Better Boating Facilities

A number of local boat ramps are being upgraded following State Government Better Boating Program grants to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. The grants of $81,300 were awarded to Council as part of the $50.50 funding grants program. The funding includes $44,500 to upgrade the North Haven Boat Ramp and install a new pontoon with the Westport Park Boat Ramp also being upgraded and a new pontoon installed with the Westport Park Boat Ramp.

The NSW Government is delivering better local transport infrastructure services with $120,000 provided to improve bus shelters through the Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme.

The funding will help deliver 12 accessible weather-proof bus shelters in the Hastings area, as proposed by the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. This is good news for local public transport passengers as these improvements will provide benefits for years to come.

These projects provide practical public transport improvements that local communities use every day. Each bus stop will include a safe, weather-proof sheltered area which accommodates wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

Both existing boat ramps will be widened with new on-ramp/down the middle pontoons installed. This is great news for people who use these recreational facilities.

These grants are part of more than $4.5 million in grants to provide new and improved boating facilities across NSW. It is estimated that more than 1.5 million people go boating in NSW each year and making access to our waterways safer and more convenient is good news for the community.

Improving Local Transport Infrastructure

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Matters for a Community Cabinet

It is now 12 months since I was elected as the Member for Port Macquarie to represent our community and in that time I believe we have seen some very good results for our local electorate.

Westport Park is now very much in public ownership and can never be developed, a public school will be built at Lake Cathie and will open in time for first term 2015, the upgraded Oxley Highway is finally open to traffic, work has started on the redevelopment of Port Macquarie Base Hospital and we hosted the Premier and Ministers for a Community Cabinet meeting in Port Macquarie in July.

These are all significant milestones that mean so much to so many people in our community and I am very pleased with these outcomes. I am also extremely pleased with the many smaller projects my office staff and I have worked on during the past year.

Being a Local Member isn’t just about delivering big dollar projects, it’s also about representing the wishes of your community, being the circuit between people and Parliament and it’s about achieving outcomes for the community, no matter how big or small they may seem.

There is still a lot of Work to be done right across the Port Macquarie electorate, but I think my staff and I have made a strong start and I will continue to work hard for this community that I am so privileged to represent.

“We have seen some very good results for our local electorate.”
Blood Donors Save Lives

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is urging people to book in now and become a blood donor, particularly with the Easter holidays approaching when there is often a greater need for blood products.

I have been a blood donor for many years and with the extra demand for blood supplies during the holidays I will again be donating blood. Every time you give blood you are helping to save three lives. I am encouraging people in our local community to also give up an hour of their day to give the gift of life. You never know when it may be a loved one in need of a blood transfusion.

In one of three Australians will need blood at some stage in their life, but only one in 30 people actually donate. The need for blood never takes a holiday. Every week more than 27,000 donations are required to help patients in need.

Without donations of blood, Australia risks running very low on platelets which are crucial to help cancer patients, so making the effort to donate is a very worthwhile way of helping other people in our local community.

For people living in Wauchope or the Camden Haven area, Busways provide a free bus pass to Port Macquarie for people from those centres on the day they give blood which is a real incentive for people. Thank you Busways!

To find out more information or to donate blood, please call 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au

Arts Funding for Lord Howe Island

The Lord Howe Island Historical Society and Museum is benefiting from $60,000 in State Government funding for the creative development and public presentation of an interactive display on the geology and biogeography of Lord Howe Island.

The funding is part of the $1.6 million allocation to support the creation and presentation of works across NSW under the 2012 Arts Funding Program. The grant will enable the Museum to develop and present an informative, dynamic, interactive display depicting the volcanic formation of Lord Howe Island, its sedimentary geology and associated fossil records including the giant horned turtle Meiolania platyceps.

Lord Howe Island is such a unique paradise on our doorstep. Just two hours by plane, it is the perfect getaway and I encourage anyone thinking about a relaxing destination to consider exploring Lord Howe Island for their next holiday.

Bus Services Review

Last month the Minister for Transport, Gladys Berejiklian announced that a review of bus services in the Port Macquarie region would be conducted and that it will be thorough and will include community feedback.

The Minister said the comprehensive review of bus services for Port Macquarie, operated by Busways, will take place in May and input from the community will be integral to this process.

I highlighted the need for a review to Minister Berejiklian following a steady increase in concerns at the level of bus services being offered to our local community. This is in no way a reflection on local Busways staff, it is simply the need for a review of the current services being offered.

Some local residents feel they have to walk too far to wait for a bus and with Port Macquarie’s hills I can understand that it may prove difficult for some people. So looking at which routes are being utilised and where improvements can be made is something I would like to see.

While the review would look mainly at Busways services, I am also keen to hear from people in the southern part of the electorate who are concerned with their local bus services.

We want to make sure that bus services meet the needs of the community and I encourage everyone to provide feedback. The review will look at the latest population figures, supplied from the 2011 Census, as well as current numbers to ensure buses are running frequently enough and are taking people to where they need to go.

The community will be given ample time to provide feedback during the review process.