




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Newton, Mrs J, OAM

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.06 pm): Fifteen years ago when I joined the National Party I first heard of a lady by the name of Joyce Newton—a name whispered amongst party members with both respect and perhaps a little fear. Five years later, as my home town was redistributed into the electorate of Glass House, I got to really know Joyce, the then state electoral council chair. When I was preselected as the LNP candidate for Glass House, Joyce and her husband, Greg, became like another set of parents to me. I would take breaks from doorknocking at their then farmhouse in Wittia. We discussed tactics. We would debate policy. We became friends, but I am only one of many on the Sunshine Coast that has come to know and love Joyce Newton.

Time does not allow me to list everything Joyce has done but, alongside husband, Greg, and children, Ty, Jennifer, Daniel and Carl, I think it is fair to say her proudest achievements and interests were the Maleny Girl Guides, the Maleny branch of the LNP and her endeavours to deliver a new indoor aquatic centre with hydrotherapy pool for the community of Maleny. I tell you what, Mr Deputy Speaker: the Sunshine Coast Regional Council better build that pool and, if it had any sense, it would name it the 'Joyce Newton Memorial Aquatic Centre'. It is no wonder Joyce was not only awarded an honorary life membership of the LNP but also an OAM earlier this year. To give true credit to her achievements, I table Joyce's acceptance speech and an article printed in the *Hinterland Times* titled 'Joyce Newton: a woman of substance'.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Speech given at the Newton's, on the day Joyce Newton was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia' [[1644](#)].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Hinterland Times* online, dated 6 March 2018, titled 'Joyce Newton: a woman of substance' [[1645](#)].

Early in 2017 Joyce was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. Nerve cells—or neurones—control the muscles that enable us to move, speak, breathe and swallow. Motor neurone disease is the name given to a group of diseases in which these neurones fail to work normally. Muscles then gradually weaken and waste as neurones degenerate and die. Joyce was given less than 12 months which meant that she was not expected to see the next state election campaign, which was ultimately held late last year. Well, she proved them wrong! As I mentioned in my recent address-in-reply, not only did she live to see the campaign; she was again instrumental in it. She coordinated polling day rosters, continued to tell me where I was going right and wrong on social media and provided all sorts of advice and guidance. Sadly, Joyce passed away last Thursday morning.

It is bittersweet that one of the last things Joyce would have seen was her husband, Greg, wearing his Andrew Powell LNP campaign shirt. Apparently, it brought a smile to her face. Joyce's community involvement speaks for itself, but it is the way she influenced lives that is harder to explain. She loved to debate, to challenge, to disagree, but it was not about winning the argument; it was about making herself and the person she was debating a better person or about getting an outcome for

Maleny. She loved the contest of ideas and I was privileged to spar with her on many occasions. At the end, you would have a cuppa and chat like there had never been a disagreement. Joyce has made me a better person. Maleny and the Blackall Range have lost a tireless advocate, my political party has lost a fierce warrior and I have lost a dear friend. Rest in peace, Joyce Newton.