



Jann Stuckey MP

State Member for Currumbin

March 2013

EYE ON THE ELECTORATE

2013 had barely begun when Ex Tropical Cyclone Oswald tore through parts of Queensland leaving a trail of destruction and despair. There were a number of Gold Coast residents without power for lengthy periods and I thank everyone for their patience while Energex worked around the clock to restore it. I cannot stress enough how important it is to heed Emergency Services warnings and to be as prepared as possible.

Currumbin took a fair lashing from the storm but others in the state lost everything. I encourage residents, if you have not already done so, to dig deep where possible and donate

to the Queensland Flood Relief Appeal 2013. Donations can be made by phoning 1800 811 700 or visiting redcross.org.au

This newsletter aims to provide residents with updates on local issues and important information. The Currumbin electorate office is open weekdays 9am – 5pm and is there to assist you should you have any state related enquiries.

Kind regards



Celebrating Australia Day II with Australia's lamb ambassador Sam Kekovich

Australia Day II

It was great to see so many Aussies out celebrating Australia Day II on February 23, a day that was reclaimed so we could come together in communities across the state, acknowledge the huge efforts of our volunteers, mud armies and emergency workers and be proud of Queensland and of our wonderful free country.

From Coolangatta to Cairns Queenslanders embraced our outdoor lifestyle with picnics, sporting activities, BBQs and beach cricket. It also sent a clear message that the welcome mat is out and we are definitely **Open for Business**, rain or shine.

Tweed River Sand Bypassing Project

Following feasibility studies and community consultation to improve (TRESBP) the NSW and QLD governments in February announced they are looking at two potential solutions to sand erosion and sand drift problems on southern Gold Coast beaches. After years of calling for more flexibility it's great to finally see proactive steps being taken by neighbouring governments to address these problems.

One option is additional sand dredging disposal areas at deep water locations offshore between Point Danger and Coolangatta and occasionally along Bilinga and Tugun beaches. The other option includes investigating backpassing to deliver sand to the south of the Tweed River entrance at northern Letitia Beach. This will help better manage supply of sand to Snapper Rocks.

The next stage is to undertake a thorough environmental impact assessment. Visit tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au to view the report.



At Point Danger with local stakeholders John Standing and Mena Tsikleas

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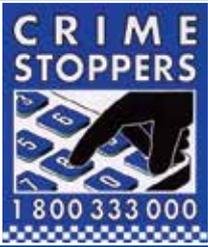
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Law & Order Update

Since March 2012 the LNP have shown a solid commitment to reducing crime in our streets. Legislation has already passed relating to toughening sentences for offenders and providing support for our officers. In 2013 there are a number of bills waiting for parliamentary debate that further address law and order issues.

New Government Legislation includes:

- *Criminal Law (Child Exploitation and Dangerous Drugs) Amendment Bill*: addresses synthetic drugs, penalties for child pornography and some child sex offences including a new child-grooming offence.
- *Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2)*: toughens sentences for drug traffickers, ensures that victim impact statements be read out in court if the victim wishes; and toughens laws for graffiti offenders.
- *Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Unexplained Wealth and Serious Drug Offender Confiscation Order) Amendment Bill*: introduces tough new unexplained wealth and drug trafficker declarations.



Elanora Police Beat
(07) 5569 8488

Palm Beach Police Station
(07) 5534 0222

Coolangatta Police Station
(07) 5589 8444

Elanora Police Beat

The Officers and volunteers at the Elanora Police Beat have been hard at work conducting a 'One Way Screws project' to counteract number plate theft. Already some 60 residents have taken advantage of this opportunity and I would encourage anyone interested in having their existing number plate screws replaced with one way screws to contact the Police Beat.

The Elanora area has been subject to a recent spate of burglaries with jewellery, laptops and phones the prime targets. Everyone is asked to be vigilant and secure their property in a safe place, keep doors and windows properly locked and report any suspicious activity to Police Link 131444.

Local Youth Engagement Officer Jason McDonald has been busy implementing a number of initiatives focused on connecting with young people through local schools. A new initiative is underway that focuses on providing assistance for young people applying for part time jobs. Jason is available to look at individual cases for disengaged youth between 12 and 25 years. For further information contact the Elanora Police beat on 5569 8488.

Currumbin Creek Watch - Hoons Beware!

Recently my office received complaints from residents concerned with the behaviour of some creek users. It is critical from a safety aspect that all jet-ski users and other powered-motor craft obey the speed limits and water safety rules. Failure to do so could result in severe injury and loss of life. Our waterways are there for everyone to enjoy and utilise and I ask all creek users to act responsibly and safely at all times. Following the spate of complaints, I have requested the water police task more patrols to our area, so hoons had better beware.

You can report unsafe creek behaviour by phoning the water police on 5509 5700 or contacting my office to fill out a Currumbin Creek Watch form.

CURRUMBIN CREEK WATCH	
<i>This form will help you to report: Boats, Jet skis, other vessels and unsociable behaviour</i>	
Incident details	The offending vessel
Date _____	Make/Model _____
Time _____	Registration/Identifier _____
Your Name _____	Description of behaviour _____
Address _____	_____
REPORT INCIDENT BY PHONE:	OR RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
Gold Coast Water Police	Member for Currumbin Jann Stuckey MP
5509 5700	PO Box 751 CURRUMBIN Q4223
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Suite 1, Samuel Plaza
5539 7300	1045 Gold Coast Highway
	Palm Beach Q4221

Update on Surf Lifesaving

I would like to welcome Eddie Bennet the New Regional Manager for SLSC on the Gold Coast. After meeting with Eddie recently I know he is very keen to spread the Surf Life Saving message and keep our beaches safe. Eddie brings with him a wealth of experience having worked in Emergency Rescue for many years.

The Currumbin electorate has 8 of the 11 surf lifesaving clubs in the Point Danger Branch. The branch has achieved great results with statistics from 1 July to 31 December 2012 revealing they performed 67 rescues, 2901 preventative actions and 387 First Aid measures.

Our famous North Kirra and Tugun beaches will soon play host to the 'Aussie Titles' from 15th – 21 April 2013. This event is great for our region and I would encourage locals to stop by and witness the many talented competitors.

Bleach* Festival 2013



Launching the Festival with director Louise Bezzina and Mayor Tom Tate.

The Bleach* Festival has recently graced our beautiful coastline focusing on promoting the Gold Coast's rich beach and surf culture. The largest Festival on the Gold Coast, based on its geography, Bleach* will grow as a celebration of surf & beach culture, delivered through a contemporary arts program. Events like this are great for our region, bringing visitors to see our little slice of heaven and providing some great opportunities for families to be involved in a community atmosphere. Locals were able to view the longest ever wave, live music and an array of film and arts.

Congratulations to Louise Bezzina and her team for an outstanding effort.

New CEO for Connecting Southern Gold Coast

Connecting Southern Gold Coast has recently welcomed Peter Doggett as their new CEO. Peter has a wealth of industry experience and will use this knowledge to promote the southern Gold Coast. Peter's responsibilities will be to maximise economic development opportunities in the four key areas of Education & Allied Health, Fly In Fly Out, Tourism & Hospitality and Culture & Festivals.



At the Surf2Sky launch with CWS CEO Jonathan Fisher and Managing Director of ABC Helicopters Andrew Mills

Surf2Sky Heli Tour Launch

I recently had the opportunity to launch an exciting new tourism adventure for the southern Gold Coast. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary have partnered with ABC Helicopters to offer a bird's eye view of our picturesque coastline and hinterland with Surf2Sky heli-tours. We have some sensational natural attributes and these aerial tours showcase our beaches, mountains and rainforests in a unique way that advances Eco-tourism.

Animals with Attitude

The Currumbin electorate has an enviable reputation as an art and culture hub due to our festivals such as SWELL, Cooey Rocks On and Bleach*. Soon our coastline will be dotted with 20 larger than life koala sculptures as this CWS initiative comes to life. Animals with Attitude will create a unique tourism experience and raise the profile of the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation. The sculptures will be sold with all funds going to support the work of the Hospital.

The CWS took in a record 250 injured animals in 2 days following the storms that hit our region. The Currumbin Wildlife Hospital provides an extremely important service to our community and is most deserving of donations. Go to www.savingyourwildlife.org.au

ANZAC Day Essay Competition

With ANZAC Day fast approaching I would encourage all local students in grades 5 through to 10 to enter my annual ANZAC competition. This is a great opportunity for our youth to develop an understanding and appreciation for our service men and women. The winners of the competition will recite their essays at dedicated RSL ANZAC Day ceremonies held in Currumbin. For further information speak with your school teachers. Entries close March 28.

In Memory of Chris Walton



Chris at the Currumbin Ecovillage

Currumbin recently lost a true friend and pioneer of sustainable living in a freak accident with the collapse of an awning in James Street, Burleigh. Chris will be remembered most for creating the award winning Ecovillage in our beloved Currumbin Valley. During a deeply moving ceremony at Currumbin RSL on the banks of Currumbin

Creek on Friday 4 January, eulogies recalled the deep love he had for his wife Kerry and son Fin, his zest for life and reverence for the earth.

Palm Beach Music Venture

Young people aged between 13 and 19 are encouraged to get involved in the Palm Beach Music Venture which focuses on teaching music to help develop skills and confidence. This is a fun, interactive way to get involved in your community. Auditions begin March 10, with a concert at Currumbin RSL on July 28. Contact Ian Grace at amazing@iangrace.com.au for details.

Currumbin Electorate



Results from the 2011 Census which were distributed late last year reported that the total population of the Currumbin electorate is 46,021 with a total of 36,296 under the age of 18 and eligible to vote. Recent data indicates the Currumbin electorate has 31,943 enrolled voters. Some 52.8% of the electorate reside in the same address they did 5 years ago, with 15.3% living in a different state 5 years ago. The total number of Australian born residents is 75.2% with 12.6% born in a country with English as the main language. Also, 77.4% of the population have internet connection in their homes.

“Meet me at The Pines Shopping Centre”

From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
• Saturday 13 April

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INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Children Encouraged to Get In The Game

In 2012 the Government launched an initiative to encourage young people to get involved in sport and provide financial support for sporting clubs. Vouchers of up to \$150 are available to help pay for participation fees at registered clubs. Already in Currumbin there are 22 clubs signed up to be a part of this program. The next round of voucher funding opens 15 July 2012. Contact my office for details.

Public Holidays for 2013

Friday March 29
Good Friday

Saturday March 30
Easter Saturday

Monday April 1
Easter Monday

Thursday April 25
ANZAC Day

Monday June 10
Queen's Birthday

Monday October 7
Labour Day Public Holiday

Wednesday December 25
Christmas Day

Thursday December 26
Boxing Day

