



Jann Stuckey MP

State Member for Currumbin

Winter 2011

EYE ON THE ELECTORATE

Winter has certainly declared it has arrived with big temperature drops, rain and cold winds. However the weather could not dampen the spirits of the inaugural Cooly Rocks On held between June 3 -13. An estimated 90,000 people joined in the festivities over the 10 days, rock n'rolling the days and nights away or viewing the 1000 vintage cars on display. Congratulations to Bob Newman, Steve Archdeacon and their team for an outstanding first effort. May there be many more.

The spike in armed robberies and the fatal shooting of Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding in May sent shockwaves across every suburb in our city. Our electorate was not spared with several hold-ups causing extreme angst for a number of people. Like so many residents who have contacted my office I am angry that a bunch of thugs think they can steal hard-earned wages, disrupt our lives and threaten our safety in this manner.

My newsletter has been called Eye on the Electorate since 2004 and I am asking all Currumbin residents to 'keep an eye out' for each other and our neighbourhood. After all, that's what living in this special part of the world is all about – supporting and protecting our wonderful community and lifestyle.



Jann with senior veterinarian Dr Michael Pyne, and Shadow Environment Minister Andrew Powell MP

Sanctuary Hospital SOS

We are truly blessed to have Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in our midst. It has been described as many things including the lungs of Currumbin, an icon and a tranquil haven in an ever-growing city. For many of us it is all these things and more. Not only a unique tourist attraction, our sanctuary also plays a key role in education, conservation and treating sick or injured wildlife.

Since the wildlife hospital opened 18 months ago it has treated in excess of 6,500 animals from south east Queensland and northern New South Wales. This is a costly exercise with total operating expenses of around \$600,000 per year made worse because the state government refuses to allocate any funding for this essential service despite doing so for other facilities. Veterinary staff felt compelled to go public due to fears the hospital may have to turn animals away or close in 2 – 3 months if funding was not found.

News that the GCCC have listened to their pleas for help is much appreciated but the state government must also step up to the plate. I was very disappointed that the Environment Minister and the Bligh government did not think this invaluable service was worthy of inclusion in this year's budget, yet they managed to find funds for others.

I urge residents to dig deep and support the Hospital foundation and to continue to lobby this government for some much needed funding. Donations can be made by visiting www.cws.org.au

Small Business Survey Launched

As Shadow Minister for Tourism, Manufacturing and Small Business, I recently launched the LNP Small Business Questionnaire. This quick, five minute survey is a chance for business owners to have their say on the problems facing their business, and what they would like to see change. I am also interested in hearing what specific red tape and state government regulations are getting in the way of doing business in Queensland. For a copy of the survey, contact my office or click the link on my website www.jannstuckey.com.au

Electorate Office: 1045 Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach - **Phone:** 5598 1387 - Fax: 5598 1861

Mail: PO Box 751, CURRUMBIN QLD 4223 - **Email:** currumbin@parliament.qld.gov.au

Website: www.jannstuckey.com.au

Law & Order Update

Currumbin really is a great place to live and I do not want to dwell on the negative actions of some thugs who have struck our small business owners, however I do believe it is really important to support the calls from our police to stand shoulder-to-shoulder to combat these dangerous and evil actions. By reporting any crime we see no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, we can show those who engage in anti-social behaviour that they will be caught because we do not tolerate crime and vandalism here.

Let's all do our best to be the eyes and ears for our police and help them to make our electorate safe and harmonious. Contact numbers for our police and Crimestoppers are listed below. I encourage residents to join their local Neighbourhood Watch group or contact Elanora Police Beat for advice on how to start one in your suburb.

Elanora Police Beat (07) 5569 8480
Palm Beach Police Station (07) 5534 0222
Coolangatta Police Station (07) 5589 8444

CRIMESTOPPERS
1800 333 000



State of the Roads



New polycarbonate panels on the Tugun bypass

Driving around the electorate I have noticed our sector of the Coast looking particularly shabby in recent times. The ongoing saga of the smashed noise panels lining the Tugun Bypass has now seen the Government finally replace smashed glass with mis-matched polycarbonate panels. A revised contract of \$493, 623 has been awarded to install around 70 acrylic and polycarbonate panels. This is despite an overwhelming 70% of more than 2,500 respondents to my electorate survey last year suggesting solid materials as the best option for noise panels.

I have also called on the State Government to upgrade the dilapidated 'Welcome to Queensland' sign adorning the entry to Coolangatta on the Tweed bypass. This sign was erected over 10 years ago and is now heavily faded and rusting. I will continue to put pressure on the State Government for an upgrade as the southern gateway to Queensland signage should be appealing to tourists travelling into our state.

Varsity Station Parking



A number of angry residents contacted my office after receiving fines for parking illegally on grass verges at the Varsity Train Station as there were no spare carparks. By providing only 300 parking lots, the State Government severely underestimated the use of this facility by daily commuters.

With a lack of rail stations for southern residents, these fines were a slap in the face for those trying to do the right thing and

use public transport. Shortly after my calls to improve the situation, the Minister for Transport announced an additional 100 car parks which is welcome news. However, there are reports that these new temporary parks are not covered by the station's security cameras, so I urge commuters to be mindful and take precautions.

Budget 2011

It was slim pickings in this year's State Budget for the Currumbin electorate. A number of funding inclusions were re-announced from previous years, including:

- road maintenance for the Tugun Bypass
- construction of a kindergarten at Elanora State School, and
- a social housing project for Palm Beach.

Funding to the tune of \$20,000 has been allocated for maintenance at Ingleside State School, and \$1 million has been allocated for resurfacing along Tugun-Currumbin Road.

UPDATES

Boral Quarry

Local residents have shown strong opposition to the proposed quarry earmarked for bushland near Tallebudgera Valley. Paper and online petitions tabled in May gathered over 9,200 signatures which is an outstanding result. The Stop the Gold Coast Quarry action group have been working tirelessly to raise awareness of the proposed quarry in surrounding areas and beyond. The Treasurer has indicated an Environmental Impact Statement could be released in mid-2012 as a requirement of the proposal's 'significant project' status.

I have raised the issue in Parliament and continue to ask questions to relevant Ministers to gather information for residents affected by this impending decision.

SEQ Water

The ongoing blame game between councils and the State Government over water prices continues with the introduction of the Fairer Water Prices for SEQ Bill in Parliament. Following the Premier's announcement giving councils the option to regain control of their water businesses, this bill introduced a cap on water price increases to the current CPI level for 2 years.

However, this cap will only apply to the water and wastewater services provided by council-owned entities, being Allconnex on the Gold Coast, and not to State Government bulk water charges. These are expected to rise up to 25% over the next two years. After seven pieces of water legislation in six years, there is still no reprieve in sight for households and community groups struggling to pay their water bills.

EYE ON EDUCATION

Principal for a Day

I recently had the pleasure of acting as Principal at Tallebudgera State School for a day as part of State Education Week. This was a wonderful experience that gave me a hands-on insight into what really happens on a day-to-day basis at our local schools.

After meeting parents and students at the gate, I listened to year two reading skills, joined the preps for art and discussed projects with the year seven Student Council. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and my thanks go to the principal Toni Robinson for organising such a special visit.



Jann with Tallebudgera Principal Toni Robinson, students and parents at the 'Ideas Wall'.

Changes to Year 7

Our state education system is changing, with the Government announcing Year 7 will be moved into high school from 2015. A move to introduce junior secondary schooling will begin with Years 8 and 9 in 2013, with Year 7 to join in 2015.

For parents wanting to find out more, a series of information forums will be held over the coming months. Visit www.deta.qld.gov.au for updates on times and venues.

Justice of the Peace Seminar



Damien Mealey from the Justice Department presenting to Currumbin JPs

In March I invited representatives from the Justice Department to give a presentation to current Justices of the Peace and Commissioner of Declarations in the electorate. It was an informative session with around 80 attending to refresh their skills and hear about current issues. One standout issue for the wider community was the

increase in identity fraud and online crime. The message was to be vigilant about securing personal information to avoid becoming a target.

We are fortunate to have a strong JP presence in our electorate and I once again thank them for all the volunteer community service that they provide.

History of Tugun Celebrations



Jann with Garth and Glenda Threlfall

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Tugun Progress Association, local residents Garth and Glenda Threlfall have been busy compiling a fascinating book and DVD of the history of Tugun. I was honoured to be invited to write the foreword for this very special production. A book launch will be held in late July with copies of the book and DVD available after the launch. Contact Garth or Glenda on (07) 5534 4485

Tugun Progress Association will also be hosting the "Back to Tugun Day" on Saturday 30th July at the Tom Atkin Hall. All are welcome to attend and join in the celebrations. These will include an art competition, live music, and a visit from some Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary animals.

ANZAC Essay Competition

Once again the annual ANZAC Essay competition was well received by schools in the Currumbin electorate with students keen to keep the ANZAC spirit alive.

Well done to all students who entered the competition and a special congratulations to the 2011 winners, Phoenix Starr and Bethany Powell from Elanora State School. Both students did an excellent job reciting their winning entries at services on this special day.



Award recipients Bethany Powell (left) and Phoenix Starr (right) with Jann

“Meet me at The Pines Shopping Centre”

From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

• Saturday 10 September • Saturday 8 October

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IN BRIEF

Kirra Hill Centre Open

The Kirra Hill Community and Cultural Centre is now officially open for community usage from 1 July. It has been a long journey to restore this historic site, once home to the Coolangatta Special School.

Good news for many community groups and organisations that now have a new community facility available to utilise. For information and bookings contact KirraHill@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

Community Awards and Grants

A number of community awards and grants are open for nomination.

- Suncorp Insurance and Queensland Police Service: Road Safety and Crime Prevention Grants. Visit www.suncorp.com.au/saferroads.

Applications close 15 July 2011

- Queensland Road Safety Awards. Visit www.carrsq.qut.edu.au/qrsa.

Nominations close 12 August 2011

- Regional Achievement and Community Awards. Visit www.awardsaustralia.com.

Nominations close 19 August 2011

- Carers Queensland: Carer-Friendly Business Awards 2011. Phone 1800 242 636.

Nominations close 22 August 2011

