

## **Jan Lee Martin – Futurist**

I first met Jan in Sydney over 20 years ago. Back then she was described as a corporate communications specialist. As time passed we seemed to meet up more often. Then, after she set up the Futures Foundation in 1995, we began to meet more regularly both in Sydney and elsewhere. She was determined to make a difference and spared no effort to engage people and organisations in thinking and acting more consciously about and for the future.

The Futures Foundation was, in many ways, the culmination of her life's work. She assembled a very capable Board and edited a lively and informative newsletter. She wrote many of the articles herself and, ably assisted by her genial husband Peter, spared no effort to raise the profile of applied futures work in Australia. A couple of personal examples make the point. In late 1996 she organised a well-attended launch for the Knowledge Base of Futures Studies in Sydney. On another occasion she created a schematic summary of my book *The Foresight Principle* as a learning resource. I think she saw this as a way into the work for those who would never get to the book itself. This was typical of Jan – she put in the effort in order to benefit others.

Her focus was much wider than Sydney and Australia. She also travelled overseas and established close connections with many far-flung people and organisations. Jan was one of those people that it was always a pleasure to be around. I last saw her rather late one evening in the foyer of a hotel where we were both staying in Wellington. Typically, we were there for a futures conference. When news of her death reached me I was immediately sorry that we'd not made better use of that final time together. It was a reminder to better value the time we have with those we respect and care for.