



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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SENIORS WEEK

Mrs CROFT (Broadwater—ALP) (10.44 p.m.): This week is Seniors Week, a week-long celebration that focuses on showcasing the diversity of older people and promotes healthy ageing. I personally enjoy the opportunities to speak with seniors about their lives, their passions and their dedication to their families and their communities. It is so important to continue to recognise the incredibly broad-ranging contribution of senior Queenslanders to our communities, and Seniors Week is a great opportunity to do this. I love this year's theme, Ageing—Everyone's Doing It. Yes, everyone is doing it and that is why Seniors Week is an event for all parts of the community to get involved in.

Today I had the honour of opening the Moncrieff U3A's Festival of Ideas, an event hosted by the Moncrieff U3A to showcase the talents and skills of its members. The Festival of Ideas is a highlight in Seniors Week celebrations on the Gold Coast with 200 local residents turning out to be treated to a morning of charming entertainment. The Moncrieff U3A choir conducted by Colleen Johnson delighted the audience with a wonderful bracket of songs and following that the poetry writers touched us with their poetry readings and took us away from Paradise Point. A hilariously entertaining game—define this word game—was then demonstrated to the audience. It was a fun game where each of the members spoke for a minute about a created word—a word that is not found in the dictionary. I must say that the entertainment was outstanding and the individual members did very well. Aside from this, at the back of the room there was artwork that was incredibly outstanding. There was a display including drawings, miniature paintings and pastels and also included poetry.

I am a strong supporter of the lifelong learning concept and the University of the Third Age where all teaching, planning and administration of the University of the Third Age is carried out by its own members, thus tapping into the skills and experience of older people. There is no doubt that engaging in learning builds up individual confidence, personal acceptance and happiness and reduces isolation and depression. The Moncrieff U3A offers a range of courses for members to sign up to, including computer courses such as Microsoft, Word processing, creative writing, French for beginners, painting and even current affairs. I wish to commend all of the members of the Moncrieff U3A and the tutors for their dedicated effort to engaging in lifelong learning and positive and healthy ageing. It was indeed my great pleasure to join with residents at today's Festival of Ideas in celebration of Seniors Week because, after all, ageing—we are all doing it.