



# Jann Stuckey MP

## State Member for Currumbin

June 2008

### EYE ON THE ELECTORATE

Despite morning and evening chills reminding us that winter is upon us, much has been happening in our scenic and popular electorate. Countless people braved cold winds and showers to attend the public opening of the long-awaited Tugun Bypass on Sunday June 1st.

Yet another successful World Environment Day was hosted by Gecko in Winders Park, Currumbin on the same day with a theme "Green Day Out" and Wintersun celebrated 21 years of rock n' roll.

The Anzac Day dawn service at Elephant Rock brought 10,000 people from far and wide into our

midst to remember those who served their country so we can enjoy the freedoms we take for granted today. If you have never attended this service I can thoroughly recommend it as an event that will linger in your mind for a long time.

On Sunday, May 25th the GCD Alliance were recognised for achieving 2 million hours of work incident free on the desalination project. This is no small feat for a project of this scale that employs hundreds of workers and they are to be congratulated.

News that the State Government has directed Energex

to find a route and construct an overhead 110kV powerline along the alignment of the Pacific Motorway from Mudgeeraba to Tugun has created enormous anxiety and uproar in our affected suburbs.

As many residents have complained they did not receive first-hand information about this project until it was raised in the media I have invited Energex to include an insert in this edition at their own cost.

*Jann Stuckey*

## CELEBRATIONS AS TUGUN BYPASS OPENS TO TRAFFIC

Spirits were high when the Tugun Bypass was officially opened and two days later traffic started moving across this important piece of infrastructure costing \$543 million.

A crowd of about 7000 people attended a community day for a once in a life time opportunity to walk the bypass before it became one of the busiest roads in



Queensland. An estimated 40,000 vehicles will use the road each day.

The official opening had to be moved inside the 334-metre tunnel built underneath the Gold Coast Airport runway extension when there were fears that the day might be washed out. Unfortunately a family day to include food and drink stalls was cancelled. However, the sun shone and for many people it was a day of celebration.

The bypass means that it now takes only five minutes to travel from Currumbin to the Tweed, rather than the slow crawl through Tugun during peak time.

It was a wonderful day for the Gold Coast but disappointing an interchange wasn't constructed at Boyd St in view of booming residential development. The people of Tugun are to be commended for their patience and perseverance.

## FIGHT FOR POWERLINES TO GO UNDERGROUND

Jann has tabled a petition in State Parliament calling for overhead powerlines to be constructed along the alignment of the Pacific Motorway from Mudgeeraba to Tugun to go underground.



Nearly 4,000 people signed the petition over three weeks. Principal petitioner Pam Cooper of Palm Beach said she was overwhelmed by the huge public response.

The petition asked the State Government to intervene urgently and place the powerlines underground because of health concerns, as well as the loss of trees and vegetation and habitat for wildlife.

Jann said she had been inundated with calls, letters and emails from the Currumbin electorate as well as Burleigh and Mudgeeraba over Energex's proposal, along with complaints that the community had not been consulted.



Residents took their protest to the Queensland Parliament on June 3rd and met with Departmental and Energex chief staff demanding their concerns be heard. As a result there was agreement the Government will provide costings for underground powerlines and regularly liaise with residents via a community reference group.

## Kirra Hill Back in the Hands of the Community

It's great news that Kirra Hill has finally been transferred from the State Government to the Gold Coast City Council for community use.

This historic and picturesque site of the old primary school has been the centre of a lengthy community battle. Soon after being elected to State Parliament Jann called a public meeting in 2004 after many residents contacted her with their concerns that the site would be sold without any public consultation.

Congratulations to the Save Kirra Hill Committee and its chairperson Jan Derbidge who have led a passionate and vocal fight to save the site from development. The group put many hours into mounting a case for the site to be Heritage Listed but unfortunately this was refused because it did not satisfy the criteria for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.

In February 2005 the State Government announced it would gift the site to the community and it took more than three years for this to actually happen. Currently a project funded by the GCCC and State Government is underway to clean-up the site in preparation for restoration.

## Queensland Budget Update

- \$700,000 for maintenance between Logan and Tugun on the Pacific Motorway.
- \$450,000 for improvements at the Tallebudgera Connection Rd and Tallebudgera Creek Rd intersection.
- \$32.88m for construction and maintenance of the Tugun Bypass.
- \$1.02m for the Bilinga interchange on the Gold Coast Highway.
- \$300,000 for the Terminal Drive and Gold Coast Highway intersection, Bilinga.
- \$3m in joint state and federal funding to widen the six lanes between Nerang and Stewart Rd on the Pacific Motorway.
- \$426,000 to complete works between Burleigh Heads and Currumbin on the Gold Coast Highway.
- \$44,000 to Gold Coast City Council for the Palm Beach Park Pathway Lighting Project.



Time for celebration - Save Kirra Hill members (from left) David Simpson, Helen Elliott and Noel McDonald join with Jann in marking the handover to the community.

## Tributes to Anzacs

Elanora State Primary School students Malee Rowell and Jasmine Hunter have won Jann's 2008 ANZAC Day Essay Competition.

Malee was thrilled to read her winning essay at the dawn service on Currumbin Beach and telecast by Channel 7's Sunrise program. Jasmine read her essay which was also on "The Significance of Anzac Day" at the midday service at Currumbin RSL.



The winning writers, Jasmine (left) and Malee proudly display their winning certificates with Jann.

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

Median fencing on Gold Coast Highway from Third Avenue to Eighth Avenue in Palm Beach and Thrower Drive, Currumbin, will improve pedestrian and motorist safety and encourage pedestrians to use signalised crossings.

Since 2000 there have been 13 accidents, including three fatalities, involving vehicles and pedestrians on this section of road. The project is a Safer Roads Sooner initiative by the Department of Main Roads.

## Currumbin Youth have their say in Parliament

Three students from the Currumbin Electorate have been selected for the 2008 Queensland Youth Parliament, starting on July 2nd.

Timothy Gear, a school captain at Elanora High School, will represent Currumbin Electorate, Benjamin Naday, a student at St Andrew's College, Tallebudgera, will represent Burleigh electorate and Leigh Moran, of Griffith University, will represent the Southport Electorate.



From left, Leigh Moran, Benjamin Naday and Timothy Gear meet with Jann in her office.

Jann said she was thrilled that youth in the Currumbin electorate had demonstrated such a keen and positive attitude to the youth parliament. She said they were all very talented and well-deserving of the opportunity and she was sure they would gain a wealth of knowledge and experience from their participation.

## VOLUNTEERS LENDING A HAND IN OUR COMMUNITY



Jann surrounded by members and friends at the Lions Den, the scene for many of the club's fundraisers. Many hands make light work!

One of the hardest working volunteer groups in the electorate, the Lioness Club of Palm Beach Currumbin, raised more than \$740 at a morning tea for Queensland Cancer. During the past four years this group has grown from a membership of 17 charter members to 37, under the presidency of Lioness Joy Mattingley, who stepped down at the June changeover dinner. Well done ladies!

## CROSSING THE BAR A GROWING RISK

Jann has made urgent representations to the Minister for Transport to alert him to the growing safety risks at the entrance to the Currumbin estuary. As a matter of priority she has once again sought government assistance to help fund a research and development program which would look at ways to ensure a safe channel. Volunteer Marine Rescue has reported more stranded boats crossing the Currumbin Bar. One Sunday alone eight boats and two jet-skis became stuck two hours prior to low tide

While the sand appears to be winning the battle, local boaties say the Bar is at present in the most dangerous state ever seen and a solution has to be found before a life is lost.

## News Around the Electorate

### Currumbin Valley living rates amongst world's best

The EcoVillage in Currumbin Valley has won the World's best environmental development at the International Real Estate Federation's excellence awards in The Netherlands.

EcoVillage managing director Chris Walton said the company had originally set out to create a benchmark project to role model sustainability and inspire the world. More than 100 entrants were vying for recognition at the awards.

### Bus Services Under Scrutiny

Translink says it will continue to investigate improving bus services between The Pines Shopping Centre and John Flynn Hospital as part of its annual review of the Translink Network Plan. There has been criticism of the new service, particularly as the larger low-floor accessible buses have no access into the hospital grounds because of the overhead walkway.

Alternative travel options for elderly people or people with a handicap include: Gold Coast Mobility Office provides community transport services to shopping and social activity centres, Monday to Friday but bookings must be made in advance on 55210577. Gold Coast City Council cab service runs from Currumbin and Currumbin Waters to The Pines on Thursday mornings for a cost of \$2 each way.

TransCord-Community Transport Organisation Inc provides transport for medical appointments, hospital visits, attending social groups and can be contacted on 55314766.

### JANN IN PARLIAMENT

Via the internet you can either watch or listen to Parliamentary proceedings. Simply go to [www.parliament.qld.gov.au](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au) and click on chamber broadcast.

If you want to read what Jann has to say in the State Parliament, go to <http://parlinfo.parliament.qld.gov.au/ISYSSpkSimp.htm> and follow the links.

Parliamentary sitting dates for the remainder of 2008 are: July 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 24 (estimates), August 26, 27 and 28, September 9, 10 and 11; October 7, 8 and 9; October 28, 29 and 30 (regional parliament); November 11, 12, 13, 25, 26 and 27; December 2, 3 and 4.

### ELECTRICITY NETWORK UPGRADE

The \$5 million upgrade of the Currumbin substation will be nearing completion by September. Energex says landscaping will then begin and it will complement the substation design and preserve the streetscape of the area.

### LONG WAIT

Figures released by the Housing Minister paint a gloomy picture for those waiting for social housing in the electorate with lengthy waiting periods.

Just under 800 households are waiting for social housing in the Electorate while the department owns 501 dwellings in the area.

### WHAT'S ON?

Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Third Av, Palm Beach, supports individuals and families experiencing a crisis in their lives and offers short term and financial counselling and youth support.

These free courses include self-esteem, assertive communication, anxiety management and beauty inside and out for teens. As well, a Trigeminal Neuralgia Support Group and playgroup meet each week at the centre. Contact phone number is 5598 1505.



### “Meet me at The Pines Shopping Centre”

From 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Saturday, 12 July • Saturday, 9 August • Saturday, 13 September

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