

CUNNINGHAM EXAMINER

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Welcome to the November issue of the *Cunningham Examiner*:

Its purpose is to keep you updated on issues affecting our local community. I want to hear from you too. If you want to promote a community event or just make a comment, my contact details are:

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**HELENSBURGH
SPECIAL EDITION**

Previous editions of the *Cunningham Examiner* can be found on Sharon's website.

Helensburgh sporting facilities \$65,000 boost

A Rudd Labor Government will provide a contribution of up to \$65,000 to local community sporting facilities in Helensburgh.

Senator Kate Lundy, Shadow Minister for Local Government, Sport, Recreation and Health Promotion and Sharon Bird, Federal Member for Cunningham made the announcement when they visited Helensburgh recently.

The commitment includes funding for:

- A lighting upgrade at Helensburgh Tennis Club (\$15,000);
- Two new netball courts at Helensburgh Netball Club for a summer twilight competition (\$30,000);
- Court resurfacing to improve safety of two courts at Helensburgh Netball Club (\$13,500); and
- Completion of the new clubhouse at Helensburgh Netball Club (\$6500).

"Labor understands the pressures community sporting clubs are under. We want to make sure that they receive the support they need to provide opportunities for our communities to be active," Senator Lundy said.

"We know that sport and recreation plays such an integral part in the social fabric of our community. I am proud to be part of Kevin Rudd's Labor team that recognises the importance of supporting local sporting groups to build and maintain these facilities," Sharon Bird said



Sharon Bird and Kate Lundy with Irene Crowe (far left) from the Helensburgh Tennis Club and Dave Allen (far right) from the Wollongong Tennis Administration.



Sharon Bird and Kate Lundy with local netballers Kristy Moller, Cheryl Gagan and Judith Skiller.

Kevin Rudd & Sharon Bird New Leadership

Authorised by Sharon Bird MP, Shop 501, Globe Lane, Wollongong

Helensburgh horse owners tell of fight against equine influenza

Senator Kerry O'Brien, Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Cunningham MP Sharon Bird recently convened a teleconference with Helensburgh horse owners affected by the recent equine influenza (EI) outbreak.

"We heard first hand how horse owners are fighting the outbreak, and Kerry and I both committed Federal Labor to standing by these affected businesses," Sharon Bird MP said.

The teleconference with horse owners and horse industry businesses from the

Helensburgh area gave first hand feedback on how the EI battle was progressing to Senator O'Brien and Sharon Bird.

Senator O'Brien was visiting Cunningham to meet horse owners and assess the impact equine influenza is having on the community. Senator O'Brien told The Examiner that "Labor is committed to supporting horse owners, but we also support a full independent inquiry into how the Howard Government let the virus into the country in the first place."

Australia was free of the debilitating virus

until this year when it is believed to have escaped quarantine. The circumstances surrounding the outbreak are being investigated by former High Court Judge, Justice Ian Callinan QC and his report is due out next year.

Senator O'Brien, Sharon Bird MP and Jennie George MP, Federal Member for Throsby also meet with officials from the Kembla Grange Turf Club, Dapto Greyhound Racing Club and Bulli Turf Club to discuss the effect of equine influenza on the racing industry whilst Senator O'Brien was in the area.

Helensburgh Village Fair a success

Helensburgh's annual Village Fair was held on Saturday 27 October and was another success. "Congratulations go to the Lions Club who again organised a fantastic fair," Cunningham MP Sharon Bird said.

The fair is the major fundraising activity for the Lions Club. Sharon Bird MP joined Lions Club volunteers and the community at the opening of the fair.

Local songstress Rebecca Mowbray was well received when she helped open the event with an impressive rendition of Advance Australia Fair. Visitors and locals took the opportunity to listen to music and try some great food and see the displays of many important local volunteer groups and societies. The variety of stalls allowed many to get a start on Christmas shopping whilst the kids had fun on carnival rides and face painting.

"Again the Lions Club has excelled and set the example for community participation that we should all follow," Sharon Bird concluded.



Sharon discussing local issues with residents at the Village Fair this year.

Bird swoops on Symbio



Photo of a koala taken by Sharon during her visit in September.

Cunningham MP Sharon Bird has praised Helensburgh wildlife park Symbio for raising awareness of the need to protect our unique flora and fauna.

"On a recent visit to the park I was struck by how good a job it does in conveying the need to protect wildlife. Often city dwellers don't get a chance to get up close with our wildlife so they may be a bit removed from the need to protect our animals," she said.

Symbio, established in 1975, is an award winning zoo and a sought after destination for visitors interested in an authentic bush experience. The zoo also allows visitors to touch and feed wildlife.

Exhibits include meerkats, kangaroos, koalas, dingoes and even a crocodile show. The zoo runs a volunteer program that sees people over the age of 15 helping zookeepers by cleaning out enclosures, preparing food, taking visitors around the park and even making toys for animals to play with.

"The family owned business is a great success story of matching environmental values with practical action," Sharon Bird concluded.

Labor tackles renewable energy

A Rudd Labor Government will set a 20% Renewable Energy Target for Australia by 2020.

"This renewable energy target demonstrates how serious we are about tackling climate change," Sharon Bird said.

The target brings Australia into line with most developed nations including Europe, China and many American states.

Labor's 20% target is the equivalent of powering Australia's 7.5 million homes for a year.

A Rudd Labor Government will significantly expand the use of solar, wind and geothermal energy.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the generation of electricity is one of the central challenges in tackling climate change.

A Rudd Labor Government will by 2020:

- Increase the total number of gigawatt hours of renewable energy produced in Australia each year from the current Howard Government target of 45,000 to 60,000 gigawatt hours;
- Cut red tape and bring existing state-based targets into a single national scheme;
- Reduce emissions between 2010 and 2030 by 342 million tonnes; and
- Focus the target on renewable energy in order to significantly boost Australia's solar, wind and geothermal energy industries.

"We must make renewable energy a focus, while increasing our work on clean coal technology. That's why Labor has also committed \$500 million to the development of clean coal and low emission technologies through the National Clean Coal Initiative," Sharon Bird concluded.



Kevin Rudd and Labor will significantly expand the use of renewable energy.

Free information kits, factsheets and DVDs

My office provides information kits on many different areas. If you wish to order any of the kits below, please fill out the form below and return to: Sharon Bird MP, PO Box 387, Wollongong 2520.

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Labor's 5 Point Plan for Small Business

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Please mail to: Sharon Bird MP, PO Box 387, Wollongong, NSW 2520.
For more information please phone Sharon's office on 4228 5899.

Local breast cancer sufferer thanks community for support

STANWELL PARK RESIDENT AND BREAST CANCER SUFFERER MICHELLE RADFORD HAS ASKED SHARON BIRD TO THANK THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THIS NEWSLETTER FOR RAISING OVER \$50,000 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF HER CANCER TREATMENT.

When Michelle was diagnosed with breast cancer, her oncologist recommended treatment with Herceptin in an attempt to reduce the chance of the cancer spreading. Michelle and her husband, Steven, and their five young children were devastated to learn that Herceptin was not listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and her treatment was going to cost the family over \$50,000.

Steven took charge and began writing to local MPs to try and obtain support for the listing of Herceptin on the PBS as there was no way the family could afford the cost of treatment at that price.

"Sharon Bird was a strong lobbyist in the campaign to get Herceptin listed on the PBS. She also knew that the process would take

some time and suggested fundraising in the meantime to assist me in the immediate future," Michelle said.

"Because of the strong support of people like Sharon in bringing the Herceptin campaign to national attention, Herceptin was approved by the PBS halfway through Michelle's treatment enabling her to donate the remaining funds of \$25,000 to the Jo McKay Foundation.

Key corporate supporters included the Illawarra Credit Union, Helensburgh Bi-Lo, Helensburgh Lions Club and the Rotary Club of Corrimal.

A series of very successful and enjoyable fundraising evenings were also organised by Jan Hill, Karen Carpenter, Cathy Deem, Libby Cross, Vicky Touite and Tracey Weir.



Cathy Deem, Olympic Gold Medalist Kerryn McCann, Jan Hill, Sharon Bird, Tracey Weir and Michelle Radford at Michelle's "Pink" fundraiser at Helensburgh's Centennial Hotel.

Otford Public School campaign

Cunningham MP Sharon Bird is asking Helensburgh residents to get behind the Otford Public School campaign to get laptops for each of their students.

"When Peter Garrett and I visited the school (as reported in a previous Examiner) we were both impressed by the fundraising drive of the teachers and students. Now I'm asking the broader community get behind the fundraising effort," Ms Bird said.

As Examiner readers will know, in July 2008, a group of teachers and parents from Otford are planning to cycle 1500km along the Gunbarrel Highway, a corrugated dirt track stretching from Wiluna in central Western Australia to Uluru in the Red Centre.

Sponsorship levels range from \$15 to \$5,000 and can be arranged by contacting Otford Public School Principal Peter Holmes on 4294 1323.

Labor offers \$500 rebates for rainwater tanks

A Rudd Labor Government will help 500,000 households across Australia install rainwater tanks or grey water pipes to help combat Australia's urban water shortages through a National RainWater/GreyWater Plan.

Federal Labor will invest \$250 million over six years to offer a rebate of up to \$500 for 500,000 homes to help install new piping for grey water use or rainwater tanks.

Tackling the nation's urban water shortages is also about securing Australia's economic future and prosperity.

Choice magazine says using grey water from the laundry, dishwashing, shower and the bath can save the average family of four up to 4,000 litres every week.

The National Rainwater/GreyWater Plan alone could see up to 50,000 million litres of grey water saved every year if all available grey water is used. That's the equivalent of 25,000 Olympic swimming pools every year.

This new \$500 rebate for grey water pipes and rainwater tanks is an investment that complements existing subsidies and will make a real difference for families to make their homes water efficient.

Federal Labor will work in partnership with State and local authorities to deliver this practical plan and ensure that local health and environmental standards are achieved.



Labor is promising a \$500 rainwater tank rebate if elected.

Authorised by Sharon Bird MP, Shop 501, Globe Lane, Wollongong