

Vale Brian Manning

By Clare Rawlinson ABC

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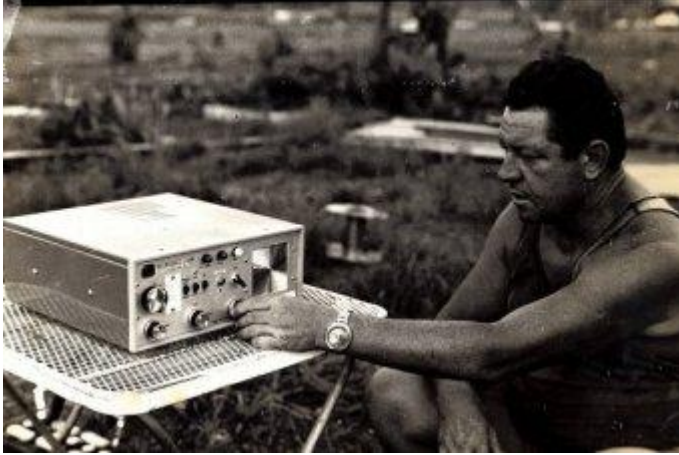


Photo: Brian Manning monitoring East Timor radio in 1977. Mr Manning was a strong supporter of the nation's independence movement. (Courtesy Brian Manning Jr)

Map: Darwin 0800

Renowned Northern Territory land rights campaigner and social activist Brian Manning passed away on the weekend.

Mr Manning died at Royal Darwin Hospital aged 83.

Born in rural Queensland, he moved to the Territory in 1956 and became known for his grassroots activism for Indigenous rights.

A prominent unionist, he was revered as a great fighter for social justice, including supporting the Gurindji in the Wave Hill Walk off in 1966.

Mr Manning was also the founding Secretary of the NT Trades and Labour Council and a staunch supporter of East Timorese Independence.

His son, Brian Manning Jr, said his father had a sense of social justice instilled in him from a young age.

He said he always recognised people who were in dire straits.

"Those things he was involved in over his life, they're all grassroots movements - people not just accepting things, whether it be Gurindji, Malaysians or East Timor," Mr Manning said.

"(They were about) not accepting that the populous position of governments of the day was acceptable - and the belief that it was people that make the difference."