



Greg Hunt MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLINDERS

Working for our Community



NEWS FOR LOCAL RETIREES

Winter 2003

MASSIVE BOOST IN AGED CARE BEDS FOR THE PENINSULA

Local MP Greg Hunt was delighted to announce funding for 130 new aged care beds and an additional 38 new extra service packages for the Mornington Peninsula and surrounding districts.

Aged care providers who will receive the extra funding are:

- 30 high care beds **Hastings Regional Nursing Home**
- 15 high care beds **Hastings The Bays Nursing Home**
- 38 extra services **Mt Martha Sir James By the Bay**
- 30 high care beds **Rosebud Regis Grange**

- 30 high and 24 low care beds **Cranbourne East's Blue Valley Manor**
- 5 high care beds **Cranbourne Regis Sherwood Park**

This builds on the 40 beds recently announced for Warley Hospital in Phillip Island and 300 newly completed beds in Mt Martha and Somerville.



Greg Hunt MP examines construction of the new wing of the Regis Grange Aged Care Centre in Rosebud with Manager, Judy Kelly and Development Manager Denis Mathieson.

A NOTE FROM GREG HUNT

As a local resident with an elderly father, I understand many of the challenges facing local retirees.

Whilst my father is currently fit and healthy, I understand that many retirees in the community depend on the provision of aged care beds.

Thanks to the excellent work of our local aged care providers, the local community has been awarded the largest single allocation of new aged care places in Australia.

These beds will make a major difference in Hastings, Rosebud, Mt Martha and Cranbourne and they build on the 40 beds for Phillip Island earlier this year. Not only will the beds provide opportunities for local residents, they will take pressure off local hospitals.

The total value of the allocation for Flinders is \$4.7 million annually which will also create local jobs as well as provide care for our elderly.

Regards

Greg Hunt MP
Federal Member for Flinders



Dedicated to Retirees' Affairs



GREG HUNT HONOURS LOCAL SQUASH CHAMPION

Federal MP Greg Hunt honoured Margaret Doueal, a resident of Rosebud and a beacon of inspiration to the whole of Australia, for her successful wins at the International Masters Tournament.

Margaret first played squash at 33 years of age. She was Rosebud champion on 3 occasions and received the Rosebud Club Service Award. She has been Victorian Master's Champion on 14 occasions, most recently in 2002 and Australian Master's Champion on 10 occasions. Margaret at age 63 has often competed with players more than 40 years her junior!

Apart from Squash, Margaret has made enormous contributions on many local, charitable and community events such as lecturing arthritis sufferers on health and fitness.

In honour of her achievements Mr Hunt presented Margaret with a Flinders Community Award.



Greg Hunt MP presents World Masters Squash Champion, Margaret Doueal, with a Flinders Community Contribution Award.

NEW AGED CARE BEDS TAKE PRESSURE OFF ROSEBUD HOSPITAL

The Federal Member for Flinders, Greg Hunt MP, was pleased to announce the opening of 140 new aged care beds at the luxurious Sir James by the Bay Aged Care facility in Mt Martha, 100 new beds at the new state of the art SomerCare Resort Hostel in Somerville and 60 new beds at the Mt Martha Valley Aged Care Centre.

"I am delighted that the Federal Government has provided the much needed funding to deliver these wonderful new facilities for Somerville, Mt Martha and surrounding communities such as Rosebud, Rye, Dromana and Hastings," said Mr Hunt.

"Taking pressure of other local healthcare providers such as the Rosebud hospital, these beds will make a major contribution to the quality of local healthcare," said Mr Hunt.

"In particular, the new beds have already taken pressure off the Rosebud Hospital, which has seen long term elderly patients move into local aged care facilities. In turn this has opened up beds at Rosebud Hospital for the community.

"Our retirees have contributed so much to the local community and it is very important to me personally that they receive the quality of care that they deserve."

That is why I and the Howard Government have worked so hard to deliver the more than 2,558 aged care places to the Southern Metropolitan Region since 2001 at a cost of \$43.2 million in recurrent funding."

For more information on aged care services the office of Greg Hunt MP can be reached on 5979 3188.



Assisting Veterans



\$36,692 GRANT TO HELP VETERANS CLAIM BENEFITS

Our local MP, Greg Hunt was delighted to present the Southern Peninsula Veterans' Centre with a cheque for \$36,692 from the Federal Government to help Veterans and war widows make claims for pensions and other benefits.

Mr Hunt complimented Frank Matons and his team at the Southern Peninsula Veteran's Centre at Rosebud, "They make a valuable contribution to the local Veteran community by helping Veterans, war widows and widowers through the claims application and appeals process."

Through the BEST program, the Federal Government provides funds to ensure that



Greg Hunt with Frank Matons, Director of the Southern Peninsula Veteran's Centre

multi purpose laser printers and a computer help desk service.

organisations like the Southern Peninsula Veterans Centre has the resources to provide and maintain quality services to members of the veteran community.

This grant will provide the Southern Peninsula Veterans' Centre in Rosebud and Outpost in Hastings and Mornington with \$30,000 to fund one Administrative Support Officer and \$700 to cover Internet Costs and \$355 for a portable printer. Additionally, the Southern Peninsula Veterans' Centre will be given the use of two leased desktop computers, two leased laptop computers, two leased

PENSION INCREASE FOR VETERANS & WAR WIDOWS

The Federal Member for Flinders, Greg Hunt MP, was pleased to announce that Veterans and their partners will be better off following the latest increases in their veterans' pensions and allowances.

"Pension rates would rise in line with cost of living adjustments effective from 1st July 2003, with the benefits to flow through to pension payments from the department of Veterans Affairs" said Greg Hunt MP.

Mr Hunt said provision of compensation and income support pensions remained a fundamental part of Australia's repatriation system after more than eight decades of caring for veterans and their families.

"These increases reflect the Federal Government's continuing commitment to those who have served Australia in war and conflict."

Details of the new pension rates are available from the Department of Veterans Affairs on 133 254 or on the department website at www.dva.gov.au



Greg Hunt with Australian Service Medal Recipient Graeme Miller



Local Community Help



NEVER ALONE ON MONDAY'S - (NAOMI), WIDOWS CLUB

The Federal Member for Flinders Greg Hunt MP recently enjoyed meeting and extending birthday wishes to Daisy Kendall on her 96th Birthday and Mai Atkinson on her 83rd Birthday, at the Rye RSL.

The Never Alone on Monday's club meets every first Monday of the month at Rosebud Rehabilitation Centre.

New members are welcome by contacting Joy Edwards on 5985 1462.



Greg extends birthday wishes to Never Alone on Monday's - (NAOMI) Widows Club Members.

GREG PROMOTES A GREENER, CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

Greg Hunt MP, local Federal Member for Flinders, recently spent a Saturday morning planting trees at the Mt Martha Lions Club Eco Park Development as part of National Tree Day.

“With over 30 participants ranging across all age groups this project speaks volumes for the community commitment towards a clean and green local environment,” remarked Mr Hunt.

Greg was proud to announce that nationally over 2 million trees and shrubs were planted on the day which he acknowledged was a “magnificent effort with everyone who participated deserving great credit for this fantastic achievement.”



Greg with former Mornington Mayor David Collings and grandson Lloyd Collings working on the revegetation of parkland opposite Mt Martha Primary.