



Jann Stuckey MP

State Member for Currumbin

March 2010

EYE ON THE ELECTORATE

It never ceases to amaze me how many wonderful community-minded people live in Currumbin and, in this my first newsletter for the year, I'd like to congratulate the following outstanding citizens who were recognized in the 2010 Australia Day Honours.

Kelvin Kerkow received an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his service to lawn bowls as a player, coach and mentor of

junior bowlers and those with a disability, Billabong founder Gordon Merchant, was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for Service to Business and support for various community associations, and Superintendent Jim Keogh was bestowed the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) acknowledging his distinguished service over many years as a member of the Queensland Police Service.

The recipient of the Gold Coast Youth Citizen of the Year Australia Day award for 2010 was Ben Naday from Tallebudgera.

This newsletter aims to provide residents with updates on local issues. My office is happy to assist should you have queries about these and other topics that matter to you.



Southern Cross University Opens

The Gold Coast's Southern Cross University campus at Bilinga officially opened its doors on the 17th February, in time for the fresh intake of local and international students.

With the four-storey, \$20 million building in place, plans for expansion of the campus are already in the pipeline, with a \$55 million 10-storey building planned for the next stage of construction.

A Diploma in Surfing Studies is just one of the courses offered at the campus, along with Business and Law, Tourism and Event Management. By 2012 the campus is expected to house around 2000 students and 130 staff which is good news for our local community and businesses.

A large number of students are seeking accommodation. If you think you can assist contact (02) 6620 3220 or www.scu.edu.au/services/accommodation



Flag presentation to Coolangatta-Bilinga Fire Station L-R Bill James, Jann, David Hall, Gary Paxton & John Macnamara

SMOKE ALARMS

Remember to change your batteries on 1st April
(This is not an April Fool's Day joke!)



LAW & ORDER UPDATE



SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER TO STAY

A decision to assign Constable Emily Tragis a permanent position at the Palm Beach Police Station is welcome news. Emily began work with our two high schools late last year and her presence has impacted positively amongst our youth.

“WANTED” POLICE VOLUNTEERS

The Gold Coast Crime Prevention Unit is currently taking enquiries and applications for the Volunteers in Policing Program which provides a support role to police in our community. VIPs must undertake a 4 day training program, be able to commit to defined hours of service, be 18 years of age or over and able to participate in the program for at least 12 months. If you are interested call the Crime Prevention Unit during business hours on 5570 7939. Applications close 9th April.

PINES POLICE BOOTH TO STAY

I have been assured that the Police booth which is located at the Pines Shopping centre will operate regularly to provide information and contact for local residents.

However it does require people to staff it which is why I urge residents to consider applying for the Volunteers in Policing Program and become a VIP.

I would like to commend the efforts of Senior Constables Kurt Foessel and Tony Unicomb for their ongoing commitment to our area through the Elanora Police Beat.

LAKWOODS NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watches are proven safety mechanisms for our suburbs. Senior Constable Kurt Foessel is encouraging residents to set up a group for the Lakewoods Estate area. For more information contact Elanora Police Beat on 5569 8488.

POWERLINE UPDATE

The Community Reference Group finally met with Energex in December 2009. Due to election promises updated plans were revealed showing a redesigned route for underground powerlines between the Elanora water treatment plant and the Energex Currumbin substation.

All powerlines through Palm Beach will be underground thanks to the huge efforts of Stop The Overhead Powerlines (S.T.O.P.) group. A new Initial Assessment Report (IAR) needs to be done, and is due for release in mid 2010 for public comment.



GOLD COAST AIRPORT OPENING

The opening of the Gold Coast Airport's new \$100 million Passenger Terminal in January signifies a promising investment for tourism and business on the southern Gold Coast. It contributes \$1 billion a year to the local community and provides almost 1300 jobs.

The former terminal was built in 1981, with around 300,000 passengers arriving each year. In 2009, Gold Coast Airport welcomed almost five million passengers.

The airport is now home to five domestic and three international departure gates and the first Jetstar passenger lounge in Australia.



Karen Andrews LNP candidate for McPherson, Dennis Chant Managing Director, & Jann

Tugun-Currumbin (Stewart) Road

Confusion over the official name change in November 2008 from Stewart Road to Tugun-Currumbin Road is set to continue. Main Roads has advised that signage will continue to display Stewart Road. Tugun-Currumbin Road starts at the Gold Coast Highway at Tugun and finishes at Currumbin Creek Road at Currumbin.

DESALINATION UPDATE

A response has been received from the Minister for Natural Resources to a petition tabled in Parliament on 26 November 2009 calling for independent monitoring of the plant's outlet site. Unfortunately it revealed very few details.

Further to this response, I have received news from the Minister that homes in the Currumbin electorate are still receiving 100% dam water.

In light of recent complaints about water quality and taste from residents, and despite authorities assurance that our drinking water is safe, confidence has been greatly reduced and many people are buying bottled water.

I shall continue to ask questions of the Bligh Government in an effort to keep everyone informed. We all have a right to know just what we are drinking and what our taxes are paying for.

Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Needs YOUR Support

Currumbin Sanctuary's Wildlife Hospital has been inundated with sick and injured wildlife needing medical attention since its opening in September 2009 with numbers climbing to 5,000.

Around 150 animals a week are coming through the hospital's doors, and operating costs have skyrocketed to \$600,000 a year.

I have called on the State Government to urgently contribute desperately needed funds to assist with enormous operating costs. It is disgraceful they have not provided any financial support to the hospital or the Sanctuary in past years.

Without committed State Government funding, the world-class services that Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary & hospital provide will suffer.

NEW FORM FOR PROPERTY SELLERS

The Bligh Government recently introduced the Sustainability Declaration Form which is a compulsory document that all property owners must complete when selling their home as of 1st January 2010.

The form requires the owner to fill out numerous details of their home's sustainability credentials to the best of their knowledge and ability, and must be signed by the owner or their representative. It is then made available to all prospective buyers.

Many residents have contacted my office, confused and concerned about these new requirements. Whilst failure to fill out the form completely is not legally enforceable, it is placing added burden on rate payers. The Government have already had to simplify the form after admitting it was too complex.

Forms can be obtained from my office, or from the Queensland Government's website <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/resources/form/sustainablehousing/sustainability-declaration-form.pdf>

If you are encountering difficulties with the form, or wish to discuss any issues you have with it, please contact my office.

PLEASE NOTE – Many residents are receiving calls canvassing for the Federal Government's 'green assessment' of homes in the electorate. This is NOT compulsory, so do not allow them to pressure you into an appointment.



Peter Burdett (artist), Jann, Greg Benfield (Principal)

MOSAIC St Augustine's

St Augustine's school received a \$10,000 grant through Q150 community funding which they used to turn a stark brick library wall and a bare garden area at the school into a beautiful mosaic. The mural traces both the local southern Gold Coast history and the role the school and parish community of St. Augustine's has played in the history of the Coolangatta/Currumbin area.

STEADY STEPS PROGRAM

Gold Coast Seniors will be able to take advantage of a ten week Falls Prevention course (Steady Steps) commencing in May. It will be conducted by 60s and Better in conjunction with Queensland Health. Any enquiries please call 5525 6466.

NEW GO CARD



Since the commencement of the new Go Card numerous teething problems have been encountered. In addition the system is completely dependent on technology and not all residents have computer access or feel confident using the scheme. Residents experiencing difficulties are advised to call Translink on 13 12 30

PARLIAMENTARY BOWLING CARNIVAL



Robert Crilly, Bruce Skilton, Jann, Dennis Murphy, Dee Jones

I was delighted to be invited to the 50th Interstate Parliamentary Bowls Carnival. The Carnival was hosted over six glorious days commencing on the 10th January at the picturesque Coolangatta Bowls Club.

Forty bowlers including current and former members from all political persuasions plus partners and supporters, participated. After a tough competition the winners were the Queensland Red Team.

JANN IN PARLIAMENT

Via the internet you can either watch or listen to Parliamentary proceedings. Go to: www.parliament.qld.gov.au and click on chamber broadcast.



Pat Lang, John Strickland and Jann at The Pines

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

“Meet me at The Pines Shopping Centre”

From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Saturday 13 March • Saturday 10 April • Saturday 12 June

Electorate Office: 1045 Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach - Phone: 5598 1387 - Fax: 5598 1861
Mail: PO Box 742, PALM BEACH QLD 4221 - Email: currumbin@parliament.qld.gov.au
Website: www.jannstuckey.com.au

IN BRIEF

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE & COMMISSIONERS FOR DECLARATIONS

New Service Awards for Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations will complement the existing 25 and 50 year awards.

A ruby award for 40 years service and a diamond award for 60 years service have been added to the award categories.

If you or someone you know is eligible for one of these awards please contact my office so I can make sure they are recognised for the valuable work they undertake on behalf of the people of Queensland.

NRMA GRANTS

Community groups can apply for grants between \$500 and \$5,000 through the NRMA Insurance Community Grants program if they are undertaking projects in crime prevention, road safety, emergency readiness and environment. Applications are open from 1 - 31 March 2010. Contact 1300 306 496 or visit www.nrmaql.com.au/grants

ATM ALERT

I urge residents to take extra care when using ATM machines. Recent hold-ups at The Pines and Tugun resulted in people being robbed of their savings.

Also be alert to changes to machines which may have been fitted with an illegal skimming device and take precautions as you enter your pin number.