




Speech by
Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

JAPPE, MR L

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (5.50 pm): I wish to place on the record a tribute to Lance Arnold Peter Jappe, who passed away on 16 June 2012. One of eight children, Lance was born on 20 October 1931 in Mount Perry and he grew up on a dairy farm. From all accounts, as a young man Lance had a reputation as a bit of a larrikin. Often he was involved in stunts like letting off fireworks up the main street of the town. At the time, a local police officer was heard to say, 'I bet young Jappe had a hand in that.'

When Lance left home he worked on a cattle station near Emerald with his brother-in-law Les Archer. He went on to work at Mount Isa Mines, where he worked in the smelter for about four years until he was advised by a doctor to get an indoor job because of his fair skin. Lance did a stint at Coca Cola. His kids were never allowed to drink Coke because he knew what it did to the concrete floor in the factory. Eventually Lance became a telephone orders clerk with the Post Master General in Brisbane. That is where he met his wife, Nola, in 1957. On an early date, Lance and Nola went to the movies. Lance asked what Nola would like to see. When she told him of her choice, he replied, 'That really doesn't appeal.' Little did she realise at the time that this would be a phrase she would become very familiar with over the next 53 years. Nola and Lance were married on 5 November 1960 in St James Church, Coorparoo. Over the next few years their children, Lisa, Juanita and Peter, were born. Lance continued to work for the Post Master General and in 1965 he received a promotion, which meant moving to Edge Hill in Cairns. The plan was to stay for only two years but plans, like rules, are made to be broken.

Lance was an active member of the Australian Labor Party and the family attended many events together, from funding events to election nights spent in the campaign office waiting for the results to come in from the polling booths. For years there was talk about starting a workers club in Cairns, which eventually came to fruition and Lance was one of its founding members. In 1987 Lance left the Cairns City Council to become assistant manager at the Cairns Workers Club. The club was a hive of activity where everyone congregated after the Labour Day march or met up for Melbourne Cup Day fun and many other festivities.

Twenty-four years later, which included a stint running the grocery store at Freshwater, it was time for a sea change. In 1989, Lance and Nola bought 11 acres at Garradunda. Lance retired and Nola became the manager of Innisfail Centrelink. Lance's vision was to transform what was once an old cane field into a private sanctuary for wildlife. He set about planting as many Australian native plants as possible to attract wildlife back to the property. Today those 11 acres are unrecognisable from the block of dirt they bought back in 1989. Lance's vision is a reality: the block teems with birds and wildlife, which allowed him to indulge in another of his loves, photography.

The nicest thing I heard at his funeral was from Lance's son, Peter. Peter said that his Dad taught him as a man how to be gentle, but at the same time he taught him how to stand strong. That pretty well summed up Lance Jappe. Our thoughts are with Nola, Lisa, Juanita, Peter and their families at this difficult time.