded the prestigious Blackwells Scholarship and spent six months in the United States. Craig joined the Australian Catholic University in 1993, where he was responsible initially for the two campus libraries in Sydney. He was appointed deputy director of libraries in 1996 and his new responsibilities included oversight of libraries in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT. He was a driving force behind the redevelopment of the University's website. He took an active part in the establishment of CathLINK to facilitate access to Catholic information resources across Australia.

Although illness forced his early retirement in 2002, Craig retained his interest in the profession and its personalities. He became involved as a volunteer with a telephone counselling service and in the AIDS Ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Just a couple of weeks before his death, Craig completed training to become a volunteer with Ankali, which gives emotional support to people living with AIDS.

Craig was irrepressibly enthusiastic in everything he did. He had a splendid sense of humour. His laugh was distinctive and infectious. Personally and professionally he gave back to the world a lot more than he took out of it. He will be missed by his partner Anné Drent, by his family, and by his friends and colleagues, who were spiritually and intellectually richer for having known and loved him.

Neil Radford and John Shipp

Richard Baker

11 December 1942 – 13 June 2006

Richard Baker, the former deputy librarian of the NSW Parliamentary Library, died in the United Kingdom on 13 June 2006 while visiting his sister and her family.

Richard was born in 1942 and joined the NSW Parliamentary Library in December 1962 and worked in most sections of the Library, including cataloguing and reference services, before being appointed deputy parliamentary librarian on 5 June 1978. He served as deputy until his retirement in March 1999 and was also acting parliamentary librarian for eight months in 1991, following the retirement of Dr Russell Cope. In the early 1970s Richard also lectured in government publications in the School of Librarianship at the University of New South Wales.

Following his retirement Richard settled in Maitland and was able to devote more time to his musical interests, including undertaking periods of study at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music. He also wrote a number of articles on church music.

Richard was diagnosed with cancer in January of this year, news that he took with courage and stoicism. He went ahead with plans to visit his sister in Britain, but unfortunately his health deteriorated and he died in Windsor. Richard was an engaging personality, who enjoyed life and had a wide circle of friends. His former colleagues in the NSW Parliamentary Library send their condolences to his family and friends.

Marian Elizabeth Bate

1947–2006

Marian Bate began her career in librarianship at the National Library of Australia in 1973, before joining the University of New South Wales in 1977. She was appointed principal librarian at UNSW in 1995, and university librarian in 2000. Marian retired in 2001.

Although her career was principally in academic libraries, Marian made major contributions to the development of library and information services. She was a member of ALIA, an executive member of the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL), the Group of Eight Librarians, and the University Librarians in the State of New South Wales and the ACT (UNISON). Marian also made a significant contribution to the Australian Information Management Association (AIMA).

Marian passed away on Sunday 21 May 2006. She will be sadly missed by her many friends and colleagues.

Rhonda Langford, UNSW

A fuller assessment of Marian's life and work will be published in a future issue of AARL.