

October 2017

Let's back Anoulack



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

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M5 TOLL GREEDY CASH GRAB

You just can't trust this Government.

Wherever you drive in Sydney,
the Liberal Government has its hands in motorists' pockets.



Photo: Damian Shaw / NewsPix



Fighting against the M5 toll extension with NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley MP.

It has recently been revealed that the Berejiklian Liberal Government has hatched a plan to slug motorists in south west Sydney with tolls for up to 40 years by extending the toll as part of a greedy cash grab.

The toll on the 22-kilometre stretch of the M5 South West Motorway was due to come off in 2026 but in line with other WestConnex tolls could be extended into

the 2060s, rising by 4 per cent or the rate of inflation every year.

Under the Berejiklian Liberal Government's secret plans, motorists from south west Sydney face paying tolls of more than \$2,000 a year for the next 40 years!

The Liberal Government's never-ending toll will put further pressure on the purse

strings of motorists and families, with household budgets already stretched to the max. It's a disgrace!

I will not stand by and let motorists from our region get whacked with unfair tolls.

To support my campaign, email macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au or phone the office on 9618 2077.



Delays for Bardia as chaos reigns

As if it wasn't bad enough that the Liberal Government has secretly pushed back the upgrade of Bardia Public School to 2019 – a year later than expected, parking and traffic chaos reigns at the school with new homes going up each day.

How much longer must parents, teachers and students put up with this mess?

Ironically, the Government moves as slow as a tortoise on Bardia. Yet, when it comes to Hurlstone Agricultural High School, it races off like a hare putting up 'For Sale' signs as it flogs off the Farm in a greedy land grab.

It's a disgrace. We demand answers and action on Bardia – and now!



With parents, carers and students outside Bardia Public School.

107 Not Out!

I recently had the privilege to meet and have a chat with Glenfield resident Mr Ted Wale. Mr Wale celebrated his 107th birthday in August and is believed to be the third oldest man in Australia. Mr Wale still enjoys painting, reading and playing word games and is full of interesting stories. Congratulations to Mr Wale - may he celebrate many more birthdays in the future!



Ted with his congratulatory letter from Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten.

Students' life-changing journey

A group of five students and teaching staff from Campbell House School for Specific Purposes (pictured below) travelled to Cambodia in July as part of a volunteer exchange experience.



The trip – the second undertaken by the school – came about following a chance encounter principal Marisa Pjanic had with Melbourne businessman Aviv Patti in Thailand in 2013. Aviv is the founder of the non-government organisation (NGO), Cambodia Rural School Trust, which supports orphaned or impoverished children with their education.

Since then, Campbell House has made a commitment to sponsor one child's educational needs each year through the NGO. This year, the school raised \$2000 toward building a house and providing food supplies to a family for 12 months, which they donated on their trip.

The experience resulted in a growth in mindset, attitudes and beliefs – enabling students facing the challenges of autism, anxiety and behavioural issues – to step outside their comfort zone.

I commend Marisa and staff on the fabulous work they do each day transforming young people's lives and providing students with opportunities that may not be otherwise possible.

Stop TAFE cuts

I will always stand up for TAFE and our local students, which is why I've signed a pledge in support of guaranteed funding for TAFE.

At Macquarie Fields and Ingleburn, courses in carpentry and wall and floor tiling have had their hours slashed by 264 hours due to relentless cuts at the hands of the Liberals.

I recently attended the Macarthur Job Nav at Macquarie Fields TAFE and was

impressed with the range of vocational education opportunities on offer, as well as the dedication of teachers, students and staff. TAFE is too good to lose. It's time to stop the cuts and protect TAFE's future.



Clockwise from top: With Shadow Minister for Skills Prue Car; My pledge in support of guaranteed funding for TAFE; Meeting nursing students at Macquarie Fields TAFE's JobNav event.



150 years – Minto Public School

Minto Public School celebrated 150 years in September and I had the pleasure of attending the school's Open Day and dinner marking the significant milestone.

Minto Public School has a rich history and unique standing in our community as the oldest local school.



Students and staff celebrating the school's 150th anniversary.

The celebrations included opening various time capsules containing past students' work, open classrooms, photos from the past, student performances and much more. The school's anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on the past while embracing the future.

To commemorate the momentous occasion, the school has created an anniversary garden in the school grounds which features pavers from past and present students and staff, as well as families, friends and community members with connections to the school.

Congratulations to all of those involved in the school's anniversary celebrations, particularly principal Vicki Craze, the Parent and Citizens Association and the school community.

CHURCH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS *in Style*

Mary Mother of the Church Parish at Macquarie Fields recently celebrated its 40th birthday with a number of events including a dinner dance.

The dinner dance was a great occasion with some fine speeches, lots of laughs and warm fellowship.



With Simon Abemethy, principal St Francis Catholic College Edmondson Park and Alan Raisbeck, Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson, Mary Mother of the Church.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH ON THIS SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE.

THE FIGHT GOES ON...

I will never walk away from fighting for what is right.

And so the struggle to save the Hurlstone Farm and school at Glenfield from the hands of developers continues.

Recently the school held its annual Country Fair which is a real celebration of the school's proud agricultural focus and history. But will this year's Country Fair be the last?

If Hurlstone is moved to the Hawkesbury and the Farm sold off to developers, one of the last green belts and working farms in Sydney will be lost forever.

Hurlstone belongs at Glenfield and its Farm needs to be protected from development.

Call my office for more information on the campaign to **save Hurlstone's unique heritage and Farm.**



At the Hurlstone Country Fair with former student and Campbelltown's Young Citizen of the Year, Adam Herman.



Once the Farm is sold, cows will no longer be at the Glenfield school.

Chat with Anoulack...

With **POLLY GRUNDY**



Macquarie Fields has always been home for Polly Grundy, who was one of the first students to attend James Meehan High School. But life took an unexpected turn after the love of her life, her husband Mark, tragically passed away in 2012.

The Mark Grundy Oesophageal Cancer Awareness Group Inc. (OCAGI) was created in his memory to help fund research, raise awareness and support others affected by the disease. Here Polly shares her story.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD.

My parents met during World War II and migrated to Australia soon after. I was the youngest of nine siblings. We grew up in social housing and the community was fabulous. All of us worked hard and went on to bigger and better things. Mum is now 92 years of age and I know she's proud of all her kids.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN VERY PROUD OF THE AREA.

Macquarie Fields is a wonderful place and the people are some of the most genuine, generous and big-hearted you could meet! I still live in Macquarie Fields today – it's my home and I'm proud of our community. Both my children – Cejay and Addison – went to Macquarie Fields Public School and Macquarie Fields High School.

YOU AND MARK SHARED A VERY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.

Yes, Mark and I were childhood sweethearts. We were together for 35 years and were inseparable. We were a great partnership, and my only wish is that I could have had more time with him.

HOW DID MARK'S DIAGNOSIS COME ABOUT?

I remember one night at the dinner table Mark had trouble swallowing his food. Mark had long suffered from reflux and heartburn, so initially we weren't too concerned. Everything happened so quickly. After a visit to the doctor, Mark was sent for urgent tests. Two weeks later, we found out that Mark had a 9cm growth in his oesophagus and the cancer had spread to his lungs. With a terminal prognosis, our lives were turned upside down.

YOU WERE DETERMINED TO TURN MARK'S PASSING INTO SOMETHING POSITIVE.

Mark passed away on 31 May, 2012 – which has become Oesophagus Cancer Awareness Day. He was 48 years old. At the time, there was little research into oesophageal cancer, no clinical trials and no support groups. Mark wanted to change all that, and so the non-profit organisation OCAGI was created.

WHAT HAS OCAGI ACHIEVED?

OCAGI is raising awareness about the fastest growing cancer in Australia in terms of rate of diagnosis. OCAGI holds an Oesophageal Cancer support



Polly with Mark and their sons, Cejay and Addison.

group once a month in Campbelltown. Through fundraising, OCAGI has recently partnered with Western Sydney University to provide a PhD scholarship for Oesophageal Cancer. This year, OCAGI's fundraising dinner raised \$34,077.

HOW DO YOU RELAX?

When I'm not working or running OCAGI, I enjoy time with my family. Music is another great passion that I share with my boys. I'm about to start a duo with my son, Cejay, called Generations. Our first gig will be at OCAGI's Charity Golf Day on 27 October at the Macarthur Grange Country Club in Kearns. My life experience has taught me not to sweat the little stuff.



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OCAGI.ORG