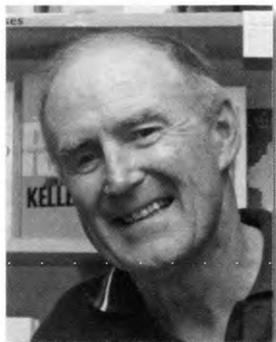


Vale **Tony Mays** 1940–2007

Tony Mays died in Newcastle, NSW, in August after a long illness. He was educated in Queensland and began religious studies in 1958, but after six years in seminaries in Victoria and South Africa decided against taking holy orders. He returned to Australia with a BA



from the University of South Africa and completed a Diploma of Librarianship at the University of New South Wales, to which he later added a Master of Librarianship from Monash. He worked as a computer programmer in various Commonwealth departments, but he really found his niche as one of the founding members of the National Library of Australia's (NLA's) Systems Development Section in 1974, where we worked on the implementation and support of online information systems.

It was there that I first encountered some of his passions — golf (where we took full advantage of the newly introduced Daylight Saving Time to sneak in nine holes one afternoon each week), fun running and lively debate. Tony loved a discussion — never an argument, but always a spirited logical exchange of ideas. His clarity of thought stimulated debate, often on the theme of the injustice suffered by those having difficulty changing their circumstances. He was particularly forthright when he encountered uninformed opinions, and persons who offered biased and discriminatory comments were allowed their time to speak, but only so that Tony could load his intellectual cannon. Then watch out as he demolished false arguments and informed at the same time. It was a delight to watch; a horror to experience.

After three years at the NLA, Tony moved to Deakin University as Systems Librarian and then in 1992 to the University of Newcastle as Deputy Librarian, where he stayed until his retirement in 1998. While at Deakin he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the USA in 1983 to study electronic retrieval systems for libraries. During his time at Newcastle, he served on the ABN Network Committee and on various CAUL Working Groups.

In his retirement, he continued his intellectual and sporting activities, as a member of creative writing groups (with one book published and two others being considered by publishers) and as a lecturer for U3A. He was a club champion at Toronto Golf Club and a keen kayaker.

He is survived by Maureen, his four children and his eight 'grandpersons'.

Kerry Webb
(with thanks to Bill Linklater)

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14 February 2008



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