



Vale

Dr Madge Mitton
30/6/1941 – 10/6/2022

Members of the Jane Austen Society of Adelaide were saddened to farewell our co-founder and leader for many years, Madge Mitton.

Her love of literature began with visits to the children's library, and she first read *Pride and Prejudice* at age 12. She became a high school teacher, then a lecturer at Adelaide Teacher's College, and finally a lecturer in English at the University of Adelaide, where word went around amongst students: "If you have ever thought of doing English Literature, do it with this lady!" After her retirement, she was a friend and teacher for international students, and presented lectures at the University of the 3rd Age.

A notable scholar, she contributed to professional journals and organised international conferences. While working she gained her Masters Degree, then her PhD, as an external student at the University of New England, both on the works of Anthony Trollope. For her thesis topic, "Money, social change and moral choice in the novels of Anthony Trollope", she was awarded the University Medal, a huge honour rarely given.

Madge had no children, but she became especially close to her nephew Chris and niece Sue. She loved to travel and visited more than 50 countries, travelling with Chris and Sue, or with friends. She loved the theatre, opera, and classical music and regularly attended performances.

Madge was our "walking, talking guide to English literature", but she was never intimidating. As the leader of our group, her gentle, encouraging, supportive, accepting manner encouraged all of us in our participation and in our efforts to contribute and to research new topics. In her last few years she was in a care home and could no longer come to meetings, but she was as sharp as ever. She died peacefully and quickly surrounded by her family, her favourite music, readings from Jane, and lots of laughs until she slipped away.