

Richard Morrow

By Simon Garnett



I first met Richard Morrow at the APLA National Conference in Sydney in 2000.

At first, I thought he was a shy, knockabout country fellow. It did not take long to realise he was anything but. He is a very passionate, strong-willed and formidable practitioner.

The views he expresses and the opinions he holds are those of a fundamentally decent, committed and principled human being.

Over the years we have joined forces over a number of issues, mostly relating to improving the benefits of injured workers in Victoria. While I have been the 'loud mouth' he has quietly gone about his tasks in a politically shrewd manner. Having regard to his background that should be of no surprise.

Richard has stood for the Federal seat of Wannon on two occasions. He has a great passion for politics, especially in respect to protecting the rights and entitlements of the working-class man or woman. It has been unfortunate for him that on both occasions he was unsuccessful, but fortunate for our organisation as he begins his term as Victorian President.

It is also fortunate that his decision to abandon his law course was short-lived. For some reason he thought his calling was as a shearer or a farmer. If it were not for the shearers reminding him regularly that 'you can take the boy out of Williamstown, but you cannot take Williamstown out of the boy' he may have stuck at it. Although, from all reliable sources I am informed that after two weeks of shearing he could not wait to get back to his law degree!

In one respect it is fortunate that he tried life on the land because that is where he met his lovely (and tolerant) wife, Jennifer. His political shrewdness at that time was also in its infancy. After six months of trying to convince Jennifer to co-habit, on their first night living together he abandoned her for three days straight in order to celebrate with his mates after their football premiership win! She ultimately forgave him and now they have two wonderful children; Mia who is 10 and Nicholas who is 8. They live on a large farm in the Western District where he is regularly seen pottering around in his 'bogan shirt' and conversing with his chooks when no one else will listen!

Richard is also a more competent horse-rider than horse owner. Apparently his brief foray into ownership of a trotter, 'Mystic Vale', caused more headaches for him and the stewards than it was worth.

Richard's tendency to cut to the chase rather than beat around the bush has also caused some concern lately. He has now learned that it is better to go through a farm-gate than climb over an electrified fence because sometimes you can misjudge it halfway across, which can result in being 'zapped' in an area most males would like to protect!

Richard will be a strong and formidable President because he is a decent and caring person and most of all a nice bloke and one whom I am proud to call a friend. ■

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