



Alan Tudge MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR ASTON



Aston Community News

Summer 2011

Cost of Living Hurts Local Families

Every day I hear from local residents who are struggling with the huge increases in basic goods and services, and rising interest rates. Electricity, for example, has gone up 42% since 2007.

If the Prime Minister gets her way with a carbon tax, electricity prices are expected to go up a further 25%. Other proposed taxes will also add to cost-of-living pressures. We cannot afford this and I have argued against them in Parliament.

I have also voiced concern in Parliament about the size of the Government's debt. It continues to increase by \$100m per day. This puts upward pressure on prices and interest rates.



Bill and Dawn from Knoxfield speak to Alan about rising prices.

Taking Action on Hoons

Hoon driving is one of the biggest concerns that people raise with me in our community.

I have been campaigning for more police and tougher penalties. The new Baillieu Government's commitment on these will make a real difference.

I have also been advocating to the local Council for more traffic calming devices to be put in place where affected residents think it makes sense. There are dozens of streets where residents are demanding action. I have been meeting with Council officials on this, as well as working with local residents such as those at Goulburn Drive, Rowville. Let me know what you think at alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au

Paws for a Cause!



Anthony and Pedro: proud prize winners!

Bridges (formerly Knox Community Volunteers) recently held their "Paws for a Cause" fundraising day in Koomba Park, Wantirna.

It was great to participate as a judge on the day.

Bridges is a terrific organisation based in Bayswater, that consists of over 3,000 volunteers, who provide services to the aged including: transport, activities and pet companions. Their number is 9729 9499.

One Step Closer to Rowville Rail

The new State Coalition Government has committed to the next step on the Rowville Rail and I've been taking action in Canberra.

More inside...

Making Progress on the Bus Lane

Along with many local residents, I have been fighting over the last year to have the dangerous Stud Road bus lane scrapped: writing to Ministers, speaking in Parliament and listening to the views of local residents.

In my last newsletter, I publicly outlined the actions I had taken to date and asked for your views. I received an incredible response with 90% wanting the bus lane scrapped or fixed. Many people had fantastic suggestions for improvement.

I am pleased that the Baillieu Government has listened to local residents and has committed to at least scrapping the section between Kelletts and Ferntree Gully Road. This is probably the most dangerous section. I am still pushing for the rest of the bus lane to be, at the very least, fully reviewed.

Community Welcomes Rowville Salvos to new home



The **Rowville** Salvation Army opened its new premises in late January. The new Kingsley Close building is a worship centre as well as a facility for disaster coordination, youth services and support services. Last year, the Salvos assisted over 500,000 Australians.

The Red Shield Appeal is in May. If you can help the Salvos out with collecting, please call Sarah on 0429 988 920.

Fighting to take Road Tax off the agenda

The Gillard Government's 'Task Group on Energy Efficiency' recommends road congestion taxes be introduced on our congested roads. The Government's Henry Review of Taxation also recommends them.

This poses a real threat to residents who use congested roads such as the Monash or Eastern Freeways, or even roads such as **Stud, Wellington, or Burwood** Highway. I have asked the Government to immediately take road congestion charges off the agenda. I have made it clear in Canberra that I will fight until I am blue to prevent such a tax being introduced.

The answer to a congestion is not a tax to force cars off the road. The answer is to slow our population growth and properly build the infrastructure the community needs.

Visit www.alantudge.com.au for more info.

Insulation Scheme Still Causing Problems

Many local people are still dealing with the impact of the disastrous Home Insulation Program. Many are still worried that their homes are ticking time-bombs.

I am pleased to have been able to assist residents who suffered from inspections not being done, outstanding debts, or lack of responsiveness from the Government in getting their problem fixed.

Please contact me if I am able to help you.

Recognising Outstanding Local Students

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2010 Aston Shield.

I presented this award at 37 schools across Knox and Whitehorse. It is primarily given to students who have demonstrated outstanding school citizenship, have been great role models and have helped others.

The award is named in honour of Tilly Aston, an inspiring woman who did so much for the rights of blind and vision-impaired people.



Bayswater Primary Honours Sacrifices of the Past

Students at **Bayswater** Primary School painted a beautiful mural for the local RSL to commemorate Remembrance Day late last year.

The mural proudly stands in the RSL's courtyard. It is great to see the next generation reflecting and honouring the sacrifices made by those in the past.



Pictured with RSL President Don Hamilton and mural designer, Jesse, at its unveiling.



Francis Ling and Mee Ma became proud Australian Citizens on Australia Day

Celebrating Australia Day

Australia Day is a special day for celebrating the greatest country in the world!

I was delighted to congratulate some of the Knox Australia Day Award winners who have made an incredible contribution to our community.

- **Janice Johns** and **Lynette Johns** – Volunteer Award
- **Rebecca Johnson** – Young Citizen of the Year Award
- **Molly Magee** – Citizen of the Year Award
- **Phil Man** – Local Hero Award

Special congratulations to both **Wally Fordham** of Rowville and **Riad Galil** of Wantirna, for being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) this year.

Lending a Hand in Flood Areas

It is often times of tragedy that Australians are at their best. The floods have been no exception.

Residents across **Knox** and **Whitehorse** have been typically generous, rallying to support flood victims through donations, fundraisers, and volunteering. Local CFAs and SES teams have been busy.

In mid January, I led a team of MPs and local church leaders (including Pastor Dale Stephenson from Crossway and Judy and Sarah from the Rowville Salvos) to help out in the affected areas. (Pictured above)



One Step Closer on Rowville Rail

We are one step closer on the Rowville Rail proposal.

The new Baillieu Government (including local Members Kim Wells and Nick Wakeling) has committed to doing the full feasibility study to determine its costs versus benefits, and implementation issues. This is the necessary next step.

I strongly support the rail-link proposal and have repeatedly raised it in the Federal Parliament. I have pointed out that the Federal Government arguments for putting money into urban rail in Sydney and Brisbane is equally applicable for the **Rowville** link. My speeches are on my website.



Youth Mental Health Public Forum – 4 April

Mental health is the second highest contributor to death or disability in our community. Its incidence in our community is higher than the state average. This is why I am so keen to see greater mental health services locally.

If you want to learn more, or take part in a discussion on how to improve mental health in our community, I invite you to a Public Forum I am organising:

When: Monday 4th April 2011, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Where: Fairhills High School, School Auditorium – 330 Scoresby Road, Knoxfield

Stay tuned for more information. Please contact my office with any enquiries on 9887 3890.

Out and About

- ✓ Presented Aston Shield awards at 37 local schools throughout **Knox** and **Vermont** area.
- ✓ Delivered the Remembrance Day address at the **Bayswater** RSL service.
- ✓ Spoke at the official Opening of new building of NGK Spark Plug, **Knoxfield**
- ✓ Spoke at November and Australia Day **Knox** Citizenship Ceremonies representing the Australian Parliament.
- ✓ Held our December Aston Community Forum to discuss needs of disadvantaged people in our community.
- ✓ Speaker at the Hungarian Club in **Wantirna** to commemorate the 1956 Uprising.
- ✓ Helped launch the **Rowville** branch of the Cake Decorators Association.
- ✓ Spoke at various classes in local schools, including **Knox Gardens**, about democracy and Australia's parliamentary structure.
- ✓ Attended local meetings with residents in **Rowville** to discuss hoon driving and determine plans of action.
- ✓ Discussed issues and priorities with leaders at the Knox Youth Information Centre at **Knox City**.
- ✓ Met with leaders of local service providers, including Care Connect in **Knox**, and Anglicare in **Bayswater** to discuss priorities.
- ✓ Met with members of the Knox Chinese Elderly Citizens Club in **Knoxfield**.
- ✓ Attended the Anchor AGM
- ✓ Supported local fetes at schools, churches and retirement villages, including Holy Name in Vermont South, Balmoral Gardens, Peppertree, and Scoresby Uniting Church.
- ✓ Congratulated award recipients at the **Rowville** CFA Annual Dinner.
- ✓ Discussed issues and support needs at **Scoresby** and **Boronia** CFAs
- ✓ Spoke at Polish Senior Citizens Day in **Rowville**.
- ✓ Met with Year 12s at Fairhill's Farewell Year 12 breakfast in **Ferntree Gully**.
- ✓ Discussed expansion plans with **Knox** Little Aths executives. Supported their opening days including Pollie Races!
- ✓ Met with leaders at Knoxbrooke in **Ferntree Gully** to determine action to support their ongoing efforts with people with disabilities.
- ✓ Gave thanks to the volunteers who assisted with the **Knox** Emergency Relief efforts.
- ✓ Spoke at Peppertree Village, **Rowville**, Australia Day lunch.
- ✓ Met with church leaders across our community to better understand local issues.
- ✓ Participated in the discussion at the Australian Tamil Congress Public Meeting at **Scoresby**.
- ✓ Spoke at the Knox School, **Wantirna**, Christmas Giving presentation with the Salvation Army.



Participated in tai chi and talked with members of the Knox Chinese Elderly Citizens Club over a traditional Chinese lunch.



Kicking footy with students from Fairhills High School.



At the launch of the Rowville branch of the Cake Decorators Association.

Meet Alan at his Mobile Office

I am available to listen to your concerns. Please feel welcome to call me in my office during the week or meet me at my mobile office on Saturday between **10:00 – 11:00am** on:

Saturday 26 February **Wellington Village** (near entrance)

Saturday 5 March **Bayswater Village shops** (near Coles entrance)

Saturday 19 March **Wantirna Mall**

Saturday 26 March

Saturday 2 April

Saturday 9 April

Studfield Shops

Scoresby Village

Mountain Gate shops (near supermarket)