

It's a pleasure to return to UWA for the first time since my departure party in 2012, prior to taking up my role at La Trobe University. UWA is the source of many memories, mostly fond, and certainly related to the people at this university. Among them are those colleagues who saw fit to nominate me for this award, which is an enormous honour. It reminds me again of the collegiality among peers which is the lifeblood of universities, and which was for me, when I was informed of it by Raymond, very touching and very unexpected.

More than anything, I am honoured to have been nominated for an award named for Philippa Maddern, my long-time colleague, mentor and friend, whose intellectual generosity was extraordinary; whose curiosity, especially in respect of her beloved medieval history, was unbounded; and her engagement with students and with the world of ideas, was a joy for us all.

I have reflected about Philippa Maddern and all the things she represented, over the past few days. I recall immediately that she was among other things a proud feminist, one of a group of extraordinary women with whom I was privileged to work: my great friend Delys Bird; my wonderful colleague the late Trish Crawford; and of course, Pip herself. As well as remembering Pip's warmth, and her wit, the single and perhaps most abiding memory I have of her, was her unflinching resolve to speak truth to power-- respectfully, but resolutely; and without fear. She believed that we could or must do things differently to forge better outcomes. Whether in relation to her own discipline, faculty, this university itself, or academia more generally, she insisted on the pursuit of humanity, fairness and social justice, based firmly on the true collegiality which she held so dear. People were what mattered.

I miss her sorely, and I thank you sincerely for this award.