

RUSSELL NORTHE MLA

Member for Morwell

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Community newsletter

Government bows to community pressure for Latrobe Creative Precinct

As the Member for Morwell and Chair of the "Get It Built" Committee I was pleased the State Government has bowed to community pressure and committed funding towards the long awaited Latrobe Creative Precinct.

Our local community has for many years desired to see the redevelopment of the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon, mainly due to its lack of seating capacity and issues with infrastructure.

This culminated in many high profile shows bypassing Latrobe in lieu of other venues and even local theatre groups having to host productions in other communities.

The community has pushed very hard for funding with thousands of petitions and pledges signed, rallies coordinated and the "Get it Built" committee established.

Unfortunately previous decisions made by some Councillors effectively led to a significant stalling of the project for many years.

I've highlighted the need for this project in Parliament on many occasions over the years and was pleased that the Government finally listened to the repeated requests from our community regarding the performing arts centre in Latrobe City.

It was also great to see Latrobe City Council committing \$10 million to the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre redevelopment.

For many years our community has fought long and hard to have the current facility redeveloped so to improve safety for local user groups and attract more high profile events to Latrobe City.

I congratulate Latrobe City Council for its hard work in advocating for these funds and look forward to seeing the redevelopment take shape so that future generations can continue to enjoy the events hosted at the Latrobe Creative Precinct.

Whilst its acknowledged that Federal Government funding is required to complete this project, I do know my Federal colleague Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester is very supportive.



Out & About...



With Brian MacIntosh, Chairman of the Traralgon Cemetery Trust at the opening of its new function room.



With Sue (Group Leader of Morwell East Scouts), Roy (Group Leader of Morwell Scouts), Anne and Mario from Gippsland FM. Thanks to Gippsland FM for supporting our local scouting groups who do a wonderful job in our local community.

Traralgon Bowling Club



Congratulations to the Traralgon Bowling Club on being joint winner of the Best Regional Club Bistro and for their nomination of Best Regional Gaming Club at the Community Clubs Victoria annual awards dinner recently.

Morwell Bowling Club



Well done to the team at Morwell Bowling Club for being joint winners of "Best Bowling Club" of the year and for being one of only four nominees for "Club of the Year" across Victoria.

Glengarry Primary School



Great to attend Glengarry Primary School recently to speak with students about Parliament and my role as a Member of Parliament.

1600 Barramundi released into Hazelwood Pondage

Recently 1600 barramundi were released into Hazelwood Pondage. barramundi are usually only found in northern Australia however the unusually warm water in the pondage may provide anglers with the chance to cast a line for the iconic species close to home.

Three sizes of barramundi were released consisting of 1000 fingerlings at 5cm, 500 fish at 10cm and 100 larger barramundi measuring 30cm. Fifteen of the larger fish carry acoustic tags to track their movements so more can be learned about their behaviour and preferred habitats.

Several listening stations have been positioned throughout the pondage and will monitor tagged fish movements and log water temperatures. To optimise the stocking trial and fish movement investigation, the pondage will be closed to all recreational fishing for six months. This will allow barramundi growth rates, diet composition, flesh quality and aggregation patterns to be studied without active fishing pressure.



Russell releasing a barramundi into the Hazelwood Pondage.

Latrobe Valley's unused nappies wanted

The Nappy Collective Giving Project is on again and I encourage local parents with leftover unused nappies to donate them.

The Nappy Collective Project aims to collect hundreds of thousands of leftover nappies from 400 official drop points in 39 towns and cities across Australia.

To date over 734,000 nappies have been collected since the commencement of the project in 2013.

The unused nappies will be distributed to women's shelters, programs for homeless mothers, organisations that support victims of domestic violence and young mothers in need.

The Nappy Collective was launched in 2013 after a group of mother's had some leftover nappies that their children had grown out of, unsure of what to do with them they decided to donate them to families less fortunate.

My office is a registered collection point for unused nappy donations with donations being accepted from Friday 6 May until Friday 20th May (inclusive).

For more information about the Nappy Collective you can visit www.thenappycollective.com/

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