

its philosophies. He personally sparked the interest of numerous young practitioners, whom he supported with gifts of books, his own boundless enthusiasm and wisdom.

In 1997 he was advised that he had a terminal illness, and he determined to grapple with that issue alone. He gave up practice, and resided for some 18 months in Byron Bay. He succeeded in confounding his medical advisors, and by 1999 was looking to resume part-time practice. He joined Lismore Chambers, headed up by Geoff Radburn, and began intermittent practice in the Northern Rivers District. Mariusz was however not really suited to the demanding circuit court life of the common law, nor did his health prove as robust as he had hoped. He accordingly sought refuge in the academic world, and in 2000 secured work as a part time member of the Southern Cross University Law School, and as a teacher at the University of New England School of Law. Tragically, he had secured a position of a more permanent nature with the University of Newcastle on the day prior to his death.

He was a colourful figure against the increasingly neutral background of the Bar, and his passing at such an early age is a great sadness to all who knew him.

John McDonald Evans (1956-2001)

By Anthony Bartley S.C.

Jack Evans was 40 when he was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor in the Australian Capital Territory, 43 when he was called to the New South Wales Bar and 44 years of age when he died.

He was diagnosed with cancer late in the course of his condition and had only a few months to come to terms with it. He did this with remarkable humour and grace.

Jack had always wanted to be a barrister. Although his career at the Bar was short, he was already very much respected, trusted and liked by his colleagues, and there was no doubt about his qualities as a barrister and the potential for a successful career.

Jack was born in Albury. On the walls of his Chambers in Canberra he had old photographs of his forebears in the stock and station agent world, including a photograph of one of them presiding over a record sale of 44,000 sheep at the Albury Sale Yard. Although he had a country background, he grew up in Sydney. He had two degrees and initially was a librarian. His work as a librarian led him into industrial relations and vocational training fields and in these areas he was as respected, admired and trusted as he came to be later in the law. By the 1980s he had become assistant secretary of the ACT Trades and Labour Council. This was a very active time in the world of industrial relations and Jack often found himself dealing

with the industrial silks on the one hand and the tough and experienced union leaders on the other.

Jack had many joys in his life; the greatest was his family. He was married to Margaret Robson and their three children Caitlin, Johnny and Edmund were the delight of their lives.

His interests were perhaps more typical of an older generation of people who were called to the Bar. He read widely. He loved an extraordinary range of music. He had an abiding passion for politics and Australian history. He rode a bicycle to chambers most days of the week.

Jack loved being a barrister. There was no arrogance or false pride about him but he was immensely proud of his profession and of the duties which attached to it.

Jack's life and his short career at the Bar remind us of much that is good about the profession and much that gets lost in times such as these.

Born 26 June 1956 in Albury, New South Wales. Died 19 May 2001 in Canberra ACT.
