



# Jonathan O'Dea MP

## Member for Davidson



### Community Newsletter

MAY 2020

## Health Workers

Thanks to all the doctors, nurses and other essential workers for their valuable contributions. Working on the frontline in a health emergency is demanding and difficult. The Northern Sydney Local Health District has been a great support to our community, including with assistance during power blackouts and the COVID-19 crisis.



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### Dear Residents,

2020 is proving to be a very challenging year. Added to a catastrophic bushfire season and the ravages of drought, NSW has been in the grip of a major health emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for everyone as we navigate social and economic disruption.

The community has rallied to help vulnerable people during the health crisis, reflecting the essential goodness of humanity. Please continue to respect the rules and medical advice to keep everyone safe. The NSW and Federal governments have responded strongly. There are measures to assist individuals and businesses.

The health system (including mental health) has been bolstered and there are numerous credible government information sources including: [www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19) and [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au)

I have enclosed a flyer with health information and government support details. The Ku-ring-gai, Northern Beaches and Willoughby Council websites have local community information.

The NSW Government has high testing capacity and now wants anyone with even mild symptoms to get tested. Downloading the COVIDSafe phone app means people exposed to COVID-19 can be quickly traced and contacted. I have it active on my phone.

While it is hard for everyone, Governments are receiving and acting on expert medical advice. Results indicate the strategies are working.

Yours sincerely,



## Sustainable Schools

Four local schools have received NSW Government Sustainable Schools Grants. Belrose Primary, Davidson High, St Ives High and Lindfield Learning Village all received grants. Plans include recycling projects, new gardens, bush tucker plants and bamboo bee hotels.



## Playground Upgrade

Ku-ring-gai Council has been successful in the NSW Government's Everyone Can Play Grant Program. The \$50,000 grant is to upgrade the Abingdon Road Reserve Playground in Roseville.



## Community Forum

Geoff Stanwell and Penny Howell from Northside Community Radio hosted a Community Forum at the St Ives Club. Barra Brui Oval, traffic congestion, public transport, and local development were all hot topics that I addressed.



## Preschoolers Benefit

Two local services have received funding under the NSW Government Community Grants Program. Ganeinu Long Day Care & Preschool in St Ives has \$10,000 for workshops to assist children from different cultural backgrounds and Uniting Forest Preschool in Belrose has \$9,227 for a learning experience with a local Aboriginal community member.



Busy girls at Ganeinu Preschool

## Community Learning

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Community College has received a special NSW Government grant of \$40,000 to assist with running courses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## FREE TAFE NSW COURSES

### The 13 new short courses include:

- Leading Teams
- Digital Security
- Build your Digital Literacy with Coding
- Create a Brand Presentation
- Undertaking Projects and Managing Risk

For a full list of free courses and more information visit:

[tafensw.edu.au](https://www.tafensw.edu.au)



## Boosting Hospital Capacity

The NSW Government is fast-tracking a COVID-19 Recovery Ward for Royal North Shore Hospital. Due to be operational by late May, the ward has more than 40 beds. It will cater for patients recovering from COVID-19 who require ongoing care before they are cleared to go home. There is also extra intensive care unit capacity.



## Lucky 13 for Davidson

Thirteen projects in Davidson electorate have secured a combined total of \$300,000 in funding through the NSW Government's 2019 Community Building Partnership (CBP) program.

The funds will help upgrade local sports grounds, scout halls, after school care, churches, pre-schools, sports clubs and parks.

CBP 2020 applications opened on 4 May 2020. Visit [www.nsw.gov.au/cbp](http://www.nsw.gov.au/cbp).



Sydney North All Abilities Scout Group at their Lindfield Scout Hall.



## Lindfield Village Green



Work has started on transforming the Council car park at Tryon Road into a Village Green. Parking will move underground and include 105 additional commuter parking spots, funded by the NSW Government. Details at [kmc.nsw.gov.au](http://kmc.nsw.gov.au)

## Meals and Groceries



Elderly and other vulnerable residents are getting meals or grocery deliveries thanks to Ku-ring-gai Neighbourhood Centre (phone 9988 4966).



## Speaker Hearing Check

To highlight World Hearing Day, the Parliamentary Friends of Hearing Health and Deafness organised hearing screening at Parliament. The tests were conducted using smart phone technology. National Acoustics Laboratory staff were on hand to check headphone sound levels and provide tips to protect hearing. Should you get a test?



Photo Credit: Morris McLennan

## Keep Exercising

Maintaining physical and mental well-being is important. You can do outdoor exercise alone or with one other person. Golf and tennis can continue with social distancing and two players. You can also join online exercise classes.



Local Zoom yoga class [www.yogaforseniors.com.au](http://www.yogaforseniors.com.au)



# HOT SPOTS



## RFS Recruiting Early

As part of fundraising by the school for Northern Beaches Rural Fire Service (RFS), Masada College in St Ives had a fun visit from the Duffys Forest Brigade. RFS member Robyn Syme found a keen helper in Rebecca Jaches from the Early Learning Centre.

## RFS Heroes



During the recent fires the Killara, Belrose and Davidson RFS crews spent three months traversing NSW.

The Killara crew (pictured) travelled over 10,000 km and fought ferocious fires in Gaspers Mountain, the Southern Highlands, the Shoalhaven and on the Queensland border. The next project is to build their own fire station opposite Killara High School.



## Woman of the Year

Fiona Johnston is the Davidson electorate Local Women of the Year for 2020. She loves serving her community and joined the Rural Fire Service Davidson Brigade in 2003. Fiona volunteered for up to 60 hours per week during the recent bushfire season.



## Community Fire Unit

Winchester Avenue in Lindfield was the scene of a terrible bushfire 25 years ago, destroying eight homes and damaging others.

The area now has some first line defence thanks to the local Community Fire Unit and trailer in Winchester Avenue. NSW Fire & Rescue recently presented medals to 12 volunteers for good conduct and over 10 years continuous service to the trailer unit.



## Lions Youth of the Year

Mari Watkins, a Year 12 Roseville College student, was the local, regional and then district winner of the Lions Club Youth of the Year competition. The pandemic unfortunately halted the 2020 competition before the State and National finals.



Mari Watkins congratulated by Ann Perry from Lions.

## Roseville Station Upgrade

The concept design is being updated to retain the existing footbridge, as well as adding lifts for improved access. This option will be included in the Review of Environmental Factors put out for community consultation in June.



## Thrills and Spills



Expert mountain bike trail makers have almost finished constructing the new Bare Creek Bike Park at Belrose. The maze of trails and training areas will encourage skills in learners and test the stamina of experienced riders. Mountain bikers can soon enjoy the many thrilling bumps and jumps throughout the facility.



## Active Kitchens



The NSW Parliament has an important role to play in showing leadership and support for the community. With the closure of food services, our catering team sprang into action to help feed the needy at this tough time.

While the chambers sit quiet, Parliament's kitchens are busy – as our chefs, with support from OzHarvest, prepare up to 1,000 pre-packaged meals a day for vulnerable people in our community.





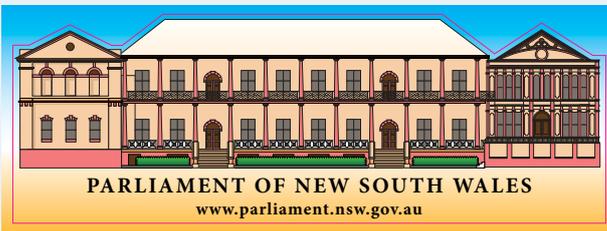
## Underpass Opens

The new 1.3 kilometre long, four-lane underpass along Warringah Road allows motorists to bypass the busy intersections of Forest Way, Hilmer Street and Wakehurst Parkway, providing safer and more efficient journeys. The opening involved appropriate social distancing.



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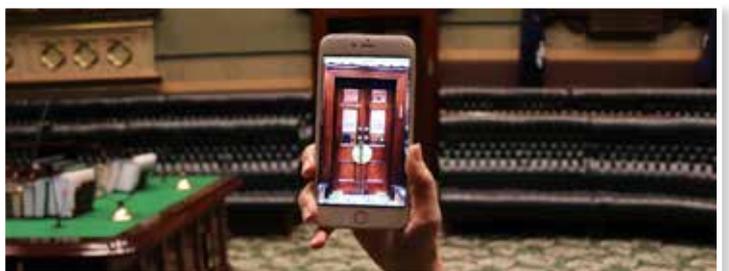
## Parliamentary Representation



Since first being elected in 2007, I have addressed the NSW Parliament on your behalf over 868 times. I continue to strongly represent our local electorate while now also fulfilling the important parliamentary role of Speaker.

## Why not a virtual Parliament?

"As Speaker, I don't want democracy halted by this virus. Although virtual sittings are not a preferred method of meeting, why shouldn't they be a backstop?" Read more at <https://bit.ly/3atFz6W>



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