

Snapping at history

Jamie First

In 36 years at *The Herald and Weekly Times*, photojournalist John Casamento took tens of thousands of pictures.

Now he's putting the best of them on display.

From celebrities to criminals, sporting events to daily news, "Out of the Darkroom" is a retrospective showcasing the 75-year-old's career from 1955 to 1991.

"It's just the tip of the iceberg," Casamento said.

"I've got boxes of pictures tucked away in the corner of an old room ... and cabinets filled with them all."

Describing his images as a flashback, Casamento said his love of his job stemmed from the diversity of the assignments he was given.

His photographer son motivated him to open the show.

The father of four said one of his greatest memories was of covering the Australian leg of Pope John Paul II's visit.

"It was an experience that will always stand out. I was very lucky."

He said he got the "camera bug" from elder brother Peter, now 78, who developed his own films.

"I was 12 when I first picked up one of my dad's cameras to take to a school picnic," he said.

"I would take photos of my mates and, from then, I just got hooked."

Casamento's work is at Photonet Gallery in Fairfield until Saturday, November 23.