$101,000 To Improve Public Reserves in Harrington

The NSW Government will invest more than $101,000 to support the development, maintenance and improvement of public reserves in Harrington.

$92,860 has been approved to replace the public toilet block located at the Crowdy Head Surf Club while $8,265 has been granted for aerial spraying and ground control of Bitou Bush, Lantana and Asparagus weed in the Harrington Beach State Park.

Public reserves provide social and economic focal points for the Harrington communities by providing halls for meetings and social activities, sportsgrounds, showgrounds, holiday parks, state parks, heritage sites, nature reserves, walking tracks, and recreational reserves.

This funding is so important for the managers of these important assets as it allows improvements to be made that will continue to benefit the community now and into the future.

By supporting these vital projects the NSW Government is supporting the role our professional and volunteer managers of Crown reserves play in the ongoing management of the Crown reserve system.

Local Facilities Receive Funding Boost

Three local sporting organisations have benefited from over $64,300 in State Government funding to improve sporting facilities. The funding was provided through the Sport Facility Program to boost participation in sporting activities in the area.

I am pleased to be able to provide funding assistance to local clubs and sporting associations to increase the availability, standard and quality of sport facilities in the Port Macquarie electorate. Funding has been allocated to the following groups:

- $25,000 awarded to the Kendall Tennis Club for the construction of three tennis courts and lighting at the Kendall Tennis Club.
- $24,974 allocated to the Hastings Valley Mountain Bike Riders for the construction of a new bike skills park and pump track at Wayne Richards Park.
- $14,335 has been granted to the Port Macquarie Rowing Club to upgrade the amenities block.

Providing safer and more accessible venues for sporting activities are crucial in assisting locals in staying fit and healthy. These upgrades at three venues will increase community participation and encourage families to consider trying sports like tennis or mountain bike riding.

The funding for the Kendall Tennis Club was in addition to the $205,000 granted earlier this year which provided a major financial contribution to enable the construction of the new courts and stage one of the Clubhouse.

Local recreational fishers will share in more than $13 million worth of projects to improve recreational fishing facilities across the State.

The Port Macquarie community will benefit from the investment of $140,000 for the construction of an accessible fishing platform at Lake Cathie.

Whilst the exact location of the platform has yet to be decided by Council, it will have a connected pathway to the wheelchair accessible car parking space, picnic tables and BBQ shelters and amenities.

This is a great project and one that I am taking a particular interest in to ensure the platform is suitably accessible to all abilities.

This project will greatly enhance fishing facilities for the many local fishers and tourists who enjoy fishing in our popular region.
Port Macquarie leading the way to becoming a Dementia-Friendly Community

Port Macquarie is a step closer to being a Dementia-Friendly community, with the first business approved to be working towards becoming Dementia-Friendly.

In July, Coast Front Realty became the first business to undertake steps towards being a Dementia-Friendly business. Principal, Sue Jogever heard about the program when attending a Hastings Business Enterprise Network breakfast, which featured Alzheimer's Australia NSW Dementia-Friendly Community Project Officer, Kara Nicholson as guest speaker.

I am thrilled that Coast Front Realty have embraced the opportunity to be our first Dementia-Friendly business and saw the importance of this program and how this could ultimately benefit the community and their clients now and into the future.

The changes Coast Front Realty undertook were small, simple manageable changes like painting the bathroom door a different colour to the walls and making dementia specific education available to their staff. This process is certainly not meant to be onerous or costly to businesses. With the number of people diagnosed with dementia increasing, now is the critical time for both community and businesses to act.

Port Macquarie has the third highest prevalence of dementia in NSW, with 17,700 people living with dementia in the community. If as a collective we can have a greater understanding of dementia and an ability to be able to respond to the needs of those people with dementia living in the community, it can only be a positive step in the right direction.

A Dementia-Friendly community is a place where people living with dementia are supported to live a high quality of life with meaning, purpose and value. A Dementia-Friendly business is customer focused and travels the extra mile to respond to the needs of those people with dementia living in the community.

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Harrington Men’s Shed Officially Opens

After years of fundraising and through the dedication of its members and support of the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation and the NSW Government, the Harrington Men’s Shed was officially opened in June.

As someone who has been associated with Men’s Sheds for many years, I know how vital they are in bringing men together for social interaction and fellowship. A shed in the backyard is part of Australia’s culture and the Harrington Men’s Shed is an extension of that. It’s where men of all ages can come together to learn new skills, support community projects, continue lifelong pleasures such as woodworking or just enjoy a cuppa and a chat with mates.

I am pleased that through the Community Building Partnership grants program, the State Government allocated $50,000 to the Harrington Men’s Shed and I look forward to working with their members for many years to come.

Port Macquarie War Memorial Upgrade

The Port Macquarie War Memorial recently received $2,792 to preserve the monument for future generations.

The grant will go towards providing a new plaque to include names of veterans from conflicts in Afghanistan, the Gulf War, Somalia and Peace Keeping and Peace Making efforts as well as updating a number of names of soldiers from World War II. All of the current bronze plaques will also be rejuvenated.

The NSW Government provided more than $140,000 to 31 memorials across the state through the Community War Memorial Fund which assists in the restoration and maintenance of local memorials, which play a symbolic role in communities.

It is important that in this the 100th anniversary year of the Gallipoli landing that war memorials are kept to the best possible standard to reflect their importance in our local community.

For more information about the Community War Memorials Fund, please visit www.veterans.nsw.gov.au

Improving Pedestrian Safety

Following on from record local roads funding in the State Budget, pedestrian safety is also set to be improved, with money provided in the Budget for a range of projects in the Port Macquarie electorate.

Over $500,000 will be injected into projects to improve pedestrian safety at Laurieton, Bonny Hills, Lake Cathie and Port Macquarie.

The local communities in the Port Macquarie electorate will receive a major funding boost to support key projects including:

- $125,000 for the construction of a shared pathway on the southern side of Ocean Drive between Nancy Bird Walton Drive and Glen Haven Drive

- $100,000 for Stage 1 of concept and design of replacement of zebra crossings on Hastings River Drive near Aston Street in Port Macquarie which has been the scene of several accidents. This will be replaced with a signalised intersection & pedestrian crossing

- $50,000 for pedestrian refuges and Kerb extensions at five locations on Ocean Drive at Lake Cathie.

- $30,000 for pedestrian refuges and Kerb extensions at three locations on Ocean Drive at Bonny Hills near Panorama Drive, near Jordan Ave and near Bartlett Street.

- $50,000 for constructing the continuation of Wrights Creek cycleway from Lord Street towards Pymns Beach

- $60,000 to improve pedestrian crossings in the Port Macquarie CBD

- $10,000 for a pedestrian refuge in Tunis Street between Bold and Lord Streets at Laurieton

- $86,000 for school crossing supervisors

Port Macquarie today was proud to be the first Port Macquarie electorate to benefit from the $1.5 million allocated in the State Budget for the commencement of work to finalise the Sancrox Road intersection.

Motorists will be celebrating record funding for road improvements in the State Budget.

This year’s Budget has again delivered some key funding commitments for the electorate with more than $200 million allocated for road projects over the next 12 months.

Since 2011 our Budget allocation has continued to grow reflecting the high level of progress being undertaken in the Port Macquarie electorate.

The $161 million allocated for the upgrade of the Pacific Highway between the Oxley Highway and Kundabung is the most critical initiative for our electorate.

The Liberal & Nationals Government has committed $1.4 billion to help ensure the Pacific Highway is duplicated between Hexham and the Queensland border and I’m proud to say we’re getting on with the job, particularly with the final section of work being undertaken in the Port Macquarie electorate.

Record Roads Budget

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