Welcome to the November edition of the Heathcote Herald. In my last newsletter I highlighted the ways the NSW Government is helping ease the cost of living for people of NSW. We continue to focus on relieving financial pressures, recently introducing a new “Cost of Living One Stop Shop” at Service NSW. This service enables households to discover what savings they may qualify for.

I encourage you to make a booking at Miranda Service NSW to access a free one hour appointment with one of the Cost of Living specialists. They will provide information, guidance and easy access to the more than 40 savings and rebates. Some of the initiatives include:

- CTP Refunds
- Apprentice Vehicle Rego Rebate
- Toll Relief Scheme
- Energy rebates
- Active Kids $100 Rebate

To Book Your Appointment

Go to www-service-nsw-gov-au/transaction/cost-living to find out what savings you may be eligible to apply for.

Stop Woronora Bridge Morning Gridlock

In the 2017/18 NSW Budget $1,000,000 was allocated for design of a new pedestrian bridge over the New Illawarra Road Menai. I received many requests from residents concerned at the viability of proposal. I intervened to have the project postponed and worked with RMS to direct funding towards a scoping study to alleviate the congestion on the Woronora Bridge – a project I’ve been pursuing since acquiring Menai in 2015.

I am pleased to advise the scoping study has been completed with a positive outcome and I’m now working hard to secure funds to move forward with a solution. I believe travel times can be significantly reduced.

If traffic congestion on the Woronora Bridge has been issue for you, please leave a comment on my website to support my advocacy for funding.
NSW Economy Receives Triple-A Rating

Ratings agency Standard & Poor’s has given the NSW Government’s strong financial management of the economy the seal of approval after re-affirming the State’s Triple-A credit rating.

The S&P report notes “NSW’s wealthy economy, excellent financial management and exceptional liquidity” which puts the Government in the box seat to deliver its record breaking investment in new infrastructure projects.

This endorsement of the state’s excellent financial position demonstrates the Government’s determination to rebuild the state following years of neglect under Labor.

Keeping the Triple-A rating is a credit to the hard work the Liberal & Nationals Government has done to get our great state back in shape and firing once more, providing jobs and financial security for the people of NSW.

Due to a strong NSW Budget we can continue to make record investments in hospitals, schools, roads and rail across NSW.

Local Youth To Engage In Community Project

The Minister responsible for Youth Ray Williams joined me to announce $50,000 for Engadine District Youth Services (EDYS) to run their TV and App project in 2019.

“Youth Opportunities” empowers young people to make new social connections, undertake new activities and give back to the community. It aims to equip young people with skills to achieve their future professional goals, including event management, marketing and public speaking.

NSW currently has the lowest youth unemployment rate of any state. The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is committed to ensuring everyone benefits from a booming economy - including our youth.

Since the program was launched in 2012, Youth Opportunities has provided $10.5 million in funding to 212 projects across NSW.

For more information about Youth Opportunities, visit: www.youth.nsw.gov.au/youth-opportunities/

NSW Government Local Sport Grants

I am pleased to advise community groups in Heathcote were successful in obtaining funds for local projects through the NSW Government’s 2017 Local Sport Grant Program.

The program provides grants of up to $20,000 towards projects to assist with assembling the community together and ensuring ongoing involvement in sport.

I congratulate all organisations that were successful in their application. The successful projects in the Heathcote Electorate are:

- Bundena Maianbar Football Club $3,750
- North Sutherland Rockets Soccer Club $2,000
- Garie Boardriders $2,000
- Loftus Yarrrawarra Rovers Football Club $6,000
- Scarborough Wombarra Bowling Club $1,330
- St John Bosco Youth Centre Netball Club $2,000
- Southern Power AFC $5,000
- Sutherland District Basketball Association $18,700
- Sydney Emeralds Synchronised Swimming Club (Engadine) $2,000
- Era Surf Life Saving Club $6,364

The 2018 Local Sport Grant applications are currently in the assessment stage and I look forward to announcing the successful recipients in the near future.
I was pleased to deliver $30,000 to local Surf Life Saving Clubs to assist them in their vital community work.

- $15,000 for Helensburgh-Stanwell, Garie and Coalcliff Surf Life Saving Clubs (SLSC) to assist in the purchase of patrol uniforms for local volunteers.

- $15,000 for Garie, Burning Palms and Era for the purchase of satellite phones and new digital radio gear which will help ease the communication issues in the Royal National Park.

Our Surf Life Saving volunteers protect our beaches, it is vital we acknowledge their contributions and support them carrying out this critical work.

Premier Visits the Heathcote Electorate

Principals and P&C Presidents of Heathcote schools enjoyed morning tea with Premier Berejiklian recently, providing them an opportunity to engage directly with her. I thank the Principals and P&C Presidents for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend.

The Premier also visited the Heathcote Electorate for a Community Cabinet held at Club Menai. The Community Cabinet provided community groups in the Sutherland Shire with the opportunity to engage directly with the Premier and NSW Ministers to discuss the issues that matter.

While attending the Community Cabinet the Premier visited KU Heathcote Preschool along with Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Early Childhood Education to announce the centre’s successful grant under the Quality Learning Environments program.

Strong fiscal management of the state’s finances ensures more investment in programs for families. The ‘Start Strong’ program means all three year olds will now have access to two days a week of subsidised preschool education saving them an average of $825 a year.

Delivering Savings On Caravan Registration

Caravan owners are receiving a 40 per cent discount when registering caravans and camper trailers since 1 November.

This means that eligible caravan owners will now save up to $471 off their rego. The change will apply to towed caravans and purpose-built camper trailers weighing up to 4.5 tonnes.

- 120,000 caravanners will benefit from the reduction
- Savings range from $46 to $471
- The 40 per cent reduction applies to privately-owned towed caravans and purpose-built camper trailers, weighing 255kg to 4.5 tonne
- A pensioner that elects to have free registration for a vehicle other than their caravan or camper trailer, will still be eligible for the 40 per cent discount

Towed caravans and purpose-built camper trailers that are privately registered will be eligible for the 40 per cent reduction in motor vehicle tax. Customers will still be required to pay the standard NSW registration fees including the annual fee of $65.
Heathcote High School attends Leadership Program at Parliament House

Deb Sharp receives Heathcote Parliamentary Volunteer Award

Woronora RSL Sub Branch grant

Bangor Public School Outdoor Classroom

Heathcote Public School Leaders with Minister for Education Rob Stokes at Parliament House

Local Seniors of the Year

Deb Sharp receives Heathcote Parliamentary Volunteer Award