

Barker Briefing



A Local Working for the Locals

Community Newsletter October 2005

PATRICK SECKER MP Federal Member for Barker

Riding for the Disabled receive PM's Award

Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP recently congratulated Riding for the Disabled in Berri on being named Highly Commended in the Prime Minister's Work for the Dole Achievement Awards.

"Riding for the Disabled was nominated in the category of Best Activity - Caring for People, which is a fantastic achievement," Mr Secker says.

"The Prime Minister's Work for the Dole Achievement Awards recognise excellence in performance in the Australian Government's Work for the Dole programme.



Employ SA CEO Patricia Banton, Patrick, Jamie Dillon (on horse) and Peter Mesecke and Riding for the Disabled Coordinator Trish Pinyon at the presentation.



"Work for the Dole participants helped Riding for the Disabled in Berri create a dedicated riding facility boasting stables, riding yards and a mounting area from an empty paddock. The facility is fantastic and a credit to all who helped create it.

"This award winning project could not have been realised without the commitment and contribution of the 17 participants, the Community Work Coordinators; Maded and Employ SA and the many sponsors of Riding for the Disabled Work for the Dole activities," Mr Secker says.

Since the programme's inception, around 25,000 Work for the Dole activities have benefited local communities like ours across Australia with nearly 400,000 job seekers having participated in Work for the Dole activities.

The Work for the Dole programme provides participants with valuable work experience and demonstrates the value of governments, businesses and communities working together to achieve common goals.

"I congratulate everyone involved in the Riding for the Disabled Work for the Dole programme and, in particular, this year's nominees for the Prime Minister's Awards. They are truly outstanding achievers."

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.

Barker Briefing

Community Newsletter October 2005

\$312,141 extra funding for Riverland schools

Students and staff at Riverland 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 eight Riverland schools will share in \$312,141 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."

Riverland Investing in Our Schools funding recipients:

Berri Primary School

Air conditioning of classrooms and multi purpose areas	\$26,810
Junior Primary Playground Equipment	\$23,000
School Total:	\$49,810

Blanchetown Primary School

Tennis/ Basketball Court Upgrade	\$19,000
Provide shade structures within our school environment	\$21,078
School Total:	\$40,078

Brown's Well District Area School

Shade structures for outside play areas	\$20,860
Replace carpets and lino throughout school	\$46,060
School Total:	\$66,920

Kingston On Murray Primary School

Relocation and Upgrading of Computer Lab	\$16,935
--	----------

Loxton North Primary School

Replacement of airconditioning and heating in 4 classrooms	\$30,000
--	----------

Moorook Primary School

Art/Technology Rooms Refurbishment	\$20,000
------------------------------------	----------

Morgan Primary School

Shade Structure Over Play Equipment	\$45,173
Computers for junior primary classes	\$4,875
School Total:	\$50,048

Renmark North Primary School

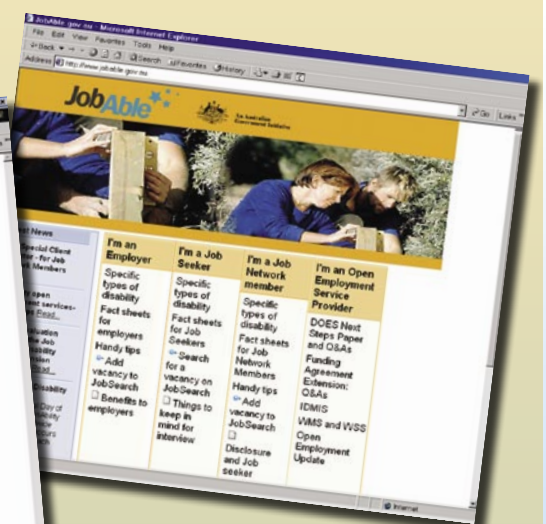
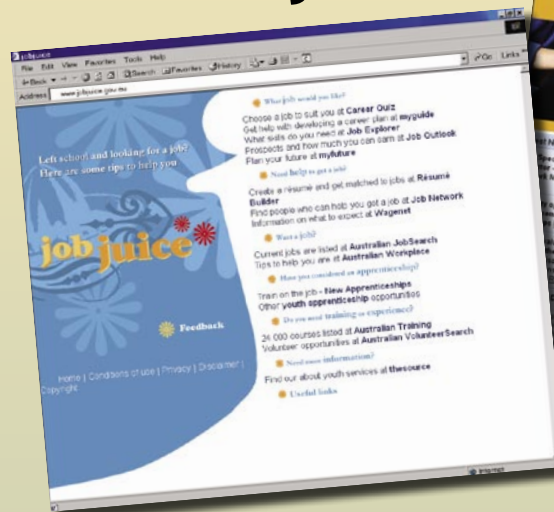
Carpet/Lino upgrade to five rooms	\$38,350
-----------------------------------	----------

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

Prime Minister's visit to the Riverland

Prime Minister, the Hon. John Howard MP visited the Riverland on Tuesday 2nd August to meet with the local constituency and enjoy the sights and sounds of the region.

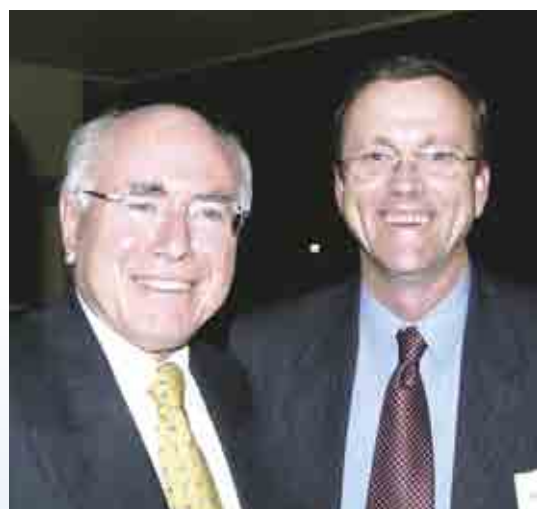
The Prime Minister's day was event-filled and he had the opportunity to meet with many of you on his street walk in Loxton and at the Civic Reception held in Berri, which was co-hosted by myself and the Berri Barmera Council.

The Prime Minister also visited the Loxton/Bookpurnong region where he announced significant funding to continue the restoration of our State's natural landscapes and precious water resources.

The \$43 million announcement will see eight regional packages funded through the joint Australian and State Government-funded National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust and other in-kind contributions from the State Government. The funding built on the Australian Government's \$85 million investment in the State's eight Natural Resource Management regions to date and was over and above funding through other Australian Government initiatives such as the National Water Initiative and the Murray Darling Basin Commission.

Of the \$43 million some \$19 million will be directed to projects including salt interception schemes, irrigation infrastructure improvement, habitat protection and restoration for animal and plant management in the Murray Darling Basin region. The Loxton salt interception scheme will receive \$1 million from this funding announcement.

The announcement was great news for the Riverland and for the State in general and will help to ensure future generations can enjoy our magnificent landscape and waterways.



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.

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



Encouraging Riverland kids to be healthy and active

Six schools in the Riverland are helping to improve the health, well-being and motor skill competencies of their primary school children through the new Active After-school Communities Program (AASC).

Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP recently visited primary school children participating in the Australian Sports Commission's new program (AASC) at Renmark North Primary.

The Renmark North Program provided up to 106 children with the opportunity to participate in four different sporting activities on two afternoons per week over the course of Term 3.

Mr Andrew Milligan Riverland Co-ordinator for the Active After-school Communities Program says the program at Renmark North Primary School has been very successful.

"With the leadership of Peter Hunter (Principal) and the support of the staff, the Renmark North Primary School has put together an innovative Active After-school Communities Program. So far students have participated in activities including Volleyball, Hockey, Soccer, Aerobics, Basketball, Multi-Skill Games, Australian Football and Table Tennis. Term 4 will see a range of other activities undertaken. The program is free, gets the children active and gives them an opportunity to try activities that they may wish to pursue through the local sporting clubs."

Children at Berri Outside School Hours Care, Blanchetown Primary School, Renmark Outside School Hours Care, St Jakobi School, Waikerie Outside



Renmark North Primary School student Matt Andrews, Hasan Demir playing Table Tennis with the encouragement of Patrick and PE Teacher Janice Scott.

School Hours Care as well as Renmark North Primary School are benefiting from the \$90 million dedicated to this project across Australia.

The program engages not only schools, but also local community organisations and sporting clubs to encourage children to be active in fun and safe structured physical activities.

"It was great to see the children at Renmark North really enjoying themselves and trying different and interesting sports that they may otherwise not get the chance to be involved with. I am certain this is indicative of other schools involved in the program and I think it is a fantastic way to encourage our children to be active."

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>