



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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ADJOURNMENT

Christie, Mr D

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (1.25 am): It is with much sadness that I rise to inform the House of the passing of a well-known and highly respected North Stradbroke Island identity, David George Christie. I had the honour of being introduced to David in 2009, when I was campaigning for the seat of Cleveland. Immediately, he impressed me as a man of substance and integrity. Over the years, I valued David's opinion and knowledge immensely. David was a strong advocate for beautiful North Stradbroke Island. He was an outstanding member of the community and never just sat on the sidelines. In true David style, he would always get in and work hard to make a difference.

Through the many hours that he spent working at the Dunwich State School, David developed a special affinity with the young people at the island. It has been said that barely a child has passed through the local school in the past 10 to 15 years who had not been guided by David in some way. David particularly enjoyed working closely with disadvantaged children. He helped them to build bicycles, taught them how to ride, camp and fish, and he showed them the correct and safe way to light campfires. He will long be remembered for the many youth camps that he ran on the beaches of North Stradbroke Island. David had two very basic rules for the children: rule No. 1, David is always right; and, rule No. 2, always refer to rule No. 1. He was a wonderful role model for the local children, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, because not only did he provide caring discipline but also he always had their best interests at heart. David expected high standards from the children. He succeeded because he was always fair and the children tried their very best as testament to the high regard in which they held him.

David set the bar high for himself. He was always striving to be the best he could be. As a child, he was captain of his school, he played in the football and cricket teams, and he went on to become an officer commanding the SAS Operations Support Squadron. David had a passion for the army, particularly the SAS. Whilst in the SAS, he worked closely with the Special Forces of the US, the Green Berets, Golden Knights, Delta Force, Seal Team and others. Within this elite community it was said that he was—

... considered to be most capable throughout, working alongside other people who are themselves some of the most capable people on the planet. His achievements were many, some of which due to the very nature of the job, we will never know.

Another passion of David's was politics. He was involved locally in helping to establish forums for politicians to bring their viewpoints on decisions that affected the future of North Stradbroke Island. His major interest within state politics centred around education and federally within Indigenous affairs. That was all underpinned with his belief in thinking generationally, rather than for self-interest. That was clearly evident in that, whenever he advocated something at whatever level of government, it was always for the betterment of the children. One of his mantras in life was if you are going to do something, do it right. It is true that he had high expectations of himself and of others, yet he was always fair. That flowed into his thoughts on politics and politicians.

On a personal note, I always found David willing to listen yet forthright when it came to expressing his views. David, you will be greatly missed by us all, but we are comforted in the belief that you are now in a better place.