Fortnightly Wrap: October 17 – October 30

This week started with a very busy week in Parliament (aren't they all!).

It was actually a sad week for the Nationals when we learnt of the death of Mr Paul Davey, AM. Paul was the chief storyteller and historian for the National Party and had served many other Party roles throughout his life. Most importantly, Paul was the husband of Lindie and the father of three children, including Senator Perin Davey, the Deputy Leader of the Federal National Party. I send my condolences to Lindie, Perin and the rest of his family, and his many friends who are mourning his loss.



Proud to table my first report as a Committee Chair

A lot of what we do as a member of the Upper House is Committee and Inquiry work and I was proud to table my first report as Chair of a committee - An inquiry into homelessness, particularly relating to people over 55. We had three different hearings and heard from a range of amazing witnesses. It was a strong report contributed to by people from across the political spectrum, with a number of recommendations that will hopefully lead to some good policy.

Also in the House, I acknowledged the great work being done by teachers and encouraged others to follow this profession in regional NSW. This included mentioning my Mother, Sister and both my Wife's parents who are all teachers. I spoke of the importance of an early intervention approach to policy, particularly in dealing with our youth and acknowledged those taking part n the Over 60s Men's Cricket Championships, particularly the Central West side.

We also had a gathering of the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare – an important group acknowledging the importance of Landcare across regional NSW, in particular the work of the Regional Landcare Coordinators.

It was great to get a tour of the Big Red Kidney Bus that makes it possible for people on haemodialysis, to take some time away with family and friends. The bus travels to different locations allowing those that need this treatment to visit those areas without missing their treatment.



Celebrating Landcare with Western Region's Louise Turner.

After missing a couple of years thanks to COVID, it was great to be able to take the family out to the Australian National Field Days near Orange. As well as spending some time on the Nationals stand, I was able to have a look at some fantastic exhibits and catch up with friends old and new.

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Representing the Nationals at the ANFD along with Kate Hazleton, Tony Mileto and Paul Toole.

Taking advantage of a couple of days at home, I visited Orange High School I visited Orange High School (OHS) to see how they were going with their pilot of after school programs. OHS is one of eight schools taking part in this pilot, looking at ways to maximise the school day to better suit the needs of students and parents.

What I saw was very impressive. Free karate and study "boot camps", specifically art and biology. While it was great to see kids making the most of these programs, it is also helpful in supporting parents with the balance of work and caring responsibilities.



Relearning about the reproduction of fungi as part of a "Biology Bootcamp" at OHS.

The fortnight was rounded out with a visit to the Myall Lakes electorate. Along with Nationals candidate for next year's election Tanya Thompson, we visited Wingahm, Taree, Old Bar, Manning Point, Nabiac and Forster. So much investment has gone into this area under current Nationals Member Stephen Bromhead and it's important we continue this under Tanya after the election.







Out and about in Myall Lakes with candidate Tanya Thompson

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