

Stuart Marsh (1958–2012)

The following eulogy was delivered by Duncan Stuart on 16 April 2012.



The words of Stephen Gallet, a nineteenth century Quaker, epitomise Stuart's life:

I shall pass this way but once
Any good therefore that I can show
to any human being
let me do it now
Let me not defer or neglect it
For I shall not pass this way again

Stuart was hardworking, compassionate and helpful. He was not a religious man but had his own moral compass. He set a course according to his own stars and stayed true to that course throughout his life. Above all else he liked people and people liked him.

Stuart Bruce Marsh was born on the 2nd April 1958 at St Mona's Hospital in Cremorne.

He was the second of the four children of Bruce and Isobel Marsh.

He grew up in Allambie Heights in a loving and boisterous household. The family would engage in lively political discussions in which the children were encouraged to express their views. It was here that the

seeds of Stuart's social consciousness and advocacy took hold.

Stuart was an avid sportsman. While still in primary school he played representative soccer for Manly Warringah. Although he excelled at soccer he also played rugby union and rugby league. Through high school he would play soccer on Saturday, league on Sunday and union for the school during the week.

In summertime he was more often than not found playing cricket or tennis. With a northern beaches upbringing he also swam. In later years golfing became his favourite sport and he would play every weekend.

His competitive streak developed both on the playing field and in the classroom. He was combative with his brothers and friends whether playing backyard cricket or seeking academic success.

He attended the local primary school and Manly Boys' High School.

He matriculated in 1975 with a scholarship to study Arts at Sydney University. His Honours thesis was in English Literature. He took a year off in 1980 and travelled the world. In 1981 he returned to Australia and undertook a Diploma of Education.

In the early 1980's he worked as a high school teacher but soon decided that teaching was not his vocation. He enrolled in Law at the University of NSW.

Throughout the period of his studies in law he supported himself with an

array of part-time jobs. He worked as an Assistant Magistrate in the Local Court, drove cabs and worked as a bar manager, most notably at the Rex at Kings Cross and at the Journalists Club in Surry Hills.

During these years he interacted with the full spectrum of humankind. It was here that he further developed his passionate commitment for a fair go that would later influence his legal career.

Once his studies had been completed he worked as a solicitor at PV McCulloch & Buggy. When introducing himself to a judge for the first time he described himself as, 'the human face' of the firm. In 1994 he was made partner.

Since embarking on his legal studies it had always been his intention to become a barrister and in 1999 he eventually answered a call to the bar. It seemed the perfect stage on which to promote his ideas of social justice and indulge in his love of advocacy.

He was known in chambers as 'the Big Fella'. He established a lively practice and was a sought after advocate. He had a reputation for his feisty representation when on his feet and his personal touch with his clients.

When submitting on the veracity of a witness he was wont to say, 'Your Honour, that evidence is about as plausible as me finding a fish in my milk'.

Stuart's social conscience was reflected in his pro bono work and he regularly volunteered for the Duty Barrister scheme run by the

NSW Bar Association at the Local Court Downing Centre.

Stuart met his wife Amiranti in 1998. They married in 2000 and settled down in Turrumurra where they raised their family. He was a loving husband who was devoted to his two daughters.

Stuart was always a people person. He always had a kind word, a funny story or an exchange of repartee for everyone. He made

everyone feel at home. He was always ready to help those in need and defend those who were being exploited. Anybody that he met remembered him. He was universally liked.

If we have a purpose in life to give, to help and protect those in need, and to bring happiness to others Stuart acquitted himself well. In a life cut short at the age of 54 he achieved much more than others

who have lived a score of years longer.

Stuart had a big heart. It gave out on him when he was at home with his family on Easter Saturday. He died on 11th April 2012.

He is survived by his wife Amiranti and their two children, Madeleine and Elizabeth.

Crossword solution

