

The St Clair & Erskine Park Report

LOCAL NEWS

Volunteer Tutors Needed

The Learning Lounge Homework Centre provides free tutoring for children and young people in St Clair and surrounding areas, it is located at St Clair Youth Centre on 97a Cook Parade, St Clair.

We are currently looking for volunteers to spare a couple hours to help out young people in need in our community; this could include english and math tutoring, basic reading and writing, and other subject tutoring. Please let the team know if you are interested.

Learning Lounge times are as follows:

- Tuesdays 3:15-5:15pm (12-18 year olds)
- Fridays 3:15-5:15pm (8-11 year olds)

The resources in the centre can also be used by young people for employment assistance in resume writing, printing and internet job searching during regular Youth Drop-in (12-18yo) on Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-6:00pm.

Please call 9834 2708 if you may be interested in more information.



The Learning Lounge Homework Centre at St Clair Youth Centre

New Youth Group in Erskine Park for 12—18 year olds

Youth drop-in will be available soon on Friday afternoon's to provide a place to hang out and join in on fun activities on offer.

The youth group will be held at Erskine Park Neighbourhood Centre, 57 Peppertree Drive. For more information please contact Linda Hayman our Youth Development Worker on 9834 2708.

Car Boot Sale!

Saturday 13 March 2010 - 8am—12pm

This community event is held at the **Autumnleaf Neighbourhood Centre** (corner of Autumnleaf Parade and Timesweep Drive St Clair); there will be a variety of stalls for you to find a bargain, with sausage sizzles and drinks available on the day.

If you are interested in having a stall there are spaces available for \$10, a table is provided. Please call the team on 9834 2708 for more information.

PPP Parenting Course available in St Clair

The 6 week course will run on Tuesday mornings from St Clair Youth Centre, 97a Cook Parade, St Clair and aims to promote child development and behaviour management to parents of young children.

The course is free (except for workbook - \$20.00); please contact Kathy or Brenda on 9833 6800 by 9 February to register.

My School website goes live

Recently the My School website went live.



The website enables parents to access the most comprehensive information that's ever been available about each and every school in the area

The site includes the results from two years of national literacy and numeracy testing, student and teacher numbers, attendance rates, socio-economic status, year 12 retention rates and the number of boys and girls at each school.

The My School Website will also allow the community to see how local schools are doing compared with statistically similar schools, as well as against the national average.

This will allow the Government to identify what schools are doing well and will share that best practice. And for schools that need a helping hand to lift standards, the Government will have new money and new targeted programs in order to help them lift those standards.

Kids only get one chance at education and I believe that we all, parents, teachers and the community, want to ensure it's world class.

To view the My School website, visit www.myschool.edu.au

Visit Chris' website **www.chrisbowen.net**

Visit Chris' website to read about community news and events. You'll also find copies of speeches he's delivered in Parliament, transcripts of his interviews and an archive of all his newsletters.



Chris in Canberra

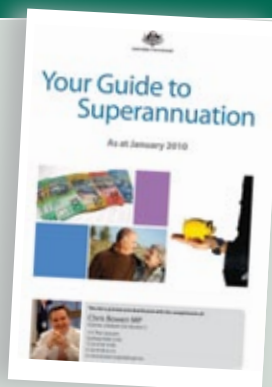
These are some of the speeches Chris has made in Parliament in 2009:



New Free Superannuation Kit

A new and updated Superannuation kit is now available.

The kit contains information about all the changes in superannuation current at January 2010 and is a valuable resource in helping people understand their superannuation.



For a free copy contact Chris' office on 9726 4100.

Congratulatory messages

Do you know someone about to celebrate a significant birthday or anniversary?

You can make arrangements for Congratulatory Messages to be sent to loved ones for 50th and 60th anniversaries, or 90th and 100th birthdays.

Visit www.chrisbowen.net to fill out a form or contact Chris' office on (02) 9726 4100.



- Corporations Legislation 29 October
- Health Insurance 26 October and 17 September
- Corporations Legislation 14 September
- Corporations (Termination Payments) 9 September
- International Monetary Agreement 7 September
- National Consumer Credit Protection 20 August
- Economy 18 August
- Employee Share Schemes 18 June
- International Monetary Agreements 15 June
- Fairer Health System 28 May
- International Monetary Agreements 28 May
- Car Dealership Financing 28 May

For a full listing of all of Chris' speeches, please visit www.chrisbowen.net

If you'd like a copy of any of Chris' speeches, please contact the office on 9726 4100.

This material has been produced by Chris Bowen MP using his printing and communications entitlement.

For further information on this or any other federal matter please contact Chris Bowen on

- Phone 9726 4100 • Fax 9724 6115 • Mail PO Box 802 Fairfield 1860
- Email chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au

The St Clair & Erskine Park Report

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM CHRIS BOWEN ■ YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PROSPECT ■ SUMMER 2010

115 THE CRESCENT FAIRFIELD ■ PO BOX 802 FAIRFIELD 1860 ■ PH: 9726 4100 ■ FAX: 9724 6115 ■ WWW.CHRISBOWEN.NET

Prospect to be renamed as McMahan

Chris is disappointed at news that the Prospect electorate will be renamed as McMahan. The Australian Electorate Commission made this decision without any consultation with the local community and there was no opportunity for the community to express its view after the decision was made. The name Prospect has

served the area well for forty years and dates back to the earliest days of British settlement.

While Chris is disappointed with the name change, he looks forward to representing the area under the electorate's new name. For more information about the name change, visit www.aec.gov.au

Chris Bowen writes



First let me begin by saying Happy New Year.

The beginning of a new year is always marked by the excitement of what lies ahead. We have much to look forward to in 2010.

Throughout 2010, new halls, libraries, language and science centres will be built at schools across Australia.

Solar panels will be installed in houses and schools and many homeowners will go one step further to help the environment by insulating their homes.

Local community projects, from better parks, better stormwater and drainage systems, and better sporting facilities, are all under way.

In this report, I'll tell you about the new Fair Work system, the success of recent local events and new Government initiatives which will benefit the community.

As always, if there is any Federal Government matter you would like to discuss with me, please contact my office on 9726 4100 or email me at chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au

Yours faithfully,



Chris Bowen MP
Federal Member for Prospect



Pink Ribbon Morning Tea



Chris speaks to a guest at the Pink Ribbon Morning Tea.

Chris recently hosted his annual Pink Ribbon Morning Tea which like previous years was a huge success. Over 250 local residents donned their best and brightest pinks to support breast

cancer research and pay tribute to local families affected by breast cancer. Great raffle prizes and Pink Ribbon merchandise proved very popular with over \$3,700 raised.

LOCAL EVENTS

Post box update

It's been brought to Chris' attention that Erskine Park residents do not have access to a post box in their suburb. It is inconvenient for residents to travel to St Clair to post their mail so Chris is committed to finding a solution.



The post box at Erskine Park shops was recently removed following a series of vandalism incidents against this box and others in neighbouring suburbs. Since then, construction work has precluded it being re-instated.

Chris has raised the issue with Australia Post and can provide you with an update.

Australia Post and Centre Management have agreed on a suitable location for the new post box but discussions are ongoing on a dedicated parking spot for Australia Post vehicles and the erection of appropriate signage.

Chris will continue to make representations to Australia Post and Centre Management on behalf of residents and request that this issue be resolved as quickly as possible.

Digital Education Revolution

The rollout of computers for classrooms continues with news that Prairiewood High School and Fairfield High School both received grants from the Rudd Government to finance the purchase of computers for pupils.

The funding will allow Prairiewood High School to purchase 171 computers while Fairfield High School will receive funds for 216 computers.

Under the Rudd Government, significant investment has gone into bringing schools into the digital environment confronting students in the 21st century.

In 2009, five schools in the electorate received the first batch of laptops under a separate Federal Government program. Over 1,000 laptops were allocated across Westfields Sports High, Fairvale High, Greystanes High, St Clair High and Erskine Park High Schools.



SUPPORTING JOBS

EMPLOYMENT

Fair Work **Australia**



The new Fair Work laws will ensure fairness and balance in the workplace.

On 1 January 2010, the Rudd Government delivered on its promise to get rid of Work Choices. We established the Fair Work System - a fair and balanced national workplace relations system.

From 1 January, all private sector employers and employees in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania, will be covered by the Fair Work system.

These changes will produce massive financial savings of \$4.83 billion to business and government over ten years.

Employees are now protected by a safety net of 10 National Employment Standards, which set out minimum conditions of employment. The National Employment Standards cover:

- Maximum weekly hours of work
- The right to request flexible working arrangements
- Parental leave and related entitlements
- Annual leave

- Personal/carer's leave and compassionate leave
- Community service leave
- Long service leave
- Public holidays
- Notice of termination and redundancy pay

A requirement for employers to provide a Fair Work Information Statement.

The National Employment Standards introduce, for the first time, a legislated right for workers with a child under school age or a disabled child under the age of 18 to request flexible working arrangements.

These reforms will make it easier for employers, employees and their representatives to understand their rights, responsibilities and entitlements at work. The Government has effectively reduced complexity and red tape in the workplace.

For more information, [visit www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au) or call the **Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94.**

Insulation register

Dodgy insulation installers who have broken the rules will be deregistered and named as part of Government action to protect local households.

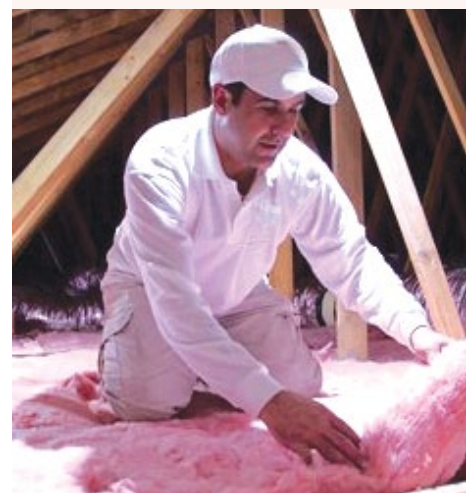
Chris received a number of complaints about poor workmanship and problems caused by dodgy installers.

The naming and shaming of dodgy installers sends a strong message to installers and the public that the Government is taking non-compliance with the insulation program requirements seriously.

If you are considering installing insulation, Chris encourages you to check that your installer is on the Installer Provider Register.

The list of deregistered installers is now available at www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency

If householders require further information on installers they should contact the information line on [1800 808 571](tel:1800808571).



Volunteer grants

Seventeen local non-profit organisations will receive grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering.



Chris Bowen talks to 'Meals on Wheels' volunteers.

“Every day, local volunteers act selflessly by devoting their time to helping those in need,” Chris said.

“Volunteers are the backbone of our community and these grants provide the opportunity to purchase new equipment and cover the cost of expenses such as fuel.”

The following organisations have been awarded grants

- **Australian Tamil Congress,** Wentworthville
- **Holy Spirit Community Outreach,** St Clair
- **The Cecil Park Clay Target Club,** Horsley Park
- **Community Action Services Australia,** Fairfield Heights
- **The Deaf Football Australia,** Greystanes
- **Fairfield Bulls Soccer Club,** Fairfield
- **Foundation SHED,** Greystanes
- **Granville District Soccer Referees Association,** Greystanes
- **Holroyd Parramatta Junior Australian Rules Football Club,** Greystanes
- **Minchinbury Jets Soccer Club,** Minchinbury
- **New Writers Group,** Wentworthville
- **Special Olympics Australia - Sydney West,** Greystanes
- **St John Ambulance, Fairfield Youth Division,** Fairfield
- **Congolese Community of Australia,** Fairfield
- **The 1st Smithfield Homenetmen Navasart Scouts,** Smithfield
- **Vinnies Centre Wentworthville,** Wentworthville
- **The Vietnamese Drugs and Alcohol Professionals,** Fairfield

FREE financial advice

Centrelink, through its Financial Information Service holds financial education seminars in a range of office locations.

THESE SEMINARS ARE AIMED AT

- younger people who want to know about how they can save for their future
- people nearing retirement who want to know how to prepare for it
- retirees who want to understand their pension and the options they have.

Here are some upcoming seminars for retirees or people nearing retirement. To book a place in a seminar, call 13 6357. You can view a full list of upcoming seminars at www.centrelink.gov.au/

Age Pension and your choices

LIVERPOOL

Centrelink Liverpool,
First floor, 211 Northumberland Street
17 February, 9 am to 10 am

PARRAMATTA

Parramatta City Library, Civic Place
10 February, 10 am to 12 pm

Understanding retirement income

CABRAMATTA

Cabravale Leisure Centre,
Broomfield Street
16 February, 6 pm to 7:30 pm

LIVERPOOL

Centrelink Liverpool,
First floor, 211 Northumberland Street
17 February, 10:30 am to 11:30 am

ST MARYS

St Marys Band Club,
411 Great Western Highway
24 February, 6 pm to 8 pm