

Brownlie Towers make-over enters second phase



Work has commenced on the external upgrade to Brownlie Towers in Bentley, under the State Government's New Living project.

The New Living project seeks to reduce the concentration of Homeswest housing in certain suburbs, while at the same time refurbishing existing Homeswest housing. The project is designed to improve the standard of living at Brownlie Towers in a way that is appropriate to the needs of the community.

Brownlie Towers consists of 488 units owned by the Department of Housing and Works, and over 300 of these have been completely refurbished under the project. All lifts in the building have been replaced, and common areas improved.

Work has now begun on the external refurbishment of the Towers. This will include a new roof, the removal of cement

balconies and an external face-lift to the apartments, including the adjoining car parks.

This project is not only of benefit to residents of Brownlie Towers, but to the Bentley precinct as a whole. Residents of the Towers have informed me that since work on the New Living project began in 2004, incidents of crime have dropped, and people who live at the Towers have a new sense of pride in their complex. Work to the external of the Towers is due to be completed in 2008.

Orrong Road Fly-Over Nearly Completed!

Local residents can look forward to easier travel, with the Orrong Road Fly-Over to be completed very soon. The State Government first announced plans for the \$21 million, four-lane bridge in 2006.

The Fly-Over, located at the junction of Orrong Road and Leach Highway, will improve traffic flow and reduce travel times.

Over the years, my predecessor, the Hon Geoff Gallop and myself, have received many reports on the dangers experienced by motorists at this location. Main Roads has also identified the intersection as one of the most dangerous in Perth, and the Fly-Over should greatly increase safety for both motorists and pedestrians.

Work to the Fly-Over should be completed over the next month.



New Holyoake Centre Opens in Victoria Park

On Thursday 22 February, the new Holyoake Centre on Canning Highway was officially opened.

The Centre provides counselling and treatment for individuals suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, as well as their families.

Prior to moving to the new premises, Holyoake, a community-based organisation, was renting a centre in Newcastle Street, Perth. Marylyn New, chairwoman of Holyoake, stated that the new location would make a huge difference in the quality of service that Holyoake could provide. The number of clients helped by the centre in one year will eventually be doubled to 4000, and the centre has already increased its intake by 20 per cent.

I attended the Holyoake opening, and was impressed by the commitment of staff in tackling the enormous social problems caused by drug and alcohol abuse. Ms New informed me that 70 per cent of people presenting at Holyoake do not have a drug or alcohol addiction – they are family members seeking help for a loved one.

I welcome Holyoake into the Electorate, and congratulate them for the wonderful work they perform in our community.

Achievements of the Carpenter Government

1. Record economic growth.
2. Delivered record low unemployment rate of just 3.1% - 152,000 new jobs.
3. Exceeded apprenticeship and training targets – with now more than 32,000 positions.
4. Delivered seven balanced budgets in a row and retained the State's AAA credit rating.
5. Hired more than 1700 extra nurses.
6. Employed more than 1300 extra teachers.
7. Recruited 330 extra police officers and cut home burglary rates by more than 30%.
8. Introduced tough anti-hoon laws and slashed car theft rates by 40%.
9. Cut the waiting list for elective surgery by 4000 people.
10. Secured future water supplies with Australia's biggest desalination plant.
11. Created 33 new national parks, and three new marine parks.
12. Almost doubling the size of the Perth rail network.

Shepperton Road and Duncan Street Intersection gets green light

Local residents will be pleased to note that a right-turn arrow has been installed at the intersection of Shepperton Road and Duncan Street.

Many members of the community had contacted my office to complain that cars turning right at the intersection were failing to give way to pedestrians. This was a real safety concern, especially given the proximity of Ursula Frayne Catholic College to the intersection.

I was also made aware that motorists were hesitant to turn right into Duncan Street (east) due to the issue, and were instead deviating through side streets such as Axon, Gresham and Teague Streets. This created another safety issue for residents of those streets, who experienced increased traffic flow.

I have liaised extensively with the Main Roads Department on the issue, and was advised that the installation of the right-turn arrow was expedited to early March. This is a great result for all who use the intersection!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who brought this issue to my attention.



LOCAL CHAMBERS BUDGET BREAKFAST

6 JUNE 2007

BOTANICAL ROOM, BURSWOOD

Would you like to know what this year's budget means for your family or business? Then come to the Local Chambers Budget Breakfast and hear the facts straight from the Treasurer!

This year's breakfast will be hosted by Ben Wyatt MLA and the Victoria Park Local Chambers. Guest speakers include Treasurer Eric Ripper and Under-Treasurer Tim Marney. Tickets are \$50 for members and guests, and \$65 for non-members. For more information, or to reserve your spot at this popular event, contact the Victoria Park Local Chambers on 9472 9303.

Getting Tough on Crime

Crime rates in the South East Metropolitan Region continue to fall at a rapid rate.

Over the last four years:

- Burglary down by 42%!
- Vehicle Theft down by 45%!
- Property Damage down by 40%!
- Graffiti down by 27%!

This is great news for all residents, and the State Government remains committed to reducing crime even further. The new Burglary Action Taskforce, based in Cannington, is comprised of 26 officers dedicated to reducing burglary in our local area.

The State Government has also contributed \$20 million into DNA crime fighting and fingerprint technology.

*Figures as of March 2007.

Carpenter Government announces statewide broadband network strategy

The State Government has announced a strategy to deliver high speed broadband telecommunications and a range of associated services, such as voice, data, video, and mobile telecommunications, throughout Western Australia.

This is wonderful news for residents of Wilson and surrounding suburbs, who have been unable to access broadband despite being ADSL enabled since 2000. I believe that access to broadband is absolutely essential in this age of technology, and have raised the issue in State Parliament. Kim Wilkie, Federal Member for Swan, also addressed the broadband deficit in the Federal Parliament.

The State Government's StateWide Broadband Network (SBN) strategy will establish a \$1 billion contract with a private company to provide world-class broadband services to provide world-class broadband services. The State Government is the largest telecommunications customer in the State, with a \$100million annual budget. The Government will use this strong position to facilitate the installation of a high-speed competitive broadband network by the private sector throughout the state. In addition, the successful company will be required to build a high-speed broadband network to service all Western Australians, regardless of whether they live in Karrinyup or Kukerin.

The SBN strategy will ensure that Western Australian industry remains competitive, and that Western Australians continue to enjoy the benefits of modern telecommunications infrastructure.



Community Corner

MOONBAKI MULTICULTURAL CHOIR

Meets Sundays, 2-4pm

Beckenham Primary School, Railway Parade, Beckenham

Do you want to learn to sing, and at the same time meet new people and learn about other cultures? Then why not join the Moonbaki Multicultural Choir Group!

The group is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Interests, and is composed of people from different ethnic backgrounds, coming together in fellowship and comradery for cultural exchange and friendship.

There are no tuition or joining fees, and the only prerequisite is a love for music. You will be trained by a multi-award winning, professional musician, and you will be given the opportunity to share your rich ethnic tradition. The choir group is also available to perform at your local function.

For more details, phone or fax Emma on 9358 5923.

DON'T DUMP IT, DONATE IT!

The Cerebral Palsy Association of WA is urging Western Australians to recycle their unwanted mobile phones.

Not only will you help save the environment from long-term pollution and reduce the strain on the earth's resources by recycling, you will be assisting the Association to provide specialised communication devices to help children and adults with cerebral palsy.

The Cerebral Palsy Association has provided me with a number of satchels that can be used to send your mobile to them free of charge for recycling. I urge everyone who is upgrading their mobile phone to visit my office and pick up a satchel – it's one small way that you can make a difference.



REACHING OUT TO CARERS

Did you know that one in five households has a family member who acts as a carer?

Carers WA, Commonwealth Care Respite Centre, Carelink and Centrelink have formed "Care Necessities", for all your care contacts under one roof. These include:

Taking a Break 1800 059 059

For Commonwealth Care Respite

Support for Carers 1300 227 377

Carers WA

Links to Care Services 1800 052 222

Commonwealth Carelink

CERVICAL CANCER VACCINE

More than 90,000 WA school girls between 12 and 18 years of age will be offered a free vaccine to reduce the risk of cervical cancer, under an immunisation program run by the Department of Health.

For more information, contact my office on 9361 1777.

Does your community group have an upcoming event? Contact my office to advertise in our next newsletter, or to post a flyer in the office window.

Just some of the ways I can help

- Advocate on behalf of local residents with State Government Departments, Agencies, and Government Ministers.
- Assist in applying for various funding programs from the State Government.
- Put you in contact with other community groups and organisations.
- Assist with information on State, Federal and Local Government matters.
- Address important local issues.
- Submit your petition to Parliament - the correct petition format is available from my office.

I am always happy to discuss any issue of concern to the Electorate. In addition, my office can provide you with information on a range of issues. Some of the pamphlets and publications that are available from my office are:

- Users Guide - Motorised Wheelchairs (includes Gophers)
- The Little Black Book of SCAMS
- Local Government: A Brief Guide
- Managing and Avoiding Debt: A Young Person's Guide
- Renting A Home in Western Australia
- Bereavement Information Guide
- Used car Safety Ratings
- Buying a Car - a Buyer's Checklist
- Homebuyer's Survival Guide for WA.

Issues you would like me to raise in Parliament

As your local Member, it is my responsibility to raise any issues that are affecting my Electorate in Parliament. To assist me to represent you, it would be appreciated if you could take the time to fill out this survey and indicate which issues are most important to you. Please number the boxes in order of importance:

- Housing affordability
- Domestic violence
- Law and order
- Environmental policy
- Mental health
- Future infrastructure requirements
- Senior Citizens' concerns
- Education and employment
- Local roads
- The future of WA's economy

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail to PO Box 4373, Victoria Park, WA, 6979

Housing help for WA battlers

The Carpenter Government has taken steps to address housing affordability in Western Australia.

"This is a complex area that requires a range of policy responses," said Premier Alan Carpenter. "The Government is developing a range of initiatives that will help secure more affordable housing onto the market."

One initiative is the Government's \$300 million First Start program, which aims to assist 3,000 Western Australian families purchase their own home. The First Start program is a shared equity scheme where the Department of Housing and Works purchases a share in a property and then provides the homebuyer with a Keystart low-deposit loan to purchase the remaining share.

All properties purchased under the scheme are stamp-duty exempt.

The Department will purchase:

- up to 40% for families with incomes under \$60,000
- up to 30% for couples with incomes under \$50,000
- up to 30% for singles with incomes under \$35,000

The maximum property price considered will be \$365,000.

The State Government has also recognised that the issue of housing affordability has impacted on WA families who are renting. Housing Minister Michelle Roberts has called

on the Federal Government to provide greater assistance to struggling WA families. Since 2001, the average rent has increased by 60%, while rent assistance has risen by less than 5%.

"The paltry levels of Commonwealth Rent Assistance and their shameful effects are being felt throughout the State," said Ms Roberts.

Families who wish to rent but are having difficulties in meeting bond requirements are encouraged to contact the Department of Housing and Works, who may assist under the Bond Assistance Scheme.

New facilities for Carson Street School



Ben and John Exeter, the Principal of Carson Street School.

The Carpenter Government has provided \$180,000 towards improving facilities for students with special needs at Carson Street School in East Victoria Park.

The funds will be used to outfit the school's independent living centre, so that students may learn how to perform ordinary household chores, such as cooking, washing and cleaning.

In addition, \$80,000 of the grant will be used to purchase a new hoist and tracking system to lower students into the school's hydrotherapy pool. The hoist that the school was previously using was very crude, and the new hoist will allow them to access the pool in a more dignified and safe manner.

Carson Street School is the State's only junior education support school that caters for students with such disabilities that they cannot enter mainstream schooling. It is an absolutely amazing school, and I am very pleased that the State Government was able to provide this assistance.

Life support equipment subsidy

The WA Government has introduced the Life Support Equipment Energy Subsidy, to assist financially disadvantaged persons meet the electricity costs of operating life support equipment at home.

Some types of equipment considered include ventilators, feeding pumps, heart pumps and children's nebulisers.

To be eligible, you may be either the patient, where the life support equipment is for your own use, or the guardian or primary care giver of the patient. You must also hold a valid Pensioner Concession or Health Care Card.

For more information, or to obtain an application form, please contact my office on 9361 1777.

Advice for WA Seniors

Did you know that you could save up to \$1500 a year on State Government concessions by becoming a WA Seniors Card member?

To qualify, you must be:

- 60 years of age or more
- A permanent resident of Western Australia
- Working 20 hours or less per week.

Application forms are available from most major banks, local government offices and my Electorate office.

Seniors can also gain advice on issues such as accommodation, education, health and finance by ringing the **Seniors Telephone Information Service**. The service is staffed by 36 volunteers, so you will always speak to a real person at the end of the phone. The service operates between 9am and 3pm weekdays. Just phone **6217 8855**.

Many Seniors are also logging onto the Seniors Card website at www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au for the latest seniors' information.

Seniors may also wish to contact my office on **9361 1777** for a copy of my **Seniors Information Kit**, which provides advice on many issues affecting seniors within the community.



Ben with Jim Booker, the coordinator of the Internet Lounge at the Carlisle Seniors Centre where he runs the First Click program.

First Click refunded

The Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Minister for Education and Training, has announced that the popular First Click program will be refunded for a further three years.

First Click is a program designed to teach seniors, people with disabilities, Indigenous people and women seeking to re-enter the workforce how to use computers and the Internet. These skills can be of great benefit to seniors seeking to remain active in the community. The program has received widespread local support, and I am sure that many people will be pleased with the Government's decision to continue the program.



Ben Wyatt's Newsletter

Ben Wyatt MLA, Member for Victoria Park
Shop 2, 896 Albany Highway East Victoria Park 6101

2007

Telephone: 9361 1777 • Facsimile: 9470 2875 • Email: victoriapark@mp.wa.gov.au

Your Views, Your Voice

It is with great pleasure that I provide you with my latest newsletter concerning issues and events in the Electorate of Victoria Park and the State of Western Australia.

It has been just over 12 months since I was elected to Parliament to represent the people of Victoria Park and it has been an extremely hectic year! There is always so much happening in our community, from school activities, to art shows, to sporting matches.

Working together with the community, a number of important local issues have been addressed, and I have noted some of these below for your interest.

These issues could not have been resolved without input from the Electorate, and sometimes I am not aware of a concern until it is brought to my attention. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that I am always willing, and keen, to discuss any topic with constituents whether it be a local, State or Federal Government concern.

I hope you enjoy this edition of my newsletter, and I look forward to working with you.

This year...

ISSUE I was approached by several victims of domestic violence, claiming that they'd been turned away by their local GP when seeking assistance.

RESULT I raised this issue in Parliament which resulted in significant public comment and the change in policy by a number of medical practices.

ISSUE Many constituents reported unacceptably long waiting times when taking their driving test.

RESULT After raising this with the Minister on several occasions, I have been informed that more staff have been hired, which should considerably cut waiting times, and more are being recruited.

ISSUE Parents and teachers from Ursula Frayne Catholic College, as well as residents of the surrounding area, expressed concern about the lack of a right-turn arrow on the intersection of Shepperton Road and Duncan Street.

RESULT A right-turn arrow was installed in March.

ISSUE I became aware that many local youth suffering from Mental Health issues were in need of further assistance.

RESULT A new "Transition Unit" has been installed at Bentley Hospital, which will provide intensive support to these youth.

ISSUE Many of our local Seniors were outraged when funding for the popular "First Click" program was under threat.

RESULT Working with the Seniors, my office brought the issue before the Minister and "First Click" will be refunded for a further three years.

ISSUE The lack of affordable housing.

RESULT I strongly believe that this is something that needs to be addressed. Locally, the Quattro redevelopment offers affordable housing options. State-wide, the Carpenter Government has introduced the First Home Owner's Shared Equity Scheme - details of this are inside.

ISSUE Many constituents complained about the lack of bus shelters.

RESULT The State Government has contributed \$45,000 to replace four local shelters and build five new shelters.

