



# Let's back **Anoulack**

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

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## Where's our fair share, Premier?

**An empty basket is all we get after the Baird Liberal Government handed down its State Budget in June, short-changing our community. Yet again, the Baird Liberal Government has completely ignored the needs of the Macquarie Fields electorate.**



**Empty!  
Budget fails  
to deliver for  
our community.  
NOT HAPPY,  
PREMIER!**

The State Budget did not include a single dollar for vital projects like the upgrade to Macquarie Fields station or more commuter railway parking. This is despite the billions of dollars the Baird Liberal Government has been raking in from stamp duty through property transactions.

On top of the closure of the motor registry offices in Ingleburn and Campbelltown and the sale of the Hurlstone Farm, our ambulance station at Macquarie Fields will be downgraded and may face eventual closure. It is clear that the Baird Government doesn't care about our needs.

**“The complete lack of regard for my community's needs is insulting! We pay our taxes and we pay our stamp duty. We deserve our fair share.”**

**Please be assured that I will continue to fight for our fair share and I will hold the Baird Liberal Government to account for their neglect. We demand better, Premier. Contact my office if you'd like to join my campaign for our fair share.**



# Support a stronger TAFE

Outreach TAFE courses such as the barista course being provided at Macquarie Fields Salvos are about partnerships and skills sharing. Such courses provide important opportunities for people to access training in a less formal, community environment.



Coffee taste testing with TAFE teacher Jenny (left) and barista course participants.

I am appalled by the Baird Liberal Government's cuts to TAFE, and am strongly opposed to the ongoing privatisation of education and training.

TAFE is, and always has been, a valuable public institution that provides important skills training across a range of areas.

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

Thanks to everyone who has returned SAVE TAFE cards to my office in support of a stronger TAFE.

## MENTAL HEALTH APP

### No Wrong Door

As we approach Mental Health Month in October, it's a timely reminder of the need to break down the barriers to accessing mental health services.

The app is designed to help someone with mental distress or mental illness, as well as their carer/s, friends and family members. Support can be accessed when it's needed. Simply go to the website.

To access the app, or learn more, go to



[www.nowrongdoorsws.com.au](http://www.nowrongdoorsws.com.au)

## Generosity starts young

Minto Public School students Astrid Graham and Tia Brennen have big hearts and demonstrate compassion and kindness beyond their years.

Ten-year-old Astrid's charity collects toy donations which are then distributed to children in need through a number of local charities. More recently, Astrid handed out 80 pieces of fruit at her school thanks to a kind donation by a local business.

Tia's charity has already collected and distributed around 60 bikes to children in need with the help of PCYC Campbelltown, the Benevolent Society, UnitingCare Burnside, Macquarie Fields Local Area Command, Minto on the Go and a host of other organisations.

To donate, visit **Help Astrid Pay it Forward** OR **Tell Tia for Charity** on Facebook.



With Tia Brennen (right), her sister Harmony and Senior Constable David Blom.

TIA BRENNEN



ASTRID GRAHAM



# Bea's musical gift

**Every year, Campbelltown City Council conducts its Jubilee Awards ceremony.**

The awards acknowledge and honour long-serving residents and organisations for their contribution to our community.



Retired piano teacher Bea Risbey.

This year's ceremony was particularly special in that a number of residents from the Macquarie Fields electorate were honoured.

Local resident Bea Risbey was also acknowledged at the ceremony. Bea has taught generations of local children piano from her studio in Long Point and has inspired a love of music in her students.



## Bangla celebrations



Joining in the celebrations with Selima, Tariq and friends.

Celebrating Bengali New Year in Ingleburn. Our community has so much culture and colour. The event featured lots of singing and dancing and cultural traditions.

## Curran champions



At the presentation ceremony in Michigan.

Congratulations to Curran Public School students for coming third in the world Future Problem Solving championships in Michigan, USA! An amazing effort by the students involved and a result of the commitment shown by the teachers and Principal, Michael Strahan. *We're all immensely proud of their success.*

## Aboriginal Student of the Year



Presenting Madelin Cartwright with her award.

Madelin Cartwright of James Meehan High School is the recipient of the 2016 Aboriginal Student of the Year Award for the Macquarie Fields electorate. The award recognises Madelin's commitment to her school and the community. Madelin will join me in Parliament on 3 August for the Emerging Leaders Forum. *Well done, Madelin.*

# HANDS OFF HURLSTONE



**No wonder the Education Minister, Mr Piccoli, is selling the Hurlstone farm to developers!**

His complete mismanagement of the new education IT system has seen that bill blow out by a staggering \$269 million. Sadly, it appears our community will pay the price.

Those with good memories will remember that Mr Piccoli was once a champion of Hurlstone at Glenfield. But how things have changed! Mr Piccoli is now leading the charge to develop the land that will forever destroy one of urban Sydney's last working farms.

Recently, I had the honour to introduce into the Parliament a Bill that, if passed, will protect Hurlstone and its farm forever. Will Mr Piccoli and Premier Baird vote for this Bill, which is almost identical to the one they introduced and voted for back in 2009?

*I'll keep you posted. The fight continues.*





# Chat with Anoulack...

**Principal of James Meehan High School, Gail Taylor, recently retired after 23 years at the school, and another 14 years in the Education Sector. Some of her best memories are of making a difference in students' lives.**

## HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK AT JAMES MEEHAN?

I taught at various schools across Western Sydney, before starting at James Meehan High School as the History head teacher. I stayed on because of the school's wonderful sense of community.

## TELL ME ABOUT THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS.

The most important partnership is with the students' families and carers but, aside from this, we have established important ties with the University of NSW, the Beacon Foundation, UnitingCare and The Smith Family. I believe in the African proverb 'It takes a village to raise a child', and our partnerships are certainly reflective of that.

## THE SCHOOL HAS BUILT BRIDGES INTERNATIONALLY TOO?

Yes, James Meehan has an international exchange program with a school in China, which compliments the introduction of Mandarin language studies at the school. James Meehan also has a relationship with a school in Kenya and helps support five schools in Samoa. With 35 per cent of our student population from the Pacific region, this relationship has helped build greater cultural understanding among our students and their families.

## HOW IS JAMES MEEHAN HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE REACH THEIR GOALS?

We offer an outreach program called ASPIRE which aims

to increase students' educational aspirations and help them access a university education. The school offers a range of vocational educational opportunities and we pride ourselves on our industrial kitchen which gives students practical hospitality skills training.

## WHAT IS JAMES MEEHAN DOING TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH?

We have an excellent well-being program at James Meehan, which focuses on building students' resilience. We were the first school in Australia to install a conversation bench provided by the RUOK? Foundation. The bench is a place where staff and students can have meaningful conversations, and friends can check in on each other.

## NAME SOME OF YOUR FONDEST MEMORIES.

Helping to make a difference in young peoples' lives, above all else. At the school's recent Open Day, it was rewarding to learn all of the amazing things some of my former students had achieved. I will always remember the students, as well as the school's dedicated and passionate staff.



GAIL TAYLOR

## EDUCATION SEEMS TO RUN IN YOUR FAMILY.

Yes, my mother Brenda has worked as a school administrator for more than 40 years.

## WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO PASS ON TO THE STUDENTS?

That they can aim for the moon. Believe in yourself and have confidence. At James Meehan, we teach our students to have optimism, grit and zest. We also remind them of the importance of kindness and gratitude.

## HOW DO YOU INTEND TO SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT?

Travelling and in a volunteering capacity helping others.

## 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)

