



Speech by

Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Hansard Tuesday, 9 February 2010

INGLIS, MR K; JORDAN, MS J

Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (9.03 pm): This evening I would like to reflect briefly on the extraordinary lives of two extraordinary Glass House individuals who both sadly passed away over the Christmas period. Keith Inglis of Glass House Mountains and Jill Jordan of Maleny epitomised everything we have come to expect of tireless community volunteers, community advocates and community icons. Just prior to Christmas, Keith Inglis was killed in a tragic road accident on the Bruce Highway. Keith and his wife, Valerie, came to Glass House Mountains about a decade ago and Keith quickly injected himself into community service. Keith, who turned 88 last year, was the publicity officer with the Rotary Club of Glass House Mountains, a member of the Beerwah-Peachester RSL and the Glass House Country Bowls Club, and the inaugural president and lifetime member of the Glasshouse Country Probuss Club.

How do you fill the gap Keith's passing has left? Friend and fellow Rotarian Bob McLean summed up Keith's passion and dedication in the following way—

If it was possible to make a vaccine called the 'Keith Inglis Spirit' and all our people could be vaccinated with it, what a wonderful world it would be. The greediness, selfishness, unkindness and violence would be wiped away from our community and replaced with generosity, fearlessness to commitment, dedication to community and a love of your fellow man.

I met Keith only once, as part of a Rotary fundraiser, but once was enough for me to be able to concur with Bob's comments. The Keith Inglis spirit was evident immediately. To Keith's wife, Valerie, his four children, three stepchildren and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, my sincerest sympathies. A grateful community truly mourns the life of an extraordinary man.

Up on the range at Maleny, across the hinterland, across Queensland and, indeed, across the world, many others mourned the passing of Jill Jordan. Jill, who succumbed to lung cancer in early January, had an incredibly impressive international resume, but few would have known. Arriving in Maleny in 1970, Jill quickly became part of the fabric of the town, albeit a new fabric for the previously quiet dairying community. Jill threw herself into establishing cooperatives. Starting with the Maple Street Co-op, Jill also helped to found the Maleny Credit Union, LETS, the Maleny Enterprise Centre, Manduka and Wastebusters. Jill went on to represent the hinterland in the Caloundra City Council, leaving a lasting legacy—to name just one—through the introduction of an environment department.

But perhaps as lasting was her commitment to community activism. For example, she led the fight against Woolworths' move to Maleny. I will struggle to replace the image of Jill taking on a police line at the construction site. Even in her senior years, Jill had a fighting spirit you would not willingly challenge. I had the immeasurable pleasure of working alongside Jill in a community development role whilst with the Premier's department. While we shared a lot in common, Jill and I would both readily admit we had as many differences. However, that did not stand in the way of us forming a strong mutual respect and friendship, and this is what set Jill apart. Jill demonstrated a capacity to love, care, smile and encourage that put the rest of us to shame. Jill, you are sorely missed. Maleny and Queensland are poorer for your passing.