




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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ADJOURNMENT

Hanlon, Mrs L

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.08 am): Lila Hanlon, a long-time resident of the Mount Tyson area and a stalwart of the National Party and now Liberal National Party, passed away recently after a long illness. Lila was an inspiration to young and old alike. She was a mine of information and she never took a backward step in her life. It is with great sadness that I rise today to honour the life of Lila.

I am sure all would agree that it is your parents who play one of the most formative roles in your life. It was my parents who instilled in me in my formative years my values, principles and work ethic. The other person who had an enormous impact on my life was Lila Hanlon. Lila literally changed the course of my life.

I first met Lila in 2003 when I attended my first meeting of the Cecil Plains branch of the National Party. When I left that meeting, Lila, who held the position of zone chair, had signed me up as a member of the party and nominated me as a delegate for the Cunningham electoral council. Lila and I became close friends from that time on and spoke regularly. Lila had more plans in store for me and within a few months had encouraged me to become the branch chair. Over the next few years I went on to hold a number of positions within the party, including the south-west region chair and I sat on the state executive of the LNP. All of these positions were at the urging of Lila, and she was always available for any help and assistance or advice I needed—but Lila was not finished.

When the former member for Condamine resigned from the party to sit on the crossbench I received a phone call early the next morning. The call was from Lila Hanlon. She said, 'Pat, you are going to stand for Condamine, aren't you?' After some urging and a lot of support from Lila I did stand for preselection and won the seat of Condamine. Lila was not an easy person to say no to and, as I stated earlier, changed the course of my life.

Lila was also a big supporter of the other members in the Darling Downs area. She was a big supporter of Trevor Watts in his campaign for Toowoomba North and also John McVeigh and David Janetzki—all of whom were present at Lila's funeral in Pittsworth. I also recall Lila introducing me to a young man who was studying at the university whom she said we needed to encourage further into the party. That young man was Andrew Cripps, the current member for Hinchinbrook.

Lila was awarded a life membership of the LNP—an award that was never more deserved. I would like to extend my sympathies to the Hanlon family, to Lila's husband, Len, who is suffering ill health himself and to the extended Hanlon family. I speak for all members of the Darling Downs former National Party and now LNP in expressing my sympathies for the loss of Lila Hanlon.