

The

Schultz

Hume Bulletin

POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA



A quarterly newsletter from your local
Federal Member, Alby Schultz

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A Message from Alby

The year 2007 has commenced with very little comfort for farmers and their families as the prolonged drought continues to place significant pressure on their resilience and strength. They are finding it difficult to cope with the physical, mental and financial challenges this exceptionally long dry spell is creating for them. Lack of significant heavy rainfalls in much of the drought-affected areas of the Hume electorate is also placing considerable pressure on many small businesses which service the agriculture sector.

I have been most impressed with the care and concern of the urban-based rural communities who have recognised the plight of our hard working farming families by chipping in to assist generously with money and goods to make life a little easier over the Christmas and New Year. A tick also for the caring concern of Woolworths who donated one day's profit in excess of \$3 million to help the Country Womens Association assist ease the burden on the drought-affected families.

I must say a huge thank-you to the CWA for once again marshalling their considerable caring organisation to assist those in need by distributing money and household essentials to struggling farmers and their



Alby rode his Honda Goldwing to participate in the Australia Day procession in Marulan. Alby supports the Stay Upright Motorcycle course which is now compulsory for learner motorcycle riders in New South Wales. Alby believes his skills on both his motorcycle and in his car have improved significantly thanks to the compulsory course that teaches advanced riding techniques and provides a thorough understanding of motorcycle operation.

families, courtesy of local shires, government, regional communities and individuals.

The decision by the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Agriculture to bring forward another \$2 million in funding, so the CWA can continue distributing the emergency drought grants, is recognition of the considerable relief these federally funded CWA grants provide to both families and communities.

These grants, distributed by the CWA to help families meet basic household costs, such as food, clothing, fuel, emergency medical and dental costs, rates, electricity

and telephone costs, have been well received so far, and people are comfortable with and grateful to the CWA for once again showing the compassion, care and concern they have for rural communities.

Let's hope and pray all this wonderful community spirit is complemented very soon with drought breaking rain.

Kind regards,

ALBY SCHULTZ MP

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Experienced hands working for Hume



December 2006 - Alby, Ms Marianne Hupalo (Careers Advisor to Jackie and Careers Advisor Scholarship Grant Winner), Jackie Chen (Australian Vocational Student Prize Winner) and Mr David Chen (Jackie's Dad).

Australian Student Vocational Prize Winners

In December 2006, Alby was pleased to present two Australian Vocational Student Prizes to Jackie Chen from Trinity Catholic College Goulburn North and James Gibson of Young High School.

The \$2,000 prize is awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional skills, commitment and achievement while undertaking an Australian School-based Apprenticeship or a Vocational Education and Training in Schools programme as part of their senior secondary certificate.

Alby was delighted to meet these talented young people when he presented them with their certificates during ceremonies at their respective schools in front of their peers, teachers and families.

The Australian Government has invested \$1 million annually over 2005-2009 in this prestigious Award.

This commitment recognises vocational and technical education training as a valuable and important pathway for students.

It allows students to develop a greater understanding of the world of work and gain industry specific skills and experience to assist with planning and pursuing their career pathways.

Alby congratulated Jackie and James on their great achievement, and wished them continued success in their training and careers.

Did You Know...? ICE

What is Ice?

Crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as 'ice' or 'crystal meth', is a highly purified crystalline form of methamphetamine, a highly addictive and illicit drug.

The drug usually resembles shards of glass or ice and is generally white or translucent.

The purity of crystal methamphetamine is usually around 80%, compared to other forms of methamphetamine, such as speed and base, the purity of which is only around 10-20%.

This means the effects of the drug are much stronger and can be much more harmful than other forms of methamphetamine.

How is it used?

Like other methamphetamines Ice can be smoked, swallowed, snorted or injected.

A 2005 National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre report found there are over 73,000 dependent

Ice users in Australia

The popularity of the drug has dramatically increased so that there are now more users of crystal methamphetamine than heroin.

What are the effects?

There are many mental and physical health issues associated with the use of Ice, ranging from itching and difficulty sleeping to risks of brain damage and overdose. Almost a quarter of regular Ice users will experience psychosis.

Stimulant drugs, such as Ice, speed up the messages going to and from the brain.

Speeding up of other bodily functions may also occur, resulting in increased body temperature and irregular heartbeat and breathing as well as nausea, dizziness and paranoia. Long-term effects include high blood pressure and increased risk of heart attack, malnutrition, reduced immunity, depression, brain damage and dental problems.

Street Names Include... "ice", "meth", "crystal meth", "shabu", "d-meth", "crystal", "batu", "tina" and "glass".

A major concern surrounding the growing popularity of Ice is the risk of users becoming dependent as a result of its purity. People who use Ice can quickly develop a tolerance to the drug so that increasingly larger doses are needed to achieve the desired effects. This can lead to physical and/or psychological dependence, with users finding the drug becomes the central aspect of their lives. It is believed Ice is more addictive than heroin.

Another concern is the nature of the link between use of the drug and violent behaviour.

What is being done?

The Federal Government is targeting Ice as part of its national Tough on Drugs campaign.

Through the continuation of the successful National Drugs Campaign, young Australians and their parents will be provided with accurate and frank information about the risks

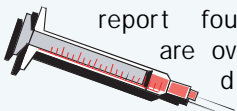
associated with using drugs.

Drug and alcohol workers across the nation will also be provided with up-to-date training programmes and resources for responding to the symptoms of drug use, particularly crystal methamphetamine.

In the 2006-07 Budget the Government committed \$38.9 million in funding over the next four years for the Combating Emerging Trends Initiative, this includes funding for the third phase of the National Drug Strategy education campaign.

To date, the Government has spent more than \$1 billion on initiatives to tackle Australia's drug problems, including \$31 million on the National Drugs Campaign.

If you, or someone you know, is taking Ice and needs help to stop or wants more information phone the National Drugs Campaign on 1800 250 015 (freecall) or visit www.drugs.health.gov.au



\$\$\$ DROUGHT RELIEF \$\$\$ & FUNDING FOR HUME

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CWA'S DROUGHT RELIEF GRANTS

An additional \$2 million will be available for the Country Women's Association (CWA) drought grants for the 2006-07 financial year. The Australian Government has recognised the importance of the CWA's emergency drought grants and the relief they provide to families and communities. The additional funding, part of \$4 million announced on 24th October 2006, complements the \$4 million already provided by the Australian Government for the CWA's emergency drought grants since 2002. This additional allocation will be a great help to families with children heading back to school, particularly as the assistance can be accessed quickly and targets families that would normally be reluctant to seek assistance. There has been an unprecedented interest in the grants, and with rural families suffering from the worst drought on record, the majority of the initial \$2 million allocation for the 2006-07 financial year was expended before Christmas.



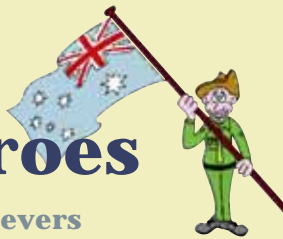
DROUGHT BUS VISITS YASS AND YOUNG

Alby visited the Drought Bus when it was in Young and Yass on 24th and 25th of January 2007. Specialised staff from Centrelink, including Rural Services Officers, social workers, Financial Information Officers and Customer Service Advisers, were on hand to provide information on Government payments, counselling and support.



Hume heroes

Saluting our quiet achievers



John Snelling

If ever there was a person who represented the heart and soul of the Boorowa community, it would be John Snelling.

It is rare nowadays to find someone as generous with both their time and talents to their community as John.

Probably best known in his role as a member of the Boorowa council, John is currently completing his fourth term as a councillor, after serving on the council for more than 12 years.

A retired school teacher, John has lived in the Boorowa region for over 30 years.

John taught primary school children at the Boorowa Central School for over 25 years where he also coached the under 8's Rugby League Football team.

No one seems to take a fight for a Boorowa cause more seriously than John. Boorowa successfully made it onto the list of Tidy Towns, thanks to John's commitment as a member of the Keep Australia Beautiful association.

John is also President of the Australia Day Committee and takes great pleasure organising the day's activities around

the region.

He continues to serve the community through his work on a number of committees, including the Boorowa landcare group, Transport and Woolfest committees.

Wednesday mornings John can be heard on radio station 2LF keeping the community informed about what's going on in and around Boorowa with his segment 'Streets of Boorowa.'

John also contributes to the cultural life of the community, having been a member of the music and drama society for over 20 years.

Christmas time wouldn't be the same without John's dedicated contribution as a co-ordinator of carols by candlelight.

John and his lovely wife Jo share their affection for animals, and together run a boarding kennel and cattery, which is situated just outside Boorowa.

We would like to thank John for being such a devoted and outstanding member of the Hume community, and congratulate him on being a true, blue Hume Hero.

Alby presents Australian Defence Medals

In January, Alby presented 14 Australian Defence Medals to some very worthy recipients at the Goulburn RSL.

The event was a significant acknowledgment from both the Federal Government and the Australian Defence Force to the commitment and contributions of our past Australian Defence Force Members.

The 14 recipients were awarded the Australian Defence Medal which was approved by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 20 March 2006.

The medal is awarded to Regular, Reserve and ex-serving personnel, including National Servicemen, who have served in the Australian Defence Force from the third of September 1945, the official date of the end of World War II.

The Australian Defence Medal provides an opportunity to formally recognise service that has previously gone unrecognised.

It acknowledges all circumstances of service, regardless of whether it was in an operational area or not.

Alby, who presented the medals along with Warrant Officer Hamilton, took the opportunity to thank all those who have served in the armed forces and have helped make this country what it is today.

On the web

www.familyrelationships.gov.au

Building strong and healthy relationships is such an important aspect of family life. Family relationships online provides all families (whether together or separated) with information and advice about family relationship issues. It provides family relationship information for children, teenagers, parents, couples and grandparents and allows them to find out about services that are funded by the Government that can help them build better and stronger relationships. It also provides information on the Government's reforms to the family law system to help families focus on the needs of their children.

www.ows.gov.au

The Australian Government has established the Office of Workplace Services, which can be accessed online. This is an independent agency which monitors workplaces and can give advice to both employees and employers under the new WorkChoices legislation.



www.beyondblue.org.au

Log onto the beyondblue website and find answers to your questions about depression and anxiety as well as a range of resources such as fact sheets and stories of other people's experiences. The website also contains the Consenting Practitioners List, Australia's first online directory of GPs who are specially trained to treat mental health problems. **Beyondblue: the national depression initiative** is a national, independent, not-for-profit organization, working to increase community awareness about depression, anxiety and related substance misuse disorders in Australia. Beyondblue is currently working with the Australian Government to address depression in drought-affected areas and provide information about depression, treatments and where to get help.

For more information you can also call the beyondblue information line on 1300 22 4636 (cost of a local call from any state).



Congratulations Mr and Mrs Ron Roots of Goulburn who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 15th November 2006.

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

Wedding anniversaries

Mr & Mrs D & W Hopper of Hilltop – 50 years
Mr & Mrs M & S Weston of Goulburn – 50 years
Mr & Mrs D & B Laverty of Crookwell – 50 years
Mr & Mrs B Murchie of Bowral – 50 years
Mr & Mrs S & B Bidwell of Bowral – 50 years
Mr & Mrs F Mewburn of Boorowa – 50 years
Mr & Mrs R Kennedy of Crookwell – 50 years
Mr & Mrs R Haase of Mittagong – 50 years
Mr & Mrs A & J Robertson of Bowral – 50 years
Mr & Mrs A & M Roberts of Goulburn – 50 years
Mr & Mrs R McMullen of Yass – 50 years
Mr & Mrs J Priora of Goulburn – 50 years
Mr & Mrs K & P Snare of Goulburn – 50 years
Mr & Mrs G Hincenbergs of Mittagong – 50 years
Mr & Mrs V & R Cowley of Bowral – 50 years
Mr & Mrs J & P Whicker of Yerringbool – 50 years
Mr & Mrs E Dawson of Goulburn – 60 years
Mr & Mrs A.J Glass of Bowral – 60 years
Mr & Mrs K.L Lowther of Young – 60 years
Mr & Mrs G & R King of Bowral – 60 years
Mr & Mrs M & G Jeffrey of Goulburn – 60 years
Mr & Mrs J.J. Dabaye of Bowral – 60 years
Mr & Mrs R McIntyre of Goulburn – 60 years
Mr & Mrs R & D McKissack of Yass – 60 years
Mr & Mrs R Roots of Goulburn – 65 years
Mr & Mrs S & L Parsons of Thirlmere – 70 years

Birthdays

Mrs Gwen Brown of Young - 90 years
Mrs Eileen Phillis Poole of Boorowa – 90 years
Mrs Emily Ottaway of Goulburn – 90 years
Mrs Hazel Hodgson of Tahmoor – 90 years
Mrs Dorothy Wright of Goulburn – 90 years
Mr John Foord of Goulburn – 90 years
Mr Keith McDonald of Binalong – 90 years
Mr Alan Towsey of Tahmoor – 90 years
Mrs Alice May Lemon OAM of Galong – 90 years
Mr Stan McMahan of Young – 95 years
Mrs Ellen Mary Phillips of Young – 95 years
Mrs Sarah Brown of Goulburn – 95 years
Mrs Florence Hind of Bowral - 100 years
Mrs Nora Reed of Boorowa - 100 years
Mrs Edna Garde of Burradoo - 100 years
Mrs Maude Baker of Yass – 100 years
Mrs E Drysdale of Goulburn - 100 years
Mrs Muriel Couch of Boorowa – 100 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