The ALEA family is mourning the passing of a dear friend and professional colleague, Nea Stewart Dore. Dr. Margaret (Nea) Stewart-Dore of Emu Park, Queensland, Australia died on Saturday, June 28, 2014. Beloved wife of Colin and sister of John, sister-in-law of Rosalie, Aunty to Craig, Ross, Jennifer and their families.

A Celebration of her Life was held in the East Chapel of the Rockhampton Crematorium on Thursday 3rd July 2014.

Nea leaves behind numerous friends and colleagues in the Australian Literacy Educators’ Association, the International Reading Association and Rotary International communities.

A significant aspect of Nea’s major contribution to literacy education in Australia and beyond was based in her deep and passionate belief in the role of literacy in all learning, and in teachers’ interest in improving learning. In her own research and publications she highlighted the importance of focussing on language use in all subjects at all year levels, including the secondary years where the different curriculum areas become increasingly diversified.

Nowhere in her work is Nea’s commitment to this more evident than in her work as founding editor of the ALEA journal, *Literacy Learning: Secondary Thoughts* (now titled *Literacy Learning: the Middle Years*). The journal had grown from the publications of the Australian Reading Association's Literacy and Learning Secondary Schools Special Interest Group. The first issue of the journal was published in November 1993 and in her editorial, Nea emphatically acknowledged the contribution teachers in all discipline areas make to literacy development.

Twenty years later, Nea, as invited guest editor of Volume 21, Number 1 of the journal she had founded, referred to her dream that teachers of all subjects would welcome a journal that created an opportunity for them to ‘report their efforts to teach students reading strategies that would help them to understand assigned subject texts, and to compose their own written texts as representations of that understanding.’ She drew on her widespread national and international professional networks to invite prominent educators to contribute to the special issue, and they willingly responded with a set of strong, thoughtful articles.

Her work for the *Literacy Learning* journal is just one aspect of the vast contribution Nea has made to ALEA, but it reflects her values and priorities, and is a practical example of the depth of her ongoing support for literacy educators.

Nea had amazing energy and capacity to ‘get things done’. She worked tirelessly to seek grants to connect and support teachers across the South Pacific. She played a major role in establishing and strengthening ties between the International Reading Association, the New Zealand Reading Association (now NZLA) and ALEA through her work with the International Development Oceania Committee (IDOC).

Nea’s scholarship, passion, drive and compassion for teachers, children particularly those in third world countries have left a long lasting legacy to literacy education today and in the future. She was always there to advise, support and simply ‘do’.

We will miss you Nea, but we are all the richer for your friendship and for what you has given to our association over almost 40 years. Your spirit will be with us at the Darwin conference and indeed at any conference we attend.

*Brian Cambourne, Marion Meiers, Paul Kidston, Jan Turbill*
*On behalf of ALEA Members*