



Speech By  
**Ali King**


**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Williams, Mr RB

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.21 pm): Today I rise to remember Richard Brian Williams, known always as Brian. Brian was a proud Bribie Island community member, an active and committed life member of the great Australian Labor Party since 1990 and a staunch life member of the Electrical Trades Union. Plain spoken, even for a Welshman, Brian did not suffer fools to the slightest degree or hold back his own often incisive feedback and he enjoyed nothing more than a lively political discussion, preferably over a glass of red wine. Brian helped run the Bribie Island branch of the Labor Party for over 26 years, serving in executive positions and as a state conference delegate. He and his wife Yvonne campaigned tirelessly and I am personally very grateful for their support and their advice.

Born in Wales 1937, Brian began his electrical apprenticeship with the railways. His electrician sons liked to joke that Brian started as a gas fitter and switched to being an electrician once electricity was invented.

Brian was not fond of the British climate so he and his wife Sheila moved with their sons, Richard and Robert, to Australia in 1968, settling in Oxley. Tragically, in 1973 Sheila died of pneumonia aged only 37, leaving Brian a young widower with two boys.

Despite some dire cooking misadventures, I am told, Brian and his boys managed with help from his community and his workmates at the Swanbank Power Station until he met Yvonne, a wonderful woman with two daughters named Rachel and Ruth at a Parents Without Partners meeting.

I am told that although they got together quite quickly, Brian insisted that they were not to live in sin and so they married in 1975. When they married they created the unit known as Brian and Yvonne and the four Rs. Their marriage was strong and respectful and it endured for over 46 years. In the time I knew Brian I never saw him without Yvonne by his side. Brian truly lived his community service ethic. Through the Oxley P&C in the 1970s he helped build the school hall at Oxley State School and he also chaired the Goodna Scouts organisation for many years. After retiring to Bribie, between driving locals to medical appointments in Brisbane and volunteering with the Bribie Woodies and the Bribie Men's Shed, Brian said that his retirement was so busy he needed to put on another person to help him.

Brian and Yvonne loved to travel and it was during a trip to Longreach that he unexpectedly passed away. Yvonne tells me that Brian's passing was all any of us could wish for: without pain, without illness and without debility—a fitting end to a proud, good man. Brian's adored wife Yvonne and their four children and eight grandchildren miss him greatly, as do his many friends, our branch members and as I will myself. Vale, Brian Williams.