



VICTORIAN BAR

OBITUARY & CELEBRATION

CHRISTOPHER GILLIGAN

BAR ROLL NO: 1514

It is with deep regret that the Bar Council informs members of the death last Friday 14 April 2017 of Christopher William Gilligan. Chris was 64 ½ (born 2 October 1952).

Chris was Captain of the School at St Bede's College, Mentone; and was an outstanding all-round athlete. He represented St Bede's in Athletics for eight successive years, setting four College records in the High Jump – he was one of the champion under-age Victorian schoolboy high-jumpers. He also played in, and captained, the First XVIII, and was being scouted by League teams until a serious knee injury put him out of contention.

Chris graduated in Economics and Law from Monash University. He completed the Leo Cussen Practical Training Course and was admitted to practice in November 1977. He travelled widely overseas and, after his return to Australia, came directly to the Bar. He signed the Bar Roll in September 1979; read with Ramon Lopez; and practised some 36 ½ years.

He enjoyed a wide practice in the Common Law Courts, including Contracts cases and, in earlier days, Building cases – and also Licensing work. He was also admitted in New South Wales.

Chris served for more than five years as one of the Bar Representatives on the Magistrates' Court Civil Rules Committee; and as a Bar Member of the Magistrates' Court Occupational Health and Safety Users' Group.

Chris was devoted to his family. He was a fine swimmer and, for many years, swam in the annual Portsea to Perignon swim; and in the annual Lorne Pier to Pub swim. All four of Chris and Mary's children – Lucy, Abbey, Darcy and Cormac – have swum with their father.

He died after an extraordinarily courageous and dignified fight, characteristic of the generous man known to his friends and colleagues throughout his life. There was a private cremation.

There will be a Celebration of Chris's Life on Thursday 27 April 2017 from 2 pm to 6 pm at the East Malvern RSL, Stanley Grose Drive, Malvern East.

Jennifer Batrouney QC
President
20 April 2017