

WERRIWA NEWS

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National bushfire emergency

My heart goes out to those impacted by the fires.

Over the past several months the tragedy of the bushfires has had an effect on each of us. Whilst the emergency services and the volunteers have definitely saved many more lives and properties than have been lost; it is a devastating time for our nation.

If you would like to make a contribution to the relief appeals I have included a list below, a more comprehensive list is available on my Facebook page.

Unfortunately at times like these there are still people who behave badly and there have been instances of scams enticing donations to fake websites. It's always best to check before you give a donation. To report a scammer call the Bushfire Scam Hotline on 1300 795 995.

Remember it is important to discuss with your family what your plan will be if you need to evacuate your home. There may not be time when disaster strikes.

Bushfire Information

In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)

Download the **Fires Near Me** app for your device to stay up to date on information and warnings about bush fires and other incidents attended by the NSW RFS.

Bush Fire Information Line - 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech impairment, contact the National Relay Service:

- TTY users phone 1800 555 677 then ask for 1800 679 737
- Speak and Listen users phone 1800 555 727 then ask for 1800 679 737
- Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 1800 679 737
- To report a fire or emergency (TTY users only), access TTY 106

Bushfire Support - How you can help

If you would like to help, please consider donating to the following organisations doing invaluable work on the ground.

Rural Fire Service

NSW Rural Fire Service - www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/support-your-local-brigade

Disaster Relief

Red Cross - fundraise.redcross.org.au/drr

Foodbank - www.foodbank.org.au/support-us/make-a-donation/donate-funds

Animal Rescue

RSPCA NSW Bushfire Appeal - www.rspcansw.org.au/bushfire-appeal

NSW WIRES - www.wires.org.au/donate/emergency-fund

A Message from Anne

Welcome to the first edition of the Werriwa newsletter for 2020.

I trust you had a restful and peaceful holiday break.

I'm sure the upcoming year will be very busy for you and your family, if there is anything I can do to assist please don't hesitate to contact my office. If you would like to meet with me I am trialling appointments in my office on a Saturday morning. Please ring my office on 8783 0977 to make an appointment. I will also be visiting shopping centres in our area the details of dates and times are located in the newsletter.

Justice of the Peace access will start again in the New Year, if you need a JP, our office can let you know when one is available or the locations of other JP services in the area.

I was pleased to learn that there are finally plans to build more car parking at Edmondson Park Railways station and that the pressure you helped me exert on the State Government has paid off. However, it is a shame that these extra spaces will not be delivered until 2021, twelve months after the original promise made prior to the election. I will continue to hold all levels of government to account about services for our area.

Please don't hesitate to ring for an appointment if I can be of any assistance.

Best wishes

Ann Stanley MP

Sporting Grants

The Local Sporting Champions programme provides financial assistance for coaches, officials and competitors between 12 and 18 participating in state, national or international competition.

Grants of up to \$500 can be used towards the range of costs required when competing, coaching or officiating at an official sporting championship.

If you are eligible or know anyone that might be, you can find more information and apply at SportAus:

www.sportaus.gov.au/grants_and_funding/local_sporting_champions



Multicultural Taskforce

Labor believes in opportunity for all – that's why we are listening to multicultural Australians.

People of all cultures and backgrounds deserve the opportunity to thrive in Australia and Labor wants to ensure our policies are informed by all Australians.

I was recently appointed Secretary of Federal Labor's Multicultural Engagement Taskforce .

The purpose of the Taskforce is to engage multicultural Australia to help inform, with as many voices as possible, Federal Labor's policies and the role of multiculturalism in social cohesion and Australian identity.

For more information including the Taskforce's Terms of Reference and to make a submission visit:

www.alp.org.au/lmet/en

Happy Lunar New Year



The Chinese and South East Asian communities are a very special and important part of Werriwa. Like many other festivals from around the world, Lunar New Year has become an exciting celebration on the local calendar. I wish everyone a happy and prosperous Year of the Rat.

The Year of the Rat

- The Rat is the first of the Chinese Zodiac animals
- Recent years of the Rat are 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008 and, of course, 2020
- People born in the Year of the Rat are said to be optimistic, energetic and likeable
- The very first Member for Werriwa elected in 1901, Alfred Conroy, was born in 1864 - a Year of the Rat

Robodebt Class Action

Labor has called on the Liberals to scrap its harsh and inaccurate Robodebt scheme targeting the most vulnerable Australians.

It is wrong for the Government to treat everyday Australians like criminals on the basis of dubious accounting, using cruel and inefficient tactics, and forcing people to prove facts about their income from up to a decade ago.

It is now confirmed in the recent ruling by the Federal Court that the Government is acting unlawfully when raising these debts. Labor has been working with Gordon Legal on a class action for anyone who has been caught up in the Robodebt scheme.

If you or anyone you know has received a Robodebt notice and as a result have paid money to Centrelink or had money taken from Centrelink benefits, tax return or wages you may be eligible to join the class action. You can find further information at www.gordonlegal.com.au/robodebt-class-action/

Indigenous weather

The Australian climate is diverse – monsoons, desert, savannah, temperate and alpine. A traditional European seasonal calendar often sits at odds with our lived experience.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a wide range of meteorological knowledge often linked to localised events, plants and animals.

The local D’harawal calendar is one of many through Australia and identifies six seasons. We are currently in a time of Burran, a hot and dry season.

This is typically a season where kangaroos become quite aggressive which is a traditional sign that the eating of meat is forbidden. This is a health factor as the likelihood of food poisoning is high. Another sign of this season is the blooming of the plant

Weetjellan (Acacia Implexa). The blossom of the Weetjellan is a sign that fires must not be lit unless they are well away from bushland and on sand only, as well as indicating there will be violent storms and heavy rain, so camping near creeks and rivers is not recommended.

These traditional indicators draw strong comparisons to the weather patterns that we can all observe today and it demonstrates the rich cultural history of the First Nations and their keen understanding of the land.

For more information go to www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/dharawal.shtml

D’HARAWAL WEATHER CALENDAR

SEASON	MONTH	WEATHER
Burran	January-March	Hot and dry
Marraigang	April-June	Wet becoming cool
Burrugin	June-July	Cold and frosty
Wiritjiribi	July-August	Cold and windy
Ngoonungi	September-October	Cool becoming warm
Parra’dowee	November-December	Warm and wet



Mobile Offices

Mobile offices are a great way to stay in touch and let me know what issues matter to you and your family.

I will be holding the following mobile offices during April:

6th April – Miller Shopping Centre: 11am - 1pm

7th April – Glenquarie Centre: 11am - 1pm

8th April – Carnes Hill Marketplace: 11am - 1pm

9th April – Green Valley Plaza: 11am - 1pm

Coalitions failure on scams

According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Australians were expected to lose a record \$530 million to illegal scams in 2019.

Scams aren’t just a nuisance – they are harmful and on the rise.

My office is regularly contacted by residents reporting illegal scam telephone calls. They are sophisticated and often target vulnerable Australians, like local seniors.

Despite a consistent increase in scammer activity, the Government has disappointingly spent six years doing nothing. Only now are trial measures being introduced.

Consumers don’t just need a trial – they need strong and timely action, and a Government that is responsive to their needs.

Labor has suggested a number of policy options based on the experiences of other countries. These include the introduction of network-based caller ID authentication, to make it hard for scammers to use Australian numbers they do not own.

Additionally, a dynamic scam blacklist, as has been established by British Telecom in the UK, could allow service providers to detect and block suspected scam calls.

By being vigilant and informed, we can help better protect ourselves, our family and the broader community against the threat of overseas scammers.

The ACCC’s ScamWatch is an excellent online resource to browse materials relating to scams and to report suspected scam activity. To keep you and your family safe, I’d encourage you to familiarise yourself with the signs of a scam by visiting www.scamwatch.gov.au.



Out and About with Anne

Chattogram Festival

On the 27th of October I attended the Chattogram Festival and Mezbaan. I am always proud to see organisations such as the Greater Chittagong Association of Australia and the local Bangladeshi community building strong ties with the people of Werriwa.



School presentations

Congratulations to all that have just completed Year 12. I have been lucky enough to visit many students throughout the year all over the electorate and see first-hand the determination of this year's graduates.



Sporting Champions

Congratulations to our Sporting Champions for this session:

Emilija Vidakovic – Football

Lachlan Orchard – Taekwondo

Harris Kontobassis – Athletics

Georgia Portelli – Athletics

I have very much enjoyed meeting many of the sporting champions this year. Congratulations on your passion and success.



Clancy College Indigenous Garden

On the 20th of November I attended the opening of the Indigenous Garden at Clancy Catholic College with Liverpool City Councillor Nathan Hagarty.

The Indigenous Garden is a program created and run by the students of the college. The idea behind this program was to create an area at the school to recognise Indigenous students and their artwork. It is also a quiet place students can go to sit, study and appreciate their surroundings.

St Luke's 200th anniversary

I had the pleasure of attending the celebration of 200 years of worship at St Luke's Anglican Church in Liverpool, along with the NSW Governor, Hon Margaret Beazley AO QC, The Most Reverend Dr Glen Davies Anglican Archbishop of Sydney and the Right Reverend Peter Lin Bishop of Georges River Region. St Luke's is a Francis Greenway designed building commissioned by Governor Lachlan Macquarie and is the oldest Anglican Church in NSW. St Luke's was built in the period of 1818 to 1820 and has been a part of the New South Wales State Heritage Register since 1999.

St Luke's isn't only a place for faith and community gatherings, but it is a part of the rich cultural heritage of Liverpool as it demonstrates the history of early settlement in the region. St Luke's expresses the strength of community over generations and I hope that St Luke's Church continues to be a symbol of just that.



My office is always available to assist with Federal Government matters that are important to you, your family and friends, such as Medicare, Centrelink, Immigration, Taxation, the National Broadband Network and assisting community organisations.

If you have any issues that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to call me on (02) 8783 0977 or email me at Anne.Stanley.MP@aph.gov.au. You can keep up to date with my activities through my website www.annestanley.com.au or on Facebook at: facebook.com/anne.stanley.werriwa.

