



GRIFFITHS FOR GOYDER

WORKING FOR YOU IN GOYDER

Steven Griffiths MP JP

Member for Goyder

Shadow Minister for Finance

Economic Development, Industry and Trade

Public Sector Management and Federal/State Relations

Health Advisory Councils

Following the release of Minister Hill's revised Strategy for Planning Country Health Services SA in November last year Health Advisory Council's (HACs) are now charged with the responsibility of preparing ten year health service plans for regional areas.

Within the Goyder Electorate there are three HACs; Balaklava Riverton, Northern Yorke Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula. The Port Broughton HAC is also included in the region but is located in the Frome electorate.

In establishing HAC's, members of the previous Boards were asked if they wished to nominate to the first HAC. To those who have decided to retire, to those who are continuing and to those who are new members, I say thank you for commitment.

As a State MP, I was provided with the opportunity to appoint a representative and thank the following for taking on this role for me:-

- Balaklava Riverton HAC – Margaret Rankine, Balaklava
- Northern Yorke Peninsula HAC – Peter Egel, Moonta
- Yorke Peninsula HAC – Helen Colliver, Arthurton

As a community, we should be grateful to all who have volunteered to service on the HAC's as the immediate challenge facing them will be to develop a Country Health Plan for the HAC area. My advice to the HAC's has been to focus on what the health needs of the community are and to leave the debate on the dollars required to provide those services to others.

Do not hesitate to contact me so your views on health service requirements can be relayed to the local HAC.



New Green for Mallala Bowling Club

Steven pictured with President Keith Charleson at the opening of the Mallala Bowling Club's new synthetic green

Congratulations go to the members of the Mallala Bowling Club for their efforts in successfully installing a new synthetic green.

As the late Mr Jim McEvoy, a long time bowler for Mallala, is the grandfather of my wife Donna, I felt privileged to be given the honour of officially opening the new synthetic green in early February.

At a cost of almost \$ 160,000 to replace the traditional turf green with a synthetic surface, and without the receipt of any government grants, the commitment to this project is a credit to all Club members and the local community.

The project commenced at the beginning of September 2008 and was completed in November. I have no doubt that many enjoyable matches will be played on the green in future years and wish the members of the Mallala Bowling Club, and visitors, "good bowling".

Goyder Electorate Office

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Bushfire Safety First

In the wake of the Victorian bushfires concerns have been raised about bushfire prevention and safety within South Australia.

Many people have contacted my office in relation to the lack of native vegetation control that currently exists and could contribute to a major fire such as those at Port Lincoln and Kangaroo Island in recent years.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Stephen Wade, has lodged amendments in the Legislative Council to the Native Vegetation (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2008.

The amendments provide for measures such as fire breaks, cold burns and fuel load reduction aimed at reducing bushfire risk within South Australia.

News around the region

- **Port Wakefield** - Two years after fire destroyed the slaughter floor and boning room at Primo, causing \$15 million damage, 360 employees are now celebrating full operation of the Port Wakefield abattoir. This is great news for our region as employees have returned to Port Wakefield.
- **Mallala** - A revised plan for the new Middle Beach boat ramp has been approved. After many years of lobbying the Mallala Foreshore Advisory Committee are thrilled the project will go ahead.

Funding will consist of \$375,000 from the South Australian Boating and Fishing Advisory Committee, \$150,000 from the Federal Department of Forestry and Fisheries and the District Council of Mallala agreeing to borrow up to \$67,000 to cover the remaining costs.

I was pleased to speak in support of the boat ramp project at a meeting of Mallala Council and a public meeting in Two Wells.

- **Kadina** - Zero Waste SA funding of \$150,000 has been allocated to the District Council of the Copper Coast towards the establishment of a waste transfer station in Kadina.

The projected outcome of the station is the diversion of 1000 tonnes per year of recyclables from landfill as part of the aim to improve regional South Australia's recycling and waste management. It is hoped the project will be completed by June 2010.

- **Copper Coast** - The Kernewek Lowender, the world's largest Cornish Festival will be held from 11 - 17 May 2009. Beginning in the early 1970's it has grown to be a major attraction to the area. For a list of events and attractions visit the website www.kernewek.org or phone 8821 4500.



National Volunteer Week will be held from 11—17 May 2009 to celebrate volunteering around Australia.

The theme this year is - **Volunteers: Everyday people, extraordinary contribution.**

On a local level it is important we recognise the terrific work undertaken by our very own volunteers whose contribution to the community is invaluable.

Each year in South Australia the voluntary effort is valued at over \$10 billion to community services, including charities, community health care, heritage and arts, environment conservation, emergency services, education, social justice and sports.

Statistics also show that the volunteer rate is higher in regional areas compared to capital cities - a fact that we can all be very proud.

Photo courtesy of the YP Country Times



Volunteers cleaning up Innes National Park

STANSBURY WINS TIDY TOWN AWARD

Stansbury was named South Australia's Tidiest Town at the 2008 KESAB Tidy Towns awards on 28 November.

After making it into the list of KESAB's top 10 towns eight times local volunteers were delighted with the news. Indeed, our region should be very proud.

With a population of about 500 the community effort of Stansbury has been amazing. Each week members of the Tidy Towns group meet and undertake work around the town, the school is involved through the environmental programs that it runs and the District Council of Yorke Peninsula has a strong involvement also.

The National Tidy Towns winner will be announced in Canberra on 8th May. I will be with Stansbury representatives in Canberra that day and look forward to Stansbury being crowned as Australia's Tidiest Town.

Goyder Schools



Left - Steven with Kadina Primary School award winner Chad Harrop

Below - St Columbas Memorial School student, Alycia Redden, receives the award from Steven

Each year a Steven Griffiths MP award is donated to schools within the Goyder Electorate to reward students who have advanced in their achievements over the year.

In December I was pleased to attend presentation ceremonies and personally present the award to recipients from St Columbas Memorial School, Mallala Primary School, Harvest Christian School, Owen, Hamley Bridge, Balaklava, Port Vincent, Kadina Primary Schools and Horizon Christian School.

First Turf Pitch on YP

The first cricket turf pitch on Yorke Peninsula was officially opened at Moonta in February by District Council of the Copper Coast Mayor Paul Thomas.

My congratulations go to the hard working volunteers, and particularly the vision of Ian Ravenscroft, which has made the dream of a turf pitch become reality.

I was pleased to be given the chance to speak at the opening and used this opportunity to voice my support for young people participating in sport and the pleasure that being involved in sport brings.

The pitch will certainly assist with the development of junior cricket talent and is a significant sporting triumph for our region.

It is hoped the new turf pitch will also attract major cricket matches to Moonta.

The five-pitch turf area will be ready for the first game of the 2009/10 season.



Steven at the opening of Moonta's turf wicket with Moonta Cricket Club Junior Colts & In2 Cricketers, Don Beltz, Ian Ravenscroft, Kym Pedler and DCCC Mayor Paul Thomas.

Adelaide Plains Cup Festival



Winners and nominees gathered at the Emu Award presentations held in Snowtown

Photo courtesy of Plains Producer

My wife Donna and I spent a few days enjoying the festivities as part of the 2009 Adelaide Plains Cup Festival.

The three day festival held from Friday 27 February to Sunday 1 March 2009 showcases some great attractions within the region.

On Friday the Emu Awards were held at Snowtown to recognise dedicated community members and groups within the region.

Other events included the Two Wells market, art and craft fairs, museum displays, a golf and junior tennis tournament at Balaklava, a Soapbox Derby at Mallala and the Adelaide Plains Cup held at the Balaklava Racing Club which attracted about 2000 people.

I congratulate all who were involved. It is fantastic to be part of a region that believes in itself.

Concessions

A number of concessions are available through the Department of Families and Communities for recipients of the aged pension residing in South Australia including:

- A council rate remission of up to \$190 for home owners;
- Sewerage remissions of up to \$95 per annum for home owner-occupiers;
- A remission of \$40 on the Emergency Services Levy;
- An energy concession of up to \$120 per annum;
- Assistance is also available to obtain spectacles;
- Pensioners receive approximately 50% discount on the price of public transport;
- A concession on the costs of purchasing water from private water carters (from a supplier other than SA Water).

Visit www.dfc.sa.gov.au for more information on concessions or contact the **Freecall Concessions Hotline** on **1800 307 758**.

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From 1 July 2009 all Senior Card holders will be able to ride public trams, trains and buses free between 9.30am and 3pm weekdays, and all times on weekends and public holidays.

FUNERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Financial assistance to cover the costs of a basic funeral and other related expenses is available to people who have experienced the death of a family member and who are facing financial hardship.

For eligibility details phone **1300 762 577** or visit the website www.dfc.sa.gov.au

COMPANION CARD

A Companion Card is issued to people with disabilities and is used when booking or purchasing a ticket when the cardholder requires the assistance of a companion in order to attend that particular venue or activity.

Participating businesses/organisations will issue the cardholder with a second ticket/Companion Ticket for their companion at no extra charge.

For information contact the **Information Line Freecall 1800 667 110** or visit www.companioncard.org.au

Land valuation objections

If you are unhappy with your land valuation/land tax bill you should:

1. Lodge an objection in writing to the Valuer General within days of receipt of your first account stating that you object because you believe the valuation is too high.

- The objection only needs to be a quick note (in handwriting if necessary) saying that you object. It doesn't need to be formal.
- You should ask for sales evidence and valuations for comparable properties.
- You need to include: the address of the property, your contact telephone number, any other information in regards to the state of the property that might devalue the property and is not evident from the outside (such as salt damp).

There is no charge for lodging an objection which is to be sent to:

Valuer-General
State Valuation Office
GPO Box 1354
ADELAIDE SA 5001

You can contact the Valuer-General's Office on:

Ph: 1300 653 346
Fax: 8226 1428
www.landservices.sa.gov.au

The State Valuation Office will review the valuation and make a determination. You will be informed of this decision.

2. If you are still dissatisfied with the determination you may ask for a further review by an independent valuer. This must be done within 21 days of receipt of the determination.

The cost for this is:
\$79 for principal places of residence
\$195 for other properties

Should the independent valuer's valuation vary from the Valuer-General's valuation by at least 10% then the new valuation will be adopted and the fee will be refunded.

3. If you are still dissatisfied you can appeal to the Land Valuation Court.