




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gygar, Mr TJ

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.01 am): Perhaps more than any members in this House I have a long history with Terry Gygar. Terry Gygar was the member for Stafford when I joined the Young Liberals in 1983 obviously as a very young and impressionable student back in those days. Terry came along to branch functions, events and conventions and was always willing to dispense of his wisdom, his knowledge and his views on just about everything in particular.

I do want to thank the member for Surfers Paradise for reminding me of things that I thought I had long forgotten and had fallen out of my mind but obviously are still burning in the member for Surfers Paradise's mind, to which I say to the member for Surfers Paradise: I see you are still waiting!

I also want to associate myself with the comments made by the Premier, the opposition leader and other members. My electorate of Clayfield has changed many times over the years since I have known it and since I have represented it. I now have parts of the electorate of Stafford in my electorate following the redistribution that occurred in 2017, particularly in the north-western corner of Stafford Road, Kedron Park Road and Gympie Road where it heads north out of the city. I remember talking to Terry, because Terry was appointed as part of the campaign team in 1986 when a then fresh-faced Santo Santoro was taking on Don Lane in that election—an election that was lost ultimately by 16 votes.

Terry was integral in using and bringing technology to the campaign at a time when fliers and dodgers were printed on Roneo machines. I do not know if people remember them. You would load them up with ink and roll them around and get these horrible purple bits of paper flying out the other side.

Mr Minnikin: It smelled good.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, it smelled good, as the member for Chatsworth said—who is obviously from a different background! I know we cannot talk about youth crime!

Terry was a big believer and an early adopter of technology in terms of word processing and ICT and photocopying, getting mail out in bulk, getting information out and making sure our campaign workers standing on the street corners had something in their hand to give every shopper who was walking into Coles or Woolworths or the chemist so that they left with something. His motto was always to make sure they never left without a message in their hand. It is a motto and practice that I have followed today.

The modern practice today of standing by the side of the road and waving a billboard gets your name out, but I do not think it is as effective as what Terry used to practice and which I think those of us who are successful in marginal seats continue to practice—that is, making sure you leave a calling card in everyone's hand. Terry was an expert at that. He learned the hard way. I said, 'I'm a marginal campaign seat fighter. I'm a Liberal in a Labor seat.' That is how he went into every election, knowing that he was up against it and fighting hard to make sure that he won every last vote, that he left no stone unturned.

His belief, as the member for Stafford and the member for Sandgate have both raised, was in being prepared, in having proper planning, and that would provide you with the great outcome that you were seeking. He fought hard every step of the way. He fought all the way up until 1989. In 1989 he was the campaign director appointed by Angus Innes for the by-election at which Santo Santoro was elected in brilliant style. He then had to go on to fight again at the next election in November 1989 which saw the Goss government sweep to power. Unfortunately Terry could not combat that great change in society that came through at that time.

He remained a loyal and stalwart believer in the Liberal Party and Liberal Party values. He never gave up on those. It was reflected in everything he did. The member for Surfers Paradise is right: when we needed to help resolve that dreadful deadlock that we were stuck in, Terry was the man that everyone agreed with because he brought common sense, he brought a sense of decency and a sense of realism to the issues that we faced. He helped us resolve that and move on successfully. He was a stalwart in that regard. He continued to be so in his academic career.

He would often ring up and say, 'I have a group of students coming up from Bond. Would you mind booking and paying for the barbecue area up on level 8? I'll send you the cheque.' We would have these groups of students come through. He would always ask and seek contribution about what was happening in the House. They would sit up in the gallery looking down in the evening, when we used to sit later in the evening, observing the behaviour in the House. We would explain what went on and the meaning of tired and emotional and how that came to play out as they watched what was happening in this place. He was a great believer in the values of this place as a parliament, of what you could do in this place and how this place made a real change to people's lives. He continued to strive for that whether that was personally or in his academic achievements, which were many and manifest, and we have heard about that today.

I join with other members of this House in expressing our condolences to his family and our appreciation for the service of Terry Gygar to this parliament, to his country in his Army service and to academia at Bond University, an institution he dearly loved. Vale, Terry.