



**City of
Ipswich**

- **5 Condolence - Former Ipswich Alderman Norman Kruger**
Attachment 1 Condolence Motion - Norman Henry Kruger 3

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NORMAN HENRY KRUGER

CONDOLENCE MOTION

“That Council convey condolences on behalf of the citizens of the City of Ipswich to the family of former Ipswich Alderman Norman Henry Kruger who passed away on 10 January 2025.”

Norman Henry Kruger was born on 4 October 1931 during the Great Depression and the family lived on a farm in the Pine Shire north of Brisbane. He was the middle son of three boys.

He remained a country boy at heart all of his life and enjoyed living in the rural atmosphere of Marburg in his later years, moving there in 1996.

In 1958, he was elected as a councillor on the Pine Shire Council, renamed the Pine Rivers Council in 1959, becoming the youngest shire councillor in Queensland. He was a councillor for two terms and stood for State Parliament three times as the ALP candidate in the seat of Murrumba – a seat later held by his younger brother Joe.

He once told me that the only exciting thing ever to happen in his time on the Pine Rivers Council was when the Shire Hall burnt to the ground destroying all the records – the night before the council auditors were planning a major audit of the council the following day.

In 1970, Norm left Kallangur and came to Ipswich to join the local prison service where he worked for 24 years.

In March 1979, he was elected as the Alderman for Division 4 of the City of Ipswich comprising at the time part of Booval as well as the suburbs of North Booval, East Ipswich and Basin Pocket.

Norm saw it as an opportunity to do something positive for his community and to try to make the city a better place to live.

He was an Ipswich alderman for 15 years and held many roles on Council including Chair of the Town Planning and Heritage Committee as well as serving on the Finance and Works Committees and as Deputy Mayor from 1993 until his retirement in 1994.

As Deputy Mayor, Alderman Kruger had the rare privilege of being appointed as Council Leader, based on the English local government tradition of recognising his majority support on the Council.

Public speaking was Norm’s forte. He was a brilliant orator, raconteur and excellent debater.

He was always a quick-witted, eloquent and passionate speaker on behalf of his

community and was highly regarded as an advocate for our city.

On a lighter note, his passion for yodelling regularly produced a fairly mixed response from colleagues, family and friends.

Norm Kruger was awarded Life Membership of the Australian Labor Party in 2015. When he passed away earlier this month, he had been part of the Labor Party for 70 years.

He was prolific letter writer to the Queensland Times and it was not unusual for him to have up to two letters to the editor published every week, usually of a highly-targeted, political nature.

At a personal level, Norm Kruger was a delight to work with for 15 years as a colleague and mentor.

In 1990, he married Jan and was “adopted” by the Ruhl family. Jan was his supportive, caring and loving wife for 34 years.

He idolised his only child, daughter Leanne who had the educational opportunities which Norm had craved for from his younger days.

Norman Henry Kruger passed away peacefully in Ipswich on 10 January 2025 at the age of 93.

He is survived by his wife Jan and his daughter Leanne.

Norman Henry Kruger: May You Rest in Peace.