



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF DEBATES

Tuesday 13 September 2022

REVISED EDITION

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Tuesday 13 September 2022

The Speaker, **Mr Shelton**, took the Chair at 10 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

PROCLAMATION

His Majesty King Charles III

Mr SPEAKER - The following Proclamation has been received from Her Excellency the Governor:

WHEREAS because of the death of our blessed and glorious Queen Elizabeth II, the Crown has solely and rightfully come to Prince Charles Philip Arthur George.

We, therefore, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, and members of the Executive Council, do now proclaim Prince Charles Philip Arthur George to be King Charles III by the Grace of God King of Australia and his other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, and, with hearty and humble affection, we promise him faith and obedience.

May King Charles III have long and happy years to reign over us.

Given at Hobart
This 11th day of September 2022
And in the first year of His Majesty's reign.

Signed Barbara Baker, Governor, and
Honourable Jeremy Rockliff, Premier.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Move Motion of Condolence Forthwith

[10.02 a.m.]

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Premier)(by leave) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (1) A Condolence Motion for the late Queen Elizabeth II from being dealt with forthwith;
- (2) That the Mover, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Greens shall not exceed 10 minutes in speaking to the motion, and

the Independent members for Clark and Franklin shall not exceed five minutes each in speaking to the motion.

Motion agreed to.

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

[10.03 a.m.]

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Premier) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the following Address be presented to His Majesty the King, through Her Excellency the Governor:-

The Members of the Parliament of Tasmania, the House of Assembly, desire to express to Your Majesty the deep sorrow with which we have received the news of the so-much lamented death of our late Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, a Sovereign whose reign, unprecedented in length, was characterised by Her unfailing devotion to the duties of Her exalted office, particularly as Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, and whose patience and leadership was a model for all Her people and will ever cause Her name to be remembered with reverence and affection.

We deeply sympathise with Your Majesty and all other Members of the Royal Family in your bereavement, and we pray that there may be before Your Majesty, a long, peaceful, and prosperous Reign.

Mr Speaker, I would like to express the deep sadness we share following the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Thursday, 8 September 2022. Her Majesty will be remembered as an inspired leader who personified dignity and decency in public life and a treasured friend to our State of Tasmania.

On behalf of the Tasmanian Government and all Tasmanians, I have written to the Royal Family to express our deep sorrow at the loss of such a remarkable Monarch and our sincere condolences at this very sad time.

Princess Elizabeth of York was born in London, England on 21 April 1926, the eldest daughter of Prince Albert, Duke of York, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. As the child of a younger son of King George VI, Princess Elizabeth was considered unlikely to accede the throne and was leading, for a Royal at least, a relatively normal life with her sister, Margaret. This suddenly changed when the young princess was just 10, when her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated the throne in her father's favour on 11 December 1936. At this time her father became king and Elizabeth became heir-presumptive. From this time, the young princess's life changed and she began what would become a lifetime of service.

In 1951, the health of the young Princess Elizabeth's father, King George VI, deteriorated. In the following year he passed away. Her Majesty was just 25 years of age on

6 February 1952 when she received the news of her father's death and her own accession to the throne. She was far away from home on an official visit to Kenya, the first country of a Commonwealth tour. The account of the day and our Elizabeth's accession to the throne has been told many times, perhaps an apocryphal story: a young princess enjoying an idyllic day at the famous Treetops Hotel in Kenya, climbing a tree as a princess and coming down a queen - a story I first heard as a young Latrobe cub or Boy Scout on camp many years ago. The Commonwealth tour was abandoned. In that instant, she ceased to be Princess Elizabeth and became Queen Elizabeth II and her life of duty and service began.

Many older Tasmanians will remember listening to her coronation broadcast on the radio, as well as a groundbreaking broadcast in England on television, done at the Queen's request to share the great occasion with people across the globe.

As head of the Commonwealth, the Queen played an important, symbolic and unifying role, reinforcing the links by which the Commonwealth joins people together across the globe. Over the course of her reign, the Commonwealth grew from just seven nations to 56, representing more than 2.5 billion people, more than a third of the world's population.

During her reign the Queen undertook more than 200 visits to Commonwealth countries, making many return visits over the years.

Her Majesty holds a particularly special place in the hearts of Tasmanians as the first reigning monarch to visit our beautiful island home. During her reign she returned a further six times.

Her Majesty's first visit to Tasmania was in February 1954, only a year after her coronation. The Queen was accompanied on the trip, as she was every time she visited our State, by her beloved husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip. Her visit over four days in February 1954 was to celebrate the sesquicentenary of Tasmania. It took in many areas of our wonderful state. An official motorcade, military procession and a colourful performance from thousands of local schoolchildren greeted the Royal couple. Her Majesty and Prince Philip explored Hobart, staying at Government House and planting an oak tree in the main drive which, fittingly, was where I laid a wreath in her memory on Sunday.

Many Tasmanians met their Royal Highnesses on this visit as they toured Anglesea Barracks and the repatriation hospital in Hobart, took in a children's marching demonstration at North Hobart Oval, unveiled a sesquicentenary memorial and hosted a Royal garden party with 4000 attendees in a jam-packed schedule.

Her Majesty also visited these hallowed halls, opening Parliament on 22 February 1954. Departing Hobart, the Royal couple flew into Wynyard and drove to Burnie to attend a red-carpet event and a luncheon in the Burnie Courtroom. The tour continued through the north-west, with stops in Devonport to visit the Devonport Oval and then on to Latrobe. Her Majesty and the Duke travelled to Launceston, where she was met by the mayor, Hedley George Pitt, and there followed another schoolchildren's marching demonstration of young Tasmanians at York Park.

Her Majesty had a genuine and lively interest in our people and our wonderful state and enjoyed the opportunity to meet many Tasmanians and hear about their lives.

The Queen and the Duke visited again in 1963. In 1970, they returned with their young children, our new King Charles III and Anne, Princess Royal. Further visits followed in 1977, 1981 and 1988 before the Queen and the Duke returned to our shores for what was to be the last time. On that visit, the Royal visitors spent time in Hobart and Launceston, and met with Tasmanians working and relaxing in Salamanca Place. They also visited the Incat factory at Derwent Park, inspecting a new catamaran that was under construction at the time.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was universally loved and the news of her passing weighs heavily on our hearts and hearts across the world. There is no doubt that beyond the loyalty, dedication and service of her public life we also remember Queen Elizabeth II as a mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother and acknowledge the sadness that her passing brings to her family and the generosity they are showing in sharing this time of grief with us.

Her Majesty was renowned for her stoic and inspiring leadership, her love of animals and her wonderful sense of humour. I will conclude with Her Majesty's own words from her 2010 United Nations Address -

... I know of no single formula for success, but over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal, and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration, to work together.

Her Majesty led a long life, well lived; a life of selfless service and absolute devotion to duty. She is an example to us all. May she rest in peace.

[10.12 a.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Mr Speaker, waking last Friday to the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II was an incredibly sad and historic moment. After 70 years as Australia's Head of State, many would be unable to remember a time without her. Her Majesty has been a fixture in our lives, a dignified and stoic presence throughout her 70 years as Queen. For most of us who had never known life without her, her loss was a shock, despite her advancing years. Her longevity, dedication and resilience were renowned throughout her lifetime. That has been borne out by the outpouring of tributes and emotion from around the world in the days since her passing.

There can be no doubt that Queen Elizabeth meant different things to different people. Her unshakeable dedication to public service set an example to us all and earned her the respect and affection of millions of people around the world.

Queen Elizabeth not only performed the role of monarch with grace and diplomacy, she has also been described as a pioneering working woman. In her time as Queen, she dutifully fulfilled her responsibilities while also caring for four children - two born while she was Queen. While there is unlimited commentary on how life was very different for Royal families compared to all others, I acknowledge that parenting four children and performing the duties expected of a Queen would have required many personal sacrifices that none of us could ever completely understand.

The Queen's total commitment to her role earned her enormous respect. In Tasmania, that respect and affection was on clear display during her seven visits to the state from 1954 - the first Tasmanian visit by a reigning Monarch - to her final visit in 2004.

In many ways, we can see the enormous change that our society has undergone in that time, reflected back at us in the changing nature of those visits to our island state. The first visit in 1954 takes us back to a different time, with the scars of the Second World War still fresh in people's minds. At that time, we were a country bound by the traditions and influence of the Mother Country, when our ties to Britain were celebrated fervently by most Australians.

In fact, such was the admiration for the monarchy that an estimated 75 per cent of Australians turned out during the 1954 national tour to get a glimpse of the Queen and Prince Philip. It is worth noting that even back then, one of the constants of life in Tasmania - the great divide between north and south - reared its head with complaints in *The Examiner* newspaper that the Royal Couple had spent more time in Hobart than Launceston. It seems that some things never change. Despite this, I know many Tasmanians will have fond memories of lining the streets both as children and adults during that first and subsequent tours, excited and proud to see the Queen in person.

Over the past few days, we have heard personal recollections of some of these stories and memories, serving as a reminder, not just of royal visits and a different time, but bringing back many personal memories for thousands of Tasmanians, memories of our own families, of parents and grandparents, many of whom are no longer with us. Precious memories are a source of great comfort in times of loss. These memories no doubt provide many Tasmanians with solace amidst their sadness. Other visits to Tasmania, in 1963 and 1970, the Silver Jubilee tour of 1977, and 1981 brought with them similar excitement and royal fervour.

By the time of the Bicentennial visit in 1988, the fervour had switched, somewhat from a celebration of Australia's ties to Britain to a celebration of Australia, an independent and prosperous nation in our own right. Even during her last visit to Tasmania in 2004, the Queen still drew thousands of Tasmanians to the streets in a sign of the affection so many had for her over her seven-decade reign.

Perhaps symbolic of our changing world is the evolving nature of the Queen's interaction with the public during that time, from the more formal arm's-length approach of 1954 to the more relaxed, face-to-face meet and greet tours they became later in the last century and into the new one.

Just as Australia's relationship with the Crown and with their own colonial past and national identity changed over the years, so too did the Crown's relationship with us, not just on that one-to-one level but also on a wider level, with acknowledgement and recognition of what we, as a country, had achieved over the course of the twentieth century.

I am reminded of the Queen's words in 1999 when Australia voted to reject becoming a republic and instead remain a constitutional monarchy. To quote Her Majesty:

I have always made it clear that the future of the Monarchy in Australia is an issue for the Australian people and them alone to decide by democratic and constitutional means.

This tells me that the respect Australians have for the Queen was reciprocated, that we had come of age during the course of her reign and she recognised the enormous progress we had made as a country.

The respect and genuine affection people had for Queen Elizabeth was as enduring as her reign. Despite living through the troubles and disharmony facing all families at various times, the Queen carried on with strength, resolve, good humour and always dedication to the role that she both saw and lived as her life's duty.

Even in more recent years, with the decline in health and loss of her 'strength and stay' - her husband of 73 years - Queen Elizabeth carried on with determination and courage, always putting duty first. The final photo of Her Majesty, taken just two days before her death at the swearing in of her fifteenth United Kingdom prime minister, Liz Truss, is testament to that and will no doubt be long remembered as a symbol of the Queen's commitment and devotion to duty.

To me, her grace, her care for others and her love of animals always shone through as remarkable qualities which made her both an impressive woman and Monarch. Her service is unmatched in British history. It is fitting that we remember and pay tribute to her contribution to our State, country and the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty's loss will be felt by all of us. I can only begin to imagine the grief of those who knew and loved her best - her children, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Labor Party, I extend our deepest sympathies to Queen Elizabeth's family. May she rest in eternal peace.

[10.20 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, on this most solemn of occasions, I rise on behalf of the Greens to honour the long life of a great lady and leader of our times, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

To her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, the entire Royal Family, close friends, loyal servants, and the millions of her subjects who loved her as their Queen, I pass on my sincere condolences and warmth. I hope the outpouring of sympathy from around the world may be of some comfort to you in these sorrowful times.

Mr Speaker, we honour 70 years of unflinching service and what seemed like an endless obligation to duty, before Queen Elizabeth finally revealed she was only human after all, and left this mortal realm short days ago, her duty done. On her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor vowed: 'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service'. She stayed true until her last breath.

Queen Elizabeth was the longest serving sovereign in England's history. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales, all over the world, people mourn the passing of a great and gracious queen. She was well-loved, much admired, respected for her steadfastness and fortitude and her unwavering service to the Commonwealth of Nations.

When she was crowned in 1952, Her Majesty became Queen of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka. What binds us all still on her passing is our shared colonial past, old Empire, the subjugation of First Nations people, the plunder of their natural resources and theft of their treasures and, over time, a Westminster system of government, parliament and laws that have at their foundation democratic principles that we in here are sworn to hold dear. It is to these principles, laws and conventions that we

swear allegiance, as much as we do to any queen or king when we are elected to this place. Just as I swore allegiance to the Queen, I shall swear it to King Charles III, but I am an Australian, not English, and my heart is a republican's.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth represented many things to many different people. What did the Queen mean to us as Australians? What does she mean now? What does her passing mean for our aspiration to be an independent sovereign nation? Surely we have the guts now to have the national conversation. Prime ministerial decree that 'now is not the time' or not, what better time than this?

Who was Queen Elizabeth to those who were here first, or those who came from countries that know well the coloniser's whip hand? What did she mean to the Irish or the Pakistani man or woman on the street? It is fair to say, if social media is any guide, that feelings span the full breadth of human emotion. How you felt about Her Majesty the Queen and how her passing affected you depends very much on whether your history is that of the coloniser or the colonised.

It is possible to pay deep respect and very much admire the character and commitment to service of Her Majesty and recognise that what she represented to many of our fellow Australians is a colonial system that robbed them; a system and institutions that over centuries oppressed peoples from Australia to Africa, Asia and the Americas.

The national flag, Union Jack in its corner, flies at half-mast outside this building. Apparently, in accordance with the protocol, the Aboriginal flag has been removed. As we understand it, no Tasmanian Aboriginal organisation or person was asked about this removal and Aboriginal flags are flying at half-mast on other government buildings. Respect has to cut both ways.

We also cannot expect a people subject to the theft of their country in the Crown's name to grieve as others do for the death of the Queen. Theirs is a grief of a vastly different kind, and it ever deepens as they have never received justice. Their wide brown, lush green, and fertile lands falsely decreed *terra nullius*, were taken in the name of King George III without treaty or truce. They have been fighting for recognition and the return of their lands, Crown lands, ever since.

In 1977, Aboriginal leader Michael Mansell presented a land rights petition to Her Majesty at a reception at Wrest Point in Hobart to mark her Silver Jubilee. He writes of that moment in a way that casts our late regent in a much kinder light than it does her ministers of the Crown in Tasmania at the time. He says:

When I arrived at the reception there were real issues. The police surrounded me and tried to stop me from moving, and there was a lot of kerfuffle about it. The Tasmanian Premier and Queen Elizabeth's chief secretary came over and asked what the problem was. I said, 'I am the only Aboriginal here and the only one who has been surrounded by coppers. This is supposed to be for all people, not just white people'.

It caught the attention of the Queen. So they took me up and she asked what the problem was. I said, 'I have a petition that they will not let me show you. We think you should be doing something about it'. I made it plain that I was

Aboriginal, that the Crown had taken our country, we have got absolutely nothing back and it was not acceptable. She listened to me and she understood what I was saying.

All this caused a problem with the dignitaries because she had walked past them to come and see me. I also gave her some Aboriginal artefacts in exchange for getting our country back. I offered these trinkets and beads. I said, 'Here, you can have this; now give our country back'. I was half joking, but she kept a straight face.

Eighteen years after I spoke to the Queen, the Tasmanian Parliament passed land rights legislation. We would never have gotten that legislation had the Queen not met with me as a representative. There was nothing special about me. It was the fact that she met an Aboriginal representative. That was a turning point in the refusal of her ministers to talk about justice for Aboriginal people.

They could not ignore it anymore once it had been raised with the Queen.

We can recommit to not turning away from past and present injustices. We can mourn the passing of a mighty woman and leader of her people. We can be grateful for Her Majesty's great love of nature and her lasting legacy of the Queen's Green Canopy, a vast forest network set aside in her name across the Commonwealth nations. Sadly, due to the ideological stubbornness of the current Government, I regret to inform Her Majesty's family that no contribution was made by the state to the Queen's Canopy and the heedless logging of our forests continues, but I digress.

Today we recognise the stability Queen Elizabeth II brought to the role, the great strengths of her character and many of us give thanks for her resolute service over seven decades. We can respectfully mark the Monarch's passing and hold all these beliefs of her many qualities and strengths to be true and, at the same time, recognise there is an opportunity for us to make better amends and grow as a nation. It is always a good time to have a respectful conversation about who we are as a people and a country.

The Leader of His Majesty's Federal Opposition, Peter Dutton, has told the newly-crowned King Charles that he should refrain from championing environmental causes in his new role. I trust King Charles will ignore Mr Dutton, as we do.

It is well known that King Charles III, who grew up roaming the meadows and wild corners of Balmoral in Scotland, is a passionate advocate for nature and a safe climate. Indeed, from his earliest days in a speech he gave in 1970, His Highness has not held back. Then he said:

... we are faced at this moment with the horrifying effects of pollution in all its ... forms. There is the growing menace of oil pollution at sea ... There is chemical pollution discharged into rivers from factories and chemical plants ... There is air pollution from smoke and fumes discharged by factories and from gases pumped out by endless cars and aeroplanes.

The new King was ridiculed in some circles but he was a man ahead of his time. More recently, King Charles named up 'the international association of corporate lobbyists who are responsible for a dying planet'.

On the day of the Queen's death, 8 September, climate scientists released a horrifying new report confirming the climate crisis has hurtled the world towards the brink of multiple disastrous tipping points, five of which we may have already passed. It rated barely a blip in the media. Climate news too rarely does, but it did not stand a chance against the floor to ceiling coverage of the Queen's death. Imagine if our leaders and the mainstream media that increasingly serves them, dedicated the same amount of time and resources to climate science and action as they did to the death of an English monarch. Even if only for a week, imagine the difference it would make to our shared understanding and sense of being in this unfolding disaster.

Dear King Charles, thank you for your tireless and focused work as a champion of nature and a livable future. Thank you and please keep it up. May your reign be peaceful, your judgment wise and empathetic. May you always speak freely for the planet we all share, royals, commoners, oppressed and free people alike.

Vale Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and long live the King.

[10.29 a.m.]

Ms JOHNSTON (Clark) - Mr Speaker, the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II was marked by her strong sense of duty and her genuine love for the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Through unusual circumstances, a young Princess Elizabeth found herself next in line for the throne. When the King died in 1952, the 25-year-old Princess became Queen Elizabeth II. Who would have thought then that she would still be there 70 years later?

In my brief contribution today, I reflect on the Queen's own words throughout her life because in these we can see the real person behind the Crown and the protocol. In 1947, on her twenty-first birthday, she said:

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

How prophetic those words have turned out to be. At the time she had no idea she would be Queen, but it is as if she knew she was marked for a lifetime of service. In 1957, in her first televised Christmas message, she said:

I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice, but I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhoods of nations.

Here was a woman who knew her duty and was not going to shirk it an inch. She did give us her heart and devotion and we are the better for it.

Today, by necessity, I have to be brief so I will skip to 2023 and the COVID-19 lockdown. She said:

We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again.

She meets with her beloved Philip once again. There is Her Majesty still caring for her family, still caring for us.

Over the last few days, many have commented on how remarkably connected people were with their Queen, even those who live halfway around the world. I was probably guilty, like some, in underestimating this sense of connection. She touched the lives of so many people in small but significant ways. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing the people in our community tell their Queen stories over the last few days and watch them light up as they reflect on a little bit of that magic, whether they saw her on a visit, their tradition of watching the Christmas message, or following her bright and colourful fashions.

In that spirit, I want to share my story of connection. It is one of dogs. When I was a child we had a gorgeous corgi named Sheba which we got from a Tasmanian breeder. The breeder was English and claimed that our beloved Sheba was bred from one of the Queen's corgis. Whether true or not, we were thrilled beyond belief to have a part of our royal family in our family. We treated her like royalty. Whenever the Queen was on television, Sheba was called into the room to see her family member on television.

I feel a surprising sense of connection and, like so many others, that has meant a sense of loss. We all have, I think, a sense of personal loss, but none greater than that of her family. As Britain's reigning monarch for seven decades, the Queen was known for her words of wisdom and humanity through both the best and hardest of times. For that we are truly grateful. We will all miss her.

May she rest in peace.

[10.33 a.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

London Bridge is down: the coded message from Buckingham Palace to the British Prime Minister's office was the harbinger of news that set off a global wave of sorrow. I recalled listening to the radio coverage of her passing last Friday morning and I was overcome with immense sadness. This sadness took me by surprise. I am not a monarchist, and whilst I bear no illwill towards the Royal Family nor did I have a strong connection with them, nonetheless, Her Majesty's passing struck a powerful discordant note within me. I felt grief for her family as a person who has lost a parent and a grandparent. I felt tremendously sad for the millions of people who adored and loved her, knowing that in the coming days and months they will feel an enormous loss.

I also mourn for what she represents: the passage of time in our own lives. Her passing is not only the end of her life but it reflects our own passage through life. I recall in 1977 as a young boy being dragged by my mother across St Georges Square park in Launceston to stand by the side of High Street to not so patiently wait to wave at the Royal Couple as they slowly drove by. At the time I had little concept of what a royal family was but instinctively knew that it must have been something important because it felt like the entire city had turned out to

greet them and wish them well. For my entire life she has been that constant presence. Her passing means the end of an era.

Princess Elizabeth, upon the death of her father King George VI, ascended the throne at the age of 25. Can you imagine the pressure of that moment, the enormity of the responsibility and the work that lay ahead of her at such a tender age? She ascended the throne when Winston Churchill was prime minister and left it last week 14 British prime ministers later.

Her Majesty was one of the longest-serving and most-loved monarchs. She was the United Kingdom's longest-lived and longest-reigning Head of State. Her 70-year reign was marked by her calm, dedicated service to her country and the Commonwealth. She was a reassuring presence throughout decades of sweeping change, providing leadership to her nation and people and astutely guiding the evolution of the Commonwealth of Nations. Her Majesty quite simply personified dignity and decency in public life.

United States President Joe Biden described it best in recent days when he said:

In a world of constant change, she was a steadying presence and a source of comfort and pride for generations of Britons, including many who have never known the country without her.

He described her as 'a stateswoman of unmatched dignity'.

Former Australian prime minister Paul Keating said:

With her passing, her example of public service remains with us as a lesson in dedication to a lifetime mission in what she saw as a value of what is both enduringly good and right.

She was a remarkable woman. She was the first female Royal to join the armed services as a full-time member, training to be a mechanic. After her coronation she kept her own name and insisted that her husband and loving Royal Consort of so many years, Prince Philip, walk behind her in public.

While never compromising the Crown, nor the intentions of her government, she did engage in polite but deliberate and profound acts of diplomacy and defiance. In 1998, when welcoming Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to Balmoral, the first thing she did was to insist on personally driving him around the grounds.

While Her Majesty put forth a flawless, polished public demeanour, in private she also had a strong sense of humour. Once, when walking the grounds of Balmoral with her protection officer, she ran into some American tourists. It became clear that they did not recognise her. They asked, 'Have you ever met the Queen?' 'No', she responded, and pointing to her protection officer, said, 'but he has.'

In later life, who could forget her cameo appearances with Paddington Bear for the Platinum Jubilee and where she joined in a scene with James Bond for the London Olympics opening ceremony.

With her passing, so much will now change from the complex to the simple. Overnight, Australia's most senior barristers were no longer Queen's Counsels.

Her Majesty had a deep affection for Australia and its people, visiting our shores no less than 16 times, travelling to every state and territory, the first in 1954, the last in 2011.

Her death marks a most significant moment for Britain and the Commonwealth. It marks the end of the second Elizabethan time and the accession of King Charles III.

While there should, quite rightly, be a mature and reasoned discussion in this country about what her passing means for our nation, that time is not now. For now, we should simply reflect on a good life, a life of commitment, dignity and service to others. The deep respect and warm regard in which Australians have always held Her Majesty will never fade. We shall never see her like again. May she rest in eternal peace.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mr SPEAKER - I ask members to signify their support for the motion by standing.

Motion agreed to *nemine contradicente*.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STREET (Franklin - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That as a mark of respect to our late Queen, the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 27 September next at 10.00 a.m.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.39 a.m.