

Lake Macquarie Matters

Riding for a Better Future



This awesome foursome took on a world-first, record breaking challenge, to ride a Quad Tandem Bike 4,200 kilometres from Perth to Sydney, and called the adventure Ride4Life. So far, their efforts have raised over \$110,000 for suicide prevention education and the Gotcha4Life charity. Bonnells Bay local, Louise Ginn, founder of Ride4Rescue, was joined by her fearless fellow riders, Sonia Allum, Anna Beaden and Rachael Beaden, who all dedicated hundreds of hours to preparations, training and the actual Ride4Life. I met the crew at Cooranbong and had to try the impressive Quad Tandem bicycle, and let me tell you, they had their work cut

out for them as they navigated from Perth, across the Nullarbor to finish in Sydney! To accomplish this, they averaged 120 kilometres per day in six weeks.

The crew crossed the finish line at Bondi on 10 October, where they shared a powerful message: "Always remember how much you are loved and valued, tap into your village and practise your mental fitness daily. Every life counts. I praise the extraordinary efforts of these four women to raise awareness, inspire hope and remind us all that every life is invaluable. Congratulations to Louise, Sonia, Anna and Rachael, and their crew and supporters who made this journey, and its message, so powerful.

Welcome

2025 is ending and as we prepare for the holidays, I hope everyone keeps safe and gets to spend quality time with family and friends.



We have seen a year of growth in Lake Macquarie, from significant development to population growth, and it's clear our region is attracting everyone due to its lifestyle and opportunity.

While growth is inevitable, it is important, as your State Member of Parliament, I work with the Government to ensure Lake Macquarie and its desirable lifestyle is protected, both environmentally and through smart planning, appropriate infrastructure upgrades and development.

I look forward to representing you through 2026 and wish everyone a Happy New Year ahead. I will continue to lobby Government to work toward the best outcomes for everyone in Lake Macquarie.

Stay safe and Happy Holidays.

Regards

Learning in Lake Mac

Aunty Selena Archibald

Aunty Selena, Aboriginal Education Officer at Morisset High School, received the prestigious Aboriginal Education Award at the 2025 Newcastle NAIDOC Awards.

A Gamilaroi woman from Moree, she has, for the past 25 years, worked tirelessly to promote Aboriginal education and cultural understanding.

She is central to the success of the Itji-Marru Aboriginal Resource Centre, which in Awabakal means "to teach everyone." Itji-Marru is a vital cultural and educational hub, offering programs like the Bush Tucker Garden and Learning Circle.



A Lifetime Patron Award winner at the 2023 Western Shores Learning Alliance Deadly Awards, Aunty Selena leads initiatives like the NRL School to Work program, supporting student art for "Boots for Brighter Futures" blending identity, community, and creativity.

Aunty Selena has helped some 700 of her 'kids' to work toward a better future for themselves. To dream big, remember and connect with their identity and culture, and work hard to achieve their goals. Highly regarded by all who know her, Aunty Selena is certainly one of a kind and we're lucky to have her in our local community.

Want to Know more

Do you want to keep up to date with Lake Macquarie's latest news and community notices?

Did you know I release a monthly digital version of this newsletter?

If you would like to receive the Lake Macquarie Matters ENewsletter, you can contact my friendly staff and ask to be added to the mailing list for regular updates and information direct to your inbox.

Lake Macquarie HS – High Potential and Gifted Education Upgrades
Works are under way at Lake Macquarie High School (LMHS) to complete facility upgrades under the NSW High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) program. This program aims to support increased enrolments, broaden educational opportunities and facilitate the delivery of tailored HPGE classes.

Upgrades include:

- A new shade structure over the sports court
- Turning a Food Tech space into a Vocational Education and Training (VET) Hospitality classroom
- Improving 2 Woodwork rooms and 1 Design Tech room to support VET programs
- An Art room revamp
- A laboratory and a workshop for Marine Studies
- Refresh of the school entrance
- A Music recording space

This is a fantastic investment in education to provide modern facilities and better opportunities for students to excel in HPGE classes. My congratulations to Principal Brendan Maher and his team on working for and achieving great investments for students at LMHS.

Morisset High School Celebrates 60!

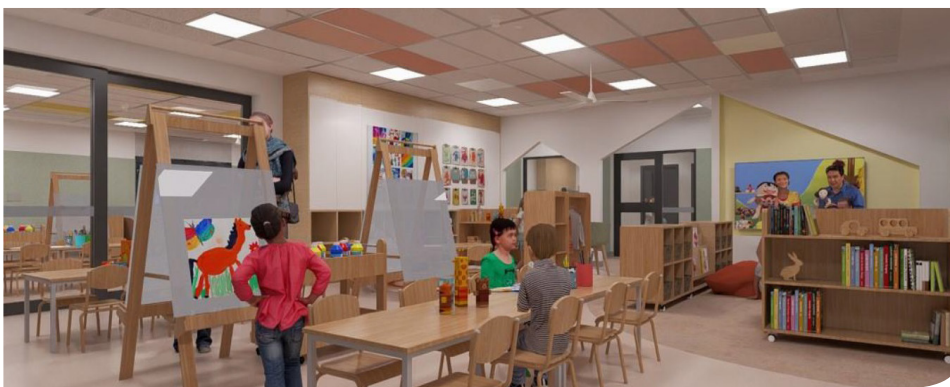


I joined the Morisset High School (MHS) community to reflect on the generations of students and families who have received an excellent education at the school.

I think Principal Darren Brailey described Morisset High best, saying it's a place where "Every student is valued, every story matters and every dream has a chance to grow."

Congratulations on this important milestone, and thank you to the teachers, staff, parent volunteers and student body who strive to make MHS the wonderful school it is.

State Funded Preschools Improving Access to Childcare



State Government is investing \$769 million to deliver 100 new public preschools, co-located with public primary schools, to boost access to local childcare.

Work is underway to deliver two of these centres in Lake Macquarie, located at Teralba and Booragul Public Schools.

They will provide quality educational learning programs guided by the Early Years Learning Framework, in a safe and engaging environment. Construction of the preschools

is expected to be completed in time for Day 1, Term 1 2027, with each able to accommodate up to 40 children per day, and will include:

- 2 preschool rooms
- an outside play area
- administration area, amenities, staff kitchen and storage.

Plans will be submitted in the coming months. Once approvals are received, the works program will be finalised, and prep for construction will begin.

Greg Piper MP

Health Matters

Future Of Morisset Hospital

After many promising meetings with relevant Ministers and Departments, I hold serious concern with the lack of action to progress the delivery of the replacement Sports Facility on Morisset Hospital grounds.

But Morisset Hospital is not just the future home of the sports facility, it's also a valuable and historic local landmark.

NSW Health have no master plan for the protection and stewardship of the site, and without that, infrastructure will fall into disrepair. Enabling works may then be left to the Office of Sport to prepare the site.



Lake Macquarie and our historic Morisset Hospital deserve better from this Government. We deserve a plan, progress and results.

Leave A Lifesaving Legacy

In 2023, I proudly introduced Ante-mortem Interventions Legislation to Parliament which allows medical procedures to be carried out on a potential donor, which will not benefit them, but will increase the success of organ transplants. Of course, this can only happen with consent and appropriate safeguards are in place.

Currently approximately 1,800 Australians are

waiting for lifesaving organ donations, and another 14,000 dialysis patients would benefit from a kidney transplant. Organ donation registrations are still too low, and if you register as a donor your family will be clear about your desire to help others.

You can help by registering as an organ donor at www.donatelife.gov.au and give the ultimate gift, the gift of life.

VAD – An End with Dignity

The Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Act passed NSW Parliament May 19, 2022, and came into effect November 28, 2023, allowing eligible individuals to access voluntary assisted dying services.



Since then, hundreds of people in NSW with a terminal diagnosis have accessed VAD. I am warmed by the many stories from people who have had loved-ones choose VAD, expressing thanks and sharing their personal experience. With overwhelming support in NSW, even some staunch opponents changed their feelings after people close to them used VAD to end their suffering with dignity and compassion.

Protections exist for conscientious objection under the current legalisation to ensure no health practitioner is forced into providing VAD care if it's against their values. I am saddened by amendments tabled in NSW Parliament relating to residential facilities objecting to providing VAD. This would require vulnerable people, in the last stage of their life, to move away from where they are comfortable and often away from their loved ones, to access what is becoming an increasingly standard choice for end-of-life care.

Parliament Recap

This year I spoke in the House and met with Government department representatives to obtain updates and push for progress on issues affecting our community, including delays to major road projects and the need for a master plan for the Morisset Hospital precinct.

Significant laws passed in 2025:

- allow closure orders for illicit tobacco and vape shops, building on the 2024 illicit tobacco laws which introduced a licensing scheme for businesses selling smoking products
- enhance the State's Working With Children Check scheme, ensuring a current check is required for a person to start work in early childhood education centres
- increase access to abortion health care by allowing qualified nurse practitioners and endorsed midwives to prescribe abortion medications up to 9 weeks gestation. This brings NSW in line with other States and builds on the significant reform to decriminalise abortion which I proudly co-sponsored in 2019
- improve waste management through a product stewardship framework, which first addresses the life cycle of batteries
- enshrine a whole-of-government approach to suicide prevention by requiring the implementation of statewide and Aboriginal suicide prevention plans, with each Government department and other agencies to develop action plans
- abolished the ill-conceived protection of wild horses in Kosciuszko National Park, which harmed the native animals, plants and ecosystems found in our country's most significant alpine and subalpine region

Legislation should strike the right balance, such as the need for development with ecological sustainability, or faster decision making with community input.

I discuss every piece of legislation with the government to offer suggestions or raise concerns. I've also worked with independent Members to negotiate amendments where the balance isn't right, such as workers compensation and planning system reforms.

Mandalong RFS Gets a Facelift

Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Jihad Dib MP, visited the Mandalong RFS in July, for the unveiling of their upgraded facility.

The day before a severe weather event which lashed the east coast, we almost expected the Minister to reschedule his visit, but even amid an unprecedented, and fast-moving low-pressure system, Minister Dib still made sure he met the team and had a tour.

It was fantastic to see the hard work and dedication of the Mandalong Crew rewarded with a new base of operations. After 10 years of work the \$2.1 million upgrade was funded through a combination of NSW government grants, private donations and fundraising efforts.



Morisset Fire and Rescue - Station 383 - 40th Birthday

Our first responders do a fantastic job, and it was particularly great to have Fire and Rescue, supported by NSW RFS, Ambulance/ Paramedics and SES, at the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Fire and Rescue NSW - Station 383 – Morisset, in October.

It was an excellent event with great community support and spirit! Thanks to all who participated and particularly those tasked with organising the event.

Happy 40th birthday! And thank you for 40 years of dedication to protecting our community when emergencies arise.



Reporting a Crime

Our Police force work incredibly hard, especially when understaffed and under resourced. Which is why it's important we understand how to report a crime when Police assistance is needed.

Is it an emergency? Dial 000

If you or someone else is in immediate danger or there is a violent crime or emergency underway, call 000 immediately to have emergency services attend

Do you need to make a report? Dial 131 444

Did you wake up to find your car stolen? The Police Assistance Line allows you to report crime over the phone. Once your report is completed, your information is immediately available to your local police, and an event number created for insurance.

Any tip, any crime, anytime! Dial 1800 333 000

Crimestoppers is to inform police of potential illegal activities and helps to direct NSW Police resources to "hotspots". This is the appropriate way to report illegal dirt bikes or hoons in your area, or vandalism and drug related crimes.



Are You Ready for Fire Season?

October marked the start of the 2025 NSW bushfire season.

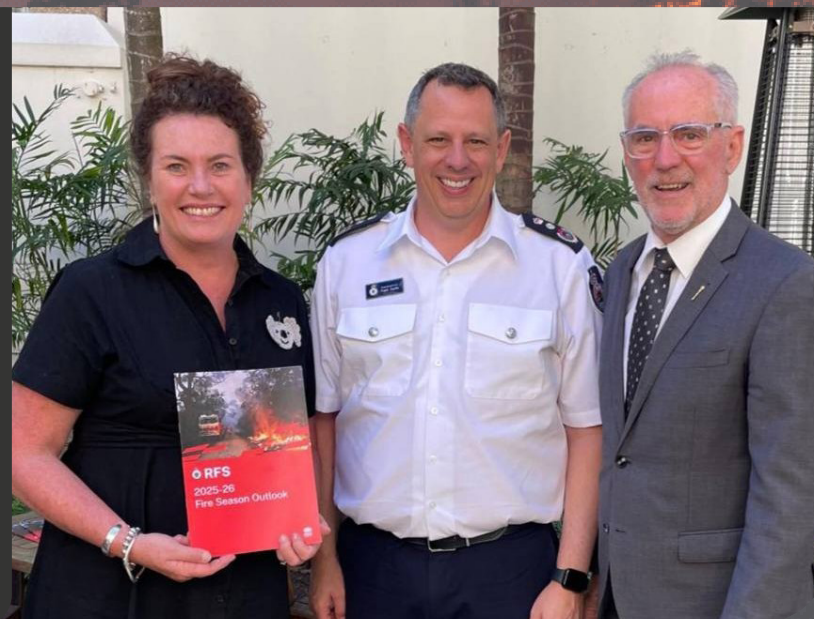
NSW RFS - Mandalong and Cooranbong Rural Fire Brigades hosted "Get Ready Weekend" community information events to help us all get bushfire ready and know what to do in case of an emergency.

The Member for Blue Mountains, Trish Doyle MP, and I, met with our new NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner, Trent Curtain, at Parliament to speak about the season.

With unpredictable weather hitting our region it is so important you prepare yourselves and your properties for the summer.

Clean gutters, a tidy yard, revised evacuation plans, preparing for your pets and packing evacuation bags are all ways to be prepared to act at a moment's notice in an emergency. Are you ready?

Visit rfs.nsw.gov.au for more information.



Emergency Services and Community Resilience Expo

There are so many ways you can be involved in helping your local community, and it was great to see our hard-working emergency service organisations coming together in October for the Lake Macquarie and Newcastle Emergency Services and Community Resilience Expo.

The event provided an opportunity for services to connect directly with the community, and also to talk about recruitment opportunities.

Well done to everyone involved in making today a huge success and thank you to all our emergency service workers and volunteers.

Morrisset Road Projects

The \$76 million upgrade to Mandalong Road, Morrisset, is moving into the next phase with GHD Pty Ltd being awarded the contract to proceed with detailed design.

This will include further geotechnical and survey investigations, development of engineering designs and reports, and construction specifications for project delivery.

These investigations commenced at the site on Monday 13 October and will continue Weekdays 7am to 5pm, with some night works, for up to four months.

Obviously, this work may be disruptive to commuters. I ask you to be patient and drive safely while crews are working.

I understand this may seem like "yet another round of surveys", but this announcement is great news for the project.

The Alliance Avenue/ Wyee Road intersection upgrade is however, moving forward. The \$13m upgrade sees Lake Macquarie City Council spending \$10.5m directly and the NSW Government contributing a further \$2.5m from developer contributions. The upgrade will include a new roundabout and road alterations to improve traffic flow to and

from the industrial estate, improving safety for motorists. It is forecast to be complete by mid-2027.



NSW Parliament Tours

Did you know you can book a private tour of NSW Parliament House?

Learn about the history of Australia's oldest public building and how the NSW Parliament operates on a day-to-day basis. Go behind the scenes with access to areas normally off limits to the public. Schools, Clubs, Sporting Teams, Community

Groups or even just a rag tag group of friends interested in the history of NSW Parliament. Everyone is welcome! Groups are limited to a maximum of 10 people and run on Tuesday and Wednesdays of sitting weeks.

To enquire about a tour of NSW Parliament, contact my office: lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au.



Round and Around...



Earlier this year we had a pre-budget announcement of an additional \$5million for a Speers Point congestion solution.

The Speers Point Transport Network upgrade now has a total of \$16million for the delivery of this vital and long overdue upgrade. The additional funding ensures the project will not sit on the shelf waiting for vital budget commitments.

I am pleased, on behalf of Lake Macquarie commuters who sit at this bottleneck daily, the Minister for Roads, Jenny Aitchison MP, has acknowledged the issue and made this commitment.

Informed by community consultation conducted in May/June 2024, revised concept

design plans were presented for further feedback in July following the additional budget commitment. The revised plans add metered traffic signals on the roundabout to enhance traffic flow during peak periods, additional turning lanes, new shared pathways with safe crossings, restricted access to and from Creek Reserve Road, and a signalised intersection at Seventh Street/T C Frith Avenue.

The report following this consultation has not been finalised but once it is, the project can progress to environmental assessment, detailed design and finally... Construction! There is light at the end of the tunnel... well... the roundabout as the case may be.

Movement at the Station

Commuters at Cockle Creek Station will soon benefit from accessibility upgrades with delivery funding announced, and construction work planned, for early 2026.

The upgrade is being funded by the State's Safe and Accessible Transport Program and will deliver accessible, modern and integrated public transport facilities for commuters.

These upgrades aim to make public transport in the Hunter safer and easier to use for commuters with prams, bikes or luggage, and especially seniors and people living with disability.

Upgrades include improved footbridge access with new lifts and stairs, accessible paths to station amenities including improvements to Lake Road entry, a new kiss and ride zone, accessible parking spaces and bicycle parking.



It will also include CCTV cameras and wayfinding signage, improved connections to the bus stop, tactile indicators, and other upgrades to make facilities at the station more accessible.

The station will remain operational during construction, except for advertised weekend closures and it's expected to take one year and be completed by mid-2027.

Hunter Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan

Recently I joined with Minister for Roads and Regional Transport Jenny Aitchison MP, Member for Port Stephens, Kate Washington MP and Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr MP, for the release of the Hunter SRITP - a 20-year roadmap to better connect our region.

The plan identifies long-term road and transport priorities to guide investment in the Hunter and increase public transport use.

Recommendations include:

- More train services on the Hunter Line, including to Singleton and Muswellbrook.
- Additional bus services across peak and off-peak times.
- Upgrades to more than 20 key road corridors, including the Morriset M1 interchange.
- Better links to Newcastle Airport, universities and key hubs.



Safer roads through bridge replacements and Pacific Highway intersection upgrades. This plan isn't about funding individual projects, it's about putting the right framework and priorities in place. This ensures future investment and projects are planned with consideration for how each element will complement the existing network through a "big picture" vision.

Having a case-by-case approach to individual projects can impede our transport network moving forward. This plan aims to deliver the best transport outcomes for the Hunter.

Community Recognition Statements

Do you know a local legend? Someone who is worthy of public recognition through volunteering, or dedicating their time to help others, or with a notable sporting achievement or prestigious award?

I love to celebrate these efforts with a short speech to the NSW Parliament called a Community Recognition Statement.

These are recorded in Hansard, the State Parliamentary record, to forever acknowledge those who represent the best of us.

To submit a nomination for a Community Recognition Statement you can email my staff: lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Grants Info

Are you a member of a local sporting club, community, or environmental group? Maybe a volunteer or charitable organisation? Do you have a community project you need funding for?

After so many enquiries seeking support from local organisations, I have begun distributing an email bulletin for available grants and funding opportunities. If you would like to receive this E-Bulletin, please contact my office, and ask to be added to the mailing list.

Closed for the Holiday

My office will close at 4pm on Tuesday 23 December for the Christmas break and will reopen 8am Monday 12 January.



Contact

Need Help? My staff and I can assist with issues related to any NSW Government portfolio.

We also offer:

- ▶ JP services
- ▶ Congratulatory messages for significant birthdays and anniversaries
- ▶ Friendly advice to assist you in finding a resolution to your issue

If you would like to subscribe to my monthly E-Newsletter, please email your contact details to my office lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Address: 126A Cary St, Toronto, NSW 2283

Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm

Phone: 4959 3200

Website: www.gregpiper1.com



Homes for our Future

In Parliament, the key word on everyone's lips is still 'housing'. This was evident in the 2025-26 Budget and legislative agenda, which included multiple initiatives aimed at boosting the supply of new homes and planning reforms.

Reforms introduced new planning pathways to fast-track housing projects and streamline

the notoriously burdensome planning system. Lake Macquarie even saw the first trials of modular social housing solutions; an initiative I believe could be well utilised in the fight against housing insecurity across NSW.

In my 18 years as the Member for Lake Macquarie, I have seen lots of tinkering with the planning system but little consensus



on reform, despite everyone agreeing it was sorely needed. I welcome planning system reform to help create liveable communities for our future, which must be balanced with respect for the environment which makes Lake Macquarie such a wonderful place to live.

Local Legends

NourishEd

The dedicated volunteers behind NourishEd Australia reached a significant milestone, their first anniversary since opening in Toronto. Under the leadership of Nicholas Cade and Jeremy Eastham, NourishEd secured its standing as an essential local service. Nick and Jeremy volunteer full time to keep the organisation running and growing. Through their open-access pantry, free meal service, community cafe, and library, they provide food relief, community connection, and dignity to people in need across the region. They provide food,



support, a safe space and a compassionate ear for anyone doing it tough. Their plans for Recovery Groups and Education are destined for success. I wish NourishEd a very happy first birthday and look forward to many more years helping to make a difference.

Lake Macquarie Landcare

New homes are being made in Lake Macquarie, all thanks to Lake Macquarie Landcare. Coordinator Simon Lubinski says the project has already seen new homes

in Teralba with more planned for other areas. But the project isn't aimed at helping humans, instead it helps our native animals survive where habitat is being cleared for housing. Under the Hollow Augmentation



Program trees are selected and using a tool called a Hollowhog, are bored into, creating artificial hollows. This provides long-term nesting sites for possums, gliders, birds and bats. The hollows are cheaper to create than traditional nesting boxes, will also last longer and mimic natural formations in trees. I thank Landcare for their vision to protect biodiversity and strengthen the resilience of our environment for the future.