

Farewell sittings for Chief Magistrate Hugh Bradley

By a roving reporter.

A farewell was held in Court 1 of the Darwin Magistrates Court at 5pm on 7 July 2006 for retiring Chief Magistrate Hugh Bradley.

Following a preliminary tippie to fortify, those present for the proceedings entered Court 1 in preparation for the sittings.

Justice Riley, Justice Southwood, Acting Justice (former Chief Justice) Martin, Magistrates Lowndes, Wallace, Luppino, Little and Judicial Registrar Tanya Fong Lim were seated along the Bench, while incoming Chief Magistrate Jenny Blokland (in the orderly's position) oversaw the effective conduct of proceedings.

At the Bar table Mr Barr QC representing the NT Bar Association, Ms Robertson representing the Law Society, Mr Neill representing Ward Keller, Mr Dooley representing NAAJA, Ms Blundell representing the NTLAC and Sgt Kennedy representing Police Prosecutions.

Court officer Bev Aitken escorted Mr Bradley into Court and opened the "twilight" sittings. Ms Blokland then welcomed the crowds in the public gallery and requested that the last "prisoner" of the day, Mrs Sue Bradley, be placed in the dock.

A combined Court choir, under the guidance of Court recorder Ms Louise Inglis sang "Say a little prayer for Hugh". This was followed by all in attendance singing "Say Life's a Joy" - a tribute to the Northern Territory (see the words below, as written by Ms Inglis).

Speakers from the Bar table then spoke about Mr Bradley's career and contribution to the legal profession. This included as a long time member of the firm Ward Keller. His contribution to the Court particularly, including new initiatives for "specialized Courts" and his empathy and commitment in dealing with criminal matters, particularly involving Aboriginal persons and juveniles were also emphasised.

Speakers from the Bench (Riley J, Wallace SM and Fong Lim JR) also spoke about his contribution to the Court and the legal profession, including his organizational abilities and in his career generally.

Following on from this an exhibit - an illuminated sign saying "Court in Session" was passed on to Mr Bradley by Sally Glass and Jenny Davie.



Mr Bradley then responded, thanking everyone for the attendance and in particular the prisoner Mrs Bradley for her support. He then ordered her release.

The Court then adjourned for further refreshments. It was a most enjoyable occasion and congratulations to all involved.

Say Life's a Joy

They say lifes a joy in downtown Nhulunbuy
A tropical fruit is really beaut on Groote
I hear there is a telly in the town of Oenpelli
These fact I twll you no-one can dispute

Chorus

Well they reckon life is sleek
Down the track in Tennant Creek
Moreso than Katherine, Elliot and the rest
A life could no be sweeter
Than downtown Maningrida
Mate - just put our Territory to the test.
Some say it is much cooler way out in Borroloola
Andhte boys are pretty neat from out Prot Keats
And you'll never find a wanker, out in Mataranka
And there's always Threewyas when you need soem eats

Repeat Chorus

Now we're told you only traces fo all these far out places
And you can tell you'se are really rarin' and pressed to rest
But don't go off your faces adn rush to these charmed places
Cause your'e here at Hugh's farewell and it's the best

Repeat Chorus - slow and angelic

Repeat Chorus - fast with seekers ending.