

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
TV INTERVIEW
CHANNEL 10
THE PROJECT
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SUBJECTS: Portraits of the Queen

HOST: We have Richard Marles, aka The Quiz Master, with us now. Richard, just how many people have emailed asking for a pic of Her Maj?

RICHARD MARLES, SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: Well, it's north of 100 now, and I've got to say since I've been in parliament this is the silliest that I have ever seen, but I know that your show has been completely on board with it. You have loved it from the get go.

HOST: We certainly have. Keep those emails coming in. Is it just pics of Her Maj that people want? Are the DVDs flying off the shelf? What about the other merch?

MARLES: Well, look there's not that much merch, to be honest, but it is definitely the pictures of the Queen that seem to be the hot property, so if this is the game we're going to play then these are the rules: If you want to come to my office at 2 o'clock on Friday I'm going to ask you three questions about the Constitution. If you get them right I'll give you a picture of the Queen, and if you don't, well, then the consolation prize is another piece of merchandise, and that is the Constitution itself.

HOST: Well, it's an educational thing for us all, but are you even allowed to deny people the pic?

MARLES: Yes!

HOST: Isn't it our right?

MARLES: No, it's not your right. We operate within a budget, so we have merchandise which we have to be quite judicious in terms of how we give it. We can be audited on this stuff, so it's in our discretion to make sure that it is given out

appropriately, and I thought, well, this is not a bad way to exercise my discretion when it comes to pictures of the Queen.

HOST: Now, Richard I love your idea of a quiz but I don't think your quiz is quite fair because you're asking questions about the Constitution but we're asking for pictures of the Queen, so I thought I would do you a quiz based on the Queen.

MARLES: Oh, here we go. I knew this was going- well, before you start I've got the Constitution here just in case.

HOST: Not gonna help you, buddy. We don't care about the Constitution. If people wanted pictures of the Constitution that's what we would have asked for. What I want to know, as the gate keeper of all things Queen, how well did you know our Queen?

Question number one: how old is the Queen?

MARLES: I reckon the Queen is 92.

HOST: Bang. Boom. What is the Queen's last name?

MARLES: Well, isn't it Windsor?

HOST: Uh...

HOST: No. It's Mountbatten-Windsor, but I'll take that, because-

MARLES: -It's got to be Windsor, surely. Mountbatten's her husband.

HOST: It's a double barrel.

HOST: That's part of her last name.

HOST: Yeah, but he gave me half a barrel.

MARLES: Isn't that Philip's surname? Haven't you watched *The Crown*? There's a whole episode about whether it's Mountbatten or Windsor.

HOST: OK, you're getting arrogant now, frankly. Question number three: how many official portraits has she sat for?

MARLES: Oh, 200.

HOST: Ooh - over 129. He's good even when he's not good.

HOST: I think that's a very weird answer to that question.

HOST: You're starting to sound like a monarchist, Richard.

MARLES: Well I should for the record say I'm a very staunch republican, but there are actually-

HOST: -I don't know I'd be willing to take that. You know quite a lot about the Queen.

MARLES: There are groups who want a picture of the Queen and that's fair enough.

HOST: OK, finally, Richard, question number four: how many swans does the Queen own?

MARLES: How many swans, did you say?

HOST: Yeah. Don't act like it's a weird question and answer it.

MARLES: Ah, 57.

HOST: No, she owns all of them in the country.

HOST: That's crazy.

HOST: Yep. What a weird fact.

MARLES: And in our country, too?

HOST: No, not in ours, but I didn't check. Black swans, yes, but I haven't even ventured into that.

HOST: So, sorry, did he win? What happens as a result-

HOST: -Ah, yes, and for your prize we are sending you a copy of the Constitution.

MARLES: Fantastic.

HOST: No, just a photo of it.

Richard, thank you very much for joining us.

MARLES: Pleasure.

-Ends-

Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra.