

Lake Macquarie Matters

BIG NEWS FOR MORISSET SPORTS CENTRE



Along with Minister for Sport, Stephen Kamper, I had the great pleasure of announcing a parcel of land has finally been secured to build a new, state of the art sports facility at Morisset to replace the former Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre.

The 7-hectare area which will house the new sport facility is at the northern end of the Morisset Hospital site and will include the existing bowling club and sports ovals. This portion of the grounds is ideally situated allowing easy access to our beautiful Lake Macquarie and ensures the strong heritage

value of the site is preserved and remains accessible to the community.

It's now been 5 years since the unexpected closure of the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. I was as shocked by that closure as anyone else. While the process of securing a suitable site has been complicated, I'm pleased the negotiation of transferring the land ownership from Health to the Sport portfolio has been finalised. But good things do take time and I am thrilled the community and future generations will be able to enjoy the new facilities on the best possible site for years to come.

Welcome

That's a wrap on 2024!

Another year has passed, and 2024 has brought some new challenges and highlighted the need for urgent action on longstanding local issues.

Lake Macquarie has seen major development in the

Southlakes region as industrial and residential land releases transform our community. With major developments in Morisset and growth in the Teralba township, the current infrastructure is reaching breaking point and upgrades are needed to support our rapidly growing community.

I have listened to the feedback from passionate locals and actively been working alongside relevant Ministers to secure the necessary investment for our community.

There's still a lot of work to do and I look forward to continue representing Lake Macquarie when parliament resumes in 2025.

Regards,



Ian and Leanda Guy

Ian and Leanda, of Coal Point, have volunteered with the Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie for about three-and-a-half years. They recently showcased their skills in the angling categories of the 2024 Police and Emergency Services Games. Winning a joint 12 medals, Leanda won the overall women's gold medal and Guy nabbed silver in the overall men's. The Guy's have been members of the Teralba Fishing Club for over a decade. Congratulations and thank you for your ongoing community service.



Blake Minto

This Toronto Boxer recently claimed the WBC Australasia Welterweight title in a 10-round bout against Steve Gago. Blake AKA "The Beast from the East", took the belt with a unanimous points decision win. Over the 10 rounds, Blake exhibited his technical prowess and strategic acumen. Blake has claimed numerous titles including a two division world champion, holding the WBF, WBF International, IBO Asia Pacific and New South Wales Super Lightweight titles. His achievements reflect his abilities as a boxer, unwavering dedication to training and mental resilience. Congratulations on your victory.

Hearts and Hands - Orange Ride for Child Protection Awareness

Did you hear the roar of 100 motorbikes on the 8th of September? Hearts and Hands took to the streets of Lake Macquarie for the Orange Ride for Child Protection Awareness. Bikes and riders alike were decked out in the signature orange, a bright and happy colour representing how children should be. The ride coincided with the end of National Child Protection Week.



Cost of Living Crisis Hits Charities

In October I spoke in Parliament about the cost-of-living crisis, its impact on low-income households in Lake Macquarie, and the challenges faced by our local charities.

Housing stress is defined as spending more than 30% of the household income on shelter. Recent data shows 81% of low-income households in Lake Macquarie and Newcastle are under housing stress. This is extraordinarily high, higher than the NSW average of 68%.

More than half of low-income households in this region also went without food because they could not afford it. In Lake Macquarie, we are lucky to have some amazing organisations helping those in need. We are fortunate to have Southlakes Incorporated, Survivor's R Us and NourishEd along with many other charities

who work tirelessly to help people in need. It is concerning that the increase in demand of late is making their task of helping those in need so much harder.

I acknowledge the incredible work our local charities are doing to support struggling families in Lake Macquarie. I urge anyone with the capacity to reach out to these amazing organisations and ask how you can help them to help others.



Origin Eraring Battery Charges Forward

As the shift to renewables continues to gain momentum, NSW needs the infrastructure and storage to support our energy needs. With renewable energy storage becoming a priority, I was pleased to join Origin Energy to turn the first sod as they broke ground on the second stage of the large-scale battery project at Eraring Power Station.

Origin Energy have recently also approved the third stage of its Eraring Power Station battery. Astonishingly the battery will deliver the largest total dispatch duration of an operating battery or project under construction in the Southern Hemisphere.

With the 240megawatt second stage of the project also under construction, the combined energy storage of the Eraring battery will be 700megawatts or 2,800megawatt hours. This sort of energy storage is increasingly important as we move



toward more renewable energy generation such as solar and wind. These batteries have the ability to be almost instantly switched on to guarantee reliable energy supply.

TOD Transforming Housing Near Transport



With an aim to boost available housing opportunities in our region, Morisset, Booragul, Teralba, Cardiff and Cockle Creek train stations have been designated as precincts for the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) program.

The changes do not mean we will see skyscrapers and high-rise apartment blocks take over every location. But they do allow for future development opportunities to include medium density housing, unlocking more opportunities along the rail transport network. These homes will cater to the inevitable population growth of our region, so I have been advocating on behalf of the impacted communities to secure the necessary infrastructure upgrades needed to support this expected growth, particularly as in most cases

existing infrastructure is already struggling. The need for social and affordable housing delivery in Lake Macquarie is well overdue. I was also pleased to hear Toronto was among the four suitable sites in Lake Macquarie identified for the first modular social homes in NSW. This type of housing provides cost effective and time efficient alternatives to traditional building methods, meaning homes can be delivered 20% faster than traditional methods, with efficiency only expected to increase.

There is still a long way to go before NSW can boast housing security for everyone, and while these changes will see communities transform over the next 15 years, our focus should be on ensuring the region's services and infrastructure are up to the task.

Crackdown on Cowards and Knife Crime

NSW Government has tightened the grip on domestic violence and knife crime in recent months with the introduction of various pieces of legislation to bolster the powers of police to search for suspected weapons in public spaces, make coercive control a criminal act from 1 July 2024 and empowered the judicial system to enforce stricter bail conditions for DV offenders, including heavier monitoring capabilities in the community.

Coercive control has been strongly linked to intimate partner homicide. The NSW Domestic Violence Death Review Team found that in 97% of intimate partner homicide cases, the victim had experienced these behaviours before being killed.

The ability to monitor and restrict suspects and offenders in the community has greatly



improved the safety of victim/survivors and will go a long way to protecting vulnerable families from danger and violence.

If you require assistance or are experiencing domestic violence or coercive control call 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) for 24/7 support, or NSW Domestic Violence Line - 1800 65 64 63

Your Independent Member for Lake Macquarie

Parliament Recap

Following last year's change of government, we have seen big changes in NSW and renewed commitments to solving our biggest problems. I have been working closely with the Government and Ministers to push for progress on major projects for the people of Lake Mac.

Legislation has been passed in 2024 to protect rental tenants' rights, crack down on domestic violence and knife crime, increase police powers and bail restrictions and strengthen antidiscrimination laws. Parliament also worked to ban LGBTIQ+ conversion practices, secure a clean energy future, increase road safety, and of course passed my Human Tissue Amendment (Ante-Mortem Interventions) Bill which increases opportunities to provide life-saving organ transplants.

October saw some historic moments in NSW Parliament.

The Honourable Ben Franklin, President of the Legislative Council, and I, as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, welcomed his Majesty King Charles III to celebrate the Bicentenary of Australia's oldest Legislative Council.

The Bicentenary of the NSW Legislative Council marks 200 years since the Council first sat in 1824 and the birth of the country's very first legislature. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reflect on the incredibly rich and complex journey of democracy in NSW and indeed, Australia.

It is my honour to represent the people of Lake Macquarie in Australia's oldest parliament and usher the past 200 years of history into the future with a vision for change and innovation.



■ **1. TOD Precincts** set to see planning changes to allow medium density housing development:

- Morisset
- Booragul
- Teralba
- Cockle Creek
- Cardiff

■ **2. Teralba and Booragul Public Schools** will be home to new Co-Located Pre-schools to tackle the childcare needs of the growing community

■ **3. Speers Point Roundabout Community Consultation Report** released in October following nearly 600 submissions prompted by the release of initial plans in May.



■ **4. Blackrock Motor Park,** Australia's first motorsport resort, has begun works to transform the former Rhondra Colliery mining site into a state of the art motor sport



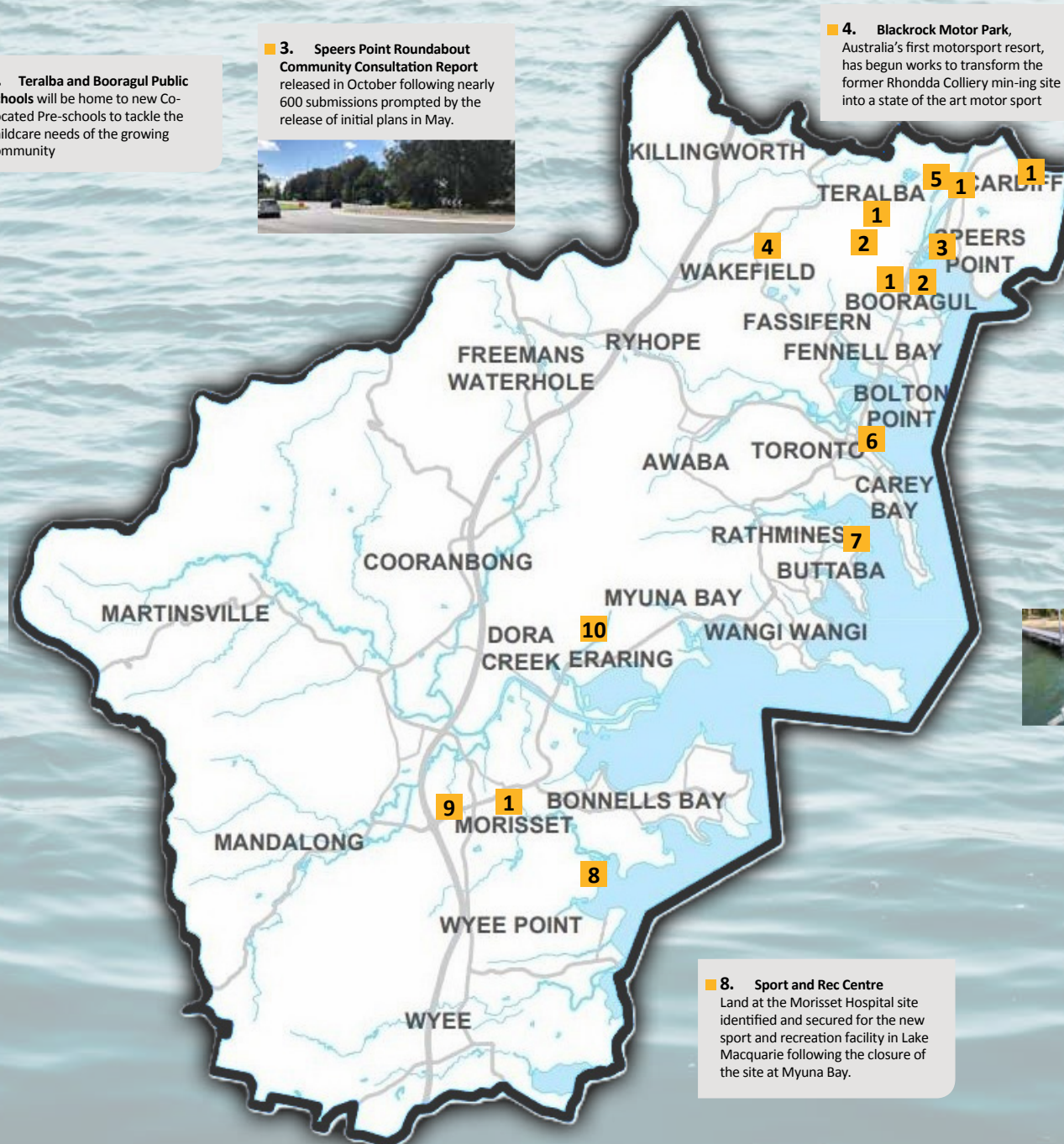
■ **5. Cockle Creek Train Station** set for upgrades to increase accessibility with a share of the \$800 million state fund to improve our most neglected stations.



■ **10. Origin Battery**
Construction begins on the Stage 2 Battery project at Origin Eraring Power Station.



■ **9. Mandalong Road/Wyee Road Upgrades**
Mandalong Road Upgrade Plans have undergone community consultation, and we are awaiting a report based on the consultation results. Meanwhile the problematic Wyee Rd/ Alliance Ave intersection is announced to receive funding for upgrades to service local development.



■ **6. The Toronto Bath** received a \$1.4Million facelift, unveiled in October thanks to a \$1Million funding injection from the NSW Places to Swim Program.



■ **8. Sport and Rec Centre**
Land at the Morisset Hospital site identified and secured for the new sport and recreation facility in Lake Macquarie following the closure of the site at Myuna Bay.



■ **7. Rathmines Skate Park** opens with a flurry of excitement from locals marked by a fantastic unveiling with demonstrations by some top skaters. Funded with \$790,000 through the Everyone Can Play and Places to Play programs.

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 E-Newsletter, you can contact my friendly staff and ask to be added to the mailing list for regular updates and information direct to your inbox.

You can also follow my Facebook page for current information.

Police Pay On The Rise



NSW Police have just negotiated a generational pay rise with State Government to deliver up to \$40k more per year over the next four years. With NSW haemorrhaging Police to QLD and Vic for better pay opportunities it was imperative the Government stepped up to support our Police force.

Due to officers leaving, recent years have seen the downturn in operations of the Morisset Police Station and the loss of general duties, with officers alternatively patrolling on the road to be mobilised within the community where needed. The station is now used for highway patrol, special response units and K9 teams.

This historic pay rise will ensure our Police are some of the best paid in the country. Coupled with the recent announcement of remuneration for officers training at the Goulburn academy, it is hoped these changes result in more officers retained and deployed in our communities.



Following the early release of initial design plans during the investigations phase of the project, a consultation process was carried out with the local community.

The consultation process attracted a whopping 600+ submissions showing just how impactful this problem is on the commuters of western Lake Macquarie.

In October, Transport for NSW released the report following the consultation and I hope to see progress on this pivotal infrastructure upgrade as soon as possible.

The plans addressed the alignment of the lanes to better increase traffic flow through the roundabout, restricting movements into Creek Reserve Road and the introduction of a signalised intersection at Seventh Street and TC Frith Avenue. More detailed information can be found on the Transport for NSW Project Page.

Changing of the Guard at LMCC

On 14 October we saw a changing of the guard at Lake Macquarie City Council. Firstly, I acknowledge the service of former Mayor, Kay Fraser. We often worked together to push for the best outcomes for Lake Macquarie. I wish Kay all the best and thank her for her service as Councillor and Mayor.

Following the Local Government elections, Lake Macquarie has spoken. I congratulate the winning candidate and the new Mayor, Adam Shultz and I look forward to working with him in the future.

To all newly elected Councillors, I congratulate you on your successful campaigns and your appointment to your positions serving the people of Lake Macquarie.



Commuter Parking Headaches

The mounting pressure on our transport network has caused many including myself, to question the Government on what infrastructure upgrades will be delivered to handle the growing population of Lake Macquarie.

While Cockle Creek Train Station has recently been earmarked for major safety and accessibility upgrades for those living with disability, other stations require action to

manage the future strain on the network.

With locals being encouraged to use public transport it is becoming clear that upgrades to commuter parking is essential for the future safety and accessibility at our busiest stations, Morisset and Fassifern. In 2019 I commissioned concept plans for upgrades to commuter parking with promising progress under the Commuter Car Park Program. The 2021-22 budget stated that funded projects



included "business cases to support additional car spaces at Morisset, Fassifern and Cardiff stations." What happened to those funded business cases is anybody's guess, so I have addressed the current Government and asked this issue be re-visited before we encounter greater problems.

Southlakes Motorists Speak Up

This vital infrastructure project has been a thorn in the side of Morisset and surrounding communities for many years. Progress, so far, has not been fast enough to deal with the growing population. While we have not yet seen ground broken



Mandalong Road looking west from Wyee Road

on the Mandalong Road upgrade, plans were released earlier this year for community consultation. The changes proposed will see traffic conditions upgraded to address congestion issues on Mandalong Road, Dora Street, Wyee Road and Freemans Drive.

In good news, an announcement has been made to address traffic issues at the Wyee Road/Alliance Avenue intersection. The State Voluntary Planning Agreement Funding Program (SVPA Funding Program) will utilise \$2.5 million for the construction of an intersection upgrade, including a four-legged roundabout.

Lake Macquarie is a key growth area, and the NSW Government is making sure new homes are being built alongside supporting

infrastructure. The SVPA Funding Program was established to support the delivery of public amenities and services, affordable housing, transport infrastructure, and conservation works.

With construction underway on the Archer's Run over 55s lifestyle village and the Cedar Mill concert venue, we can expect heavy use of the intersection at Wyee Road and Alliance Avenue. This upgrade will help ensure the intersection is safe and can better manage the ballooning number of road users.

Along with frustrated locals I have been calling for action to address growing traffic issues in this area for a long time. This funding is welcome news and I look forward to other projects which will address the transport needs of residents and visitors.

Greg Piper MP

Grants Updates

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?

Due to my office receiving countless enquiries seeking support from these types of 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.



Transition Support Needed for Energy Industry

The transition away from coal for thermal power production in New South Wales to clean renewables is moving at pace with broad support for a clean future. In September, 200 coalmining workers at Centennial Coal's Mandalong Mine were unexpectedly told their jobs are soon to be lost.

The news devastated workers and their families. It will also have wider repercussions throughout the Lake Macquarie community. Concerns for the future of jobs at Eraring Power Station and

of the mine workers at Mandalong and Myuna mines has been in focus since Origin Energy flagged the early closure of Eraring Power Station in 2022.

These job losses will have a ripple effect throughout Lake Macquarie and the region. Workers face the prospect of having to choose between taking a lower paying job to stay in



the area or having to upheave their families' lives and relocate to stay in the mining industry. That is not a "just" transition.

While new jobs are being created in the renewable energy sector and other industries that could replace the jobs that are being lost, the process is taking too long. The Government must move on job losses and

prepare for new, well-paying employment opportunities for displaced workers now, not just in the future. I called upon the Government to use what levers it must to do the best for the workers and their families, who have ensured New South Wales' reliable power supply for homes, businesses and industries for years.

Community Recognition Statements

Do you know a local legend? Someone who has achieved something worth public recognition through volunteering, or dedicating their time to help others, a notable sporting achievement or gaining a prestigious award?

I love to celebrate these efforts with a Community Recognition Statement, which is a short speech delivered to the NSW Parliament. These are then recorded in Hansard, the State Parliamentary record, to forever acknowledge those in the community who represent the best of us.

To submit a nomination for a Community Recognition Statement you can email my staff.



Closed for the Holiday



My office will be closing for the holiday season from midday on Friday, 20 December and will reopen at 8am on Monday, 6 January 2025.

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

Tour Historic Parliament House



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

Come and learn about the history of Australia's oldest public building, 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

who are 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 submit a nomination for a Community Recognition Statement or enquire about a tour contact my office:

lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Morisset Show Turns 70



The 70th Morisset Show was, once again, an amazing day of fun and festivities!

I congratulate the Morisset Lake Macquarie Agricultural Show Committee and their team of volunteers for bringing it all together - with a special shout out to President, Justin Rumore. It takes an entire year to organise and is a huge undertaking.

The Morisset Show is a chance to highlight

the people, produce, livestock, arts and crafts of our beautiful and vibrant region.

I always enjoy the opportunity to meet with fellow locals to discuss matters important to the community.

While the heavens did open up for the night's rodeo it wasn't enough to dampen spirits with thousands sticking out the poor weather to cheer on the riders.