

## OBITUARIES

# A clear vision in his profession

**ZORAN GEORGIEVSKI**  
EYE SPECIALIST  
3-9-1970 — 7-4-2011

By **CONNIE KOKLANIS**

ASSOCIATE Professor Zoran Georgievski, an academic leader in orthoptics and a strong advocate of his profession, has died of a heart condition at his home in Reservoir. He was 40.

A natural educator and leader, in 2008 he was appointed associate professor with a conjoint appointment between the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, where he was the manager of orthoptics and diagnostic eye services, and La Trobe University, where he became head of department.

Georgievski pushed the development of the relationship between the university and the hospital because he strongly believed that creating links between clinical care, education and research would promote excellence in the delivery of clinical services and ensure the development of a high quality orthoptic workforce.

Recognising the pivotal role of clinical education, he contributed significant leadership to the program at La Trobe University. Through his extensive

network, he developed an outstanding clinical program providing students with broad experiences and the opportunity to travel and study overseas. His death came at a time when he was leading the development of a clinical school network at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

He was also active in research and writing; he developed the Torsionometer, an instrument that measures image tilt, and published and presented almost 200 papers at national and international conferences.

Georgievski was born in Melbourne the first child of Spase and Menka Georgievski, who migrated from Macedonia. His brother Tom was born a few years later.

Educated at Thomastown High School, he showed enormous promise from a young age. He won a Young Achievers Award and was nominated for Young Australian of the Year.

In 1989, he began studying orthoptics at La Trobe University, and after graduating in 1992 he joined the university's faculty of health sciences as a lecturer.

Next year would have marked 20 years of commitment



to the university and the profession, in which time his dedication and contribution to orthoptics was unparalleled.

Georgievski was a great intellect, a determined and energetic teacher, and an outstanding orthoptist with a strong desire to share knowledge, foster talented orthoptists and students, and to agitate for change and innovation to meet current challenges.

He was an inspiration to many and his pursuit of excellence and passion brought out the best in individuals. Personally he lived in the moment and made the most of every opportunity.

There were few, if any, national and international con-

ferences that he did not attend and present his work at. He had an ability to capture an audience with his sharp intellect and irreverent sense of humour. Many a time he elicited tears of laughter.

Georgievski's activities extended to his professional association.

A gifted strategist, he lobbied federal and state government on various issues and consistently advocated for initiatives providing opportunities for the orthoptic profession.

He took on countless roles within his profession. He was past president of Orthoptics Australia, the Australia representative to and member of the Council of the International Orthoptic Association and deputy president of the IOA.

A man of strong convictions, he was often either in full support or completely against an idea, and he worked tirelessly to achieve his vision.

Full of energy, vitality and passion for life, he repeatedly demonstrated this determined, unequivocal nature in his personal and professional life.

In a chance encounter in 2003, he met his partner, Frank Rosato, who was visiting Melbourne from Western Australia

for the AFL grand final.

Given their strong commitment to each other, Rosato soon moved to Melbourne.

Together they shared a love of music, travel, gardening and entertaining their large circle of friends and family, ensuring they built an extraordinarily rich and fulfilling life.

There are few people who make a profound impact that resonates among many and who have the capacity to change a number of lives and shape their chosen profession. Zoran Georgievski was one of those few.

An insightful man of ideas and a unique individual with great presence, he was extremely reliable, generous and caring. He will also be remembered for his direct and poignant honesty. He did not believe in wasting time being subtle or unclear.

He was efficient and dealt with matters as they came to hand. He rarely hesitated and was generally very decisive in all aspects of life.

He is survived by his partner, his parents and brother.

Dr Connie Koklanis is a lecturer in the department of clinical vision sciences at La Trobe University.