



# Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

*Working for our Community*



## Western Port Region Highlights

### “Hastings Sub” to create new jobs

After three decades of loyal service, the decommissioned Oberon class submarine, HMAS Otama will shortly embark on its final journey.

Headed for Hastings, its days of defending our coastline are over but it will continue to serve the community as the centrepiece of a world-class tourist attraction. The brainchild of Hastings resident, Max Bryant, it has been estimated that the submarine will attract tens of thousands of visitors each year, giving local businesses a boost and generating local jobs.

The project has received widespread community support and the Federal Government has committed \$500,000 to the project.

This project will not only create jobs, it will also ensure that a proud piece of Australian naval history is preserved. The finest naval traditions stand behind the Otama and it is essential that future generations develop an understanding of that.

A one time home for J class Submarines, Western Port has a proud naval history so it is only fitting that one of Australia’s premier naval museums be established here.



*The HMAS OTAMA out protecting our coastline during her glory days.*

### Centrelink moves into Hastings



*Greg Hunt with Centrelink staff and construction crew at the soon to be completed Hastings Centrelink Office.*

I recently had the opportunity of inspecting the construction site for the new Hastings Centrelink office. The office is set to open for business on May 13, 2002.

The office will be built on the corner of High and Arthurs Streets in Hastings and the new state of the art centre will provide a real resource for the community. It will help residents find jobs, it will help boost local employment and generate a broader range of services within the local township.

A Centrelink Office in Hastings will help assist those in our community who are most vulnerable and is part of my commitment to helping strengthen local community facilities.

Travelling all the way to Frankston was a burden for many locals living not only in Hastings but also in surrounding areas such as Somerville, Tyabb and Crib Point.

I strongly welcome the job outcomes that are expected at the Centre and the assistance it will provide to many local families.

## **\$66,000 for Hastings Dolphin Centre**

The Dolphin Research Institute will benefit from \$66,000 in funding to establish a Marine Conservation Centre in Hastings thanks to the Federal Government.

The funding was provided from the Commonwealth Government's \$43 million Regional Assistance Programme.

This is a magnificent win for the Dolphin Research Institute and its Director, Jeff Weir.

This project will assist with the promotion and start-up phase for educational/tourism activities to be provided by the Marine Conservation Centre's 60 seat multi media theatre and interactive display space.

It will assist the Centre in Hastings to better realise its potential by implementing a promotions and marketing strategy to attract a wider tourist audience.

I strongly welcome job outcomes that are expected at the Centre and in the retail, tourism and hospitality industries in the Hastings area.

By accessing the local skills and experience we can achieve sustainable employment growth that will benefit the whole community.

Port Phillip and Western Port Bays are home to a number of dolphin families. Protecting their habitat and educating recreational users of the Bays about living with these unique mammals is central to the role of the Marine Conservation Centre. The Centre is expanding its operations to also meet the currently unmet demand from both school groups and tourists. This project is a response to this demand.



*Greg with school children at the  
Dolphin Research Institute.*

## **Eco-tourism aims to promote dolphin and seal awareness**

Greg recently opened the new eco-tourism business of Saltwater Adventure, which intends to run in both Port Phillip and Western Port bays.



*Greg (left) with Andre Lindsay (second from left) who has started a new eco-tourism venture called Saltwater Adventures on Port Phillip & Western Port Bays.*

## **After Hours Medical Service for Somerville, Baxter, Crib Point and Hastings**

Health and aged care are two of the most important issues within the electorate of Flinders so it is fantastic to be able to announce that the Australian Locum Medical Service will commence a new service within the electorate starting March 28.

This is the result of discussions held between my office and the Australian Locum Medical Service.

As of 28 March, constituents from within the areas of Mount Martha, Somerville, Baxter, Hastings and Crib Point will all be able to access a service which was previously unavailable.

Participating GP's will provide patients with an after hours number and they will be able to speak directly to doctors or to staff from the Locum Medical Service.

As a result, patients will be provided with after hours coverage and, if necessary, they will receive home treatment. That is a great benefit for the people of Mount Martha, Somerville, Baxter, Hastings and Crib Point .