



# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

## Flinders Community News

*Working for  
our Community*

Spring 2014



*Spreading mulch at Chinamans Creek*

## A Green Army for the Peninsula, Phillip Island and Western Port

It was terrific to join participants, project sponsors and service provider Conservation Volunteers Australia to launch the Mornington Peninsula Green Army project.

The team is carrying out a range of works across the Peninsula including landscaping, revegetation, weed control and eradication, track restoration and habitat enhancement. The sites include:

- **Chinamans Creek** - weed control and revegetation
- **Red Hill Community Park** - landscaping and revegetation
- **Red Hill Rail Trail** - weed control
- **Mornington Peninsula National Park** - weed eradication, track restoration and revegetation
- **Arthurs Seat State Park** - weed control for habitat quality
- **Mt Martha, Balcombe Creek** - habitat enhancement
- **Red Hill South Biolink** - weed control

The Green Army delivers on a key Coalition election commitment and is one of the Government's major environmental initiatives,

with \$525 million budgeted over four years for the initiative.

The first round of 196 Green Army projects across Australia will engage 17 to 24 year olds in what will soon be the largest ever team of young Australians mobilised to support environmental action.

It is fantastic to see these young people getting their hands dirty and making a real difference to the environment.

Green Army projects elsewhere in the electorate are due to begin shortly:

- The **Phillip Island** and **Bass Coast** Green Army Project will focus on the re-establishment of penguin habitat and koala habitat at Summerland Peninsula, as well as Mangrove rehabilitation and foreshore revegetation at **Grantville**, **Corinella** and **Coronet Bay**.
- The **Western Port** Green Army Project will focus on improving **Western Port's** natural environment, from **Crib Point**, **Hastings** and **Somerville** on the western side, through to **Lang Lang** and **Koo Wee Rup**.

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## National School Chaplaincy Program

October 30 marked the eighth anniversary of the National School Chaplaincy Program.

This vital program takes a holistic approach to children's learning, development and pastoral care.

I recently attended a function that brought together Chaplains from across **Western Port**. It was touching to hear the testimonials of students, parents and teachers about how the program has helped them.

To read my speech on the school chaplaincy program visit [www.greghunt.com.au](http://www.greghunt.com.au)

▼ With chaplain Gary Lewis and students from **Somerville Rise Primary School**



▲ Discussing conservation of the Great Barrier Reef with Scott and Travis at **Somerville Secondary College**

## Somerville students learn about the Reef

I was invited to **Somerville Secondary College** recently to talk about the steps the Government is taking to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

We were joined via video link from the Reef HQ in Townsville by Reef HQ aquarium director Fred Nucifora and scuba diver Craig McGrogan from inside the aquarium tank.

The Australian Government is putting in place a number of measures to protect the Reef, including:

- Culling more than 292,000 coral eating crown-of-thorns starfish
- Working with landholders to improve the quality of water flowing into the marine park
- Working with Traditional Owners on sustainable dugong and turtle hunting.

## Funding for Southern Peninsula veterans

▼ With Southern Peninsula Veterans Centre members

I was pleased to formally present the Southern Peninsula Veterans Centre with a \$53,432 Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grant.

BEST grants provide funding to organisations to support veterans and war widows.

The grant will allow the centre to continue its day-to-day operations, providing veterans and returned services members with practical and emotional support.

The team at the Centre does a fantastic job in helping returned service members get back on their feet.

The Southern Peninsula Veterans Centre is located at the **Rosebud RSL** and is open Tuesday-Friday from 10am-4pm. It also operates an outpost at **Cerberus** for serving defence personal.





## Balnarring Beach rehabilitation

Balnarring Foreshore Committee of Management is working hard to enhance public access and enjoyment of the **Balnarring Beach** Foreshore and Parks Reserve.

I met with the group recently to discuss rehabilitation works, including weed removal, revegetation and construction of a boardwalk with interpretive signage about the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

This will significantly enhance the Balnarring foreshore and I look forward to supporting this project into the future.



▲ With Balnarring Foreshore Committee members Paul and Amanda at Balnarring Beach

## New buildings for Newhaven College

I was thrilled to visit **Newhaven College** at the invitation of Principal Gea Lovell to discuss building works at the Phillip Island Road campus.

It is fantastic to see the college's new Trades Skills Centre taking shape, thanks to a \$1.5 million Federal Government grant.

The facility will teach vital skills to local young people, increasing their employment opportunities.

We also discussed the college's new library and administration building to be built with a \$500,000 Federal Government grant.



▲ Presenting an Anzac Centenary grant to Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub-branch president Ron Ingram

## Anzac Centenary grant for Koo Wee Rup

I am delighted that **Koo Wee Rup's** Avenue of Honour will be enhanced in time for the Centenary of Anzac commemorations next year, thanks to a \$11,750 Federal Government grant.

The Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub-branch will use the grant to create a WWI Honour Wall and install plaques along the Avenue of Honour.

With assistance from the Cardinia Shire Council, the Avenue of Honour has been planted with young oak trees.

This is one of a number of Anzac Centenary Local Grants that I have distributed throughout my electorate.

These grants will serve to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac and preserve the memory of those who so valiantly fought for our country.



▲ Dropping in on an art lesson with Jaime and Ashlee from Newhaven College.



## Centenary of the First Shot at Point Nepean

It was a pleasure to join the local community, dignitaries, visitors and veterans at **Point Nepean** on August 5 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the British Empire's first shot of WWI.

It was 12.45pm on August 5, 1914 – little more than three hours after war had been declared in London – when the first shot of WWI was fired from Fort Nepean to prevent the German merchant vessel SS Pfalz from escaping Port Phillip to the open seas. The shot was successful: the Pfalz surrendered.

The Federal Government committed \$10,000 through its Anzac Centenary Community Grants program to this commemorative event.



▲ At the First Shot event at Point Nepean

Perhaps the most important function of this event was to impart an understanding of this history to the next generation.



▲ With the Sorrento-Portsea RSL recipients of Flinders Community Awards

## First Shot – Flinders Community Awards

I was thrilled to present members of the **Sorrento-Portsea** RSL with Flinders Community Awards following the First Shot event recently.

The event was the perfect tribute to the Australian troops who fought in World War I, and a fitting way to commemorate 100 years since the start of WWI.

I felt incredibly lucky to be part of this event, which has set a high standard for the Centenary of Anzac Commemorations that will take place across the country.

I would particularly like to thank John Prentice, Michael Jeffeson and Arthur Hicowe who dedicated countless hours of their own time to make the event happen.

## Western Port Flinders Community Awards

I had the honour recently of presenting **Western Port** Community members with a Flinders Community Award.

These are exceptional people who have consistently put their community first and dedicated countless hours to improving the lives of others.

Recipients of the Western Port Flinders Community Awards:

- Rosemary Evans
- Lisa Dixon
- Warwick Taylor
- Norman Carlyon
- John Antoine
- Mary Budd
- Shirley Davies
- Nanette Cuming

I congratulate each of the recipients and thank them for their contribution.



▲ With the Western Port recipients of Flinders Community Awards





Planting trees with Sienna at **Dromana** ▲

## National Tree Day

I joined local residents at **Dromana** ahead of National Tree Day on July 27 to plant trees and revegetate our local environment.

More than 225,000 volunteers around Australia celebrated National Tree Day by planting native trees, making it the country's largest nature-care event. It was an opportunity for all of us to reflect on the positive steps we can take to make a difference.

National Tree Day is about more than just planting trees; it's about inspiring the younger generation to get involved with nature, whether it's planting at the local park or growing vegies in their backyard or school.

Thank you to all the community volunteers who came together on National Tree Day to make a positive difference to the environment.

## Habitat for Humanity gives families a home

I recently met with Mavis Peet from Habitat for Humanity at **Crib Point** to see their latest build.

Habitat for Humanity helps low-income families in Australia achieve the dream of building and owning their own home.

Each family receives an interest-free loan and volunteers help with planning and construction. The family puts in 500 hours 'sweat equity' by contributing to the building process and repays the loan.

I was also lucky enough to meet two of the families soon to be moving into the houses.

Habitat for Humanity does an amazing job. This is a truly worthy cause that transforms the lives of families.



Repotting mangrove seedlings at **Mornington Peninsula Youth Enterprises** ▲

## Celebrating 25 years of Landcare

The Landcare movement has celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at **Mornington Peninsula Youth Enterprises**.

Landcare has become one of Australia's most important environmental movements, with more than 6000 affiliated groups helping communities to tackle environmental and sustainable agriculture challenges.

Landcare members are inspirational people, united by a shared desire to make a positive difference. I thank Landcare members across the country for the tremendous work they do.

The Australian Government is proud to be supporting Landcare to sustainably manage our natural resources.



▲ With Mavis Peet and families who will receive new homes thanks to Habitat for Humanity



# Hastings Railway Station 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary

I was thrilled to be part of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of **Hastings** Railway Station.

On September 10, 1889 the station welcomed its first train to much fanfare.

To mark the anniversary a crowd gathered to wave in the train as the community would have done all those years ago.

It was terrific to hear some of the stories of that first train trip and learn about the rich and vibrant history of the station.

I hope the station will remain a community icon for years to come.



▲ At the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hastings Railway Station

## Local small business visits

I have recently had the pleasure of visiting a number of small business owners in the electorate who are making fantastic progress in their respective fields.

**Green Olive** at **Red Hill** is making terrific inroads into agricultural tourism and attracting overseas visitors. It recently won an RACV Victorian Tourism Award.

**DR Engineering Solutions** at **Balnarring** has been set up to offer engineering design and technical support to businesses. It uses the latest high-performance computer systems to deliver 3D design, drafting, simulation, digital prototyping and visualisation of the complete engineering process.

**Extreme Watersport** in **Rosebud West** is offering an opportunity for people to take kayak tours, hire kayaks and take scuba diving tours or lessons. This is a fantastic way to see our coastline from a different perspective.

**D.W Pratt Builders** has been a **Mornington Peninsula** owned and operated business since 1978. Specialising in the construction of high-quality new homes, additions and renovations, the company uses building designs that suit the aesthetics of the Peninsula.



▲ With Steve Dale from Extreme Watersport in Rosebud

Admiring the vines with Sue and Greg O'Donoghue at Green Olive at Red Hill ▼



## Nurse practitioner secured for Grantville

I am delighted that Bass Coast Shire Council has given six months free rent to **Grantville** nurse practitioner Deb Garvey, allowing her to continue the valuable service she has provided to local residents for the past few years.

Ms Garvey has accepted the offer and will continue to practise at her current premises in the Grantville Transaction Centre.

This is a fantastic outcome for the Waterline communities.

*With members of the Waterline Nurse Practitioner Action Group ▶*



## New home for Mount Martha Life Saving Club

The new **Mount Martha** Life Saving Clubhouse is taking shape and expected to be partially occupied by Christmas.

The clubhouse will be an important new community facility that will be home to one of the largest lifesaving clubs on the bay.

The new facility will boast greater storage, larger training rooms and the latest in design that will hold the club in good stead for the future.

It was a pleasure working with the Mount Martha Life Saving Club to help make this dream a reality.

*With John Harvey from Mount Martha Life Saving Club▼*



## Rosebud Hospital CT Scanner

The Southern Peninsula community will benefit hugely from works currently underway on a new Medical Imaging area at **Rosebud** Hospital. The imaging area is expected to open in December.

I would like to thank all of the community members who donated to the appeal to make this possible, in particular to the Southern Peninsula Community Fund, which donated more than \$500,000 to the appeal.

## Flinders councils to share in \$24 million for local roads

Councils in the Flinders electorate will share in more than \$24M over the next five years to improve and upgrade local roads.

This is great news for local councils, residents and businesses across the **Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast, Cardinia** and **Casey** councils as well as **French Island**. The funding comprises:

- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council: \$6.881 million
- Bass Coast Shire Council: \$3.988 million
- Cardinia Shire Council: \$7.025 million
- Casey City Council: \$6.362 million
- French Island: \$114,000

This funding from the Federal Government will make a real difference and will ensure motorists, pedestrians and cyclists enjoy safer, quicker and more comfortable journeys on our roads.



# Out and About:



▲ At the **Red Hill Spring Garden Festival** with Red Hill Gardening Society member Mark Dunstan



▲ At the **Dromana Bowls Club** season opening with 100-year-old Betty who is a lifetime member of the club



▲ At the **Somerville Primary School Children's Art Show**

- ✓ Met with the new Bass Coast Health CEO Veronica Jamison to discuss extra health services for **Phillip Island**
- ✓ Competed in the **Arthurs Seat** Challenge
- ✓ Attended the Abacus Fundraising Gala Dinner in **Hastings**
- ✓ Launched the St John's Retirement Village Art and Craft Exhibition in **Somerville**
- ✓ Attended the **Mornington Peninsula** Teenagers Road Accident Group presentation
- ✓ Took part in the launch of the Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad's new Rescue Boat at **Blairgowrie**
- ✓ Attended the **Mount Martha** Fire Brigade Awards Night
- ✓ Launched the Tobin Brothers Golf Tournament at **Rosebud** Park Golf Course
- ✓ Attended the **Balnarring** Lions Club 40th Charter Anniversary at **Cape Schanck**
- ✓ Paid tribute to fallen police officers at Police Remembrance Day in **Rosebud**
- ✓ Met with representatives of the **Phillip Island** Conservation Society
- ✓ Spoke at the Rotary Club of **Hastings** for vocational month
- ✓ Drew the raffle for McHappy Day at McDonald's in **Rosebud**
- ✓ Addressed the Victorian Landcare Conference at **Mount Martha**
- ✓ Opened the sailing season at the **Rye** Yacht Club
- ✓ Opened the Coastal Villages Art Group Exhibition at **Warneet**
- ✓ Met with the **Phillip Island** Progress Association
- ✓ Opened the sailing season at the **Blairgowrie** Yacht Squadron
- ✓ Attended the launch of the sailing season at **McCrae** Yacht Club
- ✓ Helped launch the Peninsula Explorer Hop-on Hop-off Bus at **Sorrento**
- ✓ Spoke with the **Phillip Island** Health Action Group about how best to boost health services with a \$2.5 million Federal Government grant
- ✓ Opened the sailing season at **Sorrento** Sailing Couts Boat Club