

Connect with Anoulack

A community newsletter from Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields – October 2026



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Delivering for Macquarie Fields electorate

It is wonderful to see projects come to completion after many years of advocacy and hard work.

The Macquarie Fields Station upgrade – now with lifts – is a fantastic community win.

I am proud to be part of the Minns Labor Government delivering on this election commitment for the people of Macquarie Fields.

I would like to thank you for supporting this long and hard-fought community campaign to deliver lifts and make the station accessible for all.

Since I was first elected in 2015, I have worked closely with our community to ensure Macquarie Fields received its fair share. (Refer pages 3-4 for timeline of our fair share.)

The long overdue lifts make the Macquarie Fields Station inclusive for all: for people with disability, people with prams or luggage, older people and people with mobility issues.



Celebrating the new lifts at Macquarie Fields Station with local residents.

This win for our community is one I am proud to deliver as part of the Minns Labor Government.

In other exciting news for our community, the recently completed Edmondson Park High School will welcome Year 7 and 8 students from Day 1, Term 1, 2027.

Local families have been eagerly awaiting a local public high school in Edmondson Park, and now finally we can look forward to the first intake of students in 2027.

The new school will mean more opportunities for local students, reduced travel time and access to modern facilities.

It is one of the many ways the Minns Labor Government is delivering for our fast-growing communities in Western Sydney.

I would like to thank local families for their advocacy and support for our community campaign over many years for our fair share. (Read more about Edmondson Park High School on pages 3-4.)



With Minister for Education Prue Car, Nathan Hagarty MP, Edmondson Park High School Principal Gareth Smith, Edmondson Park Public School Principal Heather Ale and students.

INSIDE

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SCREENTIME LIMITS IN NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Minns Labor Government is introducing new limits on how much time students in our public schools spend on individual devices.

For our youngest students, that means just 15 minutes a day from Kindergarten to Year 2, with limits increasing gradually as students get older.

We'll also encourage at least an hour each day of reading and writing using pen and paper. This isn't about banning technology. It's about getting the balance right - using screens when they improve learning, rather than making them the default.

Screentime limited from next year



Cost cutting measures



Here are some of the ways the Minns Labor Government is helping reduce cost of living pressures:

- **Fare Freeze:** Opal fares frozen at 2025 prices until mid-2027.
- **Weekly travel cap:** The \$50 weekly Opal cap remains in place.
- **Weekly toll cap:** A reduced toll cap rate of \$50 started on 6 July 2026 and applies for 12 months.
- **Scrapping toll administration fees:** Saving at least \$10 per notice and removing a charge that cost motorists \$60 million last year.
- **Discounted private vehicle registration:** A one-off \$100 off privately registered light motor vehicles up to 31 August 2027; and \$80 off privately registered motorcycles.

Celebrating
100 YEARS



Congratulations to Ingleburn's Carmine 'Charlie' Occhiuto, who turned 100 in August.

A wonderful milestone. Carmine enjoyed a celebration with family and friends.

I wish Carmine many happy returns.

SMART RENTAL BONDS



Moving house?

Now you can move your rental bond with you!

The Minns Labor Government is helping ease some cost-of-living pressures facing families and households in Macquarie Fields.

With Smart Rental Bonds, renters can transfer their existing rental bond online to their new rental. This means you don't have to save up for a second bond when moving home.

[Residential-rental-bonds/smart-rental-bonds](#)

Other ways the Minns Labor Government is making renting fairer:

- ✓ Banned no-grounds evictions.
- ✓ Limited rent increases to once a year.
- ✓ Ensured renters have fee-free ways to pay rent.
- ✓ Banned fees for background checks.
- ✓ Made it easier to have pets in rentals.

TIMELINE OF OUR FAIR SHARE

Since being elected Member for Macquarie Fields in 2015, I have been fighting for our fair share of much-needed infrastructure to support our community's growth.

The Minns Labor Government has not wasted time since it was elected in 2023.

Our priority has been listening to the needs of growing communities, and delivering long overdue commuter carparking, new schools and station upgrades.

More commuter car parking



I recall the commuter carparking crisis at Edmondson Park back in 2019. Fast forward to 2026 and there are now two commuter car parks, providing safe parking for thousands of commuters who need to access the city or more local destinations.

Edmondson Park North Commuter Car Park opened in February 2024, providing over 900 parking spaces on Soldiers Parade. This carpark



complements the Edmondson Park South Car Park, on the corner of Macdonald Road and Henderson Road, which provides over 1,250 parking spaces.

[Edmondson Park commuter car-park](#)

New public high school



Over the years, I have met with local families in Edmondson Park who were frustrated by the former Liberal government's inaction to deliver a much-needed local high school.

The Minns Labor Government – elected in 2023 – listened to families' concerns and got on with the job. I am delighted that the recently completed Edmondson Park High School will welcome Year 7 and 8 students from Day 1, Term 1 2027.

The 40-classroom school will cater for 800 students and has been designed to support future expansion of up to 2,000 students.



Edmondson Park High School will automatically join the Minns Labor Government's Share Our Space program, which will unlock vital publicly-owned green space and sporting facilities for use outside school hours.

[Share our space program](#)

[Edmondson Park High Schools](#)

Macquarie Fields Station upgrade



Standing alongside community members and Anne Stanley MP – a staunch supporter of our campaign for lifts.

The new lifts are a major win for our community and come after years of advocacy.

Macquarie Fields is one of seven stations to be upgraded as part of the NSW Government's \$1 billion Safe Accessible Transport Plan.

I am proud to be part of the Minns Labor Government delivering on this election commitment for the people of Macquarie Fields.

Macquarie Fields station upgrade

2026 - LIFTS MAKE MACQUARIE FIELDS STATION ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.



Macquarie Fields resident Donna Palmer is delighted to finally have lifts at the train station.

Community Milestones

Congratulations to the following celebrating significant milestones in our community.

100 years

St Barnabas Anglican Church, Ingleburn

Ingleburn RSL Sub-Branch

50 years

Ingleburn RSL and Campbelltown Community Pipes and Drums

The Salvation Army Centre in Macquarie Fields

40 years

PCYC Campbelltown in Minto

Robert Townson Public School (my old primary school)

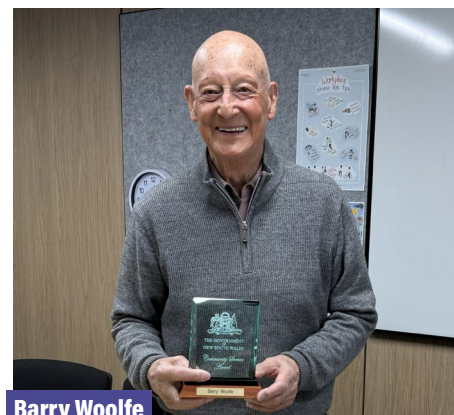
Magpies Cricket Club

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

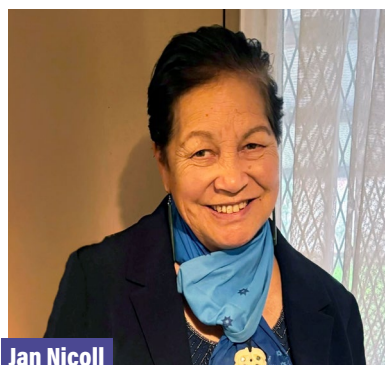
Congratulations to our award recipients for 2026.

Barry Woolfe is a dedicated community member who has contributed extensively to the Macquarie Fields electorate. Barry has been an active member of the Ingleburn Rotary Club for over 35 years. Barry served as Club President three times, and on the Board of Management for 30 years. For the past 12 years, Barry has been Director of Youth programs promoting students and young adults into Rotary Leadership programs. Barry formed and continues to support Interact clubs at Sarah Redfern High School and Hurlstone Agricultural High School.

Barry is a recipient of two Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship Awards. Barry has been a Committee Member/Board Director at Mrytle Cottage for 19 years. He also served on the committee for Ingleburn Alive. Barry was a foundation member of the Macquarie Fields Probus Club, formed in 2025. Barry is an exemplary community member who is passionate about nurturing a new generation of community service volunteers.



Barry Woolfe



Jan Nicoll

Jan Nicoll has dedicated her life to helping others in Macquarie Fields, making enormous contributions through community leadership, crisis intervention and youth support. Jan started volunteering with local public schools Guise and Curran, and James Meehan High School. Jan assists with various agencies in Macquarie Fields, including Youth Off The Streets and the Riley Centre for Youth; ADRA and Mallee Rose Cottage; and the Salvation Army at Macquarie Fields. Jan also supports the 24-Hour Fight Against Cancer Macarthur. Over the years, Jan has received various awards: Circle of Courage Award from the late Father Chris Riley (2006); Campbelltown City Council Australia Day Citizen of the Year (2012); ADRA Champion of Macquarie Fields (2016); NSW Volunteer of the Year Award (2016); and NSW Seniors Festival – Local Achievement Award (2018).

Jan is more than a community volunteer. She is everyone's Nan or Aunty. Many community partnerships Jan built from scratch still exist and have endured for generations.



Traffic lights update

The traffic lights at the intersection of Pembroke Road and Durham Street in Minto have been installed but are not yet operational, pending further works.

There have been some delays due to essential utility works. Transport for NSW is working to progress the project as soon as feasible.

Thank you for your patience while the works progress.

There will be some changes to traffic conditions once the lights are operational, such as no right-hand turn from Durham Street into Pembroke Road. These decisions are made by traffic engineers to prioritise safety.

For further updates, please contact my Electorate Office on 9618 2077.



Men's Mob

I am always delighted to visit my good friends at Mac Fields Salvos, and it was wonderful to join the Men's Mob for a chat and fun quiz as part of Father's Day celebrations. The Men's Mob is a community social group that invites men of all ages to connect, get out into the community, and share lunch outings in a friendly and supportive environment.

Mac Fields Salvos features a Sip and Connect café, an op shop, Moneycare financial counselling services and welfare assistance.

The Men's Mob meets on Fridays from 10.30am or phone Mac Fields Salvos on 9605 4749 for more information on the various services available.



Standing with Nepal

Our condolences and thoughts are with our Nepalese community following the devastating Nepal-Tibet flood disaster.

I was honoured to join our local community in remembering the victims and missing loved ones. I attended two local vigils to help raise funds for the people of Nepal.

The NSW Government sent a team of medical and rescue specialists as part of the Australian contingent to support our friends in Nepal.

Our thoughts are with our Nepalese community during this difficult time.

Chat with Anoulack...

With ... Peter and Janet Jakobsson



PETER, TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOUR EARLY LIFE.

I was born in a historic fishing village on the west coast of Sweden called Grundsund, to a Swedish dad and an Australian mum. I moved to Macquarie Fields as a toddler. I followed in my dad's footsteps by joining the Swedish Merchant Navy and travelling the world. While living in Sweden, I started the Gothenburg City Pipe Band and so started my local association with the bagpipes. I was one of the first students to attend Macquarie Fields Public School when it opened its doors in 1957. I went on to Ingleburn High School and remember having lots of Scottish friends, which might explain why I was always drawn to the bagpipes.

NOW PETER, YOUR LATE MUM'S FAMILY HAS AN INTERESTING ANCESTRY.

Yes, that's right. My mum, Helen, is a descendant of Joseph Hatton, who travelled to Australia on the Scarborough in 1787. The Scarborough was the second-largest ship selected for the First Fleet after Alexander.

DO YOU STILL HAVE A CONNECTION TO SWEDEN?

Yes. I still have relatives in Sweden and visit the country every few years. I am also fluent in the Swedish language... and as you can attest, I can also cook tasty Swedish cinnamon scrolls.

WHAT IS THE KEY TO LEARNING THE BAGPIPES?

Practice, and more practice! If you enjoy something, keep at it and you'll get good in time.

PETER, GIVE US A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PIPES AND DRUMS.

Locals Duncan and Grace Lister and Helen and Arthur Begg founded the group in 1976.

Five years later, I joined the band. I love playing and the band is like family. I appreciate all the opportunities I've had with the group.

When I reflect on the past 50 years, we have been honoured to perform at local citizenship ceremonies, local ANZAC Day services and many other events. We have also performed across Australia, including at the Black Saturday march in Melbourne. The group has also performed in Japan as guests of Campbelltown's Sister City – Koshigaya. That included performing in a 3,000 seat auditorium, along with a 60 piece orchestra. It was more than 20 years ago, but it's one of our best memories.

The group also performs at various Celtic festivals such as Brigadoon in Bundanoon, Berry Celtic Festival and Thirlmere Steam Festival, St Patrick's Day march and, more locally, at Ingleburn Alive.

Over traditional Swedish cinnamon scrolls (kanelbullar), I was delighted to chat with long-term local residents Peter and Janet Jakobsson. The couple are well known in the community through active participation in the Ingleburn RSL and Campbelltown Community Pipes and Drums, which this year celebrates 50 years of service in the community.

JANET, YOU'RE OFTEN BY PETER'S SIDE ON THE DRUMS.

I love it. It's such an honour performing at the citizenship ceremonies and at local events.

In the past, I was a nurse and Healthy Harold the educational giraffe puppet through the Life Ed Australia program.

In addition to the band and family, I enjoy participating regularly in Aqua Aerobics and WalkSoccer in the local area.

Pete and I share five children together and 13 grandkids, so life is always full and fun. I wouldn't have it any other way.



The Pipe Band is always looking for new members. To find out more, email irslccpd@gmail.com

CONTACT ANOULACK

If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss State Government matters, please drop into the office or contact me on:

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