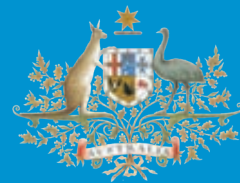




Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER



Flinders Community News

*Working for
our Community*

Spring 2009



with George Mihaly at Paradigm Hill Winery, Merricks – a local business taking a pro-active approach to climate change.

Campaign to Stop the Crib Point Bitumen Plant

The State Government's decision to approve construction of a bitumen plant at **Crib Point** was against the advice of an independent panel. This is a major blow for the town and we will fight it as a community.

This plant will re-industrialise the town, put more trucks on our local roads and will cut the Woolleys Beach Foreshore Reserve in half.

Together with local residents and members of the Crib Point Foreshore Committee, I have vowed to maintain the fight against this plan.

I have asked Peter Garrett to halt the project on environmental grounds and will continue an unstinting campaign with locals to get this decision overturned.



▲ drawing up a plan of action with Crib Point residents.

Fight to Secure an Ambulance for Grantville and Bass Coast

I am committed to working with **Grantville** residents to fight for an urgently-needed ambulance station.

With the nearest ambulances based up to 52km away and frequently tied up transferring patients to Melbourne, residents of the Grantville area are often left vulnerable and unprotected.

Local residents deserve an emergency medical response available to them within an acceptable timeframe.

We have seen what the community can achieve with the recent victory in the fight to get the desalination plant power lines placed underground.

I believe we can achieve the same result with the Grantville ambulance campaign and urge all local residents to contact my office and join the campaign.

What's Inside...

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▲ examining development plans at Cowes

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This material has been produced at Australian Government expense by Greg Hunt MP

Focus on Youth



Southern Peninsula Basketball Association: Rosebud, Rye and Dromana

The Southern Peninsula Basketball Association has grown into one of the largest sporting groups on the Peninsula and the 3rd biggest basketball association in the State.

The SPBA has 1900 members and organises games for 220 teams each week. Based at **Rosebud** Secondary College, the association has now grown so big that it has run out of space.

I am working with the association to identify possible avenues of funding for a new facility, which is estimated to cost about \$2-2.5 million.

Jeff Swagemakers, Mick Russell and the rest of the SPBA committee deserve all the support we can give them. Their hard work has improved the lives of literally hundreds of local youngsters.

To join Southern Peninsula Basketball Association call 5981 0347.

◀ *shooting hoops (badly) at Rosebud's Hillview Stadium (while Poppy practises).*



▲ at Rye Youth Centre with Jim, YMCA manager Maree Feutrill and Bendigo Bank manager, Gary Sanford.

Rye Youth Centre

The Rye Youth Centre has expanded its arts-based programs to support young people on the Southern Peninsula.

Programs include:

- a weekly 'Creative Life' program for teenage girls from **Rosebud** that helps build self-esteem and positive social connections.
- the 'Rye Youth Studio', which welcomes children 10-13 years to a fun, creative after-school program with woodwork, sculpture, art and drama.
- 'PATS' (paying attention to self), a program for young people who have parents affected by mental illness.
- holiday programs, public internet access, Youth Parliament, and the YOT sailing program with Rye Yacht Club.

The Youth Centre is funded by a partnership between Rye and Dromana Community Bendigo Bank and the YMCA. The centre currently opens three days a week however support is being sought to expand the program to full time. For more details contact: 5985 9101.

Focus on Youth

Cowes Students 'Turn to Sport for Good Health'

I was delighted to join **Cowes** Primary students in their quest to achieve 1.5 million throws, flicks, handballs or other types of sporting passes as part of the 'Turning to Sport for Good Health' campaign.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of **diabetes** and educate children about the importance of sport as part of a healthy and active lifestyle. It is a joint initiative between the Australian Sports Commission's Active After-School Communities program and Diabetes Australia.

The Active After-School Communities program, an initiative of the former Coalition Government, provides more than 150,000 children with free tuition in over 70 sports and other activities after school each week.

Other schools that offer the Active After-School Communities program include:

- **Balnarring Primary School**
- **Cardinia Primary School**
- **Cowes Primary School**
- **Crib Point Primary School**
- **Dromana Primary School**
- **Eastbourne Primary School**
- **Koo Wee Rup Primary School**
- **Somerville Rise Primary School**
- **Mt Martha Primary School**
- **Pearcedale Primary School**
- **Rye Primary School**
- **St Mary's Primary School, Hastings**
- **Tootgarook Primary School**

table tennis tournament at Cowes.



Success in Youth Allowance Campaign – More to be Done

The Coalition has been successful in getting the start date for changes to the Youth Allowance moved to January 1, 2011 to enable students currently in their gap years to qualify.

Proposed changes to legislation mean regional students will no longer be able to qualify for Youth Allowance by working for a gap year to gain independence.

This will affect students living on the southern **Mornington Peninsula**, the **Bass Coast** and **Phillip Island**, who do not have the luxury of being able to live at home while studying at university.

We are now pushing for a new \$120 million Rural and Regional Scholarship program for country students. I urge all parents concerned about these changes to contact my office.

New Environment Grants

The environment will benefit from new funding for local environment projects under the successor to the Coalition's Envirofund. While funding has been slashed recently, it is heartening to see that the hard work and dedication of local volunteers continues on.

Grants include:

- ✓ \$50,000 for **Mt Martha foreshore** and the **Balcombe Estuary**
- ✓ \$25,700 for the **Rosebud West** "Skink Link" project
- ✓ \$40,500 to revegetate the foreshore between **Whitecliffs** and **Camerons Bight**
- ✓ \$93,600 for the **Bass Coast Landcare Network's** rabbit control program

Local Issues: Cowes and Baxter

Support for a Health Hub and Children's Hub at Cowes

I met recently with the Bass Coast Shire Council, Warley Hospital Trust, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) and the Bass Coast Community Health Service to discuss steps to securing better health and community services for Phillip Island.

A key part of this plan is the creation of a health and community hub at **Cowes** which will complement existing plans for a new children's and education hub at Cowes Primary School.

- The first stage involves development of a new health hub for the Island on the site of the existing PICAL centre, offering a wide range of allied health and welfare services.
- The second stage would see PICAL's adult education and child care services relocated to the new children's and education hub.
- The third stage focuses on expanding the health hub to include hospital care. Under this plan the health hub would eventually become a campus of Wonthaggi Hospital.



- ▲ inspecting plans for the **Cowes Children's Hub** with Bass Coast Shire's Liz Wright.
- ▼ with **Baxter** campaigner Peter Baulch and Hastings MP Neale Burgess.

Fight to Protect Baxter from Overpass

I have joined a vigorous community campaign against the State Government's decision to run the new Peninsula Link freeway above Baxter-Tooradin and Frankston-Flinders roads rather than beneath them.

Running the new freeway along an overpass will mean a huge loss of amenity for **Baxter** residents and will effectively cut the town in half.

I believe that an underpass is possible and could be paid for from savings made by shortening the freeway and bringing it in to meet an upgraded Moorooduc Highway just south of Baxter.

This would avoid running the freeway through some of the best Green Wedge land in the State and is the option the former Coalition Government offered to fund.

I am committed to fighting for the best outcome for Baxter.



News Updates

CO2 Re-use Plant at Lang Lang

Lang Lang is about to get a major new carbon capture and re-use facility that will remove up to 53,000 tonnes of CO2 a year – a billion black balloons – from the atmosphere.

The new facility, based at Origin Energy's BassGas plant, will capture more than a quarter of the plant's yearly CO2 emissions for a range of industrial uses such as soft drink carbonation, wine-making and fire-fighting.

This project is a fantastic example of how local industries can be pro-active in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

▼ *inspecting work on the CO2 capture and re-use facility at Lang Lang.*



Mt Martha Community Bank

- Plans are well underway for a new community bank at **Mt Martha** in the wake of the closure of the National Australia Bank branch in August.
- Residents are urged to join efforts to secure a bank for the town by contacting David Piper on 0418 338 625 or Melissa Phelan on 0419 514 674.
- The Bank has reached its target of pledges and is now undertaking a feasibility study.

Rosebud Aquatic Centre

I am pleased to report that plans for an aquatic centre at **Rosebud** have progressed, with the council deciding on a foreshore site for the facility. A final decision now rests with the State Government and I have written again to Premier Brumby urging him to speed up the process.

Subscribe to my monthly e-newsletter

Email me at greg.hunt.mp@aph.gov.au

Protecting Farmland in Pearcedale, Five Ways and Coastal Villages

Congratulations to everyone involved in the success of our community campaign to stop the State Government building a new rail line from the Port of Hastings through some of our most productive farmland at Tyabb, Pearcedale, Clyde and Cardinia.

Victory on 24hr Police Station for Hastings

I am delighted that our community campaign to retain a 24-hour police presence in **Hastings** has been a success.

Thanks to all those residents who contacted my office to express their concern about the plan to close the station overnight. It is a terrific win for Hastings.

◀ *Celebrating National Tree Day with students from Hastings Primary School.*

Out and About: Casey, Cardinia, Phillip Island and Bass Coast

Victory in Fight Against Overhead Powerlines

The awarding of a contract to build one of the world's largest desalination plants next to a state park was a bleak day for **Bass Coast** residents.

But there was some consolation in the fact that the power lines to the plant will now be placed underground.

This victory was largely due to the community campaign against overhead power lines spearheaded by Alan Fraser and the Power Grid Action Group.

The success of this campaign means hundreds of families living in the following areas will be spared the blight of ugly overhead powerlines:

- Kilcunda
- Woolamai
- Glen Forbes
- Grantville
- Almurta
- The Gurdies
- St Helier
- Lang Lang
- Yannathan
- Catani
- Bayles
- Dalyston

- ✓ Discussed plans for a new community and health hub at **Cowes** with Imogen Smith and John Sanderson of the Phillip Island Community and Learning Inc
- ✓ Inspected a tidal power trial at **San Remo**
- ✓ Visited the BassGas plant at **Lang Lang** to discuss plans for a CO2 re-use facility
- ✓ Met residents of **Grantville** to discuss the campaign for a new ambulance station
- ✓ Met with David Luscombe and Gwen McCrae to discuss the future use of Warley Hospital funds for **Phillip Island**
- ✓ Met with Ian Samuel, Commodore of the **Cowes** Yacht Club, to discuss the Anderson St Boat Ramp
- ✓ Presented a certificate to mark the 60th wedding anniversary of Paul and Joyce Woodford of **Cowes**
- ✓ Met with Bass Coast Community Health Service CEO Melissa Van Rennes to discuss a new health hub for **Cowes**
- ✓ Attended the **Blind Bight** Boat Owners Annual General Meeting
- ✓ Joined students at **Cowes** Primary School to raise awareness of the importance of sport in combating diabetes



▲ meeting with inventors of a prototype tidal power turbine - the Sundermann Turbine - which is currently being tested in the waters off **San Remo**. This technology could be used by indigenous communities in the Kimberley.



▲ with Paula and baby James.

A New Addition to the Family

On July 6 my wife Paula gave birth to our second child, a son, James Anthony Alan Hunt.

He weighed 3.3kg at birth and is now a healthy 5.9kg and in temperament is very Zen.

James, Paula and Poppy are well - dad remains slightly startled.

- ◀ launching a Tasmanian Devil breeding program at Moonlit Sanctuary, **Pearcedale** with Michael Johnson. The program aims to breed healthy devils in captivity in an effort to overcome the deadly facial cancer that is decimating the animal in the wild.

Out and About: Somerville, Hastings and Western Port

- ✓ Attended the **Somerville** Pre-school's 50th anniversary celebrations
- ✓ Discussed latest findings of the Dolphin Research Institute with Jeff Weir in **Hastings**
- ✓ Met with local mums to discuss a campaign for a high school in the **Balnarring-Red Hill** area
- ✓ Attended the annual inspection of the Australian Naval Cadet unit at **HMAS Cerberus**
- ✓ Spoke at the **Balnarring and District** Community Bank's 1st birthday celebrations
- ✓ Spoke about palliative care with Rachel Bovenizer, CEO of the **Peninsula** Hospice Service
- ✓ Joined celebrations for National Schools Tree Day at **Hastings** Primary School
- ✓ Joined **Balnarring** Primary School's Active After School Communities program to promote good health
- ✓ Spoke at the **Hastings** Football Club's Presidents Lunch
- ✓ Presented an Australian flag and addressed students at Finders Christian College, **Tyabb**
- ✓ Addressed the monthly meeting of the **Hastings** Legacy Widows Club
- ✓ Met with residents of **Crib Point** to discuss opposition to the bitumen plant
- ✓ Met with representatives of the Devilbend Landcare Group to discuss greater protection for the **Devilbend Reserve**
- ✓ Attended the **Somers** Residents Association's Annual General Meeting
- ✓ Met with members of the **Hastings** branch of the U3A
- ✓ Presented an Australian flag to the **Hastings** Club
- ✓ spoke at the 25th anniversary celebrations of St John's Retirement Village in **Somerville**



▲ Tossing the coin at the start of the **Tyabb vs Sorrento** football match at **Tyabb**.

▼ celebrating the 25th anniversary of the **St John's Retirement Village** at **Somerville**.



▲ with Sean Wilmore at **Balnarring** discussing assistance for the **Thin Green Line Foundation**, which supports the families of park rangers killed on the frontline of conservation around the world.



Out and About: Mornington Peninsula



◀ visiting Chisholm TAFE in **Rosebud** with Poppy to discuss efforts to propagate and preserve the feather spear grass, a rare native plant. The TAFE's Shane Jackman explains that the grass was discovered by a staff member growing wild in a nature strip outside the Baker Boys Café.



▲ discussing local issues with Sergeant Steve Atkins and Senior Sergeant Bill Woodley during a visit to **Rosebud** Police Station.

✓ Spoke at the War Widows Guild at **Rosebud** RSL

✓ Attended the official handover of the historic Quarantine Station at **Pt Nepean**

✓ Attended the Rotary Club of **Rosebud** Distribution Function

✓ Joined the **Mornington Peninsula** Multi-Faith Celebration

✓ Opened the Phoenix Fires Exhibition by artist Pippa Leach at Marina Cove by the Sea, **Dromana**

✓ Spoke about the environment and water at the Mornington Rotary Club dinner in **Mornington**

✓ Joined the pre-game luncheon of the Worksafe football Game of the Month at **Red Hill** Showgrounds

✓ Addressed the **Rye** Rotary Club's business meeting at the Rye Hotel

✓ Presented a replacement flag to officers at the **Rosebud** Police Station

✓ Addressed the Order of Australia Association **Peninsula** Group Annual Luncheon

✓ Met to discuss support for a grant to install solar panels at **Rosebud** Primary School

✓ Attended the annual Mayoral Fundraising Ball for **Mornington Peninsula** charities

✓ Met members of the Southern Peninsula Basketball Association at **Rosebud** to discuss support for a new sports facility

✓ Met members of the **Rye** Youth Centre to discuss support for the expansion of its programs

✓ Spoke at the handover ceremony for the **Rye** Historical Society's school building project

✓ Attended the **Shoreham** Village community meeting to discuss plans for a community buy-out of the general store

✓ Met with representatives of the New Peninsula Baptist Church to discuss support for local seniors at **Mt Martha**

✓ Lent a hand at the Peninsula Craft Expo at **Mornington** to raise money to build respite accommodation for intellectually handicapped adults

✓ Spoke at a Celebration of Landcare and Coastcare on the Mornington Peninsula at the **Pt Leo** Boat Club

✓ Took part in the **Mornington** Bay Run at Mornington Park

✓ Met representatives of the **Mornington Peninsula** Shire to discuss an appropriate model for public housing development on the Mornington Peninsula

✓ Attended the Master Teacher Mentor Celebration at Toorak College, Mt Eliza

✓ Welcomed student Rachel Smoker from **Rosebud** Secondary College to Parliament House

✓ Launched the **Mt Martha** Uniting Church's 30th Anniversary celebrations



▲ chatting with district nurse Sue at the official opening of the Royal District Nursing Service's new Care & Assessment Centre at **Rosebud**.