

(Speech by Tsering Hannaford at the unveiling of her portrait of Ian and Pamela Wall at St Mark's College, Adelaide, 5 December 2021)

Thank you, Don.

Honourable guests,

When I was approached by Don Markwell earlier this year for this commission, I was absolutely delighted to accept.

When I first met with Don, we walked around the grounds of St Mark's and I was told the history of the college through the faces represented in the paintings. Traditional portraiture, especially works painted from life, really get to the essence of a person and these walls are alive with the character and stories of those who have made important contributions to the college through the decades. A tradition of portraiture is a very special one because it not only tells the story of the people who make up the rich history of St. Mark's, but a parallel story of the working artists who were commissioned to paint the pieces. To grace the walls alongside the likes of Sir William Dargie, my father Robert Hannaford and his mentor Sir Ivor Hele is a big honour for me.

The process of painting a portrait from life can be demanding - many hours are required to capture subtleties in light, expression and mood. Ian and Pammie were fantastic sitters, and gave me as many sittings as required to complete this piece, for which I'm very grateful.

First, we began with a meeting at St Mark's - seeing Ian and Pammie seated side by side as we first spoke struck me as so natural and I knew I'd like to represent them in this way in the portrait.

Our first sitting in the studio consisted of finding the right composition, lighting and choice of chair. From this point, Ian and Pammie came back a number of times over the course of a month and in between very kindly loaned me their outfits so that I could continue painting each detail from life. It's my method to set up articles of clothing on a mannequin in between sittings which cuts down on the time required of my subjects without compromising on detail.

Over time, the portrait came together and I have had the privilege of getting to know Ian and Pammie, learning of the beginnings of Codan in Norwood, the incredible growth of the company to what it is today, their lives, travels, passions and great generosity. Ian and Pammie care deeply for their community and give so much of their time to help others - and this portrait was no exception.

With this work, I hope that I've captured something of their essence and in the years to come, may those in the St Mark's community feel the depth of their kindness and character whilst continuing to appreciate their wonderful contribution to the college.

Thank you.