

## **GORDON COOPER**

BRETT FREUDENBERG

It is with deep sorrow that the ATTA community mourns the passing of its Patron, Gordon Cooper AM, earlier this year. Ten years ago, in 2007, ATTA was honoured that Gordon Cooper AM accepted the role as the Patron of ATTA. Gordon took on this role with vigour and passion. As ATTA Patron, Gordon generously provided his time, insights and leadership. He was immensely dedicated to developing the next generation of tax researchers, particularly through his encouragement and awards for PhD students at the annual ATTA Conference. The amount of time and thought he put into PhD students cannot be underestimated.

He was able to combine intellect and comedy with his annual Patron's Address, which made us think, reflect and laugh. These Patron's Addresses were full of theatrics and thought and a good dash of sporting analogy – tax could never be boring in the hands of Gordon.

While it is such a sad loss for the ATTA community, Gordon's contribution to tax and the broader community is immense. One of his great contributions was to the Variety Club, and he revelled in participating in its famous charity motoring event – the Variety Bash – with his bash car called 'Taxheads'!

Gordon will be sorely missed by many.

While Gordon may no longer physically be with us, his impact and influence is reflected in many in the profession, to whom he generously gave his time as mentor and guide. It is this impact on the next generation of the tax profession that will be one of Gordon's lasting legacies. I thank Gordon for his work with ATTA, for his intellect and the joy that he brought.

Associate Professor Brett Freudenberg  
President, Australasian Tax Teachers Association