



Speech by

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 19 November 1998

MR F. RICHARDS; MR M. CLAYBOURN

Hon. R. E. BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 a.m.): I record the passing of two of the most staunch supporters of surf-lifesaving Queensland has ever known: Fred Richards, who died in Brisbane on Monday, aged 98; and Mick Claybourn, life member of Surf Life Saving Queensland, South Coast Branch, and former president of the Broadbeach Surf Life Saving Club.

Fred Richards was a legend of surf-lifesaving. He was a life member of the Surfers Paradise club and the first to be awarded life membership of the association. Fred joined the Surfers Paradise club in 1935 as a member of the boat crew. He was the club's chief instructor for many years and coached the senior team to win the Australian Premiership in 1956. He was a character in the true sense of this most Australian of sporting and community service pastimes. He was a pioneer of the sport in Queensland and while many of the younger members of the movement will not have known him personally, they all knew about him.

His friend Billy James was quoted in the Gold Coast Bulletin yesterday retelling a great tale about Fred. It relates to a two-bob bit, which shows how old the story is, that some joker—it was Bob Rigby, another surf-lifesaving identity—put under Fred's cake of soap in the showers. He bet that it would be there at the end of the year, and it was.

Mick Claybourn's funeral is today. Mick was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia back in the eighties. He was a steadfast and staunch activist for the surf-lifesaving movement throughout his life. I know that the Gold Coast and Queensland are the lesser for their passing. It is on such human endeavour that the real worth of communities is built, as are the legends that any society needs to collect in its history.
