




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

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 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.09 pm): I rise to offer my contribution. I begin by offering my condolences to Duncan's family and friends. I came into this House in 2015 with that large number of members the member for Bancroft referred to. From the outset, Duncan was certainly a shining beacon. I can still remember that many of us found it a bit confronting to sit here in this place with people on the other side like Jeff Seeney and others who had been here for a very long time. Most of us did not take the opportunity to antagonise people like Jeff Seeney and others; Duncan relished it. I can remember sitting there watching Duncan intentionally baiting the member for Kawana and the member for Nanango. It was like a fishing expedition to him. If he hooked Jeff Seeney, it was like the biggest catch. He relished that, because for Duncan it was certainly sport and he was very good at it. We learned a lot from him, as the member for Maryborough said.

I was on the finance and administration committee with the member for Bulimba as the chair. In Duncan's valedictory speech he talked about being out at North Stradbroke Island and how there was a shortage of beer one night. I was his partner in crime in that expedition, and we corrupted Brett Nutley from the Parliamentary Service to source some beer for us for the second night because we were going to be short. Brett used initiative and made sure that he kept the beer cold in a container he found which, unfortunately, had recently contained seafood. In his speech Duncan talked about drinking beer that had an awful seafood smell to the side of the cans. I can remember ringing Duncan the next morning and demanding that he come back to my room to help me clean up this amazingly awful stench of stale beer and seafood.

While travelling around with the committee that looked at four-year fixed terms, as the member for Bulimba said—and I think the members for Condamine and Coomera and a few others were with us—Duncan said to me, 'We need to come up with a code word for when we need to sneak off and grab a sneaky beer. How about we use the word "sushi"?' In the middle of parliamentary committee hearings, unbeknown to the member for Bulimba—she probably still does not know it to this day—Duncan would say to me, 'Craig, I'm hungry. Do you think we should go and get some sushi?' I would say, 'Righto, mate, no worries.' We had a lot of sushi in a lot of towns. At every single one of those pubs, in the corner of the bar there would be a television and there would be a cricket match on from somewhere in the world. It always amazed me how much he knew about every single player, every code and every country. He very much loved it.

In closing I will relate one of the funniest things I ever saw in this House. A couple of terms ago I sat around the middle of the chamber. The member for Capalaba was giving a speech. He thought he would give a speech off his iPad, as some members do—this is a good lesson for many—but he had not put his iPad on flight mode. Duncan, sitting a couple of rows behind, realised this and started shooting the member for Capalaba emails or photos and they were popping up on the screen. The

member for Capalaba was swatting them off like flies, trying to get through his speech. It was the most dysfunctional, unorganised, start/stop speech ever, and Duncan sat back with an incredible grin on his face. If my memory is right, I think he even did it to the member for Ipswich West and probably plenty of others. There is a tip for all members.

Duncan will be sadly missed by all. As has been said by everybody, Duncan loved this place. This was certainly his oval and he loved being on the field.