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Sent: Tuesday, 1 September 2020 2:28 PM
To: Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice
Subject: Local update

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Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice

Today marks the [first day of the bushfire season](#) in the Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla. I know this will be a challenging time for many, as our [bushfire recovery](#) continues and we work to prepare our communities for what comes next.

In August, our community was again [devastated by floods](#), and felt the impact of COVID-19 once more. We are not out of the woods yet.

I will continue working alongside local people to ensure we are receiving the [help and support we need](#). If you have any ideas about how we can become better prepared for the next bushfire season, or how we can better support local recovery efforts, I would love to hear your thoughts. Please don't hesitate to reach out on 4423 1782 or email me at Fiona.Phillips.MP@aph.gov.au.



We need a plan for aged care

The crisis we have seen unfolding in aged care across the country over the last several months is absolutely unacceptable. The Prime Minister has continually refused to take responsibility for what is happening and has failed our vulnerable older citizens time and time again.

The government knew about the problems in aged care months ago, but they have done nothing to address them.

That is why Labor has recently announced a plan for the aged care crisis which includes:

1. Minimum staffing levels in residential aged care;
2. Reduce the home care package waiting list so more people can stay in their homes for longer;
3. Ensure transparency and accountability of funding to support high quality care;

4. Independent measurement and public reporting as recommended by the Royal Commission;
5. Ensure adequate personal protective equipment in every residential aged care facility;
6. Better staff training, including on infection control;
7. A better surge workforce strategy; and
8. Provide additional resources so the Royal Commission can inquire specifically into COVID-19 across the sector without delaying its final report.

Older people in our community deserve better than what the Morrison Government has been doing. I sincerely hope the government takes up Labor's plan as a matter of urgency.



Celebrating local projects

On Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the Shoalhaven Heads Rural Fire Service Extensions and Tanker handover. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to celebrate such a positive milestone for one of our local RFS brigades. Once again, I would like to thank all our amazing

RFS volunteers and workers for all you have done to protect our community this year, and every year.

I was also pleased to help turn the sod on the new Far North Collector Road development which is being undertaken thanks to \$13.8 million in Federal funding. This project will connect Taylors Lane, Cambewarra to the roundabout at McMahon's Road and Illaroo Road North Nowra. It will hopefully ease traffic on the Illaroo Road and Princes Highway intersection, and I am thrilled to see it progressing.

On Friday, I was also excited to attend the opening of the Eurobodalla Repair Cafe at the Red Door Hall. It was lovely to talk with volunteer repairers and hear their stories. Well done to the South Coast Health and Sustainability Alliance on this great initiative. The Repair Cafe is open each Friday 10am-2pm - pop on in with your item and have a chat and cuppa.





JobKeeper changes pass the Parliament

Last week, the government's changes to the JobKeeper legislation passed the Parliament. I know how important this subsidy has been for local people, local businesses and local jobs. But many of the problems JobKeeper has had from the start have still not been fixed. I was glad to have a brief opportunity to [share some local stories](#) as part of the legislation debate.

The government has already [removed JobKeeper from early educators](#) and I don't want to see this lifeline taken away from businesses that need it. This is particularly true for businesses impacted by the bushfires.

I want to ensure that local people are getting the help they need, when they need it. So I will continue raising local stories to let the government know we can't lose JobKeeper too soon.



Commemorating local veterans

In recent weeks I have been [proud to attend](#) three local ceremonies to honour and commemorate our veterans.

This year we mark 75 years since the end of the Second World War, a momentous occasion. Like many things this year, though, our commemorations have been hampered by COVID-19, with services across the South Coast scaled down or, sadly, cancelled altogether. I joined a small group of veterans at the Nowra War Memorial to mark the occasion, with the Nowra and Bomaderry RSL sub-branches managed to put together a fitting yet safe tribute.

I was also proud to join with the Sussex Inlet RSL sub-branch for a combined commemorative service to mark Vietnam Veterans' Day, National Servicemens' Day, the Korean War Ceasefire Day and VP Day. I was absolutely honoured to present special commemorative medallions to some of our surviving World War II veterans as well as saluting their service awards to 18 local veterans. It was a moving and special service.

At sunset on Vietnam Veterans Day, I also joined with the Shoalhaven Vietnam Veterans' Association to honour those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. It was fantastic to see a good community turnout as well as many local veterans.

To [mark the end of the Second World War](#), the Australian Government has now made [special commemorative medallions](#) available to all living World War II veterans. If you or someone you love would be entitled to one, please contact my office on 4423 1782 or email me at Fiona.Phillips.MP@aph.gov.au and I can help you apply.





National TAFE Day

In August, we marked [National TAFE Day](#). While we might not have had any marches this year due to COVID-19, it did not take away from the importance of this day - or TAFE as an institution.

Since 2013, the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has slashed \$3 billion in funding from our TAFEs. But now more than ever, we need to be investing in TAFE to train our essential workers, to help with our economic recovery, and ensure that local people can get local jobs.

I will always stand up for TAFE.



Eurobodalla bushfire recovery

I was delighted to join with the recovery service coordinator Jane Moxon and Eurobodalla Shire Council to [officially open](#) the Eurobodalla Bushfire Recovery Support Service recently. I have long fought for case managers so people can get the help they need to recover from the bushfires. I am thrilled to see that come to life in the Eurobodalla - this is a huge win for our community. Thank you to Jane, council and the whole team for their remarkable work supporting our community.

The Eurobodalla Bushfire Recovery Service is open Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm at 46 Vulcan Street, Moruya (next to the Moruya Pharmacy) and can be contacted on 4474 7434 or by email at recovery@esc.nsw.gov.au.

I also stopped in to see how the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens was recovering after the bushfires and I enjoyed a very informative tour from Michael, Andrew and Sally from the Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. As time goes on, it is comforting to see some life coming

back into our environment and wonderful community assets like the gardens.
Thank you to all the workers and volunteers who are making this possible!

Maureen and Corey from Mogo's Original Gold Rush Colony have not lost their passion or commitment to showcasing Mogo's history, even following the devastating impact of the bushfires. It was lovely to spend an afternoon with them to hear about their plans and dreams for the future.

We have been through so much this year, but the resilience I have seen from local people is nothing short of amazing.



Parliament is back again

Parliament is again sitting this week, with many important things on the agenda. So far this sitting fortnight, I have spoken on support for our [dairy farmers](#), the needs for more [social and affordable housing](#), our amazing [local volunteers](#), the impact of COVID-19 on our [tourism industry](#) and on [childcare](#). I've also shared stories on local [veterans](#), the recent [floods](#) and [JobKeeper](#).

You can keep up to date on my latest speeches and media releases [on my website](#).

Fiona



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