



State Connection

By Nationals Member for Lismore Thomas George MP

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The Hon Thomas George MP 55 Carrington Street, Lismore 2480
www.thomasgeorge.com.au lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au 02 6621 3624

The new Government has been very busy in the first 12 weeks of government. Following is a few things already undertaken -

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Awards & Funding
Anzac Community Grants Program
- 2 2011 Fair Trading Money Stuff Challenge
2011 Young Writer's Competition
- 3 The Premier's NSW Export Awards
The Regional Achievement & Community Awards
Congratulations
- 4 Media Releases

- Scrapping Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and returning planning decisions to local communities;
- Establishing a Special Commission of Inquiry into the former Government's electricity assets sell-off;
- Restoring accountability to Government by ensuring the Parliament can never again be shut down early to avoid scrutiny as happened under the previous Government, and banning lobbyists' success fees;
- Undertaking an audit of speed cameras;
- Allowing People's Petitions to be debated in Parliament;
- Restoring local decision making in the health system by passing legislation to create Local Health Districts;
- Axing Labor's homebuyers tax;
- Passing legislation to strengthen police 'move on' powers for dealing with drunks;
- Appointing a chair and starting to establish a *Public Sector Commission*;
- Established *Infrastructure NSW* and *Destination NSW*

Anzac Community Grants Program

This new grants program will help young people and multicultural communities participate in the Anzac spirit and traditions and involve them in commemorative efforts.

The Program has been established to facilitate commemorative and educational initiatives at a local level by young people and to engage culturally diverse communities in Anzac remembrance.

The Anzac Community Grants Program will be made up of a youth component and multicultural component of \$50,000 each.

Projects that could be considered under the youth component include providing support to RSL's to visit and present to local schools, or supporting local schools undertake studies about the Anzac experience of former students.

2011 Fair Trading *Money Stuff* Challenge

This consumer education competition challenges young people to develop creative messages on consumer issues including scams, how to manage money and how to avoid debt traps.

Entries must be lodged electronically either on CD, DVD or USB and can include mobile phone applications, movies, websites, magazines, radio plays, short stories, brochures, posters and comics.

Money Stuff focuses on areas where young people are most at risk of making bad choices such as when buying a car, choosing a mobile phone, shopping online or renting accommodation.

Students must complete a competition entry form online at www.moneystuff.net.au. Entries close Friday 5 August.

The prize pool is split evenly between regional and metropolitan students, winners receive \$2,000 for their school and \$200 for themselves. Group entries (max of four per group), receives \$200 each.

Teachers play a key role in driving the success of *Money Stuff* and a \$1,000 prize will be awarded to a metropolitan and regional teacher who has demonstrated great commitment to helping their students understand key consumer issues.

2011 Young Writer's Competition

The Transcultural Mental Health Centre is calling for undiscovered creative writers aged between 12-24 years across NSW to enter. The theme for this year's Competition is 'Half Way Home'. Entrants are encouraged to write about one of two topics:

- Topic 1: Write about a young person living with and/or recovering from mental health issues either personally, in their family or with their friends, or
- Topic 2: Write about a young person from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse community and their journey to or within Australia and how this has shaped their view of the world they live in.

Entries must be emailed or uploaded to the TranSCRIBE website (www.dhi.gov.au/tmhc/transcribe) by 1 August 2011.

The Premier's NSW Export Awards

Award categories include -

- Agribusiness
- Services
- small to medium manufacturer
- minerals and energy
- emerging exporter

Entries close August 22. For more information go to www.aiex.com.au or call 8243 7400.

The Regional Achievement & Community Awards

Nominations in the following categories:

- The Crown Lands Crown Reserve Trust Award;
- The Crown Lands Community of the Year Award;
- The Office of Trade, Business and Industry Business Development Organisation Award;
- The Office of Trade, Business and Industry Events and Tourism Award;
- The Salvation Army Employment Plus Business and Employment Award;
- The Peabody Environment and Landcare Award;
- The Prime Super Regional and Rural Development Award; and
- The Essential Energy Regional Service Award.

Forms are at www.awardsaustralia.com or calling 1300 735445. Close on Friday 5 August 2011.

Congratulations

- to the 85 local Rural Fire Service volunteers who were recently presented with awards for long and diligent service.
- many local Police officers recently received medals and awards for service.
- Sophie Dansie, Terania Creek for being the first recipient of the Joanne Ethell Memorial Scholarship from the Northern Rivers Aero Club.
- Joanne Meehan, Murwillumbah on selection into the Queensland state Interstate Women's D Quad Rowing team
- Patricia McDonald, Lismore Heights on a NSW Seniors Week Achievement Award for her commitment to volunteering.
- Marlee Gittings, Tregear for being awarded The Big Brother Movement Cecchetti Ballet Scholarship to travel to the United Kingdom

Media Releases

Following is a list of media releases I have issued during the past month. Follow the link to the website to view in full.

Natural disaster payment to Richmond River County Council

Nominations open for NSW Carers Awards

Tourism to thrive in Northern Rivers thanks to Destination NSW

Improved reading help for regional & rural students

Road safety upgrades for North Lismore, Nimbin & Wyrallah areas

2001 winter flu campaign underway

Significant change needed for disability services

Injury prevention for Lismore sports clubs

NSW to get Small Business Commissioner

George promotes no interest loans and financial counselling

Thomas George welcomes get tough on graffiti vandals

The Hon Thomas George MP
Deputy Speaker
Member for Lismore
55 Carrington Street
(PO Box 52)
Lismore NSW 2480
Phone: 02 6621 3624
Fax: 02 6622 1403
E-mail: lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

THE NATIONALS
for Regional NSW