

## TRIBUTE

### Zoran Georgievski

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There are no words to describe Zoran's contribution to orthoptics and the significant impact he has made on our profession. His influence has been at both a local and international level, and he was undoubtedly one of the most influential orthoptists of our time.

Zoran had an inquisitive, brilliant mind that never settled. He was pragmatic, could always see the shades of grey and think outside the square. This all too often translated into great, innovative ideas. He was also wildly ambitious but more so for his profession than for himself. He was keen to see the advancement of the discipline of orthoptics, so we as allied health professionals could better contribute to excellence in eye health care for our patients. He perceived the development of the Clinical School at the Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital and his conjoint appointment between La Trobe University and the hospital as a vehicle to achieve this.

He was considered an exemplary scholar who had mastered the art of strabismus. He passionately imparted this immense knowledge to students and colleagues and his tips and pearls will be treasured by many. He had a gift of effortlessly explaining complex ideas and theories; a truly imaginative and engaging teacher. He served as an inspirational role model and mentored many towards self-determination through encouragement and challenge.

From an education and academic perspective, his contribution is paralleled by few. Early in his career he was recognised as a talented orthoptist joining the Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University soon after completing his studies. Since then he has consistently worked towards furthering orthoptics through education and research. He also dedicated over a decade to the clinical education of students, developing an outstanding program providing students with broad experiences and the opportunity to travel and study overseas. To him we owe much of the shape of our world class orthoptic program at La Trobe University.

Beyond traditional orthoptics he was a pioneer in the development of models of service delivery aimed at seeing

orthoptists emerge as allied health practitioners meeting 21st century challenges. He was one of the first, if not the first, to develop diabetic retinopathy screening clinics, orthoptic triage clinics and orthoptist-led spoke clinics.

Zoran was a visionary leader. Rarely has orthoptics seen someone so progressive and far-sighted. He was a gifted strategist and lobbied federal and state governments on various issues to provide opportunities for the profession. As only one example, he was the first in Australia to advocate for and create change in legislation to allow orthoptists to prescribe glasses independently. He recognised our pivotal role in eye health care and understood the changes required in the legislative, academic and clinical space. In his own words he believed 'if you're a professional, you're responsible to yourself to be part of a collective of people who can steer where the profession is taking you'. He was certainly that, in fact he led this collective of people.

In one capacity or another he was involved in our national and international association, leaving a mark of his ideas and work in all areas. Most recently he is responsible for our association's name change to Orthoptics Australia, a change he wanted to reflect the dynamic movement forward of orthoptics and a way to embrace change and improvement.

His standing resulted in an immense level of deference to his professional opinion. His finger was on the pulse of all things. So many colleagues sought Zoran's advice and perspective and despite all he was involved in, he was always accessible. I often admired his insight not only in all things orthoptics but his unique insight into human nature and his ability to see through things and cut to the basic reality. Indeed he will also be remembered for his direct and poignant honesty. On many occasions he did not mince his words. He truly lit up our association council meetings and any discussion he was involved in with fervent, witty debate.

Zoran was always inclusive, had a positive outlook and brought with him an element of fun. He had a generous and caring disposition. He demonstrated a great capacity for

love and friendship; a master in connecting with individuals and creating networks between people. His ability to touch hearts and minds was profound.

Zoran's intelligence, uniqueness of mind, warmth, humour, passion, and determination set him apart. He forged a formidable reputation and legacy; an infinite imprint in the orthoptic community that will live on.

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