



Speech given at the Newton's on the day Joyce Newton was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia

Governor Paul de Jersey AC, Mrs Kaye de Jersey, elected representatives – Senator James McGrath, federal member for Fisher Andrew Wallace, state member for Glass House Andrew Powell, and Sunshine Coast Councillor Jenny Mckay, community representatives whom I have worked with over the many years, my children- Jennifer, Daniel and Carl and unfortunately my eldest son Ty could not be with us today due to work commitments.

Last of all I would like to recognise my caring husband, Greg, who had to run the dairy farm and look after four children with me being away a good deal of the time. Greg and I met in a Milan railway station in December, 1971. He proposed two days later in Venice, saying he was going to have a farm in Australia one day and would I come live on it with him. I said yes, and then flew on to Athens, Greece to do my student teaching. The rest is history.

This is a very humbling honour, but I never sought nor wanted this kind of recognition. I accept it today on behalf of the hundreds of community members who have worked tirelessly to make our Maleny community a better place to live. No one person can achieve much solely on their own. I have always had the pleasure of working with a great team of people who have become lifelong friends.

My greatest passion throughout my life has been education and working at our two local schools. In the early years I taught maths and science at the Maleny Secondary Department; and later as my children arrived on the scene, I worked as a relief teacher at the new high school. I ran the tuckshop auxiliary at the primary school for several years. I also sat on both schools' P & C executives as Secretary and later as President. I was fortunate enough to bring some new initiatives into practice for example: room mothers, meet the teachers' nights at the beginning of the year, after school sex education for parents and with their children, a student council at the primary school, but my greatest achievement was being involved in setting up of the Responsible Thinking Classroom at the high school. Then I went to get my Masters in Educational Counselling.

From building a school/community swimming pool and keeping it running in the black, restarting the Maleny Community Kindergarten, running the blood bank at the hospital, keeping the Maleny Guides and Playgroup going, building an Indoor Activity Centre at the high school, setting up our local Hospital Auxiliary, overseeing the soccer club transition from Churches to Maleny Rangers Soccer Club, to sitting on the Advisory Group of the Maleny Community Precinct just to name a few of the activities I had good fortune to be involved with. I can look back now with pride with what the Maleny community has accomplished. I have become life members of many of these clubs and organisations.

Now unfortunately with sudden onset of my illness, I will not live to see my biggest project that was started in 2003 come to fruition – an Indoor Aquatic and Fitness Centre with hydrotherapy pool and gym. We already have nearly \$400 000 raised for the hydrotherapy pool. In 2013 at the 30 year celebration of the opening of our school/community pool, the Education Department agreed to give us the land we needed to build our centre on. Only to have a change of government pull the rug out from under us, refusing to do up the intersection at the entrance of the Education

Department land. The steering committee has not given up and is working on a new location. I hope one day to look down with Terri Windred, another Swimming Club past president, and see this project finished.

Thank you again Governor for making the trip up to Maleny for this investiture. I will be writing to the Queen and telling her what an excellent representative she has here in Queensland and that he would take time out of his busy schedule to visit our community. Thank you to everyone for attending today and who had any part in me receiving this honour. Our Maleny community is a special place to live.

I would now like my daughter to present you and your wife with a couple small gifts to remember your visit here.

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| Queensland Legislative Assembly | |
| Number: <i>5618T1644</i> | |
|  16 OCT 2018 | Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| MP: <i>Mr Powell</i> | By Leave <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Clerk's Signature: <i>[Signature]</i> | |