

Dr. Graeme L. Worboys AM

What a privilege it has been to have known and worked with this very fine man for so many years; to share work time and play time in many interesting places and to get to know what makes him tick.

One word describes Graeme to me “dedicated”.

Graeme was dedicated to conservation at all scales from the largest connected corridors to the smallest sites. He led with distinction the production of the valuable tome *Connectivity Conservation Management: a global guide*, published in 2010, as well as leading the Connectivity Group in WCPA. He had a lifelong dedication to the protection and management of Kosciuszko National Park. He was delighted to read the reaction to the brilliant book he co-authored with Deirdre Slattery *Kosciuszko: a great national park*. I treasure the copy he sent me and most especially the insights it contains. This book is the epitome of Graeme’s dedication to conservation and his special protected area. It is authoritative. It is insightful. It is so comprehensive in its treatment of every aspect of the national park, its natural and cultural history, its management successes and failures, the scientific underpinning of conservation and management. It tells the human stories in their many variations. And it reflects on the past and looks forward to the future. Without doubt it is the model for others to follow in telling the inside story of nature’s special places. It will be the benchmark to follow for decades to come. As he said to me recently “Kosciuszko is a great national park ... and must stay this way ... it is important to have this record which serves as a baseline of fact when so many opportunists are willing to employ romanticism and alternative facts to further unsavoury futures they would prefer for this park.”

He is of no surprise to all who knew him, that Graeme was dedicated to campaigning against injustice to nature whenever and wherever he felt that change was needed. To the end, for example, he campaigned vigorously against feral horse damage in the Kosciuszko National Park, and on many other issues, as his Australian friends will testify.

Graeme was dedicated to working partnerships in his Australian and his international work, both in collective groups and with individuals. He was tireless in supporting the mountains work when taking over from the redoubtable Larry Hamilton. He gave his insights and wise advice to us in the setting up of the Geoheritage Specialist Group. Indeed, despite time differences, he was always ready and willing to have a chat over the phone to help move matters forward.

Graeme was dedicated to the highest standards throughout his work. This is obvious to us all in working with him on the *Protected Areas Governance and Management* book. Meticulously organised, great at communicating with all participants, supportive and gently nudging everyone forward and providing a helping hand when needed. That’s how Graeme worked to get the best from colleagues and to produce outcomes that are of inestimable benefit to everyone involved in protected areas activity.

As we all know, Graeme was dedicated to communicating best practice and making sure when the practice was not up to scratch. Hence, the 4 books that I have the good fortune to have as my bibles on conservation management practice.

And he was dedicated to Bev, his delightful wife, and to their children Patty and Andrew and the grandchildren. I recall it giving him great delight buying beautifully fashioned silk pyjamas for his grandchildren when we were in China. And, also, when he bought some beautiful jewellery for Bev and his daughter whilst visiting us in Scotland. He certainly had an eye for what they would appreciate and a generosity of spirit in his thinking of presents for those closest to him.

Graeme was practical, serious and good humoured, mildly self-deprecating and action orientated. It was a delight to spend time with him in the field with his penetrating questions and insightful discussions. His camera, Nicy as he called it as it was a high spec Nikon, was a treasured possession. The results were of the highest order as we have seen in his authored publications. He carried his knowledge of geology, protected area management and conservation lightly. But, in assessments, like the one he produced following our visit to China in 2015, were incisive and penetrating, and did not pull their punches.

He showed remarkable perseverance through the years of treatment for the rare Uveal Cancer since it was diagnosed 2014, undergoing surgery, radiation, clinical trials and immune therapy, with the dedicated support of Bev, his wife and the technical team in Sydney. He was positive to the end feeling that there was no point in not being. What an amazing person!

We owe so much to Graeme Worboys, we mourn his loss, but will forever remember and honour the contribution he made to the serious work of conserving nature.

Roger Crofts