

Memorial Book

In Loving Memory of

Thomas Markus Schindlmayr

(- April 26, 2008)

This memorial website was created to remember our dearest **Thomas Markus Schindlmayr** who was born in **Germany Munich** on **July 10, 1969** and passed away on **April 26, 2008**. You will live forever in our memories and hearts.

The Schindlmayr family would be honoured by your presence at any of the Memorial Services to be held for Thomas.

Memorial service Canberra:

A memorial service for Thomas will be held in **Canberra** on **Sunday, 18th May 2008** at **11am** at **8 O'Malley Place, Googong**. We would like to invite those attending to bring along a rose plant to plant in Tommy's rose garden after the memorial service and to bring a plate for a morning tea thereafter.

For more information, please contact Inge at pi_kent@bigpond.net.au

Memorial Service New York

Thomas's former colleagues at the UN are most generously arranging this service. It will be held on **Tuesday, May 13th** at **1pm** at **The Church Center for the United Nations**, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York NY 10017. (cnr 44th Street and 1st Avenue).

Service in Munich, Germany

A service for Thomas will be held in Munich at the beginning of June. The date is yet to be announced.

The image features a textured, light brown background with two roses. One rose is smaller and positioned higher and to the left, while the other is larger and more open, positioned lower and to the right. The word "Gallery" is written in a white, elegant cursive font, centered between the two roses.

Gallery

so sweet, so unforgettable...



080513 NY Memorial Service



NY Memorial Service



Tommy with his trains

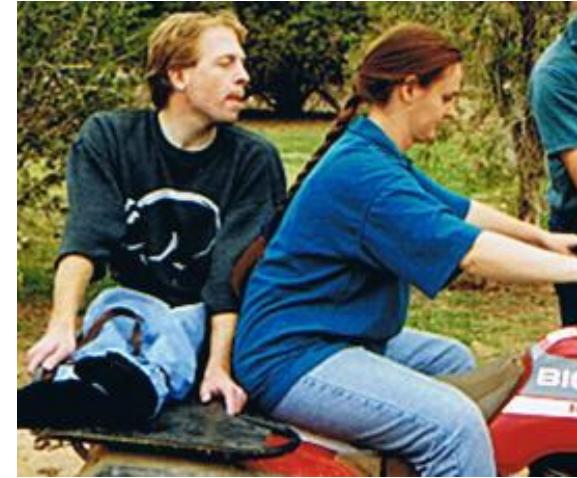


That's where he worked last



Fun run 1981





Family Xmas 2001



PhD Graduation



bei Horsts Abschied

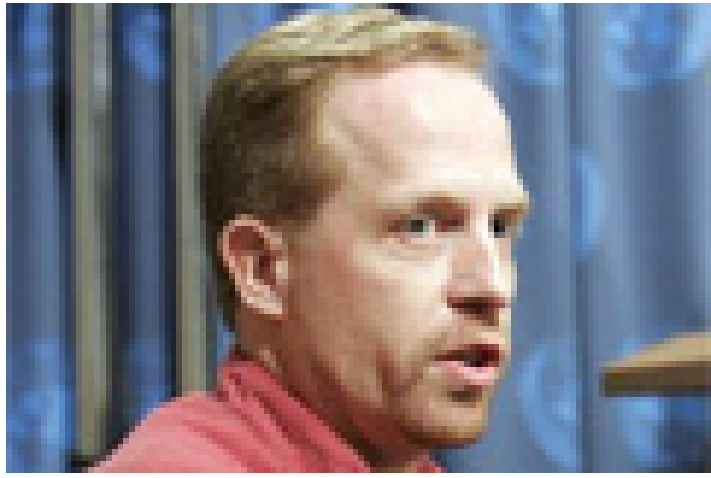


mit Fuerst_Pless_Horn



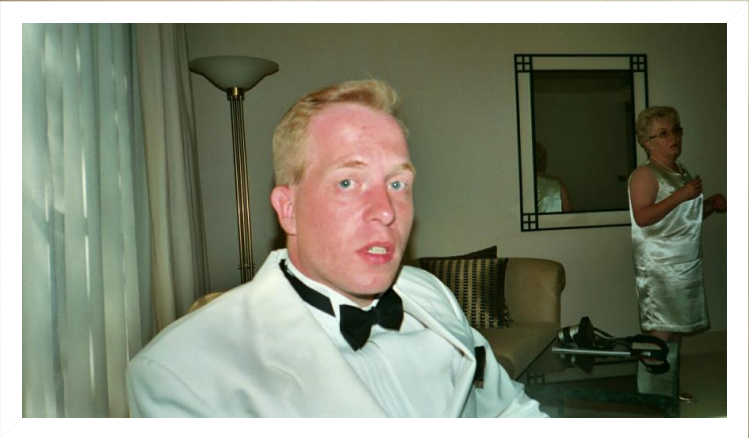






Tom and Basti





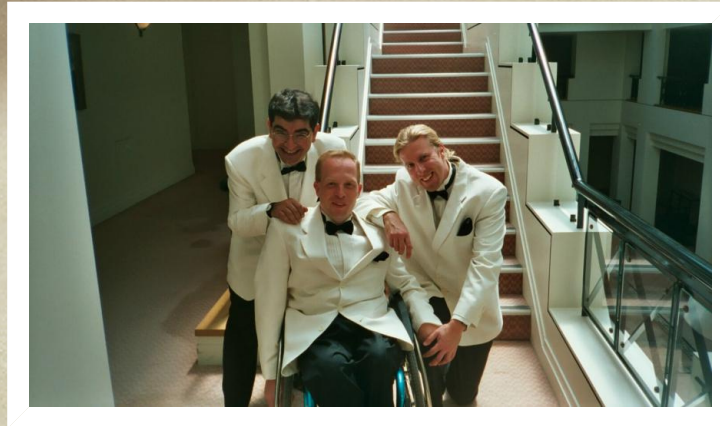




St. Thomas's Tower / London



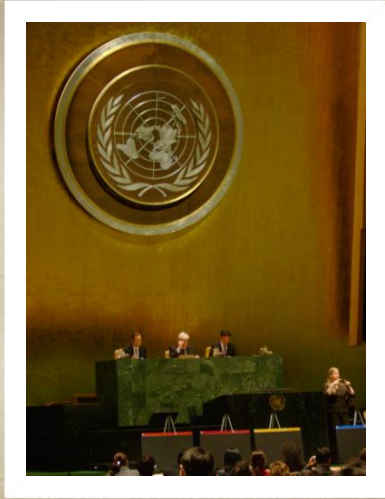
in front of his school in London



Tommy, Gabriel & Phil







080512 CRDP-celebration



NY Memorial Service

The background is a textured, mottled olive-green color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. Both roses are rendered in a light, almost white color, making them stand out against the darker background.

Memorial Candles

our words, your light...

05/12/2008

**Marianne Glas und
Michael Mayr**

*Thomas, wir kennen uns seit
Kindheit an. Wir hatten
gemeinsame Erlebnisse. Du
bleibst für uns unvergessen.*

05/07/2008

**Gudrun, Jacques, Vali
und Lou**

*Thomas, Danke für
unzählige Häschen und
Möhrchen und für die
"Lieblings verwandschaft" ;.*

05/05/2008

Sela Taufa

*Each friend represents a
world in us, a world possibly
not born until they arrive,
and it is only by this meeting
that a new world*

05/05/2008

Adrian Coles

*Dear Thomas, I feel very
privileged to have met you
and shared in some of your
extraordinary time on earth.
Rest in Peace.*

05/04/2008

Jean M. Shum

*People enter our lives each
day. Few leave us with an
everlasting impression.
Thomas is an exception.
Bless you Thomas!*

05/04/2008

Evi Turner & Family

*Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every
day; unseen, unheard, but
always near, still loved +
missed + very dear*

05/04/2008

Raheel Shafiq

*We meet millions in our life
but only the special one
could leave everlasting
memories. God Bless you my
dear friend,*

05/03/2008

**Ulrike, Christian und
Anna**

*Meine Erinnerungen an dich
stammen aus unserer
Kindheit. Wir werden Anna
von dir erzählen. Pfad di
God, Thomas*

05/03/2008

Fatiha

*My dear Tom-Tom This
candle symbolises your
inspiration to us all and the
love we had for you. Rest in
a painless world my friend.*

05/02/2008

Heidi

*Thomas, I'm sure all those
expressions of fond
memories by your friends
and loved ones will help you
to accept your depature.*

05/02/2008

Nayab

*Death is more universal than
life; everyone dies but not
everyone lives, and Thomas
you sure lived.*

05/01/2008

Craig Sayers

*Tommy...Thank you for your
support and
encouragement ... I will miss
you ... Rest in Peace*

05/01/2008

Anna Steyl

My thoughts of thomas are filled with Thomas&Julia& #039;s love for each other, shining from within to glow as the moon does.

05/01/2008

Marian May

We never did do that focus group on the 'sixties. Thanks for your courage and inspiration. So glad we shared the PhD group.

04/30/2008

Silke & Willi

Thomas, we didn't know you very well but our visit in NY was so great for us. You are a special young man. All our love.

04/30/2008

Tanya Halldorsdottir

To Thomas and a life lived, loved, learned and laughed to the full. Rest in peace my friend and inspiration.

04/29/2008

Ngan Nguyen

You've proven that one person can have an impact on millions, including me. Thank you for 18 years of friendship. All my love.

04/29/2008

Dominique & Brendon

Thomas, we didn't know you very well but we remember you as a kind and special young man. May you rest in peace.

04/29/2008

Lyndie MacDonald

Thomas you always made me laugh. I will always remember you with fond memories and good times.

04/29/2008

Anke Green

Lieber Thomas, Ich werde nie vergessen, wie wir in meiner 2. Woche hier die Rampen ausgemessen haben. Du wirst mir sehr fehlen!

04/29/2008

Fernando Barquin

Thomas, THANK YOU!!! for your courage, your stubbornness, your professionalism and most of all for your time with us here!!! No doubt t

04/29/2008

Gitte, Jurgen & Benjamin (Muc)

"The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also only be the beginning." "Bye" Thomas

04/29/2008

Natalie Jackson

Thomas, I will truly miss you. You gave me some really important insights to life. It was a great pleasure to study with you

04/29/2008

Richard Redfern

Thomas, few have achieved so much under such adversity; none have smiled more. Keep on wheeling my friend.

04/28/2008

Megan & Justin

Softly as you leave us, you will never be forgotten. We love you and miss you Tom.

04/28/2008

**Rebecca Williams
(Melbourne)**

To dogs eating our Easter Eggs and laughing so hard we cried. Thanks for the fantastic Childhood Memories never to be forgotten...

04/28/2008

Fabia Yazaki

My dear friend, you have left your important mark in the world. And in our hearts. I thank God for having given you to us.

04/28/2008

Julia Schindlmayr

Be at peace my darling. I love you forever. I will miss you every day for the rest of my life.

04/28/2008

Michael Leader

Thomas, I can't believe that not long ago we were enjoying a beer together in Brussels. You will be missed...

04/28/2008

**Sharon & David
(Canberra)**

"...One crowded hour of glorious life, Is worth an age without a name." Tom achieved so much in his crowded hours.

04/27/2008

Inge Kent

Tom, you have always been my inspiration. I love you, I will miss you. You are forever in my heart.

Two roses are positioned in the upper center of the image. The rose on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color.

Condolences

from the deepest of our hearts...

Maria Reina

For Thomas

May 15, 2008

"Thomas and I were not intimate friends. I did not know his birthday date, we did not spend Christmas together or share any great secret. However, I cannot say that our relationship was just a professional one. In some way, I loved him, as many others in our community, because he was a loving person. Many good things have been said about him, all of them are true, he was full of virtues. But for me, he was outstanding because he could develop a remarkable spirituality. He was not just about 'rights' (even the Convention was one of his passions) but also about acceptance and unity, unity within and with the outside universe. He did not move in this world as somebody that is "entitled to" or whom something was ought to. His presence always told us: 'here I am, ready to contribute, what can I do for you?' At the same time he got sick, I came to know about my illness. Even he was for sure concerned about his future, he dedicated great time to listen to me and even to do some research about my illness, advise and comfort me, as well. I miss the long chats we used to have, working together with him for the Convention, and all these small little things we get without noticing when we are sharing life with lovely people like Thomas. Mostly, we all will miss his generosity, his attitude before life and adversity, his kindness and his wisdom. Thank you, Thomas for being part of our journey, for giving more than asking. We love you."

Leyla Shirvani-Salmassinia

ESM Munich

May 15, 2008

The news of Thomas' early death sincerely saddened me. I was a classmate at the European School Munich and although I last saw him ages ago, I will always remember him as someone who really impressed me with his intelligence, his cheerful and contended attitude towards life. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to Thomas' family.

Kasumi Nishigaya

To Thomas' surviving family members

May 13, 2008

I am so saddened to learn only today that Thomas passed away late April 08. I was a Ph.D student in NCEPH where he was also working. I learned from Thomas how strong and kind a person can be against odds. One day, we moved lots and lots of boxes of books together for Jack. When he realized how tired I was after some hours, he said he could do the rest on his own and "bulldozed" the remaining boxes by his wheelchair. That was a fresh surprise. When he was writing an ESCAP report, he also kindly reviewed some of my reports and articles for inclusion. I am so sad of my finding that he had passed away and would like to send my condolence to his surviving family.

My condolences to Tom's wife, family and friends.

I met Tom first time in the UN during 2003 and he immediately made an everlasting impression with his humor and intellect. Over the time I also learned what kind of a stubborn (in the most positive sense) spirit he had. I was so crushed when I learned this morning that he had passed away.

I know Tom would have something witty to say, I am only able to feel sad yet so privileged to have known him. With his deeds and example he has made a difference to so many of us.

Esa

WHO/Geneva

Dear Inge, Julia and Family

It takes a lifetime to forget someone special and I know that a lifetime will never erase Tommy from your thoughts.

Rejoice in Tommy's life. My prayers are with you.

Love Hilary

**Barbara and Brian
Cather**

Mrs

May 9, 2008

Dearest Tom and Julia,

Life can be so cruel. It doesn't seem so long ago that we were dancing and laughing at your wedding. Always with a smile your memory will live on. God bless.

Marshall Blain

Tom, so long & thank you.

May 6, 2008

Tom, it feels like only a short time ago when we last caught up with him for lunch at Uni House on one of your trips back to Australia,. Was it two years ago? We had a few laughs. I always looked forward to your emails with that dry wit, but not the one that foretold the future. You always left me in awe of your insatiable consumption of life. We each have a journey and a lot of it is not of our own making. My life, and those of countless others around you, are the richer for knowing you. Rest peacefully.

To Julia, my heart goes out to you. May each day be a step towards healing your loss. I wish you well.

Kind regards

Marshall

Sela Taufa

Farewell Great One

May 5, 2008

Dear Julia, hope you find some peace in the knowledge that Thomas's life inspired the best in others. Could not be original but these words by Anais Nin sums up the thoughts I had when I met dear Thomas:

"Each friend represents a world in us,
a world possibly not born until they arrive,
and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born."
(Anais Nin)

Henry Christian

Former Teacher at ESM

May 5, 2008

I was very saddened indeed to hear the news of Thomas Schindlmayr's death. I would like to express my deepest sympathy and send my sincere condolences to Thomas's family at this very difficult time.

During the 1980's, I was Thomas's geography teacher at the European School Munich and also one of the organisers of the Model European Council and Parliament conferences, in which Thomas participated with great success. He took part in everything the school had to offer with enormous energy and enthusiasm. The courage and fortitude he showed in his daily life was an example and inspiration to us all. Although I last saw him about twenty years ago, Thomas was one of those unforgettable people, whom I feel privileged to have known, if only for two short years. He was in all sorts of ways a remarkable young man and one who will be greatly missed by family, friends and everyone who knew him.

In deepest sympathy and with every good wish.

Henry Christian

**United Nations
Information Cen**

Condolences from UN colleagues

May 5, 2008

We are deeply grieved to learn about the sad demise of our colleague Mr. Thomas Schindlmayr. Please accept our heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathies on this sad occasion. May god rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant members of the bereaved family courage and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity.

United Nations Staff in Canberra, Australia

Dianne Proctor

Ms

May 5, 2008

I send my deepest condolences to Julia and Thomas's family. Through my NGO involvement, I worked with Thomas on a few projects. His application to his work, his generosity to our causes and all the care he took to "get things right" impressed me so much.

I remember his imense sense of humour and his warm smile. He was and is an inspiration.

Love

Dianne

Doris & Wilfried

Aufrichtige Anteilnahme

May 4, 2008

Schmidt

Liebe Edith, lieber Wulf, liebe Julia, liebe Ingeborg und lieber Wolfi,

auch wir wollen Euch unser aufrichtiges Mitgefühl und Beileid aussprechen. Wir sind tief betroffen vom Tod Eures ältesten Sohnes und Bruders. Wir haben Thomas nur einige Male kurz gesehen und kennengelernt, als er Euch mal wieder in Australien besucht hatte (1991-1995). Er war ein Vielreisender in Sachen "Anerkennung von Behinderung" im Auftrage der UN unterwegs. Wir waren von ihm fasziniert, wie er mit so viel Schwung und Elan sein eigenes schwieriges Leben - und dann auch noch für die UN diesen, nicht ganz einfachen Job - meisterte. In seiner Gegenwart spürte man die Überzeugung und Begeisterung und den großen Willen, es anzupacken!

Umso trauriger war es für uns, dass er diesen aggressiven Krebs in seinem Körper trotz aller medizinischen Möglichkeiten nicht überleben konnte.

Aber er hat auf dieser Welt deutliche Spuren hinterlassen in unseren Herzen und in seinem Wirken.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe schrieb einmal in einem Brief:

*" Was man tief im Herzen besitzt,
kann man durch den Tod nicht verlieren."*

Thomas, wir vermissen Dich sehr und werden Dich nicht vergessen!

Doris & Wilfried Schmidt
D-53773 Hennef, Germany

Evi Turner

Sorry for your loss

May 4, 2008

To Julia, Edith and Wulf, Inge and Wolfi,

I am so very sorry about your loss. I can't even imagine the pain and sorrow you all must feel in these dark

times! My thoughts are with you and I hope that your happy memories of Thomas will help you to get through it all.

Thomas was a remarkable young man, and I reckon he packed about three lives' worth of activities into one! I have never known anyone so active, and I certainly recall his 'wheelies' - a group of us went to the Raiders Club in Queanbeyan to see Yothu Yindi and it didn't take him long to get 'right into it' - as Inge would say - front wheels off the floor and round and round he would spin. Yes, he even got admiring glances from the group!

He inspired a lot of people, and no doubt will be sorely missed by even more. I am very glad that I was lucky enough to have met Thomas.

Edith, this is especially for you:

He Only Took My Hand

Last night while I was trying to sleep,

my son's voice I did hear.

I opened my eyes and loooked around,

but he did not appear.

He said: "Mom, you've got to listen,

you've got to understand;

God didn't take me from you, Mom,

He only took my hand.

When I called out in pain that night,

the instant that I died,

He reached down and took my hand,

and pulled me to His side.

He pulled me up and saved me

from misery and pain.

My body was hurt so badly inside,

I could never be the same.

My search is really over now,

I've found happiness within,

all the answers to my empty dreams

and all that might have been.

I love you all and miss you so,

and I'll always be nearby.

My body's gone forever,

but my spirit will never die!

And so, you must all go on now,

live one day at a time.

Just understand -

God did not take me from you,

He only took my hand."

- Author unknown

P.S.: Deepest sympathy from my parents as well.

***Peter, Doris & Paxton
ONG***

Colleague & Family Friend

May 4, 2008

Our deepest condolences to you Julia. We are all very saddened to hear of the sad news from you. Thomas has been a very good colleague and friend to our family since we came to know him in 2001. Even after the project he did with Peter in the Australian Defence Force we kept in touch. He never fail to visit us everytime he is in Canberra. He never told us he was not well and was always cheerful. He will be sorely missed by the Ong Family in Canberra, Australia.

As a Buddhist I would like to dedicate this prayer to Thomas:

May this merit to you be

May Happiness be with you.

4 May 2008.

As for you Julia,

We pray for you so you have the strength to take on this difficult period of your life.

**Constantin
v.Mutzenbecher**

Urologist

May 3, 2008

To The family of Thomas:
As his Munich urologist i am full of memories and very said about his cruel end of struggle.
Constantin v.Mutzenbecher
May, 3rd 2008 in Munich

Fatiha

friend

May 3, 2008

My dear Julia and Family We spoke only three weeks ago and I heard Thomas distinctive tone when I calls my name and I am still in denial. I think of you and the pain you are going through. My friendship with Thomas has always been one of learning and respect. We met over 16 years ago an we followed each other to work in the same place. I know that Thomas was happiest in these last few years sharing his life with you Julia. I am thinking from across the seas in Colombo and know that Thomas will continue to inspire us from the world above. My very, very sincere condolences on this very sad and saddening time, With love and prayers. Fatiha

Ursula Berger

Europäische Schule München

May 2, 2008

Liebe Familie von Thomas,

ich möchte Ihnen mein tiefstes Beileid zum Tod von Thomas mitteilen.

Durch puren Zufall habe ich heute die traurige Nachricht durch einen Mitarbeiter der UN erhalten nachdem ich das Internet nach Thomas durchsucht habe. Ich organisiere derzeit ein Klassentreffen für die '88 Abiturienten der Europäischen Schule München. 20 Jahre ist es nun her, dass wir in München unser Abitur gemacht haben, und fast eben so lange haben wir uns nicht mehr gesehen und nur gelegentlich von einander gehört. Auch wenn es nach so langer Zeit fast unmöglich scheint alle ehemaligen Klassenkameraden aufzufinden, wollte ich doch sicher gehen, dass Thomas beim Klassentreffen mit dabei ist, denn er war bestimmt einer unserer aktivsten Mitschüler. 1986 haben wir uns gemeinsam mit anderen Schülern „für Europa“ auf den Weg von Luxemburg nach Brüssel gemacht: Der Staffellauf passte zu Thomas' Lebensmotto, denn es schien, als gebe es fast nichts, was ihn hätte aufhalten können. In den darauf folgenden Jahren hat er sich - wie meine Brüder Maxi und Florian – bei dem für Schüler organisierten Model European Council (MEC) und dem Model United Nations (MUN) beteiligt, und hat dabei wohl auch seine spätere Berufung gefunden ...

Ich habe Thomas immer für seine unglaubliche Energie und seine Aktivität bewundert und ich bin tief beeindruckt von dem, was er bewegt hat.

Ursula Berger

Ellen und Rainer

Fuer Thomas

May 2, 2008

Liebe Edith, lieber Wulf, liebe Julia, liebe Ingeborg, lieber Wolfi,

zum Ableben von Thomas moechten wir Euch unser herzliches Beileid ausdruecken. Wir waren tief beruehrt von dem zwar nicht unerwarteten, dennoch aber dann sehr ploetzlichen und verstoerenden Tod von Thomas. Troestlich, dass er, wie Ihr schreibt, friedlich in seiner Wohnung eingeschlafen ist und ihm wohl noch laengeres Leiden erspart geblieben ist. Viel zu frueh wurde Thomas aus Eurer Mitte gerissen. Es troestet auch nicht, unser ganzes Leben lang zu wissen, dass wir alle eines Tages den gleichen Weg gehen. Dann schliesst sich der Kreis.

Wir hoffen, dass Thomas seinen Frieden in einer anderen Welt gefunden hat, in der wir uns frueher oder spaeter alle wiedersehen. Wir haben Thomas zwar nur einmal persoenlich in Seoul getroffen, aber durch Eure Erzaehlungen war er uns immer gegenwaertig. Seinen Mut, seine Kraft und Entschlossenheit, sein Schicksal zu meistern, haben wir immer bewundert.

Schoen auch, dass er auf immer mit seiner UN-Konvention verbunden sein wird.

Wir wuenschen Euch die Kraft, Thomas' Dahinscheiden als das Ende eines mutig gefuehrten Kampfes fuer die Rechte von Behinderten und gegen Krankheit und Leiden zu sehen und zu ertragen.

Wir umarmen Euch
Eure Ellen und Rainer

**Shaun & Janene
Downey**

Family of Julia

May 2, 2008

We were deeply saddened for Julia, Thomas and Julia's families and for everyone who knew Thomas when we heard the news.

Our heartfelt condolences to everyone who has been touched by this sad loss.

Shaun & Janene Downey

Craig Sayers

Lasting memories of Thomas

May 1, 2008

Thomas, I met you 27 years ago and I will never forget our first meeting at the Austin Hospital. Over the years I have seen you tackle many challenges and succeed. Pushing your racing wheelchair around Collingwood Harriers, lap after lap for 24 hours & not sleeping. I take my hat off to you for your tenacity and your approach to life. No challenges stood in your way and you have left a lasting impression with me. Thank you Thomas

**Michael & Elizabeth
Paxson**

Friends of Ngan

April 30, 2008

We send our condolences to Julia and Thomas' family. Although we didn't have the opportunity to meet

Tom, we caught beautiful snapshots of his life, his love for Julia, and his unstoppable energy in his endeavors to empower the lives of people with disabilities, through his dear friend, Ngan. May you rest in peace and continue to shine your light on us all.

Lynn Kirk-Baldock

April 30, 2008

Dear Julia, Carolynne and the Schindlmayr family,

We are so sorry for your tragic loss - please accept our heartfelt condolences.

Lynn, Sam, Jenna, Elliot xxxx

Joop Theunissen

UN colleague

April 30, 2008

Dear Julia, parents and friends of Thomas,

When our director shared the news of Thomas' passing, he mentioned Thomas's great stubbornness in the work he was doing. This is one quality that has inspired me from his life: the need to PERSIST in doing what you believe in, which is very important while working for the UN. I thank Thomas for having shown the way to his colleagues in doing that.

I wish you all the strength in the difficult period ahead.

Joop.

Jacob Malungo

April 30, 2008

I am sending my deepest condolences over the death of Dr Thomas Schindlmayr. He was so dear to me and others, and we shared great moments together when I was doing my PhD at the ANU.

Fabrizio Carmignani

NCE

April 30, 2008

I would like to express my deepest condolences to Thomas' family. I met Thomas in 2002 in New York for a training course. We were a group of 20 or so NCE, coming from all over the world. We had great time and we established a network that allowed us to stay in touch after returning to our duty stations. I will always remember Thomas as a very energetic person, he made us laugh with his sharp sense of humor and talking and chatting with him was a pleasure. He provided inspiration with his intellectual excellence. I am sorry I cannot be present in person at the Memorial services, but my thoughts and my prayers are for his wife and all of his family.

Fabrizio Carmignani

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

Yaounde Cameroon

Chibwe Lwamba

Inspiration

April 29, 2008

My deepest sympathy and condolences to Thomas' wife and family. Thomas was such an inspiration and model to most of us. A combination of his humour, intellect and friendliness is what some of us will remember him for. Flowers may wither but our fond memories of him will never.

Lusaka-Zambia

Anke Green

United Nations

April 29, 2008

I will miss Thomas' smile and his energy very much! Although we never worked directly together, I so enjoyed meeting him in the corridors or the elevator, seeing his smiling face and chatting for a few minutes. I will never forget how in my second week at the UN, he asked me to go across the street with him and measure the steepness of the ramps in the Secretariat building. We had a lot of fun although we realised that all ramps were too steep to be declared accessible.

Thomas will be greatly missed! My deepest condolences to his family!

Broddi Sigurdarson

United Nations

April 29, 2008

I joined the UN at about the same time as Thomas did, and it is with great sadness that I am writing this now. I was lucky enough to work closely with Thomas for a short while and it didn't take long to see that he was a remarkably intelligent man on top of being just a great guy. He really impressed me with his intellect, knowledge and passion for the work he did. It was always such a pleasure to visit him in his office to compare ideas and get his opinion on pretty much anything. I'll miss him a lot.

My deepest condolences to his family.

Broddi

***Elisabeth Philip
TurnbullBrown***

Thomas in New York

April 29, 2008

We were so sad to hear the news of Thomas passing. Our thoughts are with Julia and the families of Thomas and Julia at this time.

Thomas was such a character with a cheeky sense of humour which was a breath of fresh air at the UN which can often be a very stuffy place. He was well known and respected by so many at the UN and really achieved positive results particularly in his work with the Covention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thomas was also a great member of the "Aussies at the UN" gang. We have fun memories of him hitting at 4 at the Boxing Day test held in Brooklyn. He was also a demon on the dance floor and partied hard at Ram and Renatas apartment on many an occassion.

We will miss you Thomas and all our future Aussie gatherings will have a hole that can never be filled.

Emanuela Calabrini

United Nations

April 29, 2008

Although I had seen many times Thomas in UN DESA, where we both worked, it was only last year in Ghent, Belgium, that I got to know him at the ACUNS Summer Workshop. I am glad I had the opportunity to meet Thomas because he seemed to be so strong and independent, with a good sense of humour and very committed to his work. He was an

inspiration for all of us. I remember him fondly and want to send my condolences to his family. I hope the fond memories will help overcome the great pain his family and friends feel for such a terrible loss.

Sonia Smallacombe

United Nations

April 29, 2008

I was saddened to hear about Thomas' passing. I met him within the first month of starting work at the United Nations and as a fellow Aussie (I only thought of him as an Aussie) we shared many stories about home. I will never forget he once asked me how I felt being an indigenous person working in an indigenous area of the UN because he was in a wheel chair working in disabilities. We shared the same thoughts about the fusion between ourselves and our work and how we felt we were working 24/7. We also shared some laughs about how I was going to bring in a treat for my colleagues and it would be vegemite sandwiches.

I believe when we pass on we have a journey to complete, so travel well my friend.

My thoughts are with Thomas' family, especially Julia.

Soniaxxxx

Christoph Burchard

April 29, 2008

Dear Schindlmayr Family.

My parents informed me about Thomas' passing away. Please accept my most sincere condolences.

Christoph Burchard

Francine Aitken

Mrs

April 29, 2008

Dr Tom. Since knowing you.

I have never looked at the width of a door way in the same way, counted stairs, or looked for ramps.

You see the difference you make to peoples lives!

You have a beautiful smile, a warm heart, great humour and a fantastic choice of wife.

Dear Julia, our love and hugs are with you.

Francine, Greg, Sasha and Jupiter

Neil & Marg Shilton

Tommy

April 29, 2008

We send out thoughts of love to Julia, Wulf, Edith, Inge and Wulfi on the loss of your partner, son and brother.

Unfortunately we are unable to be with you on 18th May.

Libor Stloukal

My deepest sympathy

April 29, 2008

I am very saddened to learn about Thomas's passing. My thoughts are with his family. Please accept my condolences.

***Gitte, Jurgen &
Benjamin***

Liebe Edith, Wulf, Ingeborg und Wolfi

April 29, 2008

Auf diesem Wege senden wir Euch unsere aufrichtige Anteilnahme.

Wir waren die letzten Wochen immer in Gedanken bei Euch. Bleibt stark.

Thomas war ein sehr aussergewoehnlicher und faszinierender junger Mann,

der als Beispiel fuer viele gelten sollte... Wir werden ihn immer in Erinnerung behalten.

Liebe Gruesse an Euch alle!

Gordon Carmichael

Dr

April 28, 2008

Thomas, I was greatly saddened to learn recently of your situation, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to those closest to you on your passing. I always had the greatest admiration for the way you dealt with the adversity life brought you, and it sounds as though you continued to display that courage to the end. I respected your friendliness, your intellect, and the determination with which you pursued your goals, and I thank you for introducing me, a technological pedant, to googling those years ago. I regret it will not be

possible for me to attend the memorial service in Canberra, but I shall be there in spirit.

Rest in peace

United Nations

Spokesperson

April 28, 2008

In the "Highlight of the Noon Briefing, Monday, 28 April, 2008", the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, United Nations, made the following announcement:

Disability Body mourns Death of Expert:

It is with deep sadness that the Secretariat for the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities announces the death of the UN disability expert **Thomas**

Schindlmayr, who passed away on Saturday after a long illness. He battled this illness with great strength, a quality that he brought to everything he did and accomplished.

***Schindlmayr & Kent
family***

Canberra Times Notice

April 28, 2008

Dr Thomas Markus Schindlmayr

10. 07.69 – 26.04.08

Tommy passed away in New York. His life was magnificent, he was an inspiration to many, and he has left a lasting legacy through promoting the rights of the disabled.

He was loved by many and loving towards many in return. His family Julia, Edith, Wulf, Inge and Wolfi will miss him and remember him always.

A memorial service will be held at Googong on 18th May at 11am. 6299-0540

Ivan Hanigan

I have very fond memories of Thomas

April 28, 2008

I am very sorry to hear this. I had an office close to Thomas at the ANU in Canberra and I got a lot out of the discussions I had with him. I am very thankful I have these fond memories.

Karin und Uli Burchard

Thomas in liebevoller Erinnerung

April 28, 2008

Liebe Edith, lieber Wulf,

liebe Julia, Ingeborg und Wolfi,

die Nachricht vom Tode Eures lieben Thomas haben wir mit großer Trauer erhalten.

Wir möchten Euch von Herzen unser tiefes Mitgefühl aussprechen.

Wir sind sehr betroffen über den Verlust eines so wertvollen und liebenswerten Menschen und werden Thomas immer liebevoll in Erinnerung behalten.

Wir bewundern Euch dafür, wie Ihr ihm in den vergangenen Monaten zur Seite gestanden habt.

Wir sind in dieser schweren Zeit in Gedanken bei Euch.

Mit stiller Anteilnahme

Karin und Uli

A Friend

Contratulations

April 28, 2008

No condolences here but congratulations on a truly amazing life...

Congratulations to two awesome parents who fathered and nurtured an Angel...

Contratulations to two amazing siblings who were there with endless love and adventure every step of the way.

Congratulations to a beautiful wife, partner and soul mate who shared all the experiences life and love had on offer.

Congratulations to many, many friends...all of them the very best of friends who would climb mountains, cross deserts and swim oceans just to be with you....

And most of all congratulations **Tommy** for a thousand lives lived in one single serving...

We all love you immensely...you WILL live forever...and that's a fact..

Fabia Yazaki

A life example

April 28, 2008

My deepest sympathy to dear Julia and to Tom's family. Tom was a true friend, and a real scholar in everything he did. He was my 'relationship-psychology advisor', always lending a friendly ear, making me reflect and laugh. Such a zest for life, which he lived intensely. Legacy? Dear Tom, you leave behind a legacy greater than most men ever will (may I remind you of the success of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?). You leave with friends and family the memories of moments we had with you, which we will forever cherish. May you rest in peace, my dear friend, at a special place God reserves for special people like you. And we will carry on the example of life you have given us.

Terry and Val Hull

Vale

April 28, 2008

Thomas will be missed for his humour, gentle critical capacity, and truly outstanding sense of humanity. These qualities made him the best of friends, and a warm companion. All his many friends regret the difficulties of his passing and feel the sting of personal loss. We can all learn from his wonderful optimism and sense of joy.

Goodbye dear friend.

***Heide and David
Watson***

Thomas, ein wunderbarer Mensch

April 28, 2008

liebe Edith, lieber Wulf,

liebe Julia, Ingeborg und Wolfi,

ich bin zutiefst traurig, dass Thomas gestorben ist und moechte Euch mein herzliches Beileid aussprechen. Einen Sohn,Ehemann und Bruder zu verlieren ist furchtbar tragisch und muss sehr sehr weh tun. Ich bewundere Euch alle mit welcher Aufopferung, unermuedlichen Fuersorge und Liebe Ihr Thomas in den vergangenen Monaten begleitet habt.

Ich habe Thomas durch seine Eltern, unsere lieben Freunde, kennengelernt und war immer hoechst erstaunt, was Thomas als Rollstuhlfahrer alles geleistet hat. Sein Mut,sein starker Wille,sein Humor, seine herausragenden akademischen und beruflichen Leistungen und nicht zuletzt seine totale Unabhaengigkeit haben mich stets sehr beeindruckt. Ich werde Thomas und Julia's Hochzeit nie vergessen. Besonders lebhaft ist mir der "bridal valse" in Erinnerung, der mir Traenen in die Augen trieb.

David und ich sind in Gedanken bei Euch und werden Thomas Andenken in hohen Ehren halten.

Mit stillen Gruessen,

Heide und David

John Bryant

Mr

April 28, 2008

Tom was a rare combination of brains, humour, compassion, insight, and humility. Condolences to Julia and to the rest of the family for your tragic loss.

Stephanie Pfeiffer

Dearly missed

April 28, 2008

To Tom,

I will always remember your beautiful smile and happy attitude towards life .. You will be dearly missed ..

Stephanie

jenny harper

mrs

April 28, 2008

Our deepest sympathies to dear Julia and to Tom's and Julia's families - I feel honoured to have known Tom and I know he will be sorely missed.

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more open, showing more of its petals. The roses are rendered in a slightly darker shade than the background, giving them a subtle, embossed appearance.

Memories

all the gray you turned into colors...

David Lucas



FROM THE BALMAINERS

For many years Thomas occupied an office at 20 Balmain Crescent on the Australian National University campus. We remember his unfailing courtesy, helpfulness, industry and energy, and his efforts to advocate improved disabled amenities so that others could benefit. His resilience was such that he seemed indestructible. We also remember his wry sense of humour.

Thomas was the Hero of Balmain. Yet he was never awarded the highly coveted degree of Balmainae Baccalaureus, in spite of his sterling service as supernumerary night security guard, photocopier fixer and Googlemeister. When working late he was a radio Quiz show whizz, googling the answers to trivia questions and phoning them in.

He was also the Preserver of the 20 Balmain Traditions, several of which were created by him. Most notable were the regular trips to Happy's Chinese restaurant which could only be approached by a steep and narrow L-shaped staircase. The velocity of his wheelchair on the Schindlmayrstrasse (see John Bryant's 'Memory') and on the lawn was quite remarkable, to the extent that he was disqualified from the T-shirt competition for doing acrobatics during the parade. Yet at the Demography 50th anniversary dinner awards he was amongst the nominees for his 3 frog T-shirt illustrating qualitative data collection (see not, hear not and say not).

His wedding to Julia was a memorable and enjoyable event. Although the Balmainers had some very distinguished people from different continents at their table, the comedian/compere did not know their names and mistakenly alleged that they included Eddy Murphy, General and Mrs Rambuka, the Mad Professor and Indian cricket star Laxman. After they moved to New York, Thomas and Julia always came for afternoon tea at 20 Balmain whenever they came back to Canberra. We think that it would be most

fitting if our historic bungalow came to be known as the Thomas Schindlmayr Building.

Jim Campbell

I was one of Thomas's teachers at the European School in Munich or rather, and there is a difference, I was one of the teachers in the school at the time when he was there. The school was not used to pupils with disabilities and Thomas quickly made us aware of this, not by moaning but by explaining: I remember one session in the gym when he managed to borrow/purloin plenty of wheelchairs and taught us how to play basketball from a new perspective. He took part in everything - sixth form trips to Italy which were not exactly sedentary or static, and the Model European Council where he sharpened his political skills. Thomas showed his peers and teachers how to enjoy life and my first response when I think of him is to smile because that was what he always managed to make me do. I last saw him nearly 20 years ago when he and Lisa Davies came to visit us in Oxford and it was clear he was spreading his wings. The news of his death, and the messages about him, have brought back to me the picture of someone who knew how to enjoy life and to look for new horizons. I send my best wishes to his family and to Julia whom I do not know and I thank you, Thomas, for all that you gave to those who knew you.

Jean Shum

Thomas Schindlmayr A blessing to human-kind
He touched the lives of millions
With his sweet and gentle shine
His compassion for all to live equally,
led him on a mission
Paving a better life for those who needed
some assistance. Thomas became the voice
for many who are disabled
Creating a better life for those that
were unable
Bless you Thomas
For your beauty and grace
For touching the heart of millions
For making this world a better place
The memories of you shall live in our hearts
and minds
Along with your legacy of good work
To human-kind
Jean Shum 5/08

Phil

There are so, so many memories and like many of us I could fill several books with them but for now let me just say that wherever I was and whichever country I was in, if I was with our wonderful Tommy I was home.

Heidrun van der Venne

I got to know Thomas when he was a small boy and came to visit his father in his office, where I also worked. Thomas was interested in stamps and I used to collect the stamps from the office mail for him. After he had received his stamps, Thomas often made a cup of coffee for me and proudly brought it in his wheel chair to my desk without spilling a drop! I also have memories of those “Wheelatons” (Wheelchair Marathons); sometimes it was already dark and cold and most people had gone home, but Thomas kept pushing his wheelchair, continuously adding more laps to his total score and it was impossible to persuade him to finish and go home. The “Wheelatons” were also a fundraising event and at one occasion colleagues put money on each round round Thomas would push - they had, however, no idea how much endurance he had. I think his father was slightly embarrassed when he collected the money the next day. Thomas gave a demonstration of his willpower and endurance already at an early age!

Inge

Some gorgeous memories are coming back to me about our childhood together:

- * When he was in bed, I would take away his chair and make him stay there.
- * He and his younger brother Wolfi would always gang up on me in the car...that is until mum made them be quiet.....
- * He dreamt once that he ate a giant marshmallow and the next morning his pillow was gone.
- * He was an awesome swimmer, basketball player and wheelchair marathon pusher.
- * He was a chick magnet- all he had to do was go into the middle of the dance floor, lift those front wheels,

do his wheelie dancing and then he was surrounded by the girls.....how Julia managed to get him in the end???????

*He would make enormous mugs of hot tea simply so that he could wrap his long fingers around them to keep his hands warm.

* When he was studying, he would put his lamp on his head as if to improve the functionings of his brain.

*When we spent time at our holiday house at lake Eildon, dad would tow him on a board at the back of the boat. He did that for hours. He would sing that horrible holiday song in the car 'Hooray, hooray we're in Goughs Bay'.

*He broke his leg, when he got on a plane to see Haileys Comet.

*He would ride up and down escalators scaring the hell out of everyone watching him.....

*We use to pretend that we were 'Monkey' from the TV show and wave around our magic stick.

So many memories, so many good times.....I love you Tommy. Thank you.

Dr. Wulf-Eike Schindlmayr

My Son

Quoting from the speech i gave him, his Julia and his guests at his wedding dinner on 6th. January, 2002 in Old Parliament House in Canberra:

".....so now I would like to shed some light on those events that helped or forced the development of Thomas into the loveable panic-button-pressing, generous and penny-pinching genius that we are giving away today .

Much to his annoyance until recently, Thomas was born in Germany just a few months before we ventured to Australia in search of uranium and a good marriage, and he was soon whisked away from wet Manly Beach to dry Alice Springs. There, with father being out bush for weeks on end, little Thomas soon learned to take lead responsibilities in the paddle pool behind our house, in pulling the tails of dogs and cats, and in taking Mum to the weekly drive-in, where he would discourage her from watching cruel Tom& Jerry by heavy snoring, but enhance her enjoyment of John Wayne Westerns by loudly explaining the plots and shots to her.

He was always smiling, happy and either a chatterbox or quietly content to play Lego, doggedly trying to work up to his early ambition to become an "airplane driver" - and he kept producing some beautiful aircraft models that would put an Airbus 860 to shame.

He started and loved "Kindy" in Alice Springs and happily received and played with his first life toy, little Ingeborg, in early 1973.

All this suddenly changed when he was just 4 years of age with our car accident, that left him a paraplegic. For medical reasons we moved to Adelaide and then on to Melbourne in 1974.

In several ways Melbourne was a lucky choice: first of all, the Austin Hospital in Heidelberg was the most experienced Spinal Unit in Australia at the time and it catered well for his physical and medical needs over the years.

Secondly, we were very lucky to find at Eltham College a young and progressive school, that was prepared to incorporate Thomas' needs in its planning for construction and extension. There, together with his siblings, he grew up all the way from preschool to year 10 in a learning environment tailored to his needs and to individuality.

Thomas, never much of an artist even today, soon gave away the drawing and building of aircraft to concentrate instead on memorising junk knowledge and essential knowledge alike with such a vigor, that soon he drove both teachers and us parents mad with such annoyingly challenging question as "What is the capital of Bhutan?" or "What is the national anthem of San Marino?" or, if all else failed, an easy "What was the former name of Myanmar?". Luckily -for the sake of our sanity- he had some weak spots, too, like the daily fitsover the spelling of simple words like "Namibia" or "Calder Highway".

But most of all Melbourne was a lucky choice, because it was the base and home of the PARAVICS, the Paraplegic Sports Club of Victoria. Here, at the Clifton Hill oval, starting from the age of 8 years, Thomas became part of a spirit of equally handicapped that strived to live with and outwit disability through individual and competitive sports. While enjoying physical fitness, testing the thresholds of his body's performance and building up strength of ambition and willpower, of endurance and tenacity, he foremost gained tremendous self-confidence in his own, near unlimited abilities. To give just a few examples: at 13 Thomas was the first Australian under 20 (as he corrected me just recently) to push 100 miles within 24 hours, and he was at one point Australian Junior Champion in tabletennis and swimming.

Whilst later, after leaving Australia, sport never again featured much in his life, the self confidence and the conviction, that he could do anything (such as elephant riding and white water rafting in Nepal, tandem parajumping for fund raising purposes or driving his own car) if he just wanted to, stayed with him and - I really hope- will stay with him for the many years to come.

Of course, sport achievements alone could not fully compensate for all the difficulties in coming to terms with the limits imposed by his disability, and there were broody times of fierce competition between siblings for parental TLC.

In 1986, the collapse of the uranium market forced us to seek greener fields back in Germany, a country known to our children only from short holidays over the years as the "land of the many relatives".

Thomas tried in vain to delay departure from Australia by breaking his leg on a Special flight to watch Halley's Comet 11,000 feet up in the air,

but once in Germany, he waffled his way into jumping one year at the **European School** in **Munich** and he ended up with the prestigious **European Baccalaureate** in mid-1988.

One year of studies of Economics at the overcrowded Munich University was enough for him: he left us behind in 1989 and disappeared into London's mysterious ways of life -reportedly full of girls, fun and the hard work of fending for himself (at least occasionally when no other cook was on hand).

We know little of his conduct and studies at **SOAS** and the **LSE**, or of his experiences, successes, deprivations and disappointment and glamour times during those years of studies and work at the **IPPF**, but many a good and lasting friendship was forged then.

We only met up with Thomas again in Canberra when he decided to take advantage of our diplomatic posting there: especially to Mum's delight, he moved in with us again in 1993 and started his PhD in Demography at the ANU. Only then -and only bit by bit over time- did we learn about his best kept secret, Julia:

allegedly Aussie-born with strong European affiliations.

Eventually mysterious Julia came to Canberra to live with us for a while, then settled down next door to us, just before we had to return to Germany in 1996.

Julia even put her head straight into the lion's den itself, when she alone paid us a visit in Germany to be ogled at by those numerous relatives, and she passed that torrid test with brave smiles and flying colors. We certainly took her into our folds there and then.

Earlier this year (2001), having topped his PhD in Demography with a Master in International Law and after various contract work (such as with the Australian Defence Department) and publications Thomas nearly despaired of ever finding

a job; a short time later he suddenly had difficulties fending off too many offers all at the same time from the EU and the United Nations.

Now, that he has decided to go to New York and - in the same stride finally take on new responsibilities in marriage, we wish him and Julia all the best for their future together; we wish them the strengthto stick it out together through thick and thin as it may come, and never stop respecting and loving each other."

PS (29.4.2008): They have done just that, even if towards the end it came rather thinner than thicker.

Edith Schindlmayr



Mein geliebter Thomas,

Du wirst von uns gehen, ohne dass ich Dir noch einmal selbst sagen kann, wie sehr ich Dich liebe.

Du wirst in ein schöneres, besseres Leben gehen: da wirst Du nicht mehr leiden müssen, wirst wieder gehen können und vielleicht die Länder bewundern, die Du noch nicht gesehen hast. Es werden Menschen auf Dich warten, die Dich lieben, und Du wirst frei sein.

Es tut mir unendlich weh, nicht noch einmal in Deine blauen Augen schauen, nicht mehr Deine Hände halten und küssen zu können, nicht mehr Dein Gesicht in meinen Händen spüren, Dich nicht mehr umarmen und drücken zu dürfen.

Wann und wo Du auch immer sein wirst: meine Liebe, meine Kraft und mein Licht werden Dich begleiten und beschützen.

Ich liebe Dich so sehr

Deine Mutter

John Bryant

There must be many people with happy memories of time chatting with Thomas at Balmain Cres, next to Schindlmayrstrasse (the wooden ramp leading down to the picnic table.)

Ren and Ram Sivacolundhu



Tom, We'll never forget our fun times with you, especially our first "aussie christmas" in New York playing cricket in Brooklyn to the amusement of many onlookers. New Year's Eve celebrations with you were particularly dangerous - we remember when ren ended up in the emergency room on New Year's Day after trying to keep up with you on the dance floor! We never got over the fluke of having met you at University in Canberra and then bumping into you years later in the bank queue at the UN - we feel so lucky to have had a chance to spend precious time with you on two continents. I will always remember the way you handled the journos in Room 226 at the UN, they really listened to you and you made them care about

the issues. And thanks to you, people in wheelchairs can now have a seat at the podium! Your speech in the GA on the Holocaust Memorial was another amazing memory, surely counting among the best the room has heard. You truly were an inspiration to everyone who crossed paths with you professionally or socially and through your work at the UN you have even touched lives of people who never met you and will never meet you, but who will benefit from your dedication to seeing the rights of people with disabilities recognised. We love you Tom and we'll miss you dearly. Ren and Ram

Mili KAITANI

Thomas,

I will always remember the *special treatments* (as you always say) we get when traveling together internationally. The special attention for being either the first or the last to board or disembark from the planes.

You were my mento and my companion in the nights at 20 Balmain when I was trying to work on my thesis.

The stories and informations you spared with me were always fruitful ones and encouraging.

The conversions during afternoon tea at 20 Balmain is one thing you never forget even when you make your short visits to Canberra.

Your wedding day will always be in my memories as it was a special day for the Balmain crowd.

My family Sam, Ana, and myself will never forget you. You will always be in our thoughts.

Mili

The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color. In the upper right quadrant, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. Both roses are rendered in a light, almost white tone, making them stand out against the darker background.

Life Story

every hour, every thought, every smile...

July 10, 1969

Born in **Munich** on **July 10, 1969**.

January 1, 2006



understood that his own disability drew attention to the issue when he spoke on behalf of the UN's work on disability issues, he never used it to evoke pity. True to the letter and spirit of the Convention, Thomas simply worked to be treated and respected on an equal basis with others. In his affable, amiable, and yet persistent style, he made his audiences entirely comfortable. Afterwards, people were left impressed with his professional knowledge and dedication, not with the fact that he had a disability.

Thomas, born in Germany, lived in Australia and came to the UN in 2003. He is survived by his wife, Julia, mother, father, brother and sister. At the UN, he is missed already.

A memorial service will be held for Thomas on 13 May from 1-2 p.m. at the Church Center. All are welcome.

January 1, 2006



UN Update: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Source: FPA Features
- Author: Pat Orvis

Was it cruel irony or just one more obstacle Thomas Schindlmayr had to face in realizing the dream he had worked so hard to achieve when he died of cancer at age 38 on Saturday, April 26th, one week to the day before the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities went into effect? The convention guarantees the rights of some 650 million worldwide who, like its champion Schindlmayr, live with a disability.

Almost single-handedly it seemed, the 38-year old lawyer who was born in Germany, lived in Australia and arrived at the U.N. in 2003, kept disability issues moving forward until the benchmark convention was first adopted by the General Assembly on Dec. 13, 2006.

The convention was opened for signature and ratification by the world body's 192 member countries on March 30, 2007, and by Saturday, May 3, had received the support of enough countries to enter into force.

This success and speed with which the convention was realized owes much credit to Schindlmayr. Each time disabilities issues

made the U.N. agenda, the articulate skill with which he argued the practical reasons persons with disabilities should have the protection such a convention now offers was just too reasonable. As he once explained to this U.N. correspondent in an interview,

"We are seeking no new rights. We already have the same rights everyone else has. We just want to be able to use them along with everyone else."

For example, he said, "We have the right to vote, but if you're blind and can't take someone into the voting booth with you, then you can't exercise that right. You may have the right to freedom of movement, but if you can't enter a building with a wheelchair, you do not have freedom of movement."

A disabilities expert who had used a wheelchair for 34 years of his life following injuries in a car accident at age 4 he modestly identified himself in the op-ed pieces he wrote for the International Herald Tribune, Turkish Daily News, South China Morning Post and other international publications with: "Thomas Schindlmayr works for the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs on disability issues."

But he could also be blunt in criticizing fellow writers who missed the point -- as when this correspondent mistakenly wrote of Schindlmayr that, regardless of weather or season and the fact his wheelchair was the simple, old-fashioned kind that must be powered by hand, he, "Plunges right into rush hour traffic," wheeling his way "five blocks up First Avenue every morning to the United Nations at 42nd Street."

Seems it was more like 20 blocks to the U.N. from where he lived downtown, with some serious inclines to negotiate along the way.

Indeed, Schindlmayr would be annoyed it's taking so long here to get to the part about the convention's being not only the first new human rights treaty of the 21st Century but, in the words of New Zealand's former U.N. ambassador, Don MacKay, who chaired the drafting committee, it is also the "first international treaty that cuts across all populations," rather than focusing, say, on children, or indigenous peoples.

Since March 30, 2007, the treaty has been signed by 127 of the world body's 192 countries and ratified by 25. It needed to be ratified by only 20 countries before it could take effect.

Jamaica takes pride in being the first country to ratify the convention, while on April 3, Ecuador became the 20th, thus allowing the convention to enter into force.

A so-called "optional protocol," also took effect on May 3, allowing individuals and groups to petition for relief under the convention.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called the new global convention, "A powerful tool to eradicate the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities,"

"It is a historic moment," he said, "in our quest for realization of the universal human rights for all persons, creating a fully inclusive

society for all."

Meantime, the headline in an in-house U.N. publication said it all for Schindlmayr's bereaved friends and former colleagues here:

"Celebrating a Life that Opened Public Buildings to People with Disabilities."

January 1, 2008

Thomas's Career summary
(written by Thomas)

My background focuses on socioeconomic concerns, particularly those related to developing countries and marginalised groups. I have qualifications in demography, business management, geography, economics and international law, as well as experience in research, formulating and analysing policies, and implementing projects.

Strengths

Research, analysis and proposal development
Ability to administer, organise and co-ordinate large-scale projects effectively
Communication, oral and written
Formulation and implementation of policies
Relevant international experience in development issues

Employment

2006 May - Social Affairs Officer. Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Division for Social Policy and Development, **Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations**, New York, United States.

Devise and undertake media activities to disseminate information on the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* during the final negotiation session, and the signature event in March 2007. Organise events for the International Day of Disabled Persons 2006. Assist in the logistics of conferences. Undertake research on disability and legal questions.

2005- October-April 2006. Associate Social Affairs officer. Global Programme on Disability. Division for Social Policy and Development, **Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations, New York, United States.**

Organised events associated with the International Day of Disabled Persons 2005. Developed guidelines for the logo and jingle competition. Devised a media strategy for the implementation of the convention.

2004 October-October 2005. Associate Social Affairs Officer. Generational Issues and Integration Section. Division for Social Policy and Development, **Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations, New York, United States.**

Provided research for *Report on the World Social Situation 2005*, focusing on intergenerational questions and social integration. Instigated and organised workshop attended by 12 participants on social integration on 'Towards an inclusive society: Shaping the policy process'. Devised the concept of 'inclusive policy processes' and wrote discussion paper on the topic.

2003 February-October 2004. Associate Population Affairs Officer. Population Policy Section, Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, New York, United States.

Monitored and analysed population policies for countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Central Europe and North America. Wrote chapters on international migration, population policies before 1974 and HIV/AIDS for publication.

2002 August-February 2003. Consultant. **Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations, Bangkok, Thailand.**

Wrote the first draft of the theme study on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Asia-Pacific region for presentation at the 59th Commission Session.

July-September. Consultant. **Australian Defence Organisation (ADO), Canberra, Australia.**

Reviewed and revised personnel trends for FY 2001-2002 and wrote the report *Defence Personnel Environment Scan: Occasional Paper 1*. Report released May 2003.

2001 May-February 2003. Researcher. Health Transition Centre. National Centre for Epidemiology and Population

Health. **Australian National University (ANU)**, Canberra, Australia.

Collaborated with Emeritus Prof. John C. Caldwell on such topics as AIDS in Africa, AIDS and family planning programmes, historical estimates of world population and the reasons for the Western fertility decline.

March. Facilitator. Regional Seminar on Population and Development, **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**, Noumea, New Caledonia.

2000 October-July 2001. Principal Researcher. Personnel Environment Scan 2020 Project. **Australian Defence Organisation**, Canberra, Australia.

The purpose of this study was to assess the demographic and economic environment affecting defence force personnel now and over the next twenty years. The report was devised as an initial step to developing a Defence Strategic Human Resource plan, becoming a key policy document for personnel planning.

April-October. Wildlife Officer. **Department of Environment and Heritage**, Canberra, Australia.

Implemented the *Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act (1982)* in relation to items seized at Australian points of entry. Performed financial and other administrative tasks, including the use of various databases.

1999 December–February 2003. Program visitor, Demography Program, **Australian National University**, Canberra, Australia.

1999 June-July. Wrote the community profiles for the Germany, Netherlands and Poland-born in Australia for the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, **Australian National University**, Canberra, Australia.

Using 1996 census data, I wrote a report on the current socioeconomic characteristics for each of the three community groups, as part of the ANU team that produced twenty such profiles. These reports were sold through Australian government bookstores.

1998 May-November. Administrator and research assistant, Asian Crisis Project, **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/ Australian National University**, Canberra, Australia.

This work involved organising and facilitating conferences in Bangkok (Oct 98) and Jakarta (Jul 98) for members of a study group comprised of ANU academics, international consultants, as well as academics and government officials from four Southeast Asian states. Responsible for administering the project's US\$ 250,000 budget, as well as liaising with UNFPA New York, UNFPA representatives in Southeast Asia, Government bureaucrats, ANU management and members of the study team. Research activities focused on staying abreast of rapidly changing events primarily through internet searches. I was also responsible for the final editing of the report before submission to UNFPA, as well as writing the section on resource allocation. The report *Southeast Asian Populations in Crisis* was released in December 1998.

September - December. Consultant. Review of population and family planning activities funded by the **Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)**, Canberra, Australia.

With Prof. Penny Kane of the University of Melbourne, conducted a desk review of the projects sponsored by AusAID in the population field to monitor if they complied with AusAID's checklist.

1997 Short-term consultancy work for **CARE Australia** and the **Australian Reproductive Health Alliance**, Canberra, Australia.

Wrote a brief report on emerging social concerns in the Asia-Pacific region and fact sheets related to population assistance and NGO involvement in the population field.

1995 July – October. Consultant to the **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)**, London, United Kingdom.

Worked as a researcher in the Arab World Region. Wrote and revised a number of country profiles.

1992 July – February 1995. Consultant to the **International Planned Parenthood Federation**, London, United Kingdom.

Worked as both a researcher and budget analyst in the Programme Department and later in the Arab World Region. Tasks included writing several publications for the Arab World region on the ICPD Programme of Action and resource allocation issues. Part of a team responsible for implementing a European Union sponsored project worth US\$12 million to improve health and family planning

facilities in Arab World nations.

1991 June – September. **Siemens**, Head Office, Munich, Germany.
Translated a computer handbook from German into English

1990 Sep – May 1991. **IFF Research**, Head Office, London, United Kingdom.

Worked as a marketer researcher on business-to business market research. Conducted telephone surveys on the views of certain products held by German businesses. Successfully completed numerous interviews on products ranging from computer hardware/software to photographic equipment.

1990 July – August. **BMW**, Head Office, Munich, Germany.
Translator and administrative tasks

Education

2003- LLB, **University of London** (external programme), United Kingdom

2002 Master of International Law, **Australian National University**, Canberra, Australia

2000 PhD in Demography, **Australian National University**, Canberra, Australia. Thesis entitled: *The Nature, Trends and Determinants of Population Assistance*.

1997 ASB (Hons) in Business Management, **International Correspondence School**, Scranton, USA.

1993 MSc in Demography, **London School of Economics and Political Science**, University of London, United Kingdom

1992 BA in Geography and Economics, **School of Oriental and African Studies**, University of London, United Kingdom

1989 Diploma (First class) in European Union studies, **Centre International de Formation Européene**, Munich, Germany

1988 European Baccalaureate, **European School Munich**, Munich, Germany

Professional affiliations

Australian Institute of Management
Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law
Australian Development Studies Network
Australian Population Association
British Society for Population Studies

Other skills and interests

Use Word, Excel, Endnote and the Internet on a daily basis. Familiar with Access, PowerPoint, SAP and SPSS.

Fluent in German, rudimentary French.

Driver's licences from four countries, including both left and right-hand drives.

Travelled extensively throughout Europe and Australia. Other destinations include: West Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Fiji, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Tunisia, Argentina, and the United States.

Publications

Articles

Schindlmayr, T. (2006) Reconsidering intergenerational concerns. *International Journal of Social Welfare* 15(2): 181-184.

Schindlmayr, T. (2004) Explicating Donor Trends for Population Assistance. *Population Research and Policy Review* 23 (1): 23-54.

Caldwell, J.C. and Schindlmayr, T. (2004) Reply to the discussion of our paper 'Explanations of the fertility crisis in modern societies: A search for commonalities'. *Population Studies* 58(1): 93-94.

Caldwell, J.C. and Schindlmayr, T. (2003) Explanations of the Fertility Crisis in Modern Societies: A Search for Commonalities. *Population Studies* 57(3): 241-263.

Schindlmayr, T. (2003) Sovereignty, Legal Regimes and International Migration. *International Migration* 41(2): 109-123.

Schindlmayr, T. and Ong, P. (2002) Defence's Thirty Problem. *HR Monthly* November: 44-45.

Caldwell, J.C. and Schindlmayr, T. (2002) Historical Population Estimates: Unraveling the Consensus. *Population and Development Review* 28(2): 183-204.

Schindlmayr, T. and Ong, P. (2002) Attaining 54,000? *Australian Defence Force Journal* 153: 5-9.

Schindlmayr, T. (2002) Future Personnel: Where will they come from? *Defense and Security Analysis* 18(1): 85-88.

Schindlmayr, T. (2001) Obstructing the Security Council: The Use of the Veto in the Twentieth Century. *Journal of the History of International Law* 3(2): 218-234.

Schindlmayr, T. (2001) The Media, Public Opinion and Population Assistance: Establishing the Link. *Family Planning Perspectives*. 33(3): 128-132.

Schindlmayr, T. (2001) The Media, Public Opinion and Population Assistance: Establishing the Link. *International Family Planning Perspectives*. 26(1): 42-6.

Schindlmayr, T. (1999) Population Assistance Trends in the 1990s. *Development Bulletin*. (47): 24-6.

Books

Caldwell, J.C., Caldwell, B., Caldwell, P., McDonald, P.F., Schindlmayr, T. (2006) *Demographic Transition Theory*. Berlin: Springer Verlag. 418pp.

Schindlmayr, T. (2001) *Defence Personnel Environment Scan 2020*. Canberra: Defence Publishing Service. 130pp.

Schindlmayr, T. (2000) *Community Profiles. 1996 Census. Germany Born*. Belconnen: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. 44pp.

Schindlmayr, T. (2000) *Community Profiles. 1996 Census. Netherlands Born*. Belconnen: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. 45pp.

Schindlmayr, T. (2000) *Community Profiles. 1996 Census. Poland Born*. Belconnen: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. 45pp.

Book chapters

Schindlmayr, T. (2007) Disability in Sport: The International Legal Framework. In: International Disability in Sport Working Group. *Sport in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Boston: Northeastern University. pp. 8-9.

Government and NGO

Schindlmayr, T. (2003) *Defence Personnel Environment Scan: Occasional Paper 1*. Canberra: Defence Publishing Service. 14pp.

Australia. Department of Defence (2001) *Defence Personnel Environment Scan 2020*. Canberra: Defence Publishing Service. 4pp. (information brief)

Kane, P. and Schindlmayr, T. (1999) *Review of AusAID Population and Family Planning Activities*. (unpublished internal AusAID report). 32pp.

McMurray, C., Lucas, D. and Schindlmayr, T. (1998) *Briefing Pack on Population and Development*. Canberra: Australian Reproductive Alliance.

International Planned Parenthood Federation. Arab World Bureau. (1995) *IPPF: Vision 2000, ICPD Programme of Action: A Comparison*. Tunis: IPPF. 23pp. (published also in French and Arabic).

Various other publications for the Arab World Region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (1992-95).

United Nations and other international organisations (authored and contributed)

Schindlmayr, T. Huber, R. and Zelenev, S. (2007) Inclusive Policy Processes. DESA Discussion Paper. (forthcoming).

United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Inter-Parliamentary Union (2007) *From Exclusion to Equality: Realizing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Handbook*

for parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. Geneva. (contributed)

United Nations Programme on Youth (2006) *Briefing Note on Youth: Youth living with Disabilities.* New York (authored)

United Nations. Division for Social Policy and Development (2005) *Report on the World Social Situation 2005: The Inequality Predicament.* New York: United Nations. (contributed)

United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2005) *Population, Development and HIV/AIDS with Particular Emphasis on Poverty: The Concise Report.* New York (authored Chapter 7 on Government views and policies)

United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2005) *Population and HIV/AIDS Wallchart.* New York. (contributed).

United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2004) *World Economic and Social Survey 2004: International Migration.* New York. (authored Chapter 3 on International migration policies, contributed to Chapter 6 on Social dimensions to international mobility)

United Nations. Population Division (2004) *World Population Policies 2003.* New York: United Nations. (contributed)

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2003) *HIV/AIDS in the Asian and Pacific Region: Integrating Economic and Social Concern, especially HIV/AIDS, in Meeting the Needs of the Region.* New York: United Nations. 138pp. (authored first draft)

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (2001) *Population and Development Planning in the Pacific.* Noumea. 71pp. (facilitated)

United Nations Population Fund and the Australian National University (1998) *Southeast Asian Populations in Crisis.* New York: UNFPA. 148pp. (contributed)

Papers at International Conferences

Schindlmayr, T., Huber, B., Zelenev, S. (2006) Building an Inclusive Society: Shaping the Policy Process. *International*

Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus. Buenos Aires, Argentina. 20-24 February.

Schindlmayr, T. (2005) Planning for a 'Society for All'. *International Conference on Engaging Communities*. Brisbane, Australia. 14-17 August. Available at:

<http://engagingcommunities2005.org/abstracts/Schindlmayr-%20Thomas-final.pdf>

Newspapers and magazines

Schindlmayr, T. (2007) Time to change hearts, minds and laws on disability (op-ed.). Printed in: Accra Daily Mail (20 August), Deccan Herald (20 August), IHT/Asahi Shimbun (22 August), Iran News (21 August), New World (UNA-UK, October 2007), South China Morning Post (21 August), The Nation, Thailand (26 August), Turkish Daily News (23 August)

Schindlmayr, T. (2007) My battle with the Big C. *New Mobility*. 18(167): 23-6, 54.

Schindlmayr, T. (2006) We need a global treaty for the disabled (Op-ed). *International Herald Tribune*. 17 August. (syndicated in the Khaleej Times, 20 August, and the Deccan Herald, 21 August)

Dale, K. and Schindlmayr, T. (1991) Banjul Sewage. *West Africa*. 6-12 May. (3844): 701.

Other honours

Participant at the ACUNS-ASIL Summer Workshop, Ghent, Belgium, 24 July-3 August 2007.

Presenter at the Second Holocaust Remembrance Day, General Assembly, United Nations, New York, 29 January 2007

Reviewer

Studies in Family Planning
World Development
Journal of Population Research

April 26, 2008

Passed away on **April 26, 2008.**

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