

# From libraries to foreign-aid expert

## CATHERINE ANNE DEANE

**Aid specialist, scuba diver**

**Born:** December, 26, 1952;

Adelaide

**Died:** August 19, 2018; Adelaide

CATHY Deane was educated at Walford School and Adelaide University and became a senior manager and company director who was influential in international aid policy and programs.

She worked across 25 countries in Asia, the Pacific, the US – and even Mongolia.

Her parents, Beryl and Frank McCallum, had encouraged her to be independent and she had an innate sense of equity and justice. She met and



then married Christopher Deane while still in her teens.

From 1970, Cathy worked at the Waite Institute Library before taking a degree in economics. By 1986, she had worked as a senior manager in

libraries in the private and public sectors and had also spent time in the US as a librarian and lecturer.

That year, she changed direction and decided on a new career in international development, being appointed senior projects manager with SAGRIC International, the offspin of SA's Department of Agriculture, working in developing countries.

After 10 years, she was inspired her to set up her own company, World Wide Project Management.

The company's success was built on designing and managing international projects. It also trained senior people from Iraq, Thailand, the Philippines

and Indonesia. Her diverse roles included some time spent heading a large legal-reform support program in Indonesia, while living in Jakarta.

Cathy's last consultancy was with the Ok Tedi Development Foundation, a not-for-profit community-development organisation in New Guinea's Western Province, near the Indonesian border.

Until this year, Cathy was making many visits to the remote mining camp of Kiunga in Western Province and, following her retirement, continued to mentor the local people.

When she wasn't involved in her career as an aid specialist, Cathy was enjoyed scuba-diving.

She took up cave-diving and open-water diving in 1971, qualified as an instructor, and was a founding member of the Cave Divers Association of Australia.

Her consultancy work enabled her to dive in every state and right through South-East Asia, the US, Micronesia and elsewhere in the Pacific.

She was also active in the Historical Diving Society Australia-Pacific.

Cathy's experience led to her become the first chairwoman of the SA Recreational Fishing Advisory Council, now RecFish SA.

She died after a brave two-year fight with acute myeloid leukaemia.