



## BLACKERS' BATTLE

On Friday, August 10, 2018 John Blackman was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer on his chin that was attacking the nerves, destroying the surrounding tissue and spreading to his jaw.

The only remedy was emergency surgery to remove his jaw and chin and replace them with skin and bone grafts from his leg and thigh. It also involved the removal of his teeth (north & south). This marathon twelve-hour surgery took place on August 31, 2018.

It was a huge price to pay for removing the cancer. The price became more exorbitant when it became likely that John would never be able to stand in front of a camera or an audience or behind a microphone in a professional capacity again.

In a show business career spanning 50 years, John achieved enormous recognition. He spent 28 years with Daryl Somers in the pivotal role as the voice of his cheeky and irreverent little buddy, Dickie Knee plus numerous other characters (including himself!) on Australia's longest running variety show *Hey Hey It's Saturday*.







