



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**International Women's Day; Ambrose, Ms LA**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (9.09 pm): On 19 March the Northern Gold Coast community celebrated International Women's Day with a high tea. With my co-host Tanya Unni, I welcomed around 35 ladies to a beautifully presented room with all the trimmings you would expect for such a special occasion. I want to start by thanking my electorate office staff, Judi, Jodie and Jacqui, for the amazing preparation and coordination of the event. It was a huge success. I make special mention of Beverley Gordon, who assisted on the day. Beverley is a local legend who does so much in the Northern Gold Coast community just keeping herself and others active and connected. Thank you, Beverley.

The room was full to overflowing with women from all walks of life; women with backgrounds that held amazing stories of adversity to blossoming success in diverse ways; women in business; women who dedicated their lives to community; women who are now enjoying their retirement years but still contribute whether by way of family, by community involvement or by a mixture—women like Beverley Gordon; and young women like Chloe, a past YMCA youth parliamentarian who is now in the executive ranks of that wonderful program helping other young people to develop their leadership skills.

The room was filled with powerful stories, immense talent and, of course, endless cups of tea and coffee to accompany delicious treats. We shared tears of empathy and triumph and exchanged stories of perseverance and success. I felt honoured to be surrounded by strong, passionate women dedicated to making a difference. Their presence, their stories and their commitment to uplifting our community were truly humbling.

Our special guest speakers deserve special mention: City of Gold Coast division 3 councillor and deputy mayor, Donna Gates, who came from administrative roles and the radio industry to her commitment to the people of the Northern Gold Coast since 2008; Tanya Unni, a mother and doctor, who dedicated her efforts to the area of skincare with her Dr Tanya Skincare range of products gracing shelves at department stores across the world; Josephine Kadel, from a career in state and local government to president of the Northern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce and secretary of the Women of Influence Committee, business owner of Life is a Party, who is dedicated to supporting local businesses and charitable causes; Andre'a Simmons, founder of the Australian Anti Ice Campaign, a survivor of addiction herself; and Xenia Schembri, co-founder of At the Ark, author, pastor who is dedicated to helping families through the trauma of sexual abuse here on the Gold Coast and further afield. Thank you to all of you.

We also celebrated the life of Linda Ann Ambrose, who sadly passed away recently and who was being laid to rest by her family whilst we were celebrating International Women's Day. Linda Ann Ambrose lived a life that touched so many people, some only coming to light through letters to Linda's family following her passing, letters that espoused stories of how their lives were changed for the better or saved by a lady who was simply there with advice or a kind word. I became aware of Linda's quiet

commitment to the many she helped when talking to Tony, her loving husband. In that conversation it was clear that Tony, his family and friends intended to celebrate Linda's life—a life lived well, a life lived with purpose, a life lived with love for the people around her, a life lived quietly, making a difference like so many others. Vale, Linda Ann Ambrose.