




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Country Women's Association

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (10.53 pm): It was my pleasure to chair the AGM for the CWA's south-eastern division earlier this month at the Coomera CWA branch hall at Maudsland. Congratulations to Gai Johnston on her election. I wish her and her board every success for the coming year. After the AGM I had the opportunity to enjoy lunch with the CWA ladies, and I know that most of you would be aware of the homemade delicacies on offer at such a meeting. At lunch I caught up with the QCWA president, Robyn McFarlane. Robyn advised me that QCWA continues to grow in all areas, but it has grown more in city areas over the past year.

The QCWA has around 4,200 members in more than 260 branches, sub-branches and groups. Across 20 divisions, members have reported between 30,000 to 50,000 hours of volunteer service. That is close to one million hours of volunteer service to Queensland last year. I am sure members would agree that this is a remarkable contribution and commitment to the Queensland economy and its communities. The QCWA needs our support, and there are a range of ways we can give it that support. Robyn told me of the many accommodation facilities owned and run by the QCWA. Their flagship accommodation facility is RFH on Gregory, at 89 Gregory Terrace, Spring Hill, and it has been feeling the effects of low occupancy recently. Robyn said that RFH on Gregory has 27 apartment-style rooms comprising studios and one- and two-bedroom units with kitchenettes. It is a short walk to the beautiful Roma Street Parklands.

Robyn said that many people are of the mistaken belief that RFH on Gregory is for the exclusive use of CWA members, but this is not the case. By promoting this accommodation members would be supporting the QCWA. The point is that all profits are invested back into Queensland communities for the benefit of Queenslanders. By the way, the QCWA has numerous accommodation options available around Queensland, including Cairns. I mention that because I know that the member for Barron River has talked about the difficulty of finding accommodation in Cairns at times. Perhaps the QCWA could help out.

Robyn also spoke of the QCWA's newsstand magazine called *Ruth*, and I have a copy with me now. It is a fantastic magazine with some great stories in it. It would certainly suit many age groups—it is obviously aimed at women—from young women right the way through. It is named after the CWA's foundation president, Ruth Fairfax. I would ask members to give serious consideration to supporting the QCWA in their local communities and right across Queensland by going onto the website and subscribing to the *Ruth* magazine at the very least and maybe booking some accommodation as well.