



## Wellington's Way First for 2012

Keeping the electorate of Nicklin up to date on local and State issues.

The dust has finally settled after the election campaign and we are all back on deck. Jenny and I had a couple of weeks off enjoying time together at home and Wendy and Vicki have also enjoyed some time with their families.

Jenny and I took our granddaughters, Phoebe and Chloe, my niece, Yasmin and Vicki (from the office) along to the opening of Parliament.



We had front row seats to watch the parade to welcome the Governor to the opening of Parliament

This was followed by afternoon tea on the Speakers Green.

It was a great opportunity to share the fun side of Parliament with the family before we put our heads down and got on with the business of Parliament.

I am going into this term with an open mind and a hope that the new Government will work well in the best interest of all Queenslanders.

This term I have been elected to three Parliamentary committees. The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee; which oversees the Crime and misconduct Commission. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee; (Deputy Chair) which reviews proposed changes to laws that relate to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Police and Community Safety. The Ethics Committee, which polices our politicians.

*It's Full steam  
ahead as the dust  
settles after State  
and  
Council elections*

**Where in the world is  
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## *On the Ball*

Jenny and I have had the opportunity to attend a number of functions since the election, including the Nambour State High School Deb Ball, which was held one week after the election. The Ball was coordinated by Vicki from my office. Jenny and I have attended many Deb Balls over the years and we class this year's as one of the best.

I opened the St John's Anglican Fair in Yandina. Jenny and I attended a luncheon at the Montville Hall and had the pleasure of presenting a number of certificates to a group of ladies who have fundraised for numerous charities over many years.

## *Doing Time*

I served time behind bars in an effort to promote the Nambour Police Citizens Youth Club and raise funds for the PCYC by doing "Time for Kids".

ANZAC Day is always a busy day and this year we attended the Dawn Service and Community Service in Nambour followed by the Commemorative Service and lunch in Cooroy. Our thanks go to all who were involved in putting together the services.

I had the pleasure of presenting awards to some members of the Nambour Little Athletics, which is run by Eric Rae, who has been at the helm for over 20 years.

## *New Army Member*

On the 6th of May Vicki's daughter Michaela, gave birth to the latest Member of the Wellington's Army, Mitchell Murray Ross. Congratulations Michaela, Matt and the proud grandparents.

I had my first meeting with the Regional Director for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to go over new and ongoing issues involving roads in the electorate.

We attended the Cooroy Woodcrafter Open Day and as always, we were very impressed with the quality of work on display.

I attended the 1st Anniversary of the Mens Shed 22.

We attended the Nambour National Seniors Charity Day at the Nambour Heights Bowls Club. Congratulations to Secretary Val and her team for a wonderful morning.

It was straight into it on our first real sitting day 17 May 2012, when I tabled the first petition of the 54th Parliament requesting the Government look at Car Parking at our Hospital.

*Homes for sale  
Water frontage,  
Sunken Lounge  
Trust us, no dam.*

My first question for this Parliament was to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, seeking assurance that the speed cameras promised for the black spot at the intersection of Blackall Street and the Nambour Connection Road would go ahead. The Government has agreed to install the speed camera before the end of the year..

On the 30th May I put a question to the Deputy Premier in relation to the fact that the Mary River Dam site Kenilworth and the Mary River Dam site Traveston Crossing are still listed on State Government maps. The response I received was disgraceful. I agree that the previous Government made a monumental error by considering the Mary Valley as a dam site. This does not change the fact that the future of these sites remain unclear as long as the sites remain listed as restricted sites set aside for dams. I question how the present Government can put the Traveston properties on the market when the same land is still identified as a dam site in Government regulations. I would not purchase a home in an area clearly labelled "Future Dam Site".

Despite the Deputy Premier's fob off and attempt to trivialise my question to him, I do not intend to give up on this, until the areas are removed from the regulations.

I also do not intend to give up on the issue of bringing forward the duplication of the rail line between Beerwah and Nambour, despite the appalling response I received when I raised this matter in Parliament on 31st March 2012. Once again, my question was not answered.

I have also had the opportunity to meet with the new Health Minister Lawrence Springborg. I am pleased the new Health Minister has agreed to review all Hospital Car Parking options and I hope a decision will be made soon.

On June 5, I asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads if he would continue with the planned upgrade of the Nambour Railway Station and once again the Minister gave a ridiculous answer.

That evening I had the opportunity to give my "Address in Reply" which was my chance to speak on the election campaign and to thank my wonderful band of volunteers. Jenny and I could not have done it without your support.

*Youth at risk  
Still on track*

On 7 June I put a question to the Minister for Communities in relation to funding for youth at risk. I am pleased the Minister has agreed to continue the funding of over \$280,000 a year to help youth at risk in the Nambour and surrounding areas.

June 13-14 gave me a chance to catch up with people in the Woombye and Palmwoods areas when I attended a presentation at the Woombye School and the Palmwoods Progress Association meeting.

We were delighted to be able to attend the Nambour RSL Grants Dinner where another \$50,000 was distributed between 19 community groups.

We also attended the Nambour Show and I was able to speak on this and the Nambour RSL Grants dinner when Parliament sat on June 19.

The Wednesday of a Parliamentary sitting week are what we in the office refer to as our back the front days. The various committees meet in the morning and Parliament commences at 2.30pm. Wednesday June 20, I started the day by Chairing the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Public Hearings at Parliament House. Due to the clashing of time periods the other two committees I am on now meet on the Thursdays and Fridays.

I must admit I had no idea how much work was involved in being on three committees and they are certainly keeping me busy. They are also keeping my staff busy as they are continually reorganising the diary to make sure we can fit all three in with the various other engagements. Having said that, I am enjoying the new Parliamentary work.

The Northern Pipeline stage 2 may be nearing official completion but there is still a lot of work to be done. I am continuing to have onsite inspections with residents who still have unresolved issues. I think the solicitors will be the only real winners.

Tuesday June 26, will be a day that I will remember for a long time. I attended the Nambour Rotary Club Changeover meeting and was stunned and honoured to receive a Paul Harris Fellowship.

*Pipeline woes*

*Paul Harris  
Award*

*Money wasted  
as elderly and  
disabled are  
denied access*

Saturday June 30, we attended the Cooroy Rotary Changeover dinner where we again had a wonderful evening.

I have met with our new Councillors to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Congratulations to the organisers of the Queensland Garden Expo, which once again attracted people from all over Queensland. Jenny and I enjoyed having a look at the many exhibits .

The following day it was off to the Nambour RSL for their Christmas in July luncheon.

I had the opportunity to speak about the Government's plans to scrap the disability access upgrade of the Nambour Railway Station. I spoke about the Premier's response to my question about the upgrade and the fact that in his response to me he said words to the effect, 'Well, member, I am happy to work with you if you give me some suggestions on how we can save some money.' So I suggested he and his Government could save \$300,000 of taxpayers' money by abandoning the High Court challenge to the constitutional validity of the federal government's proposed minerals resource rent tax.

The following evening I gave the Premier another suggestion on how money saved by abandoning this challenge could be spent; and that is by providing toilets on trains that travel between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. It is a disgrace that our trains do not have toilet facilities.

On the final sitting day for the week, I put a question to the Minister for Health in relation to Car Parking. In his answer the Minister admitted that Car-parking issues are one of the biggest issues that his department is grappling with in some of Queensland's hospitals . I hope the Government will make a decision to solve the car parking problem by Christmas.

My final speech for the week was on the Caloundra South development and I asked the Government to make the papers relating to the decision available for public scrutiny. I believe there are a lot of unanswered questions in relation to this development and if this Government and the previous Government have nothing to hide they will not mind releasing all the paperwork on how and why the development was approved.

*All the best  
Wendy!*

I participated in a lengthy Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct teleconference on the Friday.

This was followed by a staff lunch to say farewell Wendy. Many of you may not know that last year Wendy moved to Brisbane and has been commuting to Nambour. She has now taken long service leave and while she is on leave we have a new staff member, Robbie Murray. If you are passing the office, pop in and say hello to Robbie.

After telling Robbie how quiet the office has been of late, we managed to put on a very busy week to welcome her to the office. The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee has been full on as has the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

I popped out to Bli Bli to attend the Bli Bli Hall Association meeting on the Monday evening and the Bli Bli State School on the Tuesday morning. I also visited the Sunshine Coast University and had a chat with Professor Hill.

It was like taking a step back in time when Jenny and I visited the Big Pineapple for the relaunch of the Pineapple's function rooms. I wish the new owners all the best with their plans for the pineapple. It is not only great to see the plans for the future but it is also heartening to see that some of the old attractions will continue, especially the parfaits and the train ride.

It was off to Cooroy on Friday for meetings with Cr Tony Wellington and to attend the Cooroy CWA AGM before coming into the office for more Parliamentary Teleconferences.

Robbie and Vicki are working on a Good News for Nicklin Community page for the web site, to let people know what is happening in the community and to plug community events and organisations. If there is something you think should be covered, give Robbie or Vicki a call.

Hope to get the newsletter out on a monthly basis from now on.

Kind regards, Peter

Regards  
*Peter*