



BLEIJIE, NEWMAN AND THE CARMODY CLUB

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On 15 June 2015, the *Courier-Mail* used its Page One headline to invite its readers to join the Stand Up for Carmody Club.

The related story reported that ‘embattled Chief Justice Tim Carmody is said to be reconsidering his plan to resign as his supporters plan a public campaign to back him in his job’. One supporter named was Former District Judge Brian Boulton. The article reported that Boulton had claimed that many members of the legal fraternity wanted him to stay:

Judge Boulton, who has known Justice Carmody since the Chief Justice’s school days, says a largely silent majority want Justice Carmody to stay. ... I suspect the problem he had then is the problem he has today – and that is that Tim Carmody is no silver tail. ...

Many fear the Government’s public comments indicate he would be pushed out without compensation and with no attempt to implement the changes he has sought.

The *Courier-Mail* editorial, as always, makes its sentiments about the rest of the judiciary clear, deploring that ‘such an esteemed institution allows and petty jealousies and insecurities of its venerable members to be exposed’.

The editorial also reports as a matter of fact that ‘opinion in legal circles – and, for that matter, publicly, is turning in the Chief Justice’s favour’ and concludes that the time is ripe for his opponents to be ‘content they have loudly registered their displeasure.

Your protests have been noted. But now it is time for all factions to unite and put justice before politics in our courts.

Given the TJRyan Foundation’s commitment to evidence-based policy making, it seemed appropriate to examine again the record (as opposed to the class prejudice argument and assertions - rather than evidence - of widespread public support). Some of this evidence is contained in the Borbidge/Sheldon Report of the Newman years in office (http://www.tjryanfoundation.org.au/_dbase_upl/lnp-election-review-May-2015.pdf).

Two senior lawyers report here on the specific contribution made by Mr Carmody during this same period as a guide to those who might be contemplating joining *Courier-Mail* readers in standing up for the Carmody Club (http://www.tjryanfoundation.org.au/_dbase_upl/Newmans_poisoned_legacy.pdf).