



Photo: Skye

Isaacs Newsletter



Mark Dreyfus QC MP

***** NEWS FLASH *** Trade Training Centre details on page 3**

The Carrum Downs, Sandhurst and Skye Edition

ClimateWatch at Sandhurst

I was pleased to announce, along with Richard Gilmore of Earthwatch, the development of a ClimateWatch trail at Sandhurst.

Sandhurst residents will participate in ClimateWatch, a project where observations about plant and animal behaviour in response

Environment

to rainfall and temperature, are recorded on a data base, which will help scientists better understand and monitor the natural environment in our local area.

ClimateWatch is a great way of increasing our understanding of how our environment works. I congratulate Sandhurst residents for participating in the program, which will contribute to the Atlas of Living Australia. More information on ClimateWatch can be found at www.earthwatch.org/australia.

The ClimateWatch event was held in Blair Park, in front of what residents call the "Wedding tree" - a favoured place for wedding photos and an area where children go to play and have fun in the great outdoors.



New Website

My website is now live and active at www.markdreyfus.com

You can keep up to date with the latest community news, contact Mark about any concerns or queries you may have, or simply say hello. You might also like to add Mark on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/mark.dreyfus>



Seniors' Morning Tea



My Seniors' Morning Tea held at the Lyrebird Community Centre on 14 October was a great get together for residents of Carrum Downs, Skye and Sandhurst. It was a pleasure to meet everyone in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

For a third year running, students from Carrum Downs Secondary College performed at the morning tea. It was a pleasure to listen to Sarah, Jason, Patrick, Ben and Nicole.

Roads to Recovery- Hall Road



I recently announced a \$263,000 upgrade to the intersection of Hall Road and Lyrebird Drive, Carrum Downs, funded by the Australian Government's 'Black Spot' program. The upgrade will include the installation of a fully controlled right turn lane and improved road delineation at this busy intersection.

Anyone can nominate a 'black spot' for funding consideration. Nomination forms can be picked up from my office or downloaded at www.nationbuildingprogram.gov.au/funding/blackspots.

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) hits Carrum Downs



The Federal Government has provided a \$120,000 grant to enable BBBS to expand its successful mentoring services to the City of Frankston. BBBS pairs volunteer adult mentors with young people, to empower young people to reach their potential and make positive changes in their thinking and behaviour, building self-worth and trust in their relationships both at home and at school.

For further information about BBBS or to become a volunteer, go to www.bbbsosem.org.au, email bbbsosem@bbbs.org.au or phone 8795 7999.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day, is a special day for Australians, marking the end of World War I. On 11 November, I was proud to join with residents across Isaacs to pay my respects to those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

Tom Jones (pictured) placed a rose on behalf of prisoners of war at Edithvale/Chelsea RSL's service.

Lest we forget.



Hanover - Ride for Home

On Sunday 13 November I participated in the Hanover ConnectEast Ride for Home cycling event to raise money to Break the Cycle of Homelessness.

I joined the Event Ambassador and 2011 Tour De France star Simon Gerrans in the 75 km Challenge Ride. Around 7,100 cyclists participated in the ride. To date approximately \$300,000 has been raised



for this worthy cause. Donations will be accepted by Hanover up until 12 December 2011.



Trade Training Centre (TTC)

A site for the \$19 million Federally funded Frankston Trade Training Centre has been secured at Samuel Sherlock Reserve, next to Chisholm TAFE.



"The TTC is a fantastic facility that will be well utilised by students in Isaacs" ... Mark Dreyfus QC MP

The new trade training centre will provide students from Years 9 - 12 with access to vocational education and training, and give schools a broader range of options to improve Year 12 retention rates.

We all know that education takes many paths, including the traditional trades and new and emerging technologies and industries. This is why Trade Training Centres and programs like VCAL are so vital in providing the necessary skills for our children's future and for our economy. Thirteen schools, including Carrum Downs Secondary College and Patterson River Secondary College, have partnered with the Federal Government, Chisholm TAFE and Frankston City Council to ensure this exciting initiative comes to fruition. The Federal Government has committed \$2.5 billion over ten years to fund the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.

Pensions increased

More than 23,900 pensioners in Isaacs have received an increase in their payments to help balance the household budget.

From 20 September, single people receiving the maximum rate of age, disability and carer pensions, received an extra \$19.50 a fortnight. Pensioner couples combined on the maximum rate received an extra \$29.60 a fortnight. If you would like my latest version of the Pensioners and Seniors Information Kit, please give me a call on 9769 1955.



National Disability Insurance Scheme



The Government is laying the foundations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which will entitle all Australians to support in the event of significant disability.

- Australians with significant disability will get the kind of care and support Australians expect for them.
- Australians who acquire a disability or whose child is born with a disability will get the helping hand they need.

If you would like more information on the NDIS please contact me on 9769 1955.

Plain Packaging Cigarettes

Tobacco use is Australia's single largest cause of premature death and disease, killing 15,000 Australians a year and costing our economy \$31.5 billion.



Example of plain packaging of cigarettes

On Thursday 10 November 2011, the *Plain Packaging* legislation was approved by the Senate. This legislation is a world first and sends a clear message that the glamour is gone – from 1 December 2012 all tobacco products sold in Australia will be in plain packaging displaying images showing the consequences of smoking.

In Australia, smoking causes 84% of new lung cancers in men and 77% in women.

For help in quitting smoking, consult your doctor or call the Quitline on 13 78 48.



Signing the Plain Packaging Pledge on World No Tobacco Day

Education Tax Refund



Eligible parents will now be able to claim 50% of the cost of uniforms, in addition to the existing education expenses included in the Education Tax Refund. Eligible parents should keep receipts for uniforms purchased from July 1 of this year so those items can be included in their tax refund claim next year. For more information on other items that can be claimed, visit www.australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund.

How I can help you

I am available to help you and your family with any problems you may encounter dealing with Federal Government departments and agencies, such as Medicare, Centrelink, citizenship, higher education or aged care.

Mark Dreyfus QC MP
Federal Member for Isaacs

Shop NO6 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough VIC 3173
T: 9769 1955 | F: 9769 1977 | Email: mark.dreyfus.mp@aph.gov.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/markdreyfus | Web: www.markdreyfus.com

