




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Fort Lytton Historical Association

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.17 pm): Whilst the glamorous Hollywood star Angelina Jolie may have helped financially to restore the bayside's own Fort Lytton, we should not forget the tireless work of the many volunteers who since 1988 have been dedicated to preserving this important piece of Queensland, and in particular Brisbane, history. I recently had the opportunity to visit Fort Lytton again for the official opening of the restored black powder rooms and magazine No. 10 with the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks, the Hon. Steven Miles MP.

The Fort Lytton Historical Association began in 1988 as a group of ex-servicemen, a subcommittee of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (Queensland). These volunteers dedicated their efforts and made a long-term commitment to the preservation of the Fort Lytton site. They also had a vision for Fort Lytton to be a tourist destination. In their own words, on a wet Saturday afternoon there was a gathering of near doddering old ex-service World War II gunners and much younger National Parks and Wildlife personnel with the idea to form a tourist attraction, volunteer guiding groups and the future refurbishment of the gun emplacements.

In 1999 the Fort Lytton Historical Association replaced this subcommittee. Sadly, many of the original subcommittee members are no longer with us; however, the passion to keep the history of Fort Lytton alive lives on in our new members. The fort, which is a national park, is open to the public on Sundays and public holidays, and the wonderful volunteers of the Fort Lytton Historical Association have preserved and brought the fort to life by running guided tours, maintaining a museum, cannon firing, parades and re-enactments. The fort is on the southern side of the Brisbane River and includes the historic fort, a museum, the black powder room, a moat and the Lytton quarantine station—and it is only 15 kilometres from the city. Fort Lytton was built in 1880 to protect Brisbane from an enemy maritime attack, and the fort is the principal remaining landmark of the reserve that for 40 years was the focus of Queensland defence activity. The fort was used for defence purposes in Brisbane until the end of the Second World War.

Whilst Angelina may have contributed financially, the dedication and perseverance of a group of passionate historians have prevailed. That group of doddering ex-service World War II gunners and those in their place have ensured that this rare and surviving piece of 19th century Queensland history has been preserved for future generations. I thank the Fort Lytton Historical Association for their dedication, and I encourage each and every one of the members of the House to visit this important piece of Brisbane's history.