

Barker Briefing



A Local Working for the Locals

Community Newsletter October 2005

PATRICK SECKER MP Federal Member for Barker

\$200,000 grant for Just Pork

Patrick, Rowan Timms of Just Pork, Kerry Medlow and Brenton Lewis of MRDB and John and Tev Rosenzweig at the new processing facility.



“Just Pork” in Mannum, owned and operated by the Rosenzweig family, will soon be operating a food processing and packaging facility following the receipt of a \$200,000 Food Processing in Regional Australia grant through the Australian Government.

“Just Pork is using this funding to invest in plant and equipment and to develop a processing and packaging facility which will be up and running in early October,” Mr Secker says.

“The facility will enable Just Pork to meet the trend in the market today for longer-life, supermarket retail ready meats.

“Just Pork is one of just 22 projects chosen from 168 applications representing a diverse range of industries and regional areas.

“The funding comes from the Food Processing in Regional Australia Program (FPRAP), a key Australian Government commitment at the last Federal election.”

Rowan Timms, Corporate Services Manager at Just Pork in Mannum says the grant is welcome news.

“Just Pork, together with other stakeholders within the Pork Industry like primary producers and processors have been working very hard over the past few years to bring consumers true ‘Paddock-to-Plate’ moisture enhanced pork products and with this grant we are now able to fast track the products into local supermarkets. The innovative systems that Just Pork have developed sets the “Just Pork” products up as a true world leader in growing, processing, packaging and food safety standards to benefit the entire Pork Industry at a National level and especially the normal consumer.”

“FPRAP encourages value-adding to take place before produce leaves rural and regional areas, and also helps strengthen local infrastructure and support networks,” Mr Secker says.

“Individuals, groups of farmers and small to medium-sized agribusinesses are eligible for up to \$200,000 for projects that encourage food processing, set up regional networks and establish market contacts, but they must be able to demonstrate that they can provide matching funding.

“To be eligible, a business must have fewer than 200 employees and an annual turnover of less than \$25 million.

“It must also be operating in rural or regional areas, and working, or intending to work, in the food-processing and marketing fields. Which can include the production of fresh, semi-processed or processed food, or the ingredients for a processed food product.

“Congratulations to “Just Pork” on receiving this grant, the new facility will be fantastic for the company and especially for the region,” Mr Secker concluded.

Information on FPRAP is available at www.daff.gov.au/regionalfood

A Message from the Prime Minister

The Hon. John Howard MP



The government since 1996 has delivered a strong economy which has benefited ordinary Australians through lower interest rates, higher real wages and more jobs.

But the job is never complete. To stand still in the global economy, is to go backwards. That's why we are further reforming the workplace relations system.

The measures I outlined to parliament at the end of the winter session represent the next logical step towards a flexible, simple and fair system of workplace relations.

While the reforms are significant, they are not radical. Rather, they are based on principles that balance freedom and fairness and that have underpinned our Party's historic contribution to changing the culture of the Australian workplace.

Our aim is to give even greater freedom and flexibility to employers and employees to negotiate at the workplace level.

We want to encourage the further spread of workplace agreements – both individual and collective.

To provide people with the choice of remaining under the safety net of the award system or entering into workplace agreements.

To ensure all Australians have the right to join – or not to join – a trade union.

And to preserve the right of workers to have a trade union negotiate in the workplace on their behalf if they so wish.

For the first time, minimum conditions will be enshrined in legislation to protect the rights of Australian workers. A new body – the Australian Fair Pay Commission – will now set a single adult minimum wage on a periodic basis.

We will also exempt businesses with up to 100 employees from Labor's job destroying unfair dismissal laws, creating jobs in small and medium businesses.

A national system is the next logical step towards a workplace relations system that supports greater freedom, flexibility and individual choice. It is not about empowering Canberra, but liberating workplaces across the country from a system of overlapping federal and state awards that is complex, costly and inefficient.

Australia must take this step if we are to sustain our prosperity, remain competitive in the global economy and meet our future challenges.

Congratulatory Messages

I wish to extend my congratulations to people in Barker who have recently celebrated their 100th Birthday or 90th Birthday and people who have celebrated their 70th, 65th, 60th, 55th or 50th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!

DO YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER HAVE A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY COMING UP?

I can organise a congratulatory message or certificate from the Prime Minister, the Premier, the Governor and for some birthdays and anniversaries, from Her Majesty the Queen, please contact my office on 08 8531 2466.

We would be happy to help you arrange a certificate for yourself or for someone in your family, but please remember some messages can take up to six weeks to arrive so it is best to do this well in advance of your special occasion.

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\$568,049 extra funding for Murraylands schools

Students and staff at Murraylands schools are set to receive Australian Government funding through the new Investing in Our Schools Programme.

Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP recently announced nine Murraylands schools will share in \$568,049 in funding.

"Investing in Our Schools is an exciting new initiative which will deliver much needed projects to school communities. The exciting part about this Programme is that it will fund projects that have been identified by the school communities themselves as being critical to their school," Mr Secker says.

"The projects we are funding are often those projects that are desperately needed by schools, but never seem to make it onto the priority lists. Rather school communities must face the long and arduous task of raising the funding themselves which can take years.

"The Australian Government recognises the importance of providing schools with facilities that will enhance the education and wellbeing of students.

"The Investing in Our Schools Programme builds on the \$1.5 billion already allocated by the Australian Government for school capital

works over the next four years. During 2005-08, the Investing in Our Schools Programme will provide an additional \$700 million in capital funding to state schools as promised during the 2004 Federal election campaign.

"These projects involve a significant amount of funding which indicates the importance the Government places on developing and maintaining school infrastructure."

"We are committed to a strong and effective school system that maximises opportunities for every young Australian."

Murraylands Investing in Our Schools funding recipients:

Geranium Primary School Enhancing Cost Effective Learning Through Video	\$48,212
Jervois Primary School Renewing Only Hard Play Surface Surrounds	\$48,999
Karoonda Area School Portable Shade Structure Shade over playground Fitness Circuit Swimming Pool Solar Blanket Music Room	\$1,800 \$14,905 \$11,000 \$4,290 \$5,990
School Total:	\$37,985

Mannum Community College Playground Including Fitness Circuit	\$45,000
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Meningie Area School Computing Junior School Shelter Solar Heating of Swimming Pool Air Conditioning Walls in Junior School Sub-School Aquaculture Air Conditioning Replacement	\$26,058 \$37,182 \$9,500 \$9,000 \$23,100 \$19,598 \$26,000
School Total:	\$150,438

Mypolonga Primary School Sporting Infrastructure Upgrades Library Infrastructure Upgrades	\$13,500 \$8,500
School Total:	\$22,000

Palmer Primary School Provision of rubberised softfall for student protection	\$31,890
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Swan Reach Area School Middle School Computers Middle School Visual Presentation Equipment Middle/Senior School Computer Upgrade Junior School Computers Storage Shed attached to Gym ICT Upgrade Playground equipment Middle School Audio/Visual Equipment	\$15,998 \$5,816 \$29,288 \$12,409 \$20,050 \$8,000 \$7,000 \$3,964
School Total:	\$102,525

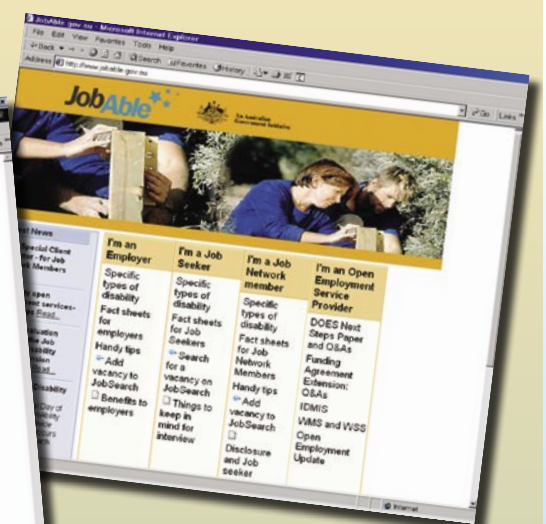
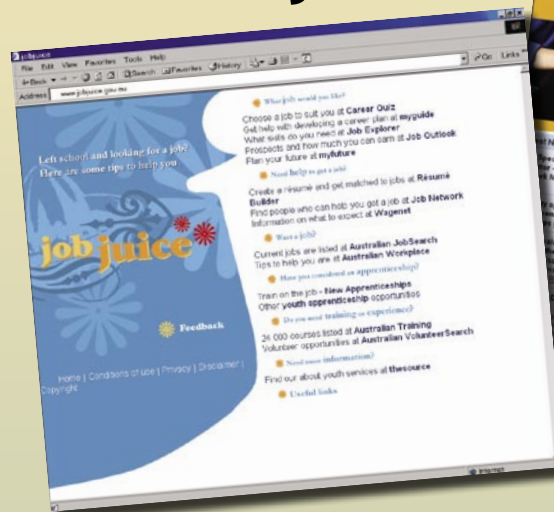
Tailem Bend Primary School Shade areas in school grounds Airconditioning upgrade	\$31,000 \$50,000
School Total:	\$81,000

Helping to create more local jobs...

Over the past year **300,000** new jobs have been created by the Coalition, delivering an unemployment rate of **5.1%** - the lowest in 29 years.

But we must keep working to provide **more job opportunities** for all Australians.

Jobjuice provides assistance and advice to young job seekers, while **Jobable** provides job search information to people with disabilities. These services are all part of the Coalition's commitment to creating more local jobs.



www.jobjuice.gov.au
www.jobable.gov.au



PATRICK SECKER MP Federal Member for Barker

New mower for Friends of Younghusband River Care



Patrick and Friends of Younghusband River Care Inc. Committee Member, Garry Earl and Member, Joy Grinnell with their new ride on mower.

Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP had great pleasure in visiting the Friends of Younghusband River Care Inc in July to present them with their new ride on lawn mower provided through the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants (VSEG) program.

“The ride on mower is used to maintain the river frontage at Younghusband which is under the care and control of the Mid Murray Council. Friends of Younghusband River Care Inc volunteer their time to keep this area looking beautiful and this new mower will make their job that much easier,” Mr Secker says

“Friends of Younghusband River Care Inc received a \$2,727.27 Volunteer Small Equipment Grant and were one of seven organisations to receive VSEG funding in the last round.

“Organisations apply for VSEG funding to help with the purchase of a wide variety of small equipment items, including lawnmowers, photocopiers, umbrellas, hose couplings and first aid kits.

“Volunteer Small Equipment Grants help make dedicated volunteers’ valuable work easier, safer and more enjoyable.

“Our volunteers are ordinary people who give up their valuable time to help their own communities in all sorts of fields - like family and community support, emergency services, the environment, sport and tourism.”

Further information on Volunteers Small Equipment Grants can be obtained from Family & Community Services by phoning 1800 018 312.

New staff member

We welcome Meredith Knowler, our new Constituent Officer, to the electorate office in Murray Bridge. Meredith will be full time in the office working closely with Vanessa and Alecia. Meredith has a background in public relations, community projects, sport development and policing.



Meredith and Katarina Baric at the Riverland Field Days.

We would also like to say farewell to Karen Parker who is leaving our office and wish her all the best for the future.

Age pensioners receive \$83 boost

Age pensioners in Barker will have received up to \$83 extra in their pension last month, with the second instalment of the new Utilities Allowance and Telephone Allowance and the ongoing increase of the Age Pension.

The maximum single rate of Age Pension has risen by \$12.60 to \$488.90 a fortnight, while the maximum partnered pension has increased by \$10.50 to \$408.20 a fortnight for each member of a couple.

The September instalment of the Utilities Allowance of \$50.60 provides additional assistance to senior Australians, and helps age pensioners with utility bills such as electricity and gas. The payment consists of \$25.30 per member of a couple and \$50.60 for single people.

Holders of a Pensioner Concession Card or a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card will also have received the Telephone Allowance of \$20.40.

These increases are further evidence of the Howard Government’s record of strong economic management, which has overseen a sustained period of growth in pension incomes.

THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IS BUILDING SAFER ROADS

The Coalition Government’s practical Road Safety plan is saving lives across Australia. By fixing black spots and building safer local roads, bridges and national highways, the Coalition Government is delivering real benefits.



Barker Briefing



\$2.6 million to help children in Murraylands

Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP recently announced the details of \$2.6 million in funding for a joint Anglican Community Care Inc and Flinders University project in the Murraylands through the Australian Government's \$142 million Communities for Children initiative.

"This is a forward step for the Murraylands with children across the region set to benefit from this significant funding contribution," Mr Secker says.

"Anglican Community Care Inc will receive funding of \$2.6 million which will enable them to provide a wide range of services for children aged five years and under, including early learning and literacy programs, playgroups, parenting programs, child nutrition and early skills development."

"Anglican Community Care Inc and Flinders University Rural Clinical School will together engage with the local community to develop a Community Strategic Plan, which will outline how the funds will be distributed to groups within the local community who provide services that meet the needs of children.

Beth Miller from the Rural Clinical School, Helen Francis of Anglican Community Care, Mr Secker and Prof. Paul Worley from Flinders University at Anglican Community Care in Murray Bridge.

"This funding is part of the Australian Government's \$490 million Stronger Families and Communities Strategy which aims to give families, their children and communities the skills and resources to build better futures.

"The Government's initiative is based on evidence that effective intervention in early childhood years leads to better life chances for vulnerable children, including better education and employment outcomes.



"I congratulate Anglican Community Care and Flinders University on their achievement and I wish them the best of luck as they administer this program," Mr Secker says.

Anglican Community Care Inc applied for funding through a competitive process and was elected on the basis of being best placed to facilitate the delivery of services for young children within the local community.

You can get Broadband in your area...

'Broadband' is an umbrella term for a number of high speed Internet access options. **ADSL, Cable, Wireless** and **Satellite** all fall into the Broadband category, giving you a number of options for enjoying an amazing online experience. Broadband is an 'always on' service so that you don't have to dial-up each time you want to access the Internet, giving you full use of your phone service.

Most residents in Barker have access to Broadband through **ADSL, Cable, Wireless** or **Satellite**. ADSL is the preferred Internet access option due to cost and it is generally available to customers within 3.5 kilometres of an ADSL-enabled telephone exchange. However, if you can't presently access ADSL in your area there are other Broadband Internet options available.

If you would like to find out more about the different Internet access options go to:-

http://www.dcita.gov.au/tel/faqs/telecommunications_services/high-speed_internet_access_-_isdn_and_broadband#9

HiBIS

HiBIS is one of the key Broadband Internet access options available in regional, rural and remote areas where ADSL is not currently available.

In 2004, the Australian Government introduced the Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme (HiBIS), a \$157.8 million initiative to provide registered Internet Services Providers (ISPs) with incentive payments to supply higher bandwidth services in regional, rural and remote areas, at prices comparable to those available in metropolitan areas.

To check if you are eligible for HiBIS go to:

<http://sdndiscovery.dcita.gov.au/homsdemandregisterclient/eligibilitySearchByLocality.do>

Further information on HiBIS is available at:

http://www.dcita.gov.au/tel/higher_bandwidth_incentive_scheme_hibis

OR Freecall: 1800 883 488
Email: hibis@dcita.gov.au

ADSL Demand Register

Telstra is currently running an ADSL Demand Register to gauge demand for ADSL in exchange areas that do not currently receive the service. There are more than 1,000 local exchanges across Australia providing access to ADSL broadband to about 75 per cent of the population.

To find out if your area has access to ADSL or to register your interest in receiving such a service, go to:-

<http://www.telstra.com.au/demand/index.cfm>