Supporting Local Carers

Through my own personal experience I know how much pressure is placed on carers and how much effort and love they provide to the person in their care.

The Carers Group is made up of people from all walks of life who care for someone and most have family members involved in the programs of local disability service provider ADSO.

The Carers Group originated in response to the realisation that carers in our region felt isolated and disempowered and had poor quality of life and health expectations.

The idea for the Care Profile project originated from local carer Jan Dennis who could see the benefits of compiling a collection of carer profiles that were honest, concise and heartfelt. She believed the project could be used to raise awareness about the challenges carers face.

Last year when I launched the first book I spoke of the importance of acknowledging the dedication and commitment of carers. They play an important role not only in the lives of individuals but also throughout the community. Erica Lake coordinated the project, supported by Dawn Davies and Jan Dennis.

I thank all those who contributed to the Carer Profile Project, which was a wonderful collaborative effort that will be well sourced throughout our community and will be a lasting legacy of the project.

Work Commences on New $3.9 Million Fire Station

Construction work on the new Port Macquarie Fire Station is well underway.

The new fire station will provide firefighters with state of the art facilities worthy of a modern fire service. The NSW State Government has invested $3.9 million in this new fire station, which is being built within Port Macquarie’s emergency services precinct.

The site is ideally located to provide firefighters with easy access to and from main roads in Port Macquarie and the new station will service the needs of firefighters and the community well into the future.

This is an important investment in our firefighters and the local community. The new fire station, and the emergency services precinct itself, is a huge boost for the people of Port Macquarie, and for our emergency services personnel.

Work on the new fire station is expected to be completed mid-2015.

A Surprise Catch For Hastings Baseball

Hastings Baseball has been given a surprise funding boost from the NSW Government allowing them to purchase much needed safety gear for team catchers.

Last month I presented Senior Vice President David Boyton and Committee Member Mark Marino with a cheque for $900 at a game at Blackbutt Park.

It’s great to see baseball back in the Hastings and it’s a credit to each of the organising committees that it is enjoying such rejuvenation.

When my son was playing over a decade ago baseball was so popular, particularly among teenagers and I have wonderful memories of Sunday games in Port Macquarie, Waurompal and Kempsey.

I have no doubt the enthusiasm of the players in each of the five local teams will ensure that next year’s program of games will be bigger and better. For further information or if you’d like to join a team direct inquiries to David on 0419 218 975 or email info@hastingsbaseball.com.au

Wrights Road Roundabout Upgrade

One of the busiest intersections in Port Macquarie will be upgraded following an announcement by the Minister for Roads, Duncan Gay MLC.

Improvements to this intersection are vital to improve accessibility for the community and businesses of the Port Macquarie region. In the first half of next year $7 million will be spent to deliver a fully signalised intersection.

A traffic light controlled intersection will help to accommodate the increase to traffic resulting from planned developments including residential precincts, Charles Sturt University and the expanded Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

I am delighted the Minister was able to see firsthand the importance of upgrading the Wrights Road Highway, John Oxley Drive and Wrights Road roundabout.

This project is planning for the future and is infrastructure the community and businesses expect and deserve.
Meetings

Harrington

be welcomed by the community and enhancement of the foreshore will

Foreshore and State Park which I

Club Harrington to discuss

meeting of the Harrington/Crowdy

I recently attended a breakfast

Humphries to consider this option.

carried out. I have asked Minister

construction of a southern breakwall

ongoing discussion about the

Manning River.

Group to discuss the entrance to the

with members of the local Action

joined by the Minister for Lands and

Harrington and at one of those was

During the past month I have

attended a number of meetings in

Harrington and at one of those was

joined by the Minister for Lands and

Water, Kevin Humphries MP to meet

with members of the local Action

Group to discuss the entrance to the

Manning River. Over the years there has been ongoing discussion about the

construction of a southern breakwall but before any funding is allocated

for such a sizeable project a feasibility study would need to be
carried out. I have asked Minister

Humphries to consider this option.

I recently attended a breakfast

meeting of the Harrington/Crowdy

Chair Malcolm Neale, Ditto, Sierra

Cummins, Port Macquarie Bravehearts Chair Dale Symons, Leslie and Ditto

Ditto joined by the Minister for Lands and

Wendy Hudson, Caitlin Rogers, Gabby Coles, Phil Robinson

Regarding the local Action

Group I have attended several

meetings to discuss the entrance to the

Manning River. In the meantime, everybody in our community has a role to

play in reducing the impact of mental health by increasing their awareness of those vulnerable people in our

community. Mateship is one of the great Australian qualities, but many of us overlook the importance of asking our mates one simple

question - “are you OK?”

Kendall Tennis Club Scores A Special Visitor

The Kendall Tennis Club Committee was delighted to welcome former Wallaby

legend and ‘R U OK?’ Day Ambassador, Phil Waugh.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Stuart Ayres MP visited the Port Macquarie

Base Hospital as well as community

health inpatient beds and improvements to existing facilities

at Port Macquarie Base Hospital as well as community

mental health services.

In the meantime, everybody in our community has a role to

play in reducing the impact of mental health by increasing their awareness of those vulnerable people in our

community. Mateship is one of the great Australian qualities, but many of us overlook the importance of asking our mates one simple

question - “are you OK?”

Focusing On Mental Health

The improvement of mental health services locally is an ongoing priority and while there has been significant investment

in this area there is more to be achieved.

In this year’s State Budget, the Mid North Coast Local Health

District had an allocation of $285.5 million for admitted and

non-admitted mental health services which is an increase of

$600,000 over the previous year’s budget. This includes funding for an additional 1,148 admitted mental health

patients.

The Budget also reflects an increase of $1.3 million (or 42 individual support packages) to the provision of the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) for people with mental illness as well as $600,000 for two Non-Government

Organisations to provide key mental health and support services in the community.

I will continue to advocate for an increase in acute mental

health inpatient beds and improvements to existing facilities

at Port Macquarie Base Hospital as well as community

mental health services.

The Kendall Tennis Club Committee was delighted to welcome former Wallaby

legend and ‘R U OK?’ Day Ambassador, Phil Waugh.

Minister Ayres also accepted my invitation to meet with the Kendall Tennis Club Committee to discuss their plans to expand

their facilities to accommodate growth in membership.

The Kendall Tennis Club is much more than the name

implies and I have witnessed first-hand the expansive

opportunities the facility offers to individual members, wheelchair

athletes, young people, seniors

and the broader community.

Their expansion plans have been talked about for many years and I am determined to

make sure the proposal comes to fruition in the short term.

Williams Welcomes Blackspot Funding

Recently, I announced that $950,000 in

Blackspot funding will be spent to improve traffic conditions on two local roads.

The local community including businesses in the Port Macquarie industrial area have made it

very clear to me that something needs to be
done to improve safety and traffic flow

particularly on Lake Road. I have taken both the

Minister for Roads, Duncan Gay and

Treasurer Andrew Constance to inspect this

site on several occasions to discuss ongoing

safety and congestion issues.

$400,000 has been allocated to improve the

intersection of Lake Road and Blackbutt Road at Port Macquarie. In addition $550,000 will be spent to

improve the road surface of the Oxley Highway near the Rawdon Island road

intersection. Black spot projects target dangerous

roads to save lives, reduce road trauma

and ensure our roads are made safer and more productive for all road users.

Bravehearts

The Mid North Coast and Camden Haven Bravehearts Committees are excited about the recent roll-out of the Bravehearts education

resource Ditto in a Box to all public primary schools.

Thanks to the generosity of the NSW Government, Ditto in a Box was distributed to 1,799 public schools enrolling students from

Kindergarten to Year 6 to support Bravehearts vision to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

Our local Bravehearts Committees believe it is critical to provide young children with personal safety tools so they can stay safe in a range of situations from sexual assault to bullying.

The Ditto in a Box resource uses colourful posters, flashcards, a fun activity book and a DVD of the Ditto Show to help teachers

and parents engage with students and explore personal safety messages with young children.

Bravehearts mascot Ditto joined me on recent visits to Hastings Public School and North Haven Public School to present the Ditto

in a Box to Principals Grant Heaton and Jock Garvan.

Funding For Shared Cycleways On Track

An ambitious plan to link shared cycleways/pathways in the Camden Haven has taken a step forward with the NSW Government

announcing $420,000 will be provided for the planning and commencement of the projects.

These projects have the strong support of the local community and I am looking forward to seeing work commence now there is significant funding available.

Two projects are being developed by the Beach to Beach and the Schools to Schools committees which, when completed will see

around 24 kilometres of shared cycleways/pathways constructed in the Camden Haven.

The Beach to Beach initiative will include 5.5 kilometres of new cycleway/pathways as part of an 11km circuit that will connect

Dunboigan, Laurieton and North Haven. The Schools to Schools project will link Kendall Public School to Laurieton Public School.

These are ambitious and extensive projects that will both vastly improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists and will also allow

for school children to walk to and from school on a footpath rather than traversing undulating road verges along Ocean Drive.