

Community News

from **Leslie Williams MP**

Member for Port Macquarie



PCYC for Port Macquarie!



Police Minister Mike Gallacher MLC, Leslie Williams MP, PCYC Chief Executive Chris Gardiner, PMHC Administrator Neil Porter. Photo courtesy Port News.

Last month the NSW Government announced its commitment of \$2.5 million for a new PCYC at Port Macquarie.

Before the election, the Government committed to providing PCYC with more than \$20.25 million over 4 years to build and revitalise clubs across the state and through a lot of hard work Port Macquarie was selected. This is a major win for our local community who have been crying out for years for additional facilities for our youth.

Despite its popularity among our young people, our former PCYC closed its doors around four years ago which was very sad news for its hundreds of members. To now finally have a PCYC being built in Port Macquarie will fill a much needed void.

I have been working for many years to tackle the lack of youth facilities in our area and I know that many young people will be joining me in celebrating this announcement. The new PCYC will adjoin the Port Macquarie Indoor Stadium on Hastings River Drive and will include an extra four basketball courts, meeting areas, break out rooms and offices.

Apart from additional sporting facilities, the PCYC will give younger people in our community the opportunity to build positive relationships with police. It will be exciting to see work commence on this project.

To say that I haven't stopped smiling with the incredible funding news about a new school for Lake Cathie would be an understatement. I am so pleased to have been the local MP who is delivering on this much needed expansion to local public education.

A school for Lake Cathie was the reason I got involved in politics in the first place, so to see it finally evolving from an idea, to lobbying, to planning and now funding in the Budget has been welcomed by not only me but by many people in our community. Full details on this year's local Budget announcements are in this Newsletter.

This year has been a very busy one with an increasing number of Ministers paying particular attention to the Port Macquarie electorate. So far this year we have had visits from the Minister for Roads, Minister for Sport and Recreation (twice), Minister for Police, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Citizenship and Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Finance, Minister for Regional Infrastructure and of course the Premier Barry O'Farrell.

This is an indication of the Liberals & Nationals honouring our promise to deliver for regional NSW.

I will continue to fight for our area and I invite you to complete the enclosed survey to highlight what is important to you – because that's what's important to me!

Leslie Williams
Member for Port Macquarie

"The PCYC project would not have happened here without Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams" – Chris Gardiner PCYC Chief Executive

Services to residents

Justice of the Peace

Residents wishing to become a Justice of the Peace can obtain application forms from my office. Applications need to establish either a work or community related need for appointment and supply the required character references.

Seniors Cards

Seniors Card applications can be obtained from my office. Applicants need to be over 60 years of age and working less than 20 hours a week to be eligible.

State Awards

State Representative Certificates are available for people who represent NSW in various competitive fields. The categories are extensive and include sport, dancing, public speaking etc.

State Flags

State flags are available free of charge for eligible community groups.

Project Eyewatch

Project Eyewatch utilises Facebook as a tool to create 21st Century Neighbourhood Watch Communities. It enables you to participate in active crime prevention activities online in your home 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

www.facebook.com/ProjectEyewatch

Please contact my office for details and assistance with any of the above services.



Hastings Cancer Trust fundraising volunteers Betty Allman and Jill Pollard

Hastings Cancer Trust

As a patron of the Hastings Cancer Trust, I'd like to congratulate the team of dedicated committee members and fundraising volunteers who work tirelessly for this unique local charity.

our local area.

Cancer is the number one cause of death in Australia, with one in three men and one in four women developing cancer by the age of 75. You can help support this very worthwhile charity by attending their Gala Dinner Dance in Port Macquarie on 21st July at Port Macquarie Panthers. To find out more details, please contact my office.

In the past eight years they have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and distributed more than \$600,000 to local cancer projects. All money raised by the Hastings Cancer Trust stays in

Community First Responders



Leslie with Harrington Action Group Secretary Joan Hall

together to assist residents until an Ambulance arrives.

Community First Responders are accredited and operate under Ambulance governance and training. The majority of volunteers respond under a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the State Emergency Service, the Rural Fire Service or the NSW Fire Brigades.

To undertake the Community First Responders program, we need 20 community members who are fit and healthy and willing to help. If you think you would like to be part of this exciting program and would like more information, please contact my office.

The Harrington Action Group is seeking community interest in establishing a Community First Responders Program. This is a program where 'able bodied' members of our community team

Leslie Williams, Member for Port Macquarie

email portmacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au
website www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

address Macquarie Business Centre,
Suite 6, 27 Grant Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
phone 02 6584 0977 **fax** 02 6584 0978

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Artist impression of Port Macquarie Base Hospital

2012 Budget

This year's State Budget has delivered some major projects for the Port Macquarie electorate as part of a plan to build for the future and invest in the growing needs of our local community.

Despite the current economic climate, the NSW Government has delivered a strong but tough budget which honours our promise to supporting regional NSW.

Locally more than \$85.2 million dollars has been allocated to the Port Macquarie electorate.

I am particularly pleased that the Budget included the Lake Cathie Public School with planning work already underway. This is the only new school being built in regional NSW.

The Budget delivers \$555,000 for more nurses for the Mid North Coast Local Health District as part of the Government's commitment to engage 2,475 new nurses across the State. Pleasingly we have already surpassed that figure and are now committed to employing an additional 500 more nurses for our public hospitals.

Under a new Building the State package to boost housing construction, a multi-million dollar water reservoir will be built for the Thrumster release area and Sancrox employment area, accelerating the release of 4,500 properties for the Port Macquarie region.

The Budget builds better services including more nurses, more police and more teachers throughout NSW. Here are

some of the key projects for our electorate:

✓ More than \$60.2 million for local road projects including \$31 million dollars to complete construction of the dual carriageway upgrade of the Pacific Highway between Herons Creek and Stills Road, as well as continued planning for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway between the Oxley Highway at Port Macquarie and Kempsey.

✓ \$10.7 million this year towards the \$110 million upgrade of Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

✓ \$8.6 million will be spent on routine and minor road works maintenance as well as grants to Greater Taree City Council and Port Macquarie Hastings Council for various road projects.

✓ \$4.9 million towards the construction of dual carriageway on Ocean Drive from Emerald Downs to Greenmeadows Drive in Port Macquarie.

✓ \$2.4 million for the construction of passing lanes on the Oxley Highway between the Pacific Highway and Wauchope.

✓ \$1.6 million for a new fire station for Port Macquarie.

✓ \$1.5 million to construct new accommodation for people with disabilities.

✓ \$1.3 million for the ongoing planning for the new Stingray Creek Bridge.

Camden Haven SES

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mike Gallacher was in our electorate during May and took the time to meet with members of the Camden Haven SES.

The SES do a fantastic job in managing emergency situations and whether it is during storms, floods or fires, they are often the first people we call.

For 30 years the Camden Haven SES has worked from headquarters in Norman Street at Laurieton in what has been described as less than adequate surrounds. Minister Gallacher saw first hand that major improvements need to be undertaken, especially some concreting of a dirt floor used to store major equipment. Watch this space!



Mike Gallacher, Leslie Williams and some of the Camden Haven SES Team



150 Years of Policing in Port

In May, Port Macquarie Police celebrated the 150th anniversary year since the creation of the NSW Police Force.

We commemorated this momentous occasion with the "Sea of Blue March" along Horton Street to Port Macquarie's Town Green. Current and retired police officers marched representing the contributions of Police officers both past and present over the past one and half centuries of policing. The march demonstrated the range of tasks and responsibilities carried out by modern day Police officers.

Each of the officers in the parade reflected the long and distinguished history of the NSW Police Force and the almost 16,000 sworn officers who make up the Force.



Inspecting the 'Sea of Blue'. Photo courtesy Anne Johnston.

The dedication of the men and women of the NSW Police Force who uphold the law and keep the people of NSW safe is outstanding and deserve to be honoured. I congratulate our Local

Commanders Peter Thurtell and Paul Fehon and all of their officers in reaching this significant milestone and I wish them all the very best for the coming year.

\$400,000 in Community Grants

Many local community groups were all smiles in April with the announcement of the successful applicants who shared in the \$400,000 Community Building Partnerships program.

This program is a fantastic opportunity for community groups to build local infrastructure which in turn has a positive flow-on effect for local jobs and local businesses. Across the Port Macquarie electorate, 25 projects ranging in cost from \$1,122 to \$50,000 received funding.

In total, 45 applications worth \$1.7 million were received, so distributing the \$400,000 was a difficult task and highlights the success of this program.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all of these projects completed and



Saint Joseph's Primary School students Kijana Kemp, Jayce Cameron & Regan Buckley

congratulate those groups who were successful with their applications.

One of the successful applicants was St Joseph's Primary School which has

been very busy with their upgrade and I was very pleased to attend the recent opening of their improved school yard and playground.



Primary Industries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, Leslie Williams and Paul Wilson

Our Great Local Oyster Industry

Last month I spoke in Parliament praising our local oyster growers on the launch of the Hastings River Oyster Farmers Environmental Management System.

The Environmental Management System which was launched by Primary Industries Minister, Katrina Hodgkinson is an industry-based initiative that seeks to contribute to the sustainability of oyster farming and the health of the Hastings River.

I was interested to hear from local oyster growers that it was the first time a Minister for Primary Industries had officially been to the electorate to meet with oyster growers in more than 30 years. I am very grateful to the Minister for her visit. The Environmental Management System was launched in conjunction with the NSW Farmers Association, Ocean Watch and the Northern Catchment Management Authority.

Harrington Senior Citizens Association

The Harrington community reached a wonderful milestone with the Harrington Senior Citizens Association celebrating its 40th anniversary.

On the 24th May I joined the seniors at a special luncheon to mark the occasion. We were very lucky to have one of the inaugural members of the association, Claire Brown with us on the day. She is just one of the more than 100 current

members of the Association, whose youngest member is 54 and the oldest is 97.

Having the Harrington Senior Citizens Association as an organisation where seniors can come together is one of the great things that binds this community. Seniors contribute so much to our community and too often they go unrecognised.

Harrington Senior Citizens Claire, Barbara and Hazel with Leslie



Safer Roads, Safer Schools

Some good news for residents of Coopernook with the recent speed limit changes on local residential roads. Nine streets in Coopernook have had their speed limits reduced to 50km/h in accordance with the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines.

If you know of a road where the speed limit should be reviewed, please go to www.saferroadsnsw.gov.au



Following last year's installation of flashing lights at the Hastings Public School, a second local school has been approved for flashing lights. I'm very pleased that Tacking Point Public School students and parents are a step closer to having improved road safety conditions for their school.

The lights will be installed on Bangalay Drive and will operate automatically between 8am and 9.30am and 2.30pm and 4pm on school days during term time.



Survey – Have your Say

Leslie Williams MP

Member for Port Macquarie

By filling in and returning this survey you can have your say on the important issues that matter to you in our area.

What local issues are most important to you?

- Hospitals and Health
- Natural Environment
- Law and Order
- Creating jobs
- Public Transport / Roads
- Education
- Cost of Living
- Small Business
- Aged Care
- Youth Services

Would you like to make any other comments?

Please complete the following details so I can stay in touch with you.

Name: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Street Address: Suburb:

Phone: Fax:

Email: Mobile:

Please return your survey to Leslie:
 Fax: (02) 6584 0978 Email: portmacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au
 Mail: PO Box 2022, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

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