



Speech by

**Mrs J. SHELDON**

**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

---

Hansard 2 March 1999

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Deaths of Mr R. T. McLean, MLA, and Mr L. J. Yewdale, MLA**

**Mrs SHELDON** (Caloundra—LP) (10.29 a.m.): I will be brief; I know that time is moving on. I would like to express my condolences to the family of Les Yewdale and Ron McLean. I would like to say a few words in particular about Ronnie McLean. He was a constituent of mine. When he retired, he had the good sense to come and live in my electorate.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** One never knows. The member should wait until I tell the story. Ron was very interested in horses and horse racing. He was breeding horses on some land he had in the hinterland and was very involved with Corbould Park Racecourse. At that time we were having a little difficulty with the then Racing Minister, Bob Gibbs, about Saturday race meetings. Mr Gibbs, with little foresight, was going to take away some of our Saturday race meetings.

Ron and I decided that we would jointly chair a committee to see what we could do about this matter. We had a large attendance at a public meeting held in the Caloundra Civic Centre. Mr Gibbs attended that meeting. It has been mentioned that Ron was a man of peace, but I do not know how peaceful Mr Gibbs was feeling when he entered the room.

I thought a great deal of Ron McLean. He was a very friendly man who was well respected in his community. He was certainly well respected by the racing community. Ron McLean fought very hard for the rights of trainers, owners, jockeys, bookmakers and all the other people who form the racing community. I enjoyed working with Ron McLean. I believe that, together, we managed to retain as many Saturday race meetings at Caloundra as we could. I offer my condolences to his family.

---