



# State Connection

By Nationals Member for Lismore Thomas George MP

August 2011

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## Events around the electorate & in Sydney

Some events I have attended in the electorate during the past month include -

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- the Our Kids Ball
- Bentley Art Prize
- the official opening of OnTrack Community Housing office and the North Coast Accommodation Project
- the dedication of the Neville Bienke Study at the Lismore Aero Club
- the turning on of the new lights at Balzer Park, Dunoon
- the Regional Development Australia Awards presentation to the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter and Summerland Credit Union
- the new playground equipment at Bentley Preschool
- Southern Sudan Independent Nation celebrations
- Kyogle Quota Club Friendship Dinner
- The Commissioning of the new SIM Truck at Southern Cross University

In Sydney I had the honour of attending and participating in Youth Parliament, together with our local student representatives Lauren Bryant from Richmond River High School and Brendan Pearce from Kadina High School.

I also had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the 2011 Country & Regional Living Expo, conducted by The Hon Don Page MP, held at Rosehill Racecourse.

This three-day event is an excellent showcase of Country NSW, with 60 displays from all different regions of the state, providing information for people looking to move to regional NSW. It even included a Jobs Board, which listed the jobs now available in many occupations throughout the State.

## McCain School Veggie Patches

McCain School Veggie Patches is a great way for primary school children to learn more about the goodness of vegetables. McCain School Veggie Patches show that veggies are natural and come straight from the goodness of the earth.

Primary schools around Australia and New Zealand are invited to build their own veggie patches and grow their own vegetables. To lend a helping hand, McCain is giving away over \$500,000 worth of veggie patch equipment to primary schools during 2011.

Closing Date is 19 Aug 2011. Application details:

[www.mccainveggiepatches.com/content/home/programinformation.aspx](http://www.mccainveggiepatches.com/content/home/programinformation.aspx)

## Rural Scholarships

The RAS Foundation is providing Rural Scholarships to support individuals in NSW who demonstrate a passion for rural issues and who are studying something of value to rural and regional communities.

Rural Scholarships lend a helping hand to anyone wanting to make a difference in their rural community. You can be studying any subject and be of any age, all you need is the desire to contribute to a better future for rural NSW.

Applicants for a Rural Scholarship must:

- Be enrolled in or applying for study in any accredited tertiary course at an approved Australian education provider
- Demonstrate an active interest in rural affairs and a desire to contribute to the future of rural NSW
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident

For further information to go [www.rasnsw.com.au/828.htm](http://www.rasnsw.com.au/828.htm) or call 9704 1234.

## NRMA Safer Driving School Road Safety Grants

These grants are awarded in seven categories -

General Community

High Schools

Primary Schools

Interactive Whiteboard presentations

Youth-based organisations

Infants & Preschool

Older Road Users

Submissions close on 25 September and must be lodged online at [www.mynrma.com.au/grants](http://www.mynrma.com.au/grants).

## Australian Road Safety Awards

The Fatality Free Friday Road Safety Foundation launched the Awards to encourage ongoing professional development for corporate organisations and government departments, widespread community engagement and individual action in reducing road trauma.

Closing date is 12 September. For more information go to [www.australianroadsafetyawards.com.au](http://www.australianroadsafetyawards.com.au).

## Rural Women's Awards

These awards are coordinated by the NSW Rural Women's Network through the NSW Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services. It is an excellent way of promoting the success of hard-working women in regional communities.

Applications close 15 October. To apply or nominate call 6391 3620 or visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn).

## Parliamentary Inquiry

Currently the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues is undertaking an Inquiry into domestic violence trends and issues in NSW.

The terms of reference are -

That the Standing Committee on Social Issues inquire into and report on domestic violence trends and issues in New South Wales, and in particular:

1. Strategies to reduce breaches and improve compliance with Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs), including:
  - a. the use of GPS bracelets
  - b. whether existing penalties for domestic violence are adequate
2. Early intervention strategies to prevent domestic violence
3. The increase in women being proceeded against by police for domestic violence related assault
4. Any other relevant matter.

Submissions may be made by close Friday 16 September to -

The Director  
Standing Committee on Social Issues  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Fax: 9230 2981

or online at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/V3ListInquiries](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/V3ListInquiries)

## Government Mobile Apps

Recently the Government has launch a number of mobile apps and mobile-friendly websites. These include -

The NSW Government Directory - [www.directory.nsw.gov.au](http://www.directory.nsw.gov.au)

Live Traffic NSW - [www.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com)

NSW Fair Trading ShopSmart -

[www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/About\\_us/Online\\_services/Mobile\\_apps.html](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/About_us/Online_services/Mobile_apps.html)

For more information on Government social networks and apps visit [www.nsw.gov.au/social#apps](http://www.nsw.gov.au/social#apps)

## Congratulations

- to the numerous local Rotary Club members in the area who were recently presented with a Paul Harris Fellow or a second or third Sapphire Pin at Changeover Dinners.
- Ava Benny-Morrison for receiving the Tom Barrass Saward for Regional Journalism.
- Gary Clarson, Lismore on retirement after 29 years working at Lismore City Printery.
- to the FNC Over 55's hockey team on success at the State Championships and to Max Beddow, Mick Kell, Paul Leadbeatter and Steve Garbutt selected for the NSW team.
- Diane Virtue, Goonellabah on retirement following 26 years at Bexhill Public School.
- Glenda Watts who was named Kyogle Quota Lady of the Year.
- Glenn Roff, Principal, St John's College on the presentation to him of the Br Taylor Award

## Media Releases

Following is a list of media releases I have issued during the past month. Follow the link to the website to view in full.

Emergency Department Website Goes Live

Sports Ability Course at Goonellabah

Fair Trading Mobile Website and App Targets Consumers on the Go

Online Diploma Launched

Facebook Forum for Young People

Apply Now for Sport Funding

Hendra Precautions Needed

Person Centred Approaches Consultations

2012 Senior Week Grants Now Open