



Swing Bridge, Cooranbong. Photograph by Greg Piper

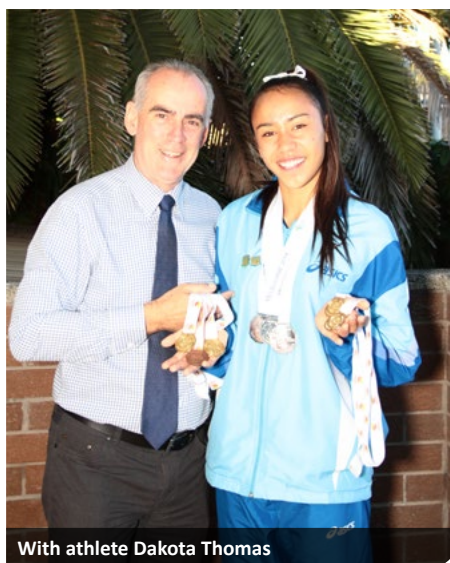
Let the Games begin

It is less than six months until the International Children's Games (ICG) comes to Lake Macquarie.

As former mayor of Lake Macquarie, I was part of the city's successful bid for the Games, and remain a strong supporter of this wonderful event. I was honoured to attend the signing of the Host City Agreement in January. The staging of the Games here, from December 6-11, will mark the first time they have been held in Australia.

The city's team was chosen in May and includes national junior sprint champion Dakota Thomas, a very talented and versatile young athlete whom I was happy to sponsor recently to attend the Australian Little Athletics Championships in Melbourne.

I know Dakota and the other 77 athletes in Team Lake Macquarie team will represent their city admirably.



With athlete Dakota Thomas

For more information on the ICG go to the website: www.icg-lakemacquarie2014.com

Road projects in progress

There are several major State road projects underway in Lake Macquarie.

Public consultation is taking place for the long-awaited widening and upgrading of Cary Street at Toronto, between The Boulevard and Bay Street. This has been a problem stretch for many years and the planned works should help alleviate congestion and improve traffic flow.

Feedback on the proposal is invited until July 11. You can find details at the web link below.

For more details, go to www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roadprojects/projects/ and click on the 'Hunter region' link, then 'Overview', for an index of local projects.

Meanwhile, the \$1 million upgrade to lengthen the approach and merging lanes at the intersection of Enterprise Way and Toronto Road, Woodrising, has been completed, and the \$5 million upgrade of the Warners Bay intersection of Fairfax Road and The Esplanade, which includes the installation of lights, is progressing well. Both projects will improve safety and ease peak-hour bottlenecks.

Welcome

They say a week is a long time in politics, so six months can seem an eternity. Since my December newsletter, we have seen

a change of Premier, a new Cabinet and allegations in the Independent Commission Against Corruption about funding rorts and influence-peddling implicating both major parties.

Interesting times indeed as we move into the final nine months of the current parliamentary term, all the more so due to Premier Mike Baird's decision to seek an electoral mandate for his policy to partially privatise the State's poles and wires.

I remain concerned about any further sell-off of the electricity network as I believe it will hit consumers in the hip pocket, despite assurances of short-term price controls.

On other matters, I will be pushing the Premier to take more action on electoral funding laws before the election, and I am strongly behind the Build Them Here campaign to have the State's new \$2.8 billion intercity train fleet at least partially manufactured in the Hunter.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Lake Macquarie Matters. For more regular updates, subscribe to my e-newsletter at www.gregpiper1.com.



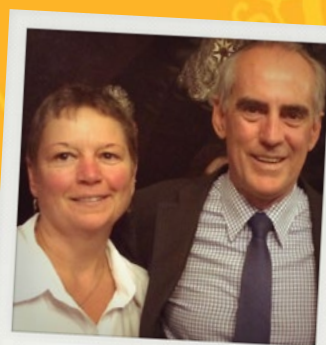
Around the Electorate



Take The Time
pledge to support retail workers



Biraban Public School
awards presentation



Local Government Award winner
Amanda Colby



Morisset High Catchment
Competition presentation



Heaven Can Wait
cheque presentation



Lake Macquarie Sevens
rugby tournament



Mandalong
Rural Fire Service

Woman of the Year



With Valda Barton, second from right, next to
Minister Pru Goward.

I was delighted to attend the NSW Women of the Year Awards at Parliament House in March, where Valda Barton was named Lake Macquarie Local Woman of the Year. Valda is the energetic centre manager of the Our Community Place (OCP) neighbourhood centre at Boolaroo.

She has made an enormous contribution to the Boolaroo community since beginning her association with Our Community Place more than 20 years ago, from organising computer and art classes to planting community gardens in schools, to co-ordinating the distribution of fresh food donations to the needy.

Valda epitomises the hard-working quiet achiever who contributes much and expects little in return. Her work makes a difference to many lives and enhances our community greatly.

Footy field on target

It is exciting to see the transformation taking place at Speers Point, where Lake Macquarie's \$11.3 million world-class football complex is under construction.

The venue is expected to be ready for the International Children's Games in December and to serve as a training venue for teams playing in the Newcastle-hosted rounds of the Asian Cup football tournament in January.

I joined Swansea MP Garry Edwards, Lake Macquarie City Council Mayor Jodie Harrison and Northern NSW (NNSW) Football chairman Bill Walker for the turning of the first sod in March, and work has charged ahead since then, as you can see from the photograph below, taken in early June.

The Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility is a partnership between NNSW



Sod turning in March

Football, Lake Macquarie City Council and Macquarie Football, and received \$7.3 million in State Government funding.

It will house two international-standard synthetic-surface football fields, 10 five-a-side synthetic football courts and the headquarters of NNSW Football.

The state-of-the-art football centre will attract major events and top-line football teams to our region, as well as providing a fabulous community facility and furthering the development of Speers Point as a sporting hub.



Work in progress



Electorate information evening



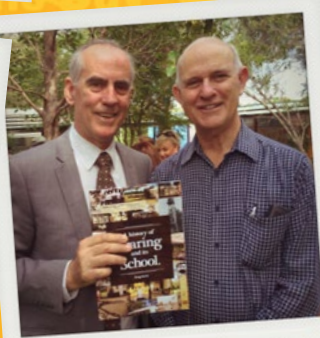
Walk With Us event for suicide prevention



Bonnells Bay nonagenarian Horace 'Taffy' Davies



Sugarloaf remediation area site visit



Author and local historian Doug Saxon



Special Olympics Asia Pacific Games

Wyee sewer top priority

There have been some encouraging steps forward in the long campaign to have sewer connected to Wyee, and I am hopeful an announcement is imminent.

Hunter Water has confirmed Wyee is now its top priority for backlog sewerage connection, has costed several options, and at the time of writing was in the process of making a submission to the State Government for funding under the Priority Sewerage Program (PSP).

The PSP funds connections to unsewered areas throughout the Sydney Water and Hunter Water catchment areas. In recent years it has focused on western Sydney and I have argued forcefully to the Finance Minister, Treasurer and Premier in recent

meetings that new funding for backlog sewerage connections in the Hunter is overdue.

A side issue is the possibility of future council amalgamations and Wyong Mayor Doug Eaton's offer to connect the township in the event of a boundary adjustment that transfers the town to Wyong Shire.

I am opposed to the hiving off of part of our community and unconvinced Wyong could deliver sewer services any quicker or cheaper than Hunter Water.

Cat lands



It's here! After a long trip from Puerto Rico, the PB5A Catalina Flying Boat bought off eBay by the Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park Association is now resting in a Toronto boatyard, awaiting refurbishment.

It is hoped the plane will one day be the centrepiece exhibit of a hangar-style museum commemorating the World War II RAAF base at Rathmines.

Congratulations to long-time museum advocates John and Penny Furner, and everyone else involved, on bringing a genuine 'Cat' back to base. To find out more about the project, go to www.rathmines-catalina.com.

Wallarrah 2 setbacks

The Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council has won a significant victory with its successful Land and Environment Court challenge against Wallarah 2 coalmine developer Kores over their lack of consultation on the use of Darkinjung land for a rail line to service the proposed mine.

This, together with a recent damning assessment by the Planning Assessment Commission of Kores' overstatement of the economic benefit of the mine, provides the Government with ample justification to reject this controversial project.

The commission report also acknowledged uncertainty over impacts on local water supply, another good reason this mine proposal should be permanently shelved.

Hospital transport

Concerned local residents have formed the South Lake Macquarie Public Transport Action Group (SLMPTAG) to advocate for a public bus service to link areas in southern and western Lake Macquarie directly with Wyong Hospital.

If you have experienced difficulty using public transport to visit inpatients, or to access outpatient services at the hospital or Kanwal Medical Complex, the group would like to hear from you. You can write to them at PO Box 473, Morisset 2264 or email slmptag2264@gmail.com.

Grout cleared

West Wallsend Colliery has completed its clean-up of the grout spill in the Sugarloaf State Conservation Area, 47 days ahead of schedule. The spill resulted from a botched attempt to remediate a major landslip caused by mine subsidence.

More than 250 metres of grout was chipped away and removed by hand from the steep site and 232 bulk bags of material heli-lifted out, at significant cost to the mining company, Glencore. The Government has ordered Glencore to pay a \$100,000 offset to enhance the Sugarloaf reserve and is prosecuting Orica, the company responsible for the spill.

Come and say hello

I will be manning a 'meet and greet' stall at local markets in coming months, so I can have the opportunity to meet constituents and discuss local matters face to face.

Please come and say hello if you see the stall. I have penciled in the following markets, and will advertise more through my website, www.gregpiper1.com, as they are confirmed. I will also advertise them through my e-newsletter, which you can sign up for on the website.

- ➔ Fennell Bay Markets: August 17, November 16
- ➔ Three Peas Market (Teralba Public School): July 13
- ➔ Avondale School Family Festival: September 14

Solution for problem waste



With Robyn Parker at the centre opening

I was pleased to join then Environment Minister Robyn Parker at the opening in April of the Community Recycling Centre at the Awaba Waste Management Facility.

This new facility allows Lake Macquarie residents to responsibly dispose of problem household waste items such as batteries, paints, oils, electronic waste and fluorescent globes – at no cost, seven days a week, between 8am and 4pm.

Contact

If you need help with any State Government matter, contact my office.

Address: 92 Victory Parade, Toronto 2238

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

Phone: 4959 3200 Fax: 4950 4076

Email: lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Thanking our super seniors



I had the pleasure in March of presenting 2014 Seniors Week Local Achievement Awards to 14 wonderful people from the Lake Macquarie electorate.

The recipients, pictured above, are: **Roger Easton** of the Toronto Chamber of Commerce; **Geoff Thornely** of Toronto Sailability; **Barry Hangar**, of the Martinsville Rural Fire Service; **Margaret Howse**, on behalf of Southlakes Carers; **Margaret Berghofer**, of the Lake Macquarie and District Historical Society; **Karen Lizasoain**, from Grandparents as Parents a Second Time; **Audrey Sergeant**, of Booragul Community Singers; **Jim Williams**, from

Morisset Lions Club; **Ron Tozer**, on behalf of the Westlakes Seniors Computer Club; **Robyn Gill**, of Coal Point Landcare; **Sister Helen-Anne Johnson**, of Mum's Cottage at Holmesville; **Bruce and Dorothy Murray**, from Lakeside Retirement Village at Bonnells Bay. Absent: **Islay Mahony**, of Wyee Point, who volunteers with special needs children and the elderly.

Congratulations to all and thank you for the valuable work you do in our community.

Building grants open

I invite community groups seeking funds for new building or repair work to apply for grants under the State Government's Community Building Partnership scheme.

The program provides funding to build and improve community facilities and has benefited many local pre-schools, service groups, sports bodies and other community organisations in recent years. Applications for 2014 are open and can be filled out on the website:

www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au.

Last year, I was pleased to hand out a total of \$200,000 in grants to 13 organisations in the Lake Macquarie electorate. A list of the successful projects is below.

Bolton Point Child Care Centre	Playground upgrade	\$11,931
Boolaroo Bowling & Recreation Co-Operative Society	Bowling green repair, new shade areas and seating	\$17,834
Filipino Australian Society Of The Hunter Valley	Kitchen renovations, covered walkway, hall repairs	\$20,000
Hunter Valley Scots Club	Refurbish floorboards	\$43,000
Lake Macquarie Rugby Union Club	Renovate dressing sheds and public toilets	\$26,370
Marmong Point Sailing Club	Maintenance work	\$1,500
Morisset & Toronto Meals On Wheels	Replace kitchen floor	\$15,974
Morisset PCYC	Drainage and car park lighting	\$5,280
Morisset Rugby League Football & Social Club	Electronic scoreboard, PA and line marker	\$5,194
Byattunga Scout Group In Morisset	New storage shed and hall upgrade	\$20,686
Wangi Peter Pan Kindergarten	Playground upgrade	\$10,000
Wyong Creek Literary Society	Repaint hall interior	\$7,730
Wyong Shire Council	Upgrades to Jack Gear Oval, Yarramalong	\$14,500