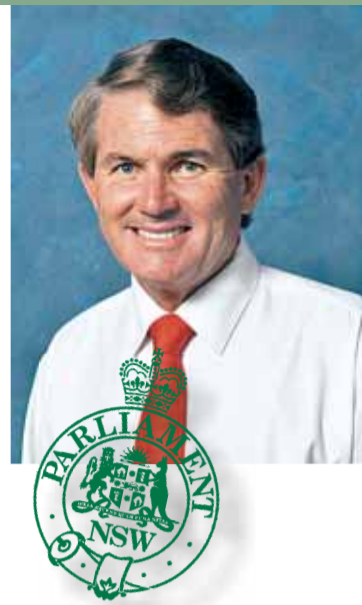


The COASTAL CONNECTION



Russell Siwicki rewarded for community service

It was my great pleasure recently to present well-known Brunswick Heads businessman Russell Siwicki with a prestigious NSW Government Community Award.

Russell has given the better part of 40 years service to organisations in Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads.

He was a Cub Scout leader for 12 years and as his children grew up he moved onto other service organisations including the Mullumbimby Apex Club and the Mullumbimby Rotary Club.

Russell is also an active member of the Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce and has helped raise thousands of dollars for the Red Cross, Salvation Army and Variety Club, organising their annual appeals.

People like Russell Siwicki are at the heart of communities like Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads and I congratulate him on his well-deserved NSW Government Community Service award.

I also recognise the tremendous support Russell has received from his wife Michelle over the years. A part of the Award is Michelle's for letting the community have so much of Russell's time.



Don Page, Russell Siwicki & Matthew Denehy

Thank you for your kind wishes

Many thanks to everyone who sent their thoughts and left messages for me when I underwent heart surgery last October.

I was overwhelmed by the support and the well wishes from friends, acquaintances, community groups and the public – including the many people who popped into the office, emailed and telephoned to ask how things were going.

2010 – 41 years for Warren Simmons

This year will see the owners of the Byron Bay Service Station, Warren and Denise Simmons, notch up 41 years in business in Byron Bay.

Byron has certainly changed since 1969 when Warren and Denise opened for business and the fact they continue to prosper is testament to their customer service and the employment opportunities they provide

Krait Memorial Service

I was honoured to be invited to the "Krait" Memorial Service in Sydney late last year.

The "Krait" was a converted Japanese fishing trawler used by brave Australian commandos in operation "Jaywick" where they blew up seven Japanese ships in Japanese occupied Singapore Harbour in 1943. My relative Captain Bob Page served on the "Krait". The story of how the bell from the "Krait" was reunited with the boat is a fantastic Aussie tale and was told after the service.

For more information on this go to www.followthekrait.com.au.



Information and services available from my office

As a State Member, my office is able to provide a range of services and detailed information on a variety of topics, including:

- NSW Seniors Card applications and NSW Seniors Card Discount Directories
- Justice of the Peace application forms
- Congratulatory messages for certain birthdays and wedding anniversaries
- How to correctly prepare a petition for tabling in State Parliament
- Details of State Government grants and funding opportunities
- Enrolling to vote and changing your address on the Electoral Roll
- Details of public holidays and daylight saving
- Supply of State Flags to approved community organisations
- State Representative Certificates for people who represent NSW in various competitive fields
- NSW Remembers Certificates for World War II Veterans
- Information and assistance with any State Government matter



Contact Don Page and his staff, Toni and Donna, by calling 6686 7522 or email: don.page@parliament.nsw.gov.au or dropping into Suite 1, 7 Moon St Ballina or writing to PO Box 1018 Ballina, NSW 2478

Milestone for Ballina RSL Sub-Branch

Congratulations to the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch which recently celebrated the 90th anniversary of the chartering of the Sub-Branch.

A formal gala dinner was held to celebrate the occasion – a wonderful opportunity for members and representatives from the community to catch up and celebrate the achievements of the Ballina RSL Sub-Branch.

Guest of Honour was Keith Payne, recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest decoration for gallantry.

The day after the dinner the Ballina RSL Sub Branch held a service of Commemoration and Dedication of the new Cenotaph by the Richmond River.

The Ballina RSL Sub-Branch continues to do exceptional work for returned service personnel and the community. It currently has 527 members.

Superannuation Clearing House

A free superannuation clearing house service for small business will be available through Medicare Australia from July 2010.

Key features of the superannuation-clearing house for participating small businesses include:

- The clearing house facility will be offered free of charge to small businesses with less than 20 employees;
- Eligible small businesses will register for service on-line and thereafter their superannuation contributions will be paid to a single location (the clearing house), which will forward them on to the nominated superannuation funds.
- Medicare Australia will develop an online system for registration and on-going payments with payments initially being made via electronic funds transfer (EFT). Detailed information on the processes for registration and utilisation of the service will be made available closer to the implementation date.
- Small businesses that choose to use the clearing house service will have their legal obligation to make superannuation contributions discharged when payment of the correct amount is made to the clearing house;

The superannuation-clearing house will be funded through the \$16.1-million allocation that was made available in the 2008-2009 Federal budget and will be reviewed at the end of the initial three-year period.

The service will commence from July 2010. Small businesses will be able to register for the service from May 2010.



AS YOUR NSW PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE

I can assist you with matters administered by NSW State Government Departments. The following are just some of the areas of responsibility of the NSW Government.

- Aboriginal Affairs • Ageing and Disability Services
- Agriculture • Arts • Community Services • Energy
- Fair Trading • Fisheries • Gaming and Racing
- Housing • Main Roads and Transport • National Parks
- Natural Resources • Planning • Police (Law and Order)
 - Public Hospitals • Regional Development
 - School Education and TAFE • Small Business
 - Sport and Recreation • State Forests • Tourism

