

# Connect with Anoulack

A community newsletter from Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields – September 2022



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## FIX OUR HOSPITALS



Thank you to everyone who has signed my online petition in support of my campaign to fix our hospitals.

I have written to the NSW Minister for Health to raise concerns about the inadequate resourcing of our public hospitals and excessive wait-times in our emergency departments.

Our growing community needs a properly funded and resourced health system that takes the pressure off our overworked doctors and nurses.

I will continue to advocate for our growing community on this issue.

To share your experiences, contact my office on 9618 2077 or to sign my petition click on the QR code.



## VALE DR PETER BENSON

In July, we sadly farewelled Dr Peter Benson who passed away at the age of 97.

Dr Benson was a lifetime Ingleburn resident and proud Old Boy of Hurlstone Agricultural High School. A prominent local dentist, Dr Benson would count former Prime Minister of Australia Gough Whitlam as both a patient and friend.

Dr Benson was Ingleburn Horticultural Society's Vice President for many years. His own garden was both his passion and his retreat.

Dr Benson was passionate about heritage and a fierce defender of the Hurlstone Farm. He strongly opposed plans by the Liberal Government to sell off the farm for housing and his advocacy helped retain the school at its rightful home in Glenfield.

I had the good fortune to call Dr Benson a friend and enjoyed speaking with him for my 2016 newsletter (see photos).

Our community will be forever grateful for Dr Benson's enormous contributions, and we will miss him greatly. Rest in peace.



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# TIME TO REBUILD DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING TO BOOST JOBS AND WAGES

As Shadow Minister for Industry and Trade, I am proud of NSW Labor's recently announced policy that will rebuild our domestic manufacturing industry to create more jobs, better wages and grow our economy.

In contrast, the Liberal Government's ideological obsession with outsourcing and offshoring manufacturing has only resulted in budget blowouts and lost job opportunities for our local community.

NSW Labor policy will:

- Set up the first NSW Jobs Commission;
- Provide 30% weighting for local content in Government tenders;
- Set a local content target of 50% for transport rolling stock;
- Establish TAFE Manufacturing Centres of Excellence;
- Redefine "value for money" when spending Government money to better capture the wider economic benefits, job creation and industry development that comes from using locally made products.



I've visited numerous manufacturing facilities and have been impressed with the expertise and enthusiasm waiting to be unleashed under NSW Labor's Industry Policy.

## MORE LOCAL SERVICES NEEDED

It has been seven years since the Liberal Government closed motor registry offices in Ingleburn and Campbelltown.

Since then, residents in the Campbelltown Local Government Area (LGA) have had to travel considerable distance to Service NSW centres at Gregory Hills, Liverpool, or the new centre at Edmondson Park.

Inconvenient? You bet. Unacceptable and unfair? Absolutely!

With the redevelopment of Minto Mall now underway, the time is right to deliver a Service NSW centre that is accessible and convenient for our growing community.

Campbelltown is one of the fastest-growing LGAs in south-west Sydney, with a population of more than 175,000.

Figures in Budget Estimates show that about 40% of customers who visited the Macarthur Service Centre in Gregory Hills reside in the Campbelltown LGA.

A Service NSW centre in Minto would provide convenient access to an important government service. The time to deliver it is now!



Advocating for a Service NSW in Minto with Minto Mall Centre Manager, Michael Prestia, and Councillor Darcy Lound.

To sign my petition for a Service NSW in Minto click on the QR code.



# DISTRICT PARK ONE STEP CLOSER



Pictured with local residents and Labor Councillors Darcy Lound and Masood Chowdhury who lodged a Council motion in support of the district park.

A long-awaited district park for families in St Andrews and Bow Bowling is closer to being built following my community campaign and online petition.

In 2016, Council identified Midlothian Reserve in St Andrews as a suitable location for a district park. Six years later, residents were still waiting.

More than 180 people signed my online petition and Council is preparing a report on the delivery of the park. Subject to Council consideration and funding approval, the district park will then be delivered.

This is good news for local families. A district park will deliver a quality recreational space families can enjoy, providing opportunities to get outdoors, be active and connect socially.

# CHALLENGE LAID DOWN OVER LIFTS

The Liberal Government's refusal to install lifts at Macquarie Fields is unfair and unacceptable.

The case for lifts is irrefutable:

- The station fails to meet legislated accessibility requirements;
- People with disability or mobility issues, the elderly and families with prams should not have to travel to other stations for access to the rail network;
- The Auditor General slammed the Liberal Government's politicisation of upgrades that prioritised stations with a lower need rank than Macquarie Fields;
- The station is on the Airport line, and it is unacceptable that people with luggage must travel to an alternative train station to access the rail network; and
- It is the right thing to do.

I recently wrote to the Transport Minister and challenged him to do better than his predecessors and fund the lifts.

I won't stop fighting until my constituents have equitable access to public transport.



Our community rightly wants our fair share.

Scan the QR code to keep up-to-date with my campaign for lifts.



# PUT SAFETY FIRST



The campaign continues for the installation of a long-awaited set of traffic lights at Bardia Public School to help improve road safety to avert potential tragedy.

I have written again to the Minister for Transport calling for the traffic lights at the intersection of Arthur Allen Drive and MacDonald Road to be fast-tracked.

It is clear from my visits to Bardia Public School that the Liberal Government has failed to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the suburb's growth.

Giving a green light to traffic lights as soon as possible will provide a safe place for people to cross the busy intersection and be a victory for community safety.

Any delay could be tragic.

# Chat with Anoulack...

## With ... Wayne Prior

Living in Casula for more than 30 years, Wayne Prior has witnessed the suburb's transformation from market gardens to family homes. Despite the suburb's rapid growth over the years, it is Casula's hidden gems that have kept Wayne and his wife, Rasme, in the area for so long.



### WHEN DID YOU FIRST MOVE TO CASULA?

**Wayne:** My wife, Rasme, and I moved to Casula in 1991. We were attracted to the green spaces, including the gullies, trees, and birdlife. We also loved the fact that Casula was a microcosm of society, with people from diverse cultural backgrounds. To this day, I love the fact that Casula is a fabulous melting pot.

### WHAT ARE SOME CHANGES YOU HAVE NOTICED IN CASULA OVER THE YEARS?

**Wayne:** When I first moved to Casula, the western side of the Hume Highway was dominated by market garden farmers. Casula, like most of south-west Sydney, has borne the brunt of Sydney's growth. However, growth has not always been matched by infrastructure and our green spaces are diminishing. I recall people describing the Hoyts Casula Drive-in, which

used to be on Pine Road. I'm told it was a popular venue in its heyday.

### AS A YOUNG MAN, YOU HAD SOME ADVENTURES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

**Wayne:** At the age of 18, I took on the role of an Australian Kiap in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The word 'Kiap' was derived from the German 'kapitan', which essentially means captain. At the end of the Second World War, PNG was an Australian-managed territory. Kiaps were multi-functional administrative field officers and duties included policing, magisterial duties, postal services, banking and civil works. There was the ever-present threat of hostility, as well as exposure to crocodiles and malaria. One of my mates drowned while on patrol. I lived alone and patrolled a post of 80,000 people on foot at 5,500 feet above sea level. Supplies came in by air weekly, weather permitting.

### THE EXPERIENCE TAUGHT YOU MANY LIFE LESSONS.

**Wayne:** Absolutely. I stayed for eight years and was fluent in Melanesian Pidgin. I became culturally aware, learned to be independent and to make decisions and be accountable for them. One family named their son after me, which was a huge honour. They named him 'Wayne Prior Henry'.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF CASULA'S HIDDEN GEMS?

**Wayne:** The Casula Powerhouse Arts House is certainly one of them. Rasme and I thoroughly enjoy visiting the arts centre and the Bell Bird café. Leacock Regional Park is another hidden gem. The park has huge potential, but sadly is not well-maintained and is run-down.

### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THE FUTURE OF CASULA?

**Wayne:** A community centre near our parklands and improved car parking on the western side of Casula Station, but without using public parkland for that purpose. Protecting and enhancing Leacock Regional Park is long overdue. There are opportunities within the park to recognise the traditional owners of the land, the Darug people, and acknowledge the enormous contribution to the area made by the Knowles family, who lived in Casula for many years. When Craig Knowles was the Minister for Planning, he transferred land from Landcom and the Department of Planning to create Leacock Regional Park. NSW National Parks and the local council should work together to improve the park's north and south entrances, beautify the area and help protect this vital green space for future generations.



## 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**, email [macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or visit [connectwithanoulack.com](http://connectwithanoulack.com)

