

his own and the American government. Jim earned his high distinctions in the most dangerous possible way, operating behind the lines and killing the enemy in close-quarters combat in order to bring out valuable intelligence that could save the lives of hundreds, sometimes thousands, of Allied soldiers.

One journalist wrote that Jim Bowditch hated war, but he loved to fight. His combative nature was put to good use for 35 years after the war as one of the Territory's most distinguished journalists. Jim Bowditch was not very fond of officialdom and the remote government of the Territory from Canberra. He was a fighting editor who always campaigned for the underdog. It is ironic that Jim Bowditch died in the very week when the nation is revisiting the injustices of the assimilation policies of Australian governments of both political persuasions in the 1950s and 1960s. One of Jim's proudest campaigns was his crusade to allow Mick Daly, a drover, to marry his Aboriginal lady, Gladys. In those days, cohabitation between Aboriginals and people of European or other descent was against the law. Jim campaigned ceaselessly on behalf of Mick Daly and Gladys. Eventually the then Bishop of Darwin, Bishop O'Loughlin, placed himself at risk of breaching the race laws of Australia at that time by officiating at the marriage ceremony. The Australian government had no choice but to repeal the law. That campaign by Jim and Bishop O'Loughlin probably also put the last nail in the coffin of the policy of taking mixed-blood children from their Aboriginal mothers which resulted in the 'stolen generation' of today. As he won medals for excellence in wartime, Jim also won the coveted Walkley Award for excellence in journalism.

I was very proud last year to play a role in reuniting Jim with another famous Z Force soldier, Julius Tahia, now a prominent Indonesian businessmen with strong commercial and emotional links to Darwin. Julius, then a soldier in the Dutch East Indies army, instructed Jim Bowditch in the Indonesian language and jungle survival at the 'House on the Hill' in Cairns, the Z Force training base, before Jim carried out his many missions behind the lines. The 2 old soldiers had not spoken since the war's end. We managed to bring them together for a meeting and a talk last year, which was very timely in the circumstances. My condolences go to Jim's widow, Betty, and their 4 children, Peter, Steven, Ngaire and Sharon. I believe I can speak on behalf of all Territorians in saying that Jim Bowditch may be gone, but he will not be forgotten. He was the last of the fighting editors.

John Amadio of Alice Springs has retired from the Northern Territory Power and Water Authority after 28 years of service. John was born in Sydney in 1934. He completed his education and became qualified as a motor mechanic. John's family were originally from New Zealand. Because of their collective musical skills, they changed their name to Amadio which in Spanish means 'love God'. In 1953, John moved to Alice Springs where he met Janet Colbey, the daughter of a railwayman from Port Augusta. They were married in the John Flynn Memorial Church and had 3 children: Karren in 1957, Robyn in 1958, and Leon in 1960.

John's earlier career in central Australia began when he worked for Hastings Deering as a motor mechanic. He also worked for a while for Wes Rose and Bernie Kilgariff at the Oasis Motel. On 28 October 1968, he started work as a diesel fitter at the old power station in Sadadeen Valley which was administered by the Commonwealth Department of Works. By 1974, John Amadio became a senior technical officer at the new Alice Springs power station which was later renamed the Rod Goodin power station. John was involved closely in the