

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Spring has sprung and it is great to finally be experiencing some sunshine after a cold and wet winter in Lake Macquarie.

It's officially been a full year since I became Mayor, and we've certainly been keeping busy with some exciting construction projects underway. As a long-time advocate for learn-to-swim pool infrastructure, it was a real pleasure to recently attend the turning of the sod at West Wallsend Swim Centre. The car park has already been improved, and now we're adding a new learn-to-swim pool with accessible facilities and upgraded amenities. In a place like Lake Macquarie, learning to swim isn't just a nice-to-have, it's essential. It's great to know more families in the West Wallsend area will soon have access to this second body of water which will be undercover, open all-year-round and well utilised by our community.

We have recently completed the upgrade to the Arcadia Vale jetty. It is back looking better than ever. The refurbishment has included replacement of the old timber decking with fibre reinforced grating, giving it a fresh lease of life. It provides easier access for boaties and a great place to walk, swim and enjoy the lake. This upgrade is all about making the foreshore more enjoyable for the whole community.

As part of our broader commitment to family friendly and accessible sporting facilities, it's wonderful to see the \$2 million upgrade of Macquarie Field at Speers Point progressing nicely. Structural

work on the new amenities block is nearing completion, with the internal fit-out to take place in the coming months. Once finished early next year, the upgraded facilities will boast seating for 200 people, including accessible seating, two sports changerooms, referee amenities, public restrooms, an accessible bathroom, a canteen, storage areas and improved accessible parking with connecting pathways. It's a fantastic win for the local community and a boost for sport in Lake Macquarie.

On a different note, in August, we celebrated the best in local business at the Lake Macquarie Business Excellence Awards. Congratulations to Matt Hall Racing for taking out Business of the Year, and to Northern NSW Football, who picked up three awards, including Outstanding Community Organisation, Excellence in Sustainability and Outstanding Business Leader, awarded to CEO Peter Haynes.

For me, the real winners are the small businesses who put themselves forward. With more than 100 nominations this year, it's clear we are seeing success across the board. Small businesses are the backbone of our community, contributing not just economically, but to the very fabric of who we are in Lake Macquarie.

I love this time of year in Lake Macquarie as we start heading outdoors a little more. I'm looking forward to enjoying everything our beautiful city has to offer, and I hope you are too.

**Lake Macquarie Mayor
Cr Adam Shultz**

LAKE MAC Awards 2026

NOMINATE AN UNSUNG HERO

Help us celebrate the incredible people in our community and acknowledge those who have made an outstanding contribution to our city.

The 2026 Lake Mac Awards recognise the quiet achievers who inspire positive change across the city through their everyday actions, with awards in the following categories:

- Ambassador
- Sports
- Arts and creativity
- Volunteering and community contribution
- Environmental
- Events
- Diversity and inclusion

Nominate a person, group or yourself when the awards open in October 2025.

Winners will be announced at a gala event on Friday 6 March 2026.

For more information visit

lakemac.com.au/lake-mac-awards

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE COUNCIL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES THAT MATTER TO YOU

Register for our online engagement hub, Shape Lake Mac.

You will receive a monthly email inviting you to share feedback on Council projects. Shape Lake Mac is simple to use and you can choose to provide feedback, at a time that suits you.

shape.lakemac.com.au/register



LAKE MAC CAROLS

Get ready for a festive extravaganza at the Lake Mac Carols 2025, with Lake Macquarie's most anticipated Christmas event! On Sunday 14 December, the vibrant heart of Speers Point Park will transform into a Christmas wonderland.

Experience live music performances, including sensational carols and family-friendly entertainment. And there'll be a jam-packed main stage program, including a special visit from Santa himself.

Bring your family and friends and celebrate the season with community spirit.

lakemac.com.au/lake-mac-carols



HOOK THE FUN AND REEL IN THE REWARDS

Lake Macquarie's biggest catch-and-release fishing competition is back for its 5th year on 22-23 November. With \$100,000 in tagged fish and loads more prizes up for grabs, it's the perfect chance to grab your friends or family, hit the water and enjoy a fun, family-friendly weekend event.

letsfishlakemac.com.au

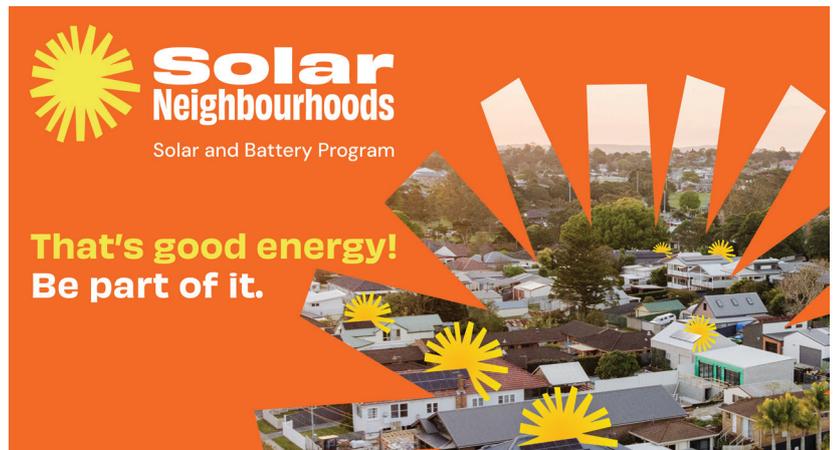
SOLAR AND BATTERIES MADE SIMPLE

Solar Neighbourhoods makes it easy to power your home with solar and batteries. Backed by your local Council and installed by trusted Hunter tradies, Solar Neighbourhoods offers affordable packages, exclusive savings and the reassurance that all the hard work is done for you.

Join your neighbours and power your home with the sun. Good for your wallet. Good for your home. Good for your neighbourhood.

Express your interest before 30 November.

solarneighbourhoods.com.au



LIFEGUARDS BACK OUT IN FORCE

Once again, lifeguards are scanning our shores, while our swim centres are open. Make the most of swim-safe activities at our pools or enjoy the sunshine by heading out to one of our four patrolled beaches, including Blacksmiths, Catherine Hill Bay, Caves and Redhead.

lakemac.com.au/patrolled-beaches

