



Photo: Mordialloc Creek

# Isaacs Newsletter



# Mark Dreyfus QC MP

*Welcome to the Kingston edition of my Isaacs Newsletter. It has been a busy time in our local community and here are some of the things that have been happening.*

## Million of reasons for local schools to smile

The Building the Education Revolution (BER) program continues to deliver incredible results to our local schools.



Mark Dreyfus MP with Leigh Crang, Principal and students at Aspendale Gardens Primary School

### St John Vianneys Primary School

Mark with School Captains at the opening of the BER



### \*\*\* NEWS BULLETIN \*\*\*

Mordialloc College's new Science Centre, built near the banks of the Mordialloc Creek will open on 24 June at 9.30am. This is a date worth putting in your diary.

## Schools

Recently I celebrated the opening of new facilities, funded through the BER program, with parents, students and teachers at Aspendale Gardens, Chelsea Heights and St John Vianney's Primary Schools.

**Aspendale Gardens Primary's** \$3 million "Performing Arts Precinct" has enhanced the school's music facilities and provided wonderful indoor sports courts for the students.

The funding also allowed for a refurbishment of the old hall to create open learning spaces.

**Chelsea Heights Primary's** \$2.5 million "Green Learning Zone" multi-purpose facility has provided students with a new sports court, music and art rooms and open learning spaces.

The \$2.1 million received by **St John Vianney's Primary** funded the rebuilding of school infrastructure, delivering four new classrooms and allowing for the refurbishment of the library and five other classrooms.

### Chelsea Heights Primary School

Mark presented School Leaders with certificates and opened the new Green Learning Zone



## One in 500 year flood hits Isaacs

February 4 brought record rainfalls and widespread flash flooding to areas in Isaacs, prompting Melbourne Water to describe the rainfall as a one in 500 year weather event.

Most of the flood waters subsided fairly quickly, but the Chelsea Public Golf Course and nearby rural land was underwater for some time and parts of our coastline were littered with debris.

Kingston Council estimates they cleared well over 100 tonnes of debris that flowed down Mordialloc Creek onto our foreshores. The SES was called in to assist Chelsea Public Golf Course to draw water off the course with remediation works to the course still underway.



## Mordialloc Food, Wine and Music Festival

Recently I had the pleasure of joining tens of thousands of people to celebrate the 15th Mordialloc Food, Wine and Music Festival.



Held in the third weekend of March at the Peter Scullin Reserve, Mordialloc went into overdrive as Kingston locals and visitors were treated to live music, a variety of foods and cooking demonstrations from Melbourne's top master chefs, as well as a diverse range of family fun activities.

The festival is a highlight on the Kingston calendar and continues to grow in popularity year after year.

## The Bonbeach Swim

On Sunday March 20, I joined Bonbeach Surf Lifesaving Club members and guests for the club's Open Water Swim for 2011. The event was brilliantly run, with over 100 people participating.

Surf lifesaving is part of Australian culture. We are lucky to have eight Surf Lifesaving Clubs located along our coastline between Carrum and Mordialloc, including Bonbeach.

Each and every member of our surf lifesaving clubs generously volunteer their time to patrol our beaches, keep our community safe and educate our children through the Nippers program, on how to be safe by the water.



# Supporting you and your family

## Paid Parental Leave

Australia's first ever national Paid Parental Leave scheme is up and running. This means families can spend more time with their new babies, without the added financial pressure.



We all know how important the early months are in a new baby's life. The Paid Parental Leave Scheme gives babies the best start possible by supporting either mum or dad to be at home in those crucial early months.

For many new mums and dads, particularly the self-employed and those in part-time, casual, seasonal or contract work, this is the very first time they have had access to Paid Parental Leave, for up to 18 weeks at the national minimum wage.

## Budget Basics - easing the cost of living



This year's Federal Budget will assist us to deliver a surplus by 2012-13.

Here are some budget measures that will ease cost of living pressures:

### Mental Health

- ✓ \$2.2B invested over the next 5 years to reform the mental health system

### Health

- ✓ More hospital beds locally:
  - Frankston Hospital - 24 acute and short stay beds
  - Dandenong Hospital - new 24 bed Acute Assessment Unit
  - Monash Medical Centre - new Acute Assessment Unit
  - Casey Hospital - 30 sub acute beds

### Supporting Families

- ✓ Increasing Family Tax Benefit-A by up to \$4,200 per year
- ✓ Extending the Education Tax Refund to cover school uniforms

### Skills and Training

- ✓ 130,000 new training places over 4 years
- ✓ Creating 500,000 jobs in the next 2 years

### Education

- ✓ Investing \$200M to support students with disabilities
- ✓ Investing a further \$1.4B to meet the demand for growth in university enrolments

### Delivering for our Pensioners

- ✓ Delivering an improved pension work bonus
- ✓ We have increased fortnightly payments for veterans' income support recipients and people on aged, disability and carer pensions, meaning a \$128 boost for singles and a \$116 boost for couples on the maximum rate since September 2009

# Protecting our environment

## CSIRO - leading the world in climate change science research

The 150 scientists and staff at CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research in Aspendale research the impacts of climate change and predict changes in the atmospheric environment.

One important task of the team at CSIRO in Aspendale is to see how greenhouse gases have changed through the centuries and how these levels have increased in recent times.

One way of measuring these changes is for scientists to take a trip to Antarctica and drill down many metres to take an "ice core" sample (pictured). The ice has trapped air from many centuries ago which is tested and measured against greenhouse gas levels of today.



Ice core sample



Mark Dreyfus MP with atmospheric scientists at the CSIRO in Aspendale

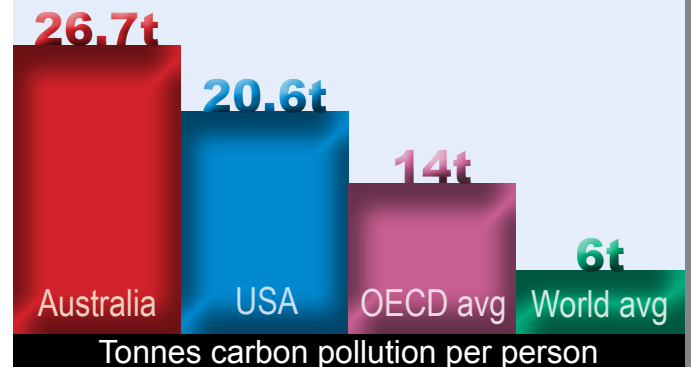
## Tackling Climate Change

We all know that we need to take action on climate change and reduce the impact we have on our environment. That's why the Government is taking action to introduce a price on carbon pollution.

- The Government's carbon price will apply to **less than 1,000** of the biggest polluters in our economy.
- A carbon price gives big polluters a reason to reduce their carbon pollution. **Businesses that produce less carbon pollution will be more profitable.**
- Every cent raised by the carbon price will go in **generous assistance to households** and businesses and to climate change programs.
- **Australia is not acting alone.** The rest of the world is taking action to reduce emissions, including Europe, China, India and the United States.
- Australia has to be part of the **clean energy future** and the most cost effective action to cut our pollution and transform the economy is a carbon price.

### Australia's carbon pollution in context

Australia has the **highest carbon pollution emissions per person** of any developed country, higher even than the USA, and is one of the top 20 polluting nations in the world (ranked 16)



## 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

