

# Russell Northe MLA

Member for Morwell

## Community Newsletter

MAY 2010



### Neighbourhood Houses



Russell with valuable team members at Churchill Neighbour House

The week of 10-14 May 2010 was Neighbourhood House week, and Russell Northe spent a day visiting the local groups and witnessing the great work and facilities they have to offer.

Visiting Traralgon, Morwell and Churchill, Mr Northe marvelled at the amount of work that goes into providing community care.

"The staff and volunteers of the local Neighbourhood Houses always go above and beyond for the community, and I have the utmost respect for all who are involved at these great facilities," said Mr Northe.

"These Latrobe Valley Neighbourhood Houses all provide care and support and serve a great purpose, by providing social, educational and recreational activities for the community in a welcoming supportive environment.

This month, Mr Northe also had the pleasure of visiting the Morwell Probus Club meeting, and commended the group on the work they undertake on a regular basis within the community.

"It's fantastic to see retirees taking an active role in their own lives to provide themselves

with regular opportunities to keep their minds active, expand their interests and to enjoy regular fellowship of new friends," said Mr Northe.

To enquire about joining the Morwell Probus Club, contact Neil Baxter on 5134 2454 or Ruth Vanderzalm on 5134 3275. For further membership information about the Traralgon Probus Club, contact Rob Hamilton on 5176 5802.

Mr Northe also commended the work still being done through bushfire recovery committees to rebuild towns that were devastated in 2009.

"The Boolarra-Yinnar, Hazelwood-Jeeralang and Traralgon South & Districts Community Recovery Committees have all been incredibly active in the recovery process, and it's great to see what is being achieved throughout the townships.

"I've witnessed first hand the many achievements of these respective CRC's. it is extremely heartening to see that no matter their name, or aim, all have the common goal of enhancing the lives of those within the community."

### Celebrating a Milestone?

If you are turning 80, 90 or 100, or celebrating a 50th, 60th or 70th wedding anniversary, Russell Northe encourages you to contact his office to arrange a special message to be delivered to you on the day.

"As your State Member I can arrange for special messages to be sent to my constituents in honour of significant anniversaries and birthdays.

"So, if you are about to celebrate a significant milestone, let me know.

"Depending on the circumstances, you may be eligible to receive a message from myself, the Prime Minister, the Governor-General or the Queen.

"Of course, you will need to produce supporting documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificates or passports, but if these are not available, you can provide a statutory declaration instead.

"For further information, please contact my office on 5133 9088."

## LATROBE VALLEY IGNORED IN STATE BUDGET



Russell with Lumen Christi Principal Cathy Blackford, School Captains and Vice Captains.



The young artists of Yallourn North with Cr Bruce Lougheed, local resident Rachael Telehin, and Russell Northe at launch of Yallourn North's new skate park.



Russell with members of the Churchill Rams Soccer Club.



Russell and Rob De Souza-Daw, with the publication "Streets and Place Names of Churchill".

**Russell Northe has condemned the Brumby Government for neglecting the Latrobe Valley in the 2010/11 State Budget.**

Mr Northe said the budget failed to provide any new projects in the region, instead focusing on those already in progress, including the Traralgon – Sale highway duplication, the redevelopment of Latrobe Community Health Services facility in Morwell and the establishment of a GippsTAFE facility in Traralgon.

"The budget has provided very little for the Latrobe Valley community, especially in the healthcare and public transport portfolios," Mr Northe said.

"Issues which I have continuously raised with the Brumby Government have not been recognised, such as the Latrobe Regional Hospital master plan, and the need for extra hospital beds. Representations made on these issues appear to have been in vain.

"Further to the issue of bed capacity at Latrobe Regional Hospital, it is also widely known that there is a distinct lack of supported accommodation for those with disabilities in Gippsland, and mental health

services and bed capacity are at stretching point. Unfortunately, this budget brings no joy to families dealing with these tough health issues.

"The issue of public transport has also been overlooked, with no reference to Gippsland. The Brumby Government has again excluded our region from any funding commitments under this proposal with regional areas such as Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat referred to frequently, but no mention of Gippsland.

"It is also extremely disappointing that local community safety initiatives such as a NightRider Bus service continue to be ignored. Instead, the Brumby Government continues to put its focus on the public transport safety in metropolitan centres, and avoid what is required in the Latrobe Valley.

"The Latrobe Valley has missed out significantly in this years State Budget, which will leave our community thoroughly disappointed. The Brumby Government appears to have stopped listening to the needs of those who reside in the Gippsland region and this Budget is indicative of a Government that is completely out of touch."

### IN PARLIAMENT THIS MONTH



#### Russell Northe spoke on the following issues:

- Problems associated with ticketing system, Myki
- Changes to the Child Employment Amendment Bill
- Advocating for a MICA single responder unit in the Latrobe Valley

#### Russell Northe is also persuing:

- The development of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail
- The housing of a new Morwell SES vehicle

Click on 'Speeches' on Russell Northe's website to view his Parliament contributions.

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