

Connect with Anoulack

A community newsletter from Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields – March 2021



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OVERDEVELOPMENT GONE WILD!



Shortly before Christmas, the Liberal Government released plans that would forever change the suburban character of our area.

Existing homes in Glenfield will be replaced with high-rise buildings of between 3 and 12 storeys in height. About 77 hectares of land at Hurlstone Agricultural High School will also be sold so green open space can be replaced with rooftops and high-rise flats.

Greedy property developers will make a fortune while residents will be left with the

consequences of overdevelopment such as traffic congestion, lack of parking, overcrowded classrooms, packed trains and less green open space.

I refuse to be silent when the Liberal Government continues to unleash its overdevelopment agenda on south-west Sydney.

I will always demand funded commitments to the infrastructure our community needs.

Read my submissions against the development plans at connectwithanoulack.com

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READING SPREADS JOY

I was one of many special guests and community representatives who joined classes at Sackville Street Public School on World Read Aloud Day to celebrate the start of the new school year.

World Read Aloud Day is an initiative which aims to foster a love of reading and promote literacy.

I read one of my personal favourites, Roald Dahl's *The BFG*. It brought back fond memories of when I was first introduced to the book decades earlier.

I commend Sackville Street Public School's commitment to literacy, which sets the foundation for lifelong learning and is a vital part of a child's overall development.

I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of newly appointed principal Kylie Lyneham, who has served the school community for the past 26 years.

Thank you to everyone at Sackville Street Public School for always making me feel so welcome. Kylie's outstanding leadership, together with exceptional teachers and staff, and strong community partnerships, lives up to the school motto 'Sharing and Caring'.



PLEAS FOR LIFTS FALL ON DEAF EARS

Our community is fed up with the Liberal Government's refusal to install lifts at Macquarie Fields Station.

I've been keeping up the pressure on the NSW Minister for Transport by working with 7 news to highlight the issue.

I've also sent the Minister a selection of comments from local residents who desperately need accessibility improvements at the station.

The voices of my community are important and deserve to be heard.

Join my campaign! Sign my petition, share your stories or read my letter to the Minister at connectwithanoulack.com.



Olga and Ray Greenwood have lived in Macquarie Fields for close to 60 years but they are still waiting for lifts to make the station accessible for all.

NEW SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS

Congratulations to our local Serbian community for all their fundraising efforts and tireless volunteering to help build St Sava College in Varroville.

The school's official opening was a wonderful example of faith, community and education coming together.

I send my best wishes to the school's leadership team, staff and students as they embark on their educational journey at St Sava College.



At the official opening of St Sava College with federal colleagues Macarthur MP Dr Mike Freeland and Werriwa MP Anne Stanley.



STOP TOLL MANIA!

The fight against the unfair toll on the M5 East continues in State Parliament.

I was appalled to learn that a disability worker from my electorate named Greg had to give up working with a client in Bondi because the M5 East toll was too expensive.

So I asked the Minister in Parliament: "Why is Greg missing out on work and vulnerable people missing out on support because of our tolls?"

As expected, the Minister shirked responsibility, failed to address the issue and just gave our community more political spin in doing nothing.

I will always stick up for my community.

If the unfair M5 East toll has impacted you or your family, please get in touch with my office.

WIN FOR PEOPLE POWER IN MINTO

A long and hard-fought successful community campaign to stop a contentious development proposal in Minto shows the value of people power.

Over two years, InglePark Estate residents and I fought to maintain their suburb's character, green open space and quality of life.

The proposal for 23 townhouses in Francis Street was incompatible with the local area. Residents expressed concerns about the impact of overdevelopment, such as more congestion, lack of parking and overcrowding.

A group of concerned residents took action and received the best news when the Sydney Western City Planning Panel refused the development proposal.

Victories like this take time and they take effort. I congratulate all of the residents involved and thank them for their passion for their local area.

It's wonderful to see a group of committed residents finally have their voices heard.



Want to share your views on overdevelopment in our local area? Phone my office on 9618 2077 or email macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Chat with Anoulack...

With ... Jenny and Darko Ristic

A desire to support local young people with their educational needs led to Jenny and Darko Ristic creating The Silver Coin Project charity four years ago. The charity continues to grow while the couple juggle work, parenting and life in general. It is their commitment to helping others and their love for the local area that drives them every day.



HOW DID THE SILVER COIN PROJECT COME ABOUT?

Jenny: Darko and I have always been community-minded and regularly volunteered with other charities. We spent many nights taking warm meals, blankets and books to homeless people in Sydney. Every time we went, the people on the streets seemed to be getting younger and younger. There was always one underlying reason why they were homeless and that was lack of education. We recognised there was a genuine need for children to be supported at school, with many missing out on lunch, uniforms, stationery items and school excursions due to financial hardship or circumstances such as domestic violence. We strongly believe in the power of education to change people's lives. The Silver Coin Project had humble beginnings. Any spare change went into a box on our kitchen bench and from there we were able to start assisting kids at local schools. The Silver Coin Project became an officially registered charity in 2017.

WHAT DOES THE SILVER COIN PROJECT HELP WITH?

Jenny: The purchase of uniforms, shoes, healthy lunches, school equipment, excursions, emergency relief and other school related items. Cost is a huge barrier and many kids have no access to toiletries, clean underwear or food. This can cause the child to feel left out and this can make the child susceptible to bullying or truancy, or diminish their concentration. All kids want to feel they belong at school and it's important from a young age that kids have the best opportunity to participate fully in school life. The Silver Coin Project currently partners with 22 schools in the Macarthur area. We work closely with the Principal and wellbeing teams from each school to ensure we are reaching the children that really need our help. We also offer an annual scholarship for students going on to high school.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA THAT YOU LOVE SO MUCH?

Jenny: People in our local area are very passionate and look after each other. I grew up in Ingleburn and attended Sackville Street Public School and Ingleburn High School. Our eldest child, Sarah, now teaches at Sackville Street Public School, the school she attended. You can take the girl out of Ingleburn but you can't take Ingleburn out of the girl.

TELL US MORE ABOUT AN EXCITING PROJECT ON THE HORIZON.

Darko: We are working on a project to convert a 20-seater bus into a tutoring hub on wheels to go into schools and work with children who require additional assistance with maths and English. The bus will be a state-of-the-art classroom, which will utilise the school's teaching resources and cater for a maximum of five to six students. We're hoping to launch the bus project in Term 1 2022. It is hoped that the bus will be used in the school holidays for music training or Indigenous education. Jenny and I are very excited about this project and look forward to helping students' learning.



HOW DO YOU MANAGE IT ALL?

Jenny: We are super-organised. Plus, we are extremely passionate and I have deep roots in our local community. We make it work. Darko and I both have jobs and our son, Seth, is in his senior years at high school so it's busy but what drives us forward is that we are doing it for the kids.

Darko: Hard work and kindness. That's us, that's The Silver Coin Project and improved educational outcomes for local children will be our legacy.

To find out more about The Silver Coin Project, or to lend your support, go to thesilvercoinproject.com or visit their shop at Ingleburn Village.

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 or visit connectwithanoulack.com

