

ASHTON HURN MP

MEMBER FOR SCHUBERT

Community Newsletter

A message from Ashton

Dear local resident,

Welcome to the latest edition of my community newsletter.

Summer is here, Christmas is almost upon us and while it's always an exciting time of year to be with friends and family, cost of living pressures and interest rate rises are making it tougher across our community.

That's why I've been so overwhelmed by the generosity of the many people who kindly donated to my 2023 Salvation Army Gift Drive. Even in tough economic times, people in our community dig deep and think of others.

These presents will go some way in helping families in crisis or facing hardship to celebrate this Christmas and make their day a little more special.

With Christmas comes summer, and all reports suggest we are in for a long hot season this year with below average rainfall.

Like every year it's important to remain vigilant about the threat of bushfires. Being prepared, having a plan and staying informed is crucial.

If you need assistance or information on preparing a bushfire safety plan please get in touch with the CFS, or contact me at my office. My door, and inbox, are always open.

Finally, I want to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year!

Best wishes,



ASHTON HURN MP
Member for Schubert
Shadow Minister for Health

Did you know we can help with...



Community printing

My office is always happy to assist community and sporting groups with the printing of newsletters or flyers.



Parliament House tours

If your local school or community group would like a tour of Parliament House, please call my office to arrange a day and time.



Congratulatory messages

Assistance with congratulatory messages such as milestone birthdays and wedding anniversaries.



Grant assistance

Does your community or sporting group need funding? Talk to me about what Federal, State or Local Government grants may be available, and I can also provide a letter of support.

FOLLOW ME
on socials to stay up to date
with all things local

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Push for Barossa Headspace

Accessing mental health services in regional South Australia is pretty tough at the moment, including in our own local community.

A recent report examining rural mental health services showed that when it comes to the number of psychiatrists per capita, Adelaide is on par with countries such as France and Norway. However, the report found outside of the city, services offered in rural South Australia are worse than Mongolia.

That's just one indicator of the lack of mental health support available in regional SA.

In order to try and improve the situation, I have been working with the Federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin and Dr Bill Gransbury to persuade the Federal Government to set up a Headspace in the Barossa.

Headspace is a well-respected National Youth Mental Health Foundation, providing support specifically tailored for young people. It has a particular focus on early intervention mental health services for 12-25 year-olds.

Having spoken with local GPs, nurses, teachers, sports clubs, parents, and students in our region, I know there is not only significant community support for the youth focused services that a Headspace centre provides, but a need for the service as well.

It's a bricks and mortar, one stop shop - and facilities like this are also critical in breaking down the stigma that is often associated with mental health challenges.

Securing a Headspace centre would go some way in helping to deliver better mental health support for young people in our community - it would be a big asset. As your local MP I've written to the Federal Health Minister advocating for this and have spoken about it in the State Parliament.



Gather Round disappointment



The AFL recently announced the draw for the 2024 Gather Round and it was disappointing to see the Barossa excluded from the draw.

Our region is the logical choice, we've got great facilities, we're close to the city and we're one of the best tourism regions in Australia.

We've got fantastic sport facilities right across our region thanks to recent investment and if the government is now saying there is more work needed to be done, then really there's been an entire year to get on with it.

Upgrades to the club and change rooms at Tanunda Oval are basically complete, and the new oval surface and extension is well under way.

I know many locals, sports fans and businesses are disappointed with the news.

Having a round here is something everyone has been pushing for - the State Government built up expectations a fair bit about 2024, so it's particularly disappointing.

We'll all keep pushing and lobbying for a round to come here at some stage, because I know everyone will get behind it.

End of School Year 2023

Visiting local schools is always something I enjoy – from celebrating the success of our students and teachers, to opening new facilities and attending special events, there's always something happening.

The end of the school year is a particularly special time for families with graduating students, and it was my pleasure to again sponsor an award called the 'Schubert Quiet Achiever Award'.

Instead of focusing on solely academic, music or sporting excellence, I wanted a student to be acknowledged for: working hard, being reliable, having a sense of service and a focus on being the best they can be. Which just about sums up the characteristics of our community!

Congratulations to all the wonderful quiet achievers I have had the privilege of meeting this year, and well done to all those who have graduated from Primary School or High School in 2023. **Best wishes for 2024.**



Nuriootpa High School award winner
- Isabella Kolak

Barossa Hospital update

The draft business case for a new Barossa Hospital has been completed and approved by the governing board of Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network.

The business case includes a clinical services plan, functional design considerations, proposed masterplan, indicative cost report, change management strategies, workforce strategies, stakeholder and communications plans, and financial impact statement.

Having pushed hard for progress on the Barossa Hospital under both the previous government and the current one, this update is welcome news.

The previous Liberal Government started this process - we undertook detailed planning, and put money for the land purchase and early works all into the state budget. This was the first time ever that a government put money in a state budget specifically for the Barossa hospital.

I'm pleased to see that the foundation that was laid before the election is continuing to progress to the point where soon the final business case will be presented to Infrastructure SA.

Once it's gone through Infrastructure SA, the next step is seeing more money put in the budget to start building the hospital - and we should really be expecting to see a commitment of funding in next year's budget.

The former Liberal Government has already put funding in the budget for the land as well as site and early works - but we need more money in next year's budget and the years beyond to build the hospital.

With 25,000 new people moving into Concordia over the next decade, this hospital is critical for not just the Barossa but for the entire region.

I have written to both Infrastructure SA and the Minister for Health urging them to expedite this process so construction can commence as soon as possible.

Active Club grants

Successful applicants of the latest Active Club grant program were recently announced through the Office of Recreation and Sport. I had the pleasure in presenting certificates to local clubs across our region.

It has been great to head out to clubs right across the community to hear about what they've been able to achieve with their grant money - **this investment makes a big difference to our local clubs.**

From scoreboards to basketballs, to footballs, netballs, and tennis balls - the Active Club grants pump thousands of much needed dollars into grass-root clubs.

Our local sports clubs play an important role in our region for many reasons and every little thing we can do to help keep them thriving is a good thing.

Equipment can often be a big cost for clubs, especially the essentials that need to be replaced frequently. Having a well-equipped club also encourages more people to participate and get active.



Truro Freight Route funding cut



It is incredibly disappointing that the Truro Freight Route has been axed by the Labor Government.

The cutting of this project is a huge kick in the guts for locals who have been wanting to get trucks off the Main Street of Truro for years.

Around 600 B-doubles and road trains travel along the Main Street of Truro each and every day, and it causes great distress, not just for the local community, but for the truckies as well. The freight route would also have been a faster transport corridor to the city.

Delivering this project was on track under the former Liberal government and we should have seen shovels in the ground late in 2022.

Had the State Labor Government stuck to the timeline, the Truro Freight Route project would never have been caught up in the Federal infrastructure review.

Abandoning regional infrastructure projects across the state is not just a setback for our local community, but for South Australia more broadly. It's another example of how little value Labor puts on regional communities.

Out and about in Schubert



Guest speaker at The Ladies Probus Club of Barossa Valley Inc.



Acknowledging staff milestones at Wirraminna Care.



Tanunda Primary & Disability Unit 2023 bookweek parade.



Angaston Netball Club junior presentations.



Officially opening Angaston Bowling Club's brand new home ground facilities.



Speaking with passionate Williamstown Primary School students and Mayor Lange.



Sponsoring the 2023 Resilience award at the Nuriootpa Rover Football Club women's presentation evening.



Barossa Driver Reviver with some special visitors.



Unveiling the Seeds of Hope 'reflection' bench in Angaston.



Cutting the ribbon at unveiling of the new mural at the Barossa Ark Gift & Bookshop.



One of Faith Lutheran College Schubert Quiet Achiever award winners - Makayla Docherty.



Celebrating 100 years of Tanunda Bowling Club.



Catching up with local GPs Dr Griscti and Dr Goodwin.

Putting Schubert first.

What matters most to you?

In recent months I've held nineteen street corner meetings across every part of the electorate which is a great chance to have a chin-wag about any matters of concern. Everyone is welcome to drop by.

Keep an eye out on social media or in your letterbox in 2024 so you know when I will be holding one near you!

As always I hope you might find some time to fill in my community survey to let me know what matters most to you.

Contact me or my office for a hard copy, alternatively you can fill it out online using the QR code below or visiting my website.

Share your views! Scan the QR code to the right or visit ashtonhurn.com.au/news/community-survey to open my survey

