

In Memoriam

Clifford Leslie Ogleby 1955-2020

It is with great sadness that the Australian and international communities of photogrammetry and remote sensing note the passing of our colleague Clifford Leslie Ogleby. Cliff, more commonly referred to as 'Og' or 'Oggie' by his friends, died in the third week of May 2020 in his 65th year. Cliff had had a number of health issues, particularly problems with auto-immune disease, which compromised his physical resilience and impacted significantly on his quality of life in his later years.

Cliff completed the surveying degree at the University of Melbourne in 1976 and, after a short period working as a field surveyor for the Department of Lands in Victoria, returned to the university in the Department of Surveying as a sessional teacher in 1981. His commitment to student learning and effectiveness in student-centred teaching was quickly recognised and he was appointed as a contract and then continuing Lecturer, promoted to Senior Lecturer and designated as a Teaching Specialist toward the end of his career.

Cliff was a passionate and charismatic presenter and as an educator, held in the highest regard by his students and those with whom he worked. He was recognised many times by his students and his academic peers through numerous awards for teaching excellence and many grants to conduct research and development of learning and teaching innovations. He was incredibly popular with the students he taught and the postgraduate students that he supervised. In a world of teaching metrics, Cliff invariably received overwhelmingly positive feedback year after year.

As well as accolades for learning and teaching, he was also a very active applied researcher. In his early career he became involved in the recording of indigenous rock art and other historical artefacts. Cliff was passionate about working with indigenous people and showing great respect for their culture well before it was politically correct to do so. The enthusiasm for heritage documentation never left him and was extended to archaeological and historical sites throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Syria and Georgia. Long before the days of drone surveys, Cliff developed innovative platforms for low altitude mapping based on kites, bipods and balloons, and was an early adopter of 3D recording devices such as image correlators and laser scanners. He also pioneered the use of 3D digital exhibits in museums and libraries, with themes ranging from walking with dinosaurs to ancient Olympia and Ned Kelly's suit of armour. Cliff will be remembered as a person of enormous energy and no project involving photogrammetric measurement was too small or too large for him to take on.

His engagement with industry and contributions to the profession were also exemplary. He was involved in organisations such as the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Comité International de la Photogrammétrie Architecturale (CIPA), Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Association of Australia (RSPAA) and the (now) Surveying and Spatial Science Institute in Australasia for several decades. Cliff was involved in many working groups as both an active member and an office bearer, and was always an enthusiastic contributor to conferences, seminars and workshops. He was the first Australian to become a member of CIPA, and his usual passionate engagement lead to him becoming Secretary-General, Vice President and then President during 2006-2010.

However, perhaps his most visible role in the profession was as the Director of the highly successful 22nd ISPRS Congress held in Melbourne in 2012. There is no doubt that his unconditional commitment to bidding for the congress and his leadership of the congress management made a massive contribution to the technical, social and financial success of the congress.

Being selected as the host of the Congress is a very long process and requires a huge commitment, not to mention a lot of promotion at other events, across a dozen years. Cliff was one of a small group of congress organisers who travelled to many conferences and meetings. Cliff always flew with two suitcases, one for his personal belongings and one with a kangaroo suit. It seemed like a great idea to promote Australia as the congress venue, and Cliff revelled in wandering around the registration desks or the exhibit halls in the suit, greeting everyone and having his photo taken with conference delegates. On at least a couple of occasions on arrival at an event, only one suitcase turned up at the airport. You can guess which one. And of course on a warm summer afternoon in Europe or Asia he would sweat profusely inside the suit, wearing the only clothes he had.



Cliff could be argumentative, he could be loud and on occasion quick tempered, but he could also be charming, witty and incredibly generous. Many, many times he hosted international visitors and took them camping or visiting rock art sites because he wanted them to have an outstanding experience in Australia. Cliff was also an excellent cook, and many visitors will remember outstanding meals, good wine and great company at Cliff's house in Melbourne.

Cliff retired in 2018 after 38 years of dedicated service to the University of Melbourne and the (now) Department of Infrastructure Engineering. His kindness, thoughtfulness and effectiveness are remembered by all. Cliff devoted the major proportion of his career to his students through delivering engaging and enriching educational programs, and by being a guide for their self-confidence, ambition and well-being. Cliff went out of his way on countless occasions to mentor and inspire students. Cliff's heritage will certainly be his unbounded kindness and generosity to his colleagues, and especially his students.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to all, and particularly his many colleagues and friends in the photogrammetric and heritage recording communities.