

respect of the tribunals before whom he appeared, his juniors, his instructing solicitors and, most significantly, his clients.

He was a barrister's barrister in that he was conventional and he was conservative in the best sense of that word. He was discreet to the point of apparent disappearance. He

had no thought for the catchy headline or self-promotion.

Like all men of his goodness, his ultimate thoughts were for his family.

He married Gina in 1968 and had three sons, Simon, Mark and Timothy. In 1987 he married Di. Her children, Simon and Louise,

became part of the extended Officer family. His grandsons were his pride and joy.

We are all poorer for the loss of a man who so badly wanted to continue doing what he did so well.

By Stephen Austin SC

Justice Terry Connolly (1958-2007)



On the 25th September 2007 my dear friend Terry 'Tezza' Connolly died from sudden cardiac arrest while cycling on Red Hill in Canberra. Next Valentine's Day would have been his 50th birthday. 'Tezza' was Mr Justice Terry Connolly of the Supreme Court of the ACT.

Although we had little recent contact, Terry was a faithful friend. He was a man of great integrity, reliable, highly intelligent and generous. Our friendship commenced 30 years ago at the University of Adelaide Law School.

Terry grew up in Adelaide. His father, Pat, who passed away in 1990, was a bricklayer and ebullient grass-roots Labor Party campaigner. Terry matriculated at Woodville High School, he obtained a very high score in the competitive state exams and decided to pursue a career in the law. At Law School Terry achieved early prominence winning best orator in the Jessup International Law Moot held in Washington DC. He was

president of the Australia and New Zealand Law Students Association. In 1979 Terry also became national president of Young Labor. Two years later he graduated with honours in Law and Arts. In 1982 he was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of South Australia. He achieved further academic cachet obtaining a masters degree in public law from the Australian National University.

His first job was associate to Mr Justice John Gallop, a first class criminal trial judge and cricket aficionado. His honour was then a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. Terry eventually moved on to work in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in Canberra. It was in Canberra that he met and subsequently married Helen Watchirs. She is now Dr Watchirs, the highly regarded Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner for the ACT. Helen and Terry became parents of two delightful daughters, Lara and Maddy.

Terry embraced ACT politics becoming Attorney -General. He also held portfolios of health, community services, housing and urban services. He was admired and respected by his political opponents. He had that special quality of being able to negotiate diametrically opposed views of

political life. In 1995 he introduced a Human Rights Bill in the Australian Capital Territory Assembly which was eventually instrumental to the enactment of the ACT Human Rights Act in 2004.

At the age of 38 he was appointed master of the Supreme Court of the ACT and then, at 45, a justice of the court. There were some devoid of perspicacity who thought his appointment to the Supreme Court unorthodox as Terry had never been in private practise. However, his formidable intellect enabled him to grow rapidly in the job and become a pre-eminent judicial officer much admired by his brother judges and the ACT Bar. He was never tardy with judicial pronouncements mindful always that justice delayed for litigants in hot contest before him was justice denied.

Terry loved good food, wine, stimulating social intercourse and the role of paterfamilias. Episodically we spent many armchair hours solving the world's problems, assisted by more than enough bottles of claret. Terry also loved animals, especially cats. I fondly recall an amusing occasion concerning an automatic cat feeder he purchased in a pet shop. This device was called 'Step and Dine'. Essentially a large plastic cylindrical dry food reservoir, it worked by the cat sitting on a

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platform thus activating a food dispenser. Terry was flummoxed by the quantity of food disappearing. He soon realised that leaving the feeder outside was attracting every edacious neighbourhood cat to its platform which became a sort of cat trampoline food dispenser! Of course Terry's easy generosity compelled him to leave the silly feeder where it was.

The weekend before his death my wife and I were visiting Floriade, Canberra's annual flower festival. We had discussed calling

on Terry and Helen but did not have their unlisted phone number, also they had moved from Narrabundah to Red Hill. To our eternal regret we left it. Two days later he was gone.

Terry was granted the state funeral he deserved. Almost a thousand people, many from afar, attended and heard valedictory speeches. Helen, supported by two brave daughters, gave a heartfelt eulogy commemorating the love of her life. ACT chief minister John Stanhope and the chief

justice, Terry Higgins, spoke passionately about their friend. During the speeches many fought against emotional disintegration. A cortege of family, friends, bewigged and robed lawyers, federal officers and a scotch pipe band accompanied 'Tezza' to his place of eternal rest.

He is survived by his 87 year old mother Dorothy, his wife Dr Helen Watchirs and daughters Lara 15 and Maddy 14.

'Tezza' Requiescat in pace.

By G D Wendler

Rodney Parker QC (1936-2007)



Rodney Parker was born in 1936, the son of Captain Roger Parker of the Royal Australian Navy. He followed two traditions of the navy – one was his loyalty to his friends and to his profession. The second tradition was one of integrity. He was admitted to the Bar in 1965 and took silk in 1979. He had a brilliant career in commercial law. In one leading case he was my junior all the way to the High Court. His advice was reliable, his court advocacy was brilliant.

His third characteristic was his enthusiasm and this was a feature of

his career. This made him enjoy many aspects of his life even when disabled.

He had the very good fortune to have a very happy marriage to Merrilee and he took pride in the achievements of his sons Will and Douglas. He delighted in his grandchildren.

He had courage, courage to live with dignity during years of life as a very disabled man, a prisoner in a wheel chair. In some ways his final wheel chair imprisonment was worse than that of a quadriplegic. He could not sit in a chair or a car. His right hand was weak and barely effective to write his name.

His first stroke was November 1999 and by 2001 he was almost completely immobilised. Yet, he still managed to do useful things, such as teach arbitration to those attending courses conducted by the Australian branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, as recently as March 2007.

He was always cheerful every time we were together. He had a wonderfully warm personality. He was the president of the 12th Floor Selborne

His advice was reliable, his court advocacy was brilliant.

Chambers from 1988 to 1994. He was also a great Nelson navy historian. He was the last authority in handling wooden ships of the line. He remained cheerful and enthusiastic for the law. He died peacefully in the presence of Merrilee and his younger sister Rosemary.

By Chester Porter QC