

Mayor speech at Joy Mathews Maclean Memorials dedications 10th December 2007.

I welcome Joy's family, husband Robin, daughter Sally, son Angus and close family friends who have travelled to be present today

Welcome also to Joy's former local government colleagues, to her friends and admirers, to all who respected Joy, and all who loved her.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands, the Bungelung and Yaegl peoples and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Today is a most special day. We farewelled Joy on World Environment day 5th June 2006 and today would have been her 63rd birthday. We dedicate today two memorials to perpetually honour the memory of a very special person.

It is important that we thank artist Scott Harrower for his fine artwork. Thanks also to Nigel Greenup and his team and to all those involved in preparation for the dedications.

This memorial seat concept and its location on top of Maclean lookout were selected by Joy's family.

Today we recall Joy the public person, the former Mayor and councillor at Maclean Shire Council for 12.5 years and a member of the first to Clarence Valley Council for over a year. We pay tribute to Cr Joy Mathews, elected representative from 1991 to 2006.

We also recall Joy's outstanding contribution to people and to our community. We reflect on her passion, her pleasantness, on Joy the jovial, the colourful, the very brave.

We recognise and pay tribute to her support of women, of our indigenous brothers and sisters and of many ordinary citizens to whom she gave love and hope.

We acknowledge and admire her dedication, her popularity, her countless hours of self-sacrifice at meetings, in reading, in travelling and in representing.

Joy was a pioneer environmentalist. She would be so chuffed and relieved at the now heightened awareness and concern about climate change and global warming.

She gave strong political support at Clarence Valley Council for Council's sustainability initiative. Sadly she did not live to see its sign off in August 2006.

She was in my thoughts just last Tuesday in NSW Parliament House when Clarence Valley Council was awarded the top NSW 2006/07 Environmental Excellence award for that same Sustainability Initiative.

Joy was the champion of the North East Waste Forum which on the same day last week won the best in State Environmental Education Award. I could almost see her smiling!

We all miss Joy and make these dedications today to pay tribute to:-

Her magnetic warmth

Her passionate commitment to the people

Her immense selfless contribution to public life.

Her dogged persistence

Her boundless energy

The myriad of committees she serviced

Her intimate connection and commitment to the Coastal Conference and to coastal and estuary issues.

Her genuine caring

Most of all we honour her untiring love of and commitment to the environment which was her greatest issue and cause.

We salute Joy

We were blessed as a community because of Joy.

We pray that she is at peace and rest.

Long may Cr Beatrice Joy Mathews be remembered.

Ian Tiley

Mayor Clarence Valley Council

10th December 2007