

## Douglas John Barry (1946 - 2013)

Douglas was born in Bundaberg not long after his father, Dr. David Barry, was discharged from the RAAF as a squadron leader. His mother, Hazel, was a former Latin teacher from Mountain View Station near Parkes. With older siblings David and Kay, the family relocated to Brisbane after Dr. Barry became gravely ill. He died in 1954. From then on, Hazel worked full time to give her three children the life and education she knew their father wanted for them.

Douglas attended St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace and then enrolled in an Arts/ Law degree at the University of Queensland. At this point, he was already enthralled by the theatre and soon joined The College Players, a group of student actors. He had discovered a like-minded community who remained dear friends. The Players travelled throughout Queensland with productions of Gilbert and Sullivan and Shakespeare.

After graduating from university, Douglas did a stint as the Assistant Manager of the renowned Coliseum Theatre in London. It was during this time that his great love of opera began. This remained with him for the rest of his life.

At some point during his time away from Australia, Douglas took a job as a sports' instructor at a resort in Spain. Of course he knew nothing of things mechanical or water sports in general, but he was nonetheless a great hit.

Douglas returned to Brisbane in the early 1970's, hoping to establish himself as an actor. He made his mark at Twelfth Night Theatre, then under the direction of Joan Whalley, in plays including David Williamson's highly controversial 'Don's Party'. It was at Twelfth Night Theatre that he met Marcia, and they married in 1974. After working together in Brisbane, they moved to Sydney and set up a tiny home in Darlinghurst, at that time a highly disreputable locale.

In 1976, Douglas was called to the New South Wales Bar, being proposed by the late John Kenny QC.. He took up a readership in what was then Mena House Chambers, now Windeyer, in Macquarie Street. One of his great mentors at this time was the late Justice David Opas. Douglas later moved to Edmund Barton Chambers in the MLC Centre. During all of this time, he developed a successful practice in Family Law which continued for sixteen years.

Douglas's first daughter, Anna, was born in 1977, followed in 1982 by Genevieve. There were many happy years in the family home in Woollahra in Sydney before ill health forced him to leave the Bar. Undeterred, he spent some of his recovery time writing a novel and planning his return to the workforce. He secured a position as a policy officer with the Privacy Commission. At the same time, he was very active with a number of community organizations. For this, he received public recognition at Parliament House at the Law and Justice Society Awards.

Douglas took great pride in seeing his daughters graduate from university and not to be outdone, he returned to study himself, completing a Master of Arts from the Catholic University and a Master of Laws from the University of Sydney. There were many long lunches to celebrate all these successes.

In 2006, Douglas was devastated by the death of his mother, Hazel. Soon after, he decided to return to the Bar and he began his practice in Frederick Jordan Chambers in Martin Place. Here, he was noted for his advocacy on behalf of marginalized and disadvantaged persons very much in need of compassion and support. He is also remembered by many as a generous mentor who respected the traditions of the law.

Along with a love of classical music, literature and theatre, Douglas never lost his passion for opera and often travelled to Vienna and Berlin to see the 'right' soprano. To say he was a Wagnerian is an understatement. His specific knowledge of productions in various locations around the world and his seemingly encyclopaedic recall of detail always impressed. He had an opinion about everything. He and Marcia planned to see 'The Ring' cycle in Melbourne in November, book ending a year which began with Douglas walking Anna down the aisle for her marriage. This event brought him great joy.

Douglas died unexpectedly in St.Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst of complications following heart surgery. He is survived by his daughters Anna and Genevieve, his son-in-law John, his sister Kay and her children and grandchildren, and Marcia.