

The Advertiser



Robert Foster, who was one of Australia's top designers, with his unique shell-like lamp design.

News

Obituaries for July 16, 2016: Graham Mount, Ian Home and Robert Foster

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TODAY we pay tribute to an innovative dentist, a successful winemaker and a well-known designer.

GRAHAM JAUNAY MOUNT

Dentist

Born: December 19, 1924; Adelaide

Died: May 26, 2016; Adelaide

Education: University of Sydney

Achievements: Introduced new dental care technologies in Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands

Family: Survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Margaret, children Jeff, Nick (Australia's leading glass artist), Sandy and Marianne.

GRAHAM Mount was a leader within the dental profession here and overseas. He had a distinguished career as a clinician, researcher and educator. His professional life was devoted to the development of more effective methods of treating dental disease and to the promotion of good oral health.

He made significant contributions to dental health and education in South East Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Graham was the son of a dentist, born in Adelaide, but completed his high school education in NZ after his family moved to Fiji. He gained entry to the Sydney University Dental School and graduated in 1945. He was a fine hockey player and was awarded a University Blue.

He joined his father in private practice in Adelaide where he quickly gained a reputation for the extremely high quality of clinical treatment he provided. In 1950, Graham also began tutoring at the University of Adelaide, where he remained in part-time teaching roles until 1980. He continued mentoring undergraduate students well into his eighties.

He served on many university and State and Federal Australian Dental



Association committees and advisory bodies. His clear understanding of the issues under consideration and his vision were always apparent.



Adelaide dentist Graham Mount

One of Graham's most notable early contributions was from 1960 when he helped establish continuing education courses for dentists at the University of

Adelaide. He was a longtime advocate for the concept of an integrated dental team and worked tirelessly to create the first dental hygienist training program in Australia.

In 1970 Graham took up a one year appointment as a visiting associate professor at North Western University in Michigan USA. As well as contributing to its teaching program, he was able to apply new developments in American dental education and technology back in Adelaide.

In his mid fifties he saw the potential benefits that a new restorative material, glass ionomer, might bring to patients with badly decayed teeth. So with his usual energy and commitment he embarked on a new phase of his professional life — active laboratory based material science research.

Under mentorship of the late Dr Owen Makinson he quickly mastered experimental techniques and investigated the properties of glass ionomer cements, while continuing part-time private practice with his son Jeff. Graham became recognised as one of the world authorities on this material. He was invited to lecture in many countries — 50 in total — always accompanied and supported by his wife Margaret. The first of three editions of his book on glass ionomer cements, a very practical guide to its best clinical use, was published in 1988.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s Graham embraced minimal intervention dentistry. This major revision of the traditional methods of restoring teeth damaged by decay, erosion or trauma led to him collaborating with Professor Rory Hume, dean of dentistry at UCLA.

It led to their text book, *Preservation and Restoration of Tooth Structure*, in 1998. Graham derived great pleasure in receiving the first printed copy of the third edition a short time before his death.

He was elected a fellow of international colleges and academies but was most proud of his work providing aid and dental education in the Pacific Islands and South-East Asian countries. He regularly visited the new dental school in Fiji, and in Vietnam worked with Dr Hein Ngo on textbooks, equipment and lecture programs, vastly improving dental care available in Vietnam.

In the Solomon Islands, PNG, Vietnam and Cambodia — afflicted with rampant dental decay — he and Dr John McIntyre adapted his glass ionomer technologies to save countless young children from losing their teeth.

He was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1988 and in 1992 was awarded the degree of Doctor of Dental Science of The University of Adelaide for his cumulative research into glass ionomer cements. In 2000 he was presented with the Medal of Paris by the Federation Dentaire Internationale.

He died of cancer in May.

G.A. IAN HOME

Winemaker

Born: March 9, 1929; Ballarat, Victoria

Died: May 8, 2016; Ballarat

Ian Home was the successful businessman behind the 11 stores of the SSW Supermarket chain, centred in Ballarat, when he set upon the idea of making an Australian champagne.

It was in the early 1970s, when Australia's sparkling wines were generally cheap and cheerful, and sometimes sweet and sickly.

Ian loved champagne, fine restaurants and good food, and was sure there was an opening for Australian champagnes — as they were then still called — alongside the French originals.

In 1971 he decided to make his own, planting 12 acres of vineyards on a site near Ballarat named after an old gold mine there, Yellowglen.

From his first vintage in 1975, he made a “champagne” to reflect an Australian style.

His Yellowglen stood out in the market as a local methode traditionnelle of good quality.

Backed by his business acumen, and by his own liquor stores, Yellowglen found a niche in the Australian market.

By 1980 Ian was busy sourcing chardonnay and pinot noir grapes from across Australia — particularly the cool climate areas of Victoria and Tasmania — and was fetching a premium price for the wines.

In 1984, with the business turning over millions of dollars a year, Ian sold Yellowglen to Mildara.

Yellowglen went on to become a ubiquitous Australian sparkling wine label, covering every style. It became the largest sparkling wine brand in Australia.

Ian remained a director and helped propel the label to prominence but in 1994 he resigned, unhappy with the direction of the juggernaut he had established.

Instead, he partnered Massoni, a pinot noir winemaker on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula owned by the family behind Melbourne's famed Florentino Restaurant.

He oversaw a massive increase in its production by establishing a 300ha vineyard in the Pyrenees area of Victoria.

By the mid-1990s, Yellowglen was on the way to becoming a generic wine brand.

Mildara was absorbed into Fosters, and then spat out as part of Treasury Wine Estates.



 Ian Home

Yellowglen came back into focus as a high-quality brand when it once again began making premium wines at the top of its range, sourcing its best grapes from the Piccadilly Valley in the Adelaide Hills.

In 2012, Ian was invited to join Yellowglen as brand ambassador, and in doing so, gave the brand his blessing once again.

His first wife, Dorothy died in 1989, and he married Sue in 1992. He is survived by Sue, daughters Jenny, Barbara and Claire, and six grandchildren.

ROBERT NEIL FOSTER

Designer

Born: 1962; Kyneton, Victoria

Died: July 13, 2016; Bungedore, NSW

ROBERT Foster was one of Australia's best known designers.

His Fink water jug is sold around the world, including at Adelaide's Jam Factory, as a classic contemporary design.

Robert was killed in a head-on car crash near Queanbeyan in New South Wales on Wednesday.

The police suspect that cold and wet weather conditions might have contributed to the accident.

His works are collected by major museums including the Victoria and Albert Museum in the UK.

He was also one of only a handful of Australians invited to produce designs for the Italian design house, Alessi.

Robert first came to attention when he studied gold and silver smithing at the Canberra School of Art, completing his course in 1985.

He was invited to take part in international exhibitions, and it was after an exhibition in Germany in 1992 that he was approached by Alberto Alessi.

Robert was invited to the Alessi factory near Milan in Italy, and submitted designs for a fondue, and later a teapot. These have not yet been manufactured by Alessi, but his

teapot prototypes in particular, setting off a stainless steel body with a highly colourful anodised aluminium handle and lid, attracted international attention.

In 1993 Robert set up a design company, called Fink + Co, and was asked to create a water jug design for a Canberra restaurant.

His Fink water jug, a curvaceous assembly of anodised aluminium in a range of metallic colours, proved so popular that it made its way on to the national and later the international design market.

It is still manufactured by his company in Queanbeyan, and has become an international calling card for his designs.

Today, his holloware and jewellery designs, along with his occasional sculptures, are sought after around the world.

Robert's death has brought tributes around the world.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

