



The

Schultz

Hume Bulletin

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A quarterly newsletter from your local
Federal Member, Alby Schultz

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A Message from Alby

I know I have raised the issue many times before of fellow Australians reaching out to those farming families in our rural communities who have been drastically impacted by this prolonged and debilitating drought.

I am however constantly reminded of the total and long enduring commitment of individuals and groups who continue to demonstrate their care, concern and deep compassion by donating much needed essentials to on farm families who are experiencing hardship as a result of on-going drought induced financial strain.

The need to focus on non-perishable foodstuff, clothing and linen has been identified by the wonderful team of volunteers Gloria has been able to muster to distribute these gratefully accepted assistance packages. The team in Canberra is led by a wonderful human being Merrell Davis of Kambah who has handled the logistics of organising groups and individuals to donate, collect and deliver goods to a central point for packaging.

Merrell has obtained assistance from the Canberra Country Music Club, Folk Artists, Trifol Guild Guides NSW and many others who make contributions on a regular basis including women who pur-



Alby introducing Brendan Nelson to Alby Geale of Ranger Geale Farm Machinery to talk about drought assistance for agriculture-dependent businesses.

chase items for the project out of their own pockets on their weekly shopping excursions.

All of the people and organisations involved are fully aware of the pressures on our farming communities and have risen magnificently to the challenge week in week out without a whimper and in the true spirit of the Australian way are proud of the contribution they are making to ease the burden on their "Aussie Mates".

Six weeks ago a truck from Crookwell was despatched to Canberra to pick up a couple of tonnes of goodies for distribution. Since then Gloria has picked up two more loads of foodstuffs and other items

which were stacked to the roofline in our Ford Territory and delivered to Rye Park and Quandialla.

The work goes on and I need to acknowledge and thank all those wonderful people within the seat of Hume and the fantastic men and women of Canberra who continue to make life a little easier for those special individuals who never ask for help but understand what mateship is all about.

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Experienced hands working for Hume

What's the real story on computers Mr Rudd?

Kevin Rudd's promise to provide every high school student in years 9 to 12 with a computer is in tatters.

Newspaper reports reveal NSW Labor Treasurer Michael Costa has demanded the Rudd Government provide an additional \$245 million in a "secret side deal" before the proposal will go ahead in NSW. (The Australian 30/6/08)

In South Australia, it has been revealed that the computer rollout will merely replace old computers. (The Australian 30/6/08)

Mr Rudd and Labor promised an "education revolution".

Instead, Labor's inability to follow through on its promises and implement clearly thought through policy has yet again been exposed:

"provide every high school student in years 9 to 12 with a computer" became

"provide every high school student in years 9 to 12 with **access to** a computer" which then became

"provide every high school student in years 9 to 12 with access to a computer **if their school has a worse ratio of students to computers of 8 to 1**"

Once the cost of training staff, installing and maintaining the computers was highlighted:

"provide computers" became

"state governments and P&Cs will help defray the associated costs" which after much ado became

"schools will be provided with \$1,000 to purchase each computer and if they can buy them cheaper, the rest of the money can be spent on power or maintenance or training.

The cost to power, install, and maintain

School	Sector	Computers	School	Sector	Computers
Hennessy Catholic College	Catholic	117	The Crescent School	Government	9
Boorowa Central School	Government	35	Yass High School	Government	101
Bowral High School	Government	245	Young High School	Government	129
Goulburn High School	Government	145	Bellhaven Special School	Independent	6
Moss Vale High School	Government	170	Southern Highlands Christian School	Independent	56
Mulwaree High School	Government	145	Wollondilly Anglican College	Independent	23

the computers and train staff is expected to average \$1,000 per machine, without the cost of purchasing them or upgrading them and then there is the software! And that will be the cost **every** year – not just once.

Mr Rudd also promised to "end the blame game" and work with the Labor state governments to deliver results. "Now we have the 'secret deal' requested by Mr Costa for NSW.

Is "ending the blame game" code for secretly giving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to the states to shut them up? Where's the transparency in that?

It is obvious that Mr Rudd went for the political stunt and did not fully research or cost the project.

Australian families deserve better than a Labor Government that won't do the hard work necessary to keep its promises

and deliver real outcomes.

Voters in Gippsland last June sent Mr Rudd and Labor a firm message that it is time for action not more political stunts.

Twelve schools in the Hume electorate were identified as being most in need of computers.

And I would like to know how they propose to cover the full cost of installing, powering, maintaining and upgrading them and training the teachers which could easily be another \$1,000 per computer.

Concerned staff, parents and P&C members are welcome to contact my office with the actual figures or for assistance in meeting these needs.



Goulburn North Primary School visited Parliament House while in Canberra.



Brendan Nelson talking with young people in Goulburn about their ideas for Government.

\$\$\$ FEDERAL FUNDING \$\$\$

Alby welcomed the continuation of the Bushfire Mitigation Program funding in the electorate of Hume, this year totalling \$101,247.

This funding is for strategic works on bushfire trails to ensure that our Rural Fire Service volunteers are able to more safely access areas and reach them more rapidly when required to do so.

With this work, our fire trail network will be made more effective.

They can more safely be used to move large numbers of vehicles, equipment and volunteers or used for strategic and tactical purposes to meet or hold fires during incidents.

The following works will be undertaken in 2007/08 with this funding.

PROJECT	LOCATION	FUNDING
Bollins Rd Fire Trail	Balmoral Village	\$20,000
Powerline & Bag Range Trails and Link Trail	Wee Jasper	\$ 6,000
Doctors Flat Road & Moginot Trail	Wee Jasper	\$35,000
Hadley Fire Trail	Crookwell	\$ 1,940
Marsden Fire Trail River Crossing	Crookwell	\$ 7,500
Regrowth control – Goulburn Mulwarree LGA	Goulburn Mulwarree	\$ 4,500
Shoalhaven Fire Trail G29	Goulburn Mulwarree	\$ 6,200
Fire Trails in Boorowa LGA	Boorowa	\$ 6,667
Fire Trail Maintenance & APZ Establishment	Hill Top	\$12,940

THE NEW CHILD SUPPORT SCHEME

Below is some information to help you understand the thrust of the new changes. This legislation was passed by Parliament in 2006 and given two years before coming into effect so that everyone had time to understand it and get ready for implementation.

If you find that the changes are affecting you badly, please do not hesitate to contact your Child Support Agency representative in the first place, and my office if not satisfied with the response you get.

GENERAL

- The new Child Support Scheme commenced on 1 July 2008
- New child support assessments should have been received by parents between March and May 2008
- The new Child Support Scheme affects all parents who pay or receive child support payments.

MAJOR CHANGES

- All assessments are based on the costs of raising children
- Each parent's income is considered in the same way and combined to work out the costs of the children
- Children from first and second families are treated in a similar way
- Before child support payments are worked out a self support amount is deducted from each parent's income. This is an equal amount for both parents
- Shared care arrangements are better acknowledged including the amount it costs to care for children
- More types of incomes are used to work out payments. Some of

these include foreign income, fringe benefits and additional tax-free benefits

- Families receive a minimum child support payment
- There are better options for parents who make private arrangements
- Regardless of any private agreements, Family Tax Benefit Part A is calculated according to a CSA notional assessment
- You are able to request that additional income earned after separation be excluded for three years from your child support assessment.

RESOURCES

All information including the Child Support Estimator can be found at www.csa.gov.au/schemereforms

Helpful points of access on the site include – “your questions answered” and “publications” (where you will find a complete guide to all of the changes).

The Child Support Estimator calculates an estimate of what your new child support and family assistance payments are after 1 July 2008.



Brendan Nelson with Phil and Sophie May of Solartec. The solar panel division of their company is now closing due to Mr Rudd's cutting of the rebate scheme.



Bryan Maunder, who has been chosen for the Rotary Youth Challenge Kokoda Track Walk, accepts a donation towards his new boots from his Federal Member Alby.

Using em@il?

More people are contacting me via email these days. Unfortunately, I also receive lots of spam, or junk mail.

To make sure your message reaches me I would ask that you include the words 'Constituent Enquiry' in the subject line, as well as your street address in the body of the message, so I can provide you with a detailed response.

My email address is:
alby.schultz.mp@aph.gov.au

New Veterans' Entitlements Legislation

Late last month the Veterans' Entitlements Legislation Amendment (2007 Election Commitments) Act No 48 of 2008 passed through Parliament and received Royal Assent on 25 June 2008

This Act formed part of Mr Rudd's election platform on Veterans' Affairs as set out in "Labor's Plan for Veterans Affairs" Election 2007 policy document.

I don't want to get particularly technical about the legislation so will explain only the main points.

Schedule 1 extends the automatic grant of pension, payable under Part II or IV, to the eligible dependent of a veteran or a member, where the veteran or member immediately, before his or her death, was in receipt of intermediate rate disability pension or temporary special rate disability pension.

Schedule 2 extends eligibility for income support supplement to a person who is a war widow or war widower who is under qualifying age, and who has no dependant child or children, is not permanently incapacitated for work and is not the partner of a person receiving an income support pension.

Schedule 3 extends the 12 week bereavement payment to the estate of single veterans or members in receipt of special rate or extreme disablement adjustment disability pension who die in indigent circumstances.

Negative Issues

This Act continues the lip service paid to Veterans by Mr Rudd - whilst he gives with one hand, he takes with another.

The Minister for Veterans Affairs used the introduction of this Bill to detract from the Carers Bonus and deeming issues which were relevant to a large number of veterans. He remained totally silent on the Carers Bonus, with his failure to reassure the Veterans community of the continuation of the bonus which the Coalition implemented.

Deeming is the other issue where the Minister continues to remain silent. The deeming rate was increased on 20th March 2008 by 0.5%.

There is history here - the Whitlam, Hawke and Keating governments all made savage cuts to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.



Alby Schultz gave a talk on what a politician does and presented a new Australian flag to the Yass Venturer Scout Unit.



Alby Schultz with his wife Gloria on a glorious day at Bundanoon's famous Highland Gathering where Alby sponsored one of the "Men of Stone" events.

Wedding anniversaries

- Mick & Jacky Anderson of Crookwell - 50 years
- Malcolm and Bargara Barlow of Crookwell - 50 years
- Patrick and Carmel Brown of Harden - 50 years
- Russell & Mary Chalker of Taralga - 50 years
- Fred and Jill Cooper of Goulburn - 50 years
- Mr Robert & Mrs Shirley Fawcett of Tahmoor - 50 years
- Laurence and Iris Finnigan of Young - 50 years
- Neil and Helen Gorham of Rye Park - 50 years
- Keith and Kathleen Hockley of Goulburn - 50 years
- Mark & Patricia Norton of Young - 50 years
- Charles (Chub) & Julie Nurse of Bundanoon - 50 years
- Mr Carol and Mrs Valda Plach of Burradoo - 50 years
- Les and Norma Sharwood of Goulburn - 50 years
- Noel & Jeannene Simonds of Moss Vale - 50 years
- Des and Anne Spackman of Crookwell - 50 years
- Jim & Bev Stewart of Harden - 50 years
- William & Joanne Turvey of Moss Vale - 50 years
- James and Diana Wale of Robertson - 50 years
- Ray and Daisy Arnall of Crookwell - 60 years
- Landon and Joan Burch of Bowral - 60 years
- Neville & Margaret Burkitt of Bungonia - 60 years
- Mr and Mrs A Carter of Goulburn - 60 years
- Raymond & Laurette Coates of Boorowa - 60 years
- Ern and Norma Collett of Moss Vale - 60 years
- Kevin and Mary Dries of Bargo - 60 years
- Mr John & Mrs Margaret Hedley of Young - 60 years
- Mr and Mrs R Kinross of Mittagong - 60 years
- David and Doris Power of Mittagong - 60 years
- Jim and Doreen Pull of Moss Vale - 60 years
- Bob and Bonnie Selwyn of Binda - 60 years
- Mr & Mrs John Vidler of Moss Vale - 60 years
- Mr Laurie & Mrs Clare Collier of Goulburn - 60 years
- Mr Alfred & Mrs Barbara Moffitt of Bowral - 65 years

Birthdays

- Mr Joseph Lonsdale of Bowral - 90 years
- Mrs Doreen St George of Goulburn - 90 years
- Mrs Janet Florence Beck of Young - 90 years
- Mrs Alice Willis of Moss Vale - 95 years
- Mr Robert Metcalfe of Mittagong - 95 years

Celebrating a milestone?

I can arrange for congratulatory messages to be sent to couples celebrating their 50th and subsequent wedding anniversaries and also to people who are celebrating their 90th or subsequent birthdays. To find out more, simply call 1300 301 826 or visit www.albyschultz.com.au