

TO THE HOUSEHOLDER



The Schultz Hume Bulletin

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AUSTRALIA

Season's
Greetings

Experienced hands working for Hume

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A Christmas message ...

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Schultz Hume Bulletin for 2003.

While it's been an eventful year on a national and international level - with the war in Iraq, the debate over the full sale of Telstra and issues like the medical indemnity insurance crisis - it's the local events that I'd like to reflect on now.

Being a local member involves more than me carrying out my parliamentary duties. It involves the more important role of getting out in the communities and sharing with them their happiness, their achievements and their pain.

As the Member for Hume since 1998 I've made myself available seven days a week to play an active role in the events and occasions most important to the people I represent.

My door has always been open for those requiring assistance and I'm proud to say that with the help of my dedicated staff I've achieved some excellent outcomes for my constituents.

From providing them with a voice in the Federal Parliament, to just this year securing more than \$21 million in government funding

for education, health and community services - I am pleased to have been of assistance.

There is, however, plenty more to be done, like securing funding for the Murrumbateman bypass and Towrang Road intersection upgrade and making sure the Government holds Telstra accountable for services in the bush.

I take great pleasure in assisting individual constituents overcome problems created by a sometimes uncaring system. It is personally gratifying to also be successful in obtaining grants for various community organisations such as aged care facilities, volunteer groups, health care, employment services, veteran groups and landcare organisations.

While it would be easy to remember only the good times, the drought has taken its toll on many people in Hume this year and I'd like to congratulate them for their courage and for showing such true Aussie grit in difficult circumstances.

It seems like only yesterday that I used this space to thank you all for your support in the 2001 election

and now I take the opportunity to tell you how much I look forward to next year's campaign and on winning your support for the privilege of representing you for another term.

I wish you all a safe and holy Christmas.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

- Hume Heroes
- A taste of Aussie history
- Latest government funding for Hume
- New rules for marriage celebrants
- Drug study results

AND MUCH MORE!

Dog owners around Yerrinbool were encouraged to enter their pooches in the Ben Ian 'dogs that most resemble politicians' competition during September. Alby, who judged the category, is pictured with the winning entries (from left) Mark Latham, Jackie Kelly, John Howard and Kim Beazley.



Recent funding announcements

\$344,614 FOR IMPORTANT AGED CARE ASSESSMENT TEAMS

Goulburn's aged care assessment team will receive \$109,341 in 2003-2004 as part of the Aged Care Assessment Program, as well as a share in \$39,552 allocated to the Southern Area Health Service as part of the Dementia Support for Assessment Program.

In part this funding will continue to employ a dementia adviser for Yass and expand the services of a consultant geriatrician into Yass on a regular basis.

Wingecarribee's aged care assessment team will receive \$174,459 and Young's aged care assessment team will receive \$60,814.

\$2930 FOR YOUNG MERCY CARE CENTRE

Staff at Young's Mercy Care Centre will be able to provide valuable training for volunteers involved with the palliative care service thanks to a \$2930 Veteran and Community Grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

\$41,971 FOR VOLUNTEERS' SMALL EQUIPMENT ACROSS THE ELECTORATE

Fifteen volunteer groups across the Hume electorate have received a total of almost \$42,000 as part of the Government's Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2003 round.

The groups to receive funding this year were: Big Hill Rural Fire Brigade, Collector Public School P&C, Colo Vale Community Association, Binalong CWA, Highlands Community Centres, Mulwaree Remote Area Fire Team, Mulwaree Support Rural Fire Brigade, Scouts Australia (Young), Tarago Sporting Association, Probus Club of Bowral, Volunteering Wingecarribee, Warragamba Senior Citizens Association, Wingecarribee Bushcare Network, Yass Amateur Swimming Club, Young Historical Society and Young Local Aboriginal Land Council.

\$82,867 FOR EMPLOYSMART SERVICE

The Southern Tablelands and Highlands and Queanbeyan Business Enterprise Centres have received \$82,867 in funding to run an EmploySmart service for small businesses in their areas.

The program will teach small business people skills in writing a job description, staff motivation and appraisal, about end-of-year tax responsibilities, government assistance programs and the correct way to terminate an employee.

\$1488 FOR SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS SERVICE

Southern Highlands Veterans' and Widows' Entitlements Service has received a grant of \$1488 from the Federal Government to help veterans and war widows make

claims for pensions and other benefits.

The funding will assist with Internet access and travel costs and provide ongoing use of a leased computer and printer.

\$18.9 MILLION FOR LOCAL COUNCILS

Local councils throughout the electorate have been allocated more than \$18.9 million in Local Government Financial Assistance Grants for 2003-2004. These grants are for local roads and community services.

\$281,513 IN SCHOOL CAPITAL GRANTS

St Joseph's School at Boorowa, Tambelin Independent School at Goulburn and Matthew Hogan School at Canyonleigh have between them received \$281,513 in capital grants for construction projects. St Joseph's will construct a new admin and PE store, Tambelin will make its school more accessible for the disabled, while Matthew Hogan School will use its grant to complete a manual arts project and refurbish an old building into a canteen facility.

\$15,000 TO FIGHT NOXIOUS WEEDS

Southern Slopes Noxious Plants Authority and Upper Lachlan Catchment Management Committee have received \$11,000 and \$14,000 from the Natural Heritage Trust for projects to control blackberries and serrated tussock in their areas.

\$819,259 FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAMS

Groups in the Hume electorate who provide valuable Home and Community Care services have received a total of \$819,259 in one-off and recurrent funding.

The services supported through this funding include home living support, home modifications, community options and flexible options programs.



Alby with Centrelink officer Linda Stephenson, Centrelink manager Karen Garth and Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre president Richard Ferris at the recent opening of a new Centrelink agent.

Picture courtesy of the Crookwell Gazette



A lesson in history

Alby took a hands-on lesson in history during October when he attended a function dedicated to the life of Australia's favourite bushranger, Ned Kelly.

Alby was privileged to wear the armour that once belonged to Joe Byrne, one of the four members of the Kelly gang.

Joe Byrne was born at the Woolshed, near Beechworth, in 1857. He received a reasonably good education but served a six-month term at Beechworth Gaol prior to joining the Kelly boys to steal horses.

Joe Byrne acted as scribe to the gang, writing up their plans for attacks on the banks and their other robberies. Joe was the first of the gang to be shot dead in the Glenrowan Siege on 28 June 1880.



Alby with some original armour from the Kelly gang.

A constable by the name of Armstrong removed the armour from Joe Byrne's body, which was dragged from the blazing Glenrowan Inn. The armour is now owned privately by Rupert Hammond, who kindly lent it to Alby for this photo.



Alby had the pleasure of officiating at the launch of the Tourism Southern Highlands Food and Wine Strategy at Centennial Winery during September. Pictured are food and wine steering committee chairman Chris Harvey, State Minister for Regional Development and the Illawarra David Campbell, Wingecarribee Shire mayor Phil Yeo and Alby with some of the produce being promoted to Australia and the world.

Picture courtesy of the Southern Highland News

Hume Heroes



Saluting our quiet achievers

Father Chris Riley

For almost 30 years Father Chris Riley has been working with Australia's most troubled young people - those who have suffered physical, psychological and emotional abuse.

In 1991 he established Youth off the Streets, a program that operates several farms in the Southern Highlands and around NSW.

Fr Riley spends much of his time counselling, teaching and nurturing young people - in total Youth off the Streets has helped more than 45,000 kids.

Alby visited Better Homes Farm, Canyonleigh, to meet Fr Riley recently and was impressed by the good work being done there under such trying circumstances.

"I wish the world had more people like Fr Riley - he really is doing a wonderful job," Alby said.

On the web

Alby Schultz online

www.albyschultz.com.au

Starting in the new year, you will be able to get all the latest from Federal Parliament and what's happening locally on Alby's new website. You can take part in online surveys, read all of Alby's media releases and much more.

Australian Alcohol Guidelines

www.alcoholguidelines.gov.au

At Christmas time, many of us choose to celebrate with lots of good food and a few drinks. While most of us know not to drink and drive, it can sometimes be difficult to know just how much alcohol is contained in beer, wine and spirits. For example, did you know that most cans and bottles of pre-mixed spirits equal up to 1.5 standard drinks and that there are about seven standard drinks in one bottle of wine? This Government website can tell you how much alcohol is in most drinks and provides valuable information about alcohol and your health.

Community Services Database

www.tricomm.org.au

Are you looking for a community service in your area - like Meals on Wheels or a support group? Then try this site. You can search by service, postcode or local government area. You can even add your own service if it's not already listed.

Drug use in juvenile offenders

A study by the Australian Institute of Criminology of 493 juvenile offenders has provided some useful data to help the Australian Government plan future policy. The Drug Use Monitoring Australia project found that:

- more than half the juveniles surveyed reported drug use in the month prior to their arrest
- more than half tested positive to at least one drug
- the most used substance was cannabis, followed by amphetamines
- the average age of initiation for cannabis was about 13 years and the age for other drugs about 14 or 15 years
- the average time between the first use of cannabis and other drugs was between one and two years
- females were most likely to test

positive to heroin, amphetamines or cocaine

- juveniles who had recently used heroin, cocaine or amphetamines self-reported much higher levels of offending in the past 12 months, and
- few juveniles reported accessing treatment and when they had, this was often court mandated.

Drug Use Monitoring Australia concluded that drug use among juvenile detainees was prevalent and reported access to treatment was low. It recommended that a whole-of-government approach could provide considerable long-term benefits for the community.

It recognised that such a holistic approach would not come cheaply in the short term but would reduce ongoing costs incurred through the judicial process, recidivism, incarceration and health care.



The Government is spending \$120 million on non-government treatment programs to tackle the drug problem

Since 1997, more than nine tonnes of the hardest drugs have been seized, up from 2.5 tonnes in the previous five years

DID YOU KNOW?

There are now new regulations for marriage celebrants

The Marriage Celebrants Program was established in 1973 to enable the appointment of suitably qualified people to perform civil marriage ceremonies. It provided couples with a meaningful alternative to registry office and church weddings.



After an extensive review of the program, the Attorney-General earlier this year announced significant changes that commenced on 1 September 2003.

Under the revised program, aspiring celebrants now have to complete an approved, competency-based training course to be eligible to apply.

They also have to undertake regular evaluations to ensure they are delivering good service to marrying couples.

Details about courses for marriage celebrants are available from the National Training Information Service (www.ntis.gov.au) or contact the Attorney-General's office on (02) 6250 6496.

Wedding anniversaries

- Colin and Lesalene Bale of Goulburn - 50 years
- Peter and Margaret Butz of Goulburn - 50 years
- Malcolm and Beryl Collins of Wheeo - 50 years
- Mervyn and Marlene Cooper of Crookwell - 50 years
- Maxwell and Nellie Harley of Bowral - 50 years
- Alan and Pamela Holding of Harden - 50 years
- Donald and Mavis Jackson of Bowral - 50 years
- Svante and Florence Malmberg of Mittagong - 50 years
- Allan and Olga Miller of Goulburn - 50 years
- David and Christine Morton of Berrima - 50 years
- Rex and Aileen Patterson of Young - 50 years
- Michael and Eileen Slattery of Young - 50 years
- Alston and Shirley Tebbutt of Goulburn - 50 years
- Jeffrey and Shirley Williams of Bargo - 51 years
- Arthur and Irene Benton of Bowral - 60 years
- Albert and Juanita Lang of Taralga - 60 years
- Leo and Agnes McIntosh of Laggan - 60 years
- Lindsay and Muriel Weatherstone of Goulburn - 60 years
- Basit and Jean Wood of Bowral - 60 years
- James and Dawn Nichols of Goulburn - 50 years

Birthdays

- Edmund Brown of Young - 90 years
- Walter Craig of Young - 90 years
- Alan Shannon OAM of Young - 90 years

Celebrating a milestone?

My office can arrange for congratulatory messages to be sent to couples celebrating their 50th, 60th and subsequent wedding anniversaries and also to people celebrating their 90th or 100th birthdays. To find out more, simply contact my office.

