

The Australian National University
ANU College of Law

*Memorial Gathering to Celebrate
The Life of Phillipa Weeks*

The Law Theatre
Thursday 31 August 2006
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

To be followed by the planting of a tree in the
Law Courtyard in Phillipa's memory



Phillipa Christine Weeks 1953-2006

Phillipa was born in Sydney in 1953, the eldest of four children. When she was two, the family moved to Harden, where she attended Harden Catholic Primary School. She later went to Cootamundra Catholic High School to Year 10, and then Cootamundra High School to Year 12, where she was School Captain.

Aged only 16, she arrived at ANU in 1970 on a National Undergraduate Scholarship, and graduated with a BA (First Class Honours) in 1974. After a stint as a tutor in history at Flinders University of South Australia in 1974, she spent 1975 as an officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canberra, simultaneously tutoring in history at

ANU. In 1976, she enrolled in the graduate-entry LLB program at ANU, graduating in 1979 with First Class Honours and a swag of prizes, including the Supreme Court Judges Prize for the best honours result on graduation.

In the same year, Phillipa was appointed to the academic staff of the law school, rising to the rank of Professor in 2001. Along the way, she took out an LL.M. degree, her thesis on trade union security winning ANU's prestigious Crawford Prize in 1987, and in 1999 was awarded a Visiting Fellowship to Wolfson College at the University of Cambridge. She taught mainly in property law and labour law, publishing widely on the latter and becoming one

of Australia's leading scholars in the area.

Phillipa served the law school and the university in almost every conceivable administrative capacity, culminating in her period as Associate Dean and Head of School from 2000 to 2005, and served the broader community through activities as diverse as Director of the Credit Union of Canberra, Member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, and Chair of the ACT Government Sex Industry Consultative Group. She was awarded the University Medal for Outstanding Service to the Campus Community in 2005. After battling cancer for a little over a year, Phillipa died on 4 August 2006 at the age of 53.

Order of Proceedings

Master of Ceremonies.....Michael Coper

Phillipa as a student.....David Hambly

Phillipa as a teacher.....Aparna Rao

Phillipa as a scholar.....Shae McCrystal

Phillipa as a citizen.....Stephen Bottomley

Phillipa as a colleague.....Fiona Wheeler

A moment of quiet reflection

*The gathering will then move outside for the planting of
a Japanese maple tree (*Acer palmatum Senkaki*)
in Phillipa's memory*

A Brief Selection from the Flood of Tributes About Phillipa

Phillipa was such an inspirational lecturer, mentor and friend to her students, and will be sadly missed.
Kylie Castrissio

How utterly sad...what a human being she was.
David Kinley

She is simply irreplaceable and I can only imagine the fog of sadness and grief that has enveloped my former colleagues.
Russell Hogg

Phillipa was such a treasure in every way.
Marilyn Pittard

Phillipa had the straightest, clearest, sharpest mind I knew. She was absolutely honest, and one of the kindest people.
Charles Rowland

Phillipa probably would not have cared for the comparison, but to me she was the Queen. Absolutely the most noble and dutiful and loyal person I ever met.
Ian Holloway

Phillipa was an extraordinary woman, colleague and friend...never too busy to listen to my concerns and to offer wonderful advice. She was one of those rare people who make a profoundly positive impression on you for life.
Alex Bruce

Phillipa will be most remembered for her outstanding ability to relate to people and care for them...she knew our foibles and failings, but was very forgiving, and very perceptive in recognising why people behaved as they did... She was also a great person to be with—she liked a gossip and she liked to laugh.
Pauline Ridge

It is a dreadful loss of a much loved and respected colleague for those of us around the country teaching and researching in Australian labour law. Many people in academic life owe Phillipa a great deal, and her passing is a genuine tragedy.
Bill Ford

I've heard a lot of academic chitchat over the years but I've never heard the unanimous acclamation that greeted her appointment to a Chair.
Chris Holt

She was the perfect model of how to lead with humanity and kindness.
Henry Mares

Phillipa was incredibly special—a brilliant lecturer and just a really beautiful person.
Elinor Jean

I was truly inspired by Phillipa—as a role model to me as someone starting out on an academic career, but also as a woman who had achieved so much and still being so willing to share her experiences and foster young academics.
Alice Edwards

She was a wonderful colleague, a caring and warm friend, and a devoted teacher.
Robert McCorquodale

When I was virtually penniless waiting for my visa to head back to Canada, she would take me for lunch and had me to her house for dinner to ensure I had company and was well-nourished. I will be unlikely to meet as generous and warm a colleague.
Martin Phillipson

She was very warm and welcoming—really the law school's mother figure. Her words of encouragement really made me feel special.
Jessica Reid

Gosh she was a marvellous person: clever, funny, and good.
Wilfrid Prest

Great integrity, warmth and kindness, keen intelligence, no-fuss efficiency, a wonderful sense of humour, and humility.
Vivien Holmes

What stands out for me is the constancy of her commitment to her students, her colleagues and the ANU in general. Her wisdom, her humanity and her kindness were boundless. She never drew attention to herself, but just quietly gave effect to her vocation of service.
Fiona Wheeler

She had generosity of spirit before the term was invented.
Sue Tongue

Phillipa was a wonderful role model for all lawyers in the manner in which she reflected her personal qualities in her professional life and relationships.
Kathleen McEvoy

Phillipa was a wonderful teacher—engaging and encouraging, and always conveying that while the law was abstract, the actions of lawyers could have a real impact.
Jason Ives

She was an exceptionally lovely person.
Simonetta Astolfi

In life she would have objected to the honouring of her selfless virtue, but in death she cannot stop us from acts of recognition.
Peter Drahos

Phillipa inspired us with her academic excellence, integrity and humanity.
Esther James

She was an unwavering influence for good in all aspects of the life of the law school.
David Hamby

She had that fine ability to always encourage, compliment your efforts, but at the same time inspire you to think you could do even better...We will all miss her terribly.
Rosemary Owens

I had the privilege of being taught by Phillipa, and her impact on the lives of multitudes of students is immeasurable to say the least...an amazing woman who gave so much to so many.
Max Jeganathan

One of Phillipa's most incredible qualities was her ability to make everyone feel special...As a tutor I never heard anything but praise for her—even her notoriously tough exams...She was a woman of strength, humour, integrity and compassion.
Heather Roberts

She was one of the best teachers I ever had...a part of the law school's history and soul that should never be forgotten.
Michael Will

I was a stranger and she always made me feel that I belonged in the ANU community.
Bryan Fair

I never knew her to be jaded. She had an unfeigned interest in any research undertaken by her colleagues or students.
John Seymour

I can remember many situations in which Phillipa used the word 'pleasure' to describe something work-related... It was always completely honest and direct, a refreshing antidote to cynicism.
Jennifer Clarke

Phillipa was a wonderfully warm and supportive person...her spirit will live on amongst those she taught and inspired, in the grounds of the ANU and in the wilderness along O' Connor ridge.
Cordell Scaife

When I reflected on my ANU days I would recall Phillipa and feel better about the world...there was a distinct Australianess to her, a country girl through all her learning and legal acumen.
David Partlett

...the enormously gifted and sparkling girl from Cootamundra.
Kevin Gray