



Fiona Simpson MP

Member for Maroochydore

Standing up for the Sunshine Coast

March 2013

Call for tougher sentences for drunk and drugged drivers

I'm concerned about the high drink driving rates on the Sunshine Coast and have called on the Attorney General and Minister for Transport and Main Roads to review drink driving laws and ensure that tougher sentences are enforced.

One death on our roads is too many but it's appalling that the Sunshine Coast area had 28 road fatalities last year and more than half of these involved drunk or drugged drivers.

The police are doing a fantastic job in catching people but if the message isn't getting through to irresponsible drivers we have to question whether the penalties being imposed in recent court cases are a sufficient deterrent.

I believe that tougher penalties would send a message that this is a very serious issue.

Best wishes

Fiona

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Speaker of the Queensland Parliament

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Flood recovery assistance for sport and recreation groups

Sunshine Coast clubs affected by recent flooding events are eligible to apply for grants up to \$25,000 under the Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program to replace much needed equipment and repair clubhouses and grounds.

Application forms are available from Sport and Recreation Service Centres, at www.nprsr.qld.gov.au or by

calling 1300 656 191 for assistance. Applications will remain open until Friday 10 May 2013.

Mooloolaba Triathlon

I'm looking forward to welcoming thousands of competitors and spectators to the Sunshine Coast for the 21st Mooloolaba Triathlon Festival from 15th - 17th March.



Since the first Mooloolaba Triathlon in May 1993 the event has grown to become the second largest triathlon in Australia behind its counterpart Noosa. This year, Mooloolaba has again attracted world class athletes with many international teams using the Sunshine Coast as a training base for the upcoming season.

Across the 3-days of events, almost 9,000 competitors will have taken part and approximately 70,000 spectators will have enjoyed all the weekend has to offer.

[Read more...](#)

Coast to host our first IRONMAN 70.3 in September

The Sunshine Coast is building on its superb reputation as a world class sporting event destination with the announcement of the inaugural IRONMAN 70.3 to be held in Mooloolaba on 15 September 2013.



This is great news for tourism operators and local businesses who look to gain in excess of \$3 million each year for the next three years that the event is scheduled to run here.

[Read more...](#)

Sunshine Coast Airport meeting

I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak at a community meeting held at the Sunshine Coast Airport hosted by the North Shore Residents and Traders Associations and the Marcoola Progress Association in February.



Councillors Jason OPray and Stephen Robinson, Sunshine Coast Airport CEO at myself were questioned about the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion Project and other local issues.

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Pacific Paradise State School benefits from \$160,000 maintenance fund

I recently received great feedback from Pacific Paradise State School on how they have taken up the State Government's "Advancing Our Schools" initiative to manage their own maintenance work locally and clear a back-log of much-needed maintenance issues thanks to a \$160,000 fund.

When I was visiting the school I was able to hear first-hand about how they've been able to use their initiative and drive their dollars further by having the ability to choose local contractors. More than half the school was painted during the recent holidays and the maintenance program overall had a major boost.

Well done to local staff and parents.

Speaker's Inspirational Women's Award Recipients

Congratulations to award recipients Linley Erskine of disability support agency "A Key for Me" and Cerran Fawns of Maroochy Waterwatch.

Both these inspiring women were nominated by community members to represent their electorates at a breakfast held in Parliament House on International Women's Day.

State Members of Parliament were invited to seek nominations for women who had made a difference in their local community - whether in business, community work, the arts, the environment or some other area. This was a great opportunity for them to be publicly recognised and congratulated for their achievements.

Linley was chosen to represent the Maroochydoore electorate for her work in establishing "A Key For Me" which helps disabled adults find more suitable supported accommodation and services choices.

The organisation has grown over the last seven years and as a result of Linley's hard work and perseverance and she has helped many disabled individuals to establish independent lifestyles.

Cerran Fawns, CEO of Maroochy Waterwatch was chosen to represent the Nicklin electorate for her pioneering work in keeping the Maroochy River catchment and tributaries clean and protected from pollution.

Maroochy Waterwatch recently received a \$100,000 funding boost from the Queensland Government to help protect this valuable ecological and recreational resource for our community.



Alexandra Headland Community Association

Congratulations to the Alexandra Headland Community Association on the successful launch of their Community Garden project last month.

I was delighted to meet Community Garden Co-ordinator Pam Danson to learn about the Association's vision for the project and the financial support of local businesses. You can contact Pam Danson by email for further information on this project at communitygarden@alexandraheadland.qld.au.



