

It is an honour to be asked by Paul's family to speak today.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet, and pay our respects to elders past and present.

I would also like to welcome you to the Drill Hall Gallery on behalf of the ANU and its College of Law. Paul was one of this university's stellar figures. The Drill Hall Gallery, and the Western Desert paintings we are surrounded by today, provide a perfect setting for today's celebration.

I remember the enormous pleasure that Paul had in commissioning works by the Canberra artist Bob Boynes for the Federal Court, just a couple of hundred metres away. The new judge found it exciting to instigate good art for a sterile court building.

It is also wonderful to see such a great gathering today: many of Paul's family; many friends of Wilf and Eugenie who went to school here;

many friends and colleagues and students of Paul, many of whom have travelled far to be here. In his biographical essay about Paul, Ross Cranston recorded that Paul thought of himself as a loner from when his father Des died when Paul was eight. The richness of the gathering here today raises questions about the way in which Paul was a loner, perhaps even whether he was a loner at all.

I have been fortunate to have had a couple of shots at writing about Paul. For that reason I am talking only briefly today and also thought it more appropriate to ask for words from Kevin Gray of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Paul was a fabulous friend and had many long rich friendships. One of them was with Kevin whom Paul described as 'one of the great common law scholars' of his generation, and who also as it happens gifted me, as a result of his deep knowledge of Paul, one of the best lines in my obituary, the lines from the Iranian incarcerated in the

Baxter Detention Centre which the Financial Review appropriately put in bold: 'It does not matter to me if I win or lose, as I sense that the judge is a spiritual man who treated me with such respect that he will do what is right.'

At the end of September, Kevin travelled to Australia to see Paul one last time, having been told by the family that his presence might still enrich Paul's life. Kevin landed in Sydney on the morning that Paul died in Adelaide.

These are words from Kevin:

Although he was a supreme master of the written word, I find that some of my more vivid recollections of Paul revolve around the spoken word. Paul was a conversationalist, a communicator and a counsellor. My enduring memories are of the voice – his voice.

Long ago Paul headed the Law Department in the ANU's Research School of Social Sciences. His office door was almost constantly wide open. From my own adjoining office I could hear him answering his telephone with always but one opening word: 'Finn'. This monosyllable – although it seemed to hang in the air for ever -- was delivered in his characteristically resonant tone and said everything about Paul. He offered you all of himself with a presence and immediacy that promised direct contact and full attention.

Of course much, but by no means all, of Paul's talk was law talk. My first memory of Paul goes back over 50 years to our days as PhD students in Cambridge. Paul was a figure of strength and encouragement to all of our group. He had the knack of asking intelligent, challenging questions about one's research and its progress, while remaining utterly helpful and supportive.

Years later Paul talked law (and much else) with me as we took our customary lunchtime walk around the ANU campus. He regarded the trees on the campus as the crowning glory of the ANU and I can still hear him extolling the extraordinary number of varieties of the Australian gum.

Perhaps nowhere is Paul's voice more poignantly imprinted on my memory than in connection with our fairly frequent runs – whether in the Cambridgeshire countryside or up the savage inclines of Canberra's Botanic Gardens. Paul was a masterful exponent of well-meaning and totally harmless mockery. At some point in our lung-bursting efforts across difficult terrain Paul was quite likely to lob some gentle insult at me in his distinctively sonorous tone.

I wish he could still do so.

Kevin Gray

—Timothy Bonyhady, Emeritus Professor of Law, Australian National University

