



Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

MOTION

Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Address of Condolence and Congratulations

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.17 pm): The famous speech by Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies who, after being so impressed with Her Majesty, said on the Queen's second visit in 1963—

All I ask you to remember, in this country of yours, is that every man, woman and child who even sees you with a passing glimpse ... will remember it ... with joy ... in the words of the old seventeenth-century poet who wrote those famous words "I did but see her passing by. And yet I love her till I die".

I think many people in Queensland would relate to that having had just a passing a glimpse of the Queen when she visited Queensland on so many occasions. Personally, my nan, Josie Lucas, and my great-grandfather, who was the mayor of Goondiwindi in 1954, had the pleasure of being presented to the Queen. It is something that stayed with my nan for a very long time. She was very proud of that moment and very proud of my great-grandfather, the then mayor of Goondiwindi, Bill Lucas, who was able to be presented to the Queen.

Of course, Her Majesty had great affection for the seat of Gregory. That was evident when the Queen visited Longreach twice. The first occasion was in 1970 when the then mayor of Longreach, Sir James Walker, and his wife, Lady Vivienne, hosted a luncheon at their home on Camden Park Station just outside of Longreach. People came from all over the outback to meet the Queen and Prince Philip. The district was in the middle of a drought and the royal couple were very sympathetic to the challenges it created for the local people. Of course, there is a reminder of the Queen's visit in 1970 as two fig trees were planted and they are growing very strong at the moment in the park near the council chambers.

The Queen's second trip to Longreach was on 29 April 1988 to open the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre. This was a visionary project which celebrates the story of the outback and the people of the outback. The second royal visit to Longreach within 18 years demonstrates the love of the outback expressed by the Queen. Of course, this was also demonstrated when the Queen and Prince Philip were so impressed with a man called Tom Kruse, and I have spoken about him in the parliament previously. No, I am not talking about the Hollywood Tom Cruise or *Top Gun* Tom Cruise. This bloke I am talking about is a real action hero, the Birdsville Track's Tom Kruse.

Tom worked the Birdsville Track mail run from 1936 to 1957, driving his Leyland Badger truck. He delivered mail and other supplies including general stores, fuel and medicines to remote stations from Marree in the north-west of South Australia to Birdsville, totalling 523 kilometres, through flooding creeks and rivers and getting bogged in the desert dunes. Tom Kruse came to fame with the release of John Heyer's documentary *The Back of Beyond* in 1954. The film follows the typical journey made by Tom Kruse. The Queen and Prince Philip watched the documentary and were so impressed with Tom's determination and, more importantly, his service to rural and remote families in the outback that he was appointed MBE in 1955. The people of the outback and the people of Gregory hold Her Majesty in warm

affection and regard. On their behalf, I express my sincere and sad condolences to the whole Royal Family for their great loss. Rest in peace, Ma'am. Thank you for your service. I reaffirm my allegiance to King Charles III.