

WINTER 2020

# Wallsend News



A NEWSLETTER FROM SONIA HORNER MP ■ YOUR LOCAL STATE MEMBER FOR WALLSEND

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## THANK YOU

**It's been a tough 12 months, from bushfires, drought, flooding rains and of course COVID-19.**

I want to thank each and every essential worker and volunteer who has, and continues to, provide much-needed services and support to the community during this difficult health crisis, including emergency relief. Your support is helping keep our community safe.



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# COVID-19 Community Heroes

**Throughout this pandemic, some in our community have gone above and beyond to help those in need, or those that just needed a helping hand to get food and pay bills during long periods of isolation. Thank you to these community heroes for going above and beyond.**

## Suzie Ninevksi



The COVID-19 lockdown saw many new challenges for people and businesses across the Wallsend electorate, but in a sign of the generosity of the Wallsend community in trying times, local mum and businesswoman Suzie Ninevski offered free financial and career advice to people impacted by COVID-related shutdowns.

Suzie took many calls where both parents have lost their jobs, putting a lot of pressure on local households. In offering free advice to people in this situation, Suzie wanted to give back and support communities in any way possible.

She contacted my office and generously offered \$1000 worth of vouchers to be distributed to those in need as the lockdown progressed. As a recruitment specialist, Suzie was in a position to offer help to people facing a seriously depressed job market.

This was such a wonderful show of community spirit and I thank Suzie from the bottom of my heart on behalf of all those in the Wallsend Electorate.

## Newcastle Hunters



The Newcastle Hunters are a local sporting team who put together 50 grocery kits to support people who were

struggling during the COVID-19 lockdown. The Hunters represent people from the Malayalee group who originate in the Indian state of Kerala. With more than 500 active members, 80% of whom work in the health sector, they have successfully organised major sporting events, and quickly understood the impact that COVID-19 could have on the public.

Club representatives contacted my office and we joined forces to help distribute grocery kits to the community. The club also recently raised about \$5,000 for bushfire relief, which was donated to Red Cross Australia.

My thanks to Juby Jacob, who helped coordinate with my office, and to all the members of the Newcastle Hunters for demonstrating the community spirit of the Wallsend Electorate.

Sharing is caring, and the Newcastle Hunters deserve a huge thanks for the very kind gesture they have made.

## Joanna Bailey



In March, I put out the call for community volunteers to help some of our local residents who were in the high risk categories who needed assistance with things like groceries or paying bills. One of the dozens of people who answered that call was Joanna Bailey, a Maryland local.

Joanna is a mother of five children, works full time and studies at university. Joanna and her family live by the motto always looking out for other people when you can, not just yourself. She just wanted to help out where she could.

Joanna helped out one of Wallsend's elderly citizens, Dorothy. She did the shopping for Dorothy, collecting groceries, paying her bills and making sure she was okay throughout her period of isolation. Joanna and Dorothy formed a great friendship and I know Dorothy was very appreciative of Joanna's assistance.

Thank you Joanna for all your efforts to care for our community.

# Important COVID-19 Information

**Thank you for doing your part to slow the spread of COVID-19 within our community and beyond. We are saving lives.**

The COVID-19 situation has been hard on all of us, with impacts on every aspect of our lives from schooling, to seeing loved ones and especially economically, with big impacts on many businesses and their employees.

In response, there are a number of initiatives to support those affected. These resources can be found online at [www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19) or you can call Service NSW on 13 77 88 to find out more.

While it hasn't been easy, we must continue following the State and Federal

Government regulations. This is vital to stopping the spread of COVID-19. I would like to congratulate local businesses who have adapted and innovated their operations to stay open. Let's keep buying local to support them through this unprecedented crisis.

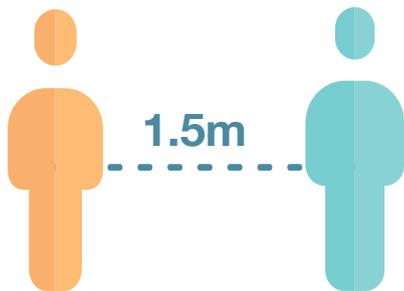
Thank you to teachers, students and parents for coping with the disruptions to schooling.

During these times of physical distancing, I encourage you to check in with friends and family over the phone or online. We must look after each

other, because only together can we beat this virus.

I am publishing daily updates on my social media pages about local case numbers and breaking news that occurs is shared immediately. I am also publishing a weekly e-newsletter to the community. If you would like to get the updates, just send me an email and I will add you to the list.

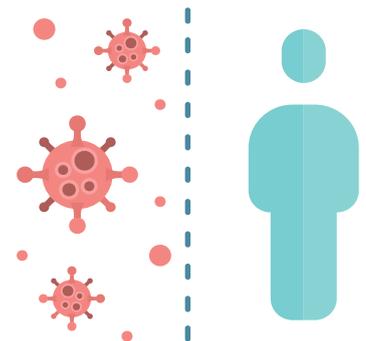
If at any stage you have a question or are unsure about what restrictions are in place, please contact my office and we will follow up your enquiry.



**Keep your distance**



**Wear a mask if you can't distance**



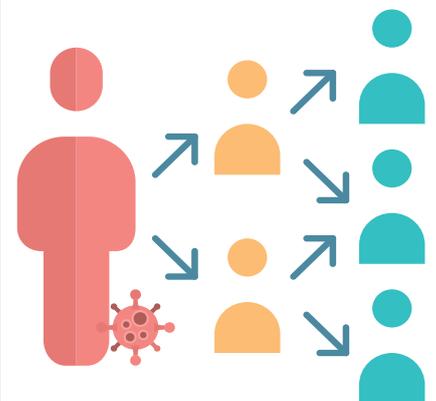
**Avoid risky places**



**Wash or disinfect your hands**



**Get tested if you have symptoms**



**Stop the spread!**

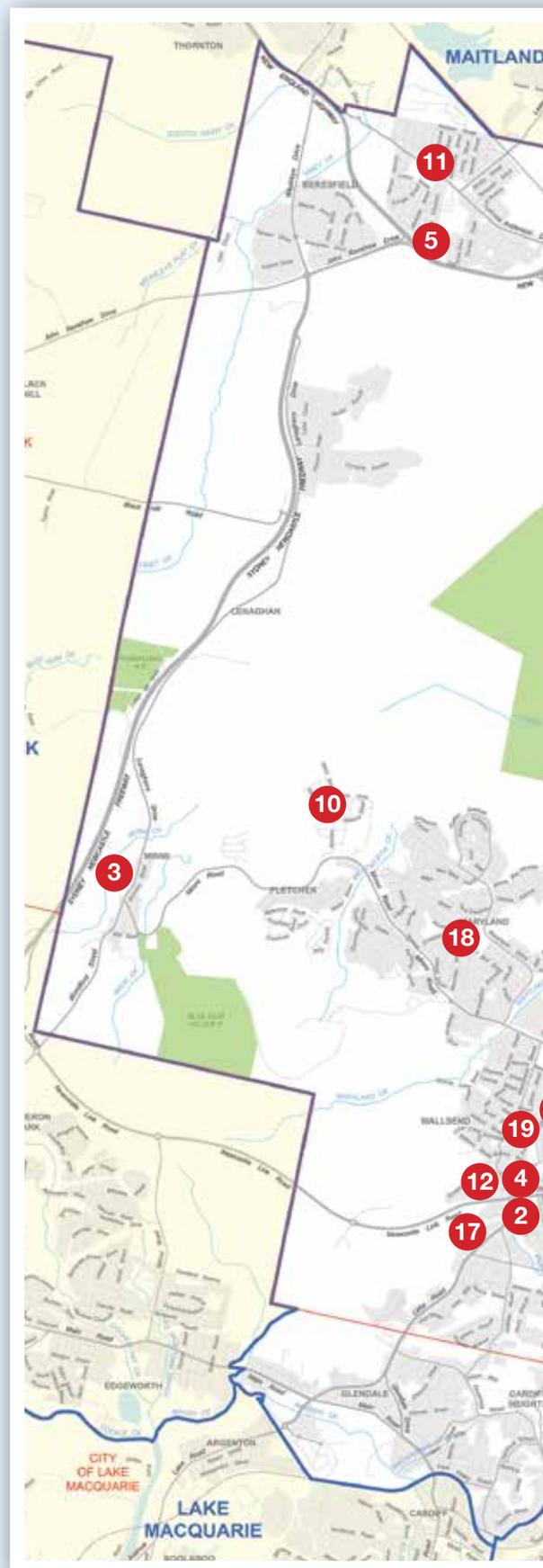
# Delivering For

**I have been able to work closely with our sporting and community groups across the Wallsend electorate to secure grants for much needed infrastructure and programs that aim to increase regular and ongoing participation in sport.**

These grants are the result of the 2019 Community Building Partnership and Local Sport Grants Programs.

If you are part of a community or sporting group and want to discuss funding opportunities, please contact my office.

1. **WATER BOARD BOWLING CLUB**  
Installation of additional bowling green sun protection shades **\$13,475**
2. **WALLSEND TOUCH ASSOCIATION**  
Provision of coaching skill and junior skill development programs **\$2,000**
3. **MINMI WANDERERS SOCCER CLUB**  
Subsidised registration, purchase of uniforms and equipment **\$5,000**
4. **WALLSEND FOOTBALL CLUB**  
Purchase of football equipment for female players **\$4,085**
5. **BERESFIELD UNITED SENIOR SOCCER CLUB**  
Replace flood lighting pole and upgrade to energy efficient LED lighting at Pasadena Oval **\$3,700**
6. **HUNTER UNITED DIVING ACADEMY**  
Provision of officiating and volunteer workshop, level 1 and level 2 coaching accreditation **\$2,000**
7. **WALLSEND ATHLETIC CLUB**  
Upgrade of the hammer cage at Federal Park **\$4,300**
8. **NEWCASTLE CITY ARCHERS**  
Purchase of new target butts **\$4,300**
9. **SHORTLAND WATERS GOLF CLUB**  
Promotion of 'Give Golf a Go' project and purchase of starter kits for new members **\$1,450**



# Our Community



10. MARYLAND BLUE GUM HILLS PROBUS CLUB  
Purchase of defibrillator unit **\$3,000**
11. GIRL GUIDES BERESFIELD-THORNTON  
Painting inside and outside of the Guide Hall **\$11,100**
12. BLUE GUM HILLS MEN'S SHED  
Concrete, decking and pergola with access pathways **\$21,100**
13. REFUGEES AND PARTNERS INC ZARA'S HOUSE  
Insulation for Women's Centre metal roof, shade sail and children's play area. Irrigation equipment and garden infrastructure for Refugee Women and Children's Fruit / Vegetable Community Garden **\$12,000**
14. ELERMORE VALE MEN'S SHED  
Electrical fit-out of new shed **\$20,060**
15. JESMOND COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL  
New sandpit and play area upgrade incorporate water play **\$12,500**
16. ELERMORE VALE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE  
Replacement and repair of soft fall surfaces **\$32,230**
17. HUNTER BRAIN INJURY RESPITE OPTIONS - I AM HERE  
New pathways for people with a disability **\$30,000**
18. MARYLAND CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE  
Repainting and new flooring **\$61,688**
19. MERINDAH CHILDREN'S CENTRE  
Refurbishment of internal flooring **\$25,000**
20. ORANA COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL  
Renovation of front of Preschool for access to community garden **\$30,000**
21. ST PHILIPS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
Extension of deck and renovation of outside play area **\$40,000**

# Newcastle Inner City Bypass Stage 5

**Transport for NSW has released a project update for the Newcastle Inner City Bypass Stage 5 between Jesmond and Rankin Park.**

Transport for NSW is continuing to refine the design in response to community feedback and have made a number of improvements to the northern and southern interchanges.

Work is continuing on the shared path bridge over Newcastle Road at Jesmond. Workers have finished all major utility and piling work and continue to build on both sides of Newcastle Road. The 33-metre main span of the bridge is due to be installed later this year, weather permitting. Installation of the bridge span will require a temporary closure of Newcastle Road (about one night) and local road detours.

The main road works are expected to go out to tender in early 2021 and early works to relocate services such as water and gas mains and electricity wires and poles should occur later this year, particularly around the southern end of the Bypass.

For more information or a copy of the update, contact my office.



Artist's impression of the refined northern interchange design looking south.



Aerial view of shared path bridge building site at Newcastle Road, Jesmond.

## Minister Refuses To Meet Over Flooding In Wallsend

**Twice this year, heavy periods of rain have seen the Hunter Water owned stormwater drains in the Wallsend CBD go within inches of spilling over and flooding the CBD. Homes upstream on Ironbark Creek were not so fortunate with a number of properties inundated.**

Since I was elected I have been trying to work with the City of Newcastle and Hunter Water to do the necessary work to help ease the flooding in the Wallsend CBD. The City of Newcastle have replaced the Tyrrell Street bridge and have started works to replace the Nelson and Boscawen Street bridges, as well as replace the culvert on Cowper Street.

But this alone won't stop flooding in the Wallsend CBD. It requires the widening of the stormwater assets in the CBD, which are owned by Hunter Water. Without this work being done, Wallsend will continue to flood.

Widening Ironbark Creek would provide a welcome boost to the Wallsend Electorate economy and will drive jobs, providing the economic stimulus to support the recovery out



of COVID-19 and cushion the impact of the recession on local workers and businesses.

It will also reassure residents and business owners in the Wallsend area that their investment in the local area will not be threatened the next time an East Coast Low causes large-scale flooding.

I have written to the Minister and asked to meet with her but she has refused to sit down and discuss this matter. I will keep fighting to get this vital infrastructure upgraded. Contact my office for more details on how you can help me get this done.

# Local Woman Of The Year - Amber Sauni

**Earlier this year, Amber Sauni was announced as the 2020 Wallsend Local Woman of the Year.**

Amber was nominated for the award based on the design and construction of the portable outdoor cooking and food preparation unit, 'The Movable Feast', which is designed to make good, healthy food preparation and meals more accessible and encourage community participation.

Amber is an Architecture PhD candidate at the University of Newcastle, a first-generation immigrant who has overcome challenging circumstances to become a tireless advocate for vulnerable people in society. Amber's innovative, community-minded work is exactly the kind of thing we should be encouraging.

The Movable Feast is a reminder that something a lot of us take for granted—safe and easy access to food—is difficult

for a lot of people.

Amber has overcome a lot of challenges in her life, and she is a kind, empathetic person who is committed to making our community more accessible, inclusive and stronger.

Congratulations Amber. I wish you all the best with your PhD candidature and future career. I look forward to seeing what comes next for you.



## Go Local First – Support Local Businesses

**2020 will be remembered as one of the toughest years yet and I am proud of the way the Wallsend electorate has pulled together to get through it. But we're not out of it yet. There is more to do and local small businesses especially have hard times ahead.**

Our small businesses are the go-to-people of our communities. They bring income to our towns and suburbs, provide local jobs, give our kids apprenticeships and work experience. They support local sporting teams, donate to local charities, work as volunteers.

Living through a pandemic makes it more important than ever to support local business. Our local accountants, tradies, shops and manufacturing businesses have always been there for us — now it's our turn to make sure they stay open and operate in to the future. By spending locally, you support the local economy and the local workforce.

Many of us started to buy more locally during the COVID-19 shutdown.

If we continue to do so, and more of us

do so, then we will keep our main streets busy, local economies strong and jobs going. Buying locally is good for small business and good for us.

Staying local a little longer will make a big difference. You might be surprised

by how much your local businesses have to offer.

To keep our communities thriving and help our economy recover, choose small business — because it's everyone's business.



## Community Recognition Statements

Every day in Parliament, I get to give a short Community Recognition Statement to congratulate or acknowledge the achievements of people or groups in our community.



If you know of anyone in the Wallsend electorate that deserves recognition for their work in the community, please feel free to contact my office so I can acknowledge them in Parliament.

## Congratulatory Messages

My Electorate Office can organise congratulatory messages for 50th, 60th, 65th and 70th Wedding Anniversaries and for 80th, 90th & 100th Birthdays from the Governor, Prime Minister, Premier, State and Federal MPs.

The Queen and Governor-General will also send special messages for 60th Wedding Anniversaries and 100th Birthdays.

Please note to ensure messages arrive in time for the special celebration, three (3) weeks advance notice is needed for the requests to be processed.

For more details, please phone my office on **4950 0955** or email [wallsend@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wallsend@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## ePetitions Now Accepted By Parliament

In an historic first, NSW residents are now able to petition the NSW Parliament online using ePetitions.

The new ePetitions platform allows ePetitions to be presented directly to the Parliament. NSW is also the only jurisdiction in the country where citizens have the chance to have their petition debated by parliamentarians.

The online platform is simple, user-friendly and built with safety and security in mind.



## JP Services Available

If you need any documents signed or certified, there are JPs in my office every day. Drop in if you need the service.



### WANT TO BECOME A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE?

By volunteering to become a JP, you will provide services to your community or place of employment.

To become a JP you will need to:

**Step 1:** Confirm your eligibility and register for JP Online.

**Step 2:** Complete the JP Knowledge Test on JP Online.

**Step 3:** Complete the JP appointment application on JP Online. This includes requesting a NSW Member of Parliament (MP) to consider nominating you.

**Step 4:** Take the Oaths of Office.

Visit the JP website: [www.jp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jp.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

## Sonia Hornery MP, Your State Member For Wallsend

**ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP** If I can help with any State Government matters please call my office on **4950 0955** or send an email to [wallsend@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wallsend@parliament.nsw.gov.au)



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