

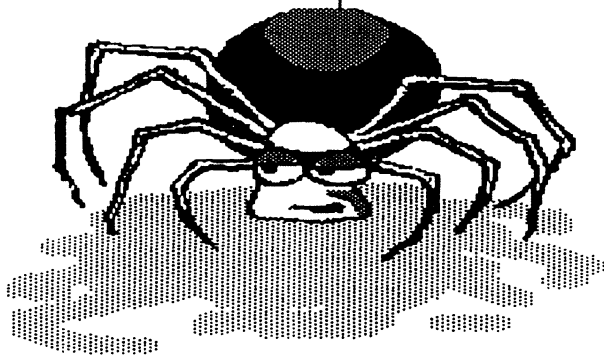
In 1974, Jan and I moved to Darwin where I was to be employed by Withnall & Barker. In December 1974 Cyclone Tracy devastated Darwin and reduced our home to rubble. Along with our three month old child, we returned to Perth until accommodation could be arranged for our return. After a period of about six weeks, John Withnall told me that he had arranged accommodation in Darwin and we were free to return. We did so and were met at the airport by John who took us to the accommodation. He parked at the front to the house saying, "just hold on, I'll go in and check to see if it's alright." It wasn't. We could hear the stressed voice of the woman occupant telling John that she had had enough of people being thrust upon her and no one was staying in her house. John sheepishly returned to the vehicle, aware that we had heard all that had gone on. He suddenly brightened and said, Don't worry, I'll take you to the Bradleys".

Other than that he was a fellow legal practitioner we had no real idea who "Bradley" was. We arrived at the Narrows Road address unannounced and unknown to the Bradleys. The reception we received was to the effect that someone had moved out that morning, there was a room available somewhere upstairs, we could have that, put some money in the kitty for the grog, "you are welcome."

That casual and generous attitude to life and people is typical of the Bradleys.

Not long thereafter Withnall & Barker underwent significant changes which did not include a future for me. I left to join Ward Keller. Even at that early time Hugh

THE SPIDER'S WEB



In a departure from usual practice, this month's Spider's Web is devoted entirely to reminiscences of and ruminations on the Territory's new Chief Magistrate, Hugh Bradley, as penned by his old compadre Trevor Riley QC.

Bradley was the first partner among equals and effectively ran the firm. I ultimately became a partner and remained so for eight years before coming to the Bar. During that period I formed a close friendship with Hugh Bradley which continues to this day. Indeed my departure from Ward Keller was a liquor-laden affair which I am trying to forget and Bradley can't remember.

Bradley always had "people skills" and in his many years as managing partner at Ward Keller, developed considerable management skills. He has been a leader within the profession for many years and his leadership qualities have been recognised both within and without the profession. He has been President of the Law Society, a Director of the Territory Mutual Insurance Office, Chairman of Directors of the

Territory Mutual Building Society, Chairman of the Disciplinary Appeals Board, Chairman of the Community Living Areas Tribunal, the Swedish Consul and a vital part of many other organisations. In the days of the Everingham government he conducted an inquiry into motor accidents compensation. The government had made its position clear as to the model it desired, but the Bradley Inquiry, in a truly independent approach, recommended a quite different model including the retention of wider common law rights for injured persons. Needless to say the report was shelved and the government proposal went ahead anyway.

Bradley has always been a seeker of adventure. In his early days, he rode motorcycles in a manner which causes dread to mothers and brings wealth to orthopaedic surgeons. As a result, he now has a steel plate in one leg. His arrival in Darwin was aboard his much loved BMW. He raced dirt bikes in the

annual Kamfaris. In more recent times he has cruised in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race (twice), sailed from South Africa to Australia on one of the tall ships in the Bicentenary reenactment, climbed Kilimanjaro, rafted the Grand Canyon in the United States and sailed in the Darwin to Ambon yacht race.

I was rather surprised to hear that Bradley had been lured into the job of Chief Magistrate. I regard it as a coup for the profession and for the general public of the Territory that he has agreed to take on the position. I expect he will bring to it the same people and management skills he has demonstrated over the years. I am sure he will enhance the stature of the Court and will fight to preserve the vital independence of its officers.

- Trevor Riley QC