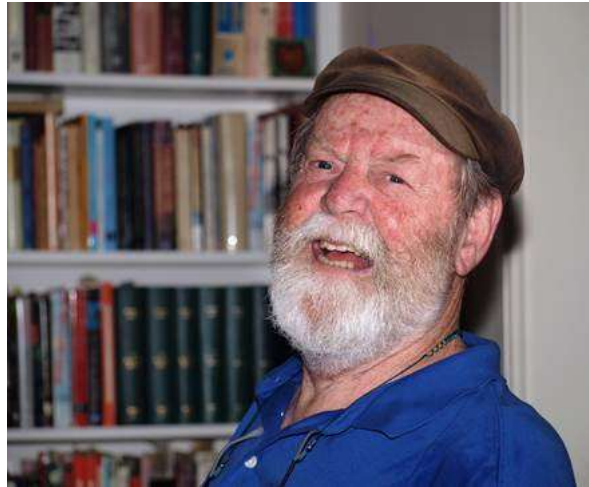


Vale: Peter Love
Thursday 18 May 2023



From Susanne Provis

My beloved husband Peter Love died suddenly on Thursday 18 May 2023 in the Hamilton Base Hospital. We were in the Western District for a reunion with his best mate, to explore the world heritage area and indulge in fine dining at the Royal Mail, Dunkeld. His final meal was splendid food, much discussion, analysis, debate, fun, and laughter.

Peter grew up in Barham where he excelled academically, as a footballer and a musician. His love of labour history stemmed from childhood work as a milkie in that working-class community. His politicisation came partly from 'being condescended to without knowing what it meant'. An activist all his life, he revelled in political analysis and discussion and fought against privilege and inequality with words and deeds.

While teaching in primary schools, Peter completed his matriculation at night school, excelling in economics and Australian history. He graduated from La Trobe with first-class honours and the D.M. Myers University Medal. Then to the ANU for his PhD on Frank Anstey, a man whose 'modest political achievements' but 'profound influence on radical thought' retained a lifelong fascination for Peter.

Peter taught at Phillip Institute and Deakin University before finding his true home at Swinburne University of Technology, where he excelled as a lecturer, supervisor, mentor, union activist, and university historian. He served on countless committees and was President of the Swinburne Branch of the NTEU between 1994-1997. At Swinburne, his contributions are long and, among his colleagues at least, his legacy is deeply assured.

In 1973 Peter became active in Labour History, relishing working alongside some of the hard men who formed part of the Society's formative years. He was a member of the Editorial Board from 1990, federal executive since 1988, and from 1988 president of the Melbourne branch of the society – all positions he retained up to his death. He was very proud to be a trustee of the Victorian Trades Hall, the oldest continually active union building in the world.

Peter lived life with vigour, his bonhomie legendary. He loved cars, driving, photography, and travelling to culturally, geographically, geologically different places. His curiosity never left him, he asked the ambos about the new equipment as he was being loaded for his final road trip.

Peter was 76.

There will be a green burial soon for close friends and family, followed by a big send-off. Details to come.