



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak about the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, which is a very special community group in the electorate of Southport. Twenty years ago a few keen Gold Coast residents formed the friends group and began the fight for a botanic gardens in their city. With a vision of one central location dedicated to local flora, the Gold Coast friends is certainly a vital part of the establishment and ongoing support of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.

The first plantings began in 2003 and, today, the gardens feature a walk of more than four kilometres. The Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens continue to plan, plant and propagate. They also coordinate community events, fundraise and educate visitors and locals about this very special patch of the world right in the heart of the Gold Coast at Benowa. As the friends say, for visitors and locals, a visit to the gardens offers them a chance to wander through the mangroves to mountains precinct, to admire some of the world's most remarkable trees in the gumtree corridor, and to learn about some of the region's most precious and endangered plants. A visit to the gardens also gives people an opportunity to discover bush foods, to take a walk through the story of our country and to encounter plants that sustained the region's Indigenous Yugambeh people for thousands of years.

Last Friday, at my visit to the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens I had the pleasure of attending the launch of *A Bushwalker's Acknowledgement of Walking on Yugambeh Country*, written by Laura Ryan, who is one of the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. I would like to table a signed copy of the book for the Parliamentary Library.

*Tabled paper:* Book, undated, titled 'A bushwalker's acknowledgement of walking on Yugambeh Country' [\[308\]](#).

Laura wrote—

The purpose of the book, through its photos, is to give people an insight into the beauty which surrounds the Gold Coast and to inspire them to go, walk, and enjoy it.

The book features the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens and is an outstanding guide to the best of the Gold Coast's natural assets. It is a poignant reminder that the people of the Gold Coast are truly privileged to live on the Gold Coast and I am truly privileged to represent such a beautiful part of the world. I would like to read the acknowledgement in the forward of the book—

I acknowledge the generations Yugambeh language (Wangerriburra, Birinburra, Gugingin, Migunberri, Mununjali, Bullongin, Minjungbal and Kombumerri) ...

There are a few groups of people there who are new to me. It has been a great privilege to mix with these people. I want to acknowledge the traditional owners past and present. The acknowledgement goes on to say that all of these groups have contributed to the economic vibrancy of this beautiful country and many continue to live in their traditional lands, continue to care for the environment and hold special memories of the tradition, culture and hopes for Aboriginal people.