

VALE PETER BICEVSKIS



Peter moved to Tasmania six years ago and loved Tasmania's people and landscapes.

AGHS member Peter Bicevskis died suddenly three weeks ago. Prue Slatyer pays tribute to her best friend and life companion.

Peter studied architecture at the University of Sydney in the 1970s. As a student, he had a cadetship with the Australian Construction Service and worked with them after graduating. This led to a fulfilling career as an architect, working on large and complex government projects. Initially these were for the Department of Defence, master planning and designing buildings for army and air force bases. He went on to work on AusAID projects in Papua New Guinea and Bali. These included health clinics and aids clinics, and the hospital which was Australia's gift to Indonesia after the Bali bombings of 2002. His most significant AusAID work was East Timor's first parliament house.

After the Australian Construction Service, Peter moved into private practice and worked on many university projects, mostly in Queensland. Again, the scope of his architectural work was broad and ranged from master planning and site planning to the design of individual buildings.

Peter was proud that his architectural work was all public architecture.

As an architect, Peter had a broad interest in the physical environment, ranging from interior spaces through buildings and settlements to landscapes, both natural and cultural. This led to his involvement in SaveUTAS, working to save the Sandy Bay

campus of the University of Tasmania, with its significant landscape and collection of mid-20th century architecture, from demolition and redevelopment.

Peter became a member of AGHS and loved learning about Tasmania's heritage gardens and cultural landscapes and enjoyed experiencing them on AGHS visits.

In 2020, Peter joined the committee organising the AGHS national conference held in Hobart in 2022. He volunteered to fill the role of secretary and worked with Wyn Manners on transport and logistics issues. His fastidious eye for detail and knowledge of project management were great assets in these roles. He redeveloped the complex and unworkable master spreadsheet for the conference to render it user friendly, and his spreadsheet is now the model for AGHS conferences. He enjoyed working closely with conference committee members whom he said felt like family after the intensity of the conference planning experience.

Peter had a great sense of humour and was also a creative writer. His student experience with the architecture revues led to him writing a number of episodes for the Aunty Jack Show on ABC television and involvement in other theatrical events.

He had many other talents including choral singing, cooking and productive gardening. He was intelligent, kind, considerate, generous and funny. He will be missed by his many friends and his family of five children and four grandchildren.