



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

Working for our Community



Flinders Community News

Maiden speech sets out goals for Flinders

On the 18th of February Greg delivered his maiden speech in the House of Representatives. The speech focused on the story and needs of people who live and work in the Flinders electorate.

The speech began by saying:

The Story of Australia is the story of 1000 communities. My community, Flinders, is the story of people:

“So it’s the story of **Sarah Meredith**, an 18 year old woman from Blind Bight who has overcome a hearing disability not only to achieve academic success, but to make such a contribution, as to be named the City of Casey’s Junior Citizen of the Year.

It’s the story of **Steve Brockwell**, a fisherman from San Remo, who battles not just to provide a livelihood for his family but also to represent the future of those who work the sea with him.

It’s the story of **Wanda Tearle**, a woman who has given her heart and soul to making the Crib Point Community House a place where the lost and the hurt can find both solace and hope.

It’s the story of **Tom McGann**, a courageous 8 year old from Mt Martha, who has overcome the shackles of muscular atrophy and reached out to the world through designing and building his own website.

And it’s the story of **Gil Mulling**, who has for many years now, along with a dedicated team of volunteers, managed Vinnies Kitchen in Rosebud, providing both food and hope to some of the most needy people of the Peninsula.

But Flinders is a work in progress and there are clear challenges in education, employment, environment and health.” (for details see inside).



Helping out during Clean Up Australia Day. Greg and Jason Plover after pulling a diff up the cliff at Mt. Martha.

Greg ended his speech with a statement of the values and principles to which he will aspire during his time in office.

“I hope to live out the values that were taught to me: service, integrity of spirit, and generosity.”

*For a full copy of the Maiden Speech please contact the electorate office or go to my website
www.flinders2001.org*

Baby Bonus

The Government has implemented its election promise to introduce a First Child Tax Refund, or Baby Bonus.

The Baby Bonus recognises that one of the hardest times for families, financially, follows the birth of a first child.

The Baby Bonus will provide a tax break of up to \$2,500 a year, each year for a maximum of five years. Mothers who have a child on or after 1 July 2002 are eligible to receive the bonus.

For more information please contact my office

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What we are working to achieve

The Flinders electorate is both diverse and beautiful and those of us who live in the area are fortunate to have so much on our doorsteps. However the Flinders electorate is also a work in progress. There are many challenges that need to be met especially in the areas of education, employment and health. Understanding these issues and working to ensure practical outcomes is all part of the challenge of representing the community.

My goals for Flinders are set out below. The list is not exhaustive and will naturally be adapted as issues arrive. Here are my key goals for Flinders:



More Black Spot road funding to make our roads safer is a project I will be fighting for in Flinders.

Western Port region:

- ✓ Supporting the establishment of a secondary college in Somerville
- ✓ Helping to upgrade emergency services at Koo Wee Rup Hospital
- ✓ Ensuring early completion of the Oberon Submarine tourist attraction to boost jobs in the region
- ✓ Working for the restoration of Western Port's coastline and mangrove areas by securing further Natural Heritage Trust funding for local projects;
- ✓ Working towards the upgrade of the Hastings-Dandenong and Frankston-Flinders Roads;
- ✓ Working to establish a new maritime College at Hastings and building on the region's close links with HMAS Cerberus;

Peninsula region:

- ✓ Working to clean up Gunnamatta Beach
- ✓ Fighting to have the entire Peninsula included in the MET Zone for public transport
- ✓ Working to improve aged care and health facilities, particularly by assisting the local community to put pressure on the State Government to upgrade facilities at Frankston and Rosebud Hospitals
- ✓ Supporting the completion of the Balnarring-Bittern Bicycle Track
- ✓ Developing greater opportunities for young job seekers through Work for the Dole projects and continuing to increase local apprenticeships along the Peninsula
- ✓ Working with young people and Martin Dixon MP for the establishment of a permanent Skate Park at Rosebud

Phillip Island and West Gippsland region:

- ✓ Working for the creation of an IT Skills Centre at Phillip Island to provide practical education and employment opportunities
- ✓ Working to secure a Rural Transaction Centre at Grantville to help local people get better access to electronic services
- ✓ Working to secure funding for the upgrade of the pier at Phillip Island
- ✓ Encouraging further development of the facilities at the San Remo and District Community Health Centre
- ✓ Working to deliver more Aged Care places for Warley Hospital
- ✓ Helping to provide better access to GP's for towns including Lang Lang, Coronet Bay, Corinella, Bass and Kilcunda.

These are some of the key projects that I will be fighting for during my current term. Not all projects will be fully completed in three years, for example the Hastings Maritime College will take many years, as will putting a complete stop to ocean outfall at Gunnamatta, but there are steps we can take together towards realising these goals.



Talking with and listening to small business owners helps to give me a stronger understanding of the challenges they face.

...and what we have achieved so far

There has been a great deal of work done on all of the policy areas in Flinders. Below I detail some of the achievements we have secured for Flinders since the election. In addition, I briefly outline some of the action we have taken on a couple of key projects in each region.

- ✓ \$66,000 for the Dolphin Research Institute in Hastings
- ✓ A new locum service for Hastings, Somerville and Mount Martha
- ✓ Over \$112,000 in Coast Care Funding
- ✓ A boost in Home and Community Care Funding
- ✓ Five new Work for Dole projects

Peninsula region:

Gunnamatta Beach - This was the first issue I raised with the Prime Minister after being elected. At a local level I'm working closely with the Clean Ocean Foundation and local State MP Martin Dixon. We have met with Melbourne Water



Working on a shark boat off San Remo.

as well as the State Environment Minister and representatives from the Premier's Department to discuss a joint strategy to reduce and ultimately end ocean outfall at Gunnamatta. A policy objective I have proposed is to put in place a National Ocean Outfall Strategy that is focussed on ending all ocean outfall in Australia by 2025.

Improved Aged Care - This is a major issue for the Peninsula and I have been working with both the Federal Minister for Health, Senator the Hon Kay Patterson, and with the Minister for Ageing, Kevin Andrews to propose a special Ageing Australia Trust. As a consequence I have been asked to represent Flinders on the Minister's Ageing Australia Committee.

Western Port region:

Secondary College in Somerville - I have been working closely with local residents and State Member Ron Bowden, and we have written directly to the Victorian Education Minister and are pushing the State Opposition to have the Secondary College included in their policy.

Oberon Submarine tourist attraction - I'm in regular contact with the Oberon Association and we are working to ensure a smooth transition of the handover as well as working to secure Council support.

Phillip Island and West Gippsland:

New aged care places - This is one of our first wins. Since coming to office 67 new aged care places have been announced for Warley Hospital and the San Remo & District Community Health Centre.

Creation of an IT Skills Centre for Phillip Island - Recently I chaired a half-day workshop with various stakeholders to put in place a clear strategy for the development of an IT Skills Centre. Shortly we will be approaching the Communications Minister with a proposal to secure funding.

A snapshot of Greg Hunt's first 100 days

A few of the places Greg has visited and people he has met with during his first 100 days in office:

- Participated in Rotary, Vinnies Kitchen and Bowls club meetings in Rosebud
- Visited the BHP plant in Hastings and Inghams Chicken Plant in Somerville
- Spoke with the staff and children at Red Hill Consolidated Primary School and the Flinders Christian Community College
- Participated in and started the Anti Cancer Council Relay for Life fundraiser in Mornington
- Spent a day down in Phillip Island listening to the concerns of residents
- Discussed aged care issues with the staff at Warley Hospital and helped them obtain funding for an additional 40 beds
- Launched a Green Corps brigade at Bass Valley that will undertake planting, revegetation and weed removal
- Presented \$80,000 from the National Heritage Trust Fund for Western Port seagrass conservation
- Met with the Clean Ocean Foundation and the State Minister for the Environment to argue for a 10 year plan to clean-up Gunnamatta Beach



Bass Valley Green Corps Team Launch.

- Organised a meeting with South East Water to discuss the use of recycled water on our golf-courses
- Participated at the opening of the Dromana Art Show 2002
- Spent a morning out at sea listening to the concerns of commercial fisherman at San Remo
- Helped the Dolphin Research Centre in Hastings secure a \$66,000 grant from the Regional Assistance Program
- Contributed to the saving of Arthur's Seat Chairlift

Secondary college needed in Somerville

The absence of a secondary college in Somerville is one of the most pressing concerns faced by our community and I am working closely with all local and state representatives to drive that message home to both the Brack's Government and the State Opposition.



*"It is amazing how quickly they grow-up.
We need a secondary college urgently."*

It is unacceptable that over 1,000 secondary students are transported to schools outside of the Somerville region, in some cases spending up to an hour in transit, every day.

If it is okay for the state Government to open a new high school for a student population of under 600 in Fitzroy, then why is it **not** okay to build a secondary college for the rapidly growing **1000 plus** secondary students living in Somerville.

The parcel of land set aside for Somerville Secondary College is large enough to accommodate both a secondary and tertiary institution and this presents a great opportunity for the establishment of a total community education centre comprising the existing primary school, a secondary college and a TAFE or facilities for VET in school training.

The next stage will involve the allocation of funding, I am working towards that goal with the community and I urge all interested residents to write to the Victorian Premier at 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne 3000 to let him know how important a secondary college is to our area.

Anniversary and birthdays awards

If you know an older Australian who has a special wedding anniversary or birthday coming up, then please contact my electorate office.

We can arrange for the Prime Minister and Governor-General to send messages to couples celebrating their 50th and subsequent wedding anniversaries. The Queen sends her regards to those married for 60 years.

We can also arrange for the Prime Minister to send messages to Australians turning 90 years of age or more. And a 100th birthday brings letters from the Queen and the Governor General.

Community groups to advise MP

I am delighted to announce the creation of Community Advisory Groups to help represent communities such as Rosebud and Phillip Island, assist them to manage and plan projects, draw on the expertise and experience of local people, broaden the understanding as to how government and the community interact and can benefit from one another and, hopefully, to increase the level of representation we can achieve in Canberra together.

There are six Advisory Groups to be established. These are:

- Flinders Women's Advisory Group
- Small Business Advisory Group
- Youth Advisory Group
- Law and Order Advisory Group
- Rural Advisory Group, and a
- Seniors Advisory Group



Greg with Koo Wee Rup resident, Wyn Pankhurst.

These Community Advisory Groups will be made up of 8-9 local representatives who will meet throughout the year to identify concerns for particular groups and will plan for the future of the community, report on local issues and to have input into the needs and issues that arise within their area. They will also hold public discussion on relevant topics.

Anyone interested in participating in a Community Advisory Group is invited to contact my electorate office to register interest and to request a nomination form. Close of nominations has been extended to May 1, 2002.