



# Unley Outlook

AUGUST 2007

*A strong voice for our community*

VOL 1 ISSUE 3

*Welcome to the Winter edition of my newsletter. Since the last Unley Outlook in March I have met a lot more of you at community events, functions and generally out and about. Many constituents have also taken the opportunity to contact me via the new website or by visiting my office with issues of concern or to offer feedback on political, local and state matters. I encourage you stay in touch and to remember that I am here to represent your interests and to be a strong voice for the Unley community.*

## Unley 'Way to Go Fair'

On 25 March I had a stall at the *Unley Way to Go* fair, an event which has become a highlight in the Unley community calendar. It was a great opportunity for me to speak to locals on a number of issues. We also had tastings of desalinated water from the plant near Perth which I recently visited with Opposition Leader Martin Hamilton-Smith and number of other Liberal MPs.

Reaction to the water and the Liberal Party concept of a similar desalination plant for Adelaide was very positive. It is heartening that Minister Maywald and the state government are finally taking Liberal calls for a desalination plant seriously.

## Unley Volunteers in Focus

### Unley Rotary Thrift Shop Volunteers

We should all be aware of the contribution and difference made by Volunteers in our community. Over a period of 35 years the volunteers at the Unley Rotary Thrift Shop have raised more than \$1 million to support Rotary projects locally and internationally. Some examples of financial assistance or contributions made by Unley Rotary over the past year include:

- *Carols at the Rotunda* in Unley.
- Paving and furniture for an outdoor activities area at 'Our Wellbeing Place' at Murray Bridge.
- **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards** seminar.
- **Rotary Youth Wellbeing** personal development programs for children at risk.
- **Indigenous Health Scholarship Program.**
- **South Australian Police Officer of the Year Award.**
- \$9000 towards rebuilding and equipping a Child Care Centre in Chaing Mai, Thailand.
- Various overseas medical, health and aid projects.

The Rotary Club of Unley welcomes enquiries from anyone interested in making a difference by volunteering in their thrift shop once or twice a month, serving customers, sorting and pricing donated items and displaying goods for sale.

It is a great Unley tradition worthy of your support.

The **Rotary Thrift Shop** is located at 130 Unley Road, Unley and is open 10–3.30 Mon-Fri and 9.30–1.30 Saturdays.

If you are interested in volunteering (you don't need to be a Rotary member) contact them on 8172 0900 or alternatively contact my office on 8373 4846.



David offers free desalinated water tastings at the *Unley Way to Go* fair



David visits the desalination Plant in Perth, WA. Pictured with Steven Griffiths MP and Adrian Pederick MP

**Bon Appetite!**

**Unley Italian Community Association**

Every second Wednesday between 10–30am and 3pm the Unley Italian Community Association makes lunch available to older members of Unley’s thriving Italian community at the Fullarton Park Centre.

This year celebrates the twentieth anniversary of a wonderful Unley tradition.

I recently shared their hospitality with special guest Dr Tommaso Coniglio, Italian Consul to South Australia who was suitably impressed by the standard of cuisine and celebration of Italian culture.

The success of Unley Mensa is due to the untiring efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers co-ordinated by Antonietta Perotta.

The work of Unley Mensa is a noteworthy contribution to the fabric of our local community, the spirit of volunteering and of multicultural activity. There is no doubting also its important role in maintaining quality of life for Unley’s older citizens.

For details of the Unley Italian Community Association visit my website or contact Antonietta Perrotta on 8271 6439.

**Rann Backflips on School Levy but Unfunded Liability Remains**

The South Australian community breathed a collective sigh of relief with the news that State Government budget proposals to levy schools 1 per cent to help pay for the Education Department’s workers’ compensation scheme had been scrapped.

This proposal would have ripped \$17 million education dollars out of school accounts over 3 years.

However other budget proposals remain of concern with ‘efficiency dividends’, loss of interest benefits and other reductions potentially costing a primary school of 270 students \$54, 520 per annum.

There is no doubt that the immediate and vocal opposition to these plans by the Liberal Party, school communities, teachers and parents sent a strong message to the Rann Government. It is a great pity that it took such an outcry for Premier Rann, Treasurer Foley and Minister Lomax-Smith to realise that this imposition was both outrageous and untenable.

Having been in contact with Unley schools in relation to these education cuts and additional levies I attended the protest outside Parliament on 14 June

as a show of support and to speak with those attending about their concerns, and from teachers present I learned that the Australian Teachers Union had arranged for Labor MPs to be briefed on those elements of the budget causing particular unease in school communities. I was informed that no Labor Members chose to attend. Unfortunately Liberal MPs were not invited, however through my ongoing contact with schools in the area I have been able to stay abreast of events and represent their concerns to the government.

In only 5 years under the state Labor Government WorkCovers’ unfunded liability has grown from \$67 million to \$800 million and is predicted to top \$1 Billion within 12 months. This is a growing debt of truly State Bank proportions.

South Australian school students already look set to be delivered considerable future debt to deal with as taxpayers by the Rann Government.

The quality of their education should not suffer to pay for Labors lack of will to deal with its obligations to balance the books and control debt.



Discussing Small Business Issues with Andrew Kemp from Tailors of Distinction



David, with Principal and students St Raphael's

**Constituent Feedback**

**Thrift Shop Volunteers Morning Tea**

Thank you again for attending the morning tea for our Thrift Shop volunteers. Most of the volunteers I spoke to after you presented their certificates of appreciation were quite chuffed that you would make the time to acknowledge their work, for which they have never expected public recognition. Your interest in volunteers in the local Unley area was well noted by all I'm sure.

*Stephen Westgarth, President, Rotary Club of Unley.*

**Getting Connected**

We had almost given up on sorting out the endless problems with having our phone connected when we contacted the local Member. David Pisoni’s office took a personal interest and persisted to get us a positive result.

*Mr and Mrs McMichael, Malvern*

**Understanding Small Business**

It was great to talk to a politician who has direct small business experience and understands the issues!

*Mr Dennis Bunnik, General Manager, Bunnik Tours.*

**Medal Presentation**



David with Liberal candidate for the Federal Seat of Adelaide, Tracy Marsh presenting Anniversary of National Service Medal to Mr Peter Meyer of Hyde Park

The **Anniversary of National Service 1951–1972 Medal** was introduced in 2002 to recognise those who completed their obligation under the two National Service Schemes that operated in Australia between 1951 and 1972.

## Budget 2007

### 'What's (not) Going On'

On 12 June I hosted a post budget breakfast at the Arkaba Hotel attended by over 100 Adelaide business people. As guest speaker we were fortunate to have Economist Daryl Gobbett, Director of Prescott Securities.

His analysis of Treasurer Foley's budget, 'What's (not) Going On', found that it failed to address the real issues facing South Australia such as a stagnant population, lack of water, real investment direction in the energy sector and substantial business tax relief.

Comparing the performance of South Australia's state Labor governments with the Federal Government, he concluded that the Howard Liberal government made better use of the 'good times'.

The Federal Government had paid off a \$96 billion debt, organised a **future fund** to handle public sector unfunded super and lowered taxes.

By contrast the Rann Government still has a \$6 billion super payout deficit and \$1 billion in WorkCover blowouts. They have also dragged as much as \$1.6 billion in tax out of SA Water over the last 6 years while ageing infrastructure which needs upgrading crumbles.

Mr Gobbett said that the Budget was 'more of the same' with no serious thought being given to looming problems in a rapidly changing world. For example he posed the question that instead of building a larger hospital to deal with spiralling visits to hospital,

'What about a strategy that might reduce the number of people heading to hospitals?'

He also highlighted what he termed a 'miserly' Payroll Tax cut. Tax cuts are good but the reality is that if you employ qualified and sought after staff you won't have very many employees before hitting South Australia's \$504,000 Payroll Tax threshold, the lowest in the country. By contrast the threshold in Queensland's \$1 Million at a rate of 4.75%.

In conclusion Treasurer Foley is taking South Australia into deficit at a time when the Howard Government is paying off debt and setting up funds for the future.

## Fullarton Lutheran Homes Inc

### Opening of Jacaranda Acacia

On Sunday 3 June I was privileged to be invited to attend the opening of Fullarton Lutheran Homes new building, *Jacaranda Acacia*.

Although attending as the Local Member of Parliament the long tradition of unpaid work by Lutheran Homes and their supporters is also of special interest to me as Shadow Minister for Volunteering.

From their inception as the Australian Lutheran Aid Society in 1928 the aim was clear—to establish a home and provide quality care for the aged and infirm in a Christian atmosphere.

Not for profit organizations rely heavily on the assistance of volunteers and Fullarton Nursing Homes is no exception. In fact for the first 35 years until 1963 administration of the Society was undertaken by members of the Board of Management, themselves volunteers.

The initial property at 54 Fisher Street Fullarton was purchased in 1931. In 1954 the Liberal Government of Sir Thomas Playford offered financial assistance to aged care providers on a pound for pound basis so the Lutheran Aid Society fundraised 6000 pounds and purchased the property at 56 Fisher Street!

Today Fullarton Lutheran Homes is an outstanding community facility of which Unley should be proud. It provides a safe and fulfilling environment for the aged and peace of mind for their children. The opening of Jacaranda Acacia is a tribute to the generous 1972 bequest of Mr H W Hartmann and the dedication, resolve, effort and vision of the Board of Directors, their staff and volunteers over a period of 80 years.

## Active Clubs Grants

The Active Clubs Program provides financial assistance to not for profit community-based active recreation and sporting organisations, to assist them in developing and expanding the services they provide.

The overall aim is to increase the community's access to quality active recreation and sport activities and facilities.



Many organizations in Unley are eligible to apply and I have been delighted to present Active Club grant cheques to some of those recently successful. Successful Unley applicants from the November round were:

**Eastern Suburbs Petanque Incorporated**

**St Georges Cricket Club Incorporated**

**Sturt Bowling Club Incorporated**

**Sturt Lawn Tennis Club Incorporated**

**Fullarton Scout Group**

**Police Scouter Group, Frewville**

The May round of grants is currently being considered with the next round anticipated in late September.

I encourage any eligible club to apply as the grants provided by this program are a great way to expand, improve and stay active. Contact my office or visit the Unley Electorate website for details.

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STATE MEMBER FOR UNLEY**

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**Staff in David's Electorate Office:  
Grant Ker, Pamela Burman and Amber Hardy.**

One of the great pleasures of being elected as a Member of Parliament has been the opportunity to select skilled staff to assist with my electorate and parliamentary duties.

The end of June saw Stella Carnovale finish her 12 months with us as a staff member under our participation in the Traineeship Scheme. Our new trainee **Amber Hardy** will be the new first point of contact for enquiries at the electorate office and we look forward to working with her over the coming year.

Also new to the office in a full time role is **Pamela Burman** who brings many customer relations and administrative skills along with an impressive knowledge of governmental systems from a varied career and extensive experience in Canberra.

**Services available at or through the Electorate Office**

Tours of Parliament House for student and constituent groups/Justice of the Peace witnessing services (please ring for an appointment)/dealing with government departments/small print run photocopying for local community groups.

**Contact us on 8373 4846**

**Environment Watch**

**'Microgeneration' Giving Power back to the people.**

While the debate about global warming heats up at all levels there is no doubt that individuals can feel powerless to effect change or at least to contribute in some tangible way.

In my last newsletter I used examples from the United States where Councils, businesses and individuals are working together to make wind turbines more affordable and to cut red tape, making them a possibility for householders who want to make a difference in the area of renewable energy.

**Microgeneration**, the generation of zero or low-carbon heat and power by individuals, small businesses and communities to meet their own needs, is gathering pace world wide and also right here in Australia. Wind and solar technologies are leading the charge in this new wave.

Using **Microgeneration** individuals can, through their homes and in other ways, not only generate energy for their own needs but potentially sell that energy back to energy providers. Although a radical change in mindset from the traditional model of taking our power from big power stations it is predicted that within 20 years decentralised energy, including that microgenerated by households will increase significantly as a percentage of overall power generated.

ABC science program **Catalyst** recently featured Tathra (NSW) Doctor Matthew



Nott who started microgenerating and became so enthused that he phoned 3,000 locals to get them involved too! Now even the local surf club has solar panels and a wind turbine.

The federal government's impressive new Solar Cities program will get around 6,000 more Australian homes feeding energy to the grid.

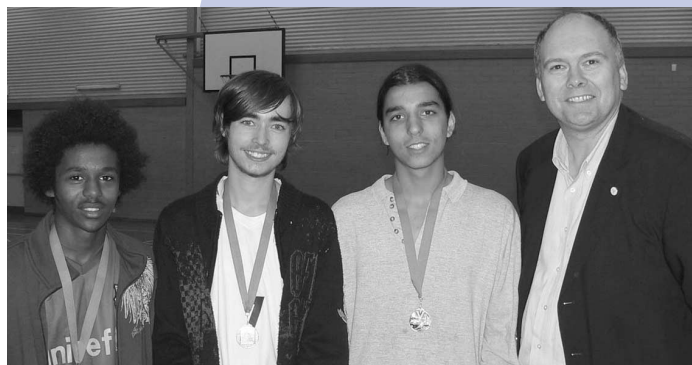
More Australian households, schools and community groups will also be able to install solar panels to bring down their electricity costs and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through \$150 million in additional funding (2007-8 Budget) through the Howard government's popular Photovoltaic Rebate Programme (PVRP)

No single idea or initiative will get us where we need to go as a state and nation on the issues of climate change and renewable energy but microgeneration is a growing notion worthy of our consideration and support.

Visit my website for link details of the Solar Cities initiative and PVRP Programme.



David with Liberal leader Martin Hamilton-Smith



Indoor soccer Australia trophy presentation

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We look forward to your feedback**