## Richard Sylvan (1935–1996)

R ichard Sylvan (formerly Routley), aged 60, died from a massive heart attack on 16 June 1996, in Bali, Indonesia, while travelling with his wife and sole survivor, Louise.

Richard was born in New Zealand in December, 1935. He received his bachelor's degree from Victoria University of Wellington and went on to graduate study in philosophy at Princeton in 1959–61. He left Princeton without a higher degree to take up a job at the University of Sydney, but years later was awarded a PhD for the first part of his metaphysical treatise on 'noneism' in Exploring Meinong's Jungle.

Richard authored individually or jointly some 27 books and booklets and hundreds of articles. In philosophy Richard 'covered the waterfront' tackling topics in logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, and environmental philosophy. For his contributions he was elected to the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1977, but in 1980 he resigned on a 'matter of principle', but he later admitted forgetting what the principle was.

Richard was a systemic philosopher. His philosophy in any one field drew on, was connected with and was consistent with his work in other fields, such as logic, epistemology, cosmology, environmental theory and the other philosophical fields in which he worked and the real fields through which he travelled. It was said of Richard that there was no place conceptual or geographical that he had not tread.

His death leaves a hole in the landscape of philosophy.

Bob Meyer and David Bennett