

Kim Robinson

Youngest Honorary Life Member

During the year a nomination for Honorary Life Membership of the Association was received by the Board from Catherine Halsall of the Sydney Chapter. Kim Robinson was the member nominated. Kim's contribution to, and history of, involvement in ANZTLA is well-known and the Board found it easy to approve the nomination. Below is Philip Harvey's speech given at the Conference Dinner in Sydney, where Kim's HLM was conferred.

Kim is known to all of us who have been part of ANZTLA for any length of time. The first time I met Kim he was wearing a silver owl on his chunky jumper, a cause for comment. It was only later that I learnt that Kim is an owl collector – high brow owls, low brow owls (it's a tongue twister), decorative and designer and demure owls - and that Moore College Library is lined with boobooks, tawny frogmouths and every kind of owl in every kind of material form. These presences are a cosy friendly greeting to visitors to the Library, all those except the Malaysian students who apparently complain because Malaysians are superstitious about owls. You can't please everyone. As I say, most of us have got to know Kim well over the years. However, even those with long memories may not know some of his direct roles in ANZTLA affairs.

1. Editor of the first two issues of the ANZTLA Newsletter (1987)
2. One of the original indexers on the Australian Religion Index (ARI) (1989-1999)
3. Australian Executive Committee member of the Forum for Theological Librarians in Asia (ForATL) (1997-2002)
4. Editorial Coordinator of ARI (1996-1999)
5. President of ANZTLA (1997-2001)



Kim was one of the founding fathers of ANZTLA and founding fathers have a lot of work to do. When Kim once gave a public accolade to Lawrence McIntosh for his contribution to the Association he remarked that he thought of Lawrence as the Daddy of Them All, at which Lawrence himself was heard to murmur, "No wonder I feel so tired." And certainly Kim's support from the very start in making ANZTLA happen is something many of us are well aware of. It can be said that he has seen the times.

Based at Moore College Library here in Sydney, Kim has contributed much to the life of the Association. He has worked on all Sydney conferences and has been a strong presence at nearly all other conferences over the years. He has represented ANZTLA at various international organisations and conferences, including the General Assembly of Bibliothèques Europeennes de Theologie (BETH) and at ABTPATL.

Kim is known for his candid manner on many issues, also for his sensitivity to the needs of others in the Association. He is also known as the acme of aplomb. In this respect I ought to recount the famous dinner at a Brisbane conference where he arrived at the restaurant for the annual dinner dressed in a magnificent white Moroccan cloth shirt. Kim can be seen in such flowing garments on regular occasions. He found himself at a particularly rowdy table. Ready to deliver a presidential speech between courses he suddenly watched a full glass of red wine flying from the direction of one of the more excited New Zealand delegates. The result was a large wine stain all over the shirt. Not one to take umbrage easily, bloodied but unbowed, Kim stood to give his speech above the noise of the restaurant. Kim will not be interrupted or thrown off his game. He rose above the clamour to give his speech, the picture of grace in adversity. This is how I remember Kim best and it is with this in mind that I ask you to congratulate Kim as the newest Honorary Life Member of the Association.