

**M**orris has been my friend for 23 years.

It was not the sort of friendship where we socialised much outside of work.

It was a friendship however that took me to his home in Goldsmith Street Fannie Bay where we spent drunken nights discussing the respective merits of Bob Dylan and Joan Baez and whether the Travelling Wilburys were pure enough.

It was a friendship forged by my admiration of his green thumbs success growing roses in Darwin and his generosity lending me his whipper snipper and other gardening implements to help me when I lived in a town house and had neither the funds nor the need to purchase these for myself.

It was a friendship of respect for his encyclopaedic knowledge of ornithology, especially finches.

It was a friendship reflected by him sending me my first brief when I went to the Bar in January 1990. It was a friendship reflected by his continuing to brief me for many years.

It was a friendship reflected by a 10 year dispute when we did not speak to each other,

but were able later to enjoy the fact that we both had the capacity as fellow Leo's to feel passionately about something, and after what we considered an appropriate time, renew the friendship without either feeling we had given in.

It was the mark of the man that he did not seek honours or position for its own sake, but believed he should take office to make a difference.

He was President of the Law Society at the time of the tort law reforms and his efforts, though ultimately unsuccessful, were a credit to his sense of justice and fairness. He passionately believed, although an insurance company lawyer most of his solicitor life, that the proposed laws were mean spirited and would result in significant injustice.

Indeed that's who he was to me, a decent man, a man who stood for what he believed in, comfortable with who he was, trying to do a good job with whatever task was in front of him. We had many cases opposed to each other in which he was always honest and honourable, and we mostly found a way to settle.

In chambers we were both early to work and usually began our

day exchanging pleasantries before the rest arrived. I did not share his passion for golf, but he was happy to talk about it anyway.

I have a vignette in my mind of his style as he walked through the park to get his lunch in the Mall. In his close checked shirt and Panama hat he looked to all as Monet in his garden; his large frame ambling along and light-heartedly shooting the breeze.

Goodbye old friend, all your trials are now over.

**Sally Gearin,**  
**Barrister**  
**William Forster Chambers** {

I only knew Ian for four years, two of which he badgered me to see a film, the 13th Warrior. Out of respect to Ian I saw that film the day after he passed away.

He called me samurai and mumbled tourist Japanese to me every morning. He wore a battered straw hat to work with a bag slung over his shoulder, he would bow and I would bow back. He knew my practice of and interest in Japanese martial arts.

We shared an interest in military history and planes. We would look at moored naval vessels through binoculars.

He would tell me what sort of bird was flying around chambers.

He would often show me interesting websites for research (not things legal). His general knowledge was galactic.

Ian helped me with ethical issues that arose in my practice of the law. He was always willing to spare time for this junior member of the bar, even late in the afternoon.

Like your loved ones, friends and colleagues, I will miss you Ian.

**Simon W Lee**  
**Barrister**  
**William Forster Chambers** ↓

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I first met Ian Morris in the mid 1980's when, as a junior lawyer then working in the Executive and Policy Division of the then NT Department of Law, I acted for a short period as Deputy Master of the Supreme Court. I thought he was "a bit of a character" (amongst others circulating around the courts at the time). I then went on to

other career and "life" things. These did not particularly involve litigation, active membership of the Law Society or the playing of the game of golf so I had little or no contact with Morrie.

I ran across him when I was at interview for the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Law Society. I was lucky enough to get the position. He was the President and helped me deal with the various challenges, such as the Law Council, sorting out the very pressing Professional Indemnity Insurance issues, complaints matters and tort law. It was also good to get to know Jill, who was, I think the perfect partner for such a character.

Members were lucky to have a President of such ability and dedication, and under his governance the Society kicked some major goals such as sorting out some difficult PII issues and setting the stage for some smoother times ahead in that crucial area. His *Balance* columns were memorable. However, I rapidly discovered that one of his "adversaries" on the tort law issue was my spouse Robert. For a while I felt I was the "ham in the sandwich" coping with complaints about each from the other. Eventually however I realised that in spite of policy differences they developed a

lot of respect for each other and indeed they enjoyed their occasional sparring. They also both liked to follow legal gossip and were, I understand, regularly contacted by one Michael Grant for their input.

On a personal level I did not win any brownie points from Morrie about my lack of knowledge of and interest in the game of golf or the music of Bob Dylan. However, I have some interest in and knowledge of World War 2 aircraft (though not to Morrie's extent). In August 2008 I told him we were going to Calgary as part of our Canadian trip and he said "there was a Lancaster aircraft on display at the airport". When I duly turned up at the airport during my travels I saw no Lancaster. It was in the way and had been transported all the way to Calgary city centre

We at the secretariat (and indeed all the Bradshaw family) will very much miss Morrie and will always recognise his contribution to the profession and indeed the wider community and character of Northern Territory.

**Barbara Bradshaw**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Law Society Northern Territory** ↓