



Wellington's Way August 2012

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

We have some wonderful volunteers in our community and I was recently honoured to be able to present Silver Certificate of service to Mr Paul Everett, in recognition of his 25 years of service as a justice of the Peace for Queensland.

Paul is one of a handful of Justices of the Peace who volunteer at the Nambour Court House, so it was great to have



Nambour Magistrates Court Registrar, Andrew Walker, join with me to thank Paul for his service to the people of Queensland.

Magistrates Court Registrar, Andrew Walker, Peter, Paul Everett and Robin Hansen

I also presented a community service award to Robin Hansen for her services to the community as a Justice of the Peace. Robin, having started as a Justice of the Peace in NSW, is not yet eligible for a certificate from the Attorney General, but is to be commended for her tireless work with our local JPs and community in general.

If you know of anyone you believe should be recognised for their services to the Community, send me some details and I will see what I can do to make sure their efforts are acknowledged.

I recently sat down with Bli Bli student, Jacob Turner, to discuss his plans as the Nicklin representative on the YMCA Youth Parliament.

**Where in the world is
Peter Wellington?**

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Youth Parliament

Jacob and five other Youth Members have put together a Sentencing and Administration of Justice Youth Bill, which will be debated during the September sitting of the YMCA Youth Parliament and has promised to report back to me on the outcome of the Bill.

I had a catch up meeting with the District Manager of the Nambour Hospital to discuss the progress of solving the parking woes at the hospital. It appears that some progress is being made, be it ever so slowly.

Jenny and I attended our third annual STEMM Christmas in July Fundraiser. STEMM (Supporting Teenagers with Education, Mothering and Mentoring) is a first for Queensland, if not Australia and is based at our very own Burnside State High School.



STEMM's Tennille Card, Peter and Samantha Taylor

The program is designed to empower pregnant girls and young mums through support and education.

The STEMM program is a proven success story for all the young mums who have graduated. If we had more programs like this in Australia, I believe we would have stronger communities.

Back to Parliament

Tuesday July 31 was a fiery day in Parliament. I spoke on the Environmental Protection (**Greentape Reduction**) & Other Legislation Amendment Bill. One thing that we as a Parliament needs to do is cut red tape. During my speech I spoke on the plight of Bli Bli residents whose homes backed onto the Maroochy River. These people are dealing with three Government departments as well as our local Council, and they are being passed from pillar to post in their efforts to stop their homes from being washed into the river.

I spoke on the Motion for Queensland to support the proposed trial of the National Disability Insurance scheme. I have a great deal to do with a number of disability groups in our community and I believe there are times when instead of putting things in the too hard basket, we just need to find a way to make things happen. I suggested the money from the sale of land in the Mary Valley could be put toward this scheme.

Opening Nambour Hospital

I also spoke on the lack of time available for consultation in relation to the Penalties and Sentences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This Bill was introduced on July 11 and submissions in relation to the Bill closed July 17. Although I voted in favour of the Bill, I do not feel this was enough time for people to really consider the intent of the Bill and have a say.

It is once again an offence for Members of Parliament to lie to Parliament. This law should never have changed in the first place and we should expect that all Members of Parliament tell the truth. I hope that the intent of this amendment will also flow through to political candidates in elections. It just amazes me that sometimes we can be so righteous in the way we require everyone to perform in parliament, yet in the lead-up to an election campaign—the one we have just been involved in—some quite outrageous, appalling allegations and comments were made that clearly should not be allowed.



Pic Kevin Hegarty CEO, Paul Thomas Hospital Board, Peter and Health Minister Lawrence Springborg

I recently attended the opening of the new Nambour General Hospital Cardiac Catheter Laboratory and Vascular and Endoscopic Procedural Suites.

The suites were opened by the Minister for Health Lawrence Springborg on his third visit to Nambour since becoming Minister.

The Belli Rural Fire Brigade Annual General meeting set the scene for what we should expect over the upcoming fire season. Months of wet weather followed by a dry spell means plenty of dry undergrowth. I am predicting a long season ahead for volunteer rural brigades.

I attended the inaugural meeting of the Belli Community progress Association and as a result raised a number of issues relating to the Kenilworth Eumundi Road, with the local Department of Main Roads. I, along with many locals, would like to see the speed limit on this road set at 80kph.

*Low Cost
Housing for
our most needy*

I again met with residents from the Woombye Gardens Caravan Park and agreed to take their concerns to the floor of Parliament.

As Patron for the Sunshine Coast Genealogy Society, it was great to be able to join President Lyn and her Committee for their annual General Meeting on Saturday August 11.

That evening Jenny and I joined the members of the Nambour Bowls Club to celebrate the 80th Birthday of the Club. Congratulations to the Committee on a wonderful evening.

Tuesday August 14 I attended the Nambour Local Ambulance Committee AGM and after that I joined Members of the Palmwoods Woombye Lions Club for their changeover dinner.

I officially opened the Selangor Rehabilitation Unit on Thursday August 16. it is great to see this new service open in Nambour.

On Saturday August 18, I joined with the Sunshine Coast Vietnam Veterans for a commemorative service at the Cotton Tree Cenotaph.

August 20.

John Graham has served as a Justice of the Peace in the State of Queensland for over 50 years and continues to volunteer his time at the Nambour Court House and the Nambour Library. It was a pleasure to be able to thank John and his wife Alma at a small morning tea in recognition of his 50 years of Service. A big thank you to John and also to Alma, as they say, behind every good man there is a good woman.



Pictured Peter and John Graham

That evening I attended the annual general meeting for Helping Children Smile and once again I was honoured to be nominated as Patron of this very worthy organisation.

*Thank you
John
and
Alma*

*Back to
Parliament
August 21, 22
and 23*

In Parliament I spoke on the plight of the people in our Woombye Gardens Caravan Park and tabled letters from residents detailing their thoughts and fears. The government knows that once the caravan park is sold, there is no certainty that future rent will not increase, for people who want to remain on this site in Woombye,

I met with representatives of our Fire Service and Ambulance Service when they marched on Parliament. Many of our Fire officers and Ambos are worried about job security and reduced working conditions. I tabled one of their brochures in Parliament which calls upon the community to stand side by side with them, so that they can continue to provide 24/7 protection to the community. It is up to all of us to stand up for Ambulance Officers and Firefighters to ensure that Queenslanders get the Ambulance and Fire services they deserve.

During one of my speeches I took the opportunity to publicly thank some bighearted Sunshine Coast people, including Bill Hoffman, John Stokes and Ashley Robinson, who swam around Old Woman Island to raise thousands of dollars for our special school. I used this opportunity to again urge our Premier to reconsider his refusal to join the National Disability Insurance Scheme. I believe that as elected members of parliament we have a duty to care for those who for whatever reason cannot look after themselves. I believe it is disgraceful that the government is happy to pander to the big end of town but less than five months after the election it has stopped listening to many Queenslanders calling out for help.

I again raised the concerns of residents affected by the Northern Pipeline, in the hope that the Attorney General may be able to speed up the court process so that the problems can be resolved by the end of the year.

It was back to the office on August 24, with a Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Teleconference to start the morning.

I opened a Diabetes Australia Expo at the Nambour Civic Centre on the Saturday, which was followed by the Nambour Meals on Wheels AGM, where I was again elected to the position of Patron.

*Helping
Children
Smile*

August 28, I attended the Nambour State High School Beacon Charter Signing. The Charter Signing is the main community activity of the Nambour State High Schools Beacon program. Students were invited to sign the pledge as evidence of their valued commitment - past present and future to their positive pathways.

That evening I was guest speaker at the Nambour Rotary meeting.

I finished the month of August with another busy day which started with the presentation of a community service certifi-



Picture: Neil Boulton Catherine Rodger & Peter

-cate to the volunteers at Helping Children Smile. This organisation conducts an annual mission to the Philippines, sending a team of qualified plastic surgeons, anaesthetists, registered nurses and enrolled nurses to work on children born with Cleft lips and cleft palates.

I am proud to be Patron of Helping Children Smile, and it was pleasure to be able to thank the many volunteers who work in Nambour's Howard Street OP-Shop, which helps raise funds to cover the cost of the operations. To date this wonderful organisation has helped almost 1,000 children and volunteers are currently working on the next mission to Manilla, which is set to take place in February / March 2013.

This was followed by a guest speaking role at Sunshine 60s and Better and I finished the day with appointments in the office.

If you would like more information on any of the issues I have spoke on, just give the office a call. Vicki and Robbie will be happy to help where they can.

Peter

Regards
Peter