



Speech By  
**Verity Barton**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**University of the Third Age**

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (1.45 am): It gives me pleasure to rise to inform the House about some recent celebrations in my electorate of Broadwater. I am sure that all members of this House would be well aware of the institution that is the University of the Third Age. On 27 May this year, it was great to join my friends from the north Gold Coast branch of U3A to celebrate their 25th anniversary. It was lovely to join my colleague in the Commonwealth parliament Stuart Robert MP, the member for Fadden, and more than 80 members of the very large Gold Coast north branch of the University of the Third Age.

The University of the Third Age is the opportunity for people over the age of 50 to expand their horizons, to learn new things, to understand new things—whether it is technology, history, dance or music. It was fantastic to be able to join the more than 80 members of the Gold Coast north University of the Third Age at Southport Yacht Club to celebrate the significant anniversary.

I pay tribute to the immediate past president, Sue Spicer, who had been instrumental in seeing the very significant growth that the Gold Coast north branch has had over the past few years and who was instrumental in making sure we were able to celebrate such a fantastic occasion. Equally, I put on the record my thanks and appreciation to new president, John Hudson, who not only welcomed me with open arms to the function but also has been instrumental in making sure that the Gold Coast north branch of U3A continues to grow. It was also lovely to welcome to the Gold Coast the State President of U3A, Julie Porteous, who was only recently re-elected at the state conference.

The other benefit that we have seen out of this is that my mother has decided to join the University of the Third Age. Having bought her an iPad for Mother's Day she is now embracing technology. She understands what email is. I look forward to members of U3A showing my mother just what it is that she will be able to do, like so many members of this Gold Coast community who are over the age of 50 are able to do, and she looks forward to communicating with not only the whole world but perhaps her family without needing to use me as an email intermediary. I acknowledge and thank the Gold Coast north branch of U3A and wish them well for the next 25 years.