



Young local heroes recognized

Member for Kogarah, Cherie Burton MP, today presented two students with the Premier's Award for Brave Conduct.

Ashleigh Flanagan and Joanna Stavrou from St George Christian School received the awards in recognition of their heroic and selfless acts at Lake Tabourie last November.

"Ashleigh and Joanna were on a three day 'learn to surf' camp last year," Ms Burton said.

"While they were on the beach, Ashleigh and Joanna saw a distressed girl, who they rushed to assist.

"The girl pointed to her brother, mum and grandfather, who were caught in a rip and were struggling.

"Ashleigh and Joanna grabbed a board

and swam out to the girl's family, providing assistance and reassurance to the fatigued trio.

"Ashleigh and Joanna then helped them to paddle parallel to the beach to escape the rip, with help arriving shortly after.

"The courage and bravery of Ashleigh and Joanna is an inspiration for everyone in our community."

Joanna is a member of the Wanda Surf club and a member of their junior R & R team. Both students had participated in the Surf Educate Australia program prior to going on the camp.

Joanna and Ashleigh were nominated for the Premier's Award for Brave Conduct by Cherie Burton following a recommendation from Jason Munro, a teacher at St George Christian School.

Separated mums paying more than ever before

The Child Support Agency's Director of Parent Support Services, Toni Brown today used the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, to release the latest figures on mothers paying child support and highlight support services for families post-separation.

Ms Brown said latest figures released by the Child Support Agency (CSA) show the number of women paying child support is at its highest ever, with over 100 000 (or over 13 per cent of all CSA paying parents) paying child support for their children.

"The increase in the number of mothers paying child support is a reflection of the general societal trend of more women in the workforce, with many receiving higher incomes," said Ms Brown.

"The figures also show men are more likely to be involved in hands-on parenting.

More than 50 000 dads currently registered with the CSA care for their children full-time.

"Research shows children whose parents work well together post-separation are more likely to cope better with life's challenges than those living in high conflict.

"There are many families who experience high levels of tension post-separation. Appropriate referrals, the right services and support at the right time are often the key to prevention and early intervention, especially in times of high stress or vulnerability.

"Child Support Agency staff are trained to identify and support at-risk families, referring them to appropriate crisis and support services and sharing information when necessary," said Ms. Brown.

Separated parents can find out more about support services in their area by visiting www.csa.gov.au or by calling 131 272.



Travel time pilot to be extended to the M4 and M7

Roads Minister, David Borger, today announced the NSW Government will extend roll out of travel time information to Sydney motorists.

- From this Saturday, travel time information provided on the F3 on weekdays will be extended to include weekends; and

- The RTA will work to provide real time information to M4 and M7 motorists by the end of this year.

Since November last year, the RTA has been conducting a trial on the F3 using 15 electronic message signs to display the estimated time to some exits ahead.

Feedback from users of the road has been positive – with motorists saying it is supported as a way of providing information to help people plan their journey.

"F3 motorists have taken the time to contact the Transport Management Centre and give positive feedback on the travel time trial," Mr Borger said.

"That's why I have taken the decision to extend the trial to weekends and have asked the RTA to roll travel time systems out to other busy motorways.

"This is a straight forward way that the Government is providing people with extra information to plan their



journeys.

"There are more than one million extra vehicles on the road now than a decade ago, and this will help people avoid sitting in traffic.

"This is about helping motorists choose what time they travel, and also make alternative plans in the event of a crash or other incident on the road."

Mr Borger said much of the infrastructure that could be used to roll the technology out to other locations is al-

ready in place.

"The M4 and M7 already have electronic message signs, and we will investigate if additional permanent or temporary signs are needed for roll out," Mr Borger said.

"This is all about providing information to motorists while they are on the road, to help plan their journey and make informed decisions about when to travel."

For more information on the F3 tri-

al visit www.rta.nsw.gov.au

Background notes – F3 Pilot

- Since November last year, the RTA has been conducting a trial on the F3 using 15 electronic message signs to display the estimated time to some exits ahead.

- Information provided to F3 motorists via electronic message signs pilot is updated every three minutes so motorists are kept informed as they travel.

- In the event of a crash, the electronic message signs alternate between providing incident information and projected travel times.

- If the incident is prolonged, the information shown on the electronic message signs reverts to incident information.

- The system works by detecting vehicles at points along the road and calculating the time taken to get from one point to the next.

- Multiple vehicles are detected and the average length of time to travel between points provides the estimated travel time.

- This and other technology will be considered for the M4 and M7.

- The RTA will work with the M7 private operator to roll out the travel time information.