



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



*Working for
our Community*

Flinders Community News

Summer 2014



Rosebud Hospital is one step closer to receiving a CT Scanner with the pledge by the Southern Peninsula Community Fund to match dollar for dollar all donations to the Rosebud Hospital Appeal, up to \$150,000.

The pledge is in addition to the \$350,000 already committed for the installation of an ultrasound machine and CT Scanner and redevelopment of the medical imaging area at Rosebud Hospital.

The hospital is now just \$65,000 shy of its final target.

All money donated by the Southern Peninsula Community Fund is raised through the organisation's Opportunity Shop in **Rye**, which I recently visited. The work done by the many volunteers is truly remarkable and they make a terrific contribution by donating vital funds back into the community.

People can donate to the Rosebud Hospital Appeal by phone on (03) 9788 1502, online at www.peninsulahealth.org.au or in person at Rosebud Hospital.

Thanks for Voting

I am honoured to have been re-elected as the Federal Member for **Flinders** and thank all those who voted for me.

Representing a wonderful electorate such as ours is an absolute privilege and I will continue to do my utmost to champion the interests of all local residents, regardless of how they voted.

Locally, it is about protecting the environment, tackling cost of living pressures, supporting jobs and helping families and small businesses prosper.

I will continue to fight for better local facilities and a better quality of life for local residents.

Rosebud Hospital Appeal

With Southern Peninsula Community Fund members Pam Schmitter, Graham Fitzgerald and Bill Mace at the Southern Peninsula Community Fund Opportunity Shop in Rye

What's Inside...

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▲ Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre gets go ahead

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▲ Trades Skills Centre planned for Western Port Secondary College

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Child Care for Bass Valley

The proposed **Bass Valley** Integrated Children's Centre is gaining momentum, with a project officer appointed to review policy guidelines and create a framework for the proposed centre.

There are many families who are desperate to see this facility up and running and the people behind the project have been working hard to get it off the ground.

I am continuing to work with the committee to provide any assistance I can to ensure this valuable facility becomes a reality.



▼ At the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven with Aircraft manager Colin Grey



▲ With community members, discussing options for the Integrated Children's Centre at Bass Valley

Transformation for Vietnam Veterans Museum

The Vietnam Veterans Museum is undergoing a transformation.

The museum at **Newhaven** has recently acquired a Grumman Tracker aircraft and is in the process of restoring a Canberra Bomber for display.

I recently visited the museum to launch its latest exhibit *Diggers in the Nam*, which is an intriguing photographic exhibition by Tim Page. I have committed to doing all I can to help the museum grow.

Philip Island Hospital Update

I have had a series of meetings with community groups to discuss how to progress plans for hospital facilities at **Cowes**.

The Coalition Government has committed \$2.5 million in funding for hospital facilities on the island. When combined with the proceeds of the Warley Trust Fund, it will create a total funding pool of \$3.5 million.

Bass Coast Community Health and Bass Coast Regional Health have submitted a joint proposal to the Victorian Government for funding for a new community health hub at Cowes.

We are currently awaiting a decision by the Victorian Government on whether money will be made available in the next funding round. I will continue to work with the community to ensure this plan is progressed.

▼ Meeting with community groups about plans for a health hub at Cowes



Trades Skills Centre for Hastings

Students at Western Port Secondary College in **Hastings** will benefit from the development of a Trades Skills Centre.

The \$1.1million facility will assist in up-skilling young people in the trades sector so they are able to take up local employment opportunities.

Funding for the Trades Skills Centre will be provided by the Federal Government.

The centre will deliver qualifications in automotive and engineering to address skills shortages in the trades of fitter (general), fitter-welder, metal fabricator, motor mechanics (general), motorcycle mechanic and welder (first class).

Newhaven College on **Phillip Island** will also receive a \$1.5million Trades Skills Centre.

Funding will allow for the construction of a new building with a theory space, meeting room and equipment and will deliver qualifications in the trades of carpenter and furniture finisher.



▲ Visiting the automotive workshop at Western Port Secondary College that will be expanded to include a Trades Skills Centre.

Supporting Youth Mental Health

I have committed my support to the Ties for Lives foundation by becoming a patron for the organisation.

Ties for Lives provides support to young people in the community by identifying the early signs of depression and anxiety.

Spotted ties represent a need to spot the early warning signs of youth mental health.

I also hosted a Youth Mental Health Forum in Dromana late last year with leading youth mental health advocate and former Australian of the Year Patrick McGorry.

The forum was aimed at local Year 10 and 11 students and their families to discuss some of the issues around mental health and hear how other young people have overcome challenges in their lives.

Visit www.spota.org.au for more information on Ties for Lives.

▼ With Ties For Lives founder David Wright



▲ At the finish line of MMAD Swim

New Life Saving Club for Mount Martha

Members and users of **Mount Martha** Life Saving Club can look forward to a \$2.1 million redevelopment of the clubhouse.

The 20-year-old clubrooms will be demolished to make way for a new building, double the size of the old facility, which will include three training rooms, a first aid room, office and storage space for emergency equipment.

Construction is expected to begin soon and be completed in time for the 2014-2015 lifesaving season.

It has been terrific to work with the Life Saving Club on this much-needed community facility.

Construction commences on Koo Wee Rup Bypass

Koo Wee Rup residents can look forward to faster travel times, reduced traffic congestion and a more peaceful town centre with the construction of the Koo Wee Rup Bypass.

Late last year I joined Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Gary Blackwood and State Member for Bass Ken Smith as they turned the first sod for construction of the \$66 million State Government-funded project.

I have personally witnessed the impact of up to 90 trucks an hour passing through the centre of town and the detrimental effect it has on local residents.

As well as providing relief for local residents, the Koo Wee Rup Bypass will help to reduce gridlock during peak holiday periods.

It has been a pleasure to work closely with local residents over the past few years to highlight this issue and I am delighted that the community's hard work has finally paid off.



▲ Turning the first sod of the Koo Wee Rup Bypass with McMillian Federal MP Russell Broadbent and Cardinia Mayor Graeme Moore



▲ Assessing Dromana Pier with members of the Association for Building Community Development in Dromana

Dromana Pier to be repaired

I am delighted that we are closer to stepping onto a refurbished pier at Dromana.

Repair works are underway and should be completed soon.

The \$172,000 the project includes repairs to the concrete slabs, crossheads and piles as well as the installation of structural steel crosshead supports.

The Dromana Pier is an iconic landmark of the Mornington Peninsula and these works will ensure it can be enjoyed for many years to come.

Arthurs Seat saved from tip

I welcome the Environment Protection Authority's decision not to grant permission for the former pioneer quarry site at Arthurs Seat to be used for landfill.

This proposal caused great angst in the community and I commend community members, particularly the Peninsula Preservation Group, who fought hard to preserve the site.

Having met with all parties concerned, I am aware of the need to develop a long-term plan for the quarry.

I will continue working with the community and the RE Ross Trust to determine the best future use for the site.



▲ Surveying the former quarry site at Arthurs Seat with Dr Mark Fancett from the Peninsula Preservation Group

Supported Accommodation in Hastings

I was delighted to meet with Gary Burgess at his new home in **Hastings** recently.

Gary is one of 20 residents who have moved into newly-built, affordable housing units.

Coined the Hastings Model, the units house a broad range of individuals including the aged, families on low incomes and people with physical or intellectual disabilities.

The development was initiated by Frankston Peninsula Carers, in partnership with Community Housing Victoria, the Mornington Peninsula Shire and both State and Federal governments.



▲ With Gary and his parents Ron and Aline at his new home in **Hastings**

Yumarrala Wetlands thriving at Somerville Secondary College

It was a pleasure to visit **Somerville** Secondary College to see the progress students have made on the Yumarrala Wetlands.

Students have planted more than 6,000 indigenous trees over the past two years and made the wetlands area something they can be truly proud of.

Environmental group Peninsula Speaks has also shown support for the school by creating a fundraising campaign to raise money for a protective fence for the wetlands. You can donate at www.peninsulaspeaks.org



▲ At the Yumarrala Wetlands with **Somerville** Secondary College students Samantha Harris and Anthony-James Anderson

Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre Approved

I applaud the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council's decision to build a swimming pool in **Rosebud**.

This is a facility that the community desperately needs and has been campaigning for since 2000.

The Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre will provide a place for children to learn to swim and give seniors access to valuable hydrotherapy.

There is strong community support for the aquatic centre, demonstrated by a recent petition of more than 4600 signatures that was collected in just 16 days.

I congratulate the community on rallying for this facility and thank Nepean MP Martin Dixon for his commitment to bring this project to fruition.

Celebrating the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council's decision to go ahead with the Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre at **Rosebud**, with passionate pool supporters



Out and About



▲ Admiring artwork at the **Sorrento** Art Show with Neil Hewitt



▲ Taking part in the Light up Autism Fun Run from **Tootgarook** to **Rye**
(Photo by Stewart Chambers)

- ✓ Opened **Dromana** Bowls Club Season
- ✓ Attended **Tyabb** Tennis Club's 100th birthday
- ✓ Took part in the National Police Remembrance Day at **Rye**
- ✓ Opened the **Hastings** Yacht Club Sailing Season
- ✓ Helped open the **Phillip Island** Early Learning Centre
- ✓ Met with community members about the **Phillip Island** Aquatic Centre
- ✓ Kicked off the 62nd **Blairgowrie** Yacht Squadron season
- ✓ Attended the 210th Anniversary of the Landing of Lieutenant David Collins at **Sorrento**
- ✓ Attended the **Crib Point** Fire Brigade awards dinner
- ✓ Launched the EnviroVeg App at **Somerville**



▲ Unveiling a monument to Greek migrants at **Red Hill**

- ✓ Competed in the **Arthurs Seat** Challenge
- ✓ Joined in the 125th anniversary celebrations at **Lang Lang** Primary School
- ✓ Helped turn the first sod on the **Koo Wee Rup** Bypass
- ✓ Assisted with hamper packing for the Western Port Christmas Giving Programme in **Hastings**
- ✓ Attended the 16th **Sorrento** Couta Boat Classic
- ✓ Helped launch the **Casey** Cultural precinct
- ✓ Took part in the **Mount Martha** Australia Day Swim
- ✓ Flagged off the RACV Great Australian Rally from the **Hastings** Marina
- ✓ Presented awards to the **Portsea** Swim Classic winners
- ✓ Swam in the **Dromana** Bay Annual Pier Swim and the **San Remo** Channel Challenge
- ✓ Swam in the **Cowes** Classic
- ✓ Presented a flag to Padua College's new campus at **Tyabb**
- ✓ Helped open **Hastings** Model supported accommodation
- ✓ Flagged off the Peninsula Toy Run on their ride to **Rosebud**

▼ Opening a Garden of Opportunity at **Lang Lang** Preschool

