

5.3 Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II

Recommendation

That the information be noted.

Last Friday morning we learned of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our longest reigning monarch and the only one that many of us have ever known in our lifetime. The outpouring of emotion and sheer number of touching tributes and messages of condolence around the world are a testament to her legacy and the impact she left on the world.

As our longest-reigning monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II presided over some of the most important moments of the 20th century and led both The Royal Family and the Commonwealth through a period of significant change that has shaped the role and functions of the monarchy in our modern society.

For many of us, Her Majesty held a special place in our hearts, not just for the longevity of her reign, but also for the great reverence she showed Australians. She was the first reigning monarch to visit our country and held us in particularly high regard, having visited Australia 16 times during her reign.

Her first and most famous visit, a whirlwind tour of Australia that took in an enormous number of Australian cities and towns in 1954 only a short time after her ascension to the throne, retains a significant place in our national memory.

And while Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her husband His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh Prince Phillip did not visit Campbelltown during their tour, I'm sure there were many residents who travelled to other parts of Sydney and beyond to celebrate her visit and catch a glimpse of the Queen.

In fact, an important piece of memorabilia, the Governor-General's carriage which transported them to several locations around NSW, is preserved nearby at the NSW Rail Museum and I encourage everyone to visit and take in part of our history.

I know there are many people in Campbelltown who have been saddened during these past few days by the Queen's passing. But it's also a time to reflect on her reign and look forward with positivity.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne during the post-war years and was faced with the great challenge of defining the monarchy's role in a changing world. Through her words and her actions, she became a unifying and much loved figure for people across all walks of life in many different places.

On behalf of our community, I offer our deepest condolences to His Majesty King Charles III and our best wishes for his reign.

Attachments

Nil