




Speech by

Lisa France

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Hansard Thursday, 2 August 2012

ABBEY MUSEUM MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL; FARM FANTASTIC

 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Abbey Museum in Caboolture, home of the famous Abbey Museum Medieval Festival which was held recently. The Abbey Museum is in need of a stable and consistent source of funding in order to ensure that it is able to continue its great work educating and entertaining our local community. Having grown up in the area, I have attended the festival in previous years and have been so impressed by the scale of the tournament and the entertainment it provides.

This year I was thrilled to be invited to officially open the Medieval Festival, and my family and I had a wonderful day enjoying the century old traditions of medieval Europe and dressing up like lords and ladies with our little monsters as well. It is no wonder visitors come from interstate and internationally and the local community comes back year after year to participate in the largest medieval festival in Australia held right in my backyard. This year's festival was the Abbey's 23rd and followed a huge year in 2011 when over 27,500 people attended the week-long event. The festival, including the vastly popular tournament weekend, keeps going from strength to strength, and this year's event was one of the most successful yet, attracting 37,000 medieval enthusiasts.

The annual festival is a huge boost to the local tourism economy, and it is the primary source of revenue for the Abbey Museum. The museum is a destination for many school groups and historical societies, all of whom have experienced the wonder of ancient medieval life. The Abbey Museum is sustained by earnings from visitor admissions, the festival, school programs, archaeological digs and its retail outlet. As it is such an important part of Caboolture and Queensland's history and as it generates revenue in the local community as a tourist destination, the Abbey Museum and festival must be preserved. As its collection is not focused on Queensland's cultural heritage and due to the specific nature of its charter, the museum finds it difficult to access grant funding and it cannot borrow money.

The Abbey Museum has received support from the state government in the form of one-off funding under various incentive programs but it has been unsuccessful in securing long-term funding. There are also funding avenues available through the Australian government, and I am pleased to say that representatives from the festival recently met with the federal member for Longman, Wyatt Roy, and our mayor, Allan Sutherland, to seek the assistance of all levels of government to secure the future of the Abbey's funding. Edith Cuffe, Michael Strong and Trevor Robertson have all worked tirelessly to ensure the Abbey Museum remains at Caboolture and continues to educate visitors for years to come.

I would also like to acknowledge the fantastic event which was held last weekend, Farm Fantastic, and the wonderful work done by the Blatchfords and their organisation group. It was absolutely terrific. If you love tractors, Caboolture is the place to go.