

# Let's back Anoulack

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

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## Hands Off Our Hurlstone!

The Baird Government's decision to sell off **Hurlstone Agricultural High School's** farm to developers, and move the school to Hawkesbury, is hypocritical and short-sighted.

#handsoffhurlstone



I will not let greedy developers and politicians, who see functional open space as vacant land, drain the future opportunities and heritage value of our area. I will not let the Government recklessly exploit a priceless national asset. What's more, any development of this land would also be the beginning of the end for valuable green open space, along with our much-loved Scenic Hills.

***I will continue the fight to save Hurlstone and its farm until every hectare is conserved as it is, an agricultural school with a farm.***

***Join my campaign to save Hurlstone and its farm by contacting my office.***

In 2008-09 Adrian Piccoli was the shadow Minister for Education. Back then, he was a staunch defender of Hurlstone and was firmly against selling the school or developing its land. In fact, he said that the **'relocation of Hurlstone is impractical'** and that it should be **'retained in its current form'**.

Back then, Piccoli along with his colleagues lead the charge to protect Hurlstone and even voted to protect Hurlstone and its farm in Parliament. How things have changed! In a backflip worthy of an Olympic gold medal,

Mr Piccoli, as the Minister for Education, has gone back on his word.

Hurlstone Agricultural High School has been a key educational institution in the community for more than 80 years, producing some of our nation's greatest achievers.

I find it absolutely disgraceful that Hurlstone, one of our last remaining green spaces in Sydney, will be stripped away by the Baird Liberal Government for more urban splatter that will cause more pollution, congestion and put pressure on infrastructure for the people of Macquarie Fields.



**Standing strong together in the fight to save Hurlstone with Member for Campbelltown, Greg Warren.**



## Buck-passing won't silence residents

It's often said that a picture paints a thousand words. Well, sometimes words also speak for themselves.



Ingleburn residents Margaret Ballantine and Pat Thompson want action.

Late last year, I received some contradictory correspondence. State Minister for Transport, Andrew Constance, and former Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Warren Truss, were writing in response to concerns raised by Ingleburn residents seeking noise barriers adjacent to the southern railway line between Gordon Avenue and James Street.

*In his letter, Mr Constance states that the location in question is primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth. The recently retired Mr Truss, on the other hand, writes that the matter is for the State Government. WHICH IS IT?*

Such conflicting advice is clear evidence of buck-passing. Sadly, it appears that both Liberal Governments have completely washed their hands of any responsibility on this issue and, in flicking the blame back and forth, have left residents in limbo.

**But residents won't be silenced on this issue. In fact, they will be making more noise until the Liberal Governments stop the buck-passing.**

# Stop TAFE cuts

The disastrous changes being made to TAFE by Premier Baird and the Liberal Government must be stopped.



We must save what's left of TAFE before it's too late.

*Photo courtesy of Campbelltown - Macarthur Advertiser (Photographer - Simon Bennett)*

I strongly oppose drastic cuts to TAFE teaching positions, sky-rocketing fees to unaffordable levels, fewer student places and the ongoing privatisation of education and training.

TAFE is an important and valuable public institution, which provides opportunities for practical skills training across a range of areas.

### THE CUTS TO TAFE ARE SHAMEFUL.

TAFE report card under the Baird Liberal Government:

- ✗ 2500 TAFE teaching and support staff **GONE**
- ✗ Student enrolment figures **DOWN** by 43,000
- ✗ TAFE budget **SLASHED** by half
- ✗ Student fees **UP** by 22%

There is a lot at risk. For instance, less one-on-one time with teachers means graduates of certain trades are not adequately equipped for the workplace and could potentially injure themselves or someone else.

Eight out of 35 carpentry positions are expected to be axed from TAFE's South Western Sydney Institute, including the Macarthur Building Industry Skills Centre in Ingleburn

**The Baird Liberal Government's destruction of TAFE must STOP.**

## New shed for **Break the Cycle**

One of the successful recipients of the 2015 Community Building Partnership program was not-for-profit organisation, **Break the Cycle Glenquarie**, based in Macquarie Fields.



**New funding will enable Break the Cycle to help more people.**

Break the Cycle was awarded \$9,530, which will go toward building a large shed, along with shelving, to allow for the storage of furniture, white goods, clothing and other items. The goods will be distributed to victims of domestic violence, the homeless, young mothers and other vulnerable members of the local community.

**Thanks to Rev. David Ould and the team for their ongoing hard work and dedication to helping people in need.**

Other successful grant recipients included Life Education NSW; PCYC Campbelltown; Leumeah Public School P&C; Ingleburn High School P&C; The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch; Glenwood Public School P&C and the Girl Guides Association of NSW. Congratulations to all of the recipients and I look forward to seeing the projects come to fruition throughout the year.

## Friendship and fun

**The Ingleburn Country Women's Association provides an opportunity for women to socialise and help others in the community.**



The organisation was founded in the early 1950s when the area was still semi-rural and is part of a network of more than 10,000 women. Through regular activities and fundraising, the women are committed to improving the lives of women and children everywhere. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Greg Percival Community Centre in Ingleburn. For details, contact Sheila Johnson on 9605 4802.

## State recognition

I recently had the pleasure of presenting a **State award** to the following outstanding contributors to our community.



**With Mal Fruean at Waitangi Day.**

**Mal Fruean, Minto**

**NSW COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Acknowledging Mal's ongoing hard work and social contributions to the local Pacific communities.



**With Neil Sligar and Chief Executive Officer of Parkinson's NSW, Miriam Dixon.**

**Neil Sligar, Eschol Park**

**NSW COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

Recognising Neil's tireless work campaigning for those with Parkinson's disease, and his role in the Macarthur Parkinson's Support Group.



**Brock (centre) with his parents Terry and Belinda, and grandparents Jan and Ray Aldous.**

**Brock Borchardt, Macquarie Fields**

**NSW GOVERNMENT STATE REPRESENTATIVE AWARD**

The former Curran Public School student represented NSW in the 2015 School Sport Australia event in the 12 years and under Track and Field Championships.



# Chat with Anoulack...

**The Ingleburn resident and retired dentist, aged 91, went to Ingleburn Primary School and attended Hurlstone Agricultural High School from 1938 to 1942.**

As a young Hurlstonian, he would travel to school by steam train. Dr Benson has two children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Like many in our community, he is outraged at the Baird Liberal Government's decision to sell off the Hurlstone Farm and move the school to Hawkesbury.

## **What are your fondest memories of Hurlstone?**

Good fellowship and meeting boys from around the country. In the early days, Hurlstone had a large vegetable garden, a separation dairy, piggery, and poultry farm.

## **Why is it important to save Hurlstone?**

The school is an important part of our local heritage, and it should be part of our future too. Sitting on the East Hills line at Glenfield, the school is more accessible than ever and students should be encouraged to study agriculture as it's vital to our country's future sustainability.

## **What are your favourite early memories of growing up in Ingleburn?**

I was born on the property where I live today in Sackville Street, Ingleburn. I've seen so many changes. When I was born, we didn't even have electricity! It's a shame to see Ingleburn's rural character being eaten up by housing. In my young days, we were surrounded by paddocks and my parents harvested grapes. I'd catch crayfish in the Georges River and camp out in caves. I've always been involved with Scouts and enjoy exploring the bush.



## **Tell us about your interest in hypnosis.**

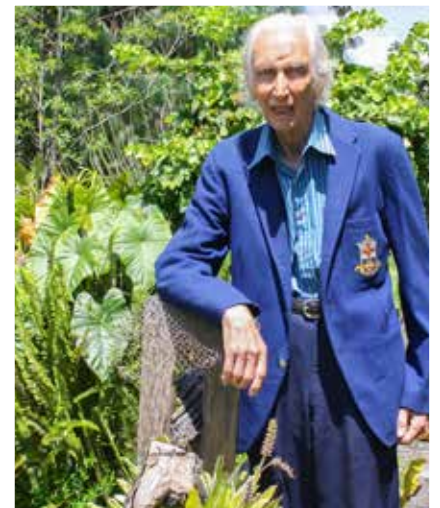
I wrote a thesis on the subject and it's in the rare book section of Fisher Library at Sydney University. I'm interested in how the mind can assist the body, particularly when it comes to pain management.

## **You're involved in the Ingleburn Horticultural Society too, aren't you?**

Yes, I'm Vice President. My own garden is my passion and my retreat.

## **Dr Benson, you've certainly lived a long and rich life with many accomplishments. What are some of the highlights?**

My father used to say, "It's better to be lucky in life than rich", and I agree. I lived through the Depression and received a scholarship to study dentistry. I opened a practice in Liverpool, then in Ingleburn and East Hills. The former Prime Minister of Australia – and Member for Werriwa – Gough Whitlam, was a patient of mine and a good friend. I've had many



**Dr Benson in his garden proudly wearing his Hurlstone blazer.**

adventures around the world but Ingleburn will always be home.

## **What hopes do you hold for the future of Hurlstone and its farm?**

The Government should be reinvesting in Hurlstone at Glenfield, not selling its farm and moving the school. I'd also like to see the selection criteria for entry to the school broadened, so that children of former students can experience the same level of quality education and traditions that have gone before them.



## **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 **9618 2077** or email [macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

You can also follow me at  [facebook.com/AnoulackMacquarieFields](https://www.facebook.com/AnoulackMacquarieFields)