



# Jann Stuckey MP

State Member for Currumbin

November 2011

## EYE ON THE ELECTORATE

Spring in Currumbin is always a busy and industrious time with Jacarandas in full bloom, magpies swooping and our famous SWELL Sculpture Festival.

Congratulations to all the businesses that won awards and also to those that went above and beyond for their customers in the Sun newspaper's recent 'Local Favourites' campaign. This positive initiative was aimed at businesses delivering the best service possible to attract repeat business and build customer loyalty.

As Summer approaches we have been warned of above average numbers of severe storms and bush fires for our region. I urge all residents to take necessary precautions in order to be as best prepared as possible.

This will be the last newsletter from me this year and I join Robin and Kadie in my office in wishing you and your families a safe and happy Christmas holiday season.

### Hurrah for Kirra Hill!

It was smiles all round on October 16th for the official opening of the Kirra Hill Community and Cultural Centre. After a long and very public campaign back in 2004 to save the former Coolangatta State School site, it was gifted to the people in February 2005 but took until March 2008 to actually be handed over to the GCCC.

Being actively engaged in this process from the start, I readily acknowledge the tremendous effort of all involved in the Save Kirra Hill committee for their tiresome work rallying support within the community over all these years. To see this building painstakingly restored to its former glory and open for community use on this historic site is truly gratifying and a credit to local residents. For information and bookings contact [KirraHill@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:KirraHill@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)



*Jann and Save Kirra Hill committee members on opening day*

### Powerlines Upgrade Shelved

A shock announcement in July by the Minister for Energy to suspend and review the planned Energex Mudgeeraba to Tugun network upgrade has stunned Palm Beach, Currumbin and Tugun communities.

Multiple reasons were given for this decision including the Tugun desal plant being placed on 'hot standby', issues with the operation of the Airport, technical constraints for the line to be constructed underground along the Pacific Motorway through Palm Beach, and slowed growth forecast for the Gold Coast.

After a long battle, many residents were perplexed as to why these setbacks were not discovered earlier and why countless residents were put through such anxiety and distress.

Energex will now undertake a formal review of network solutions for the area with outcomes due to be reported in mid 2012. My office will continue to monitor the situation.

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# Currumbin Bar in the Spotlight

The annual campaign to dredge Currumbin Creek commenced in October and is expected to shift some 40 - 60,000 cubic metres of sand. Many locals have observed the sand build-up is the worst for many years as they are able to walk across the creek from Currumbin to Palm Beach at low tide.

Sadly, and despite the tragic death of a local surfer, the State Government is continuing to wash its hands of the situation by stating that the channel is not a navigable waterway. Yet nearly 6,500 boats crossed the bar in 2010, a



*Currumbin VMR President Gary Brown, Jann, Shadow Minister Mark Robinson, and LNP Candidate for Burleigh Michael Hart discussing issues at the Currumbin bar*

Volunteer Marine Rescue is stationed metres away, a groyne, and a maritime beacon are all situated in its midst.

Accommodating everyone in a safe and organised manner has been the aim of our devoted VMR who have lobbied the Government for many years to maintain a dedicated channel to keep boats separate from people engaged in non-motorised activities.

I invited the Shadow Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure, Dr Mark Robinson, to visit Currumbin recently and see the situation first-hand.

## Support our Currumbin VMR

The Currumbin Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) has provided an invaluable service to our boating community and users of the creek mouth, by observing and logging boat crossings for over 30 years. They also provide 24 hour emergency assistance for boaties, weather and tidal information, and assistance to community groups using the Tallebudgera or Currumbin Creeks.

Currumbin VMR are seeking interested locals to join their team of dedicated volunteers. They will be boosting their efforts over the coming months to attract new members and sponsors. If you can help out, please contact the VMR on 5534 1000.

## Kirra Report Finally Released

A study into options to address the current sand build-up at Kirra and improve the long-term operation of the Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project (TRESBP) has finally been released. Announced in July 2009, it took over two years and countless requests from my office for this information to be made public.

Four options have been investigated, including additional dredge placement areas, extending the pumping outlet to North Kirra, delivering sand south to Kingscliff and back-passing sand south to Letitia Spit.

Only about 50 people attended the public forum on November 2 where it was revealed that none of the above options would assist in bringing back the wave at Kirra.

The Dept of Environment (DERM) admitted the State Government had no plans for stage 3 and were now asking the community for their input, something this community has been requesting for years. Meanwhile \$500,000 in promised election funds sits idle.

## New Cross Border Agreement

A new cross-border Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Queensland and NSW Premiers in August to expand upon the previous 2007 agreement, which only focussed on transport and health services. It is hoped the new MOU will be of some benefit to residents.

Areas covered by this MOU will include policing, social services, water, primary industries and emergency management. This follows a recommendation from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry to set up cross-border disaster management procedures after the devastating floods earlier this year.

## UPDATES

### Waste Levy Introduced

New waste management legislation has been brought in by the Bligh Government. Commencing on 1 December 2011, commercial and industrial waste will attract a fee between \$35 and \$150 per tonne. This will see waste collection fees for an average restaurant increase by over \$3000 a year.

### Boral Quarry

Boral has now begun preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the 219 hectare site of its new proposed quarry bordering Tallebudgera Valley. Technical studies and assessments are expected to take at least 12 months. Opportunity for public comment will not be available until the release of the EIS, which is expected to be in the second half of 2012. Along with affected residents I will be following this process closely.

### Bilinga Roadworks Commence

Roadworks will take place on the Gold Coast Highway between Terminal Drive and the Bilinga Interchange from late October to mid-2012. Major changes will include a signalised right turn into Coolangatta Road, improved northbound merging into Terminal Drive, and vegetation clearing to improve visibility.

Speed will reduce to 40km/h through the work zone. Motorists are advised to take caution and allow extra travel time.

These works will cost \$3.2 million and were announced over two years ago in the 2009-10 State Budget. A map of these changes is on display in my office.

## National Police Remembrance Day



Member for Tweed, Geoff Provest MP, Assistant Commissioner Paul Wilson and Jann at the Coolangatta service

September 29 marks National Police Remembrance Day and this year I attended a cross-border service at Coolangatta to pay respects to fallen police. It was a sombre occasion given the recent death of Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding in

May, the first Gold Coast police officer and the 139th in Queensland to die in the line of duty. This day in particular is a reminder of the difficulties and dangers our police face on a daily basis to keep our streets safe.

## Major Changes to Queensland Parliament

A number of significant reforms to the way Queensland Parliament operates have come into force recently. These reforms are aimed at giving Queenslanders a greater say on proposed new laws and providing greater scrutiny of the Government. New portfolio-based committees have been established with powers to examine any new proposed laws within their area of scrutiny.

A process of public submissions and hearings on proposed legislation is now undertaken. Everyone is encouraged to have their say and get involved with these committee examinations.

These reforms are the biggest changes to Queensland Parliament since the abolition of the Upper House in 1922. For more information on the changes visit [www.parliament.qld.gov.au](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au)

## Youth Parliament

The annual YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament was held in September. This event is always a great opportunity for young people to gain insight into how the Parliament works and how laws are enacted. I was pleased to attend and support Youth Member for Currumbin, Monica Esmond, while former representative Carley McNeil took on an organisational role this year.



Kate Coombes, Monica Esmond (Youth Member for Currumbin), Jann and Carley McNeil

## Kirra SLSC Wins New Rescue Board

Congratulations to Kirra Surf Life Saving Club for winning the 2011 Point Danger Branch Patrol Club of the Year. Each year I present members of the highest scoring club with a brand new surf rescue board at the annual awards dinner to help them through the busy patrol months ahead.



Jann with members of Kirra SLSC

Our surf life saving clubs provide an invaluable service to locals, families and tourists, with members giving up hundreds of hours to patrol our world-famous beaches. Together this year, the 11 clubs in the Point Danger Branch performed 288 rescues, 6550 warnings and 2360 first aid treatments.

## Buy Smart Awards



Jann with Nakita Taurima accepting her award at Parliament House

Well done to Nakita Taurima from PBC High, who was a winner of this year's Buy Smart Competition run by the Office of Fair Trading. Competition was open to all Queensland students and attracted 276 entries. Nakita took home First Prize in the Years 10-12 category with her creative entry 'Don't Shop Till You Drop', a board game aimed at consumer awareness.

## IN BRIEF

### Help Available


The Home and Community Care program (HACC) provides an array of services to assist the elderly and disadvantaged to stay in their homes and communities. They range from domestic help, home maintenance and personal care to transport, meal delivery and social support. For more information freecall 1800 4663 4357 or visit [www.health.qld.gov.au/hacc](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/hacc)

### Neighbourhood Dispute Laws Commence

New neighbourhood dispute laws dealing with trees and dividing fence issues have commenced. Under the laws a person can issue a notice to a neighbour to remove certain branches or recover up to \$300 for the cost of removing them. For information phone the Justice Department on (07) 3239 3520

## BE READY FOR BUSH FIRES & FLOODS

### HANDY EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Fire or Life Threatening Emergencies .....	<b>Call 000</b>
State Emergency Service (SES) (flood and storm assistance).....	<b>Call 132 500</b>
Road conditions and closures .....	<b>Call 13 19 40</b>
 Energex (downed power lines) .....	<b>Call 13 19 62</b>
Energex (loss of power supply) .....	<b>Call 13 62 62</b>
Weather and warnings.....	<b>Tune in to your local ABC radio station</b>

Our office will close on Friday 23rd December at 1pm and re-open on Monday 9th January 2012.

*Stay safe and enjoy the festive season!*

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