




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Edwards, Hon. Sir LR, AC

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.59 am): On 26 May we lost a Queensland Great with the passing of Sir Llewellyn Roy Edwards. A man renowned for his warm, generous and courteous nature, Sir Llew was elected to Queensland parliament as the member for Ipswich in 1972. He joined this place as a Liberal member and would go on to lead the party from October 1978 to August 1983. It was his commitment to Ipswich's working class community that played a major role in his popularity and success as a community representative.

Sir Llew's son Mark fondly remembers how our local working class heartland embraced his father, a former Ipswich electrician who went on to become a GP. I want to personally thank Mark for sharing his memories of his father. In Mark's words he recalls—

It all started out when dad was a medical practitioner and he had a very large 'mining and railway practice'.

Back in those days they were the two biggest industries in Ipswich, so he got to know all those families very well.

Dad himself came from a mining family—his grandfather was a miner, his great uncle were miners—and he lost one of those great uncles to a mining accident in 1920.

When dad first ran for parliament he stood against a union official, and the mining community voted for dad because they knew him as their doctor.

I remember miners handing out how to vote cards and saying to me, 'we vote for Bill Hayden federally and Llew in the state'.

Sir Llew remained as the doctor for many of the widows left behind after the terrible tragedy in our local Bundamba community of the Box Flat mining disaster on 31 July 1972. Seventeen men lost their lives that day and another died in 1974 as a result of his injuries.

Sir Llew served the city of Ipswich until his retirement from politics in 1983. Sir Llew loved Ipswich and Ipswich loved Sir Llew. Following his retirement from politics, he was appointed by the state and federal governments as executive chairman of our transformative World Expo 88—an undeniable coming of age for Brisbane and Queensland and indeed for me, like so many of us who had the chance to attend that wonderful event.

Following his tenure as Expo chairman, in 1983 Sir Llew was elected the 12th chancellor of the University of Queensland, where a building at the St Lucia campus is named in his honour. He remained in that role until 2009, chairing more than 100 meetings of UQ's Senate, presiding over 300 graduation ceremonies and congratulating almost 90,000 graduates.

Sir Llew rose from working class Ipswich to become one of our state's most influential figures and was officially named a Queensland Great in 2010. I was thankful for the opportunity to pay my and my community's respects at his state funeral and pay tribute to his dedication and commitment to helping our local community. Queensland continues to be a better place for his many contributions, and his legacy will be forever felt nearby at South Bank—the site of Expo 88.

I offer my and the Bundamba community's deepest respects and condolences to Sir Llew's family—to Lady Jane Edwards; children, David and Mark; his grandchildren; and of course his great-nephew, the state member for Bonney. Vale, Sir Llew Edwards.