




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Gormley, Mr NI

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.23 pm): I rise to reflect on the life of Neville Ian Gormley, or Nev to his mates—and I was certainly one of his mates. Nev was the former officer in charge of the Caboolture Police Station. He served as the officer in charge for 12 years until 1999. He was also a member of the Australian Labor Party. He was a member of the Caboolture Morayfield branch—a very loyal foot soldier for the movement and a very dedicated volunteer around election time.

Nev passed away on 4 May at the age of 74 years. I wish to convey my condolences to his wife, Heather, as well as to the rest of his family—Wayne and Liz; Scott and Tracey—as well as to his many friends and family.

Nev was one of those special people. Not only did he work in the local community but he lived in the local community. Even following his retirement from the Queensland Police Service in 1999 he remained in Caboolture and continued to be active in the community and provided dedicated support and service to the Australian Labor Party.

At his funeral, one of his early colleagues who is now an inspector based at Caboolture of all places—Inspector Lee Jeffries—reflected on his memories of Nev. He had this to say and I think it is best to use Inspector Jeffries's words—

The police stayed on for long periods, some seeing their entire careers and their retirement in the area, like Nev. Even some family members of some of our police who retired from here have also served at Caboolture.

We have a significant character to policing here and some of our police will be forever etched in my mind as the icons of policing. They are people we still honour with stories of them many years later, particularly for those of us that still work together here many years later.

Nev was an icon of the Caboolture Police Station and also the community. Nev was so entrenched into the community in many different ways, including as the officer in charge or being on the RSL, that it would be rare that he did not know a family in the area. It was the way policing was done in Caboolture.

I remember well that Nev insisted on daily morning musters at the Caboolture Police Station where everyone at the station attended, be it General Duties, Watchhouse, detectives, our ... traffic branch, or Prosecutions. This was a time before email, before mobile phones and computers ... These musters built our policing relationships, they built our cohesion and through our daily engagement made us united in our efforts as police.

Let us all remember Nev. I pass on my condolences to his family. He is a true believer and a great community member.