

Connect with Anoulack

A community newsletter from Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields – December 2025



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50 Years for Macquarie Fields schools

Congratulations to James Meehan High School, Curran Public School, Guise Public School and Glenquarie Town Centre on 50 years of serving our community.

This is a fantastic milestone, and I commend the Macquarie Fields schools and shops on their enormous contributions to our community over many years.

Guise Public School celebrated its 50th anniversary with an open day, classroom visits, a family picnic, high tea, and a colour run.

Curran Public School celebrated 50 years with school yard games across the decades, a community school tour and complimentary barbecue.

The school welcomed past and present families to share treasured memories and showcase memorabilia from Curran's rich history.

James Meehan High School hosted a 50th Anniversary Festival, showcasing excellence in education. The school hosted a morning tea, performances, barbecue, and time capsule dedication.



At the FlexiHub with James Meehan High School student leaders and Leonna Myers (see Chat with Anoulack page 6).

Local schools are at the heart of our community.

In recent years, this has been particularly evident with the creation of the Community of Schools FlexiHub – a joint initiative of James Meehan High School, Curran Public School and Guise Public School.

The FlexiHub is a community and wellbeing centre that offers various services to students and their families, such as dental checks, wraparound support for students, and career guidance. It is a wonderful initiative, and I congratulate everyone involved.

The schools' 50th anniversary celebrations continue a proud tradition of connection and community.

Click on the QR code to read my speech in NSW Parliament. ▶



Guise Public School Principal Kate Cohen with students.



Curran Public School's mascot CeCe the koala and students.

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INSIDE

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Community Service Awards

I am honoured to acknowledge the following recipients of the 2025 NSW Government Community Service Award. Visit my website to read more about their valuable service to our local community.

Annamaria Wood OAM has devoted more than 46 years to supporting people with disability and their families in the local community.

Ms Wood served 26 years as CEO of Disability Macarthur Family Support and Care, from 1996 to 2022, leading vital programs for families in crisis and people with disability.

In 2025, Ms Wood was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her outstanding service to the disability sector.

Ms Wood is a champion for people with disability and their families. Ms Wood also helped establish a much-needed respite service, a skate park for children with disability, a buddy system for Aboriginal Foster Care, and a Respite Forum to bring services together.

Ms Wood recognised the importance of lifelong disability support for the whole family. Over the years, Ms Wood worked



closely with local families and her enduring legacy will be one of the highest care and dedication to the local disability sector.

Shawkat (Milie) Islam is a committed local community member whose lifelong passion is promoting the Bangla language, culture and traditions.

Mrs Islam has been a long-serving teacher and Principal of Bardia Bangla School Inc.

Mrs Islam participated in a documentary project organised by the Association of Community Language Schools and funded by Multicultural NSW. The project



showcases the vital role of community language schools across the state.

Mrs Islam has been involved in various community activities, including annual Cancer Council fundraising event, raising awareness of family and domestic violence, support for the Street Library initiative, and the Aus-Bangla Creative Women's Charity to promote literacy, cultural heritage and women's empowerment.

Mrs Islam is passionate about promoting education, cultural connections and meaningful service to community.

Pembroke Lodge celebrates 20 years

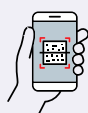
Congratulations Pembroke Lodge in Minto on 20 years of serving our local community. Pembroke Lodge is an 108-bed Aged Care facility which prides itself on making a difference in seniors' lives.

Over the past 20 years, Pembroke Lodge has provided quality care to 1,300 senior residents while also providing more than 1,000 employment opportunities to the local community.

Pembroke Lodge residents, family and staff celebrated its special anniversary with a barbecue, music performances, mini games and a photo booth to capture special memories.

I thank Pembroke Lodge staff for their care and compassion. I wish Pembroke Lodge every success for the future.

Scan the QR code to read my speech in NSW Parliament. ▶



Station upgrade on track

Momentum is building on the Macquarie Fields Station upgrade. The brand-new footbridge is being installed this month.

Work will continue into the new year with finishing touches, including the installation of new stairs, fit-out works, and new lifts that will make the station fully accessible.

The station will remain open during construction, with crews taking advantage of trackwork weekends to complete key activities.

Recent site tours have brought together community members and project partners to see progress first-hand. Feedback and enthusiasm from these visits have helped shape the ongoing work, and there'll be more opportunities to get involved in 2026 as construction continues.

The upgrade is on track for completion in 2026, delivering a safer, more accessible train station to the Macquarie Fields community.

Scan the QR code to stay up-to-date on the project. ►



▲ With David Moncrieff MP, local residents and project partners on a project site tour.

New name honours Father Chris Riley

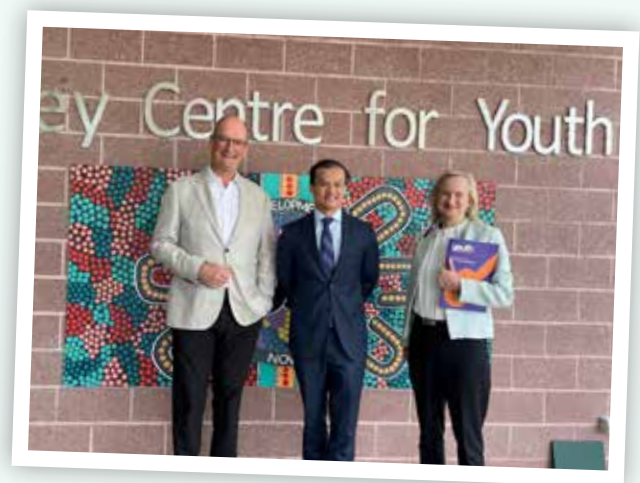
Macquarie Fields was a community very close to the heart of Youth Off The Streets' founder, the late Father Chris Riley AM. In 2005, it became the location of one of Youth Off The Streets' first youth outreach programs.

In 2011, with the support of the local council and the state and federal governments, Youth Off The Streets had the opportunity to build The Koch Centre for Youth and Learning – named to acknowledge the support David and Libby Koch had provided to Youth Off the Streets and the Macquarie Fields community.

After the passing of Father Riley in August this year, and at the suggestion of David and Libby Koch, a decision was made to rename the centre in honour of Father Riley. And so, The Koch Centre for Youth and Learning will now officially be known as the 'Riley Centre for Youth and Learning.'

Youth Off The Streets CEO, Judy Barraclough, said: "We want this space to reflect our founder's unwavering belief in the potential of every young person, no matter their background or circumstances.

"We are proud to have been serving the Macquarie Fields community for 20 years and that continues today in the Riley Centre, which is the home for our alternative high school, EDEN College, and our weekly youth drop-in program, providing a safe space for young people to grow and thrive."



▲ With David Koch and Youth Off The Streets CEO, Judy Barraclough.



▲ With David Koch, Jan Nicoll and Darren Kingston.



▲ Father Chris Riley.

► Scan the QR code to read my speech in NSW Parliament.



Local roads update

📍 PEMBROKE ROAD AND DURHAM STREET, MINTO

Thank you to everyone who has contacted my Electorate Office seeking an update on the timeframe for traffic lights at the intersection of Pembroke Road and Durham Street, Minto.

I travel Pembroke Road on my way to and from the Electorate Office, and I'm aware of the urgent need for traffic lights at this intersection to improve safety.

I am deeply saddened by the fatal crash which occurred at this intersection and extend my condolences to all affected by the tragedy on 23 August 2025.

The project to install traffic lights is part of the Towards Zero Safer Roads Program.

Construction is expected to start in early 2026, with a delivery timeframe of around 15-18 months (subject to weather).

I look forward to work starting on this important project to improve road safety in our local area. Please contact my office on 9618 2077 for updates.



▲ With Mayor of Campbelltown, Darcy Lound, and local residents at the corner of Durham Street and Pembroke Road.

📍 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE, GLENFIELD

The NSW and Australian governments are planning for a future upgrade and extension of Cambridge Avenue, Glenfield.

The upgrade will ease congestion and support the Glenfield Place Strategy by providing reliable access and improved connectivity to support new homes as well as population and economic growth in the area.

A concept design and Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was placed on public exhibition until 8 December 2025, with community information sessions held in November.

For more information, contact the Project Infoline on 1800 684 490 or email projects@transport.nsw.gov.au.



📍 PEMBROKE ROAD AND MINTO ROAD, MINTO

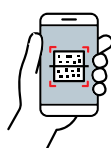
As part of the Road Safety Program, Transport for NSW completed safety improvements at the intersection of Pembroke Road and Minto Road in July.

To improve the skid resistance, Transport for NSW removed the existing road surface and installed high friction asphalt.

The new road surface helps to improve road friction through the bend, especially when the road is wet.

The new measures are in addition to upgraded signage and realigned stop sign at the intersection.

Transport for NSW is also investigating longer term road geometry options that aim to improve safety at the intersection.



◀ Scan the QR code to visit the website to stay up-to-date on the project.

\$200 MILLION FAST-TRACKED TO FIX OUR ROADS

The NSW Government is fast-tracking \$200 million in urgent road maintenance across Sydney's busiest roads, following one of the city's wettest winters in nearly two decades.

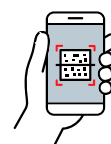
In the last financial year alone our maintenance program has repaired 10,900 potholes across Greater Sydney, with the majority being repaired in Western Sydney.

At the same time as the Government delivers new roads that our growing communities needs, it is ensuring roads remain safe.

We all deserve roads we can depend on to get to work, school and home.

Maintaining our roads is a job that never stops, and I want to thank the road maintenance crews who work rain, hail or shine to keep our roads safe.

If you know a pothole or road that needs attention, scan the QR code and I'll pass on to our local council or Transport for NSW to get it fixed. ▶



Poppies for Poppy café

Thalia Harken has a garden full of poppies... just don't call her a green thumb.

The 88-year-old has lived in Macquarie Fields for more than 40 years, and has been donating poppies from her garden to the Poppy Café at the Ingleburn RSL Club for years. A few times a week, Thalia will take the poppies to the club to ensure there is always a fresh bunch!

Thalia's late husband served in the army for 30 years, including Malaya and Vietnam.

Thalia says there is no special way to grow a poppy. She simply dug up her garden, threw in some seeds and gave the garden a good water. The poppies have grown like wildflowers thanks to the heat and rain.

Thalia says she gets joy out of donating them to the club as she has so many of them.

Thanks, Thalia, for your generosity and kindness. Our community is so grateful!



Legal Aid diaries

Seniors looking for help with legal problems will be able to find it from Legal Aid NSW's free 2026 Legal Topics for Seniors diary.

Pick up a free copy of the diary from my Electorate Office, 12 Ingleburn Road, Ingleburn. Limited copies available. Contact 9618 2077 for more information.

Summer fire safety tips



- **HAVE A PLAN:** Identify exits and a safe meeting point.
- **PRACTISE TOGETHER:** Go through your plan regularly with family and friends.
- **REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS:** Get out, stay out and call Triple Zero (000).

Your safety is in your hands. Take the time to prepare and stay ready, wherever you are this summer.

► Scan the QR code to learn more fire safety tips.



◀ Taste testing the products.



► With General Manager, Scott Mingle, and Head of Manufacturing, Waqas Zaheer, at the manufacturing facility in Minto.

Local ice-cream factory expands

I had the pleasure of visiting The Magnum Ice Cream Factory in Minto following its recent \$35 million transformation.

The facility manufactures Golden Gaytimes, Weiss Bars, Blue Ribbon icecream and Magnum. We're proud to have this site supporting local jobs and fostering innovation in south-west Sydney for over 20 years – and producing nearly three million ice cream servings every day. From Minto to the world... sweet indeed!

Chat with Anoulack...

With ... Leonna Myers

Ingleburn's Leonna Myers is an award-winning university graduate. However, Leonna says her journey was not an easy one. Now, Leonna is keen to share her experiences with others so they can also feel supported and achieve their full potential.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR LIFE GROWING UP.

I grew up in Rosemeadow in a mostly single parent household. My Dad was in and out of my life as a teenager. Mum was incredibly hardworking, juggling various jobs and studying at night so that my sister and I had somewhere to live and attend school.

My sister and I worked various jobs from a young age to support mum. My early attempts at study were unsuccessful as I was juggling three jobs simultaneously, with no time to focus on my studies. The experience taught me the profound impact that resources and time have on educational opportunities.

HOW DID YOUR CULTURAL BACKGROUND/ ETHNICITY SHAPE YOU AND WHAT DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES DID IT GIVE YOU?

My Dad is Wiradjuri and my mother is Chinese.

For most part, I'm like most people my age. I worry about housing affordability, the cost of living, climate change and growing inequality.

I think the only difference is that I talk about these issues over a plate of dumplings that I make with my mum, instead of a 'schnitty'.

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO INGLEBURN AND WHY?

I moved to Ingleburn five years ago. I wanted to be close to family – my partner's family in Fairfield and my mother in Campbelltown. Another important reason was the proximity to reliable public transport. I love Ingleburn's convenience and community feel.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT SOUTH-WEST SYDNEY MORE BROADLY?

I love south-west Sydney because it is my home. I'm surrounded by like-minded people with similar experiences and backgrounds. I'm a foodie and south-west Sydney has a wide variety of choices representing diverse cultures. It is home to some of the best food known to humankind!

TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR STUDIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

I graduated this year with a Bachelor of Science in IT majoring in Enterprise Systems Development (a fancy way of saying Software Engineering) at the University of Technology Sydney. I received a Distinction with a University Medal, which is awarded to the top 10 students in the faculty of Engineering and IT in the year.

I won the CareerTrackers Award for Academic Excellence in 2024, and the Dean's Merit List for 2024 and 2025.

I was awarded the 'The Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy's International STEM Leadership Dialogue' scholarship. This involved travelling to New Zealand and Canada for three weeks to connect with other Indigenous women in the STEM field. I've completed three internships at Google, and I'm excited to work there as a Software Engineer next year.

SO, YOU START WORK AT GOOGLE IN 2026.

Yes, I'll be working in the maps area. The Google office is amazing – they have a monorail carriage that people conduct meetings in. There is a gym, dance studio, cinema, music room, libraries, massage parlour, and even a nap room. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all catered. They have



two cafes, and unlimited snacks and drinks. I'm very lucky to work there.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY?

I hope my personal story – going from struggling and failing to topping my course at university – can help inspire others. The main difference between my earlier struggles and later success is access to resources and opportunity. I feel a deep sense of responsibility to help others. There is an old proverb that says: 'A society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in.' I believe that to be true.

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER BEEN GIVEN?

My high school Visual Arts teacher, Mr Peters, told me to "work smarter, not harder" and to take every single opportunity that comes my way.

WHAT YOU ENJOY IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I enjoy painting and want to get into ceramics. I read fiction, enjoy gaming and board games, and I'm interested in permaculture. My backyard is full of different fruit trees and vines, as well as annual vegetables. The oldest plant I own is my Kaffir Lime Tree, which I've lugged around in a large pot for almost 10 years.

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:

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