



# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

SHADOW MINISTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE



## Flinders Community News

*Working for  
our Community*

Autumn 2010

### Support for Inghams in Somerville

The fire that destroyed the Inghams chicken processing plant at **Somerville** has caused considerable pain for local families.

Immediately after the fire, Hastings MP Neale Burgess and I contacted the State and Federal Governments urging that every assistance be given to help get this vital local employer back on its feet.

We also met recently with Ingham's manager Alan Wilson and were delighted when the company announced it would re-build at Somerville.



tackling the **Arthurs Seat** Challenge in support of Fit To Drive, which runs driver education programs in local high schools.  
Picture by Yanni.



### Campaign to Re-open Phillip Island's Warley Hospital

▲ with members of the **Phillip Island Senior Citizens' Club**.

I have joined forces with **Phillip Island** seniors who have collected 3000 signatures on a petition calling for the State Government to lease Warley Hospital.

Bulk-billing on the island is limited and many seniors are forced to travel a considerable distance to access bulk-billed medical care.

In addition, the current accident and emergency

service provided by local doctors is struggling to cope and finishes at 10pm.

With Warley Hospital vacant and available for lease, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address these serious medical issues. It would be scandalous to allow this facility to lie empty while local residents struggle with a chronic lack of health services.

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▲ celebrating 125 years at **Koo Wee Rup Primary School**.

#### Environment: major progress towards closing Gunnamatta outfall - pgs 4-5



▲ at **Gunnamatta Beach** with **Balnarring** resident, **Riley**.

### Plus

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# Focus on Koo Wee Rup

## New Facilities for Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service

It was my pleasure to attend the opening of the upgrade to the **Koo Wee Rup** Regional Health Service for which we have long fought for.

Along with expanded health and medical services, the facility now has a thriving community garden and Men's Shed.



▲ meeting with residents in new therapy room at **Koo Wee Rup** Health Service.



## St John's Primary School

I met recently with parents at St John's Catholic Primary School in **Koo Wee Rup**. They are frustrated at not being able to secure a spot for their children on the local school bus.

Many parents are forced to drive hundreds of kilometres each week to get their children to school in **Koo Wee Rup**.

I approached Victorian Education Minister Bronwyn Pike on behalf of the school and will continue to work for a satisfactory resolution to this problem.

◀ with students at St John's Primary School, **Koo Wee Rup**.



◀ admiring the anniversary cake with **Koo Wee Rup** Primary School Principal David Payne.

## Celebrating 125 Years at Koo Wee Rup Primary School

Late last year I joined celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of **Koo Wee Rup** Primary School.

**Koo Wee Rup** is a tight knit community and it was terrific to see descendants of some of the town's original families at the celebration.

## Progress on a Bypass for Koo Wee Rup

There has been a welcome development in our campaign for a bypass at **Koo Wee Rup**.

VicRoads has announced its preferred route for the bypass and will be exhibiting detailed plans for public comment in the near future.

We now need to keep up the pressure on the State and Federal Governments to fund this new road as soon as possible.

**Koo Wee Rup**'s town centre is often choked with traffic and heavy trucks, an unacceptable situation that must be addressed as soon as possible.

## Better Mobile Phone and Internet Coverage for the Mornington Peninsula

There has been progress on new mobile phone and internet service coverage for:

✓ **Mt Martha and Somerville**

This will substantially improve mobile phone and internet coverage for residents of both towns.

We are now working on better broadband coverage for:

✓ **Safety Beach and Mt Martha**

# News Round Up

## Baxter Overpass Campaign Steps Up - State Must Approve an Underpass

I have been working closely with **Baxter** residents to stop the Victorian Government from building an overpass through the centre of town to accommodate the new Peninsula Link freeway rather than the community preferred underpass. This includes:

- ✓ meeting with residents to discuss the campaign
- ✓ outlining opposition to the overpass in a speech to Parliament
- ✓ writing to the Victorian Government to highlight residents' concerns

## Protecting Blairgowrie and Mt Martha North Beaches: Now for Portsea...

I wrote to the Victorian Government three times last year requesting urgent attention for **Blairgowrie Beach**, which has suffered significant erosion. The Government has now committed to renourishing the beach by June this year.

Meanwhile, after a four-year campaign, we have finally succeeded in securing a promise to replenish **Mt Martha North Beach** which has suffered similar erosion.

This is a step in the right direction for both beaches and I will continue to work toward a more permanent solution.

I will also work to address the erosion problem at **Portsea Beach** which has worsened considerably in recent months.

## New Medical Centre for McCrae

It was with great pleasure that I attended the opening of a new medical centre at **McCrae** earlier this year.

I was fortunate to have been able to assist doctors with a number of issues when establishing the practice and it was fantastic to see the new facility up and running.

For more details please contact my office on 5979 3188.



## Cycling to School At Rye

I recently joined teachers and students of **Rye Primary** on their ride to school to discuss safety concerns.

The bicycle path along Melbourne Road towards Dundas Street finishes with a short, steep hill. There is no barrier across the end to prevent unsuspecting cyclists from careering down the hill into the middle of Dundas Street.

Teachers are doing a fantastic job in encouraging youngsters to cycle to school and I share their concern about this bicycle path.

I am supporting the school's call for a barrier across the end of the cycle path and a zebra crossing to enable students to cross Dundas Street in safety.

◀ *setting off at Rye.*

## Progress on an Ambulance Station for Grantville

Our campaign to secure an ambulance for **Grantville** is gathering pace, with Victorian Opposition Leader Ted Baillieu pledging to build the ambulance station if elected.

## Success for the Rosebud Pier Campaign

For the past two summers the end of **Rosebud Pier** has been a no-go zone. Fenced off for repairs, it was allowed to languish in that state for far too long.

Despite promising to upgrade the pier in 2006, the Victorian Government did nothing until the community began to express its dissatisfaction at this neglect of one of our much-loved icons.

Along with a core group of local residents, I have been delighted to work with Nepean MP Martin Dixon, to help ensure the Rosebud Pier has been restored to its former glory.

◀ *at Rosebud Pier before the recent repairs.*





# Environment and Climate Change

## Major Progress Towards Closing the Gunnamatta Outfall

News that the EPA has given the go-ahead for an upgrade to the Eastern Treatment Plant is a fantastic result for the Mornington Peninsula.

The upgrade will enable the plant to produce billions of litres of recycled water each year - water that can be used in industry and agriculture - and is expected to be complete within 18 months.

This is great news for the marine environment at **Gunnamatta** and a fantastic outcome for local surfers and swimmers.

Our campaign for the closure of the Gunnamatta sewage outfall, however, is not over yet.

The Victorian Government has yet to develop a plan for the use of the recycled water produced by the plant.

If no use can be found for this water, it will continue to be discharged at Gunnamatta. While the outfall will be dramatically cleaner, this would still be a shocking waste of our most precious resource.



▲ at Gunnamatta beach with Balnarring resident, Riley.

▼ inspecting tree planting at the Rhyll Trout Farm with Paul Mannix.



## Direct Action on Climate and the Environment

As Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage, I spent much of the summer developing the Coalition's climate policy, which was unveiled recently.

The core aim of the policy is to provide incentives for families and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions via practical, direct action.

By using Australia's natural assets – our abundant sunshine and soil – we can reduce emissions while also addressing some of our serious environmental problems.

An important aspect of the plan is the planting of 20 million trees by 2020. This will help re-establish urban forests and create green corridors, as well as reducing emissions.

With these and other measures the Coalition will reduce Australia's emissions by 140 million tonnes by 2020 at a fraction of the cost of the Rudd Government's proposed scheme. It will achieve this while protecting Australian jobs, improving the environment and boosting farm productivity. For more information visit: [www.liberal.org.au/directactionplan](http://www.liberal.org.au/directactionplan)



## Clean Energy Coasts Plan for the Mornington Peninsula and Bass Coast

Under the Coalition's Direct Action Plan, money will be provided for towns and schools to switch to solar energy, geothermal and tidal power.

I believe the **Mornington Peninsula** and **Bass Coast** have an important part to play in Australia's shift towards a sustainable future.

This is an ideal region in which to showcase many of the renewable energy technologies currently being developed.

My aim is to make the Mornington Peninsula and Bass Coast flagship regions for positive action on climate change and establish the Mornington Peninsula and Bass Coast as Clean Energy Coasts.



◀ *inspecting a micro wind turbine being installed at Ruth Partridge's **Ventnor** farm. The turbine will provide 2kw of power and stands just 10.5m from the ground to the tip of the top blade.*

## A Green Army

The Coalition has pledged to establish a workforce of up to 15,000 people dedicated to environmental projects across the country.

This Green Army will be available on an ongoing basis to tackle local environmental priorities such as:

- ✓ habitat restoration
- ✓ rabbit eradication
- ✓ mangrove protection
- ✓ weed control

Having a ready made environmental workforce would build on the existing work currently being carried out by our dedicated local volunteers. I invite residents to contact my office and nominate local environment projects that could benefit from the attention of a Green Army.

## Sponsors Sought for Rosebud Students' Trip to Cambodia



In May I will join a group of **Rosebud** Secondary College students on a 50km sponsored bicycle ride with the aim of funding an overseas aid expedition.

The students hope to raise enough money to travel to Cambodia, where they will work at a local orphanage and develop vital life skills such as self-reliance, resilience, teamwork and leadership.

As part of the challenge, each student must raise enough money to fund their own trip. Sponsors are being sought for this extremely worthwhile project. For more information call Drew King at Rosebud Secondary College on 5986 8595.

◀ *gearing up for a 50km sponsored bike ride with **Rosebud** Secondary College students.*



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



◀ speaking at the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the **Cowes** cenotaph.



▲ Discussing support for local business with Paul Mannix of the **Rhyll** Trout and Bush Tucker Farm.

- ✓ Attended the opening of the new **Grantville** Memorial Park
- ✓ Presented volunteer awards to **Clyde Cardinia** Fire Brigade
- ✓ Presented volunteer awards to **Devon Meadows** Fire Brigade
- ✓ Met with local residents and representatives of the Green Wedges Coalition to discuss opposition to new housing in prime farmland at **Clyde**, **Devon Meadows** and **Five Ways**
- ✓ Met with representatives of Phillip Island RSL at **Cowes** to discuss local community projects
- ✓ Met with local resident Ruth Partridge to discuss the installation of a micro wind turbine on her property at **Ventnor**
- ✓ Met with the Energy Innovation Co-operative at **San Remo** to discuss support for local sustainable energy projects
- ✓ Spoke with Year 5 and 6 students about Parliament and Government at St John's Catholic Primary School in **Koo Wee Rup**
- ✓ Met with **Phillip Island** Medical Group to discuss issues with the provision of accident and emergency care
- ✓ Addressed a meeting of the Phillip Island Senior Citizen's Club to discuss a campaign for better medical facilities on **Phillip Island**
- ✓ Met representatives of the Dolphin Research Institute at **San Remo**
- ✓ Opened the **Corinella** and District Community Centre's Art Show
- ✓ Met with residents about the campaign for an ambulance station at **Grantville**



▲ with parents at St John's Primary School, **Koo Wee Rup**, who are battling to secure a place for their children on the local school bus.



# Out and About: Western Port

- ✓ Opened the Community Flower Show at **Balnarring** Community Hall
- ✓ Attended the launch of the sailing season at **Somers** Yacht Club
- ✓ Attended the Western Port Yacht Club open day, **Balnarring**
- ✓ Presented a volunteer award to the **Pearcedale** Fire Brigade
- ✓ Attended the opening night of the Flinders Christian Community College art show at **Tyabb**
- ✓ Joined the Peninsula Aero Club's Funflight Day at **Tyabb**
- ✓ Attended 150th anniversary celebrations at **Shoreham**
- ✓ Met to discuss issues affecting local small businesses at **Tyabb**
- ✓ Met with staff at **Hastings** Community House
- ✓ Presented a Flinders Community Award to Dr Graham Cato for services to the **Balnarring** community
- ✓ Attended the opening of the Bimblemeer Sustainability Centre at **Balnarring** Primary School
- ✓ Presented a prize for best essay on the subject of Weary Dunlop to Brodie Eaton of **Somerville** Rise Primary School
- ✓ Attended the **Somerville** Bowling Club's sponsors' night
- ✓ Spoke to representatives of Boral to outline clear opposition to the proposed bitumen plant at **Crib Point**
- ✓ Addressed the Lord Somers annual boys camp at **Somers**
- ✓ Met with **Baxter** residents to discuss opposition to the building of an overpass through the town
- ✓ Met with representatives of Inghams to discuss re-building its chicken processing plant at **Somerville**
- ✓ Lead the street parade as part of the Western Port Festival, **Hastings**
- ✓ Officially opened the Marine Environment Centre on the **Hastings** foreshore



▲ visiting **Sages Cottage** in **Baxter** to discuss the work of youth and family services organisation **Menzies Inc.**

▼ presenting **Hastings** Westpark Primary School with a Kids Go For Your Life Award, aimed at encouraging youngsters to adopt healthy habits.



▲ officially opening the new **Shoreham** House aged care facility at **Shoreham**.





# Out and About: Mornington Peninsula



◀ mastering the monkey bars during a visit to **Flinders Pre-School**.



▲ helping recruits from **HMAS Cerberus** raise money for the **Mornington Peninsula Legacy Club**.

- ✓ Spoke at a dinner for the Rotary Club of **Dromana**
- ✓ Met with representatives of Fusion youth centre at **Mt Martha**
- ✓ Presented volunteer awards to **Mt Martha Fire Brigade**
- ✓ Attended a chaplaincy fundraising dinner for **Rosebud Secondary College**
- ✓ Attended the **Safety Beach Foreshore Landscape Committee's** annual general meeting
- ✓ Celebrated the official opening of new facilities at **Balcombe Grammar, Mt Martha**
- ✓ Visited a **Habitat Restoration Fund** project at **Red Hill**
- ✓ Presented volunteer awards to members of the **New Peninsula Church in Mt Martha**
- ✓ Spoke at the opening of the sailing season at **Rye Yacht Club**
- ✓ Attended the **McCrae Yacht Club** open day
- ✓ Took part in **Community Awareness Day** at **Main Ridge Bowls Club**

- ✓ Met with **Moorooduc Primary School** to discuss funding for a health and wellbeing program
- ✓ Presented volunteer awards to **Mt Martha Rotary Club**
- ✓ Attended 25th anniversary celebrations at **Rye Beach Community Centre**
- ✓ Attended Remembrance Day dinner at **Dromana Red Hill RSL**
- ✓ Visited the **Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron**
- ✓ Attended a carol concert at **St John's Church, Sorrento**
- ✓ Took part in the **Mt Martha Yacht Club** open day
- ✓ Presented a **Senior School Award** at the **Rosebud Secondary College**
- ✓ Attended the **Rosebud Village Christmas Carol Concert**
- ✓ Joined celebrations for the **Greek Orthodox epiphany** at **Rye Pier**
- ✓ Attended the **Dromana Strawberry Festival**
- ✓ Attended the **Rye Gift and Woodchop**

- ✓ Visited the **Dolphin Research Institute** at **Dromana Pier**
- ✓ Took part in the **Mt Martha Australia Day Swim**
- ✓ Welcomed new Australian citizens at an **Australia Day citizenship ceremony** at **Rosebud**
- ✓ Addressed the **Nepean Historical Society** in **Sorrento**

- ✓ Presented prizes at the **Dromana Bay Open Swim**
- ✓ Attended a meeting of the **Sorrento Urban Fire Brigade**
- ✓ Attended the induction of **Rev Paul Chalson** at the **Mt Martha Uniting Church**
- ✓ Opened the **Dad's Day Out** event at **Pt Nepean/Portsea**



▲ catching up on local news with **Jill Fearon** at the **Rosebud Police Senior Citizens Register Christmas Concert**.