Mark Parcell
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24th of May 2021

The following pages include messages of condolences from Local, State, National and International Governments and other organisations following the Box Flat mine explosion, 31st of July 1972.

The messages have been graciously provided by Mrs Muriel Rasmussen, whose husband Brian was tragically killed in the explosion. These messages are just a few in the many cards and well wishes following the disaster. Making these messages available is not intended to cause any grief or further suffering for anyone or family. They are intended to show the grief and loss experienced by a community and society in general following a mine disaster.

The messages show how far and wide the effects of a mine disaster extend, but these words are nothing to the effort needed to ensure that every mine worker has a safe place to work every day.

For every family affected by a mining accident, we extend our condolences and wishes. For every mine worker working at a mine every day, we expect a safe place to work.

Thank you Muriel for sharing these deeply personal messages.

Mark Parcell

Q.P. 6

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

Queensland Police Department

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
IPSWICH. 4305.

1 August 1972.

Mrs. B. Rasmussen,
No. 69 Gladstone Road,
SADDLERS CROSSING.

Dear Mrs. Rasmussen,

The Hon. J. Bjelke-Petersen, the Premier of Queensland, has asked me to convey to you and your relatives the following message from the Right Hon. the Prime Minister of Australia.

"I and my colleagues were deeply distressed to hear of the tragic loss of life caused by the Coal Mine Explosion at Ipswich. I would like the relatives of those who lost their lives in the tragedy to know that they have my deepest sympathy, and that of my colleagues. I am sure I speak on behalf of all Australians at this time".

Yours sincerely,

J.W. McNeil
Inspector of Police.

DLP

Australian Democratic Labor Party

P.O. BOX 162,
NORTH QUAY. 4001
TELEPHONE: 219407

OFFICE: 26 QUEEN ST.,
BRISBANE.

1st. August, 1972.

Mrs. B. Rasmussen,
Gladstone Road,
Sadliers Crossing,
Ipswich Qld.

Dear Mrs. Rasmussen,

On behalf of State Council and all the members of the Democratic Labor Party, I extend to you and your family deep sympathy at the loss of your dear husband.

A miner's family, more so than any other family, realize they live close to tragedy; but, in spite of this fact, such a blow is no easier to endure.

I am acting on behalf of hundreds of families who have you in their thoughts and prayers. May this thought bring you some comfort at this time.

Yours sincerely,

W. Hutchinson

W. Hutchinson,
State Secretary,
Democratic Labor Party.

WH:KS.

WH:KS.

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

60A LIMESTONE STREET
(P.O. BOX 33)
IPSWICH, QLD 4305
TEL. 81 1137

3rd August, 1972

Mrs. D.M. Rasmussen,
69 Gladstone Road,
SADDLERS CROSSING Q. 4305

Dear Mrs. Rasmussen,

Dallas and I would like you to accept our sincere sympathies during this time of terrible sadness.

Words are quite inadequate at a time such as this and we can only hope that you may find some comfort in the knowledge that so many people throughout Australia are devoting their kindest and most sympathetic thoughts for you in your time of sadness.

You know, a few years ago Dallas and I suffered our personal bereavement under tragic circumstances and perhaps our experience then may help you now. We found that people who, like us, had experienced this sort of great personal loss helped us by reminding us that although it sometimes seemed impossible to ever face the future again, time does help, it does heal the deep and painful wounds of grief. The scars to one's mind never go of course and those who have suffered in this way never want them to go for they cherish their private, fond memories of the one they loved.

All we are trying to say is have faith in the future as difficult as it may be to do so now for we are certain that your husband would have wanted it no other way.

We know from experience how difficult this time and the near future can be with many personal problems arising as you re-arrange your affairs. If you should ever need any help please do not hesitate to telephone us for we will do everything we can to assist.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Hayden

BILL HAYDEN, M.P.

Q.P. 6

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

Queensland Police Department

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
IPSWICH. 4305.

31 July 1972.

Mrs. B. Rasmussen,
No. 69 Gladstone Road,
SADDLERS CROSSING.

Dear Mrs. Rasmussen,

The Honourable J. Bjelke-Petersen, the Premier of Queensland, has requested that the profound sympathy of the Government of Queensland be conveyed to you and other relatives in your bereavement caused by the Ipswich Mine Disaster.

He, and his Government colleagues, were most distressed to learn of the Disaster and its consequences.

They trust that the comfort of friends and awareness of Public sympathy will help console you at this tragic time.

Yours sincerely,

J.W. McNeil
Inspector of Police.

IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 116/122 BRISBANE STREET, IPSWICH, Q'LAND

CITY OF IPSWICH
QUEENSLAND

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR
POST OFFICE BOX 191, IPSWICH, 4305
TELEPHONE 81 3066

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE QUOTE

8th August, 1972.

Dear Mrs. Rasmussen,

Council, at its meeting held on the 1st instant, stood in silence as a mark of respect for those who lost their lives in those tragic circumstances at Box Flat.

Additionally, it was the wish of His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen of this City that I write and convey their deepest sympathy to the families in their hour of grief.

Words cannot adequately express the true feelings in these circumstances but it is the hope of all that time will heal the scar of this terrible tragedy.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. MILTON
City Administrator

Mrs. B. Rasmussen,
69 Gladstone Road,
SADLIER'S CROSSING.
Ipswich. 4305

TELEPHONE 2 8440, 2 3326
21-8366

TELEGRAMS AND CABLEGRAMS "COAL" BRISBANE

BOX NO. 908 G.P.O.

QUEENSLAND COAL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SECRETARY

ROOM 407
DESMOND CHAMBERS
303 ADELAIDE STREET, BRISBANE

4th August, 1972

Mrs. B. Rasmussen,
69 Gladstone Rd.,
SADLIERS CROSSING.

Dear Mrs. Rasmussen,

I have been requested by the President and members of the Association to convey to you and to the members of your family, their deep and sincerest sympathy in your tragic loss.

Words could never adequately express our feelings of shock and sadness but we would like you to know that the tremendous enthusiasm and work that your late husband put into the coal mining industry did not go un-noticed - men of his calibre can ill afford to be lost to his family and the community.

We all sincerely hope and trust that a Power greater than ours will comfort you and your relatives in the loss you have sustained.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

(TRANSLATION)

STATUTORY ORGANISATION FOR THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.

Heerlen,
August 7th, 1972.

To His Excellency the Ambassador of Australia,
Lange Voorhout 16-18,
The Hague.

With deep regret the Mining Industry Council has learned of the disaster in the coal mine near Ipswich, Queensland, in which so many miners lost their lives.

The Council expresses its sincere sympathy to the families of the victims, who have suffered so much through this mine disaster.

We should be grateful if you would convey the Council's sympathy to the relatives of the victims and to the management of the company.

Please convey also our sincere admiration for the spirit of sacrifice of those who took part in the rescue work.

The Mining Industry Council,

The Chairman
(signed)
M. van Thiel

The Secretary
(signed)
A. de Wilde