

# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

## Flinders Small Business Report 2014



*learning the tools of the trade with artisan  
cheese-maker Tamara Newing - see page 10*



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# Improving Small Business Networks



*Addressing the Mornington Peninsula Business Breakfast*

## *Business Breakfast Brings Savvy Operators Together*

It was a pleasure to join business owners at the Rosebud Country Club on May 23 for the Mornington Peninsula Business Breakfast.

The breakfast brought nearly 100 likeminded business operators together to network and share ideas.

The Government's focus is on strengthening the overall business environment so that enterprise, large and small, can create more jobs in Australia.

To do this we have locked in a cut in the company tax rate by 1.5 per cent from 1 July 2015.

For up to 800,000 small and medium businesses this will provide a net boost to profitability and competitiveness.

We have also provided \$8 million over four years to transform the existing Office of the Australian Small Business Commissioner into a Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman with additional functions and powers.

The Government has provided \$2.8 million over four years to assist small businesses to access the Commonwealth procurement market. The Department of Finance will work with small businesses to develop procurement policy, guidance material, training and education programmes that make it easier for small businesses to do business with Government.

To help boost tourism, the Government will provide \$43.1 million over four years to implement a new tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure grants programme. The programme will provide funding to the States and Territories for infrastructure projects that encourage international and domestic tourism, which will help small business operators in the tourism space.

Thank you to the Rosebud Country Club for hosting the Mornington Peninsula Business Breakfast and to all the business operators who attended.



# Small Businesses Find Their Niche



exploring Haar's Nursery with with Matthew and Jordan Haar

## *Passion for Perennials Pays Off*

What started as a hobby growing Fuchsia baskets in the backyard has expanded to become a thriving business in Somerville.

A desire to be self-employed and a passion for growing plants lead proprietor Eric Haar to establish Haar's Nursery in 1981, to fill a gap in the market for indoor and outdoor flowering plants and foliage.

Haar's Nursery now grows everything from cottage perennials to herbs, vegetables and hanging baskets.

The nursery is a wholesaler to major companies such as Bunnings Warehouse, independent garden centres and landscape designers in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

Haar's Nursery is working on a number of initiatives to improve the business; including reviewing watering procedures and increasing the use of biological treatments on pests to reduce its impact on the environment.

## *Peninsula Explorer to Commence*

Tourists and visitors to the Mornington Peninsula will soon be able to take guided bus tours of the region thanks to a new business venture – Peninsula Explorer.

The Peninsula Explorer will show off the sights of the peninsula, while providing easy access between destinations. It is backed by several businesses, including Peninsula Hot Springs and Searoad Ferries.

The hop on/hop off bus service will allow visitors to travel easily between destinations as they receive a guided tour of the region.

For more information on Peninsula Explorer, contact [paul@peninsulaexplorer.com](mailto:paul@peninsulaexplorer.com)



# Sustainable Aquaculture Making its Mark on the Peninsula



out on the water with Peter Lillie from Bay Sea Farms

## *Farming from the Sea*

I was lucky enough to spend a morning out on the water with Peter Lillie from Bay Sea Farms, learning about cultivating mussels and oysters.

Peter is an expert in his field, producing some of the best mussels and oysters on the Mornington Peninsula.

He is already developing a name for himself in the industry, with many suppliers looking to him to source their produce.

Peter's 90 hectare aquaculture site is located in Port Phillip Bay, just off Mount Martha, and he sells to local restaurants as well as businesses in Melbourne.

It is terrific to see a local business making a living from a sustainable and environmentally-friendly venture.

## *Helpline Available for Small Businesses*

The Federal Government has set up a helpline to provide business owners with easy access to workplace relations advice.

The helpline can provide advice on a number of issues, including the finer details of the Fair Work Act and minimum employment conditions.

Business owners who call the Fair Work Ombudsman will now receive priority service to help them better understand the laws so they can grow their business.

Business operators can phone the helpline on 13 13 94 from 8am-5.30pm Monday-Friday.

Further information and a range of tools and resources are available on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website at [www.fairwork.gov.au/smallbusiness](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/smallbusiness)



# Green Technology an Asset to Small Business



*With Peter Wilkins at Tree Growers Advanced in Somerville*

## *Water Recycling Initiative Key to Growth*

Tree Growers Advanced has been part of the Somerville community since 1984.

Peter and Jane Wilkins established the company soon after completing diplomas in Horticultural Science at Burnley Horticultural College.

They identified a gap in the market for semi-advanced plants and set about growing and cultivating plants for major retailers, councils and businesses in Victoria and interstate.

TGA's water recycling system is cutting-edge. Plant beds are on sheeted plastic, covered with screenings to prevent excess water being absorbed into the ground and all runoff water is sent back to a central collection point where it is filtered, disinfected and re-used for irrigation.

TGA has refined this system, which is both environmentally-friendly and a great cost-saving measure for the business.

It is terrific to see local businesses like TGA adopting water-saving and other initiatives to run their business more efficiently while reducing their impact on the environment.

## *Working Through Internet Issues on Phillip Island*

I was disappointed to learn of the internet and telecommunication issues on Phillip Island following the collapse of OneSeniors, OneMobile, CONEC2 and iBoss International.

It has been a frustrating experience for customers associated with these providers.

I met with Steve Murphy from Waterfront Computers about the issue recently. He has been working around the clock to restore internet and phone connection for his customers.

The Government has been consulting with industry body the Communications Alliance, which is conducting an inquiry into the matter.



# Small Business Success Story



*With artisan cheese-maker Tamara Newing*

## *Loss at the Heart of Cheese Sensation*

After losing her 14-year-old son Reagan in a scuba diving accident, Tamara Newing found comfort in making cheese.

She feels closest to her son when making cheese and it has become a very important part of her life.

As the business developed, she turned the old boatshed storage area beneath her Mt Martha home into a fully-equipped cheese-making facility – and so Boatshed Cheese was formed.

What was originally a coping mechanism for Tamara, has now turned into a full-scale business, to the point where she is about to take on an apprentice cheese-maker.

Tamara is an inspiration. Her courage and strength in the face of adversity is outstanding and in tasting her cheese you really get a sense of the love and passion she puts into it.

Boatshed Cheese supplies handmade, artisan cheese to many restaurants throughout the Mornington Peninsula.

Tamara has won numerous awards for her cheese, including “Best Australian Goat Cheese” at the 2013 Dairy Industry Awards Australia for her Black Pearl cheese, 2013 “Best International Cheese” at the North Carolina State Fair for her Chelsea Blue cheese and 2014 “Champion Cheese” at the Royal Queensland Dairy Award for her Pure Goat Curd. Her Persian Fetta is a current finalist in the 2014 Delicious Magazine Taste Awards.

# Small Business Survey

*As your Federal Member, I am committed to ensuring a better deal for our local business community.*

*I receive a lot of feedback and suggestions through meetings, community functions and phone calls and your input does make a difference.*

*I am keen to keep in touch with the day-to-day issues affecting Flinders small businesses. I would be happy to visit your business and discuss issues of concern with you.*

*A consistent issue is the lack of adequate broadband coverage. The Coalition Government has a plan to deliver the NBN sooner and at far less cost.*

*Another issue is the impact of the Carbon Tax on electricity bills, which is making it more expensive than ever to run a small business.*

*Please indicate whether you share these or any other concerns by completing the short survey overleaf and returning it to my office.*

*Kind regards*



# Small Business Survey

Please number from 1-8 the biggest issues facing your business  
(1 being the most important & 8 being the least important)

- ☐ Cost of the Carbon Tax
- ☐ Inadequate access to high-speed broadband
- ☐ National Debt
- ☐ Cost and availability of finance
- ☐ Red tape impact on small business
- ☐ Strength of the Australian dollar
- ☐ Competitiveness of overseas markets
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

In your view, what is the most important action I could take to help small businesses *(please specify)*

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Would you like me to visit your small business?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive regular updates on what is happening in Flinders via email?

☐ Yes ☐ No

**OPTIONAL** *(Please tick your choice)*

Generally, would you say:

I *always* support the following party

☐ Liberal ☐ The Nationals ☐ Labor  
☐ Greens ☐ Palmer United ☐ Independent

OR I *usually* support the following party

☐ Liberal ☐ The Nationals ☐ Labor  
☐ Greens ☐ Palmer United ☐ Independent

**To enable me to keep in regular contact and promote your small business in the Flinders community, I encourage you to complete the details below:**

Owner/Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Simply fax back to the Hon Greg Hunt MP on (03) 5979 3034  
or post to PO Box 274, Hastings Vic. 3915**