

## Shed Tanks Fundraiser



A fabulous black tie event with 150 guests raised about \$30,000 to restore the historic Shed Tanks between Cowell and Kimba. The event was held in a swish marquee adjacent to the original Shed Tanks. Pictured are Wayne Piggott, Martin Deer, Trav Modystach, Dave Kovac, Chris McGoldrick, Graeme Buhlmann, Clint Rayner, Haydn Francis, Rachel Deer, Carmen Rayner, Kelly-Jo Kovac, Donna McGoldrick, Sarah Modystach, Jasmin Piggott and Kate Francis.

## Australia Day Port Lincoln



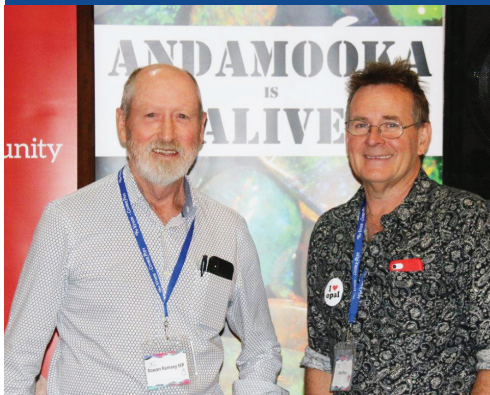
This year's Australia Day award winners for Port Lincoln City Council are from left Kerrie O'Leary and Quinn Dutschke representing Event of the Year winner Port Lincoln Football League, Young Citizen of the Year Dylan Cowley, inaugural Active Citizenship award winner Johanna Page and Citizen of the Year Chris Mantle who was recognised for his contribution to the community.

## Whyalla uneARTH 2021



Duo Amelia Ryan and Libby O'Donovan performed at the Whyalla uneARTH festival in March. They took to the stage with a loud, proud, raucous look at Australian Pop & Rock Divas. The show at the Middleback Arts Centre was excellent and the festival gives Whyalla a real lift with an action-packed program of fun events and stunning artworks.

## Coober Pedy Opal Symposium



The National Opal Symposium was held in the opal capital of the world, Coober Pedy, in April. I presented the closing address on Day One, and am pictured with Chairman Dale Price. Delegates from around the nation were presented with the latest science to assist mining, new techniques and marketing opportunities.

It was a great success!

## New Owners Welcomed



Produce Discounters is a vibrant, locally owned fresh fruit and vegetable shop in Port Pirie. I dropped in recently and caught up with new co-owner Jason Parsons and his father Scott. The place has a great feel and offers premium produce, seedlings and plants. A great example of a family-owned business serving the community.

## SA Country Press Awards



It was a terrific night at the Country Press SA annual awards night in Clare in February. I am pictured with Ben Taylor from the Taylor Group of Newspapers, guest speaker Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Member for Barker Tony Pasin and Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone.

## Port Pirie Rotary



The Port Pirie Rotary Club invited me to speak at its January meeting. Pictured are Vocational Youth Membership Officer Robert Hosking, Secretary Barbara Camporeale, Peter Richens and Treasurer Peter Stanley. A top group doing good work!

## Australia Day in Tumby Bay



A good crowd attended the Australia Day breakfast in Tumby Bay where Australia Day awards were presented to Citizen of the Year Deb Kitson, Young Citizen Alison Wilson, Active Citizen Stephen Whillas and Event of the Year, the Tumby Bay RSL Sub Branch Centenary event. Pictured are RSL President Robert McKeown and Mayor Sam Telfer at the breakfast.

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Kadina  
43 Taylor Street  
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## Coffee Cart Manoora



Judy Searley, (hard to see) who operates her Coffee Cubicle van in Manoora, contacted me recently regarding poor mobile phone reception in the town. The Federal Government has committed \$380m to the Mobile Black Spot program and I have discussed options for the town with Telstra under a future round of the program.

## Wild Dog Forum



I caught up with the Wild Dog team including Dr Peter Fleming, Greg Mifsud, Geoff Power and Peter Star in Canberra recently at an Invasive Species Showcase. These events are important to help our city based colleagues understand the challenges and opportunities in agriculture.

## International Women's Day



Parliament observed International Women's Day a week early this year to fit with Parliamentary sitting dates. I was impressed with Prime Minister Scott Morrison's address, which given the events of the day were completely on target. The PM made three main points - to respect, protect and reflect.

## Helping Hand Carinya Aged Care



Helping Hand Carinya in Clare is hoping to expand its aged care facility and I called in to discuss the plans with Executive Manager Marketing & Customer Experience Samantha Giorgatzis and Residential Services Manager Stefanie Dawson. The facility is looking to expand into a lifestyle blended community.

## Xavier College Two Wells



Xavier College has a new campus in fast-growing Two Wells. The Lynn Martin building, named for the school's former principal who passed away last year, was opened by his brother Brian Martin AO, far right. Brian is pictured with Principal Mark Flaherty and head of the new campus, Janet Coomber.

## Rural Ambassadors in Canberra



I was pleased to meet with SA Rural Youth Ambassadors Jordan Lewis from Cowell Area School, Will Drogemuller from Moonta Area School and Tayla Roberts from Streaky Bay Area School in February. The program has been developed by the Country Education Partnership and aims to grow the leadership skills of 20 regional Year 11 students.

Whyalla  
45a Playford Avenue  
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# Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey

Grey, a great place to live and work...

## Revival of Australian Economy Shows Incredible Management

The revival of the Australian economy following the COVID-19 shutdown has been astounding. It would simply not have been possible were it not for our incredible success in controlling the spread of the virus. Almost three million people have died worldwide, while by comparison Australia has had 29,000 cases and 909 deaths. Considering 70% of the cases and 90% of deaths have been in Victoria,

which made a terrible hash of its quarantine measures last winter, the rest of the country has excelled.

The early decision by Prime Minister Scott Morrison to close the international borders three weeks before the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a pandemic, has proved to be a wise one, giving Australia space and time to keep the economy alive.

The formation of the National Cabinet has provided a new level of co-operation and common purpose. Notwithstanding recent issues with the AstraZeneca vaccine, the management of our borders and economy have given us the luxury of being able to slow the roll-out to ensure public safety without presenting any

real public health risk or slowing the economic recovery. While the Labor Party has criticised the rate of the vaccine rollout, there is no denying the holding back of our legitimately ordered vaccines by Europe is the main cause, but they can hardly be blamed with countries like Italy still losing

**“More people in employment than before the virus and job vacancies are near record highs...”**



State Member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan and I inspected the Joy Baluch Bridge duplication recently.

## Record \$900 million Roads Funding for Grey

It seems as though I am continually announcing new road funds for Grey. I thought the following list may help clarify why-

- \$160 million for the duplication of the Joy Baluch Bridge in Port Augusta
- \$80 million for the Port Wakefield overpass with works underway now
- \$100 million for the upgrading of the Eyre Highway
- \$50 million for the Barrier Highway from Adelaide to Broken Hill
- \$44 million for the Horrocks Highway
- \$100 million for the sealing of the Strzelecki Track
- \$5 million for the Adventure Way connecting Innamincka to the Queensland border
- \$113 million for a new road for the APY Lands
- \$130 million for upgrades on the Augusta Highway
- \$64 million to begin the duplication of the Augusta Highway
- \$114 million recently committed for safety works across a number of highways
- \$8.8 million for the Dublin turn-off which takes you into the South Australian sale yards
- Roads funding through Roads to Recovery for councils.
- Note: These amounts are bolstered by a 20% state contribution.
- Rail
- \$252 million for the Adelaide to Tarcoola railway re-railing project

## Bratten Bridge Opening



I was pleased to jointly re-open the Lipson Ungarra Road (Bratten Bridge) with Member for Flinders Peter Treloar following completion of the \$1m upgrade works. Pictured are Peter Treloar, Tumby Bay Mayor Sam Telfer and Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government Mark Coulton with Ungarra school students Marika, Ben, Lauren and Jarley.

Rowan Ramsey MP April 2021



## Visits by PM, Deputy PM and Regional Health Minister



**Deputy PM Michael McCormack and I inspected pillars on the Port Wakefield overpass recently. The \$124m project will fix traffic problems at "crash corner" and unblock holiday traffic jams.**

Ministerial visits are always important and none more so than one from the Prime Minister Scott Morrison. As this issue goes to print, I am expecting the PM in the electorate when we visit the SA Autumn Garden Festival in Clare in mid-April. Following this we will attend an event in Burra. It will be a great opportunity for community members to meet the PM and get in his ear. In February I also hosted Regional Health, Communications and Local Government Minister Mark Coulton for two fast-moving

days meeting with doctors, health professionals and councils in Cummins, Port Augusta and Kadina and working on strategies to address the shortage of health workers, especially doctors, in regional Australia. Health is a major cornerstone in the liveability of any regional town and it is an issue I am very focussed on finding a solution for.

I was also extremely pleased to have the Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack in Grey with the opportunity to speak to him about our ongoing transport task.

We took time to inspect progress on the \$124m Port Wakefield Federal/State funded duplication project. This vital project will be an absolute game-changer for the 10,000 or so vehicles that use this road daily. This is part of a \$110bn Federal nationwide infrastructure rollout with a commitment of more than a billion dollars on transport infrastructure in Grey either underway or in the pipeline. I am hopeful the work on the duplication of the Port Wakefield Highway will begin around the time the overpass works are complete.



**Regional Health, Communications and Local Government Minister Mark Coulton and I spoke to Port Augusta Terry White pharmacist Annie Larcombe during the Minister's visit in February.**

## Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Groups

The world is an uncertain place and building friendships and understanding between nations is important work.

Parliament has a long tradition of forming bi-partisan Friendship Groups to work with foreign delegations to develop relationships. I am very pleased to be the Chair of groups working with both the Philippines and Pakistan.

This year marks 75 years of diplomatic relations with the Philippines, with Australia recognising them immediately when they won independence. Our friendship is based on shared values of democracy, free trade and a commitment to peace, security, and prosperity in our region. I met recently with Ambassador Madame Hellen B. De La Vega where we discussed our nation's shared interests and plans for the 75th celebrations.

I have had a number of meetings with Pakistan's High Commissioner Babar Amin, where he has strongly expressed an interest in strengthening the ties between our countries and we discussed the long, on-going border tensions with India. I took the opportunity to say how impressed I have been by former cricket superstar and Prime Minister Imran Khan's efforts to clamp down on corruption in his nation.

The Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group was delighted to accept an invitation to join the High Commissioner and his wife Uzma at their residence during March for dinner. In an unstable and volatile part of the world it is of great importance that we foster the relationship so our voice too, is heard.

There are more than 90,000 Pakistan born people living in Australia making a valuable contribution to our nation.



**Philippine Ambassador to Australia Madame Hellen B De La Vega in my Parliamentary office. Madame De La Vega has been Ambassador since June 2018.**



**Pakistani High Commissioner Babar Amin and his wife Uzma with my wife Teresa and I following the Friends of Pakistan dinner at the High Commissioner's residence.**

## Indigenous Voice to the Nation



In January the Government commenced public consultation on the Indigenous Voice Interim Report. Consultation will run over four months, with a number of channels provided for people to have their say.

Co-Chairs of the Indigenous Voice Senior Advisory Group, Professor Dr Marcia Langton AO and Professor Tom Calma AO, (pictured above) said it is important all Australians be given the opportunity to engage in the process. I met with them recently and discussed their report, which I believe has a good chance of providing a pathway the majority of Australians can agree to. I congratulated Marcia and Tom on their work and committed to raising awareness of it where I could. Professor Langton said, *"These proposals are not finished. Now it's time for everyone to consider them and provide comment so that we can put a well consulted final proposal to Government. Your feedback will help us make sure the final proposal is one that can work for all Australians."*

The report is being widely considered and is receiving a high level of support. I encourage anyone with an interest to read the report and associated materials at <https://voice.niaa.gov.au> and to provide feedback either directly or through me to assist us in advancing the process.

## Support for Local Cinemas



**I discussed the impact COVID-19 had on local cinemas with Kadina Cinema owner Carol Burford.**

Cinemas are one of those businesses that have suffered disproportionately from COVID-19. Not only were they forced to close and then limit numbers, they have been deprived of new movie content as the worldwide industry has held back blockbuster releases due to shutdowns in the major markets overseas that are far more debilitating than here. Local cinemas were able to access JobKeeper and as it drew to a close, we committed to the \$20m Supporting Cinemas' Retention Endurance and Enhancement of Neighbourhoods (SCREEN) program. The fund will enable independent cinema operators to access one-off grants of up to \$85,000 until they can move toward increased audiences. There are several independent cinemas in Grey and the past 12 months have been extremely tough, but I am now hoping this support will enable them to get through the final stages of this pandemic.

We are also investing \$50.6m across Australia establishing ten Industry Training Hubs to improve opportunities for Year 11 and 12 students. I am delighted to have been able to secure one for Port Pirie to be managed by a full-time career facilitator, Robin O'Dea, who with a wealth of experience in training and education will establish links between local employers struggling for skilled workers and school students seeking a pathway into the workforce.

## It's Flu Shot Time



I rolled up my sleeve recently for my annual flu vaccination at Risdon Park Pharmacy, administered by pharmacist Adeel Ansari. As winter approaches I encourage everyone to have their shot in the lead up to the flu season.

The preferred minimum interval between a dose of seasonal influenza vaccine and a dose of either the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine is 14 days, so get in and have your flu shot and protect yourself. Flu vaccines through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) became available in April.

## More Training Opportunities



**Port Pirie Industry Hub Career Facilitator Robin O'Dea and I discussing the new facility for Port Pirie.**

Reconciling high unemployment rates with the abundant numbers of vacancies in our regional communities is difficult. While many jobs do not require specific skills, others do and local businesses are being severely constrained by the lack of skilled workers.

The Federal Government is investing in a range of programs to meet the challenge. The enormously successful Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy program has led to 100k trainee apprentices across the nation in just five months with 564 of these in Grey and is fully subscribed. It will now be extended to a full 12 months and become uncapped for new apprentices and trainees signed up prior to 30 September 2021.

It is estimated this change will generate another 70k new apprentice and trainee places, with the Government investing around \$1.2bn. Additionally the Government is partnering with BHP in the Future of Work Program, which will provide up to 750 students living in regional areas, including Roxby Downs and the Upper Spencer Gulf an opportunity to study a short course and have their student contribution covered through the program.

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## Working for a Rise in PACER Pays Off

There is little doubt that a school trip to Canberra leads to an enhanced interest in our parliamentary system. However, the further we live from Canberra the more it costs and unfortunately many schools, communities and parents cannot afford the trip.

For many years the Government has provided the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) which gives financial assistance based on distance from Canberra. For years the rate has stagnated and along with several regional colleagues I have lobbied strongly for more support. As a result, I am pleased to report a 50% increase in the rate.

Students in Grey can now access from \$90 - \$300, depending on where they live, to help with travel and accommodation costs. A visit to Parliament will advance students'

knowledge and interest in civics and citizenship through such activities as a session of student Parliament, visit to the Museum of Australian Democracy, the National Electoral Education Centre and the Australian War Memorial, all of which give extremely valuable first-hand experience. I encourage all our schools to take advantage of time in our national capital and my staff can assist with planning.



## Tumby Bay Silo Art



The images needs to line up! Overall, the Tumby Bay silos are the 18th to be included in the Australian Silo Art Trail Collection. Depicted on these silos is an interpretation of two boys jumping off the Tumby Bay Jetty. The inspiration for the silos comes from the artist Martin Ron and his assistant Matt Gorrick, who spent some time in the area before painting the silos. Other great silo art can be found in Wirrabarra, Cowell, Farrell Flat, Owen and Kimba.

## Great Local Business



**Sharmans is a major business selling ag machinery, merchandise, workshop and industrial supplies between Mallala and Long Plains. I dropped in recently and am pictured with long-term employee Vic Raymont and Mick Sharman who started the manufacturing in the late 70s when he needed a silo and now employs twenty six workers.**

## Kadina Hockey Club



**Kadina Hockey Club President John Duka, Vice-President Bethany Paterson, Copper Coast Council Mayor Roslyn Talbot, State Member for Narungga Fraser Ellis and I cut the ribbon and officially open Kadina's turf hockey pitch. Photo Courtesy YPCT.**

The opening of Kadina Hockey Club's new artificial pitch was a big day for the club and a perfect opportunity to present club legends John Duka and Bethany Paterson with Life Membership. The pitch demonstrates the value of the three levels of government working with community. The Federal Local Sporting Infrastructure Program provided \$422k, the Copper Coast Council \$290k and they also provided a \$300k loan, the State Government \$117k, with \$15k of works coming from the community. The synthetic pitch and pitch lighting will enable the club to stage top competition and will support and promote the co-located sports of hockey and soccer.

## Koonibba Launch Pad for Sub-Orbital Rockets

Australia's space sector is set to rocket to new heights with the first-ever launch facility licence granted to Adelaide company Southern Launch. The licence for the Koonibba Test Range near Ceduna in the west of the state will open the door for the site becoming a regular launch pad for commercial sub-orbital rockets.

The granting of the licence is a major win and makes Koonibba the world's only First Nations community to host a facility of this type. Koonibba played host to Southern Launch's first test launches in September last year which saw the company send two space-capable

## Seed Money Sets up Business



The Bungala Aboriginal Corporation was awarded \$75k under the Upper Spencer Gulf Regional Jobs and Investment Package in 2018 for a Mobile Catering Business as part of the Bungala Food Services (BFS). The business has succeeded, expanded and has now moved into the kitchen at Lois O'Donoghue Hostel in Port Augusta. The program is an initiative of the Bungala Aboriginal Corporation, set up as a female indigenous employment program aiming to provide unemployed women in the community with training and upskilling opportunities in the areas of cooking and hospitality. Under the guidance of local chef Nathan Freeman, locals are working towards completing food handling certificates while they are producing 540 meals a week for facilities including Lois O'Donoghue, Wami Kata and as far away as Oodnadatta Aged Care. Well done! I was delighted to drop in on the action as they prepared a delicious lunch at the opening of the KWVY Safety Hub.

Pictured above are Catering and Training Manager Nathan Freeman, Chief Executive Officer Robert Laundry, and BFS employees Michelle Warren and Isabell McTerlie.

## Liberty OneSteel, Whyalla And the Future

Things can change quickly, but as this newsletter goes to print, Citibank, acting on behalf of Credit Suisse, has instigated action in the NSW Supreme Court to wind-up the Australian assets of Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance.

It is difficult to know whether this is a genuine effort to dissolve the holdings, or part of a larger tactical strategy. Greensill Capital, now in administration, has been a major source of finance for GFG and it seems they in turn have borrowed from Credit Suisse.

What grounds Credit Suisse have to pursue reparations from GFG given Mr Gupta has said his companies have no dealings with them remains unclear.

Mr Gupta has advised his relevant loans from Greensill are not due for another three years. He also said recently that his Australian operations are making good profits, including the steel works and that he is confident of finding new financiers for his operations.

I have discussed the situation at length with the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Christian Porter and other senior ministers and the issue has been aired at Cabinet level. In summary, there is a long way to go in this process. We have an owner who is confident of the future and a steel works making a profit. It is way too early to panic.

## Port Augusta Bowling Club



**I was very pleased to present an Aboriginal flag to the President of the Port Augusta Bowling Club, Garnett Brady. The club is going well, sporting smart new uniforms and picking up in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.**

## Coober Pedy RSL



**Coober Pedy RSL benefited from a Veteran and Community Grant of \$13,700 for new chairs and tables. I caught up with Ann Haydon, President Raylene Hagel and Secretary Ronda Michell to check them out. Top quality!**