

# 100% FOR TWEED



Geoff  
Provest MP



Member for Tweed  
Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services

A community newsletter from your Tweed Member of the New South Wales Parliament

May 2014

## New Tweed dental clinic



**HEALTHY SMILES:** Griffith University dentistry students Aj Jalota, Julie Kim, Nancy Truong and Alice Chang are joined by NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner and Tweed Nationals MP Geoff Provest at the opening of the Tweed Hospital's brand new dental clinic.

**The Tweed Hospital now boasts a brand new dental clinic to serve Tweed public patients and train the dentists of tomorrow.**

The state-of-the-art, \$2.4 million facility is a collaborative effort between the NSW and Federal Liberal/Nationals Governments and Griffith University.

It includes ten chairs (treatment stations), with six being dedicated to treating Tweed patients and four for training new dentists.

Geoff Provest said he was proud of the

collaboration between the Hospital and the university sector. It is similar to the Clinical Education and Research Institute at the Tweed Hospital - a joint venture between the Hospital and universities which Mr Provest helped set up a decade ago.

"We know that medical professionals who train in the Tweed are much more likely to go on to practice in the Tweed, and that is exactly what my *100% for Tweed* agenda is all about," Mr Provest said.

NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner, who

opened the facility said dentistry was critical.

"Oral health is not a luxury; it is a priority. Its importance with regard to the good health of the rest of the human body cannot be understated," Mrs Skinner said.

Mr Provest also took Minister Skinner to visit the upgraded BreastScreen NSW screening facility on the ground floor of the Hospital.

For information about breast screening, call BreastScreen NSW on 13 20 50 or visit [www.bsnsn.org.au](http://www.bsnsn.org.au).

# Geoff PROVEST MP

## Tweed Police numbers on the rise

Tweed police numbers continue to increase, following a successful bid last year by the North Coast Nationals MPs and the NSW Police Association for 90 extra positions in northern NSW commands by late 2015.

Twenty of those extra positions have already been filled.

As Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services, Geoff Provest said increasing police numbers was very important, but this was just one part of the Government's strategy to boost community safety.

"With more cops on the beat, their jobs become less stressful and this has resulted in a significant reduction in the number officers on long-term leave for mental health reasons," Mr Provest said.

The MP said there had also been encouraging news about the effects of the Government's tough new drunken crime laws which Parliament passed at a special sitting earlier in the year.

The new laws stop judges and lawyers reducing sentences because the defendant was drunk at the time of the assault.

"Alcohol-related crime is markedly down in Sydney since the changes and I am confident



the measures are working here too." Mr Provest said.

"The Government has also beefed up anti-graffiti laws, now requiring young offenders to clean up their mess and even suspending their driving privileges."

"Here in the Tweed, the development of a brand new police station is back on track, after delays caused by a range of planning issues."

"The new Tweed Byron Police Command Centre will be built in the heart of Tweed Heads near the Tweed Bowls Club."

"It will provide our hard working police a better working environment and deliver an even more effective local Police Force."



## Support for Indigenous kids at Tweed River High

Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, Geoff Provest and people from the Gold Coast Titans Rugby League Club recently gathered at Tweed River High School to support schoolchildren participating in the *Titans 4 Tomorrow Indigenous Girls' Academy* program.

The initiative is credited with delivering enhanced attendance rates, improved retention and stronger learning outcomes of those involved.

Year 12 student Layla MacKenzie extolled the positive impact the program had made in her own life.

"It inspires us to work hard and set goals for the future," Layla said.

Geoff Provest said credit should also be given to Tweed River High School Principal Leisa Conroy and her staff.

"Leisa and her team are rightly proud of their students' achievements," he said.



Geoff Provest, Senator Nigel Scullion and Principal Leisa Conroy

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# 100% for Tweed

## Sonia Trichter is Tweed Woman of the Year

Friends of the Pound President Sonia Trichter has been declared "100% for Tweed Woman of the Year".

Mrs Trichter was recognised for her tireless work leading the not-for-profit organisation, the mission of which is to re-home homeless dogs and cats in the Tweed area and to improve conditions at the Tweed Shire Council Pound.

Geoff Provest said selecting a woman for the prestigious annual award was always one of his toughest jobs.

"There are so many wonderful women in the Tweed who do so much for our community, but Sonia really does stand out," Mr Provest said.

"Under her leadership Friends of the Pound is not just about saving kittens and puppies, but also about prevention with great initiatives like subsidised pet desexing for low income earners."

"She is also very persuasive, having talked me into dressing up as Father Christmas for a day last year for her 'take a photo of your pet with Santa' fundraising event."

Mrs Trichter was typically modest, saying she accepted the award on behalf of all 350 volunteer members.



Geoff Provest presents Friends of the Pound President Sonia Trichter her Tweed Local Woman of the Year award.

"I particularly want to thank our volunteer foster carers, without whom many more Tweed cats and dogs would not be alive today," Mrs Trichter said.

For more information or to adopt or foster a homeless pet, visit [riendsofthepound.com](http://riendsofthepound.com) or call the re-homing centre on (07) 5524 8590.

## Green grant for Tweed School

Geoff Provest recently attended assembly at Tweed Heads Public School to present a \$2,500 NSW Government grant for waste reduction and to establish a school recycling program.

"Congratulations! You are one of very few schools in NSW to win an Eco Schools grant in this round of funding," Mr Provest told the school children.

"You are going to learn about recycling, which is important, but you are also going to have fun."

Under the project, students will first focus on reducing, reusing and recycling paper, then they'll work to recycle cardboard, plastics, glass, aluminium, and other materials.

Finally, the school will collect and compost food scraps and other plant materials for school food gardens and worm farms.

The NSW Government's Eco Schools program provides grants to schools to involve their students and community in developing and implementing environmental management projects.





# Tweed Anzac Day 2014

