



CLEM JONES: A TRIBUTE

17 December 2007

The recent passing of former Brisbane Lord Mayor Clem Jones is the end of an era, not just because of his dynamic role in the city of Brisbane but also through the community work that he continued to be involved in throughout his life.

“Clem Jones was a statesman, a visionary, a humanitarian, a gentleman and the man responsible for ending Brisbane’s days as a country town by putting in place the infrastructure and community pride that has served the city so well, even after his departure from politics.”

Glen Elmes said he can remember when Brisbane had no town plan, unpaved streets, limited water supply and little or no sewer system and then watched as Clem Jones began transforming the city.

“Clem Jones was a man among men who started the building regime that resulted in what is now the beautiful, dynamic and modern city of Brisbane,” Mr Elmes said.

“I was born in Brisbane and raised in Everton Park and I remember our dirt road and the outdoor toilet.

“One of our neighbours was Eric Lloyd, the Labor Member for Kedron. Whilst politics was not really discussed at our home, it surrounded me as my grandfather was a ‘wharfie’ and a very proud Labor man and my early life was spent attending barbecues in the backyard of the Lloyds, going to Labor Day marches with my grandfather.

“I still remember at the tender age of 10 or 11, proudly handing out how-to-vote cards for Clem Jones, Brisbane Lord Mayor. I say proudly because I heard so many good stories of Lord Mayor Clem Jones who was admired and respected throughout the Brisbane community.

“Although I decided to follow a different political path, I firmly believe that the basis for my lifelong interest in politics comes from those days because while it was my parents and grandfather who laid the foundations that formed my core personal beliefs of traditional values and social conscience, it was Clem Jones who inspired me and cemented my resolve as he showed me what a difference one person can make to the community he serves.”

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