



# Greg Hunt MP

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SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE



## Flinders Community News

*Working for  
our Community*

Autumn 2012



▲ at Rye Pier with  
Sheree Marris

### Campaign to Clean Up Port Phillip Bay

Like many local residents, I was dismayed by beach closures and water quality issues around Port Phillip Bay over summer.

In an effort to tackle this problem head on, with local groups I have initiated a 10-year campaign to *Clean Up Port Phillip Bay*.

The campaign was launched in conjunction with the Committee for Melbourne and I am delighted that some of Melbourne's best-known institutions have now joined the fight.

Together we aim to make Port Phillip Bay the cleanest urban waterway in the Southern Hemisphere by 2022.

The Bay is recognised as one of Melbourne's most wonderful assets but the water quality can be poor with significant consequences for the health of the ecosystem and marine wildlife inhabiting the Bay.

It is disappointing that in recent months high pollution levels have meant that many of our most popular beaches have been closed.

The newly-formed Clean Up the Bay Partnership aims to work closely with the Victorian Government in galvanising community action and pride in the Bay.

The Clean Up the Bay Partnership is headed by marine educator and author Sheree Marris and former Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year, Arron Wood.

Other organisations involved include the City of Melbourne, Environment Victoria, the Dolphin Research Institute, University of Melbourne, Museum Victoria, Association of Bayside Municipalities, Life Saving Victoria, Yachting Victoria, the Boating Industry Association of Victoria, Transfield Services and Humes.



▲ the 500km Walk for Autism  
reaches its goal – see pg 3

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Year 12 students

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▲ discussing plans for a new  
health facility at Cowes

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# Local Community Success Stories

## Success for Somerville

It brings me great satisfaction to see two long-running community campaigns coming to fruition in **Somerville**.

The fight to secure a secondary college for Somerville began a decade ago when the then state Labor government wanted to sell the land and take away the prospect of a school forever.

As a community we fought for the land to be retained and then fought for the establishment of a Year 7-10 college as a campus of Mt Erin Secondary.

The third step in the campaign was an independent Year 7-10 school. Finally, this year, a fully autonomous Year 7-12 secondary college was established.

Somerville Secondary College offers an impressive Year 12 program, giving local young people every opportunity to build a rewarding and fulfilling career.

The next and final step will be the creation of a technical education centre in the grounds of the college.

Another Somerville community campaign - for a police station - has also been a success. (See story on the opposite page).

## Mt Martha on the Move

The installation of a pedestrian crossing at the Esplanade in **Mt Martha** is a fantastic outcome to our community campaign for better road safety.

I am now working closely with the Mt Martha Life Saving Club - one of the largest clubs on Port Phillip Bay - on plans for a new clubhouse.

## New Police Station for Koo Wee Rup

**Koo Wee Rup** has much to celebrate with plans for an urgently-needed truck bypass well underway and the recent opening of a new purpose-built police station.

Congratulations to Bass MP Ken Smith and all who helped fight for the station.

While the new police facility at Koo Wee Rup is very welcome, there is still an urgent need for the **Lang Lang** police station to be re-opened on a permanent basis.

Together with the Lang Lang community, I will continue to fight for the reinstatement of the town's police officer.

▲ at the official opening of the new **Koo Wee Rup** police station





▲ Day 1

## Walk for Autism Reaches its Goal



▲ Day 3

After 500km and 19 days, I was delighted to finally reach the end of my *Walk for Autism* last year.

And it was my great pleasure to be able to present Abacus Learning Centre in **Hastings** and Autism Victoria with cheques totalling \$35,864.

Close to 400 people joined the various stages of the walk, which began at **Arthurs Seat** and finished at **Cowes** on Phillip Island.

I was particularly delighted to be joined by two local mums, Natalie and Marilyn, who each walked hundreds of kilometres.

During the course of the walk we visited a total of 56 schools to raise awareness of autism and talk to students about how they could be a friend to someone with autism.

Donations came from local residents, schools, pre-schools, businesses, service clubs, sporting clubs and philanthropic organisations. My heartfelt thanks go to all those who donated.

The next step in the ongoing campaign for better autism support will be the tabling of a motion in Parliament calling for the creation of a National Autism Summit to discuss how best we can support families living with autism.



▲ Day 17



▼ Day 9

## Crib Point Celebrates

After a two-year fight, **Crib Point** residents have breathed a sigh of relief with the news that a planned bitumen plant will not now go ahead.

This means that Crib Point will not now be re-industrialised but instead preserved as a residential area.

The Crib Point Advisory Group, and in particular Rosemary Evans, did a fantastic job of galvanising local opposition to the bitumen plant plan.

## Somerville Police Station

The fight for a police station at **Somerville** was a long and protracted one and I am delighted that the Baillieu Government has begun the process of searching for an appropriate parcel of land on which to build the facility.

I am pleased to have worked with Hastings MP Neale Burgess, as well as a band of dedicated local residents, on securing this outcome for Somerville.

It now seems likely that the new facility will not only offer 24-hour local police coverage, it will also house some of the district functions with an additional police capacity.

# News Round-up

## A Boost for Hastings

Recent job losses caused by the closure of BlueScope Steel's hot strip mill at **Hastings** have been a significant blow to the Western Port community.

Our immediate fight was to secure financial support not only for the BlueScope workers but for workers from surrounding businesses who also lost their jobs as a result of the closure.

I also met with the Prime Minister's office to push strongly for extra funding for jobs creation in Western Port similar to that given to the Illawarra region, where BlueScope also laid off workers.

I am pleased to report that \$2 million in extra funding to stimulate jobs and training in Western Port has recently been made available. My office is now working with local community and employment organisations on identifying potential projects to be funded.



▲ discussing local jobs with Deb Neil at the BlueScope Jobs Fair in Hastings

▼ discussing a new health facility with Phillip Island residents

## A New Health Facility for Phillip Island

I met recently with Bass Coast Regional Health chief Lea Pope as well as representatives of the Bass Coast Community Health Service and local residents to discuss plans for a new health facility at **Cowes**.

A proposal to combine hospital services such as palliative care, dialysis and specialist consulting rooms with a range of community health services and a GP clinic in a new purpose-built facility has been submitted to the Federal Government for funding.

The vision we are pursuing would see the health facility developed in a way that would allow for additional services to be added over time, with the ultimate aim of having a hospital on the island once more.

The proposal has been shortlisted for funding. We are hopeful of securing funding soon to begin work on this much-needed new facility.



## Inadequate Internet Connections

Many residents in the Peninsula Sands estate at **Rosebud** and at **Botanic Ridge** have contacted me reporting problems in getting access to the internet.

Each time I approach the Government with this issue the answer is the same: residents must wait for up to 10 years or more until the NBN is rolled out on the Peninsula, if at all.

This is completely unacceptable and I will continue to fight for a better deal for the electorate. In the meantime, I ask all local residents experiencing trouble in accessing the internet to join the campaign by contacting my office on 5979 3188.





# News Round-up

▼ at the launch of the Australia 2030 speech book with Reverend Dr Philip Freier and the Global Foundation's Steve Howard and Fergus Ryan



## Australia 2030 Speeches

Last year saw the passing of a personal milestone: the 10th anniversary of my election as the Federal Member for **Flinders**.

Reaching this milestone prompted me to reflect on the values and vision that spurred me to seek public office in the first place.

The result is a series of five speeches delivered over the course of last year on the subject of long-term planning for Australia's future. The speeches outline a vision for Australia over the coming two decades.

The *Australia 2030* series of speeches has now been published in booklet form and was launched recently at the Global Foundation in Melbourne by the Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne.

Anyone interested in reading the speeches can download a PDF of the booklet at my website: [www.greghunt.com.au](http://www.greghunt.com.au). A hard copy of the booklet can be obtained by calling my office on 5979 3188.

## Local Brothers Go Green

It has been a tremendous pleasure getting to know **Tyabb** brothers Liam and Lachlan Martin, who joined me for part of my *Walk for Autism*.

Both boys have faced personal challenges but each is extremely keen to develop a career working with the environment.

We were able to secure a place for each of the boys on a local Green Corps training program from which they recently graduated with flying colours.

I am delighted to see that the boys are each now pursuing further work and training opportunities in the environmental field.

▼ Liam and Lachlan together with supervisor Chris Jacobsen at Sages Cottage in Baxter



## CT Scanner for Rosebud

Earlier this year I joined the Rotary Club of **Rosebud-Rye** in launching a campaign to raise funds for a CT scanner for Rosebud Hospital.

Having a CT scanner on site means patients would not have to leave for an examination and would help cement the hospital's future at Rosebud.

I urge all southern Peninsula residents to visit the Rotary Opportunity Warehouse in Newington Avenue, Rosebud and make a purchase. Funds raised will go to the CT scanner appeal.



# Out and About: Casey, Cardinia and Bass Coast

- ✓ Attended the Australia Day celebrations at **Lang Lang**
- ✓ Visited **Cardinia** Primary School to speak about autism
- ✓ Met with the **Koo Wee Rup** Township Committee to discuss the fight to secure reticulated gas for the town
- ✓ Visited Blairlogie centre for adults with a disability at **Pearcedale**



▲ Chatting with veterans John Hetherington and Campbell Johns at the Remembrance Day service at **Pearcedale** Public Hall

- ✓ Visited **Tooradin** Primary School to speak to students about autism
- ✓ Spoke at a breakfast for local small businesses at **Cowes**
- ✓ Attended the opening of a new animal enclosure at Moonlit Sanctuary, **Pearcedale**
- ✓ Spoke at the Phillip Island Men's Breakfast at **Cowes**
- ✓ Met with Shadow Health Minister Peter Dutton to discuss medical services on **Phillip Island**
- ✓ Met with representatives of Cardinia Shire Council to discuss the fight for funding to build the **Lang Lang** bypass
- ✓ Attended the official opening of the new police station at **Koo Wee Rup**



▲ with Dr Tim Ealey at **Tooradin** discussing support for mangrove restoration at the northern end of Western Port Bay

- ✓ Met with representatives of Bass Coast Community Health to discuss plans for a new health facility on **Phillip Island**
- ✓ Took part in the **Blind Bight** Community Centre's AGM
- ✓ Competed in the **Cowes** Classic swim and run
- ✓ Met with Year 10 students from the City of **Casey** at Parliament House in Canberra
- ✓ Visited St John's Primary School, **Koo Wee Rup**, to speak to students about autism
- ✓ Visited **Koo Wee Rup** Primary School to speak to students about autism

▼ meeting with representatives of Watershed Victoria at **Cowes** to discuss support for a Bass Coast whale survey





# Out and About: Western Port



◀ visiting *St Joseph's Primary School, Crib Point*, to see the results of the school's mangrove growing program. Students will plant the mangrove seedlings in Western Port Bay

- ✓ Joined celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the town of **Hastings**
- ✓ Met with local business owners in **Hastings** to discuss the impact of redundancies
- ✓ Visited Penbank School at **Moorooduc** to speak to students about the political system
- ✓ Met with representatives of Frankston-Peninsula Carers Inc to discuss proposed accommodation for people with disabilities at **Hastings**

- ✓ Convened a Community Meeting on Autism and Disability at **Hastings**
- ✓ Attended the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service at HMAS **Cerberus**
- ✓ Spoke at the Hastings Rotary Western Port Breakfast in support of literacy programs in **Hastings**
- ✓ Attended the **Somerville** Community House AGM
- ✓ Joined the Dolphin Research Institute's Walk for Western Port at **Hastings**
- ✓ Attended the **Somers** Residents Association AGM
- ✓ Took part in the **French Island** Community Association's annual meeting

- ✓ Visited the BlueScope Steel Jobsfair at **Hastings**
- ✓ Visited Yaringa Marina at **Somerville** to discuss environmental issues
- ✓ Officially opened the Beleura Health Solutions clinic at **Hastings**
- ✓ Met with members of the Western Port Oberon Association at **Crib Point** to discuss plans for the Otama submarine museum
- ✓ Met with disability advocates at **Hastings** to discuss the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- ✓ Attended the HMAS **Cerberus** open day



▲ joining participants at the Lord Somers Camp annual cross country run at **Somers**



▲ teaching Grade 5 & 6 students about the role of government at *St Brendan's Primary School, Somerville*

- ✓ Met with **Somers** residents to discuss local environment issues
- ✓ Attended Westernport Yacht Club's open day at **Balnarring Beach**
- ✓ Took part in a Disabled Surfers Day at **Pt Leo** Surf Life Saving Club
- ✓ Joined the **Devilbend** Landcare Group for *Clean Up Australia Day*
- ✓ Attended the Peninsula Aero Club air show at **Tyabb**
- ✓ Met with representatives of **Crib Point** Fire Brigade
- ✓ Took part in the launch of a Green Corps environmental training project at Sages Cottage in **Baxter**
- ✓ Took part in the launch of a Green Corps environmental training project at **Somers**
- ✓ Took part in the **Pt Leo** Swim Classic
- ✓ Flagged off cars from **Hastings** as part of the Great Australian Rally
- ✓ Took part in the parade as part of the annual Western Port Festival at **Hastings**

# Out and About: Mornington Peninsula



▲ celebrating Greek National Day with Father Eleftherios Tatsis at Rye

▼ collecting rubbish with 4-year-old Lachie at Devilbend Reserve on Clean Up Australia Day



- ✓ Bowled the first bowl of the season at **Mt Martha** Bowls Club
- ✓ Attended training at **Mt Martha** Junior Football Club
- ✓ Took part in the **Sorrento** Primary School golf day
- ✓ Met with staff at the New Peninsula Church in **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Attended the U3A 21st anniversary celebrations at **Mornington**
- ✓ Addressed a meeting of the **Rosebud** Ladies Probus Club
- ✓ Attended the official opening of Radio 3RPP's new studio at **Mornington**
- ✓ Laid a wreath at the National Police Remembrance Day service at **Rye** in memory of police officers who died serving their community
- ✓ Addressed a meeting of the Cheviot Day Club at **Rye**
- ✓ Took part in the **McCrae** Yacht Club opening ceremony
- ✓ Attended the sailing season open day at **Rye** Yacht Club
- ✓ Competed in the **Arthurs Seat** Challenge charity run
- ✓ Spoke at the dedication of the Shaw McKeown Reserve at **Dromana**
- ✓ Officially opened the season at the **Sorrento** Sailing Couta Boat Club
- ✓ Attended the Britney All Smiles Foundation charity event at **Portsea** in memory of Britney and Tony Guerra
- ✓ Started the Giant Piggy Back race for Scouts Victoria at **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Participated in Clean Up Dumping Day at the **Balcombe** Estuary
- ✓ Participated in Clean Up Dumping Day at Drum Drum Alloc Creek, **West Rosebud**
- ✓ Met with representatives of Parks Victoria to discuss the future of **Pt Nepean**
- ✓ Attended the **Mt Martha** Yacht Club open day
- ✓ Attended the Carols Concert at **Flinders** Community Hall
- ✓ Took part in the Rye Gift sponsors lunch at **Rye** Football Club
- ✓ Participated in the **Mt Martha** Australia Day Swim
- ✓ Joined the Nepean and Rye Historical Society Australia Day lunch at **Rye**
- ✓ Addressed the Australia Day citizenship ceremony at **Rosebud**
- ✓ Presented a dressage award at the **Boneo** Park Dressage Festival
- ✓ Took part in the **Dromana** Bay Pier Swim
- ✓ Took part in the Great Peninsula Paddle at **Sorrento**
- ✓ Spoke at the opening of Embracia on the Peninsula aged care facility at **Rosebud**

▼ chatting with members of the St Andrews Church Friday Club at Rye

