

# Jann Stuckey MP

State Member for Currumbin

June 2007



## EYE ON THE ELECTORATE

**B**y the time you receive this newsletter in your letterboxes the 2007 State Budget will have been handed down and debated in the Queensland Parliament. Whilst there was not much new funding for our electorate there is plenty of activity in and around our suburbs as we experience rapid growth.

At our recent community consultative meetings which are run by our police together with community members it was pleasing to hear that the crime rate for assaults and break and enters has reduced.

Congratulations to Jim Keogh who was recently commissioned to the rank of Superintendent, placing him in charge of the Gold Coast Police region. Jim lives in the electorate and is a keen supporter of surf lifesaving.

Congratulations are also in order to Barry McNamara and the Wintersun team for a bumper 20th anniversary with 100,000 people enjoying the festival.

Work on the Tugun bypass continues to progress slightly ahead of schedule and the desalination plant is a hive of

activity with enormous boring machines arriving to dig the underground tunnels that will transport seawater into the plant and return brine back out to sea.

Water restrictions are certainly becoming more topical and I encourage all residents to do as much as possible to conserve this valuable resource. We are now progressing towards level 6 restrictions and residents need to closely monitor changes.

*Jann Stuckey*

## Queensland's New Senator

School Captains and Principals from Palm Beach Currumbin and Elanora High Schools witnessed an historic occasion when they visited Parliament House on Thursday 19 April. It is a somewhat rare occurrence for a seat in the Senate to become vacant.

I was delighted to speak in support of the endorsement of Sue Boyce as Senator for Queensland, who is not only a successful businesswomen and former journalist, but is a strong advocate for people with disabilities and women.



*School Captains and principals with Jann and Senator Sue Boyce*



*Widow Diane Menso is upset the Robina Palliative care unit is being moved.*

## Cancer Patients Neglected

Lack of services and shabby treatment of cancer patients has once again highlighted the ongoing neglect of the Gold Coast by the Beattie Government. As a former nurse it deeply saddens me to hear of the pain, anguish and unacceptable waiting lists patients suffer when they deserve basic care.

The recent announcement to move the Palliative Care Unit from Robina to Southport with only two weeks notice without staff consultation resulted in some very experienced medical and nursing staff resigning.

Now we learn chronically ill mental health patients are to be moved to a private hospital in Currumbin, without any community consultation. As Queensland taxpayers we are entitled to better treatment by this Government.



The Ecovillage in Currumbin Valley has now expanded into its next stage and has been recognised for its groundbreaking work in creating a sustainable living development, including water sufficiency and use of solar energy.

Congratulations to the Ecovillage for its recent UDIA Award for Excellence in Sustainable Subdivision.



Jann with Martin Jackson inspecting the hybrid car

## World Environment Day

Celebrating its eighth anniversary World Environment Day attracted thousands of folk to tranquil Winders Park to heighten awareness of our earth and its precious environment.



Opening Ceremony Celebrations

Congratulations to Gecko and all who helped to make it another success.

# Queensland Budget Update

**C**URRUMBIN ELECTORATE has secured funding for big ticket items such as the ongoing construction for the Tugun bypass which is being built with both State and Federal funds, infrastructure for the \$1.2 billion dollar Tugun desalination plant which is a partnership between the State Government and Gold Coast City Council, and there were a number of smaller allocations.

These include:

- \$400,000 for the widening of Tallebudgera Connection Road to help ease increased traffic in our suburbs.
- \$200,000 for improvements at Tomewin Street and Gold Coast Highway intersection near the entrance to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.
- \$400,000 for the Bilinga interchange on GC Highway.
- \$125,000 for bikeway links.
- \$123,000 for the reflooring and painting for Palm Beach Currumbin High School.
- \$26,000 for a fitness program at Ingleside State School.
- \$22.5 million for high voltage feeders from Currumbin to Burleigh heads to supply power to the desalination plant.
- \$5.73 million for Currumbin electricity substation upgrade.
- \$4.35 million for underground cables to supply power to the Tugun desalination plant.

Sadly there was still no funding for a bus service in Lakewoods, Elanora or Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary which continually has to play the poor cousin when it comes to funding, as it receives absolutely nothing from the State Government. Funding is desperately needed for a new wildlife hospital to cater for more than 4,000 injured native animals brought in each year.

## Tugun Desalination Plant

The foundations for the Reverse Osmosis process, piping for the brine line and the filtered seawater tank and pump room earthworks have progressed during May. We have also witnessed the introduction of two tunnel boring machines, as well as the impending arrival of a self-elevating barge which will house a 120 tonne drill from Italy and 105 tonne pile hammer from Singapore.

Works including use of explosives will be undertaken with surrounding residential areas being monitored for noise and vibration. Any concerns you may have in this regard can be directed to GCD Alliance on 1300 366 692.



Jann with Coalition Leaders Jeff Seeney MP and Bruce Flegg MP inspecting the desalination plant last month.

# Congratulations!

## Anzac Day Essay Winners



The winners of the 2007 Anzac Day Essay Competition were Jack Kara-Manning and Taylor Rankin of Elanora State Primary School. Both students chose the topic "The Significance of Anzac Day".

Jack read his essay at the Dawn Service, attended by over 15,000 people and televised by Channel Seven's Sunrise program. Taylor's essay was read as part of the moving Currumbin RSL midday service at the Cenotaph.

## Youth Award Winners

The first 2007 award recipient is Hailey O'Neill a 16 year old Elanora resident and student at Palm Beach Currumbin High School. Hailey has displayed maturity by mentoring younger students, co-founding a local youth initiative called 'Shout' and been appointed as the 2007 International Student Ambassador for her school.



Youth Award Winner - Hailey O'Neill with Jann and judges Stuart Breen and Sylvia Roylance



Youth Award Winner – Ellen Freiberg

The second 2007 award recipient is Ellen Freiberg, a 17 year old Currumbin Waters resident, who has shown a serious commitment to volunteering and serving others by undertaking tasks that otherwise might not be possible for elderly residents to do. Ellen has given up much of her free time to assist others and her considerate service is to be commended.

# UPDATES

## Coolangatta Taxi Ranks

As part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Queensland and New South Wales Governments progress is being made with taxis being able to service both sides of the border via a taxi rank at Coolangatta. This has long been a source of frustration for many residents and I am pleased to see a resolution forthcoming.

## Community Consultative Committees

Palm Beach CCC meets bi-monthly at Palm Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, Jefferson Lane, Palm Beach. Next meeting is Tuesday 3 July 2007 at 5.30pm.

Coolangatta CCC will meet on Thursday 26 July at Tugun Progress Hall, Golden Four Drive at 6pm – combined meeting with Tugun Neighbourhood Watch. This will be followed by guest speaker Det Sgt Rod Shelton who will be providing an insight into identity and credit card fraud.

## Needle Syringe Program (NSP)

There is a petition still circulating and copies are available from our office or at my mobile booth at The Pines.

I will keep a watching brief on this issue and continue to lobby for a state-wide review of the Needle and Syringe Program which is long overdue, considering the program has been operational for 20 years.

## Water Tank Rebates

The Gold Coast City Council has ceased its rebates for water tanks as of May 2007, however the State Government is still accepting applications for rebates until 2009. Further information can be obtained by phoning 1800 243 585.

## Centrelink

Palm Beach Centrelink latest figures indicate an unemployment rate of 4.6%, which forms only a small part of their core business. Centrelink is also able to provide specialist support services to the local community through financial information services, social work services, multicultural services officers and community contact officers.

# Youth Community Spirit Award 2007

Do you know a young person between the ages of 12 -18 in our community who has gone out of their way to perform good deeds? Has this young person demonstrated a volunteering spirit through service to the community or school?

If you know a young person worthy of nomination please request a nomination form from my office by calling 5598 1387 or via email to [currumbin@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:currumbin@parliament.qld.gov.au)

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL RESIDENTS

## SMOKE ALARMS



**From 1 July 2007** homes in Queensland must have smoke alarms installed. If your home was built before 1 July 1997 and you don't already have smoke alarms installed, you will need to buy and install smoke alarms.

Homes built after 1997 should have 240 volt (hard-wired) smoke alarms in accordance with the Building Code of Australia (BCA). There are minimum smoke alarm location requirements which state there must be one alarm outside sleeping areas and one alarm on each level of the home.

Further information on fire alarms can be accessed at [www.fire.qld.gov.au](http://www.fire.qld.gov.au) or by phoning 1300 369 003.

## Changes to Energy Suppliers

**On 1 July 2007** all residents will have the option to make a choice about where they buy their electricity and natural gas.

Be aware

- You will still continue to pay your Community Ambulance Cover Levy through your electricity bill.
- Your current entitlements to any concessions, such as pensioner rebates, will also continue.
- If you lose power you will need to call either Energex (13 62 62) or Ergon Energy (13 22 96) depending on where you live so they can restore it.
- From 1 July a new independent Energy Ombudsman will be appointed to take care of any complaints and can be contacted on 1800 662 837.



General information on the changes to the power industry is available by logging on to [www.thepowertochoose.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepowertochoose.qld.gov.au) or by calling 1800 657 567 during business hours.

## A Worthy Cause

Palm Beach Rotary Club and Alzheimer's Australia Gold Coast Inc are combining to raise money for a Dementia Day Respite Centre and modify a house to provide care to those who have this devastating disease.

**Donations are tax deductible.** Material goods are also sought from local businesses and the community. Further information is available from Merle Carmichael on 5534 7174 or John Goulding on 5598 8188.

## New Licencing Laws for Young Drivers

**From 1 July 2007** the Queensland Government is introducing new laws to change the licencing system for young drivers. These changes also include restrictions to passengers and types of vehicles able to be driven.

Some of the conditions of the 3 categories of licences are

- Under 25 – Learner: you must gain 100 hours of supervised on-road driving experience and display L plates on the vehicle.
- Under 25 – Provisional Stage 1 (P1): you must display red P plates on the vehicle, be at least 17 years of age to take the practical driving test and hold a P1 licence for a minimum of 1 year to be eligible to progress to a P2 licence.
- Under 25 – Provisional Stage 2 (P2): you must display green P plates and hold a P2 licence for a minimum of 2 years if you are under 23. Other conditions apply if you are over 23.

If you have other questions, visit [www.transport.qld.gov.au/youngdrivers](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/youngdrivers) or phone 1300 793 284



## Meet me at The Pines Shopping Centre

**From 10.30am to 12.30pm**  
14 July, 11 August, 8 September