



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Flinders Community News

*Working for
our Community*

Autumn 2015



500km walk for Abacus

*playing with two year old
Luke who has autism*

Please join me in supporting the cause to help Abacus Learning Centre find a new home.

In July this year, I will embark on a 500km walk around my electorate to increase awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder and raise money for Abacus Learning Centre.

Abacus Learning Centre is a not-for-profit organisation that works with children who have autism and provides much-needed therapy to help these children reach their goals.

Abacus needs new premises to continue to help

children across the Mornington Peninsula.

I have seen firsthand the enormous difference that Abacus' therapy and early intervention can make in a child's life and to the lives of their families, which is why I am committed to supporting this cause.

Any assistance you can provide will make a real difference to the lives of many children and their families.

To join me on my walk please phone my office on 5979 3188.

Victory in the campaign for better medical services on Phillip Island

I am delighted to announce that we have struck an agreement with the Victorian Government for improved health facilities on **Phillip Island**.

Victorian Health Minister Jill Hennessy has given her support to the community's proposal for a combined community health and medical facility at Cowes, using \$2.5m in Federal funding.

This is the essential first step in our campaign for the return of hospital services to Phillip Island.

The announcement is the result of working closely with the Phillip Island Health Action Group, Bass Coast Health, state member for Bass Brian Paynter and other community members over several months.

The next step will be to hold a roundtable meeting for all groups involved to finalise the details of the new plan.

What's Inside...

Dangerous Mount Martha intersection



▲ at Forest Drive Mount Martha - pg 3

Green Army team thrives on Mornington Peninsula



▲ at Rosebud West - pg 4

Plus

- Mount Martha Life Saving Club opens its doors - pg 2
- Flinders Ageing Well Forum - pg 3



Local Sporting Champions take the world by storm

I had the opportunity to meet 30 local athletes who have received Local Sporting Champions grants over the past two years during a special presentation.

I am pleased these athletes have received grants to help them reach their sporting potential.

These dedicated young athletes have my ongoing support as they chase their sporting dreams.

The Local Sporting Champions grants are awarded to local athletes who are competing in events across the country and internationally.

The \$500 grants contribute to the cost of travel, accommodation, equipment and uniforms to enable athletes to participate in a particular championship or event. To apply visit www.ausport.gov.au

▼ presenting a Local Sporting Champions grant to Alex Bulte



▲ with Mount Martha Life Saving Club members at the opening of the new clubhouse

Mount Martha Life Saving Club opens its doors

It was terrific to be at the official opening of the **Mount Martha Life Saving Club's** new building.

This project has been many years in the making and it is great to finally see it completed.

Mount Martha Life Saving Club does a tremendous job patrolling the beach, performing a high number of rescues every year.

This redevelopment will ensure our life savers have the best facilities to continue to perform beach patrols, rescues and provide first aid to our residents and visitors.

Community mourns loss of Mavis

It is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of one of our community's most loved and respected people.

Mavis Peet was a kind soul who devoted her life to helping others.

Only recently she presented the keys of brand new homes to three families thanks to Habitat for Humanity, of which she was an integral member.

She lived every one of her 81 years to the fullest and gave an inordinate amount to the community.

Mavis was helping others right up until the end and her memory will live on in the hearts of many on the Mornington Peninsula.



▲ happier times, with Mavis Peet at the **Flinders Seniors Awards**

Flinders Ageing Well Forum - Monday 4th May

It is my pleasure to be hosting the Flinders Ageing Well Forum.

Seniors from the electorate are invited to come along to the forum and learn more about ageing well.

Former MP and ultra-marathon runner Pat Farmer will regale the audience with tales of his Red Cross Pole to Pole run.

Exhibitors include Centrelink, Rosebud Police Senior Citizens Register, Telstra, Australian Hearing, Peninsula Skin Cancer Clinic, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Peninsula Health and many more.

The forum will take place on

Monday 4 May from 9.30am-12pm at the Rosebud RSL, Eastbourne Road in Rosebud.

Please RSVP to my office on 5979 3188.



Flinders Community Awards

In January, I was thrilled to present members of the Western Port Oberon Association with Flinders Community Awards.

The Association is in the process of cataloguing memorabilia that has been collected over the years in preparation for a maritime museum at **Hastings**.

I would particularly like to thank Max Bryant for his long-standing commitment to the Association and to improving tourism opportunities in Western Port.

▲ presentation to the *Western Port Oberon Association*



▲ with VicRoads officers at *Forest Drive in Mount Martha*

Campaign to fix dangerous Mount Martha intersection

I am calling on the State Government to improve safety at the notoriously dangerous intersection of Forest Drive and Nepean Highway in **Mount Martha**.

Having driven through the intersection on many occasions, I share the community's concerns.

I first wrote to VicRoads about this issue in August 2013 and have been pursuing it ever since.

Earlier this year, I met with the family of the 86 year old man who tragically died at the intersection in November.

I have also met with VicRoads officers at the site to discuss options for improving safety in the area.

More doctors for Koo Wee Rup and surrounding district

A number of communities in my electorate will find it easier to attract doctors following the Australian Government's announcement of a new District of Workforce Shortage system.

I have long supported these changes and have been working for many years to ensure communities have better access to doctors locally.

The changes will benefit the communities of **Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang, Blind Bight, Cannons Creek, Tooradin, Warneet, Botanic Ridge, Clyde, Cranbourne South, Junction Village and Pearcedale.**

This allows us to better identify the communities that genuinely need more doctors and to ensure local health services can attract skilled medical professionals to those areas.

Green Army team thrives



▲ with the Green Army team at Rosebud West

It was terrific to personally congratulate the first graduating Green Army team from the Mornington Peninsula at **Rosebud West.**

This team of young people has done fantastic work across seven sites on the peninsula and the feedback from these projects has been overwhelmingly positive, both from the community and the young people involved.

Many of the participants have already lined up jobs in the environmental sector. This is a great result and I look forward to many more young people taking an interest in environment protection and gaining valuable training in the field.

The Mornington Peninsula will receive a second Green Army team under Round 2 of the project, which will build on the good work that has already been done.

X-ray services return to Hastings

I was delighted to officially unveil Spectrum Imaging in **Hastings.**

The community has been without an X-ray service since early 2014 when the previous facility shutdown.

Spectrum Imaging provides a vital service for residents, allowing them to access X-ray facilities closer to home.



▲ at the recently opened X-ray service in Hastings

Phillip Island and Bass Coast

Revolutionary treatment for animals after oil spills

I would like to congratulate the Penguin Foundation on **Phillip Island** for their recent success in receiving a \$250,000 Google grant.

The grant will allow the foundation to complete its development of an 'Oil Spill Wand', which offers a revolutionary way of cleaning animals following an oil spill.

Having seen this technology demonstrated firsthand, I am excited about the potential it offers to improve the way we respond to oil spills.



▲ watching a demonstration of the oil spill wand at Phillip Island



presenting a commemorative sculpture to the Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club with Bass Coast Councillors Jordan Crugnale and Phil Wright and state member for Bass Brian Paynter

San Remo Channel Challenge

It was terrific to take part in the 30th anniversary of the **San Remo Channel Challenge**.

The weather was perfect and once again there was a great turnout of both participants and spectators.

Bass Coast Shire councillor Phil Wright, state member for Bass Brian Paynter and myself organised a commemorative sculpture that was presented to the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club in recognition of their dedication to putting on this tremendous event every year.

I have to confess, Brian Paynter beat me across the line by about a minute so I'll have to improve my game next year.



▲ observing the penguin habitats at Phillip Island

Green Army on the Bass Coast and Phillip Island

I'm pleased that the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Green Army Project is now underway.

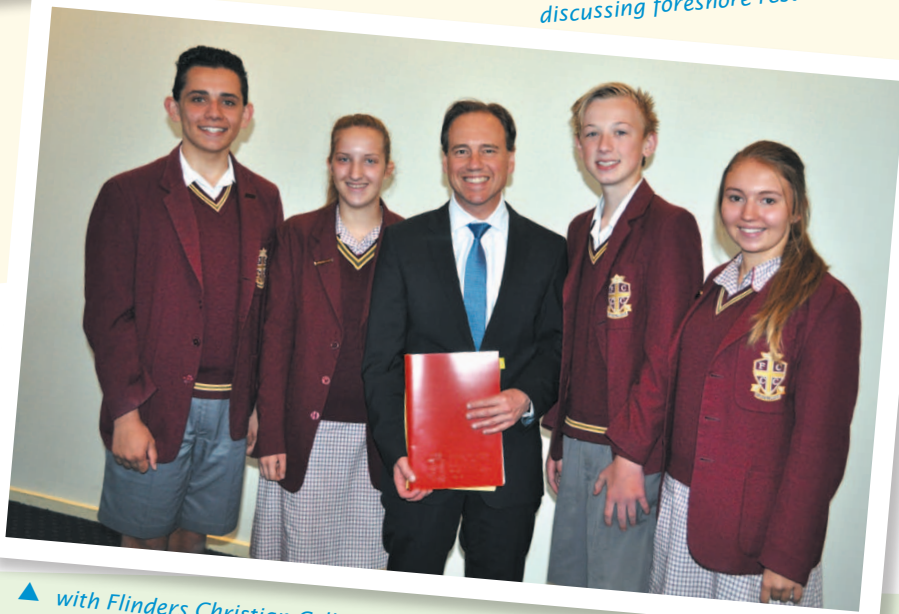
The project will support the ongoing protection and re-establishment of penguin habitats across the Summerland Peninsula. It will also focus on the reintroduction and preservation of Koala habitats.

It will include mangrove rehabilitation and foreshore revegetation along the Western Port Ramsar site at **Grantville, Corinella, Coronet Bay** and **Phillip Island** and will protect and enhance native remnant vegetation across the **Bass Hills** through revegetation and weed control works.

Out and About



▲ walking on the beach at Somers discussing foreshore restoration



▲ with Flinders Christian College, Carrum Downs Year 9 students discussing recycling

▼ clearing up rubbish on the Mount Martha Foreshore for Clean Up Australia Day



- ✓ Took part in the Light Up Autism Foundation Fun Run at **Rye**
- ✓ Met with volunteers from Southern Peninsula Food For All at **Rosebud** as they packed hampers for the Christmas season
- ✓ Attended **Mount Martha** Carols by Candlelight
- ✓ Presented the Ann Palmer Award at **Rosebud** Secondary College
- ✓ Met Year 9 students from Flinders Christian College about their recycling pilot project
- ✓ Visited Balcombe Grammar School in **Mount Martha** for Parliament on Tour
- ✓ Took part in the **Point Leo** Boxing Day Beach Run
- ✓ Met with the members of the Preserve **Western Port** Action Group
- ✓ Ran in the Lord **Somers** Camp Run
- ✓ Visited Osborne Primary School in **Mount Martha** for Parliament on Tour
- ✓ Met with the **Somers** Foreshore Restoration Group to see their revegetation work
- ✓ Welcomed spectators at the **Boneo** Classic
- ✓ Took part in the Australia Day Fun Run from **Safety Beach** to **Rosebud**
- ✓ Welcomed new citizens at the Australia Day Citizenship ceremony for the **Mornington Peninsula** Shire
- ✓ Met with members of the **Phillip Island** Aquatic Centre Fund to discuss options for a pool on the Island
- ✓ Met with the new Chief Executive of Peninsula Health to discuss healthcare on the peninsula
- ✓ Cleared up rubbish for Clean Up Australia day on the **Mount Martha** Foreshore
- ✓ Officially opened Harewood House Open Day in **Tooradin**
- ✓ Attended the official opening of the **Mount Martha** Life Saving Club
- ✓ Competed in the **San Remo** Channel Challenge



▲ running in the Lord Somers Camp Run



▲ at Balcombe Grammar School in Mount Martha for a Parliament on Tour visit

▼ at Harewood House Open Day in Tooradin



National Broadband Network draws closer

Residents and businesses are closer to connecting to the National Broadband Network.

The NBN Co has released its national rollout plan to June 2016, which includes 36,250 homes across the electorate, including parts of **Rye, Tootgarook, Balnarring, Blind Bight, Koo Wee Rup, Cowes, San Remo and Woolamai**.

Over the next 18 months there will be a hive of activity as construction begins.

In addition, **Catani** and **Bayles** are expected to be able to connect to superfast-broadband within 12 months through the NBN's fixed wireless network.

Since the Federal election, the nationwide number of active broadband connections on the NBN has more than doubled. Suburbs and towns with the worst broadband service will get priority under NBN Co's new rollout strategy.

Maps, which are regularly updated, show where construction has begun. These can be found at www.nbnco.com.au/rollout/rollout-map

Whale viewing platforms provide boost for Kilcunda

Tourists, locals and enthusiastic whale watchers in **Kilcunda** will soon have a better view of migrating whales as they travel up and down our coast with \$25,000 in funding from the Australian Government's Whale Trail initiative.

The Kilcunda foreshore is one of seven communities around the country to receive the funding to build whale viewing platforms.

The Whale Trail initiative will enhance and promote understanding in the community about the importance of protecting whales and dolphins.

Viewing platforms will give people the best possible view of whales and dolphins as they pass offshore, as well as providing information about these iconic animals.

Anzac Centenary Project Grants

I am pleased that community groups across the electorate have received a total of \$125,000 through the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program to honour the service and sacrifice of our local war heroes.

These grants have helped community groups erect memorials or host events to commemorate the nation's centenary of service.

I have presented Anzac Centenary grants to:

- **Dromana** and District Historical Society
- **Lang Lang** Primary School
- **Sorrento-Portsea** RSL sub-branch
- The Village Glen Residents' Club Committee in **Rosebud**
- **Koo Wee Rup** RSL sub-branch
- **Phillip Island** RSL sub-branch
- **Tyabb** Primary School
- Our Lady of Fatima Primary School in **Rosebud**
- **Sorrento-Portsea** First Shot committee
- **Rye** RSL sub-branch
- **Pearcedale** Public Hall
- **Dromana-Red Hill** RSL
- **Somerville, Tyabb** and District Heritage Society
- **Flinders** RSL sub-branch
- **Sorrento** Primary School
- **Rosebud** RSL sub-branch
- **Red Hill** Community Action group
- **Crib Point** Primary School
- **Moorooduc** Primary School
- Nepean Historical Society in **Sorrento**
- St John the Evangelist Anglican Church in **Flinders**
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for the restoration of the **Somerville** Cenotaph
- Radio Port Phillip (RPP FM) on the **Mornington Peninsula**
- **French Island** Community Association



▲ with parishioners at St John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Flinders



▲ presenting an Anzac Centenary grant to Janet Egglestone from the **Dromana** and District Historical Society



▲ with Phillip Island RSL members Chris Thompson and Tom Mallaghan at the **Cowes** cenotaph