Derek Leon (25.11.1949 to 14.9.1998)



Derek commenced medicine at Monash in 1969, and graduated in 1974. The following obituary by Rob McKimm appeared in our reunion magazine in 1999 ...

Derek died suddenly at home shortly before his 49th birthday, from a ruptured aortic aneurysm, leaving behind his wife Ruth and their three daughters, Catherine, Belinda and Jennifer.

He had an especially close relationship with Ruth, and was a devoted family man who balanced the demands of his specialty, Radiology, with the warmth of his family life. It would be fair to describe Derek as a quiet, unassuming individualist with boundless enthusiasm and a sharp sense of humour. He stood out from the crowd. In his student days he drove a big BMW motor bike he called "Brunhilde", and wore his trademark red socks. After graduating, Derek did his intern year at Geelong Hospital. A series of moves during his Radiology training saw him in Warrnambool, Adelaide, Melbourne and then in 1989 he moved to Sale where he worked in both private and public hospital practice. He was director of Postgraduate Education at the hospital.

Derek's main interests were music, photography and a fascination with the electronic age. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of classical music – the composers and performers. A significant number of the photographs that have appeared in the various reunion magazines were taken by Derek.

We are all deeply saddened by his death.