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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE



Flinders Community News

*Working for
our Community*

Spring 2012



Rye's Up!

▲ at work on the new community playground at Rye

It was a tremendous pleasure to join **Rye** residents in building a beautiful new community playground on the foreshore.

Built overwhelmingly by volunteer labour, the playground was built from the ground up over five days in October.

It was fantastic to see the efforts of hundreds

of volunteers and local businesses come to fruition in such an exciting and innovative new playground.

The Rye community has blazed a trail for other communities around Australia and is a powerful example of what can be achieved when local residents band together.

Fighting for Better Sports Facilities at Mt Martha

Mt Martha is home to several thriving sporting clubs, including one of the biggest life saving clubs on the Bay.

I have been working closely with **Mt Martha Life Saving Club** on plans for a much-needed new clubhouse and I am hopeful that we are close to gaining all the necessary approvals to begin building the new facility.

Meanwhile we are working with the **Mt Martha Junior Football Club** on plans to revamp its clubrooms.

Sporting infrastructure is a great investment in our community and I will continue to press governments at all levels to make it a priority.



▲ discussing plans for a new life saving club at Mt Martha



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Community Meetings

Seniors Forum

I was delighted to welcome close to 230 Mornington Peninsula seniors to our Seniors Forum at the **Rosebud** Country Club in September.

Our keynote speaker, former Australian tennis star and now the Member for Bennelong, John Alexander, spoke about the importance of making the most out of every stage of life.

Other speakers included Joan Smith of Guide Dogs Victoria and Dr Robyn Woods of Monash University, who shared the results of her latest research into the role of aspirin in maintaining health in senior years.

Nominations were also declared open for our Flinders Seniors Awards. These awards are in recognition of those local seniors who have made a significant contribution to our community

I urge anyone who knows of a local senior deserving of recognition to contact my office on 5979 3188 for a nomination form. Nominations close December 7.

at the Seniors Forum in Rosebud ►



▼ *at the communications forum at Rosebud Memorial Hall*

Broadband and Communications Forum

Inadequate broadband is a huge issue for Mornington Peninsula residents. Therefore I invited Shadow Minister for Communications and Broadband, Malcolm Turnbull, to visit the electorate in September to discuss this issue in detail.

More than 270 residents attended the community meeting at **Rosebud** to discuss their concerns in a lively Q&A session with Mr Turnbull.

Residents expressed concern over the time taken to roll out the Government's National Broadband Network (NBN), which will take up to 15 years to reach the Peninsula.

The Coalition plans to complete the NBN sooner, cheaper and more affordably. A key element will be to prioritise those areas with the least adequate services.



Sports Achievement Awards

In August I was privileged to host an afternoon tea for 22 local families who have been recipients of a *Local Sporting Champions* grant.

The young sporting achievers came from across the electorate including **Pearcedale, Cranbourne South, Bittern, Somers, Tyabb** and **Lang Lang**, competing in sports ranging from equestrian to fencing, cycling and swimming.

I urge all families with children who compete at a state or national level to consider applying for a grant to assist with expenses such as travel, uniform or equipment. Grants are \$500 for an individual and \$3000 for a team. For more information visit www.ausport.gov.au

▼ *presenting Natalie Dimitrakas of Bittern with her award*



Spotlight on Somerville

Campaign for a New Somerville Community House

I met recently with representatives of **Somerville** Community House to discuss the need for larger premises.

The community house is a thriving local hub that has outgrown its home at the Somerville recreation centre.

As a result, there are a significant number of courses that would benefit the local community but which the centre does not have the space to hold.

I have committed to working with the committee and the Mornington Peninsula Shire to find a suitable new home for the community house that will enable it to fully meet the needs of the Somerville community.



▲ with co-ordinator Isobel Carlin and members of the Knitting with Friends group at Somerville Community House

Site Chosen for New Police Station



The recent purchase of a site for the new **Somerville** police station is a welcome development in this ongoing campaign.

The Somerville community fought long and hard for a police station to tackle local law and order issues, in particular anti-social behaviour, petty crime and vandalism.

Hastings MP Neale Burgess and I have worked for many years with local residents in organising petitions and community meetings and writing countless letters calling for a police station.

I am delighted that not only has the community's hard work paid off, but the State Government has decided that the new facility will be a 24-hour complex, staffed by additional police officers.

◀ with local real estate agent and police station campaigner, Ty Luff

Focus on Education in Somerville

Another long-running community campaign for **Somerville** also came to fruition this year.

The fight to secure a secondary college for Somerville took 10 years and at every stage along the way we were told that what we were asking was impossible. We finally achieved a fully autonomous Year 7-12 secondary college this year.

Now the focus is on technical education in the town. I am working with Hastings MP Neale Burgess to plan for a new trades training centre.

The new technical college will stand alongside the secondary college, providing local teenagers with the widest possible range of educational choices.

CCTV for Somerville

The Coalition's *Plan for Safer Streets* will provide \$50 million to boost the efforts of local communities to address crime and anti-social behaviour.

Measures that can be funded under this proposed program include the installation of CCTV and better lighting.

Somerville could benefit greatly from this program and I urge local residents to contact me with their ideas on how we could make use of this new program.

Meet Me at my Mobile Office

I am keen to meet **Somerville** residents to listen to all concerns and help fight for better outcomes for the town.

I will be holding a mobile office outside Woolworths Supermarket in Somerville on **Saturday, December 1 from 10.30-12pm.**

Please come along and say hello.

News Round-Up



▲ with residents at Dromana Pier

Fight to Save Dromana Pier

The campaign to upgrade Dromana Pier has started.

Recently I met with members of the Association for Building Community in Dromana (ABCD Inc) to discuss concerns about the deteriorating state of Dromana Pier.

The pier's supporting pylons have 'concrete cancer' and are in need of either extensive repairs or replacement.

The pier is of vital importance to the **Dromana** and **Safety Beach** communities and I have joined the community campaign to save Dromana Pier. I will do whatever is necessary to ensure that we don't lose this much-loved local icon.



▲ demonstrating the new oil wand technology at Phillip Island

Phillip Island Nature Park

I met recently with **Phillip Island** Nature Park CEO Matthew Jackson and board member Stella Axarlis to discuss the park's strategic plan for the next five years.

This inspired plan outlines a bold vision for the future, focussing on increasing the depth and diversity of experiences for visitors to the park and building on the unique opportunity presented by the completion of the Summerland Peninsula buy-back scheme.

I also met with Professor John Orbell and his team from Victoria University, who have been working with park staff on magnetic particle technology to save oil-covered seabirds and penguins.

Magnetic Cleansing involves coating the bird with oil-absorbing iron powder and then passing a magnetic 'wand' over it, removing both the iron powder and the oil.

This new technology has the potential to revolutionise the way we deal with oil-covered wildlife, both here and around the world.

Koo Wee Rup Pedestrian Crossing

A new traffic island in the middle of busy Station Street at **Koo Wee Rup** poses a safety risk to local residents, especially school children.

Recently I met with a delegation that included the principals of all three local schools and representatives of the Koo Wee Rup Township Committee to discuss the community's concerns about the new concrete island.

There are fears that local children using the traffic island will overcrowd it and spill out onto the road and into the path of oncoming traffic.

I have approached VicRoads and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, Edward O'Donohue, to discuss ways in which this crossing can be made safe.



▲ discussing the pedestrian crossing with residents at Koo Wee Rup

Supporting Jobs and Local Businesses at Hastings

It was my pleasure recently to attend both the Hastings Business Festival and the opening of the Western Port Tourism Information Centre at **Hastings**.

I have also met with representatives of the Western Port Tourism Association and the Western Port Chamber of Commerce to discuss measures to support and boost businesses in Hastings.

There are a number of exciting ideas in the pipeline and I look forward to working closely with the Chamber to support these new initiatives.



▲ with Jane and Bree, owners of new Hastings business MarShere Dance Studio

Carbon Tax Hits Winter Power Bills

Many local residents and small business owners from across the electorate - particularly from **Rosebud, Hastings, Somerville** and **Cranbourne South** - have approached me about the soaring cost of living and skyrocketing electricity bills under the Carbon Tax.

The Carbon Tax has already led to significant power price increases and this is just the start. With the tax set to increase each year, electricity prices will continue to climb.

Unfortunately, all this pain is for no environmental gain: Australia's carbon dioxide emissions are set to rise from 578 million tonnes in 2010 to 621 million tonnes in 2020.

We believe there is a better way. If elected, the Coalition will scrap the Carbon Tax and implement its Direct Action Plan, which will reduce Australia's emissions while protecting and enhancing the environment.

Fight for Lang Lang Police Station Continues

In the wake of a recent public meeting to discuss the future of **Lang Lang** Police Station, I wrote an urgent letter to Police Commissioner Ken Lay expressing deep concern that closing and selling the station appears to be Victoria Police's preferred option.

It is essential that the police station remains in police hands rather than being sold and I strongly urged the Commissioner to consider retaining the property.

This will future-proof Lang Lang by making it easier to re-establish a police presence in the town when resources permit.

HMAS CERBERUS

Congratulations to Captain Katherine Richards, the first female commander of the navy's largest shore establishment, **HMAS CERBERUS**.

I will continue to do my utmost to ensure the long-term future of HMAS CERBERUS on the Mornington Peninsula. In the meantime, I encourage local residents to take advantage of the facilities and programs at the base that are open to the public:

- The Cerberus golf course
- Crib Point Pre-school
- The HMAS CERBERUS museum, which exhibits some of the most significant artefacts held by the Naval Heritage Collection
- Naval Gazing school program for senior secondary students wanting to learn more about a naval career
- Boot Camp – an intensive 4-day program for local teenagers wishing to sample life in the navy

Details: www.navy.gov.au



with Captain Katherine Richards at Hastings

STOP PRESS

Food for All in Rosebud is calling on residents to get behind its 2012 Christmas Appeal.

The appeal provides hampers and toys to struggling Southern Peninsula families.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be sent to Food for All, PO Box 440, Rosebud 3939.

Details:

Diane Falconer 5988 4353.

Out and About: Casey, Cardinia and Bass Coast

- ✓ Visited **Pearcedale** Primary School to discuss the role of government with students
- ✓ Welcomed students from **Cowes** Primary School to Parliament House in Canberra
- ✓ Took part in the launch of the annual Whale Watch Survey at **Kilcunda**
- ✓ Attended the **Koo Wee Rup** Football Club sponsors and life members lunch
- ✓ Met with representatives of **Phillip Island** Nature Park to discuss the park's future direction
- ✓ Met **Koo Wee Rup** residents to discuss the need for a pedestrian crossing in the town
- ✓ Attended the **Koo Wee Rup** Fire Brigade annual dinner
- ✓ Met with Bass Coast Community Health CEO Kirsty Evans to discuss plans for a **Phillip Island** health hub



▲ with daughter Poppy smashing a giant block of chocolate to celebrate the revamped Panny's Amazing World of Chocolate at **Phillip Island**



▲ discussing flood mitigation works with farmers at **Bayles**

Natural Gas for Coastal Villages and Koo Wee Rup

I am delighted that the **Koo Wee Rup** community is now a step closer to getting reticulated natural gas.

The Victorian Government has named Koo Wee Rup a "priority town" for natural gas and has also commissioned a feasibility study into the provision of gas to **Cannons Creek, Blind Bight, Warneet** and **Tooradin**.

We will continue to fight until all of these towns have natural gas, as well as **Phillip Island**.

- ✓ Attended 100th birthday celebrations for Annie Williams at **Lang Lang**
- ✓ Spoke with the State Government and Melbourne Water to push for immediate action on flooding around **Koo Wee Rup**
- ✓ Discussed environmental issues at **Grantville**

▼ at the 24-hour Mega Swim for Multiple Sclerosis at **Cranbourne** with Councillor Amanda Stapledon



Clean Ocean Focus on Kilcunda Welcome

The Clean Ocean Foundation's focus on the desalination plant at **Kilcunda** will strengthen scrutiny of the environmental impacts of the plant.

I am concerned about the impact of the plant's outfall on marine life, particularly migratory whales, and will continue to work closely with the local community for a full Federal marine impact study.

Out and About: Western Port

- ✓ Discussed with residents of **French Island** the urgent need to dredge around Tankerton Jetty
- ✓ Met with representatives of the **Shoreham** Community Association
- ✓ Met representatives of the Port of **Hastings** Authority to discuss the proposed port expansion
- ✓ Met with Victorian Ministers and members of Frankston-Peninsula Carers Inc to discuss delays with the **Hastings** supported accommodation development
- ✓ Attended the Anzac Day Dawn Service at **Hastings**
- ✓ Visited St Joseph's Primary School, **Crib Point**, to discuss with students the role of government and parliament
- ✓ Planted a tree as part of the new Avenue of Honour at **Somerville**
- ✓ Attended the Peninsula Aero Club Presentation night at **Tyabb**
- ✓ Met with representatives of the **Somerville** Men's Shed
- ✓ Met with proponents of the **Hastings** submarine project
- ✓ Attended a Habitat for Humanity meeting at **Crib Point**
- ✓ Met with the Western Port Chamber of Commerce at **Hastings**
- ✓ Visited BlueScope Steel to discuss future investment in **Hastings**
- ✓ Took part in the Walk for Western Port on the **Hastings** foreshore
- ✓ Attended the opening of the Visitor Information Centre at **Hastings**
- ✓ Took part in the **Hastings** Business Festival
- ✓ Visited Penbank School, **Moorooduc** to discuss the role of government
- ✓ Addressed a lunch for disability carers at **Baxter**
- ✓ Attended the opening of a new small business in **Hastings**
- ✓ Attended the **Somers** Yacht Club open day
- ✓ Took part in the **Somers** Primary School arts fair and Family Day
- ✓ Met with the principal of **West Park** Primary School

with
James
Pendred
and Jenny
Stidton
at Riding
for the
Disabled at
Balnarring



▲ at the **Crib Point** Community House 30th birthday celebrations



▲ training with the Western Port Warriors at **Hastings**

Out and About: Mornington Peninsula



▲ with Martin Dixon and Sunil Kumar and his team at the opening of a new medical centre for **Rosebud West** and **Tootgarook**

▼ inspecting the new sensory garden at **Mt Martha** Primary School and discussing students' pledges to improve the environment



discussing local issues with Inspector Martin Tynan at the Police Remembrance Day commemoration at **Rye** ▶

- ✓ Attended Anzac Day services at **Dromana, Rosebud, Rye** and **Sorrento**
- ✓ Spoke at an Anzac service at Balcombe Grammar, **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Attended a special Anzac celebration at the Village Glen, **Rosebud**
- ✓ Attended the opening of a new nautical yardarm at **Sorrento**
- ✓ Spoke at the dedication of a memorial to Matthew Flinders in **Dromana**

- ✓ Joined the Salvation Army's Men's Breakfast at **Rosebud West**
- ✓ Attended the opening night of the **Flinders** Art Show
- ✓ Attended the New Peninsula Community Caring Gala at **Red Hill**
- ✓ Took part in the **Dromana** Bay Life Saving Club's 15th birthday celebrations
- ✓ Took part in the *What Ever It Takes Fun Run* at **Mt Martha**



- ✓ Met with members of the new **Mornington Peninsula** Marine Alliance
- ✓ Attended the Mornington Peninsula Heritage Awards at **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Attended the opening of the **Rosebud West** Community Hub

- ✓ Spoke at the opening of New Peninsula Church's community auditorium at **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Took part in the **Red Hill** Consolidated School's Community Planting Day
- ✓ Worked on the creation of a Bio Link at **Mt Martha** as part of National Tree Day
- ✓ Addressed a meeting of the Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group at **Dromana**
- ✓ Met with representatives of **Mornington Peninsula** Landcare groups
- ✓ Attended the **Safety Beach** Sailing Club's season opening
- ✓ Attended the **Red Hill** Art Show

A Win for our *Clean Up the Bay* Campaign

With summer coming up it's good to know that our *Clean Up the Bay* campaign has been effective, with the State Government announcing a five-year action plan for a cleaner Yarra and Port Phillip Bay.

This is a major step in our campaign to make

the Bay the cleanest urban waterway in the southern hemisphere by 2022.

I will continue to work with the State Government, key stakeholders and the community on plans to clean up and protect our much-loved Bay.