



Out and About

I had a great time at the Ferny Grove State School fete last month. While there I had the privilege of opening the event and presenting life membership awards to Ferny Grove State School P&C members Charyl Cowles, Phillip Forrest and Jennifer Baddeley. Jane McClintock was also awarded Life membership. These awards are a great way of publically acknowledging the quiet achievers in our school communities. Their contribution to our children's schooling is truly amazing and greatly valued.



Another highlight for me last month was assisting Samford State School's Acting Principal Keith Warwick for the day. This year was particularly interesting for me as it was the first time I have acted in the School Principal role since I was appointed Minister for Education and Training. I saw school life from a different perspective and gained a lot from the experience. I was very warmly received by students and their teachers and I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the school. Samford State School is a great school and I congratulate everyone on the great job they are doing.



Some of the other local events in the Samford Valley I attended in recent weeks, included:

- A very popular Go Card Info session presentation by officers from Translink. The Samford CWA hosted a morning tea for local residents.
- Addressing representatives of local businesses, community and sporting organisations at the Low Carbon Diet Street Café held in the Farmers Hall.
- Catching up with "Farmer Don" and "Farmer Brown" as part of the Trevena Glen Farm 25 year celebrations – a significant milestone indeed for a local small business and the tourism industry.

Safe Travel to School



I have been talking with our local school principals about the importance of student safety during peak school travel times. Transport Department, Queensland Police and Council officers are monitoring school sites in the Ferny Grove electorate to help make the roads safe for our students.

Transport Minister Rachel Nolan has urged all Queensland motorists to drive carefully around school areas. New figures released by the State Government show a small reduction in the number of infringement notices for drivers speeding in a school zone and we want to see this declining trend continue.

Great Response to Education Forums



It was wonderful to see so many Ferny Grove electorate residents and educators having their say on the future of the State's education system at two community consultation forums held at Ferny Grove State School.

The forums were held to address the proposed future of the Queensland's education system outlined in the *A Flying Start for Queensland Children Green Paper*.

Discussions were productive with many people voiced their opinions and offering feedback. One of the topics that generated most interest was the proposed move of Year 7 into secondary school. While people attending the forum supported the proposal, they highlighted the need to support younger students in a high school environment. Concerns were also raised about the capacity of Ferny Grove State High School to cater for the additional Year 7 student enrolments.

There were also calls for the retention of a play-based curriculum in Prep when the Australian curriculum is introduced. A suggestion was made to use long day care centres and doctors' surgeries to promote the early literacy message.

I would like to extend a big thank-you to everyone who was able to attend. The community forums are a valuable way of gathering meaningful feedback and I encourage as many people as possible to attend the remaining forums which are being held throughout the rest of Queensland up until the end of this month.

If you were unable to attend, or can't get to the remaining forums, the discussion paper is available online at the Flying Start website [www.qld.gov.au/educationforums]. There you can review the feedback and offer your own opinion. The consultations close at the end of June.

Energex Upgrade Work

Valley residents should have access to a more reliable electricity supply prior to this year's storm season.

Energex has commenced work on upgrading the electricity network for Wights Mountain. The new power-lines being installed along Oatlands Court will enable Energex to redirect electricity from one power-line to another whenever there is an interruption. This will allow power to be reinstated to more local residents and businesses in less time.

Thinking of replacing your hot water system?

The Queensland government is offering a \$600 rebate for eligible residents and a \$1,000 rebate for eligible pensioners and low income earners who install an approved Solar Hot Water system on or after the 13th of April 2010.

For more information visit the website [www.cleanenergy.qld.gov.au/solar_hot_water_rebate.cfm]
Or call the hotline on 13 GET SOLAR.

Daylight Saving Survey

I would like to thank everyone who gave me their feedback on daylight saving. All views expressed were recorded and collected in a state-wide survey which helped inform the Premier's decision.

Back to School

Samford Valley Steiner School is hosting its first school fair in six years. The new fair, named *festiValley*, will take place over the weekend of 27 and 28 August. All are welcome!

Ferny Grove State School is hosting an information evening on Tuesday the 22nd of June. Come along and tour the school and find out about key dates, enrolments and what to expect for your child. For more information call the school on 3550-5333.

Ferny Grove State High School held its inaugural Twilight Expo on Tuesday the 25th of May. The school was transformed into a carnival as roving street performers entertained wandering guests as they surveyed the student's activities from debating to cake decorating and everything in between.

Hankering for a taste of country life?

This year's Samford Show is on Saturday the 17th and Sunday the 18th of July. Discounted memberships are now available with children under five attending for free.

I hope to see you there!

