




Speech By
David Lee

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Andersen, Mr J

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (11.53 pm): I rise to pay tribute to a fifth-generation Hervey Bay stalwart, Mr John Andersen. John has lived a full and adventurous life as a former schoolteacher, small business and Fun Parlour owner, tour guide, magician, justice of the peace and local historian. John Andersen has given a lifetime of service to our Hervey Bay community.

John is a magician and was awarded the 60-year Order of Merlin Excelsior from the International Brotherhood of Magicians, one of 50 in the world. He has mixed in circles with the likes of American magicians David Copperfield and Penn & Teller. John's favourite trick is with the linking rings. John and Lynette Andersen owned and operated the iconic Fun Parlour in Scarness, Hervey Bay for over 45 years. The Fun Parlour included minigolf, slot cars, pool tables, pinball and a jukebox.

In 2007 John joined the Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum and later served seven years as president. John is now a life member of the Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum. John is passionate about saving our history. He collaborated with other local historians and the Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum Management Committee and wrote four major books: *Hervey Bay: The First 150 Years*, *The Urangan Pier: Hervey Bay Celebrating 100 Years* and *Moments in Time: A Pictorial History of the Fraser Coast*, volumes 1 and 2. John also spent countless hours painstakingly restoring old glass negatives and photos of the Fraser Coast region.

In 2013 John was instrumental in bringing the then Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, as the guest of honour to Hervey Bay's 150-year celebrations. In September 2023 John was pivotal in organising the 80th anniversary of Operation Pilgrimage, led by Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie AC, DSC, CSM a former chief of the Australian Army. The anniversary marked the occasion of Operation Jaywick, a special operation in World War II in which Z Force commandos and sailors trained on K'gari Fraser Island. On 26 September 1943 Z Force used the MV *Krait*, disguised as an Indonesian fishing boat, to infiltrate the Japanese occupied Singapore harbour and sink three ships and damage a further three ships. John also served on the Fraser Coast Regional Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee.

There is a saying that behind every good man there stands a woman. Thank you, Lynette, for so ably supporting John in his community work over many years. On behalf of the Hervey Bay community, thank you, John Andersen. You are leaving an enduring historical legacy to our community. You are, indeed, saving our history.