

platform thus activating a food dispenser. Terry was flummoxed by the quantity of food disappearing. He soon realised that leaving the feeder outside was attracting every edacious neighbourhood cat to its platform which became a sort of cat trampoline food dispenser! Of course Terry's easy generosity compelled him to leave the silly feeder where it was.

The weekend before his death my wife and I were visiting Floriade, Canberra's annual flower festival. We had discussed calling

on Terry and Helen but did not have their unlisted phone number, also they had moved from Narrabundah to Red Hill. To our eternal regret we left it. Two days later he was gone.

Terry was granted the state funeral he deserved. Almost a thousand people, many from afar, attended and heard valedictory speeches. Helen, supported by two brave daughters, gave a heartfelt eulogy commemorating the love of her life. ACT chief minister John Stanhope and the chief

justice, Terry Higgins, spoke passionately about their friend. During the speeches many fought against emotional disintegration. A cortege of family, friends, bewigged and robed lawyers, federal officers and a scotch pipe band accompanied 'Tezza' to his place of eternal rest.

He is survived by his 87 year old mother Dorothy, his wife Dr Helen Watchirs and daughters Lara 15 and Maddy 14.

'Tezza' Requiescat in pace.

By G D Wendler

Rodney Parker QC (1936-2007)



Rodney Parker was born in 1936, the son of Captain Roger Parker of the Royal Australian Navy. He followed two traditions of the navy – one was his loyalty to his friends and to his profession. The second tradition was one of integrity. He was admitted to the Bar in 1965 and took silk in 1979. He had a brilliant career in commercial law. In one leading case he was my junior all the way to the High Court. His advice was reliable, his court advocacy was brilliant.

His third characteristic was his enthusiasm and this was a feature of

his career. This made him enjoy many aspects of his life even when disabled.

He had the very good fortune to have a very happy marriage to Merrilee and he took pride in the achievements of his sons Will and Douglas. He delighted in his grandchildren.

He had courage, courage to live with dignity during years of life as a very disabled man, a prisoner in a wheel chair. In some ways his final wheel chair imprisonment was worse than that of a quadriplegic. He could not sit in a chair or a car. His right hand was weak and barely effective to write his name.

His first stroke was November 1999 and by 2001 he was almost completely immobilised. Yet, he still managed to do useful things, such as teach arbitration to those attending courses conducted by the Australian branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, as recently as March 2007.

He was always cheerful every time we were together. He had a wonderfully warm personality. He was the president of the 12th Floor Selborne

His advice was reliable, his court advocacy was brilliant.

Chambers from 1988 to 1994. He was also a great Nelson navy historian. He was the last authority in handling wooden ships of the line. He remained cheerful and enthusiastic for the law. He died peacefully in the presence of Merrilee and his younger sister Rosemary.

By Chester Porter QC