



Jann Stuckey MP

State Member for Currumbin

March 2007

EYE ON THE ELECTORATE

Welcome to the first edition of the Currumbin Electorate Newsletter for 2007. The New Year got off to a great start with hearty celebrations as almost one hundred new Australians took their citizenship oaths at the Currumbin RSL Club on Australia Day. It is a fitting time to reflect on the positive aspects of being an Aussie fortunate to live in a democratic first world country.

We hear much about what is Australian and un-Australian behaviour. The emergence of northern NSW gangs

who display violence and use threatening tactics falls clearly in the latter category and are not to be tolerated.

Our police can use our help in reporting activities of those who wish to cause unrest, personal harm and damage.

During the past twelve months we have witnessed the rewards of solid community engagement and strong relationships with our police service.

Remember to register parties with your local police station under the Safe

Party program to prevent disruption from uninvited guests.

Crime Stoppers is another initiative for the reporting of suspicious behaviour – phone 1800 333 000.

News that the Tugun Bypass is ahead of schedule has pleased many people.

Now due for completion in mid 2008 this long awaited project has caused considerable frustration over dirt and noise to a number of local residents who are to be congratulated for their patience during the massive construction phase.

Local community rallies against needle supply in Palm Beach

SINCE learning of a proposed Needle Syringe Program (NSP) on 24 November last year, countless residents have raised their concerns with me over the inappropriateness of the location in 5th Avenue, Palm Beach.

An action group of local residents and businesses was formed and petitions collected over 1,600 signatures against this service being introduced in Palm Beach. I tabled these petitions on behalf of our community in State Parliament.

The Palm Beach Action Group headed by Gordon Watson also wrote a submission requesting a social impact assessment to ascertain an appropriate location for a facility such as this.

I am sorry to say the Health Minister would not even consider any of their requests saying that a review back in 2002 identified a need for this facility in Palm Beach and it was going ahead regardless, despite an absence of community consultation.

At a meeting in December with Queensland Health representatives I was surprised to be told that intravenous drug users were not encouraged to bring back used equipment as it would be 'dirty'.

I imagine the majority of the population would be of the belief there was some onus on users to return their



NO NEEDLES HERE: Locals hand over a petition against plans for a needle supply facility in the heart of Palm Beach.

used needles to be exchanged for clean ones.

A review of the Needle and Syringe Program is long overdue considering the program has been operational for 20 years. NSPs were conceived as a harm minimisation strategy designed to

provide sterile injecting equipment for people who inject drugs. What we see happening today is a program that has become marginalised and diluted, bearing little resemblance to the original vision.

■ **FACT SHEET NEXT PAGE**

NEEDLE FACT SHEET



As I researched this issue, a number of facts surfaced that the general public deserve to know about:

- The term 'needle exchange' is incorrect and the correct description should be needle supply. Somewhere along the line the public have been duped into believing that an **exchange** of needles occurs.
- Governments have a duty of care to the entire community and an obligation to place everyone's safety on the same level. Of particular concern is the disposal of dirty, used needles by Intravenous (IV) drug users into regular waste bins and mainstream garbage.
- GPs cannot throw their sharps containers into the ordinary rubbish. They would be sued for doing so. They have to pay an approved waste disposer to collect them and dispose of by incineration. Why are similar safety measures ignored for NSP clients?
- We are not talking a few needles here. In the 2005/06 period over 723,000 syringes were dispensed on the Gold Coast from just 2 operating NSPs in this region, an increase of 17% from the previous year.
- These figures are very disturbing when you consider our population growth is only around 3%.
- No one is to be refused needles and minors as young as 13 or 14 can access these facilities.
- Police procedures state they cannot patrol in the vicinity of the service.
- Monitoring of NSPs is critical. Reviews must be undertaken regularly to ensure every effort is being made to not only minimise infection but also rehabilitate IV drug users. By doing so public confidence would rise, and communities would be more accepting of these programs if they are told the truth and feel secure that every effort is being made to follow the original intent of the program.
- Granted these steps would not solve the location problem for Palm Beach residents, however if the Minister refuses to listen to a community, at the very least he has an obligation to guarantee the programs are following original protocols.

Community Messages

Business Experience for Local Youth

Congratulations to Tugun Community Bank for engaging youth in their *Real Life Business Experience Program*.

Georgia Craig and Karla Stove of Palm Beach Currumbin High School will now sit in on the Board meetings as part of the company's new youth observer program and gain a real life insight into business.

Meals on Wheels

Palm Beach Meals on Wheels are seeking volunteers to assist with the delivery of meals.

If you can help please contact Meals on Wheels on 5535 6444.

Community Grants

As part of proposed celebrations to commemorate the 150th birthday of Queensland in 2009, \$4 million is being made available to stage celebratory events.

Grants of between \$2,000 and \$10,000 are being made available to non-profit groups, councils, universities and other bodies and will be issued in three rounds with the first round to close on April 13, 2007.

For more information contact my office.

Gamblers Anonymous

The social cost caused by problem drinkers is well recognised, however there is a growing number of people who are problem gamblers.

I was humbled to hear first-hand stories from reformed gamblers when I attended a *Gamblers Anonymous* information meeting last month.

Gamblers Anonymous meets at Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre in Third Avenue each Monday from 7pm to 9pm.

Phone contacts for people seeking help:

- GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS - 1800 002 210 or 3356 0117
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - 5591 2062

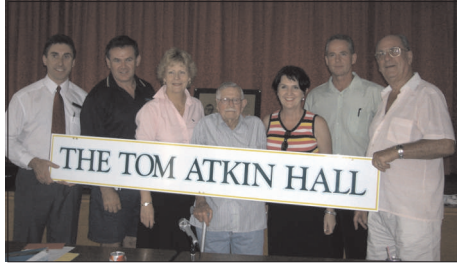
Youth Taskforce

A *Youth Violence Taskforce* has been established to look at youth issues including drug and alcohol usage, family dysfunction, behaviour management, group and social violence and education. Residents are invited to lodge individual submissions and further information is available via the Police web site, www.police.qld.gov.au.

Congratulations!

The Tugun Progress Hall has been renamed in honour of one of our most respected local residents.

On Thursday 14 December I was proud to attend the dedication of the Hall, which will now be known as the **Tom Atkin Hall**.



Congratulations to all those who became citizens on Australia Day in the ceremony at Currumbin RSL. I was particularly thrilled to witness my hairdresser of 20 years **Janet Bladen** of Tugun becoming an Australian citizen (*pictured here with Margaret May MP*).



Thirteen year-old Tallebudgera local **Tegan Kelly** was the winner of the 2006 Youth Community Spirit Award. Her volunteer efforts supporting *Riding for the Disabled* are to be commended.

Tegan is pictured with Sarah Clasen of the Pines Shopping Centre and Oliver the horse.



YES! You can still tap into the water debate



Visit our web site and register your views

www.wateroptions.net

No internet access? Call Jann Stuckey's office, tel: 5598 1387

UPDATES

M1 On/Off Ramps at 19th Avenue

On 1 November 2006 I tabled a petition on behalf of local residents calling on the State Government to build on and off ramps northbound on the Pacific Motorway at Nineteenth Avenue.

I am pleased to advise that the Minister has confirmed these ramps will be considered in the concept options for the Pacific Motorway Upgrade from Nerang to Tugun.

Community engagement is scheduled for later this year.

Currumbin Creek Road Lights

Safety concerns have been raised by residents in regard to the synchronising of traffic signals at intersections on Currumbin Creek Road.

After a recent inspection with Main Roads representatives of roads in the electorate that fall under state jurisdiction I advise the traffic signals at the Villiers Drive intersection will be installed during March and co-ordinated with the signals at Stewart Road and Bienvenue Drive.

Local Grants

Two groups in our electorate have received grants from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the latest round of funding.

St Augustine's Parents and Friends Association received \$30,000 for the installation of play equipment and soft-fall for the prep year.

Tugun Guides received \$3,168 for the installation of security screens.

Ingleside State School Parents and Citizens' Association has received a grant of \$2000 from the Multicultural Assistance Program for the Tallebudgera Valley Multi-Cultural Festival in November this year.

Community Police Committee

A Community Consultative Committee has been formed at Coolangatta to provide a forum for policing in our community. Long time Neighbourhood Watch volunteer Frank Eagles of Currumbin Waters is chairman. The committee's charter promotes the development of a genuine partnership between the police and community. The next meeting is on March 26.

Energex work on Tugun Desalination Plant

ENERGEX will soon commence works to lay 33kv cable from the corner of Coolangatta Road, down Boyd Street and up to the site of the Desalination Plant.

Energex will be undertaking community consultation in regard to the works which may include some noise disruption, heavy vehicle movement, open works pits, road and footpath obstructions and some traffic changes including partial road closures.

Further information is available by phoning Energex on 1300 762 213 or GCD Alliance on 1300 366 692.

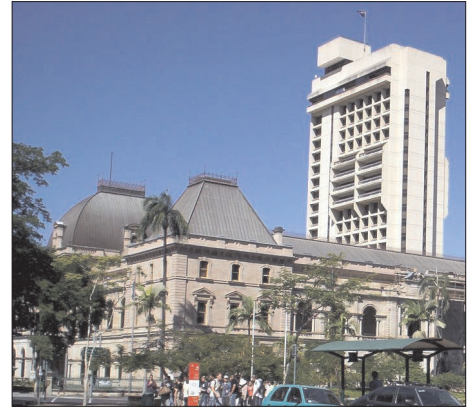
Sticking up for locals in Parliament

JANN Stuckey is known in the State Parliament as a no-nonsense MP who is fiercely loyal to the residents she represents in the Currumbin electorate.

Last month she had this to say about the electorate in her Address in Reply speech to the 52nd Queensland Parliament:

"Let me introduce honourable members to Currumbin, an exquisitely beautiful 146 square kilometres of beaches, valleys and rainforests. Currumbin really is breathtaking with her natural beauty and nostalgic history—a history that locals are prepared to protect fiercely.

We are lucky to have lively Neighbourhood Watches, Lions, Lionesses, Rotary and other community groups and volunteers across the electorate, contributing greatly to the social fabric, health



Parliament House, Brisbane

and well being of our area. Here in this House today, in these formal circumstances, I once again pledge my unequivocal commitment that I will continue to represent all of the residents of Currumbin boldly, truthfully, proudly and in a proactive manner to make sure we get a reasonable deal."

New Tugun boundary proposed

THE PUBLIC has until April 6 to lodge submissions regarding the proposed boundary changes to Currumbin Waters and Tugun.

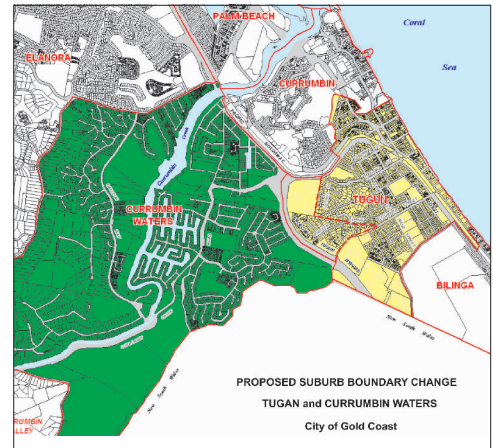
Written submissions must be lodged with the Department of Natural Resources and Water, PO Box 4297, Robina Town Centre, 4230. A plan is also available at the department's office at 14 Edgewater Court, Robina.

In 2005 I tabled a petition in State Parliament signed by 138 residents

calling for a small area currently in Currumbin Waters to become part of Tugun.

This makes sense because these residents are only a short distance from the Tugun shopping centre and have nothing in common with Currumbin Waters.

The new boundary would follow the centreline of the proposed Tugun Bypass and will place all properties in the area adjoining Mirreen Drive in Tugun.



"Meet me at the Pines Shopping Centre"

From 10.30am to 12.30pm
Saturday 10 March
Saturday 14 April
Saturday 12 May