



# Scott Barrett MLC

Member of the Legislative Council

## Fortnightly Wrap: 20 February – 5 March 2023

Across the State, our candidates are working for The Nationals and their electorates, while the Nationals continue to deliver. In Lismore, I joined Alex Rubin for a couple of trips to Kyogle as well as Bundgeam. Both communities were recipients of more Stronger Country Communities Funds (SCCF), with Kyogle receiving \$1 million for a refurbishment of the main street. The community of Bundgeam will also be building new tennis courts thanks to \$150,000 from the State Government.

It's easy to see how much these grants mean to local communities and the flow-on effects they will have. Whether that is attracting new and return visitors to Kyogle, or fostering of the amazing community spirit in Bundgeam, we as Nationals should be proud of what we have delivered through the SCCF.



**Alex Rubin showed me around the main street of Kyogle.**

Alex and I made another trip to Kyogle later in the week to see the Pentarch timber mill, in particular, their new solid fuel gas turbine, made possible by a \$1.5 million grant from the Australian and NSW Government's co-funded Bushfire Industry Recovery Package. This will increase efficiencies for this mill, delivering security for the plant and therefore, jobs in the local area. Our timber industry is important to regional NSW.

Along with our candidate for Ballina, Josh Booyens, I visited Riding for the Disabled in Ballina to see the amazing work being done there. RDA is a fantastic organisation that last year [celebrated 50 years in NSW](#) and the volunteers Josh and I met and saw in action are carrying on that proud tradition.



**The volunteers of RDA are doing amazing things in Ballina. Josh Booyens and I went to see them.**

The ongoing Parliamentary Committee work took me back to Sydney again as well as several meetings and hearing I was able to join remotely from all parts of the State. Travelling home from there I was able to call in and join our Deputy Premier Paul Toole for his campaign launch in Bathurst. A huge roll up showed the momentum we are building towards the election under Paul's leadership and the enthusiasm among our Party members and supporters.

Orange hosted the [Banjo Paterson Bush Poetry Festival](#) which involved a number of events based around the locally born famous poet – including the annual poetry recital competition in which I received a highly commended. It was great to support this event in a practical way as such activities are part of the fabric that make regional NSW such a great place to live, work and raise a family.



I picked up a “Highly commended” at the Banjo Paterson Poetry Competition in Orange.

The campaign for Tanya Thompson in Myall Lakes continues to go from strength to strength with the official launch held in Taree. The delivery from the Nationals also continues – a sod turn for the Old Bar Ambulance Station, which is just one of the measures implemented in the Myall Lakes area, alongside redevelopments for the Manning Base and Forster Hospitals.

This level of delivery is no less in the Orange electorate and Tony Mileto and I have been out and about to see the impact this is having. A grant for a Day Care Centre in Forbes will allow renovations and expansions meaning more places for local kids whose parents can now find work in town. This is such an important part of both childhood development as well as workforce participation in our regional towns.

We also visited the Calarie Hall which will be building new toilet facilities thanks to Government support. I love any opportunity to visit our country halls as well as meeting the people behind them. The role they play in regional communities should never be understated – another worthy recipient of support from a government that understands regional NSW.

Another community event in Orange over the weekend with the Orange Running Festival. Thousands of people were in town for the weekend as evidence of how important these events are to our regional communities. And of course, with a young kid getting into his running, I couldn't just go up for a look – the entire family entered which means Dad got to push the pram.

The election is almost upon us now and together, we can get us across the line for the next term that this government deserves.



Campaign Launch for Tanya Thompson in Myall Lakes.

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**THE NATIONALS**  
for Regional NSW

