



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER



Flinders Community News

*Working for
our Community*

Winter 2009



sending a message to Mr Brumby.

Southern Peninsula Aquatic Centre Rally

Southern Peninsula residents have left the State Government in no doubt that they want their aquatic centre built as quickly as possible.

At a public rally at **Rosebud** they spoke passionately about the need for a hydrotherapy pool and a place where their children and grandchildren can learn to swim in safety.



The community has been calling for this facility for many years and plans are well advanced with the Mornington Peninsula Shire, yet the State Government continues to defer its decision on an appropriate site.

Member for Nepean Martin Dixon and I will continue to do all that we can to get the aquatic centre built as quickly as possible.

Trades Training for Hastings and Peninsula Youngsters

I have given my full support to the establishment of a Peninsula Trade Training Centre after meeting to discuss the plan with Western Port Secondary College acting Principal Kym Bridgford.

The centre, modelled closely on a plan developed by the Coalition Government, will provide a greater range of technical education for Peninsula teenagers.

If successful, specialist hubs will be based at

secondary colleges at **Hastings, Somerville, Rosebud, Dromana** and **Mornington**. Each hub will focus on different areas of skills training such as engineering, automotive, water, marine maintenance, hospitality, IT, building and construction.

A transport network will link all participating secondary schools and it is hoped that students from anywhere on the Peninsula will be able to pursue the course of their choice.

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facility for local families.*

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Seniors and Veterans



Flinders Positive Ageing Forum at Rosebud

It was with great delight that I welcomed more than 400 people to the Flinders Positive Ageing Forum at the **Rosebud** RSL in March.

As well as practical advice and information for seniors, the forum featured two inspirational speakers: TV weatherman and environmentalist, Rob Gell, and Mornington's own Galloping Granny, Mary Taylor.

Rob spoke passionately about environmental issues while Mary entertained the audience with tales of her adventures driving solo around Australia as a 91-year-old in a small, 4-cylinder car.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate all those who received their Flinders Seniors Award at the forum and thank them for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

◀ *welcoming local seniors to the Flinders Positive Ageing Forum.*



▲ *celebrating the opening of a new courtyard with Kaye Moore, Lorraine Harris and Frank Matons at the Southern Peninsula Veterans' Centre.*

Southern Peninsula Veterans' Centre

The Southern Peninsula Veterans' Centre at **Rosebud** now has a new courtyard, funded by a \$6465 grant from the Commonwealth Government under a program initiated by the Coalition Government.

Special thanks go to Lorraine Harris, Kaye Moore and Frank Matons for creating an attractive and welcoming outdoor area for our local veterans.

The National Servicemen's Association

The National Servicemen's Association of Australia is the second largest ex-service organisation in the nation, representing the 287,000 men who were called up for service in the Navy, Army and Air Force between 1951 and 1972.

The association looks after their health and welfare but there are thousands of former servicemen who have yet to make contact with the association. The NSA has branches covering the **Bass Coast** and **Mornington Peninsula** areas. For more information visit www.nashos.org.au or call (03) 5523 3329.



▲ *tai chi demonstration at the Flinders Positive Ageing Forum.*

Community Meetings

Coastal Villages Community Meeting

Many thanks to those residents of **Tooradin, Blind Bight, Warneet and Cannons Creek** who came along to my recent community meeting.

There is clearly widespread concern about the potential for a disaster along the lines of Black Saturday if issues surrounding the reduction of excess fuel are not addressed quickly.

Along with Hastings State MP Neale Burgess and local residents, I have drafted an 11-point plan that has been sent to Casey Council, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Victorian Bushfire Recovery Authority.

Neale and I have also asked Casey Council to ensure that a fire protection plan for each of the coastal villages is in place by September 1 this year.

▼ with **Blind Bight Community Centre president Louise McPherson**.



▲ discussing the development of a fire protection plan for the **Coastal Villages**.

Phillip Island and San Remo Community Meeting

It was fantastic to see so many people at my recent **Phillip Island** and **San Remo** community meeting.

The major topic of discussion was the alarming deterioration in health and medical services on Phillip Island.

With the closure of Warley Hospital, the ongoing shortage of local doctors and Wonthaggi Hospital stretched to the limit, there is a strong feeling that local health needs are being neglected.

As a result of the meeting I have spoken with representatives of Bass Coast Regional Health, the Rural Ambulance Service and Warley Hospital's board of management with the aim of drawing up a proposal for improved medical facilities for the island.

Rosebud Fire Brigade

Rosebud Fire Brigade has launched a campaign to raise \$300,000 for a new fire truck.

Members of the brigade do a fantastic job of protecting **Rosebud** and surrounding suburbs and its important that we give them all the support we can.

Anyone who would like to fundraise for the brigade or donate money should contact the Rosebud Fire Brigade on (03) 5986 1358 or visit the fire station at 99 Boneo Rd, Rosebud.

Help Support Our School Chaplains

The Rosebud Secondary College Chaplaincy Committee offers counselling and practical support to local students in need.

To do this, the committee needs to raise more than \$64,000 a year to meet its costs.

To raise money, the college has an excellent range of blank greetings cards for sale at discount prices. I urge all parents and local residents to support this worthwhile program. If you would like to help, please contact 5986 8595.

Focus on: Somerville

A New Youth Centre for Somerville

Along with Hastings State MP Neale Burgess, I recently met with representatives of St Andrew's Church in **Somerville**, which is spearheading plans to build a youth centre in the church grounds.

The church has received some seed funding towards the project and plans are well underway for construction of the new building.

If we are successful, the new youth centre will go a long way towards tackling the urgent need for a place where local teenagers can meet and spend time with each other.

Somerville Secondary College

Somerville Secondary College's newly-installed FIFA-approved soccer pitch and running track has made a huge difference to the school.

The school would like to make the facility available to the wider community and has enlisted my support in this.

I have made several representations to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council seeking funding for this community facility and am pleased that the Shire has now given in-principal support to the project .

▶
with Principal
Christopher Lloyd.



Somerville Safety House Scheme

I urge all **Somerville** residents to consider making their home or business a safe place for children.

The Somerville Safety House scheme provides a network of safe houses that children can go to if they feel unsafe or need help.

This scheme helps all children, particularly youngsters attending **Somerville Rise, Somerville** and **St Brendan's** primary schools, to feel safe and confident when they are outside home or school. For more details visit www.safetyhousevic.org.au or phone 1800 626 840.

▶
manning the
barbecue at
the Yaringa
Special Day for
Special Kids at
Somerville's
Yaringa Boat
Harbour and
Marina.



News Round-up

Mt Martha Fights Back Against Bank Closure

The announcement that **Mt Martha**, **Rye** and **Balnarring** are to lose their National Australia Bank branches has angered many Peninsula residents.

I recently led a delegation of local residents in a meeting with the National Australia Bank's state manager, to try to persuade the bank to reconsider its decision for each of the three towns.

In the meantime, I am working with local traders to establish a community bank at Mt Martha, which will be left with no bank at all.

I am deeply impressed at the town's fighting spirit and will continue to do all that I can to ensure that local residents and traders do not suffer as a result of this decision.

If the NAB does pull out, we will fight for a community bank for Mt Martha.

▼ *addressing a meeting of Mt Martha residents and traders.*



testing the new running track at Somerville Secondary College.

Supporting Junior Athletes

The Australian Sports Commission offers individual grants of \$500 and team grants of \$3000 to athletes aged 12-18 who travel more than 250km to compete at a State or National level.

There are 13 individual and two team grants to be awarded each year. The grants are awarded by an independent panel consisting of myself, local football legend Simon Goosey, Somerville Primary School Principal Sue Goodall, wheelchair bowls champion Wendy Odgers and Oarsome Foursome Olympic gold medallist Drew Ginn.

Round 1 and 2 winners received their awards at a special ceremony at **Somerville Primary** recently. They are:

- ✓ Hockey player Vaughan Tuxen of **Flinders**
- ✓ Swimmer Allison Ryan of **Hastings**
- ✓ Swimmer Claudia Davenport of **Moorooduc**
- ✓ Mogul skier Pip Sparrow of **St Andrews Beach**
- ✓ Swimmer Mitchell Pratt of **Pearcedale**
- ✓ Volleyball player Katrina Janssen of **Somerville**
- ✓ Swimmer Benjamin Dade of **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Sailer James Wierzbowski of **Merricks Beach**
- ✓ The **Pt Leo U17 R & R Surf Life Saving Team**

Congratulations to all our deserving winners.

I encourage all families interested in this program to visit www.ausport.gov.au/champions for more information and to download an application form.

▼ *with judges Wendy Odgers and Sue Goodall and winners of the Australian Sports Commission grants.*



Out and About: Mornington Peninsula



▲ marking Greek National Day with a raising of the flag ceremony at the monument of the Unknown Soldier at **Rye** with youngsters in Greek national dress.

▼ discussing victory in the campaign to fix **Rosebud Pier**. The pier looks set to be repaired now that the State Government has accepted local requests and finally called for tenders to carry out the work.



▼ inspecting the new kitchen garden at **Eastbourne Primary School** in **Rosebud West** with **Bethany** and **Skyla**. The school runs a fantastic program in which students learn how to cultivate fruit and vegetables and then how to cook them.



- ✓ Supported the working bee at **Chinaman's Creek** in **Rosebud West** as part of Clean Up Australia Day
- ✓ Opened an exhibition to raise funds for the bushfire appeal at **White Hill Gallery**, **Dromana**
- ✓ Spoke at a public rally organised by the **Clean Ocean Foundation** at **Gunnamatta Beach**
- ✓ Presented leadership badges to students at **Moorooduc Primary School**
- ✓ Spoke with senior students about Government and Parliament at **Osborne Primary School**, **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Met with members of the **Flinders Golf Club** to discuss Federal support for a new water-saving project
- ✓ Took part in **Dads' Day** at **Pt Nepean**
- ✓ Visited the **Fastest Ferret** competition at the **Red Hill Show**
- ✓ Visited **Sorrento Primary School** to discuss a major upgrade to the school facilities
- ✓ Met with **Safety Beach** residents to discuss support for the construction of a footpath along **Nepean Hwy**
- ✓ Officially opened a new courtyard at the **Southern Peninsula Veterans' Centre**, **Rosebud**
- ✓ Discussed fundraising support with members of the **Mornington Peninsula Chaplaincy Committee** in **Rosebud**
- ✓ Presented an Australian flag to the **Martha Point Retirement Village** in **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Attended the farewell celebrations of the **Rev Murray Morton** at **Rosebud**
- ✓ Addressed a **Bushfire Assistance Community Meeting** at **Rye**
- ✓ Laid a wreath at the **Village Glen's ANZAC Day ceremony**, **Rosebud**
- ✓ Presented an Australian flag to **Rosebud Country Club**
- ✓ Spoke with students about environmental sustainability at **Eastbourne Primary School**, **Rosebud West**
- ✓ Met with representatives of **Rosebud Rehabilitation Centre** to discuss patient needs
- ✓ Worked with **Mt Martha** residents on the establishment of a community bank
- ✓ Laid a wreath at the **Cenotaph** in **Dromana** to mark **ANZAC Day**
- ✓ Joined the **ANZAC Day march** at **Rosebud RSL**
- ✓ Laid a wreath at **Rye RSL's ANZAC Day Memorial Service**
- ✓ Attended the commissioning of new chaplains for the **Dromana Schools Chaplaincy Committee**
- ✓ Met with players and organisers in support of the **Rosebud Country Club Charity Golf Day** for the **Cancer Council**
- ✓ Helped launch the **Mt Martha Bowls Club's** new water-saving project
- ✓ Attended the **Victorian Farmers' Federation dinner** at **Cape Schanck**
- ✓ Attended the **New Peninsula Church**, **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Met to discuss support for the **Habitat Restoration Fund** at **Red Hill South**
- ✓ Met with the **National Australia Bank's State Manager** to discuss concerns about the closure of branches at **Mt Martha**, **Rye** and **Balnarring**
- ✓ Officially opened the **Peninsula Studio Trail**
- ✓ Inspected bushland restoration at **Red Hill** and **Merricks**

Out and About: Casey, Cardinia and Bass Coast

- ✓ Presented an Australian flag to the **Pearcedale** Fire Brigade
- ✓ Took part in the opening of the new Caroline Talbot Hall at **Newhaven** Primary School, funded by a Coalition Government grant of \$150,000.
- ✓ Visited **Tooradin** Primary School to speak with students about the environment
- ✓ Held a series of meetings and phone calls to discuss the future of Warley Hospital at **Cowes**
- ✓ Joined the Cavalcade of Classic Cars at **Coronet Bay**
- ✓ Opened the **Coronet Bay** Beach Fair
- ✓ Met with the Lang Lang Aged Care Inc Strategy Group Meeting to discuss a new aged care facility for **Lang Lang**



▲ celebrating the opening of the new Bendigo Bank branch at **Tooradin**. I salute the hard work of the dedicated local committee in securing a community bank for the town. Residents of nearby **Cannons Creek, Warneet** and **Blind Bight** will all benefit from this new service.



▲ getting to know 16-month-old Tiah at **Pearcedale** Playgroup during National Playgroup Week. As the father of a very active four-year-old and with another baby on the way, I know how important playgroups are to young families.

- ✓ Presented awards to school leaders at **Bayles** Regional Primary School
- ✓ Hosted the Phillip Island and San Remo Community Forum at **Cowes**
- ✓ Met with the National Australia Bank's State Manager to discuss concerns regarding the sale of Warley Hospital at **Cowes**
- ✓ Laid a wreath at the **Koo Wee Rup** RSL's ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- ✓ Hosted the Coastal Village Community Forum for residents of **Cannons Creek, Warneet, Tooradin** and **Blind Bight**
- ✓ Officially opened the **Bass** Football Club's new water-saving project
- ✓ Addressed the **Gippsland Region** School's Business Manager's Conference

Celebrating Victory in the Campaign for Natural Gas at Lang Lang –

Now for the Coastal Villages and Phillip Island

Residents of **Lang Lang** can expect warmer homes and cheaper energy bills this winter after our successful campaign to get natural gas connected.

Together with local State MPs Ken Smith and Neale Burgess, I will continue the fight for a natural gas connection to **Phillip Island** and the **Coastal Villages**.

Out and About: Western Port



with Hastings MP Neale Burgess and staff of the new Crib Point Medical Centre. This centre provides additional doctors and allied health services to residents of **Crib Point**, **Hastings**, **Bittern**, **Balnarring** and **Somers**. I am delighted to have worked with Neale to get this much-needed new facility off the ground.

- ✓ Met to discuss plans to establish a Youth Centre at **Somerville**
- ✓ Helped cook the barbecue at the Yaringa Special Day for Special Kids at **Somerville**
- ✓ Launched the Peninsula Festival of Arts and Ideas at **Crib Point** Community House
- ✓ Visited St John's Retirement Village in **Somerville**
- ✓ Discussed new Telstra services for **Western Port** with representatives of Telstra Country Wide
- ✓ Attended the ANZAC Day breakfast at the **Hastings** RSL
- ✓ Visited HMAS **Cerberus**
- ✓ Met with Western Port Secondary College acting principal Kym Bridgford at **Hastings** to discuss trade training for local youngsters
- ✓ Attended the official opening of the **Hastings** State Emergency Service's new headquarters
- ✓ Met with **Crib Point** doctors to discuss the provision of health services in the region
- ✓ Met with World Vision Australia's Tim Costello at **Hastings** to discuss the impact of climate change on the world's poorest people



taking part in the parade, along with daughter Poppy, at this year's Western Port Festival at **Hastings**.



with **Balnarring** CWA members Thelma, Beth, Joan and Paula outside Safeway in **Hastings**. The sausage sizzle was in support of farmers battling the effects of the drought.

- ✓ Took part in **Somerville** Community House's annual Live and Learn Expo
- ✓ Took part in the launch of **Somerville** Fire Brigade's new fire truck and water harvesting system
- ✓ Met with representatives of Bluescope to discuss the effects of the Government's emissions trading scheme on the **Western Port** plant
- ✓ Met with mothers at **Balnarring** to discuss secondary school options for the area
- ✓ Visited **Bittern** market
- ✓ Inspected new track work at **Somers** foreshore
- ✓ Discussed support for the **Somerville** Safety House program at the annual morning tea