



Murray Mail 40

26 OCTOBER 2018

The red gum industry has been in the spotlight over the past week, after I put forward the Notice of Motion for my Private Member's Bill to restore access to sustainable timber harvesting in the redgum forests by returning the Murray Valley National Park to a State Forest. The Notice of Motion is the first step in this parliamentary process.

Over the weekend I attended the exhibit of cardboard creations by the Monash Uni Architecture Students at Tocumwal as a lead up to the Strawberry Fields Festival (see photo below).

Before heading off to Parliament for the week, I spent a lovely morning on Monday with the Murrumbidgee Lachlan CWA Group at their conference in Hillston. Thanks for the wonderful welcome and hospitality!

Highlights of my week in Parliament have been:

- Hosting Carrathool Mayor Peter Laird whilst meeting with Health Minister Brad Hazzard to address the doctor's shortage. It is so pleasing that Dr Maria Sewell has accepted a position at the Hillston Medical Centre with Dr Kumar.

- Meeting with Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair about Murray Valley Groundwater issues.
- Attending the HCCC Committee meeting which is undertaking the inquiry into cosmetic health service complaints in NSW (as part of my parliamentary role on this committee).
- Hosting Leeton Mayor Paul Maytom and General Manager Jackie Kruger to discuss funding options for proposed projects in the shire with the Deputy Premier's Office and Sports Minister Stuart Ayres. We also caught up with Finance Minister Victor Dominello who gave the good news that the old Water Resources building will be sold to Leeton Sire for \$1.

Today I am in Wentworth and have had great pleasure in opening Wentworth Shire Council's Small Business Expo on behalf of the Deputy Premier John Barilaro. The event is part of Small Business Month.

Over the weekend I look forward to attending the NSW SES Leeton Unit for a very important naming ceremony (more details about this in next week's issue).

I will also be attending events for the Taste Coleambally festival. It will be a superb weekend in Coly and I urge you to get along to the events if you can. [More details.](#)

Finally, it's a great pleasure to announce that well-known local Julie Jewell has been appointed as the inaugural Electorate Officer in my new Buronga Electorate Office. Julie was selected from a strong field of candidates and will be a great asset to the Murray team.

Kind regards



Austin Evans

Member for Murray



On Sunday it was great to see the cardboard creations of the Monash Uni Architecture students at Tocumwal. This is a new part of the continuing efforts of the Strawberry Fields Festival to forge closer ties with the local community. The students designed the creations, laser cut them out and then constructed them. The dome was a good lesson - quick and easy enough to design, but then they found out how fiddly their design was when they had to put it together!



Good news for Leeton Shire with Finance Minister Victor Dominello notifying Mayor Paul Maytom and General Manager Jackie Kruger in person at Parliament House that the old Water Resources building will be sold to Council for \$1. Great outcome

that we have been chasing for a while.



Grandparents Day - this Sunday!

Grandparents Day is a day to connect across the generations and to recognise the important work seniors do in strengthening our community. Two events in Murray have received funding to host events to celebrate our grandparents:

- Griffith Shed for Men Open Day - Sunday 28 October - 560 Kalinda Road Griffith - 10am-2pm. [Details >>](#)
- Leeton Shire Council - 7 and 10 November - Leeton Shire Library. [Details >>](#)

Notice of Motion to restore access to timber resources in red gum forests

The Notice of Motion is the first step in putting forward a Private Member's Bill to return the Murray Valley National Park to State Forest and restore access to timber resources in the redgum forests for sustainable timber harvesting.

This issue was particularly important to me and has been one of my highest priorities.

[Read more >>](#)

Griffith company wins manufacturing award at Premier's NSW Export Awards

Congratulations to Griffith company Flavourtech for taking out the Manufacturing Exporter of the Year Award at the Premier's NSW Export Awards in Sydney on Wednesday night. It is the second year in a row [Flavourtech](#) won the award at the Premier's NSW Export Awards, which are led by the Export Council of Australia, with principal sponsorship from the NSW Government.

[Read more >>](#)

Murray tradies set to save big bucks under licensing reforms

Around 180 tradies in Murray will save approximately \$340,000 over 10 years by not having to renew their licenses every three years, as part of the NSW Government's Better Business Reforms. This follows extensive public consultation, which also showed significant support for retaining 13 home building licenses.

This is a fantastic outcome for consumers and our local tradies, because it maintains important protections, while also reducing costs.

[Read more >>](#)

Grants, scholarships and awards

[Start Strong Capital Works funding for preschools](#). Closing 2 November 2018.

[Waste Less Recycle More grants](#) - for Local Aboriginal Land Councils to improve waste management of discrete Aboriginal communities. Closing 5 pm, 2 November 2018.

[Incubator Event Funding](#) for events to be held from January to June 2019. Closing 4 November 2018.

[EPA Food Donation Education Grants](#) for community organisations and local councils for projects that redirect surplus quality food from waste. Closing 8 November 2018.

[Telstra Business Women's Awards](#). Closing 8 November 2018.

[Community War Memorials Fund and the Anzac Community Grants program](#). Applications close Remembrance Day, 11 November.

[NSW Women's Week](#) events. Applications close 12 November 2018, 5 pm.

[Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants](#) for environmental sustainability. Applications close 3 December 2018.

[Early Childhood education scholarships for Aboriginal people](#). Closing 7 December 2018.

[Environmental Trust grants](#) will be available for groups to apply new approaches to integrated river management. Applications open from Monday 29 October to Monday 11 February 2019.

[Conservation Partner Grants](#) to support private landholders in NSW. Offered through the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. Ongoing subject to availability.

[More details](#) on other funding opportunities.



If you would like an appointment to discuss any ideas, projects or issues you may have, please contact my Deniliquin or Griffith electorate offices. Together we can help our local communities to thrive!

