

Personal



British  
High Commission  
Canberra

From The High Commissioner  
Sir Roger Carrick KCMG LVO

at Mataranka, NT.

30 August '97

Dear Shane

I have waited to see your victory speech before writing this. I have just seen you speak, and then thank Josephine and your "two Territory kids" - with a great, real victor's, husband's and father's smile.

Our very warm congratulations, Shane. As I have asked (open) questions around NT, I have concluded that a good deal of the CLP vote, by no means only in Darwin, is a personal vote. In Mataranka this evening, a splendid lady who keeps a shop-cum-visitors centre, & who talks very well about The Never-Never Land and NT history, told us in some depth, without knowing who we were, how important it was that you, as distinct from the CLP,

/should

should win. So double congratulations. And a chap holding up the local bar lectured us with some passion about you: "he creates work, mate"!

Sherry Meakin, God Bless her, ensured our brief visit today to Kakadu was magical and memorable. Yellow Waters and the South Alligator River seemed at their best — and I had a good talk with Violet Lawson, Senior Ranger and traditional owner.

But how can we really thank you for giving up an evening 1½ days before the election; how thank Josephine and you for such a superb, relaxed, fun and fascinating evening; how thank you for such superb gifts? (The picture is happily on its way to the Residence — 'no problem'). All we can do is repeat our sincere, impressed, and very grateful thanks. You have given us so much to remember with deep pleasure.

Now: don't forget to look into that NT 10% Preference (NSW + SA + QLD 20%, ACT 0%, rest 10% — all agin' the WTO spirit). I'll do what I can re Pom interest in the railway.

We look forward to seeing you all in the UK. Hilary has set the British Council to work on schools. All the v. best, Yours, Roger