

Brian Manning Tribute from Chris White's Blog

By Chris White

Darwin

November 2013

I am proud to have met and listened to Brian Manning's stories and politics in Darwin. He was instructive in his political actions as a **Communist** member of CPA and the Search Foundation; as a militant unionist Wharfie in Darwin Secretary WWF- **life member of MUA** and founder of the NT Trades and Labor Council now Unions NT;

he strongly supported the BLF Green Bans movement;

in telling of his role in the Aboriginal Land Rights particularly the NT Council for Aboriginal Rights and his role in the historic **Wave Hill strike and formation of the Land Rights** struggle;

see Brian here on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpwMrShtZ08&feature=share>

in the critical solidarity with the **East Timor resistance** in running the clandestine radio links to the fighters in the mountains of East Timor and hailed as a hero by the East Timorese and Brian would want to be remembered for his critical solidarity with the Timorese peoples, the Maubere peoples, and his

fierce loyalty to FRETILIN, the independence party with whom he publicly aligned himself until the end;

and his anti-war activity; he led the Darwin waterside workers in struggle against the export of uranium; his support for the Palestine struggle and generally support for social justice and advocate for the womens' and gay liberation movements.

I was able to convince him to come to some recent political actions, against the US Darwin Marines base (he described PM Gillard as a traitor to Australian Independence), in Standing Up for the Burrup, in attending APHEDA NT Ged Kearney ACTU Darwin meeting, participating in the Search Foundation Darwin and solidarity with Fretilin when he got me to take the resistance receivers to Dili to present to the Fretilin Congress.

Brian was 2010 NT Senior Citizen of the Year.

I would have liked to have known him when he was young and a musician and in the jazz era in his band. He loved jazz and was a great trumpet and sax player himself, and helped turn the Darwin May Day into a musical celebration. His son Brian played him some of his favorite trumpet pieces in the last days at the hospital.

His MUA Secretary Thomas Mayor was with him. from the MUA: "Vale Brian Manning Yesterday, Brian Manning, one of the Northern Territory's most respected activists and trade unionists, passed away surrounded by friends and family at the age of 81.

Manning was a wharfie and staunch MUA member up until his retirement in 2002. He continued to be very active in the trade union movement until his passing. He was famous in the Top End for his social activism, most notably, perhaps, for his role during the Wave Hill Walk-Off.