

Barker Briefing



A Local Working for the Locals

Community Newsletter October 2005

PATRICK SECKER MP Federal Member for Barker



Minister Hardgrave and Patrick with Penola High School students (from left) Kailah Marcus, April Kuhl, Rosie Smith and Jonathon Mills at 'Café 43'.



Trevor Bennier, Lucindale Area School Farm Manager with Minister Hardgrave, Patrick and Colin McGavisk, District Superintendent in the Lucindale Area School.

Minister Hardgrave visits the South East

Federal Minister for Vocational and Technical Education, the Hon. Gary Hardgrave MP recently visited the South East where he attended the 2005 VET Student of the Year Awards and visited skills centres at local schools.

"It was fantastic to have the Minister in the South East and provided a great opportunity to showcase the vocational and technical education our high schools offer.

"On day one of the Minister's visit he met with students and teachers at Grant High School's Doorways to Construction skills centre and Penola High School's hospitality skills centre Café 43.

"On day two the Minister visited Lucindale Area School's Agriculture Vineyard program and school vineyard and met with Principal Kym Grant, students and staff for morning tea.

"That afternoon the Minister presented the 2005 VET Student of the Year Awards at Russet Ridge Winery. The afternoon was a great success and highlighted the effectiveness of vocational and technical education programs in the South East.

"I would like to congratulate the 2005 VET Student of the Year, Sam McPherson of Penola High School, who has been undertaking the VET course Doorways to Construction.

"The Minister presented Sam and Highly Commended award recipients, Kimberley Norris of Naracoorte High School and Simon Bouchier of Mount Gambier High School, with their awards. Congratulations to them both.

"Congratulations also to the 2005 Finalists, Hollie Clapham, Chantelle Trnovsky and Thomas Crane of Bordertown High School, Tayne Foster of Grant High School and Fiona Nation of Naracoorte High School.

"The day was a great success and a credit to the participating students, teachers, schools and event organiser, Futures Connect Limestone Coast."

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.

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.

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\$669,187 extra funding for South East schools

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

Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP announced 18 South East schools will share in \$669,187 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."

South East Investing in Our Schools funding recipients:

Allendale East Area School
Classroom Refurbishments \$49,251

Cobdogla Primary School
External School Logo Wall re-painting and beautification \$1,210
Computer Server \$6,188
Shade Structure and Pool cover \$11,128
Air conditioning and heating system \$3,476
School Total: \$22,002

Compton Primary School
Play equipment replacement \$34,852
Courtyard Covering \$20,534
Resource Centre Upgrade \$30,871
School Total: \$86,257

Frances Primary School
Automatic Watering System Improved Playing Field \$15,582
Sports Shed, Storage - Access \$9,500
School Total: \$25,082

Glenburnie Primary School
Underground Irrigation and Top Dressing of Playing Field \$9,190
Classroom Airconditioning \$18,841
School Total: \$28,031

Glencoe Central Primary School
Update of playground equipment \$22,699
Security \$5,490
Carpet replacement in main building \$32,000
School Total: \$60,189

Kangaroo Inn Area School
Classroom Chair Replacement \$14,380
Accessible Computers Project \$36,000
School Total: \$50,380

Lucindale Area School
Air conditioning and heating of the senior school and science blocks \$43,000
Student all-weather shelter \$26,539
School Total: \$69,539

Mil Lel Primary School
Air conditioning and heating \$22,865

Moorak Primary School
School Grounds Development \$38,010

Mundulla Primary School
Project Development for Solar Pergola/ Shelter Shed \$10,700
Sailshade for play equipment \$10,000
School Total: \$20,700

Nangwarry Primary School
Multi Purpose Room New Floor Coverage \$9,077

Naracoorte South Primary School
Outside Learning Centre Refurbishments \$41,439

Penola Primary School
Shaded (sail) outdoor learning/ playarea \$28,385

Salt Creek Primary School
Playground Development \$12,895

Tarpeena Primary School
Restump and Recarpet Activity Room \$5,955

Tintinara Area School
School Resource Centre Upgrade \$26,230

Yahl Primary School
Paving of Bitumen Surface \$17,000
Purchase of Music Instruments \$3,900
Guided Reading Resources \$7,000
Play Equipment Upgrade \$45,000
School Total: \$72,900

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

Tenison Woods students learn about Parliament



Patrick Secker MP paid a visit to the Grade 7 class at Tenison Woods College in September to teach them about the workings of the House of Representatives.

Patrick spoke with the students about the daily life of a Parliamentarian and answered their questions about the Parliamentary process. The students were given the opportunity to dress up in the regalia of the House of Representatives to enact a day in Parliament using the Parliamentary Education Dispatch Box which has three costumes, a replica of the Mace and a parliamentary clock.

If you would like Patrick to visit your school with the Parliamentary Education Dispatch Box, please call the electorate office on (08) 8531 2466.

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.



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Secker ecstatic about Coonawarra Gold funding

Coonawarra Gold Facilities Pty Ltd have been granted \$432,900 for their new Grape Marc separator and dryer facilities through Regional Partnerships, Federal Member for Barker, Patrick Secker MP announced in June.

"This is fantastic news for the Limestone Coast and the Barossa, with the facilities not only helping the wine industry better manage waste products, but also providing a substantial number of jobs in the regions," Mr Secker says.

"The funds will go towards the purchase and installation of two "Aerox" odour control filters, as well as electrical supply, installation and commissioning of the plant."

Regional Partnerships continues the Australian Government's approach of working with local communities to support their ideas. The Howard Government has made \$447.7million available under Regional Partnerships from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Wayne McNally, Chairperson of the South East Area Consultative Committee joined Robyn Masterman, Chairperson of the Barossa Riverland

Mid North Area Consultative committee in the new project which is great news for the South East and the Barossa.

"Coonawarra Gold has developed a process that ensures consistent high quality of cold-pressed oil that can satisfy its own demands and also those in the world market.

"With a contract in place that secures a 70% minimum supply of the raw grape marc product from all over Australia for the next ten years, Coonawarra Gold Facilities is positioned to become the world's largest producer of cold-pressed grape seed oil in the next twelve months. Thirty new full time equivalent jobs will result at Nurioopta and Millicent. This project had great support from members of our board because of the social, environmental and economic benefits that will be realised."

"Regional Partnerships integrates the Australian Government's key regional programmes into one programme, with one set of guidelines and one application form to help communities develop their own future," Mr Secker says

"I congratulate all involved with this project on their success and encourage all communities in the Riverland and Limestone Coast to contact the Barossa Riverland Mid North and the South East Area Consultative Committee's respectively if they wish to seek funding through Regional Partnerships."

www.regionalpartnerships.gov.au and
www.acc.gov.au

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>