



Speech by

PETA-KAYE CROFT

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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EXHIBITION OF ARTWORK BY MS A. WELLER

Mrs CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): I rise to invite all members to the Adrienne Weller exhibition to be launched at 3 p.m. today in the Annexe by the Minister for the Arts. Sometimes we meet a person who, without knowing it, demonstrates to us that life, despite its challenges, is what we make of it. While doorknocking in 2003 my footsteps led me to the home of Adrienne Weller, once an active sailor who built her own ocean-going yacht in Canada and who sailed from the west coast of North America to New Zealand and Australia. Ms Weller's seagoing days ended when, through multiple sclerosis, she became a quadriplegic. But it was Ms Weller's zest for adventure that helped her overcome the boredom that she found from the restriction of a wheelchair.

With the guidance of the late Bruce Preston, Ms Weller put her mind to action the next challenge—to pursue her interest in painting as a mouth artist. She is currently a student member of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, an international self-help organisation which gives people with a disability the opportunity to become financially independent by marketing and selling their paintings as greeting cards, calendars and jigsaw puzzles while at the same time offering them creative fulfilment.

This exhibition will display for the first time a collection of Ms Weller's works, with paintings from other mouth and foot painting artists also on display to support this exhibition. I wish to commend Ms Weller on her efforts and the work she has put into this exhibition, and I welcome Mr Simon Jackson, publisher of the MFPA, to Queensland to be present at this exhibition. I also thank Alan Podger, Chris Peardon and Kay Butler for their assistance in hanging and preparing this display. The paintings will hang until Friday of this week, and I encourage all members of the House and the media to visit the Adrienne Weller exhibition and be inspired by the talents of the mouth and foot painting artists.