

My name is Christine Petersen I'm a 72 year old Australia born citizen of Irish, Scottish and Danish Ancestry. I've owned businesses in Australia and Asia travelling extensively over the years.

My father was educated at Xavier College in Melbourne and chauffeur driven to school. My grandfather lost the family Stock and Station agency in the depression.

What I consider the most important life lesson my father shared with me was that we are **all equal**.

In 1947 he was a photographer with a leading Melbourne firm in Collins Street. A very wealthy socialite came to arrange her wedding. She was shocked to see a photo of **Harold Blair** taken by my father in the display cabinet, she demanded it be removed or she would go elsewhere.

He steadfastly refused and showed her the door.

His message was clear always act on what you believe. It's time for all Australians to be as one. I stand with my Indigenous Australia sisters and brothers to achieve their rightful place in this country.