

FUNERAL SERVICE FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

- **: Didge as Pall bearers enter**
- **Music: ABC Theme**
- **Bill Day's Introduction**

The opening wanga song, *Rak Badjalarr*, expresses a longing for a spiritual homeland and is performed by Wadjiginy singer men, Bobby Lane and Rusty Moreen from Belyuen.

The opening ABC fanfare is in recognition that we are here today to say farewell to a dedicated and professional Australian journalist, who was also a loving partner to Cri, a father to Brendan and Damien, a brother to Margaret, Charles and Peter and a comrade to many. By our presence we express our sympathy with their loss.

My name is Bill Day and I have been asked by the family to conduct this ceremony. There will be several speakers and a time for you all to come forward and offer your respects to John. There is also a five minute video to be shown. A burial will be conducted at Thorak cemetery immediately afterwards and a wake at the Railway Club at 1pm. You are welcome at either event.

This morning you will hear many aspects of John's varied 54 years in journalism. His words in print will live on, so in that respect he has not left us. At the age of 17, in 1959, John first came to Darwin as a cadet with the ABC. During that time, his talent as a journalist was noticed by the legendary editor of the Northern Territory News, Jim Bowditch and his rugged good looks by a Darwin girl, Olive Kennedy, a member of the stolen generation. Olive and John were together for over 14 years. They had two sons, Brendan and Damien.

John's reporting is variously described as being "of depth and substance", "old school", "committed and inspiring", "impeccably balanced", and with "a great hunger to tell a good story and hold the rich and famous to account". Other's described him as "a journalists' journalist" and "a craftsman". Brian Cassells remembers John as a journalist who "dug for his own information and did not rely on ministerial releases ... a dedicated anarchist who never revealed his sources... the last of his kind."

John's work has also been recognised by Mari Alkatiri, General Secretary of Fretilin, who wrote in part: "We in Timor-Leste who have struggled for justice and peace know very well and close to our hearts John's love and commitment to both principles. He gave his time selflessly coming over to see for himself the crisis that enveloped our nation and people in 2006 and writing about it in the coming years."

Following Cyclone Tracy, social life was being restored in Darwin, much centred around the popular "Restaurant Cri" in Austin Lane, under proprietor Christine Pas. There, a friendship blossomed between John and Cri. They have been together sharing many ventures for 38 years.

In 1995, John and Cri accepted a position with the Vietnam News in Hanoi where they stayed on and off for the next 15 years. Then in 2000, John and Cri launched the Southeast Asian Times, at first as a broadsheet and later, for 12 years, as an on-line newspaper, reporting on Southeast Asian affairs.

Many people have reason to be grateful for John's behind the scenes support for their causes. For example, I well remember how John persuaded the editor to send a helicopter to cover the occupation of the RAAF Quail Island bombing range by four Aboriginal protesters in 1973 - an event that might otherwise have gone unrecorded. John was also a great friend of Fred Fogarty's,

another forgotten hero of land rights. On occasions, John was responsible for headlines like this [hold up “**Bagot is Yours**”].

I first met John in Darwin in 1969 and for a while our lives were on parallel courses. We diverged in the late 1980s ... and then came together in recent years ... to end tragically with John's sudden passing in Perth on February 17th. It has been a privilege assist Cri at a difficult time and to accompany John back to Darwin with the family. This is the town he loved, and this is where he belongs.

- **Next speaker: Brendan Loizou.**
- **Brian Manning**
- **East Timorese musical interlude**
- **Peter Cook**
- **Sarah Lunn**
- **John Waters**

INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO

This video is the last four minutes of a 30 minute video taken by Pas Loizou Press Darwin at the Vietnam News office in Hanoi on 17 November 2010.

John Loizou is talking from Hanoi to Sara Everingham at the ABC in Darwin.

The interview had been arranged with John by Sara Everingham for a story on the NT News. John was working at the Vietnam News the time. As you will notice by the clock on the wall, it is midday in Vietnam, which explains why the office is almost empty.

A story attributed to Sara Everingham titled 'Australia's most outrageous newspaper', was included in the ABC 7.30 Report of 15 February 2011. In the final cut, John Loizou was not mentioned although Frank Alcorta, Nigel Adlam and Historian David Carment were.

- **5 Minute Video**
- **Chris Ray**

You are invited now to come forward to pay your respects to John, perhaps by leaving a flower or rosemary on the casket. While you are doing that, a selection of photos will be shown on the screen as we play a Nina Simone song that was one of John's favourites. The family ask that you leave of condolences to the family until later, after the service.

- **Music Mr Bo Jangles**
- **Damien**

- **Final words:** Those who are going to the burial, please follow the hearse to Thorak Cemetery. Otherwise, you are all welcome at the wake at the Railway Club at 1pm this afternoon.
- Will the pall bearers please come forward.
- **Music : Didge**
- **Music: Internationale**