




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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ADJOURNMENT

History Alive

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.09 am): I rise to speak about History Alive, a wonderful annual event that I attended last Saturday at the fabulous Fort Lytton National Park. The opening went off with a bang from the big 64-pounder cannon which was first fired in 1881 by Cecilia Palmer, the wife of the fifth premier of Queensland, Sir Arthur Palmer. This year I had the honour of firing the cannon. It took a little time to coax this old cannon into action.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PEASE: It did. I will take that interjection. That is what it was built for. We finally got the big bang in the end, not in anger—it has never been fired in anger—but to herald the opening of the 20th Queensland Living History Association History Alive event. This year the event was dedicated to Jason Armfield, Queensland Living History Association's founding member and safety officer, who unfortunately passed away during the year. He was a tireless worker and will be sadly missed by many.

This year we saw more than 700 re-enactors and historians, from crusader knights to Napoleonic cavalry to vehicles from the First World War, the Second World War and the Vietnam War. There was medieval jousting, cooking demonstrations, sword fights, penny-farthings and even Dr Who's TARDIS. I am not too sure if the good doctor was there, though. History Alive is not just a celebration of the past but also recreating the past.

I was also delighted to open Fort Lytton Historical Association's new 'Fort Lytton's Anzac Generals'. This exhibit features just 10 of the over 40 Fort Lytton generals and was a fitting and timely tribute just five months out from 11 November 2018, the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that brought to an end the First World War.

This exhibition is just one of the initiatives that Fort Lytton Historical Association has undertaken to preserve our history for future generations and to share with all of Brisbane and, in fact, all of Australia. Fort Lytton Historical Association also plays a key role in maintaining Fort Lytton as a splendid public attraction, operating the visitor centre, the canteen, four museum buildings, the historic fort and the gun park. Fort Lytton was constructed by the Queensland government between 1880 and 1882 and was the centre of Queensland's military activity deep into the 20th century.

I would like to thank the Queensland Living History Association, the History Alive performance team, the Fort Lytton Historical Association and the Fort Lytton National Park rangers for once again participating in History Alive and to acknowledge the work and dedication of the volunteers and the re-enactors for this wonderful community event. I encourage all of Brisbane to pop down to Fort Lytton. It is a great part of our local history. They have fantastic night-time tours that are run by Daley, who has written the script, and there are re-enactors doing that. It is a fabulous night out. Please make the effort to come down. I go as often as I can so I will see you there.