




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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ADJOURNMENT

Southport Electorate, Broadwater Chapel

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.31 pm): I rise today to speak about an excellent community achievement in my electorate of Southport. The Rotary Broadwater Chapel was once a well-loved place of prayer and reflection at its former home in the old Gold Coast Hospital in Southport. However, through a major labour of love over the past two years, the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport are proud to have saved it from demolition and given it a whole new lease of life.

It was built in the 1980s, after the hardworking volunteers of the Gold Coast Hospital auxiliary raised \$80,000 through the sale of tea, coffee and sandwiches to build the chapel at the former Gold Coast Hospital. However, when the hospital was set for demolition as a result of our great new Gold Coast University Hospital, Councillor Dawn Crichlow, the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport and I worked together to ensure that this important part of Southport history was preserved. I particularly want to acknowledge the former deputy premier, the member for Callide, for his intervention in allowing us to rescue the old chapel from the hands of the demolishers at the time. He certainly helped us push through some of the red tape and get things sorted.

The chapel now lives at the northern end of the magnificent Broadwater Parklands. Councillor Crichlow and I had the pleasure of officially opening the chapel on Friday, 20 May. The chapel is now available for hire and all proceeds will be allocated to Rotary supported projects serving community first and humanity as a whole. A huge congratulations has to go to Mr and Mrs Rayner—and Susie Barta—who were the first couple to be married in the chapel on 23 April. An even bigger congratulations goes to the amazing team who shed blood, sweat and tears over the project: Mr James Kennett, former president of the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport, who absolutely made this project his pride and joy; Mr Dennis O'Brien, the current president of Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport; Ms Jenny Crewes, the club service director who orchestrated the opening; and Mr Ian Hall, of the Gold Coast Skills Centre in Arundel, who organised some volunteer and skills based labour to help out. Ian also sourced funding, and a team of 12 young men—under the guidance of on-site supervisor and registered builder, Kim Jones, and also with contributions from Michael Byrne—worked tirelessly on the project. Councillor Crichlow and members of the Rotary Club of Broadwater Southport armed themselves with paintbrushes on weekend working bees and pitched in to ensure the chapel was completed and ready for the opening.

It has only been through the dedication of all these amazing people that we have been able to not only save the chapel and its legacy but give new life to this important piece of Southport history. I am proud to say that I played a part in making this dream a reality. I want to thank all of these people in our community for their hard work and for working together to create such a lasting legacy in honour of all the incredible women who worked at the hospital auxiliary over many, many years.