

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY ROOTY HILL BRANCH FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY .....	30016
BENJAMIN ALBERS, 2013 STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE CADET OF THE YEAR .....	30021
BLUE MOUNTAINS ELECTORATE VOLUNTEERS .....	29997
BONNYRIGG YOUTH CENTRE PEACE OF MIND EXPO .....	30015
BRITTANY KENNY, MISS WORLD AUSTRALIA CONTESTANT.....	30022
BULLIES DON'T RULE.....	30017
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE .....	29996
CABRAMATTA FIRE STATION.....	30009
CAVES BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB.....	30014
CHARLIE LONERGAN 100TH BIRTHDAY .....	30011
COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS .....	30010
CRONULLA ROTARY CLUB .....	30019
DEATH OF AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMAN IN AFGHANISTAN.....	30011
ELEVATE EDUCATION .....	30013
ELOISE CAIN, DIVING CHAMPION .....	30017
FORMER CHIEF INSPECTOR TOM LUPTON .....	30018
GLEN INNES ARTS COUNCIL.....	29998
HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL.....	30016
HOMELESSNESS SERVICES.....	29999
HORNSBY STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE .....	30014
HUNTER MEDICARE LOCAL GP ACCESS AFTER HOURS .....	30008
JAMBEROO RED CROSS .....	30019
KELLYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL.....	30003
KNITTED KNOCKERS .....	30018
LAKE MACQUARIE HEADSPACE CENTRE.....	30014
LINDFIELD ROTARY CLUB .....	30020
LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL NO INTERMODAL COMMITTEE .....	30007
LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL SCHEME .....	30004
MACCABI NSW JEWISH SPORTS AWARDS.....	30010
MARRIAGE OF GORDON STEVENSON AND PETER FRASER.....	30016
MEDOWIE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL POSITIVE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS .....	30015
MICHAEL AND JOAN FALCONER-FLINT SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY .....	30018
MICHAEL BELL, ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL .....	30019
MOUNT DRUITT ROTARY POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS.....	30012
MRS MAVIS SANDERSON AND KIAMA VISITORS CENTRE.....	30020
NETBALL NSW STATE AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	30006
PANTHERS ON THE PROWL GRADUATION.....	30015
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS .....	29997, 29999, 30005
RAY AND SHIRLEY WEHBE BIGGEST MORNING TEA.....	30010
RAYMOND TERRACE PROBUS CLUB .....	30021
RED POINT ARTISTS ASSOCIATION.....	30019
RETIRED ADMIRAL RICHARD AND MARGARET WALLACE SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY .....	30018
RETIREMENT OF ANTONIO AND MARGARET GERADA .....	30021
RETIREMENT OF LEO PAYNE.....	30014
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN MASTER PLAN.....	30005
SANDY POINT QUARRY .....	30007
SAVE OUR WOMEN'S SERVICES .....	30012
SCOTT WATTS, INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL HEIDELBERG REPRESENTATIVE .....	30016
SENATE VACANCY .....	29996, 29996, 29998, 30005
SHOALHAVEN AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS.....	30017
SHOALHAVEN EMPLOYERS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS .....	30021
SHOALHAVEN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER NOELA STEVENS.....	30015
SOCCEEROOS 2014 WORLD CUP .....	30018
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS .....	30017
ST MARYS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS .....	30018
ST MARYS ROTARY CLUB .....	30011
STEPHEN ZAHARIADIS, MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPION .....	30020
STEVE BAUDO, BODYBUILDER AND TRAINER .....	30020

SUPPORT. DON'T PUNISH DRUG LAW REFORM CAMPAIGN .....	30018
SURF LIFE SAVING NSW .....	30001
SUTHERLAND SHIRE CRICKETER LUKE HAWKSWORTH .....	30015
SUTHERLAND SHIRE DRAFT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN .....	30000, 30001
SYLVANIA ROTARY CLUB .....	30021
TANISHA GRIGGS, HUNTER APPRENTICE-TRAINEE OF THE YEAR AWARD .....	30020
TEA GARDENS HAWKS NEST MOTOR CLUB .....	30011
TEMPE PUBLIC SCHOOL .....	30010
TRIBUTE TO BEN KORHONEN.....	30012
TRIBUTE TO LORNA STONE, OAM .....	30013
WARIALDA ROTARY CLUB .....	30013
WESTACOTT COTTAGE ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE .....	30011
WINDSOR POLO CLUB.....	30012
WOLLONGONG ELECTORATE EMERGENCY SERVICES .....	30017
WOLLONGONG POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB .....	30013

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 2 July 2014

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**The Deputy-Speaker (The Hon. Thomas George)**, in the absence of the Speaker, took the chair at 10.30 a.m.

**The Deputy-Speaker** read the Prayer and acknowledgement of country.

## SENATE VACANCY

### Resignation of Senator the Honourable Robert John Carr

**The DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr Thomas George):** I report the receipt of the following message from Her Excellency the Governor:

MARIE BASHIR  
Governor

Office of the Governor  
Sydney, 1 July 2014

Her Excellency the Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly a copy of a despatch dated 1 July 2014, received from the President of the Senate, notifying that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the State of New South Wales in the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia through the resignation of Senator the Honourable Bob Carr which occurred on 24 October 2013.

The Senate  
Canberra  
1 July 2014

Your Excellency

I confirm my notification to you of 24 October 2013, pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, that a vacancy now exists in the representation of the State of New South Wales through the resignation of Senator the Honourable Bob Carr.

Yours sincerely,  
John Hogg  
President of the Senate

## SENATE VACANCY

### Joint Sitting

#### Motion by Mr Anthony Roberts agreed to:

That:

- (1) The House meet the Legislative Council for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable Robert John Carr.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council of the resolution and requesting the Legislative Council to fix a time and place for the joint sitting.

**Message sent to the Legislative Council advising it of the resolution.**

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Order of Business

#### Motion by Mr Anthony Roberts agreed to:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to provide:

- (1) For the following routine of business at this sitting:
  - (a) private members' statements;
  - (b) joint sitting with the Legislative Council to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate;

- (c) private members' statements;
  - (d) community recognition statements; and
  - (e) the House to adjourn without motion moved at the conclusion of community recognition statements.
- (2) That from the commencement of private members' statements until the rising of the House, no divisions be conducted or quorums be called.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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### BLUE MOUNTAINS ELECTORATE VOLUNTEERS

**Mrs ROZA SAGE** (Blue Mountains) [10.33 a.m.]: The Blue Mountains community looks out for and helps one another. Statistics show that almost 25 per cent of our population are registered volunteers, and that does not include those associated with unregistered groups. More than 2,500 people in the Blue Mountains community are involved with the Rural Fire Service. Rotary is one of our most active service organisations and each of the six Rotary clubs in the area has a distinct style: Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise, Blackheath, Katoomba, Central Blue Mountains—of which I am a member—Springwood and Lower Blue Mountains. All these clubs have a strong presence in the community. The clubs work well together and help with many varied local community projects, as well as others further afield. It has been my great pleasure to attend all of the changeover dinners, and to listen to what each club has done and what it hopes to achieve in the following year.

It has been a very difficult and challenging year with the disastrous bushfires at Mount Victoria and in the Springwood-Winmalee-Yellow Rock area. Some club members lost their homes. A great deal of time and effort has been poured into helping these communities and many generous donations have been received from other Rotary clubs, even internationally. The Blackheath club's big project for the year was the refurbishment of the palliative care unit at Katoomba Hospital, with a smaller additional grant from the Community Building Partnership program. The club was very involved during the bushfires and in the recovery efforts. Incoming president Larry Howard and his wife, Mina Howard, who is also secretary and zone governor, lost everything other than their house in the Mount Victoria fire. They, along with other club members, fought the fires as members of the Rural Fire Service. The club also donated a considerable sum of money, which was distributed to fire victims at Mount Victoria. I congratulate incoming president Larry Howard and past president John Isbister on their wonderful work.

The Sunrise club as usual had its traditional "roast" of the incoming president this year: Joan Hart. Board member Bob Reid was resplendent as Joan, complete with wig and stockings. This year, among other projects, Central Blue Mountains Rotary helped to refurbish the Hazelbrook scout hall and kitchen area, and the scouts held a lovely afternoon tea in appreciation. Outgoing president Peter Hartley took on the role of feather duster as he welcomed new president Allan Byrnes. Katoomba Rotary had a novel vision, commenced by continuing president Max Fragar, of a travel club in which the club receives a commission and members from worldwide Rotary clubs are invited to participate. Its vision is to promote tourism in the Blue Mountains and improve the local economy, and club members offer the added personal touch of welcoming guests and assisting visitors.

The Springwood Rotary Club was heavily impacted by the fires—the epicentre of the worst property loss. Donations of more than \$300,000 were distributed to fire-affected families. President Laurie Waterson was also part of the recovery committee, representing the Rotary organisation. Incoming president Pat Ainslie, who also was made a Paul Harris Fellow—the top Rotary honour—organised a refurbishment of the Springwood Garden Centre, which has suffered mainly from a huge drop in business. Over the next year the club hopes to help those in the community who have lost their gardens as well as with other community building projects.

Lower Blue Mountains Rotary is quite a different club; its members come from the Blue Mountains and Penrith communities. Last night outgoing president Peter Agar outlined many of the great community projects undertaken by the club, including the Police Officer of the Year award, fundraising, helping Gateway Family Services in Blaxland, and promoting the annual Glenbrook gnome festival on Australia Day, which I have spoken about previously in this House. This quirky idea has received international attention, and put Glenbrook and the Blue Mountains on the world map. Indeed, this year Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales, opened the festival. I offer my congratulations

to incoming president David Clark. It has been a tough year, but the help and assistance of Rotary in our battered Blue Mountains community has been enormous. I congratulate everyone in Blue Mountains Rotary on their tremendous achievements and wish them all the best for the year ahead.

### GLEN INNES ARTS COUNCIL

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL** (Northern Tablelands) [10.38 a.m.]: Today I share with the House a lesser known fact about the wonderful community of Glen Innes. Glen Innes is a very proud and resilient community of more than 5,000 residents, nestled in the heart of the picturesque New England highlands. It is most famous, of course, as being the Celtic capital of Australia. It is home to the Australian Standing Stones, where the Australian Celtic Festival is celebrated annually in May. But today I will talk about the arts and cultural community in Glen Innes, something that is probably not well known by those outside of the Glen Innes community. Those who know the community intimately would know full well the depth and professionalism of the people involved in this sector. This year the Glen Innes Arts Council is celebrating its seventieth anniversary. It is the longest-running arts council in Australia. That is quite incredible for a rural community, and particularly a rural community of the size of Glen Innes.

The Glen Innes Arts Council was formed in 1944 and has been operating out of its current premises for 30 years. In 1983 the Glen Innes Arts Council purchased what was originally the Methodist church in Glen Innes. The church was built in 1885. The arts council has converted the building into a theatre and named it the Chapel Theatre. It was upgraded in February 2011 with a new, state-of-the-art, 3D digital cinema system. The Chapel Theatre is the first cinema in New South Wales outside of Sydney and Canberra to have the Dolby 7.1 sound system installed. The Chapel Theatre is an excellent venue. It plays host to many local theatre productions, concerts and films. It has comfortably padded seats, well raked so that everyone has a clear view; a superb sound system, as I have said, with acoustics that the millions of dollars spent on the Sydney Opera House have not been able to better; temperature-controlled comfort; and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. These are just some of the many factors that combine to make an evening at the Chapel Theatre a most enjoyable experience.

The Glen Innes Arts Council is continually cataloguing and uploading photos and programs from past events dating back to 1925 to its website: [www.gleninnesartscouncil.com](http://www.gleninnesartscouncil.com). It is also very active on Facebook. I recommend that locals and visitors alike take the opportunity to like its Facebook page, and to find out a little more about the history of the Chapel Theatre and the longest-running arts council in Australia. This year the Glen Innes Arts Council committee and volunteers will play host to a rich and diverse range of events to celebrate its seventieth anniversary, including children's theatre, music, theatrical productions, choir performances and regular movie screenings. The year-long celebrations will conclude with a production of the musical *The Producers*, which will be directed by George Muckenschnabel over three weekends from mid-November to the grand finale on Saturday 6 December, which I cannot wait to attend.

Glen Innes High School will present a series of productions from its creative and performing arts students on Tuesday 22 July and Wednesday 23 July. I commend the Glen Innes Arts Council—president Stuart Moor, secretary Vicki Geach, theatre coordinator Nicci Jones, and all the volunteers. The council has worked tirelessly for 70 years to ensure that arts and culture continue to be at the forefront in the Glen Innes community. For more than 30 years the arts council has maintained the beautiful Chapel Theatre. I encourage locals and visitors alike to take the time to catch a show or a film at the Chapel Theatre and to enjoy the hospitality of the longest-running arts council in Australia. It is just another wonderful string to the Glen Innes community's bow. I congratulate all the volunteers of the Glen Innes Arts Council and wish the council a happy seventieth birthday. I look forward to joining with Stuart Moor and his committee very soon to catch a show at the Chapel Theatre. I congratulate the Glen Innes Arts Council.

[*Business interrupted.*]

### SENATE VACANCY

#### Joint Sitting

**The DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr Thomas George):** I report the receipt of a message from the Legislative Council agreeing to meet the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber on 2 July 2014 at 11.15 a.m. to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate, for the term that commenced on 1 July 2014, rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable Robert John Carr. I direct that the joint sitting with the Legislative Council in the Legislative Council Chamber for the election of a senator for the Commonwealth of Australia be set down as an order of the day for a later hour.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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*[Business resumed.]*

### HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

**Mr PAUL LYNCH** (Liverpool) [10.44 a.m.]: I inform the House about the work of the Liverpool Youth Refuge, which is a facility that has been delivering tremendously important services in the Liverpool region for almost three decades. Self-evidently, it is a very important service for my electorate. It is now being forced to close because of a scorched-earth policy of the State Government called Going Home Staying Home. This misconceived policy will reduce a range of services in my area, although at this precise moment I shall focus on youth refuge services. The policy seems to be driven by theory and ideology, rather than focusing on the type and quality of services. I quote from a letter I received recently from Liverpool Youth Refuge, which says in part:

As a result of the GSH reform Liverpool Youth Refuge, which is a specialist homeless service, is being forced to close due to being defunded. As you can imagine, the staff and management committee are devastated, not only for the loss of our service but the impact this will have on homeless and at-risk young people. Liverpool Youth Refuge, which has been operating for 27 years, provides crisis accommodation, support, early intervention and a young parents project to at-risk and homeless young people. The crisis refuge and young parents project provides intensive individualised case management, living skills, social skills, and recreational and educational programs such as a young parents group. It provides wrap around supports and hence young people are linked in with appropriate agencies to best meet their needs, such as headspace for counselling.

This was a quality service, well-respected in the sector, that concentrated on getting on with its job and doing it as well as it could. Its demise is tragic. I quote again from the letter:

This crisis refuge is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and accommodates eight homeless young people 12 to 17 years of age, including two crisis overnight beds. On average Liverpool Youth Refuge accommodates approximately 70 to 75 young people in the refuge and 12 families in our young parents project per year. The aim of the refuge is to transition young people back home to their family if this is an appropriate option. If it is not an appropriate option we will work with the young person to secure more stable long-term supported accommodation for the young person. Liverpool Youth Refuge is one of only two specialist homeless services in the Sydney metropolitan area that provides accommodation for young people from 12 years of age.

The Liverpool Youth Refuge has also done some important work in relation to young mothers. The letter continues:

The young parents project offers transitional supported accommodation for up to 18 months to young families. The young mums are between 16 and 24 years old. They are either over three months pregnant, have recently delivered their baby or have children. Support provided to the young parents includes parenting skills, housing support, linkages with services such as Karitane, and support and advice. A large proportion of the young parents that exit the program after 18 months move into the private rental market.

This important service did not happen by accident, but is the result of partnerships that have developed. There is no guarantee other providers can develop these relationships in these programs. The letter continues:

The young parents project exists due to Liverpool Youth Refuge having a partnership agreement with Hume Community Housing Association and Argyle Community Housing where we have nomination rights for seven properties. We provide the support and the community housing providers provide the tenancy support. These properties were not in the tender packages and hence will be potentially lost. We currently have nine young parents and nine babies and children in these properties. At this stage we do not know if these clients will be picked up by another provider. Liverpool Youth Refuge was looking at expanding the young parents project with an extra three properties purely due to the demand from young parents and their children prior to the reforms. Hence the potential loss is even greater.

Liverpool Youth Refuge is also the only specialist homeless service in south-west Sydney that we are aware of that will accommodate young families where their child/babies have been removed and where there is possible restoration.

A particular concern that representatives expressed when they met with me recently was that the number of 24-hour refuges will be reduced in this region from eight to either three or two. On the face of it, that is a serious reduction. The consequences are even more serious. Whilst the bureaucratic approach will say that only children under 16 require 24-hour refuges, in the real world there is a whole range of young adults older than that with high needs who are high risk and who really need 24-hour refuges. Failure to provide that to high-risk refuge

occupants, some of whom may be very disturbed, has potential consequences that no-one, including a responsible Minister, would want to even contemplate let alone actually see occur. On that point, the letter states:

Another major impact of the GSHS reform in south-west Sydney will be on the number of 24-hour a day seven days a week specialist homeless services that accommodate homeless young people aged under 18 years. Currently there are eight services from Fairfield to Bowral. Under the reform there will only be two specialist homeless services that will provide 24/7 accommodation and support. This will have a massive impact on homeless young people that need 24-hour support.

Another issue raised specifically with me by the refuge is that, looking at what the Government has done, it is now highly unlikely that there will be any single-sex youth refuges in the region. That, I must say, is an unbelievably stupid outcome. I quote from the letter:

Another concern we have with the reform is that there will no longer be a female-only and male-only 24/7 specialist homeless service for those under 18 years. For some young people it is not suitable for them to be housed with people of the opposite sex/gender—for reasons such as a client having a history of sexual abuse or rape.

I add that among the young people we are talking about there will be some charged with or convicted of various sexual offences. The idea of them sharing a refuge with someone of the opposite gender who has been sexually abused previously would be a monstrous public policy result. The fact that the refuge is not staffed 24 hours a day makes that outcome even more unthinkable.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON** (Vaucluse—Minister for Family and Community Services) [10.49 a.m.]: I respond to the comments made by the member for Liverpool about reforms to the Going Home Staying Home program. Wonderful work is being done in our homelessness services sector and that work will continue to address the needs of the most vulnerable. What we did in the past did not address those needs; homelessness has increased. The Going Home Staying Home reforms will ensure we provide the resources where they are needed in the regions. I have reinstated funding in the inner city. Early intervention centres and services will be now provided where the need is. The packages respond to the evidence about what is needed to address homelessness. Services will not stop. New incumbents are coming in to provide the services, and specialist packages are available. This scaremongering is distressing the most vulnerable in the community. These reforms seek to address their needs in a compassionate and genuine way.

#### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE DRAFT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN** (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [10.50 a.m.]: Late last week the report of the expert panel conducting the independent review of the draft Sutherland Shire Local Environmental Plan was released. On 19 November 2013 the then Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, set the panel's terms of reference. When the Minister set those terms of reference he consulted with, among others, the member for Miranda and received no apparent objection. The Minister appointed two highly regarded planning experts to constitute the panel. They were Dr John Roseth, the Chair of the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel, and Ms Meredith Sussex, AM, a city planning expert with extensive experience in New South Wales and Victoria.

The terms of reference were sixfold: assess and advise whether the council had prepared the draft local environmental plan [LEP] in accordance with the relevant Act; advise on the appropriateness of provisions contained within the second exhibited version of the draft LEP; examine the so-called 75 changes made to the LEP by mayoral minute; undertake public hearings, including receiving oral submissions by representatives of community groups; consider submissions and representations made during the public hearings or received by the panel; and report back to the Minister on the findings arising from the review and public hearings, and provide recommendations.

The panel undertook its work and engaged in extensive public consultation. Public meetings were held on 29 January, and 3, 4 and 6 February. The panel received 99 oral submissions, 253 written submissions, and 653 form letters, and nine letters were sent to the Minister. The expertise of the panel members, the consultative process that was undertaken, and the detailed and thorough nature of the report should give shire residents confidence in the Government's commitment to a transparent, professional, comprehensive and fair planning process. In February I made a written submission to the panel. My submission recognised the need for additional dwellings in the shire and the need to meet State housing targets that were set initially by the former Labor Government with the support of, among others, the member for Miranda. I also suggested that there was scope for scaling back the intensity of development permitted by the draft LEP in the eastern end of the shire.

I am pleased to see that the panel's report addresses my and the community's concern by recommending the following scaling back from what was proposed in the draft LEP. First, that height and density limits be reduced in much of the residential flat areas of Cronulla and part of the residential flat areas in Caringbah. Secondly, that landscape ratios be increased in E3 and E4 zones, which are basically residential area waterways. Thirdly, that height limits be reduced from 9 metres to 8.5 metres in low density residential areas, which otherwise might have permitted three-storey houses.

Although there are aspects about which I would have personally preferred recommendations for more scaling back while still meeting housing targets, I am satisfied that the panel has considered the issues thoroughly and fairly, and provided a way forward for the council to finalise the LEP. Assuming the council implements the panel's recommendations about the LEP, I assume also that the council will adopt the panel's recommendation that a Sutherland Development Control Plan be implemented simultaneously. The development control plan will need to address any community concerns about solar access, general design and set back issues, including but not limited to the Cronulla mall. The council will also need to address traffic and parking issues, as recommended by the panel, expeditiously.

There is no single right answer on planning issues; there is always a balance between the competing interests of providing more housing stock to meet Sydney's growing population while preserving the amenity of our neighbourhoods. I am satisfied that the panel has done a thorough and fair job in taking all of those considerations into account. At the end of the day it does not matter whether individually I might have come to any different conclusions. We have all had our say. The State Government has conducted a transparent, professional, comprehensive and fair planning process. I believe that shire residents can have confidence in the actions of the State Government with respect to this matter.

#### **SURF LIFE SAVING NSW**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA** (Davidson) [10.54 a.m.]: Surf Life Saving New South Wales is located at Belrose in my electorate of Davidson. As part of the 2014 Sport NSW Community Sports Volunteer Awards in May this year the organisation was awarded the Minister's Sports Volunteer Management State Award. Surf Life Saving New South Wales has demonstrated its commitment to volunteer management as a signatory to the Statement of Principles for the Recognition of Volunteers and by basing its practices on the National Standards for Involving Volunteers in Not-For-Profit Organisations of Volunteering Australia. Its dedicated staffing, resources and programs support best practice in volunteer management. It has a dedicated member services team to look after the recruitment, retention and diversity of members as well as to support them in their volunteer roles across Surf Life Saving New South Wales organisations.

Its resources and programs include three initiatives. The first is a Club Guide, which is a substantive resource that provides guidance to volunteers about the management of clubs. It includes guidance on volunteer management practices, including templates for various job descriptions for key volunteer roles within the organisation. The second is a Quality Club Program, which encourages best practice of clubs that recognises that volunteers who manage Surf Life Saving organisations perform important and difficult roles. The program rewards clubs through a recognition system for having achieved high standards of practice. Many of the components that must be demonstrated by clubs are centred upon volunteer management. The third is a Recruitment and Retention Guide, which is a resource to help clubs boost membership numbers through the recruitment of new members. By presenting ideas, procedures and best practice in one guide clubs are provided with an easy reference point to develop new ideas for implementation.

Surf Life Saving New South Wales also has put in place a number of volunteer recruitment strategies such as coordination of club open days, recruitment trailers and a Real Social Network campaign. Another key resource is its Pathways Guide, which identifies the opportunities for growth and development within the different portfolios of the organisation. It encourages volunteer recruitment and retention because people have opportunities within the organisation to utilise their individual skills and interests. In addition to these resources Surf Life Saving New South Wales has developed a reward and recognition program, which is promoted from the club level up to the national level. It includes internal awards as well as nominations for external awards. I congratulate Surf Life Saving New South Wales, led by Chief Executive Officer Phillip Vanny, on its award from the Minister. It is well deserved and reflects the organisation's fantastic achievements and dedication to the community.

#### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE DRAFT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN**

**Mr BARRY COLLIER** (Miranda) [10.58 a.m.]: As former Premier Barry O'Farrell concedes, there can be no doubt that community concerns about overdevelopment by the Liberal-controlled Sutherland Shire



Council played a key role in the outcome of the Miranda by-election. To his credit, following the by-election the former planning Minister established an independent panel comprising Dr John Roseth and Ms Meredith Sussex, AM, to review the council's draft local environmental plan [LEP]. The panel heard 99 oral submissions, received 253 written submissions and 653 form letters. Last Thursday the Minister released the panel's report. It contains 92 recommendations, and comprises 228 pages with appendices and Senior Counsel's opinion. The report demonstrates clearly that the residents were right to be concerned about the likelihood of the LEP promoting overdevelopment across the shire, noting:

Council has underestimated the potential cumulative impact of the draft LEP.

Disturbingly, the report also confirms that the people of the shire community had every right to be appalled at the process adopted by the council, which effectively undermined and limited community consultation and stifled public scrutiny. The report also states:

In a hurry, and possibly fearful of community backlash, ... [the council] did not implement Sutherland's normal processes of community consultation. In a hurry, and impatient with Council's processes, the Mayor adopted the unusual approach of using Mayoral Minutes to determine Council planning decisions on a range of issues. In a hurry, and unable to wait for the processes of LEP approval, the Council determined that the second version of the draft LEP was to be used to determine development applications before the period for community comment had closed.

This panel is the outcome of the resultant community alarm.

Those who complain that the council had taken so long to finalise the LEP have only Councillor Johns, his mayoral minutes and his Liberal colleagues on the council to blame. The panel could find no reason for the refusal by the council to delay—even for one week—consideration of Councillor Johns' now infamous 32-page mayoral minute of 29 July 2013, which was presented to the council with just over one hour's notice and supported by all Liberal councillors, including the current mayor. Indeed, as the panel noted "the rush to adopt the draft LEP on 29 July 2013 led to allegations of impropriety and *eventually* to the loss of many months in the LEP's progress."

In his drive for rapid development through his inappropriate use of mayoral minutes, Councillor Johns put the wrecking ball through the Sutherland Shire Council, leaving residents with no confidence in its planning processes and a dispirited and demoralised council staff. Make no mistake about it, Councillor Johns long will be remembered by many in the community as the architect of overdevelopment in the shire. As the Minister pointed out in her recent letter to the new mayor, Councillor Simpson, planning decisions should be made on the basis of planning reports, not mayoral minutes, and the council must give reasons for its decisions. The Minister also notes that the council should not be assessing development applications using a draft LEP because this practice inhibits public submissions by giving the community the impression that the draft LEP is a done deal.

Within hours of the report's release, Councillor Johns was out there publicly blaming Mr John Brunton, who is the council's former senior planner, and council officers for advising him to use mayoral minutes instead of planning reports. Rather than copping the panel's criticism on the chin, Councillor Johns says he relied on their "flawed advice". This beggars belief. For a start, it seems highly unlikely that Mr Brunton or the council's general manager, Mr Rayner, would give Councillor Johns advice contrary to Local Government Practice Notes. After all, Mr Johns is not the new boy on the block; he has been a member of the Sutherland Shire Council for eight years and was formerly the Mayor of Rockdale before coming across the Georges River. When it comes to development, there is no doubt that he knows the ropes, and blaming a former employee after being caught out is simply outrageous. Indeed, on 29 January at the hearing Councillor Johns told the panel that he took "full responsibility" for his mayoral minute.

As the mayor, Councillor Johns was in the driver's seat and the buck really must stop with him. At the end of the day, he must take full responsibility for the council's decisions. For one so experienced in planning matters as is Councillor Johns, he cannot rely on the Sergeant Schultz defence. Significantly, on the one hand, mayoral minutes were never used previously in planning matters by either of the two previous Sutherland mayors—councillors Blight and Provan—who between them issued 45 mayoral minutes during the time that Mr Brunton was employed by the council. On the other hand, Councillor Johns issued 12 mayoral minutes on planning matters in 12 months, which is at the rate of one a month. An LEP is not just a piece of paper but something that has real-life consequences right across the shire for the quality of life of its residents. Our shire clearly deserves better governance than this.

In the wake of the panel's report, Councillor Johns should seriously consider his position as a councillor on Sutherland Shire Council. While the report said the general "thrust" of the LEP is "sound", clearly there is still much to do in relation, for example, to traffic congestion, parking, waterways and waterfronts as well as usable open space. The report also makes clear that the council has to work to ensure that shire infrastructure keeps pace with local population growth. Clearly the report recommends a number of provisions that should be amended or reconsidered with "additional evidence", which will require "a re-exhibition of the draft LEP for a third time". I always have argued that the LEP needs to be re-exhibited and again be open to full public scrutiny. I would like the Minister to clarify, first, whether the LEP will be exhibited totally or partially and—given her letter to the mayor—secondly, her request that the draft LEP be referred to her department for finalisation by 14 August.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN** (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.03 a.m.]: What is notable in the speech by the member for Miranda is not what he said but what he did not say. Nowhere in that speech did he cavil with the recommendations of the local environmental plan [LEP] expert panel. Nowhere in that speech did he criticise the thorough, transparent and comprehensive processes that the LEP panel went through. Nowhere in that speech did he cavil with the proposition that the extant housing targets are those that were set under his Government and had his enthusiastic support. When the member for Miranda refers repeatedly to overdevelopment, he should look in the mirror and realise that the housing targets that are discussed in this report are the housing targets that were set by his Government. They are appropriate housing targets but nevertheless they are housing targets that were set by his Government, with his support.

### KELLYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS** (Hawkesbury—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.05 a.m.]: You cannot rewrite history, Barry—the local environmental plan [LEP] from your Government.

**Mr Barry Collier:** You should be pleased I did not criticise them. They were good.

**The DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr Thomas George):** Order! The member for Miranda has had an opportunity to make a contribution. The member for Hawkesbury, who has been given the call, will be heard in silence.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS:** I advise the House of the achievements of an excellent school in my electorate, Kellyville Public School. First, I pay tribute to its outstanding principal, Jenny Walker, and to the many teachers within the school. One of the wonderful initiatives implemented by Jenny Walker has been the leadership program whereby each year she brings the leaders of her primary school—the school captains and prefects—to undertake a tour of Parliament. I congratulate the parents and citizens organisation's president, Trish McCahon, who has completed a significant list of contributions on behalf of the school. The fundraising efforts by the parents and citizens team, who are all volunteers, should be commended. The main focus of fundraising activities was providing financial support to the school for the new covered walkway areas and a cooling system consisting of a very large fan in the hall. A combined effort from all functions has enabled the parents and citizens team to donate at least \$70,000 towards the enrichment of Kellyville Public School.

The parents and citizens team has provided continued support for the youth liaison program, which has been invaluable for the children, families and staff of Kellyville Public School. The program has made a significant difference in the wellbeing of students and parents, with a focus on grief and loss, leadership and transitions through the school environment, together with teamwork, resilience and skill building. The compassion of Kellyville Public School and its community was demonstrated following the holding of a Black and White Day to support students from Winmalee and Ellison public schools, who last year were affected by the bushfires at Springwood. Many generous donations were received and this money was used to purchase individual gift packs for children affected by the fires. School leaders and selected Students' Representative Council [SRC] students travelled to Springwood to deliver the gifts personally.

The school captains and sport captains attended a Young Leaders' Day, where they listened to several inspirational speakers, including Nathan Hindmarsh and Jessica Fox. The captains stated they had a wonderful day and felt more equipped and inspired to become future great leaders. The school has in place appropriate representation at Anzac day events and commemorations. The captains, principal and Mrs Petra Hocking, who has served as the relieving principal, attended the launch of the Castle Hill RSL Anzac school program. Kellyville Public School also nominated a year 6 student to serve as a Castle Hill RSL Youth Anzac

Ambassador. Xanthia, a year 6 student who was selected for this role, gave an outstanding speech. The captains also attended the Anzac memorial service held in Hyde Park and the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Castle Hill with their families.

The Kellyville Public School ballroom dancers made their debut in the Sydney Dance Sports Championships at the Penrith Basketball Stadium. They exceeded expectations, with 11 couples making the semifinals, five couples proceeding to the finals, and then placing in four out of six individual events. In the progressive team events, stage two placed second and stage three placed third. Overall, Kellyville came third out of 18 schools, with 432 students competing. In 2013 Kellyville Public School had a total of three performance choirs. The stage one choir, under the leadership of Mrs Matthews, consisted of 26 students—22 girls and 4 boys—from years 1 and 2.

The choir performed at many events throughout the year, including Grandparents Day, the Hills Performing Arts Festival, Education Week at Castle Towers and the K-2 Presentation Day Assembly. The stage two choir, under the direction of Mrs Burt, consisted of 21 students. The choir began their year by performing the song, *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, at the Grandparents Day Assembly. The main performance during semester one for the stage two choir was as part of a combined choir at the twenty-fifth anniversary Hills Performing Arts Festival at Castle Hill. In semester two, the choir's main performance was at the Primary Proms Festival at Sydney Town Hall.

The stage three choir, under the leadership of Mrs Knight, worked hard throughout the year practising a number of different songs to be performed at the Opera House for the Pulse Arts Festival. The choir also performed at Book Week celebrations, Education Week celebrations at Castle Towers and at the Presentation Day Assembly. The 2013 Kellyville Recorder Ensemble performed at the Sydney Opera House in a concert of the combined schools Festival of Instrumental Music. They were part of a spectacular massed recorder group consisting of approximately 1,000 students from public schools across New South Wales.

The Kellyville Public School Junior Band was the biggest for many years and their members excelled throughout the first year. Kellyville Public School encourages students to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools [ICAS]. This assessment program is coordinated by the University of New South Wales. All students in years 3 to 6 were offered the opportunity to gain a measure of their academic achievement in an external testing situation. Each ICAS test is designed to assess the academic ability of students in aspects of computer skills, English, mathematics, science, spelling and writing. Kellyville students received 18 distinctions and 48 credits.

Students at Kellyville Public School enthusiastically participated in the 2013 Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads. Thirteen Kellyville Public School students achieved a ranking in the top 10 per cent and the school was placed on the 2013 awards honour roll for Division J teams. Five students received the excellent score of 25 out of 25, which was obtained by only 160 students from a total of 29,795 students who completed the Division J Olympiads. Kellyville Public School is an outstanding school. There are 36 schools across my electorate and they all punch well above their weight, but Kellyville Public School is proving to be providing fantastic education opportunities to students in my electorate.

### LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL SCHEME

**Mr DARYL MAGUIRE** (Wagga Wagga—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.10 a.m.]: I raise an issue of concern to the Riverina Water County Council and ask the Minister for Finance and Services, the Treasurer and the Minister for Local Government to investigate whether the maximum term for loans to qualify for the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme can be extended. Riverina Water County Council applied, and received approval, for a subsidy on a loan to assist with the construction of a replacement water treatment plant in Wagga Wagga, and associated works, under the first round of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme 2012. The approval was welcomed. The subsidy was made available to offset the interest on loans to construct essential infrastructure for a period of 10 years. The amount of the subsidy at the time was 4 per cent.

Riverina Water County Council originally intended to apply for a subsidy on loans totalling \$28.5 million over a 20- or 25-year term, refinanced after 10 years. Those loans would have been drawn down over a three-year period, matching the construction phases of the water treatment plant. At that time it was estimated that the loan payments would have been around \$2.177 million per annum, with an anticipated subsidy of 4 per cent. The same loan principal being repaid over a straight 10-year period would increase the payments to about \$3.784 million per annum less an anticipated 4 per cent. That level of repayment would have

curtailed council's ability to undertake other necessary capital works for the 10-year period. The council eventually decided that the effect on its cash flow would have been too severe and, ironically, could not afford to apply for a subsidy on this amount of loan funds. It determined to apply for a subsidy on loans of \$15 million taken over the permitted 10-year term. Repayments for that loan are about \$1.992 million per annum less the 4 per cent subsidy.

The remainder of the loans, at this stage estimated to be about \$13.5 million, will be taken over a 25-year term. The estimated loan payments for such loans would be about \$1.031 million. It is anticipated that each 1 per cent increase in water tariff would yield about \$150,000 per annum. Over the past few years Riverina Water County Council's water charges have increased. The base tariff was 95¢ in 2011-12, \$1.10 in 2012-13, and \$1.21 in 2013-14. The access charge was \$100 in 2011-12, \$120 in 2012-13, and \$140 in 2013-14. The council's long-term financial plan has anticipated that it will be necessary to continue to increase the base tariff by 10 per cent for 2014-15 and 2015-16, and also increase the access charge by \$20 per annum for each of these years, with increases in line with the consumer price index [CPI] thereafter.

The Riverina Water County Council has requested that I make representations to the Ministers for longer-term loans where appropriate under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme. It is understood that the term is set at 10 years, but I suggest Ministers investigate those loans being extended on application, because the Riverina Water County Council is building a \$50 million water plant to upgrade its network to supply the best-quality water for the region and if the cost for such a piece of infrastructure is required to be paid in 10 years, it comes at a cost to consumers, which can be seen from the increases. I am very concerned that consumers are paying these costs because of the limited time to repay loans and I think investigation may produce a better outcome for taxpayers, consumers and, indeed, Riverina Water County Council.

The Government has already moved to reduce about \$5.5 billion in network charges for electricity generation et cetera, removing costs wherever possible to help drive down the price of energy, gas and electricity. Here is another opportunity for our Government to look at assisting county councils to drive down the costs of access fees and infrastructure, and enable councils to pay back loans over a longer period. When people purchase a house, for instance, they are allowed to pay off their loans over 25 or 30 years, and business loans are able to be taken over a longer period. It is fair and reasonable to request the Government and its Ministers to look at this on special application so that the Riverina Water County Council can deliver efficient water infrastructure at the lowest possible price to consumers.

*[Business interrupted.]*

## SENATE VACANCY

### Joint Sitting

At 11.15 a.m. the House proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to attend a joint sitting to choose a senator in the place of the Honourable Robert John Carr.

At 11.27 a.m. the House reassembled.

**The DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr Thomas George):** I report that the House has met with the Legislative Council in the Legislative Council Chamber this day for the purpose of electing a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable Robert John Carr and that Deborah O'Neill has been duly elected. I table the minutes of proceedings of the joint sitting.

**Ordered to be printed.**

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

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*[Business resumed.]*

### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN MASTER PLAN

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) [11.28 a.m.]:** The Royal Botanic Gardens and The Domain play a vital role in providing public open space with green grass and trees to inner-city residents, workers, visitors and

tourists. As someone who grew up in the inner city, I know firsthand the vital role that the gardens play for families and residents' health, mental health and sense of space. This role must not be underestimated, as data reveals that more than half a million people occupy the central business district [CBD] each weekday and that significant inner-city residential growth has little or no private open space in new and existing homes. Urban consolidation is sustainable only if residents have easy access to adequate green open space. Local residents use the Royal Botanic Gardens and The Domain for picnics, walking, recreation and quiet contemplation, and must be able to continue to do this into the future.

Central Sydney workers use the precinct during lunch breaks and after work for respite from their jobs and the city, to play informal team sports and to exercise. The Domain and gardens provide an important walking route between work, home and Circular Quay for large numbers of workers. Opportunities to expand green open space in the inner city are dwindling and what remains must be protected and maintained for recreation. A master plan for the Royal Botanic Gardens and The Domain provides a vital opportunity to ensure that the community's long-term vision is achieved and the precinct is protected for future generations. However, the draft plan released earlier this year would impact on the fundamental purpose of these lands and increase commercialisation.

The strong emphasis within the draft plan is on the provision of active and interactive visitor experience and on encouraging commercial activities. Rather, the focus should be on passive recreation, green grass and trees by retaining current levels of open space and increasing the tree canopy. A number of development proposals have sparked community alarm. The Domain often hosts major music festivals, such as Homebake, Field Day and Harvest, to raise revenue in the face of diminishing government funds. While some events benefit the wider community, such as the Sydney Festival, most are commercial and cause noise impacts, damage the grass and soil, and the green open space remains alienated during bump-in and bump-out, when the grass is fenced off for weeks to regenerate following damage from crowds, particularly if rain has fallen.

While building a permanent sound shell could reduce the time needed for setting up and dismantling events, it would create a permanent encroachment on grasslands and could encourage more commercial events in The Domain, resulting in frequent impacts. The proposed viewing platform at Mrs Macquarie's Point is absolutely inappropriate. This location should remain as natural as possible and exclude any built structures. The site already offers ample opportunities for views, which should be kept unstructured and informal. The proposed hotel on The Domain car park along Sir John Young Crescent would be better than the unsightly car park, but this privatises public land and prevents it from being returned to The Domain as open space. Surely other uses should be considered that provide public benefit, such as expanding the Art Gallery NSW.

Building upgrades and extensions must not result in net loss of public open space, and future retail upgrades must remain low key and exist only to support passive activities and the scientific role of the gardens. Trees go to the heart of the precinct, making it special. They create the forest-in-the-city experience, providing a refuge from the hustle and bustle of the CBD. While views are important, they should not take priority over green space and tree canopy, and I share concern about proposals for selective pruning and removal of non-significant trees to increase views. The Royal Botanic Gardens has long played a major role in scientific botany, and the draft master plan has a strong focus on plant innovation, biodiversity, habitat protection, ecology and sustainability. But I am concerned that proposals to create themed gardens and increase way-finding signage risk altering the atmosphere of the gardens and make them akin to a theme park.

A train station and a ferry station could encourage public transport use to the precinct, reduce traffic congestion and the need for parking spaces. These stations could also benefit adjacent Woolloomooloo residents, many of whom are elderly or social housing tenants. This area has expanded dramatically, with high-density developments, but is poorly serviced by buses. Pedestrian access to the stations between Woolloomooloo would also need to be improved. However, new structures for train and ferry stations must not intrude into the gardens and The Domain. The core function of the Royal Botanic Gardens and The Domain is to provide green grass, trees, open space and a refuge for recreation to city residents, workers and visitors, and contribute to the body of botanical science. The draft master plan must be amended to reflect these values and the Government must continue to maintain the precinct without alienation and commercialisation.

### NETBALL NSW STATE AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Ms NOREEN HAY** (Wollongong) [11.33 a.m.]: The Netball NSW State Age Championships, one of the largest female sporting events in the Southern Hemisphere, was originally known as the Junior District Carnival—a day-long carnival that was first held on Sunday 14 July 1968 at Moore Park, which now is

recognised as the City of Sydney Netball Association. In the inaugural tournament 44 teams representing 10 associations contested in five age groups. In 1969 the Netball NSW State Age Championships came into being for the under 15, under 14, under 13, under 12 and under 11 year age groups. As the years rolled on, the number of entries grew to such an extent that it became necessary to hold the competition over two days to enable each association to play against each other.

As team numbers continued to increase, the championships expanded to include a third day. In 1983 the decision was made to introduce a second division in each age group, and two years later the competition was restructured, settling on age groups under 15, under 14, under 13 and under 12. Since then, the competition has continued to grow to include four competition divisions in each age group. The competition is now so large that no single association has the courts, venue space and facilities to host all four divisions and age groups singlehandedly. Therefore, multiple associations are used to host the event simultaneously, which is an incredible effort from our fantastic volunteer-powered associations.

I am pleased to inform the House that this year's NSW State Age Netball Championships Official Opening was held at the Illawarra District Netball Association at Fred Finch Park, Berkeley, in my electorate of Wollongong. Those young women deserved a medal just for turning up in their uniforms on that chilly morning before 8.00 a.m. The courts are right near beautiful Lake Illawarra and hundreds of young girls prepared to do netball battle. Those of us on the stage awaiting the march past were wrapped in coats, scarves, hats and whatever else to stay warm.

More than 2,800 netball matches were played at the Illawarra District Netball Association and Campbelltown District Netball Association venues, with more than 3,300 players taking the court across the June long weekend. I particularly congratulate the under 13 Division Two runners-up, the Illawarra team. In their magnificent red and white, they reminded me of the mighty Illawarra Dragons rugby league team. I make special mention also of the Wollongong Brass Band, including my dear friend Beavan Fermore, which played as the teams marched with heads held high, clearly proud to represent their clubs on such an auspicious occasion. Congratulations also go to the Hastings Valley team, which was crowned the winner of the parade. I understand the team comes from the Port Macquarie electorate, and I am sure that the local member, Leslie Williams, is proud of that achievement.

However, do not get too comfortable because that was just a rehearsal for Wollongong and the Illawarra to take the award in the future. Well done to everyone. I take this opportunity also to thank Wendy Archer, AM, President of Netball NSW, for the invitation to attend this exciting day. I congratulate all the winners and runners-up on the day and wish all the teams well. I look forward to attending next year's special day—it gets larger every year. Thousands of people attended on the Saturday morning to cheer on their teams. The march past competition, which was won by Hastings Valley, enabled all teams—some extremely large and others small in number—to impress the judges on the stage. Every team was impressive and a pleasure to watch. I encourage everyone to support these young netballers because they do not get much applause while doing a fantastic job. They represent all our areas excellently.

**The DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr Thomas George):** Order! I am sure the House did not mind the member for Wollongong referring to the St George Illawarra Dragons. I am equally sure that the Illawarra netball players motivated them to achieve their excellent wins over the past few weeks.

### **SANDY POINT QUARRY**

#### **LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL NO INTERMODAL COMMITTEE**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Menai)** [11.39 a.m.]: Two issues in my community are causing a great deal of angst. On Monday night a very well-attended public meeting was held regarding the Sandy Point Quarry. The Sandy Point community has only about 200 households, yet 100 people turned up to hear what was happening in the area. In 1967 the Sandy Point Quarry was given a development application that was not used for many years. However, in 2009 the quarry became operational apparently without community consultation because of its existing use rights.

The former member said that she was not notified. Although I find that strange, I take her word for it. I am disappointed that the former Government gave little attention to this issue. The amount of dust coming from the site is having an impact on the communities in Sandy Point, Pleasure Point, Voyager Point and is now affecting the residents of Picnic Point. The blasts in the quarry are causing houses to shake and this is causing a great deal of

concern for residents. I have encouraged the members of those communities to contact me. A meeting with Kevin Humphries, the Minister for Natural Resources, Land and Water, is being arranged. Meetings have been held with the former Minister for the Environment to resolve this problem because the quarry is on Crown land.

An application has been submitted for a glass recycling facility and residents are concerned about silica dust entering their homes and the impact it will have on their health as a result. The facility has caused extensive environmental damage. Concerns have been raised about the construction of the bund walls because it is alleged they are made out of recycled materials from the proponent's other building material recycling facility. Approximately 900 trees have been removed from the site, which has resulted in a court case. We need to take this issue seriously and ensure that the local residents are represented. Previously I have spoken in this Chamber about the dangers of Heathcote Road; this facility is causing havoc on Heathcote Road. Trucks are pulling out of the facility onto a blind corner at the crest of a hill at 10 to 30 kilometres an hour, which is incredibly dangerous, and it is a concern that more trucks will be using this road. This House needs to be aware of this issue.

When I was on the Sutherland council I assisted in bringing this matter before the courts and I am 100 per cent supporting the community to ensure that the facility does not expand. Its current operations need to be assessed to ensure that they are appropriate. I nominated one of my local residents to be awarded Woman of the Year. She is a champion for the community and is keeping me in the loop as to what is going on. Last night I attended a meeting held by Liverpool council's No Intermodal Committee. I have spoken many times in this Chamber about the intermodal and the concern that I have for my local residents, particularly the lack of infrastructure. Apparently a bit of cost shifting is happening between the Federal and State governments as to which is responsible for building the infrastructure. The latest proposal was to build tunnels around the M5, which would cost around \$200 million.

Although I am not sure which government should be paying, I am certain that our taxpayers should not be paying for a private operation on Federal land. The money could be better spent if it was invested in our area rather than building infrastructure for an intermodal, which I believe will not work. I recently held a meeting with Craig Kelly, the Federal member for Hughes. We both believe in standing up for our local residents to ensure their health is not put at risk or that they are exposed to infrastructure or traffic problems. One problem is the wheel squeal from the 1.8 kilometre trains that local residents hear 24 hours a day, which is interfering with their wellbeing. A lot of problems need to be addressed and I know our Ministers will listen to the calls from State and Federal members and will represent the community.

**Mr DARYL MAGUIRE** (Wagga Wagga—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.44 a.m.]: I thank the member for Menai for bringing the concerns of her local residents to the attention of the House. I am impressed by the way in which she has gone about highlighting those concerns and issues. I can assure her constituents that the member for Menai is a tireless fighter and she will continue to fight on their behalf. The member for Menai mentioned that she nominated a constituent for Woman of the Year because she is a champion. The local member for Menai is a champion for her community.

### **HUNTER MEDICARE LOCAL GP ACCESS AFTER HOURS**

**Mr GREG PIPER** (Lake Macquarie) [11.45 a.m.]: I bring to the attention of members the reported threat to the GP Access After Hours service operated by Hunter Medicare Local, which is of great concern not only to my constituents in Lake Macquarie but also to people across the Hunter region. This groundbreaking primary healthcare service has been operating in the Hunter in one form or another since 1996 and is considered to be the model for the delivery of after-hours care and for reducing avoidable hospitalisations. Anyone who lives in the Hunter will have used this service or will know of someone who has; more than a third of the people who live in the region have accessed it at some stage. Medicare Local has become an integral part of the health landscape and people throughout the region sing its praises.

This week a series of foreboding articles in the *Newcastle Herald* reported on concerns about the future of the GP Access After Hours service in the wake of the Federal budget announcement that the Federal Government will cut funding to Medicare Locals around Australia from 2015 and move to a system of primary health networks. The GP Access After Hours service is a flagship service of the Hunter Medicare Local. While it is primarily funded by the Federal Government, the State Government has significant interests in this service and it should be alarmed by any prospect that it be discontinued.

The State, through Hunter New England Health, partially funds the GP Access After Hours service by providing the premises for its five after-hours clinics, one of which is in my electorate at the Westlakes

Community Health Centre, Toronto. The other four are: Belmont, John Hunter Hospital, Maitland hospital and the Calvary Mater Newcastle. Undoubtedly the biggest interest the State Government has in this service lies in the impact it has on freeing up emergency departments [ED] from unnecessary admissions. Each year more than 50,000 people are seen in the five GP Access After Hours clinics. It is estimated that one-third of those people will end up in local emergency departments if the service was not available.

Last year 8,500 people who were diverted from emergency departments were treated at the clinics. The service is credited with having reduced the workload for less urgent cases in local EDs by between 20 and 60 per cent. This service is also effective in keeping primary care in the community, where it is appropriate. Each year 90,000 after-hours calls are made to the GP Access After Hours phone line. Callers can receive advice over the phone from a nurse who can also assess their need for immediate attention. As a result of the advice received from trained healthcare professionals, many people are able to wait until the next working day before having their problem treated. Without that reassurance a lot of them would no doubt choose to queue up at their local emergency department.

This service works efficiently for both patient and provider, which is too rare in health care today. About 90 per cent of those who attend the clinics are seen within 30 minutes of their appointment time, and it is supported by more than 250 local general practitioners [GPs] who volunteer to go on a roster to provide their services. This goes against the national trend of declining support by GPs for after-hours services. It is an indication of the strong support this service has from the community and the medical profession. International evidence suggests that investment in organised primary healthcare provides a high return for governments, and it is easy to see why when the Productivity Commission has estimated that the cost of avoidable hospitalisations across the country is worth \$2 billion per year. An article in the *Newcastle Herald* yesterday reported concerns that with the Federal Government's proposed shift from Medicare Locals to primary health networks, local control over primary health care may be lost and passed on to a private provider, such as one of the health insurance networks.

This scenario casts a shadow over the future of the non-profit GP Access After Hours service, which was articulated by Hunter Medicare Local Clinical Director, Dr Lee Fong, and seemingly confirmed by a spokesman for Peter Dutton, Minister for Health, who said existing funding was only guaranteed until June 2015. I am sure the New South Wales Minister for Health shares the concerns of the Hunter community about the prospect of losing the GP Access After Hours service. I urge her to influence her colleagues in Canberra to ensure that this vital health service continues and not be transferred into the hands of a profit-driven private provider. I also urge State and Federal parliamentary representatives in the Hunter region, such as the member for Port Stephens, to take up the fight and stress in the strongest possible terms that they voice their disapproval for a move that may lead to the much-loved and valued GP Access After Hours service being undermined.

### **CABRAMATTA FIRE STATION**

**Mr NICK LALICH** (Cabramatta) [11.50 a.m.]: One of the most important services to the Cabramatta community is that of our local fire station, which has a staff of 16 permanent firefighters who work four shifts per week. These well-trained professionals know the area and the community well. Those guys and girls attend local fires and emergencies, big and small, to protect the lives of local people and their families. They cover about 25,000 households in the Cabramatta area. Last year, they attended an amazing 1,595 call outs—more than four fires and emergencies per day.

In order to save money the Liberal-Nationals Coalition Government has been closing fire stations across New South Wales, which is putting lives at risk. Last year my colleagues and I successfully won a guarantee from the Government that the busy Cabramatta Fire Station would remain permanently online. Shockingly, that promise has been broken once this year. In April the station was sneakily closed for a day, risking the lives of the people of Cabramatta. If a big fire had broken out we would have had to rely on help from outside. It is well known that in a fire every second lost can mean life or death. My community is fully behind my fight to keep Cabramatta Fire Station permanently online. This is about saving lives.

Recently I was told by a local firefighter that the Government is refusing to give shifts to our local crews, instead they are staffing Cabramatta Fire Station with firefighters from as far away as the Rocks, Woollahra and Ryde. I have no doubt those fire fighters are wonderful people but I am concerned that they have little local knowledge of Cabramatta, our streets, our community and the issues we face. Do these crews from the other side of Sydney know that Cabramatta is a high-density area with lots of apartment blocks and asbestos-riddled homes that



were built in the 1960s? Do they know that our multicultural community uses gas bottles for their day-to-day cooking? Do they know how to work with a richly diverse community like that of Cabramatta, where the majority of households speak a language other than English at home? I do not think so, and I would not expect them to.

It is important for local fire stations to be staffed by firefighters who know both the area and the community. The Liberal-Nationals Coalition Government will not pay overtime for crews to commute to Cabramatta. This means that the station is left unattended of a morning and in the afternoon. Having crews attend from the other side of Sydney means that Cabramatta Fire Station is left unstaffed for at least three hours a day and the people of Cabramatta are left vulnerable. Surely protecting the lives of those thousands of people who live in Cabramatta is worth keeping the fire station permanently online and staffed by local firefighters. Indeed, as members of Parliament our most important job is to protect the lives of the people of this State.

**Private members' statements concluded.**

**Pursuant to resolution community recognition statements proceeded with.**

## **COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS**

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### **RAY AND SHIRLEY WEHBE BIGGEST MORNING TEA**

**Mr TONY ISSA** (Granville) [11.53 a.m.]: I congratulate Ray and Shirley Wehbe of Oatlands who have opened their home to host the Biggest Morning Tea Fundraiser for the Cancer Council for the eighth year. I acknowledge the tremendous effort of the Wehbe's in organising such a fundraiser where more than 500 people from the local community came together to help raise vital funds for cancer research, prevention and support services. I also acknowledge the valuable contribution made by Ray and Shirley through their extensive community involvement with the Australian Blouza Association, Maronite Ladies of the Gospel and the Making a Difference for Christmas activities. I congratulate Ray and Shirley on their untiring work in the community and commend their efforts.

### **TEMPE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr RON HOENIG** (Heffron) [11.54 a.m.]: Last month I met with the principal of Tempe Public School and members of the parents and citizens association to discuss the school and their plans for its future. Tempe Public School is a fantastic community that is not only full of extremely dedicated and hardworking staff and parents but also part of a supportive wider community, which is paramount to its success. The current project of the parents and citizens association is a revamp of the school's playground, which will be an interactive space for playing and learning. The design of the playground is quite extraordinary, with children and staff given the opportunity to propose what they want in their playground.

The playground will provide a space for students to learn a number of life lessons, including how to live healthily, the importance of recycling and sustainability, how solar and wind power can be created and how things grow. It is a vision that will change how school playgrounds are designed in the future. The Tempe community is well known for its inter-connectedness. This is another example of what can be achieved when so many great minds are combined. I commend the principal, staff and parents of Tempe Public School for their continued leadership and involvement in the community.

### **MACCABI NSW JEWISH SPORTS AWARDS**

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON** (Vaucluse—Minister for Family and Community Services) [11.55 a.m.]: On Sunday 15 June 2014 Maccabi NSW held the NSW Jewish Sports Awards at Bondi Pavilion to help celebrate the excellence and achievements last year of Jewish sports people, volunteers, and administrators. This year there was a particularly large field of extraordinarily talented people nominated for awards. There were three Australian champions nominated in the junior sportswoman category for excellence in judo, gymnastics and athletics. In the Open Men's category, the three nominees were an Olympian, an Australian representative and the first Jewish person to play for the Waratahs. I congratulate all winners for excellence in sport, along with the volunteers and administrators who make it possible. As the member for Vaucluse and former Minister for Sport and Recreation, I know the positive impact Maccabi NSW has had on sports in my local community and beyond. I pay tribute to Maccabi NSW for the invaluable work it does in promoting cultural diversity and social inclusion in sports at a grassroots level, whilst also laying the pathway to sporting excellence.

### **WESTACOTT COTTAGE ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE**

**Mr NICK LALICH** (Cabramatta) [11.56 a.m.]: In May I popped into Canley Vale's local historical treasure: Westacott Cottage Arts and Crafts Centre, which was built in 1886. The dedicated volunteers who run the centre teach people china painting, knitting, spinning and weaving. They are doing a great job in giving people a warm and welcoming place where they can get in touch with their creative side, as well as a place to make friends. The volunteers and participants also sell some of their beautiful handmade products to the public, including knitted dolls and clothes. The passion of these volunteers for this beautiful cottage and for passing on their crafts and skills is inspiring. On behalf of my community I thank all the volunteers at Westacott Cottage Arts and Crafts for their contribution to Canley Vale.

### **TEA GARDENS HAWKS NEST MOTOR CLUB**

**Mr CRAIG BAUMANN** (Port Stephens—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.57 a.m.]: I ask the House to note the success of the annual Motorfest, which was held on Saturday 8 March 2014 with 300 veteran, vintage, unique, and classic cars and motorcycles from 42 New South Wales motoring clubs in attendance; recognise that the Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Motor Club donated \$8,000 to the Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club and the Rural Fire Service of Tea Gardens and Pindimar; and congratulate the committee and club members on continuing to host this community aid event day.

### **CHARLIE LONERGAN 100TH BIRTHDAY**

**Mr GREG PIPER** (Lake Macquarie) [11.58 a.m.]: I acknowledge Charlie Lonergan, a resident of Brightwaters on the Morisset Peninsula, who will celebrate his 100th birthday this month. Charlie has led a colourful life. He has been a very active and well-respected member of his local community. Charlie was a commando in Papua New Guinea during World War II, and before joining the army helped build the RAAF Base Rathmines. In a recent article in the *Lakes Mail*, Charlie recalled standing on the roof of the hangar at Rathmines watching the first Catalina arrive at the base, a very significant event in its own right. Charlie later lived in Darwin and decided to join the war effort after the Japanese bombed that city. In 1942, aged 28, he flew to Papua New Guinea and was stationed in Wau with the 7th Commando Squadron. In his 100 years Charlie has seen and achieved a great deal. I am sure that his family, friends and the community are very proud of him. Congratulations to Mr Lonergan on his 100th birthday and a life well lived.

### **DEATH OF AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMAN IN AFGHANISTAN**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS** (Menai) [11.59 a.m.]: In my electorate I have the honour of representing the Holsworthy area. Some days that is particularly humbling; today is one such day. Members may have heard today that another soldier has died in a non-combat-related incident in Afghanistan. This afternoon families in my community will be standing at the school gates wondering whose father will not be coming home. The school counsellors at Wattle Grove Public School, Holsworthy Public School and Hammondville Public School will also be wondering which child will not have their father returning. This will have a big impact on my community. It is incredibly sad. The incident occurred in an administration office. The soldier underwent surgery but, unfortunately, did not survive. I pass on my deepest sympathies, prayers and thoughts to the family of the deceased soldier.

### **ST MARYS ROTARY CLUB**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES** (Mulgoa) [11.59 a.m.]: On 24 June 2014 I had the pleasure of attending the fifty-seventh annual changeover dinner of the Rotary Club of St Marys at Twin Creeks Golf and Country Club, Luddenham. I congratulate outgoing President Lesley Daly on her success over the past 12 months. Lesley proudly reported that she exceeded her goal to increase memberships of the Rotary Club of St Marys, with four new members. I welcome these new members and hope they feel a part of the strong community of St Marys Rotary. This past year the club hosted the fifth St Marys Rotary Police Officer of the Year Awards, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Wallacia-Mulgoa Valley, during which \$9,000 was donated to NSW Police Legacy.

Along with the Police Officer of the Year Awards evening, the Rotary Club of St Marys has: supported youth programs such as Rotary Model United Nations Assembly, Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program and Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment; manned the gate at the famous and historic Luddenham Show; supported

the St Marys and Mount Druitt Rotary Clubs Markets at Ropes Crossing; and run the barbeque at Bunnings. The Spring Fair and Christmas raffle raised funds which were distributed to Cana Communities and Koala House. Together with the South Creek (St Marys) Probus Club they supported the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. I extend to the incoming president, Mr Terry Bulloch, and the members of the Rotary Club of St Marys my congratulations on another successful year of building a stronger community in Western Sydney. Together with other Rotary clubs around Sydney and internationally, they continue to strengthen communities around the world.

### **SAVE OUR WOMEN'S SERVICES**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH** (Sydney) [12 noon]: I commend the community campaign to ensure that homeless women with complex needs continue to receive specialist help. Save Our Women's Services [SOS] is now seeking 10,000 signatures for a parliamentary petition calling on the Government to keep these vital women's refuges operating. The SOS campaign was galvanised when service providers found out that new funding may result in the closure of specialist services. This would leave vulnerable women at risk and without the specialist help previously available. The refuges affected support women who are at risk of violence and mental health and substance issues. Their complex needs mean they need much more than just a bed. It is inspiring that so many people have such a strong sense of social justice and care about others enough to lobby for and to educate us all about those women in need. I look forward to contributing to the debate on their petition in the people's Parliament.

### **WINDSOR POLO CLUB**

**Mr BART BASSETT** (Londonderry) [12.01 p.m.]: The Hawkesbury region has long been recognised as a centre of equestrian excellence. So I was delighted to attend the 2014 BOQ Polo International at Windsor Polo Club earlier this year for the Australia versus South America match. The match was part of the 2014 Polo Festival hosted by the Windsor Polo Club, the Australian Polo Federation and the NSW Polo Association. The highlight of the day was the Aussie riders' battle for international honours against the Argentinian team, the "Argies", who unfortunately won the title on the day.

Polo is part of the fabric of life in the Hawkesbury region. There are now a dozen tournament grounds in the region and the number of people learning to play polo is increasing. At the heart of the region's polo community is the Windsor Polo Club, on the outskirts of Richmond and in the middle of my electorate. I congratulate the Windsor Polo Club President, Julie McIntosh; NSW Polo Association President, Joe Curran; and Australian Polo Federation President, Tim Clarke, on their outstanding work in ensuring the local polo scene is world class and continues to grow.

### **MOUNT DRUITT ROTARY POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**Mr RICHARD AMERY** (Mount Druitt) [12.02 p.m.]: I am pleased to acknowledge in the Parliament the awarding of the Police Officer of the Year Award for the Mount Druitt local area command to Leading Senior Constable Jen Thomson. I was pleased to attend the presentation dinner on 11 June sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mount Druitt, district 9675. Senior Constable Thomson joined the NSW Police Force on 30 January 2007 and has been stationed at Mount Druitt local area command since her appointment as a police officer. She achieved the rank of Senior Constable on 16 February this year. The presentation night, held at the Rooty Hill RSL Club, also acknowledged the other finalists for this award—namely, Detective Senior Constable Ari Barr, Senior Constable Paul Bates, Constable Kyle Jones and Senior Constable Brett Sciberras—and awarded Administration Officer of the Year to Sharon Nunn. I congratulate all of them, particularly Senior Constable Thomson and Sharon Nunn.

### **TRIBUTE TO BEN KORHONEN**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA** (Davidson) [12.03 p.m.]: Mr Ben Korhonen, a constituent of the electorate of Davidson, this month will receive the Cross of Merit of the Order of the Lion of Finland, awarded by the Finnish Government for civilian or military merit. After immigrating to Australia, Mr Korhonen became a member of the Executive Board of the Finnish Society of Sydney and subsequently held the position of Secretary for over 20 years. He was instrumental in forming the West Sydney Finnish Club as well as establishing a dedicated social worker in the immigration department specifically to help assimilate Finnish immigrants into Australian society. Through Ben's efforts new settlers have become acquainted with established Finns and acquired important social and work-related contacts.

In 1979 Mr Korhonen was granted life membership of the Finnish Society of Sydney. He currently serves on the board of Lutheran Community Care. In his efforts Mr Korhonen has been ably supported by his wife, Nina. Mr Korhonen is a wonderful example of an immigrant who has not only made Australia his home but also, by his selfless efforts and dedication to other Finnish settlers, improved and enhanced the lot of other Finnish settlers and Australian society as a whole.

### **TRIBUTE TO LORNA STONE, OAM**

**Mr BARRY COLLIER** (Miranda) [12.04 p.m.]: I ask the House to acknowledge the long and outstanding contribution of Mrs Lorna Stone to the Sutherland Shire community. Beyond her former roles as Sutherland Shire councillor and State member of Parliament, Lorna has consistently and unselfishly devoted herself with vigour and energy to the welfare of our people and the wellbeing of our community over so many years and in so many ways. These include her service to the Sutherland Hospital Board, Meals on Wheels New South Wales, SIDs and Kids NSW, Assistance Dogs Australia, and the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales and her fundraising efforts for each of those organisations.

Since 1999 Lorna Stone has chaired the Sylvanvale Foundation. It provides care and learning assistance to those with disabilities. I have had the privilege of working with Lorna to secure funding to complete the foundation's integrated long day care centre. The breadth of Lorna Stone's voluntary service to the community has helped make the Sutherland Shire a better place to live. She can truly be described as a "volunteer's volunteer". I am certain that the House will join me in commending Lorna Stone for her extraordinary commitment to our community and congratulating Mrs Stone on her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia in the recent honours list.

### **ELEVATE EDUCATION**

**Mr JOHN BARILARO** (Monaro—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.05 p.m.]: I acknowledge Elevate Education, winners of the 2014 Telstra Small Business Award and overall winner of the 2014 Telstra New South Wales Business of the Year Award. Like many students, Douglas Barton found himself adrift in his first year of university. Despite doing well in the Higher School Certificate, he realised that he did not know how to study. The idea for Elevate Education evolved from there. Funded by credit cards, Douglas started the business in 2011 with two friends—Edward Seung and Dorjee Sun. Today Elevate Education develops and facilitates study skills workshops in more than 800 high schools across Australia, South Africa and the United Kingdom in order to improve school and student outcomes. Seminars are run by presenters with an average age of 21, which gives them credibility with students and increases their level of engagement. Elevate Education enjoys an annual client retention rate of approximately 90 per cent, with around 175,000 students per year rating the seminars as time well spent and recommending them to their peers.

### **WOLLONGONG POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB**

**Ms NOREEN HAY** (Wollongong) [12.06 p.m.]: Founded in 1937 and with more than 60 clubs and centres across the State and around 85,000 members, Police Citizens Youth Clubs New South Wales [PCYC] is one of Australia's leading youth organisations. I recently had the opportunity to visit the PCYC Wollongong to see firsthand what the club has to offer, and what I found was a great range of fun, safe activities. The Wollongong PCYC is located in North Wollongong. The PCYC offers fun and affordable programs catering for preschoolers to adults. A dedicated team of police, staff and volunteers are always on hand to assist with anything participants may need.

I am pleased to have had a long and fruitful relationship with the Wollongong PCYC. I have helped them on a number of occasions to secure funding to upgrade and purchase new equipment for the club. I congratulate Club Manager Michael Jones, Youth Case Managers Senior Constable Catherine Johnston and Senior Constable Darren Palk, and their team on their continuing dedication to the PCYC and its clients. Without their time and dedication, the Wollongong PCYC would not be the great success that it is today.

### **WARIALDA ROTARY CLUB**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL** (Northern Tablelands) [12.07 p.m.]: I congratulate Phil Ledingham on being elected President of the Rotary Club of Warialda for the next year at the club's annual changeover dinner on Monday night. Special guests included Greg Moran from Inverell and his wife, Sue. Greg is a member of the Rotary Club of Inverell and has just begun his term as District Governor for Rotary District 9650. I put on

record my congratulations to him. President Ledingham will be joined in his executive by continuing Secretary Ken Brookes and Treasurer Ian McFarlane. Jim Moore will remain the Club Service Director and Sergeant, Paul Jones will take over as the Community Service Director, and Richard Clarke remains the Youth Service Director.

During the year the club donated a large amount of money to charity. It raised more than \$9,450. It donated \$4,000 to the Warialda Dementia Fund; \$1,000 each to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service, The Rotary Foundation and Australian Rotary Health; and \$500 each to ShelterBox Australia and the Coonamble Drought Relief Appeal. I congratulate President Phil Ledingham and all members of the Rotary Club of Warialda on their efforts.

### **HORNSBY STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE**

**Mr MATT KEAN** (Hornsby-Parliamentary Secretary) [12.08 p.m.]: I congratulate members of the Hornsby State Emergency Service who received awards at the annual dinner. Awards were presented to three members who between them have dedicated six decades of their time to volunteer service within the community. Ann Corbett has for many years led the unit's catering team and maintains the unit's administrative records. She received the First Clasp to the National Medal in recognition of 25 years of service. Tony Hine, current Deputy Local Controller with the Hornsby unit, received the First Clasp to National Medal for his 20 years of service with the State Emergency Service [SES]. Arthur Graves, who joined the SES when he was 72 years old, was awarded a National Medal for his 15 years of dedicated service. I congratulate Anne, Tony and Arthur on their invaluable contributions to our community. We are better off for their service.

### **LAKE MACQUARIE HEADSPACE CENTRE**

**Mr ANDREW CORNWELL** (Charlestown) [12.09 p.m.], by leave: A committed group of professionals and young people in Lake Macquarie have formed a youth mental health roundtable to look into the establishment of a new headspace centre in the region. The Lake Macquarie local government area contains one of the highest numbers of young people in the State, as well as the second-largest Aboriginal population in New South Wales. A recent survey of young people in the area indicated that coping with stress, school and study problems, and bullying were their three greatest concerns. The geographic isolation of young people in this area means it can take well in excess of an hour to access support services, often requiring multiple modes of transport to do so. That feat is even more difficult for someone experiencing a severe anxiety disorder. For these reasons it is vital that Lake Macquarie receive a headspace centre, and I am happy to support its application in the upcoming funding round.

### **CAVES BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB**

**Mr GARRY EDWARDS** (Swansea) [12.10 p.m.], by leave: I acknowledge Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club's continued achievements and its reign as the most successful club in NSW Inflatable Rescue Boat [IRB] Championship history with the club taking three gold, two silver and five bronze medals at this year's event over the weekend. Whilst being pipped at the post as the overall champion club for 2014, the third placing sees Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club remain at the top of IRB championship history. It has had 10 overall wins, one second and two third placings in the past 13 years. This record may never be duplicated, with the nearest rival having only four wins to its name.

Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club has an extremely bright future and I congratulate the club on its continued success. I congratulate the Caves Beach IRB team made up of Liam Kleyn, Shaun Osborn, Daniel Osborn, Oliver Kleyn, Dean Bowmaker, Graham Shears, Phil Walmsley, Vivienne Ricketts, Rosalyn Ricketts, Kelsey Dawkins, Kyle Minor, Mitchel Lobston, Lauren McEanearney, Evan Ricketts, Bridie Player, Alece Pengelly, Danaan Buckley, Scott Bryant, Brooklyn Boyle, Peter Smith, Mitchel Fisher, Samantha Hallet, Luke Warzecha, Nathan Hall, Ben Hadfield, Rhys Denton, Brett Hawkins, Amanda Green and Tim Anshau.

### **RETIREMENT OF LEO PAYNE**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN** (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.11 p.m.], by leave: I am delighted to congratulate 82-year-old butcher and local identity Mr Leo Payne, who is retiring from his business that he set up in South Cronulla in 1971. Prior to that Leo ran a butcher's shop in Caringbah. Leo is a legend in his trade. He is renowned for making quality snags and churns out more than 2,000 a week to meet the demand. On

Sunday Leo was honoured at a party attended by more than 300 guests. Many were old customers who had travelled from far and wide to show their respect. Together with the community I wish Leo well in his retirement.

#### **SHOALHAVEN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER NOELA STEVENS**

**Mr GARETH WARD** (Kiama) [12.11 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate Noela Stevens of Shoalhaven Heads, who has been a tireless worker for the Red Cross for many years. Noela joined the Shoalhaven Heads branch of the Red Cross on 23 March 1981. She received a 10-year Long Service Medal in November 1994, a Service Award in 2001 and her first bar in 2005. Early on she was the publicity officer. Later, she was elected secretary and would often travel to Sydney for meetings and report back to the Shoalhaven Heads branch. Noela's knowledge and commitment to the Australian Red Cross is impeccable. She has been extraordinary over her long tenure of voluntary service. She is a worthy recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. I place on record my respect and admiration for her contribution to the Red Cross and the Shoalhaven Heads community. Started by Henry Dunant after he witnessed the terrible battle of Battle of Solferino, this year the Red Cross is celebrating 100 years in Australia. It is a great organisation that is committed to human rights and Australian values.

#### **MEDOWIE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL POSITIVE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**Mr CRAIG BAUMANN** (Port Stephens—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.12 p.m.], by leave: Thirteen teachers from Medowie Christian School were nominated for the prestigious Positive Teacher of the Year Awards. Mr Troy Lavender was named runner-up for the 2014 Positive Teacher of the Year and Mrs Katie Lavender was named runner-up for the 2014 Positive Teacher of the Year nominated by a parent. I congratulate the other Medowie Christian School teachers nominated for the 2014 Positive Teacher Awards. They were Mrs Sue Davis, Mr Darren Dickey, Mr Andrew Gill, Mrs Trudy Henderson, Miss Stacey Lynch, Mrs Kathleen Patton, Mrs Di Pietsch, Mrs Louisa Ratcliffe, Miss Brooke Stivano, Mrs Samantha Van de Mortel and Mr Alan Vayne.

#### **BONNYRIGG YOUTH CENTRE PEACE OF MIND EXPO**

**Mr NICK LALICH** (Cabramatta) [12.13 p.m.], by leave: In May I attended and spoke at the Peace of Mind Expo at the Bonnyrigg Youth Centre. In the Cabramatta electorate we have a lot of young people who do not have access to jobs, lonely older people, families struggling to pay the rent and people from diverse backgrounds who feel isolated because they cannot speak English. All of these situations put great pressure and stress on many people. The Peace of Mind Expo helped to connect people to support such as mental health services, family support services, education and training services, and employment services. There were even yoga and meditation demonstrations. I congratulate and thank the organisers and sponsors of the Peace of Mind Expo including members of the Fairfield Liverpool Mental Health Network, the Lighthouse Project, RichmondPRA, Bonnyrigg Youth Centre and Community First Step.

#### **SUTHERLAND SHIRE CRICKETER LUKE HAWKSWORTH**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS** (Menai) [12.14 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate and acknowledge the achievements of young local sporting talent 14-year-old Luke Hawksworth of Menai. For all his achievements in the past two years Luke has been awarded a scholarship with Spartan, which was presented by Michael Clarke. Luke recently broke the batting record for the Sutherland Shire Cricket Association, with a batting record of 910 runs. Luke is a talent. In 2013-14 he broke the record at Illawong Menai Cricket Club to become the first junior to receive the junior and senior cricketer of the year awards. Luke is a Sutherland Shire junior cricket representative and was awarded the State Cricketer of the Year for his age group. He has competed at the New South Wales Primary Schools Sports Association and been chosen for the New South Wales Cricket Academy squad for the past three years. He has also received the association's best batting and wicket keeper awards. I congratulate Luke Hawksworth on his outstanding achievements.

#### **PANTHERS ON THE PROWL GRADUATION**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES** (Mulgoa) [12.15 p.m.], by leave: On 26 June 2014 it was my honour to attend the Panthers on the Prowl graduation ceremony for semester one students at the chairman's lounge at the Panthers club. The team at Panthers on the Prowl thank Chairman Mr Don Feltis, OAM, and the Panthers on the

Prowl board members for their continued support and guidance. Board members include John Hiatt, OAM; Phil Gould, AM, Dave O'Neill, Lou Zivanovic, Rita Porteous, Mark Mulock and Kay Rigas. Mr Brad Waugh hosted the event as general manager of Panthers on the Prowl.

Teachers and support officers Lawrence McDonnell, Venetia Lovett, Darren Horgan and Graham Collins outlined the various work and activities they performed with the students and adults at Panthers on the Prowl. Schools that participated this semester included Banks Public School, Samuel Terry Public School, Braddock Public School, Regentville Public School, Oxley Park Public School, Cambridge Park Public School, St Marys North Public School and Orchard Hills Public School. Secondary schools that participated include Cambridge Park High School, Cranebrook High School, Glenmore Park High School, Jamison High School, Kingswood High School and Nepean High School. I congratulate all involved.

#### **MARRIAGE OF GORDON STEVENSON AND PETER FRASER**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH** (Sydney) [12.16 p.m.], by leave: On behalf of the Sydney electorate I congratulate Gordon Stevenson and Peter Fraser, the first same-sex couple to marry in the United Kingdom consulate in Sydney last week. The couple of 19 years were joined by family and friends, and advocates from Australian Marriage Equality. The ceremony was conducted by British Consul General Nick McInnes with the approval of Federal Attorney-General George Brandis. Following the ceremony Peter said:

While I feel proud and privileged to be the first of what I am sure will be many couples to marry here, I am also conscious that now we've left the consulate and gone outside, our marriage will not be recognised under Australian law.

I hope that soon all Australians will be able to marry the person they love.

That is a sentiment that many of my constituents share.

#### **HAWKESBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL**

**Mr BART BASSETT** (Londonderry) [12.17 p.m.], by leave: The Hawkesbury area has been filled with a plethora of fascinating characters spanning the time of the Aboriginal people through to the past 220 years of European settlement. Hawkesbury Historical Society has managed to capture a snapshot of some of the people and personalities who have made their mark on the Hawkesbury and the nation through its latest edition of its *Hawkesbury Personalities: Spanning the centuries of Hawkesbury's History* journal. I was delighted to attend the launch of the journal at Hawkesbury Regional Museum, which was conducted by former Liberal member of Parliament Andrew Tink—an avid and respected historian. As retiring society President Alan Aldrich wrote in his cover message, "Much still remains to be explored and recorded of both our indigenous and European history" in the Hawkesbury. As a nation we can be thankful to Alan, current President Professor Ian Jack and their many dedicated volunteers who are committed to preserving the history of the third-oldest European settlement on the Australian mainland.

#### **AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY ROOTY HILL BRANCH FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr RICHARD AMERY** (Mount Druitt) [12.17 p.m.], by leave: This year the Rooty Hill branch of the Australian Labor Party celebrated 50 years of continuous operation and service to the local district. The Rooty Hill branch was formed at a time when the first sod was turned for the creation of the housing commission estate in Mount Druitt and only five months before the Renshaw Labor Government lost office in May 1965. I was pleased to be present at the celebration for the anniversary, which was held on 29 May at the Mount Druitt Tradies Club. Guest of honour Leader of the Opposition John Robertson was joined by local elected Labor members from all levels of government and 200 guests. The minutes of the branch over five decades show reports of many Labor achievements for the area, such as the Mount Druitt Hospital, TAFE and courthouse to name just three. I am pleased to record my congratulations to all members of the Australian Labor Party Rooty Hill branch past and present on their service to the area and district.

#### **SCOTT WATTS, INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL HEIDELBERG REPRESENTATIVE**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA** (Davidson) [12.18 p.m.], by leave: In January this year Scott Watts, a year 12 student from St Ives, was selected by the Rotary Club of St Ives to join around 450 other young Australians to participate at the National Youth Science Forum [NYSF]. The program was a 12-day, intensive introduction for career options in the science, technology and engineering fields. Students visited industry sites and research

laboratories, and participated in debates and forums about related topics. As a result, three students were selected to represent Australia at the International Science Summer School Heidelberg this month. Scott Watts is one of those three outstanding students. The NYSF international programs attract the best science students from all over the world. I congratulate Scott Watts on his excellent achievement, and wish him continued success in his endeavours at Heidelberg and beyond.

### **ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS**

### **WOLLONGONG ELECTORATE EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Ms NOREEN HAY** (Wollongong) [12.19 p.m.], by leave: On Monday 30 June 2014 I had the great pleasure of watching the St George Illawarra Dragons have a resounding 24-12 win over the Melbourne Storm, claiming the Emergency Services Cup. Congratulations to try-scorers Josh Dugan, Gareth Widdop, Mitch Rein, Jason Nightingale and Charly Runciman. Congratulations also to Gareth Widdop, who kicked two goals in what can only be described as gale-force winds. I also congratulate the St George Illawarra Dragons Club on its initiative for free general admission entry to WIN Stadium in Wollongong for all emergency services personnel. Emergency services personnel are always available when the going gets tough. It is not an easy job and it is often a thankless one. They attend scenes of horrific natural disasters. Our community relies on both paid workers and volunteers alike who give their skills and time when needed. I congratulate all emergency services personnel of all persuasions on their outstanding job to keep our community safe. Also, go the Dragons!

### **ELOISE CAIN, DIVING CHAMPION**

**Mr MATT KEAN** (Hornsby-Parliamentary Secretary) [12.20 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate an incredible 11-year-old in Berowra. Though not even in high school, this girl courageously and expertly jumps off five-metre blocks for fun—luckily for her, she is pretty good at it, too. Eloise recently won the national five-metre diving championships for her age group and was nominated to be the local Junior Sports Star for my area. The dive she attempted at the national championships involved an insane 2½ forward flips, judged to be harder than any other dive attempted at the competition. Not only was her dive hard, but she also aced it. When asked what she wanted to for the rest of her life, the young girl replied, "This is what I want to do for the rest of my life." These recognition statements are about not only pointing out excellence but also inspiring excellence. I hope you represent Australia one day, Eloise. You are an inspiration to us all, and an athlete Berowra is lucky to have.

### **BULLIES DON'T RULE**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN** (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.21 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate Nicholas Bold, an 11-year-old pupil of Laguna Street Public School in Caringbah, who, helped by his mother, Jaclyn, has written a book to help children avoid becoming victims of playground violence. I was delighted to attend the recent launch of this book at Laguna Street Public School. Nicholas has been named a best-selling children's author on *Amazon.com* for his book called *Bullies Don't Rule*. Nick was bullied for three years, from kindergarten to year 2. His book is a collection of short stories based on his own experiences combined with narrative fiction. The book also contains strategies for dealing with bullying. I commend Nick for his initiative in writing a book that helps children deal with bullying.

### **SHOALHAVEN AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

**Mr GARETH WARD** (Kiama) [12.22 p.m.], by leave: On Sunday 26 January 2014 I was pleased to join Mayor Joanna Gash at Shoalhaven City Council's Australia Day Awards Ceremony at Nowra Showground. I congratulate Marilia Pereira of Worrigeer who was named Shoalhaven's Citizen of the Year in recognition of her work as a nurse for sufferers of Parkinson's disease and their carers. Marilia lobbied the Government to continue Australia's first neurological nurse educator pilot project, a program designed to provide people in remote areas access to a high level of care. She also volunteers her time in providing community awareness and further education about Parkinson's disease and other neurological conditions.

I also congratulate Elicia Dearsley, who was named Shoalhaven's Young Citizen of the Year. After moving to the Shoalhaven in 2011, Elicia worked to form a calisthenics club in Berry. After two years of hard work, Diamond Calisthenics was officially opened in February 2013. Elicia continues to undertake much of the groundwork within the club, including choreography, coaching, marketing and selecting music. She is also an active member of the Berry Community Church, co-leads SHINE, a bi-weekly primary school-aged girls group and serves as a kids' church leader.



**FORMER CHIEF INSPECTOR TOM LUPTON**

**Mr CRAIG BAUMANN** (Port Stephens—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.23 p.m.], by leave: I ask the House to note that the weapons-training area at Goulburn Police Academy has been named in honour of one of my constituents, Mr Tom Lupton, and to recognise that the now retired police officer has received the naming honour because of his involvement with the concept for the range more than 15 years ago. I acknowledge that Tom trained many of the police officers still in the force today and was instrumental in establishing a special weapons and tactics capability. I thank the former Chief Inspector for his 30 years of service to our community through the NSW Police Force and the Returned Services League.

**ST MARYS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**Mr BART BASSETT** (Londonderry) [12.24 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate two young New South Wales police officers from the St Marys Local Area Command who recently received awards at the Police Officer of the Year Award presentation evening at St Marys Leagues Club. General Duties Constable Daniel Hadley received a peer award and Bikes Constable Daniel Peen received a community award. The awards acknowledge outstanding acts of courtesy, kindness, understanding, compassion, courage or devotion to duty provided to the local community during the year by officers of the NSW Police Force serving the community in the St Marys Local Area Command. The Rotary clubs of St Marys and Wallacia-Mulgoa Valley each presented a cheque to NSW Police Legacy. It is great to know that such outstanding members of the NSW Police Force as constables Hadley and Peen are working hard to protect our community.

**SOCCEROOS 2014 WORLD CUP**

**Mr BARRY COLLIER** (Miranda) [12.25 p.m.], by leave: Anyone watching the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil would have been very impressed with the performance of the Socceroos in their tough draw. They faced the Netherlands, World Cup finalists, Spain, the defending champions and Chile. We can be very proud of how the Socceroos have acquitted themselves under coach, Ange Postecoglou. The goal by Tim Cahill was fantastic. We should pay tribute to the Socceroos, who did us proud. Some fantastic goals have been scored during the tournament, and one in the running for the best goal of the tournament is Tim Cahill's goal. Best wishes to our Socceroos.

**KNITTED KNOCKERS**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS** (Menai) [12.25 p.m.], by leave: Knitted Knockers is a group that spends its Thursdays at Liverpool City Library knitting cotton breasts for women who have had a mastectomy. Thelma Daley and the Knitted Knockers provide women with a free and painless alternative to a prosthesis, which is quite expensive. They have donated their work to the oncology unit at Liverpool Hospital and to women who contact the group directly. Each cotton breast takes about two hours to complete, but Mrs Daley admits that, depending on the size and shape, they can take hours longer. The knitters try to make each breast as similar as possible to the woman's breast before her surgery so that result looks as natural and is comfortable as possible. The Knitted Knockers are always looking for new members and supplies for their work. I wish them all the best in their work and I hope that all members also encourage such wonderful groups.

**MICHAEL AND JOAN FALCONER-FLINT SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY****RETIRED ADMIRAL RICHARD AND MARGARET WALLACE SIXTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA** (Davidson) [12.26 p.m.], by leave: On 24 July this year Michael and Joan Falconer-Flint will celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. I know Mike through the local Forestville RSL Sub-Branch, where he still volunteers in a valuable capacity. Coincidentally, retired Admiral Richard Wallace and his wife, Margaret, will also celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary on the same day. Amazingly, both couples married only a short distance apart in the United Kingdom in 1954, the Falconer-Flints in Liverpool and the Wallaces in Lancaster. I congratulate Michael and Joan, and Richard and Margaret on reaching their significant milestones, and wish them continued happiness and good health.

**SUPPORT. DON'T PUNISH DRUG LAW REFORM CAMPAIGN**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH** (Sydney) [12.27 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation, Kings Cross resident Will Tregoning and all the organisers of the Support. Don't Punish

event at Sydney's Wayside Chapel. Speakers at the event included Dr Alex Wodak, who shared stories of the very first tolerance room, and Dr Marianne Jauncey from the Kings Cross medically supervised injecting centre. Dr Jauncey talked about the positive impact of the centre on users and the surrounding community. Support. Don't Punish is a global advocacy campaign that brings awareness of the harms caused by the criminalisation of people who use drugs. I commend the campaign to the House.

### **MICHAEL BELL, ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL**

**Mr MATT KEAN** (Hornsby-Parliamentary Secretary) [12.28 p.m.], by leave: There is a constituent in Hornsby who has been recognised again and again, but again and again he has more than deserved it. I am talking about none other than Michael Bell, who has held titles ranging from former deputy mayor to Hornsby citizen of the year, and now he has been awarded a medal of the Order of Australia. This remarkable man has been a fierce advocate for education and justice, and has been a teacher, politician, firefighter and even an aspiring artist. He was a founding member of the Arcadia Galston Residents Association, and is president of Rowland Village Workshop Club.

Michael works part time as a teacher at Men's Sheds, a not-for-profit organisation that offers men a place to learn, relax, and just talk. Additionally, he has been a volunteer firefighter for the past 40 years, and now is chairman of the Arcadian Parents and Citizens Association. The list goes on, I am sure, but no more needs to be said about this great man—a true inspiration for those living in the Hornsby shire and, hopefully, an example to us all. The awarding of the medal of the Order of Australia is truly an honour, and confirms what all of us in Hornsby already know about this remarkable man.

### **RED POINT ARTISTS ASSOCIATION**

**Ms NOREEN HAY** (Wollongong) [12.29 p.m.], by leave: Recently I was honoured to be asked to officially open the Port Kembla Red Point Artists "Best of the Best" exhibition. The Red Point Artists Association brings together artists, artisans, craftspeople and art students in all disciplines to advance the visual arts in the Illawarra and beyond. The association was formed in May 2008 when the Red Point Artists Association established workshops, studios and an exhibition gallery in Port Kembla, where known and emerging artists could show their work inexpensively. I congratulate Wynne Gibson, Dulcie Dal Molin and other staff who all give up their time to ensure the continuation and success of the association. I am pleased to be a regular visitor and I am honoured to have opened the exhibition, which reflects the extreme talents not only in my electorate of Wollongong but also across the entire Illawarra area.

### **CRONULLA ROTARY CLUB**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN** (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.30 p.m.], by leave: Last week my wife, Caroline, and I were delighted to attend the changeover dinner for the Rotary Club of Cronulla. I congratulate and thank the outgoing president, Ray Moran, and his wife, Maria, for all their hard work over the past 12 months. I also congratulate the incoming board comprising the president, Carol Denison; the immediate past-president, Ray Moran; the president-elect, Manuel Ramos; the president nominee, Maria Moran; the secretary, Jim Cook; the assistant secretary, Irene Parker; the treasurer, Hal Neimeyer; the assistant treasurer, Ray Moran; the auditor, Dick Partlett; the club service director, Manuel Ramos; the public relations directors, Stuart Payne, John Greenwood and Charmaine Young; the community service directors, Ray Robinson and Stuart Payne; the vocational directors, Carol Denison and Charmaine Young; the international directors, Maria Moran and John Greenwood; and the new generation director, Michael Dyson. I thank the Cronulla Rotary Club for all its hard work for the local community. I look forward to joining the club again at the Australia Day barbecue and to all its great community achievements in the next 12 months.

### **JAMBEROO RED CROSS**

**Mr GARETH WARD** (Kiama) [12.31 p.m.], by leave: I acknowledge in the Parliament and congratulate the Jamberoo Red Cross on the recent launch of a book entitled, *A History of the Jamberoo Red Cross*, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross. I acknowledge also local historian, Dorothy O'Keefe, who initially began writing her book about her own memories as a member of the Jamberoo Junior Red Cross when she was helping the Red Cross effort during World War II but decided to write about the entire history of the branch.

I congratulate the branch president, Barbara Adams, the secretary, Robyn Lawson, and all members of the Jamberoo Red Cross on their many significant achievements over the years. I thank them for the ongoing contribution

they make to our local community. I acknowledge that Jamberoo Red Cross members recently visited the Parliament of New South Wales. As I have mentioned previously, the Red Cross was started by John Henry Dunant following the Battle of Solferino, where he surveyed the loss of life and injury to 40,000 people. From there grew a great movement from Geneva, which is now recognised all around the world. I commend in this 100 years of Red Cross service all its members for the great humanitarian work and effort they invest in our communities here and overseas.

#### **TANISHA GRIGGS, HUNTER APPRENTICE-TRAINEE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Mr CRAIG BAUMANN** (Port Stephens—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.31 p.m.], by leave: I ask the House to note that Tanisha Griggs of Tanilba Bay has been recognised as the Hunter region's school-based Apprentice-Trainee of the Year in the NSW Training Awards 2014. This year 12 Tomaree High School student was selected from 400 applicants based on a combination of TAFE recommendations, work placement progress and interviews. I ask the House to note also that Tanisha is studying the TAFE Certificate III in Health Services, with plans to study a Bachelor of Nursing at university. I congratulate Tanisha on this remarkable achievement and wish her well as she progresses to the State level of the competition.

#### **STEPHEN ZAHARIADIS, MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPION**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS** (Menai) [12.32 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate and acknowledge the efforts of a young local sport talent—16-year-old, year 10 student Stephen Zahariadis of Moorebank High School—who at the Moorebank High School's athletics carnival in May broke a school record that had stood for the past 31 years. The event was the boys 16 years 800 metres track event. To break a record that has been held for such a long time is a very impressive result. It is a great achievement and I congratulate Stephen. His family and his school must be proud of his achievement. His school is so impressed that his photograph appears on the front page of the school's newsletter and he is mentioned in the accompanying article. Moorebank High School uses its athletics carnival to raise funds for local charities through a barbecue and drinks stall. The school has great community spirit, and I congratulate all involved.

#### **STEVE BAUDO, BODYBUILDER AND TRAINER**

**Mr MATT KEAN** (Hornsby—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.33 p.m.], by leave: I acknowledge my friend and Hornsby resident bodybuilder Steve Baudo, who not only is a world-class trainer and nutritionist but also walks the walk and competes on stage. Recently Steve was in charge of contest preparation for none other than the 2013 Mr Universe winner, Lee Priest, whose victory no doubt is testament to Steve's knowledge and experience. On a smaller scale, Steve never lets his world-class clients take away from his giving back to the Hornsby community. Recently he helped two local mums, Mel and Lynsey, achieve bodybuilding stardom. They each won two second prizes at the International Natural Bodybuilding Association's show. They were judged on their muscularity, symmetry and conditioning.

Steve has not let his training of others get in the way of his own ambitions, winning first-class honours at the National Amateur Bodybuilding Association's show in May this year. While it may be his muscles that are first noticed, those who train with him are the first to comment on his heart. Erica from Hornsby Fitness First describes him as an "amazing trainer, full of passion", while club manager, Paul, adds that "Steve lives and breathes bodybuilding, always ready to help others succeed". It is this desire to help others that makes Steve such a remarkable man. Never has it been truer that the strongest of us all should lift us up, not put us down.

#### **MRS MAVIS SANDERSON AND KIAMA VISITORS CENTRE**

**Mr GARETH WARD** (Kiama) [12.34 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate Mavis Sanderson, the friendly face of Kiama, on her 23 years of distinguished service at the Kiama Visitors Centre and note her recent retirement. When Mrs Sanderson first began in the tourism role Kiama had around 56,000 visitors each year. In 2014 the number has increased to approximately 198,000. One of the major reasons for the increase is the effort made by people like Mavis to promote Kiama as a great destination. Mrs Sanderson now looks forward to spending more time with her husband, Ray, and travelling. Thank you, Mavis, for your many years of distinguished service and for the dedication you have shown in promoting Kiama and its beautiful surrounds.

#### **LINDFIELD ROTARY CLUB**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA** (Davidson) [12.35 p.m.], by leave: Recently in Sydney Rotary held its world conference, which was attended by approximately 20,000 people. Members of this House would be very proud

of all Rotary clubs in their electorates, as indeed am I. Last week I was pleased to attend one of the many changeover dinners for Rotary clubs that occur at this time of the year. The Rotary Club of Lindfield held its forty-fourth changeover dinner, at which I was pleased to be the guest speaker. One of the great things about Rotary, which was exemplified by that event, is that it brings together people throughout the community. I recognise the contribution that the Rotary Club of Lindfield and Rotary in general makes to our society at a local level and internationally. I particularly state my appreciation of the contribution made by the outgoing Lindfield Club President, Faye McIntosh, and wish the incoming President, Yvonne Taylor, and her committee all the best for the forthcoming year. I congratulate them all on the fantastic work they do in our local community and beyond.

### **SYLVANIA ROTARY CLUB**

#### **RETIREMENT OF ANTONIO AND MARGARET GERADA**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN** (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.36 p.m.], by leave: I look forward to tomorrow night when I will attend the changeover dinner for the Sylvania Rotary club. I congratulate the outgoing board of directors—the president, Magdi Mikhail; the vice-president, Sue Edwards; the secretary, Lee Thompson; and the treasurer, Keith Stone—on their hard work for our local community over the past 12 months. I congratulate the incoming President, Margaret Driver. I ask the House to note also that my Caringbah constituents Antonio and Margaret Gerada are leaving the hairdressing industry after 32 years in the industry. I have known Tony and Margaret for approximately 25 years. They opened their first hair studio in 1982 across the river in Carss Park and have been active in the shire's hairdressing industry ever since. I wish them well in their future chapters of life.

### **RAYMOND TERRACE PROBUS CLUB**

**Mr CRAIG BAUMANN** (Port Stephens—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.37 p.m.], by leave: I ask the House to note that the Probus Club of Raymond Terrace, which held its first meeting on 21 June 1984, has operated continually in the community for the past 30 years. I also ask the House to acknowledge that the club provides a wonderful opportunity for older and retired people to remain intellectually engaged and explore new interests. I congratulate club members on this significant milestone.

#### **BENJAMIN ALBERS, 2013 STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE CADET OF THE YEAR**

**Mr MATT KEAN** (Hornsby—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.38 p.m.], by leave: I congratulate a young man in our community who has continued to put the safety of those around him above his own. He is a man who, although only 18 years of age, has continued to show maturity and initiative well beyond his years. Benjamin Albers is the recipient of the prestigious 2013 New South Wales SES Cadet of the Year Award. The award was open to all cadets who completed the program in 2013. Benjamin was chosen by a panel of three judges, who described him as "an enthusiastic and strong leader, who went out of the way to include everyone".

Ben was always proactive in seeking out tasks requiring attention and he showed unmatched dedication by spending extra time on research, even in his own time. He was always well presented, polite, engaging and a good representative for his school, Cherrybrook Technology High School, and the cadet program in general. On completing the program, Ben immediately joined his local New South Wales State Emergency Service to continue developing his skills for, in his own words, "a chance to put his skills into practice helping the community". It is this type of citizenship and conscientiousness that these community recognition statements should encourage. I was proud to nominate young Benjamin Albers.

### **SHOALHAVEN EMPLOYERS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS**

**Mr GARETH WARD** (Kiama) [12.39 p.m.], by leave: On Sunday 15 June I was very pleased to attend the Shoalhaven Employers of Christian Education Teachers [SECET] dinner at the Bomaderry Bowling Club. I thank the secretary, John Cheek, for inviting me; Reverend Anthony Douglas, for his welcome and grace; and the guest speakers, Lee Dobson and Beth Dodd, for their presentation to Dorothy Waddell. SECET employs teachers to present Christian Scripture in four high schools at Bomaderry, Nowra, Shoalhaven and Vincentia. Most students in years 7 to 10 receive a Scripture lesson as part of their normal timetable or specially organised seminars once or twice a term. The teachers present the Gospel of Christ to many teenagers who would not otherwise hear it and assist students living out their faith at home and in the community. I commend the hard work of SECET for raising funds so that these diligent and dedicated teachers can spread the Gospel in our State schools.

**BRITTANY KENNY, MISS WORLD AUSTRALIA CONTESTANT**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS** (Menai) [12.40 p.m.], by leave: Today I speak about Brittany Kenny, who could be, and has put herself forward to be, the next Miss World Australia. Brittany is an 18-year-old model from Voyager Point who recently was a contestant in the Miss Galaxy pageant and is now set to compete in the Miss World Australia pageant. Ms Kenny is very talented. She has played netball for the Liverpool City and Sydney south-west clubs and is a touch football player for Sydney south-west. She has chosen to put aside sport for a while to pursue her modelling career. Ms Kenny said that she finds the pageants quite exciting and particularly enjoys telling the audience about how her views on current events in Australia. Ms Kenny is busy fundraising as a pageant contestant for the Variety Club. I wish her all the best in her upcoming pageants and in her sporting career.

**PARENTS AND CARERS OF KINGS CROSS**

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH** (Sydney) [12.41 p.m.], by leave: On behalf of the Sydney electorate I commend the work of the Parents and Carers of Kings Cross, a community initiative to connect local families of the 2011 precinct. The group is spearheaded by Claudia Bowman, who is present today in the gallery. The precinct encompasses families from one of the most densely populated areas in Australia. The demographic has changed greatly in the past five years and includes a number of dynamic young families, with whom the group seeks to connect. The group welcomes with open arms all parents, carers and community members and invites them to contribute on a regular basis. On Mondays the group hosts Junior Jivers at the Wayside Chapel, and I encourage all members to come along and do the hokey-pokey with them. Today Claudia Bowman from the Parents and Carers of Kings Cross is welcoming Kirsten Vanhentenrijk to Sydney, and I will be joining both of them for lunch.

**Community recognition statements concluded.**

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 12.42 p.m. until  
Tuesday 5 August 2014 at 12 noon.**

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