

# Dentist worked to improve oral health

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Peter Kaleski established a dental practice in Lindfield in 1971, which had an emphasis on restorative dentistry and endodontics. Of particular note was his astute observation of the role that misdirected occlusal forces play in the cause of dental and facial pain and pathology. This encouraged him to become involved in continuing education, initially at the University of Sydney, where he was a principal contributor for over 20 years.

He was a member of the Australian Society of Endodontology's NSW branch almost from its inception and served twice as president as well as terms as secretary and treasurer. He is one of only five people awarded honorary life membership of the NSW branch and the only general practitioner so honoured.

Peter Gordon Kaleski was born in Sydney on December 26, 1941, to Gordon and Jess Kaleski. He was raised in Strathfield and educated at Trinity Grammar's junior school and Sydney Grammar School. He chose to study dentistry at the University of Sydney because it "combined engineering principles in the mouth, while dealing with people".

After graduating in 1964, Kaleski worked in Belmore with John Kinross, who was a skilled mentor and became a close friend. Like many Australian graduates of that period, Kaleski travelled to London, where he worked in general practice for what he described as four wonderful years.

Planning his return to Sydney, Kaleski asked his Australian friends if they knew "any good birds" back in Sydney. They did, and he met Anne Carter, an occupational therapist, and they were married in 1970.

Along with his practice, Kaleski served as secretary of the federal body of the Australian Society of Endodontology and was the driving force in running the Society of Occlusal Studies and the International Academy of Gnathology (Australian section).

He was one of the few Australians to be invited to become a member of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry and he and Anne travelled to Chicago each February to attend their meetings. He was made a fellow of the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry International in recognition of his contributions to the profession.

Kaleski volunteered his time for more than 30 years, treating intellectually disabled people at the Lorna Hodgkinson Sunshine Home and worked with Aboriginal children in central Australia. He received an OAM for his services to dentistry and the community in 2006.

The Turrumurra Trotters, a Saturday morning running group was a great love of Kaleski's and he introduced a large number of friends and acquaintances to the group over many years. In recent years, his prolific production of organic vegetables was enjoyed by family and friends.

Peter Kaleski is survived by Anne, his son, John, and daughters Libby, Anna and Jane and their families.

**Steve Cohn and John Carter**

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/content/adaptive/smh/comment/obituaries/dentist-worked-to-improve-oral-health-20111227-1pbew.html>

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