




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2017

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: SHERLOCK, MR AF, OBE, OAM

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.45 am): I rise to add my personal support and that of the entire opposition to the condolence motion moved in respect of the late Alan Frederick Sherlock, the former member for Ashgrove. As the Premier has said, Alan was born in Rockhampton on 7 June 1938 to parents Henry and Anne and attended Berserker Street State School and Rockhampton State High School. Alan graduated from high school and enrolled at the Queensland College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1958. He married Glenda on 30 September 1960 and together they had three sons.

To say that Alan was a community man would be an understatement. His passion towards the scouting movement was unequivocal and unwavering. He was the Jamboree Contingent Leader at the national and international jamborees between 1970 and 1988. He was appointed Branch Commissioner for Extension Scouting—that is, Scouts with disabilities—in 1977, a position that, like everything in his life, he immersed himself in to achieve better outcomes for everyone. He was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Queensland branch of Scouts Australia in 1981, a position that he held until 1986, and in 1984 Alan was appointed as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his service to the community and scouting.

He also had a distinguished professional career before turning his attention to the hustle and bustle of state politics. He was elected as the member for Ashgrove in 1986, a position he held until 1989. That is when I first got to know Alan as a then member of the Young Liberals. I knew him for his enthusiasm for the job, his enthusiasm for his community and his love of getting out and about and talking to those in his electorate. He was a fearless and frank campaigner for the Liberal Party and he believed in what it stood for. During his time in parliament he served as the shadow minister for health, youth and ethnic affairs, deputy whip and secretary of the parliamentary Liberal Party.

It is interesting to note that during his maiden speech in this House Alan spoke of his devotion to serving the community, the importance of individual responsibility, the importance of the family unit as the cornerstone of society and the challenges facing an ageing population. Indeed, those are the three great tenets of the LNP, formerly the Liberal Party: the individual, the family and free enterprise. These topics remain as relevant today as they were more than 30 years ago when Alan first spoke of them in this place. Strikingly, Alan concluded his maiden speech by quoting the words of the American poet Josiah Gilbert Holland, who said—

God, give us men! A time like this demands

Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;

Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;

Men who have honour—men who will not lie.

Alan continued his tireless community work long after leaving this House. He was devoted to the Australian Cricket Society, the Lady Musgrave Trust and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. I mention in passing that I believe Alan was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Former Parliamentary Members Association. He served as the Duke of Edinburgh scheme Queensland chairman between 1996 and 2003 and the national chairman between 2005 and 2008. Alan also served as a member of the Girl Guides Queensland state council and the state executive committee between 2005 and 2008, a movement he supported for the best part of five decades. Alan was a life member of Scouts Australia Queensland branch and in January 2014 was awarded an OAM for service to the scouting movement and to the community. No doubt during his time involved with the Scouts and Girl Guides movements he shaped many young lives.

On behalf of the opposition I support this motion, and we extend our condolences to Alan Sherlock's family—to his widow, Glenda, who is here with us today, and to all of the friends and family of Alan Frederick Sherlock.