




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Worth, Ms L; University of the Third Age; Greater Whitsunday Showcase

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.21 pm): Last week the Mackay community took the opportunity to thank Lorraine Worth for her 32 years of service as manager of CASA. CASA is a dedicated community not-for-profit organisation supporting the homeless and people at risk of becoming homeless. Lorraine has led a team of very compassionate, inclusive and non-judgemental people. Lorraine is a problem solver and she runs her service, as the saying goes, on the smell of an oily rag. She was awarded a grant to buy a big chest freezer. She fills it with leftover bread from Brumby's Bakery so that no-one presenting at CASA goes hungry. She collects tents, sleeping bags and blankets to help those sleeping rough have some protection and comfort. Lorraine is the muscle behind the organisation of Mackay's Homeless Expo, bringing together services and items of comfort for those in need. Some people leave the expo having had a medical check-up, a haircut and a tasty meal and with a bag of groceries. Lorraine is held in high esteem across the Mackay community for her dedication to our community, and we all wish her very many years of doing whatever makes her happy.

Mackay has a great range of organisations that support our seniors. They assist them to get out and about, socialise, be active and be part of our community. We do not want to see anybody feeling trapped in their home and crippled with loneliness. The University of the Third Age recently celebrated its 50-year birthday. U3A offers over 30 activities, from cards and bocce bowls to photography. I congratulate Paul Sunner, Susan Vince and Muriel Kilcullen for organising a splendid celebration at the Mackay Surf Club.

I thank everyone from both sides of the chamber who attended the Greater Whitsunday Showcase last night. Kylie Porter led a delegation of board members to lobby ministers and shadow ministers, making sure that everyone knows the abundance of diverse industry across the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday regional council areas. We have agriculture, aquaculture, beef cattle, tourism, mining, manufacturing, biofuels for aviation and marine and biofutures for turning sugar into replica proteins for milk and egg white. We are also to be the centre of Queensland's energy SuperGrid with the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme. Our famous Resources Centre of Excellence signed an MOU with Queensland Hydro last week to be its agent to train workers for the Borumba and the Pioneer-Burdekin projects. The Mackay region is booming!