

To Honour Roy Bradley

Many of us could spend hours talking about Roy and Clinical Pastoral Education; such was his outstanding pioneering contribution to CPE throughout Australia. Little would Roy have known back in 1963 when he applied for a Fulbright Scholarship to train in CPE in the United States that his contribution back here in Australia would be so great.

Roy and my father worked together at Larundel and Mont Park psychiatric hospitals and it was there as Chaplain that Roy first heard of CPE. After much organising and untimely delays Roy took his CPE at South Carolina State Hospital in Columbia in 1964/5 and his supervisory education at St Luke's Medical Centre in Houston Texas a year later.

On his return, Roy initiated the CPE program at the Austin in 1967 and later pioneered CPE programs in Perth, Darwin, Hobart, Ballarat, Albury and Warrnambool. In 1974 Roy conducted the first fulltime CPE Supervisory Training Programme in Australia.

Roy has been honoured with individual awards both here and in the United States, including an OAM, for his pioneering work in CPE and supervision in Australia. Roy has continued to show interest, engaging with his colleagues and with the Supervisory Associations both in Victoria and Nationally, including NZ. Only recently at our annual supervisory conference held in Western Australia Roy sent his greetings and good wishes for the ANZACPE AGM. He was directly involved in the formation of these associations and became the first president of ANZACPE in 1990.

To be a recipient of Roy's vision and supervision was indeed a privilege. James Gibbons in the United States writes of Roy on hearing the very sad news of Roy's death; "his character, his spiritual depth, his genuine warm-heartedness, his deeply insightful engagements with students and others, made him a very special leader. He was so "right" for this work." Others write of Roy's wisdom, warmth and humanity, of his challenges and of his ability to meet people at their point of need.

Roy would be the first to say that whatever he was able to do for humankind was because of Margaret's unfailing support and contribution. Perhaps Michael Leunig had a sense of what has happened in the world of CPE over the last 9 days when he wrote a 'HYMN' included in Saturdays Age. It seems to resonate with Roy's deep concern for the care of others and his passion over the last 53 years for educating those drawn to offer pastoral care.

Care is the cure
It is slow,
It is raw,
It is pure.

It is simple and bare,
It is real,
It is bold,
It is there.

Nothing is newer
Or older,
Or wiser,
Or truer.
Care is the cure.

Roy's definition of Pastoral Care in 98 was 'the art of keeping the mystery of God present to humanity through redemptive relationships'. I believe this sums up the way Roy lived his life.

We salute you Roy. Thank you so much, for so much.

Gillian Henderson
On behalf of all who had the privilege of working with Roy Bradley.