




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Gill, Mr T; Caraffi, Ms J

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise this evening to briefly share the story of Tony Gill, Jane Caraffi and their mutual love not only of each other but of the visual arts. Tony, who joins us in the gallery this evening, is a bloke from Biloela. After studying hotel administration in Switzerland and a decade working in hospitality on Dunk, Lindeman and Fraser islands and cinema management, Tony eventually settled in Montville and opened Tony Gill Galleries in 1995. Jane, a former nurse who is originally from London, arrived in Queensland while travelling in 1993. She settled in Maleny and opened her own gallery in 1998. A shared interest in photography introduced her to Tony. Their love of photography, art and galleries blossomed into romance and marriage, and like all Aussie blokes Tony did very well for himself. He is batting well above his average when it comes to Jane.

In 2002 Tony and Jane moved their gallery to Cairncross Corner on the road between Maleny and Landsborough, and Art on Cairncross was born. Not content with creating an art lovers' mecca and a home for the Sunshine Coast hinterland's famous ceramic, glass and sculpture artists and painters, Tony and Jane have always invested time, energy and money into promoting the arts, tourism and the hinterland. Tony has served on Hinterland Tourism where he met my other guest this evening, Mr Ferre de Deyne, owner of the Big Kart Track, art collector and benefactor. Together Tony and Ferre founded the Sunshine Coast Art Prize. Tony and Jane are the force behind the Sunshine Coast hinterland art gallery trail map and website. They were awarded 2019 Sunshine Coast Regional Council Creative Citizens of the Year. They have provided artwork that has hung in the opposition office here in the Parliamentary Annexe. Their crowning glory is that for the past decade Tony and Jane have judged my Christmas card competition.

In March 2019 Jane was struck down by a rare and complicated illness, autoimmune encephalitis. It baffled medics, had her in an induced coma and had the amazing staff at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital designing her treatment on the fly with little research or knowledge of the illness to guide them. Whilst Jane's recovery continues positively, she and Tony have decided after 26 years to close their gallery this Sunday. Something tells me that whilst we bid a fond and sad farewell to the physical gallery, we will not see the end of Tony and Jane's contribution to the arts or to our region. I know that Tony, alongside Ferre and myself, will continue to work on establishing a world-class regional art gallery in the hinterland that celebrates the Glass House Mountains, our rich Indigenous heritage and the arts.

Tony and Jane, as you close the doors on your gallery this Sunday can I express my sincere thanks for all you have done for the arts, for tourism in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, for my own art education and that of countless locals and tourists and the artists you have worked with throughout the years. You will be missed.