



## More nurses and midwives

Melanie recently welcomed 39 new nursing and midwifery graduates in the latest intake to Liverpool Hospital.

Melanie said she was glad to see so many fresh faces starting at one of the biggest hospitals in Sydney's South West.

She congratulated all 39 new graduates and wished them all the best in their careers.

Nurses and midwives see us at our best and our worst and strive to provide us with the highest level of care. They are the backbone of our health system.

With the help of this next generation we now have 46,700 nurses and midwives working in NSW public hospitals.

Liverpool Hospital recently celebrated 200 years and is now one of the largest hospitals in Australia.

## Record number of new interns

Melanie had the opportunity to meet some of the 41 graduate doctors who started at Liverpool Hospital this year. Joined by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Jillian Skinner MP, Liverpool Hospital General Manager Anthony Schembri, they observed suturing demonstrations.

She also participated in a CPR demo at Sutherland Hospital, where an intake of 24 interns were welcomed.

## Clean Up Australia Day

It was a little muddier than usual, but this year's Clean Up Australia Day was a very productive day.

Melanie put on her gum boots and spent some time at a number of clean up sites including the Menai Wildflower Group and Alford's Point/Illawong Scouts Group site at Thompsons Bay Reserve, Illawong (pictured). They were also assisted by the Woronora Bushfire Brigade.

She also joined in with groups at Woronora, Sandy Point and at Holsworthy with the Harris Creek Environment Group.

Some of the rubbish collected included mattresses, a life jacket, a fan, a cupboard and a shoe! Thank you to all the helpers who spent their Sunday doing their bit to beautify our local area.



Melanie cleaning up Thompsons Bay Reserve, Illawong with Alford's Point/Illawong Scouts Group.



## Boost for Autism Funding in South West

Grace Fava, (pictured) President of Liverpool's Autism Advisory and Support Service (AASS) couldn't believe her ears when the NSW Premier, the Hon. Barry O'Farrell MP announced that they would receive \$190,000 in recurrent funding. AASS provides vital autism services

for families in Sydney's South West, and have done so with limited funds.

Recurrent funding will make an incredible difference to this not-for-profit organisation and enable them to help more families.

# Davy Robinson Park, Moorebank Boating Upgrades

NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney the Hon. Barry O'Farrell MP joined Melanie to announce the \$250,000 upgrade boating facilities on the Georges River at Moorebank.

The grant awarded to Liverpool City Council was one of 60 allocated across the state under the latest round of the NSW Government's Better Boating Program.

Stage One of the upgrade includes the widening and extension of the existing boat ramp and the installation of a new on-ramp pontoon to assist with the boat launching and retrieval process.

The boat ramp at Davy Robinson Park is used by a range of boating enthusiasts as well as organisations including the Australian Boating College.

Melanie said this grant recognises this busy waterway and the important role boating has to play in our community and our economy.



Inspecting the new boat launching facilities with Liverpool Mayor Cllr Ned Mannoun and the Premier of NSW Barry O'Farrell.

This grant builds on funds from the NSW Government's Better Boating Program last financial year of \$27,780.

Melanie said she was pleased to see the project up and running with the help of the Better Boating Program.

More information can be found at [www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/mpd/infra\\_grants.html](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/mpd/infra_grants.html)

## *Listening to the community* Major Challenges for the Menai Electorate

With the Menai electorate located in some of Sydney's highest growth areas, there is a lot of interest in developing new housing and industry. As a result, there are a number of development proposals being considered at different stages.

A number of community members have contacted me with their concerns about certain proposals and I do my best to listen and represent those concerns.

The **Moorebank Recyclers Development proposal** has raised quite a lot of concern lately.

Public exhibition for the proposed concrete and building materials recycling plant at Moorebank closed in April. However, their Environmental Assessment is still online at <http://bit.ly/WYmpin>

I have made my own submission outlining concerns about dust, noise, increased truck movements and the close proximity of the development to homes and the Georges River.

It's expected that it will be determined by the independent Planning Assessment Commission after further consultation.

As recently reported in the media, the **West Menai proposal** has been identified by the State Government as one of the housing sites for 'immediate action'.

This doesn't mean that the project has been approved. The assessment process is still underway, and the proposal must still meet all planning requirements before determination. The project currently is undergoing assessment by the Department of Planning.

During the public exhibition period I also made a personal submission to raise my concerns about the impact of local flora and fauna, the small block sizes, the lack of infrastructure and public transport and bushfire evacuation.

There are flaws in the proposal which I will continue to bring to the attention of the Minister and relevant authorities.

The **Moorebank Intermodal Freight Terminal proposals** have caused some concerns about increased truck movements on our already congested local roads, the close proximity to established suburbs and the added impacts of noise and dust.

I conveyed these concerns in my own submission and await the result of the public exhibition process.



# HAVE YOUR SAY SURVEY

The best way for me to improve our Community is to know exactly what our residents want. Please number from 1 to 5 the issues you think are the most important below.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services and facilities for our elderly | <input type="checkbox"/> Small business               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education and schools                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs & job security                     | <input type="checkbox"/> State taxes and charges      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our natural environment                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban consolidation          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals and health services           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of living               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime and safety in our community       | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roads in our area                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth support and facilities |

What issues are important to you? I would like to know your thoughts and views about your local area:

.....

.....

.....

.....(please attach additional information)

### Contact Details – What is the best way to get in contact with you?

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss .....

Street Address: .....

..... Suburb: .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

## Please return your survey to Melanie Gibbons MP:

P (02) 9825 3653 | E [menai@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:menai@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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## Menai Woman of the Year



Melanie with Minister for Women Pru Goward, Addie & Me owner Caroline Koulouris and Menai Woman of the Year Kellie Checkley.

Melanie was pleased to acknowledge the work of Menai Woman of the Year Kellie Checkley with a morning tea at Addie & Me, a brand new cafe in Hammondville, with special guest, the Minister for Women, the Hon. Pru Goward MP who came to present her with the award.

Melanie nominated Kellie Checkley for her work with youth in the Menai area and in the Sutherland Shire as a whole. She is the Executive Officer of Project Youth (formally known as Shire Wide Youth Services) and she gives above and beyond to make sure that young people are healthy, active, and have the opportunity to realise their potential.

Her work varies from providing after school activities at drop in centres, putting on concerts and band nights, managing a hard working team and arranging funding for the Service. She is often called upon to locate emergency housing and help young people in great need.

Kellie undertakes this work on a tight budget and raises money for the services they provide. Kellie gives far more of herself than what she would be paid for and is deserving of extra recognition. Well done, Kellie!

## Menai Pedestrian Safety

Following a recent pedestrian accident outside Menai High School, swift steps have been taken to extend the existing school zone the section of Old Illawarra Road, where students have been crossing to catch a Metro Bus on the other side.

Melanie, in conjunction with Sutherland Shire Council, Roads & Maritime Services (RMS), local Police and the School, has negotiated a future traffic light controlled crossing for students to safely access the Metro Bus route. Melanie obtained a commitment from the Mayor to provide funding for necessary upgrades to rectify the safety issues.

Melanie is also appreciative of the emails and letters received from concerned members of the public who heard about the incident. It is hoped that both of these measures will help prevent a similar accident from happening in the future.

## Message from the Premier



## Delivering for Menai: More jobs and investing in infrastructure

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is getting on with the job of rebuilding the State.

Over the last two years almost 100,000 additional jobs have been created and NSW now has the second lowest unemployment rate of all the States.

Since March 2011 we've employed almost 4,000 additional nurses, teachers and police officers to help improve frontline service delivery.

We are building for the future - over the next four years we are delivering the biggest State infrastructure agenda in Australia's history, investing \$61.8 billion.

We believe it is only through fiscal discipline that we can invest in additional infrastructure and invest in better frontline services.

When coming to government in March 2011, the NSW economy lagged behind other Australian States – but now it's returning to its rightful place as the engine room of Australia.

There's a lot more to be done, but with continued strong, responsible and stable government we will make NSW number one again.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry O'Farrell".

**Barry O'Farrell MP**  
**Premier**

## Site Secured for Sutherland Commuter Car Park



The Premier of NSW Barry O'Farrell joined Miranda MP Graham Annesley and Melanie at Sutherland Station to mark two years in Government.

Melanie is pleased to see that the Sutherland commuter car park project is moving forward, following news that the NSW Government has secured a site near Sutherland Station for the construction.

An agreement has been reached with the Sutherland United Services Club, allowing for a new multi-storey car park to be constructed on the site of the Club's current car park at the corner of Oxford and Robertson Streets, Sutherland.

It is anticipated that the new multi-storey car park will provide more than 300 spaces for commuters.

The Sutherland Commuter Car Park will be delivered under the NSW Government's \$770 million Transport Access Program, which will also deliver an upgrade of the Sutherland Station transport interchange and provide a new lift to improve access from the station concourse to Platform 1.

Car parking currently provided for patrons of the Sutherland United Services Club will also be incorporated into the new car park.

The next stage is the design of the car park and plans are expected to be on public display later in 2013.

Additionally, the finishing touches are being put on the works at Jannali Station, which recently underwent accessibility upgrades to remove the steep ramp and enable better access for those less mobile. A great outcome for the local community.

## What's that smell?

As reported recently in the media and brought to the attention of the Electorate Office, some residents from Chipping Norton and Moorebank have been experiencing a recurring problem with an unpleasant odour.

We are working with the Office of the Minister for the Environment to find the cause and improve the air quality in our suburbs. **If you notice a smell, please report it to our office, so the cause can be identified.**

## Electric Hotwater Systems Ban Overturned

Melanie Gibbons has welcomed the NSW Government's decision to overturn the former Government's ban on hot water heaters.

Late last year Energy Minister Chris Hartcher announced the reversal of Labor's decision to phase out electric hot water systems, meaning households will no longer be forced into buying expensive new systems.

With more than 13,000 customers in the local area - over half of the electorate - who do not have the option of gas hot water from a reticulated system, this announcement will make a difference to many struggling households.

Consumers without gas options will no longer be forced to invest thousands of dollars on alternatives including heat pumps or solar heating.

This Government remains committed to doing everything we can to assist low income households and facilitating the delivery of essential services at the lowest cost to all consumers.

We will continue to work hard to ease the energy cost burden on low income households and families.

For more information visit <http://www.trade.nsw.gov.au/energy>

## NDIS Becomes A Reality

The National Disability Insurance Scheme will become a reality for people with disability in Menai under an historic agreement signed by Premier Barry O'Farrell.

NSW is the first jurisdiction to agree to full funding, with the State to contribute \$3.13 billion from 2018/19, when the scheme will be fully implemented in NSW.

This historic outcome continues the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government's record of reform in social services, ensuring people with disability get the care and support they rightly deserve. More information and details can be found here: <http://www.nsw.gov.au/ndis>.



# Melanie Gibbons MP

## Member for Menai



### Menai Matters

Community Newsletter April/May 2013

## \$91,000 FOR MENAI COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Minister for Ageing and Disability Services delivers a funding boost

Menai Community Services (MCS) will receive \$91,000 in extra funding thanks to the Minister for Ageing and Disability Services.

Melanie joined the Minister the Hon. Andrew Constance MP at the Community Centre to announce the funding boost from the State Government to purchase a new bus, establish a community hub and refurbish their kitchen.

Menai Community Services do so much for our community and run an incredible range of programs on minimal funds. It is great to have been able to bring their work to the attention of the Minister and receive such a positive response.

A new bus will allow Menai Community Services to meet the growing demand for their day programs at the Centre and offer more transport services to people with disabilities and the elderly members of our community.

In addition a community hub will be established to meet the growing need for a social space or 'drop-in centre' for those unable to access other activities due to physical, social and financial disadvantage.

The current kitchen at Menai Community Centre is in need of a



Special visit: Menai Community Services Chairman Frank Crawford with Minister for Ageing and Disability Services Andrew Constance and Melanie Gibbons MP.

repair and these funds will help bring it up to an adequate level to meet current service standards and incorporate measures to improve accessibility for their clients.

The Minister was first introduced to Menai Community Services at the Community Cabinet meetings in 2011 and was impressed with their work. Melanie will continue to work with the Minister to help assist the growing

number of people experiencing early-onset dementia and other disabilities like autism in Sydney's south and south west.

Community organisations like MCS are incredibly important and often survive on shoe-string budgets to deliver amazing outcomes. General Manager Karen Howell and her team at Menai Community Services will put this funding to good use.

#### Can't wait for the next newsletter?

Each week Melanie publishes an update on her website, to fill in the gaps between each newsletter. Keep up to date on local developments and wider news across the State. Visit [www.melaniegibbons.com.au/blog](http://www.melaniegibbons.com.au/blog) or send your email to [menai@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:menai@parliament.nsw.gov.au) to be added to our email list.

