

The Charlton News

Greg Combet AM MP Federal Member for Charlton

October 2009



Nation Building creating local jobs

The Rudd Labor Government provided \$950,000 from the **Economic Stimulus Package** to boost local infrastructure in Toronto.



Greg on site with workers at Toronto.

Greg Combet recently visited the Regatta Foreshore Reserve and was pleased to see the upgrade is well under way.

This project alone has provided 12 full time jobs to local tradies over the past five months. There are projects like this underway right across the electorate.

The government invested \$42 billion to counter the impact of the global financial crisis.

It is working here in Charlton. It is securing local jobs and boosting local infrastructure.

The upgrade includes construction of new toilet facilities and a kiosk building that will accommodate the relocated tourist information centre. A new timber boardwalk is being built which provides easy lake access. Significant landscaping and environmental protection works will complete this wonderful project.

Pensioners increase arrives

Around 18,000 pensioners in Charlton have received an increase in their fortnightly payments.

I'm proud the Rudd Government has delivered on our commitment to pensioners.

I'm acutely aware of the contributions older Australians continue to make to society. You deserve a pension system that provides you with adequate financial support and security. That's what we've delivered.

The Rudd Government has taken decisive action to ensure security and certainty for pensioners now and into the future.

From September 20th 2009, the Rudd Government has:

- **Increased the pension for full rate single pensioners by \$60 per fortnight.**
- **Increased the pension for couple pensioners by an extra \$20.30 per fortnight.**

I will continue to work hard to deliver for the pensioners in Charlton.



Greg Combet
Federal Member for Charlton

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2009



Greg celebrating National Literacy and Numeracy Week with students from Speers Point Public School.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week was held from the 31 August to 6 September 2009.

The theme for the Week was **Getting the Basics Right**, highlighting the importance of literacy and numeracy as fundamental life skills.

Greg Combet celebrated with Year One students at Speers Point Public School.

Greg said it is important to encourage students, parents and other members of the community to celebrate National Literacy and

Numeracy Week.

'It was great fun reading with the Year One students and to see first hand how keen they are to learn to read. This is the best age to encourage the love of reading in young children,' Greg said.

Charlton Schools to receive \$70 million in funding under historic school modernisation program

Almost \$70 million has been invested in vital infrastructure to schools in Charlton under the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER). Every school has received funding for important projects.

School communities, parents and tradespeople are working together to deliver these important projects. Once completed our teachers and students will have the 21st century facilities they so richly deserve.

Recently, Greg Combet turned the first sod on the site at Glendale East Public School. The school received \$2,000,000 to build a much need hall and COLA.

Maria Williams, Principal of Glendale East Public School, was delighted that work had begun.

During Greg's visit, the students proudly showed him a Rainbow Serpent mural they made during NAIDOC week, which will be displayed in their new hall.

Total BER funding for Charlton

Maintenance Program Received by every school in Charlton	TOTAL \$7,075,000
Primary Schools for the 21st Century Received by every primary school in Charlton	TOTAL \$61,500,000
Science and Language Centre for the 21st Century Lake Macquarie High School	TOTAL \$914,514,000

New Landcare Resource Centre opens

On 5 September, Greg Combet had the pleasure of officially opening the new **Landcare Resource Centre at Teralba**.



Barry Johnston, John Hughson, Pop Simon and Greg Combet.

It was a real cause for celebration. Lake Macquarie Landcare has experienced tough times in recent years with their premises burning

down on two occasions. The opening coincided with the 20th Anniversary of community Landcare in Australia and National Landcare Week.

GP superclinics

New health services at Morisset

Greg Combet was pleased to officially open the new physiotherapy services at the Morisset GP Super Clinic in August.

The Rudd Government committed \$2.5 million dollars to improve health services in Southern Lake Macquarie.

Residents now have access to additional health services in Morisset. They have a full time physiotherapist, an exercise

physiologist and support services.

It is expected the Morisset GP Super Clinic will be fully operational in early 2010 and will include radiology services, counselling services and other allied health services.

The GP Super Clinic will play an important role in improving frontline health services in Southern Lake Macquarie and they are a key part of the Government's plans to improve Australia's health care system.

Government serious about climate change

The Rudd Government has wasted no time delivering on its election commitment to take action on climate change.

As the Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change, I had the privilege of introducing the Government's Renewable Energy Target (RET) legislation into Federal Parliament.

Now the legislation has passed, 20% of Australia's electricity will be sourced from renewable sources such as wind and solar by 2020.

As a result, households now have access to rebates for renewable systems, such as rooftop solar panels, which makes it cheaper to do their bit to address climate change.

The Government is also introducing the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) to ensure Australia meets its emissions reduction targets.

The Government will provide assistance to low and middle income households to offset increases in costs associated with the CPRS, and will assist industry, including coal, steel and aluminium, to ensure that they can reduce their emissions whilst protecting jobs.



Greg & John Falzon, General Manager LMS Generation inspecting the Newcastle Renewable Energy Facility at the Summerhill Waste Management Centre.

\$3000 for Wangi Wangi RSL Sub-branch

Wangi Wangi RSL Sub-branch has received \$3000 in funding as part of the *Saluting Their Service* commemorations program.

This grant will help the Wangi Wangi RSL install and exhibit the large amount of memorabilia they hold.

“Saluting Their Service provides funding to help community and ex-service organisations honour the service and sacrifice of Australia’s servicemen and women in wars, conflicts and peace operations,” he said.

For more information about *Saluting Their Service* and how to apply for funding contact the Office of Greg Combet on 4954 2611 or visit www.dva.gov.au/commemorations/grants/.

Toronto RSL celebrates 75th anniversary

Greg Combet addressed a large crowd at the Toronto RSL Club on 2 August to commemorate the Toronto RSL Sub Branch’s 75th Anniversary.

President, Peter Stephenson and Secretary, Ron Mitcherson were on hand to celebrate the long history of the organisation and recognise the individuals who have been instrumental in its success.

The RSL is a very important organisation within the Australian community. The support they offer our veterans and serving personnel is a guiding light for the community and something they should be proud of.

Working for Defence



Greg is proud to be Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science.

In June this year Greg was appointed Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science. This is an enormous privilege. Defence is significant to Newcastle and the Hunter region with the Singleton Army Base and RAAF Williamtown located here.

Three important developments have occurred this year that would be of interest to the people of Charlton.

- Awarding of a contract to Forgacs to construct hull blocks for the Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) project. This will result in the employment of up to 200 skilled workers.

- The release of the 2009 Defence Capability Plan (DCP). Under the DCP, the forecast annual expenditure with the Australian defence industry is expected to rise from \$4.5 billion to \$5.6 billion. This translates into almost 5,000 more defence industry jobs.
- Establishment of a \$21 million Defence Industry Innovation Centre. Hunter companies in the defence industry can get in touch with the Centre to see how it can help them improve their performance. Call them on 131 791

Westlakes Representative Netball Team: Local Sporting Champion

Westlakes Representative Netball team received a \$3000 grant through the Local Sporting Champions Program.

The Local Sporting Champions program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for junior sports men and

women towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms and/or equipment.

Team Manager, Lee Jones, has welcomed the grant which will go toward fitting the girls with new senior uniforms.

Greg Combet AM MP – Federal Member for Charlton

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