



GRIFFITHS FOR GOYDER

WORKING FOR YOU IN GOYDER

Steven Griffiths MP JP

Member for Goyder

Shadow Minister for Finance

Employment, Training & Further Education

Public Sector Management and Federal/State Relations



Welcome to 2008.....

Happy New Year, I trust 2008 has started well and is going to be a prosperous year for all.

2007 was another busy year in the Goyder Electorate, as well as in State Parliament.

Within our electorate many wonderful events were held including the Kernewek Lowender, the Balaklava Cup, and the Yorke Peninsula Field Days.

It is great to see these and many other events going from strength to strength and the region gaining an excellent tourism boost.

The recent festive break also attracted hundreds of thousands of tourists to the electorate. With the Easter weekend fast approaching it is hoped continued economic benefits from tourism will be enjoyed by local business and industry.

With development on the rise in our region and tourism numbers increasing, it is important that government funding for services and infrastructure is forthcoming. Crucial funding is needed for our roads, health services, schools and small business.

Together with my colleagues, I continue to work hard to put pressure on the government to ensure people and businesses in regional South Australia have a voice.



Steven and Donna Griffiths talk to visitors at the YP Field Days in September at the Goyder listening post.



School Presentations



Again in 2007 I was determined to visit as many schools in our electorate as possible.

I was honoured to be invited to attend school assemblies, performances and award presentations throughout the year.

As an advocate for youth and education I donated a 'Steven Griffiths MP' award to schools. In the lead up to the end of year break in December I took the opportunity to present many of these awards to the students.

I visited the Hamley Bridge Primary School, Harvest Christian School, Balaklava Primary and Horizon Christian School, Maitland Lutheran School, SYP Christian College, Yorketown Area School, Minlaton District School, Maitland Area School and Kadina Memorial High School. Congratulations to all award winners and I look forward to visiting schools in 2008.

Goyder Electorate Office

51 Robert Street, MAITLAND SA 5573

Phone: 8832 2455 Fax: 8832 2699 Email: Goyder@parliament.sa.gov.au Website: www.stevengriffiths.net

Lions Youth of the Year winners visit Parliament House

On Thursday, 17 January, I had the pleasure of hosting the national and state winners of the Lions Youth of the Year Quest at Parliament House.

The Quest is a community project designed to encourage, foster and develop leadership qualities in young Australians aged between 16-18. It was an honour to meet such inspiring young achievers.

South Australia/Northern Territory winner, Lucy Radowicz of Balaklava, hosted the State winners in her hometown for almost a week in January.

With more than 2,500 young people competing in the Quest each year, Lucy and the other five winners from across Australia have been successful in making their way through zone, region, district and state finals.

It is a credit to Lucy and the Balaklava Lions for their work in hosting the young achievers on their recent visit.



Lions Youth of the Year winners tour Parliament House with local member, Steven Griffiths MP, and SA winner Lucy Radowicz (second left, front row) with hosts from the Balaklava Lions Club.

Water Issues

As the drought continues the River Murray is suffering terribly and alternate water sources such as stormwater retention and re-use, effluent scheme treatment and the establishment and use of desalination plants need to be investigated immediately. On 14 February I moved a motion in Parliament calling upon the government and SA Water to ensure that the future water demands for the Goyder electorate can be met. The restrictions on extending the supply of water in Goyder have been an issue for many years, with at least 16 communities across the region not having access to a reticulated water supply through the mains network. In 2007 a seawater desalination plant at Marion Bay was constructed. Developers of The Dunes at Port Hughes now propose a desalination unit to supply water to the golf course. While the District Council of the Copper Coast have indicated a preferred location for the desalination plant they are not the group who will make a decision on the application. Various State Government departments will be involved in the assessment of the desalination plant to ensure that it meets all environmental requirements and the government will have the final say on if approval is granted. If approved, I am advised by the developers that the desalination plant will be used until sufficient reclaimed water is available from other sources.

Employment winners bring pride to region



The inaugural "Celebration of Employment" awards dinner was held on Saturday, 1 December 2007, at the Kadina Town Hall.

Donna and I were among the 130 guests who attended the dinner and presentation ceremony which was sponsored by the District Councils of the Copper Coast, Yorke Peninsula and Barunga West, Wakefield Regional Council, Yorke Regional Development Board, Regional Australian Apprenticeships Centre and TAFE SA.

The awards are a fantastic initiative to showcase the great people, services and businesses we have in our region. I hope it becomes an annual event because we have many wonderful things happening within our communities.

Congratulations to all award winners and runners-up. It is also a credit to all who were nominated for awards.

Winners of the five categories were:

Trainee of the Year—Sasha Taylor, Balaklava Chemplus
School Based Apprentice of the Year—Sarah McMurray, Edithburgh Surf & Tackle

Apprentice of the Year—Matthew Kovac, Pt Vincent Service Station
Employee of the Year—Stephen Goldsworthy, DC of Yorke Peninsula

Employer of the Year—M A Skinner Pty Ltd, Wallaroo

LEFT: Steven and Ian O'Loan (Yorke Regional Development Board) present Mark Skinner of M A Skinner Pty Ltd with the Employer of the Year award

Harvest Report

Despite ongoing drought conditions in 2007 cereal yields were higher than expected in some of the State's key cropping regions.

The PIRSA Crop and Pasture report indicates that the 2007/2008 harvest resulted in 4.97 million tonnes of grain and cereal being harvested, up from 2.94 million tonnes last season.

Results from Yorke Peninsula show a total of 1.033 million tonnes of grain and cereal was harvested from 538,400 hectares and throughout the Lower North, 233,200 tonnes was taken from 112,800 hectares of farming land.

Crop yields were very patchy depending on crop sowing times and soil types. The season varied from region to region with a significant number of producers still struggling to reap decent crops.

However below average yields teamed with higher grain prices meant better returns than last season for many.

In some cases farmers who were locked into forward contracts were unable to reap enough grain to fulfil their agreement, resulting in the financial burden of having to pay out their contract.

In 2008 farmers face rising fertiliser and fuel costs so again this year we will all look to the skies and pray for decent soaking rains.

Even if good rains fall in 2008 it will take farmers, businesses and communities time to recover financially and emotionally.



Photo courtesy of Plains Producer

Above: Murray Jericho in his crop near Balaklava during harvest

It is important that people are aware of the assistance that is available and to know that they are not alone in facing tough times.

I urge all affected by the drought, or if you know someone who needs help, to call the **drought hotline on 180 20 20 or log onto www.service.sa.gov.au/drought.asp** for information about Exceptional Circumstances relief payments (ECRP), interest rate subsidies, concessions, tax relief, mental health support and counselling, and the apprentice retention scheme for business.

Figures show that to 11 January 2008, 2265 ECRP applications have been approved across South Australia and \$33.39 million in payments have been received.

CFS volunteers heaven sent



Photo's of the fire raging out of control at Foul Bay, the flames reaching up to 3 metres above the scrub and the aftermath.



Country Fire Service (CFS) crews were pushed to the limit as fires blazed across the State in early December as lightning strikes ignited crop stubble and dry grass.

In one day Yorke Peninsula CFS units were sent out to fires across northern, central and southern parts of the region.

Fires on SYP raged out of control at Foul Bay and Warooka, while another was attended to southwest of Edithburgh. Southern Yorke Peninsula crews were joined by strike teams from Yorke Valley, Wakefield Plains and the Barossa and Gilbert Valley.

At the same time fires burned stubble, crop, scrubland and fencing at Balgowan and Urania (CYP), Alford, Wokurna and Thomas Plains (NYP).

With most of the fire fighting resources across the region being utilised hundreds of volunteers dropped tools and rushed to the fires in an effort to contain them.

A big thank you must go out to all of those involved in fighting the fires, and those who continue to volunteer their time to local CFS brigades.

The dedication of such volunteers to our local community is recognised and very much appreciated.

Anyone interested in becoming a Country Fire Service volunteer can contact their local brigade or ring the CFS Recruitment Hotline on 1300 364 587.

Photo's taken by Warooka CFS volunteer, Stephen Fooks

Shared Services Reform stripping regional SA

More than 60 public sector jobs will be axed on Yorke Peninsula and the Mid North as part of the Rann Government's Shared Services initiative.

It is estimated that 500 jobs across regional South Australia will be relocated to Adelaide as part of the governments decision to centralise the running of a number of services such as payroll, accounts, human resources and information technology from February.

In February I presented a petition to State Parliament signed by over 2,200 people requesting the House to urge the government to reconsider its policy of Shared Services.

It is known that mainly administrative jobs in the health and further education sector will be affected. I recognise the need for saving initiatives that prevent unnecessary waste of public money, however in this case the government have signed off on a proposal that will see a single shared service unit in Adelaide without any consideration for country South Australia.

Clearly, regional South Australia needs support as it deals with drought. One job lost is one job too many.

Water Saving Rebates

SA Water offers rebates for a range of indoor and outdoor products to promote water savings in households. The scheme will run for three years and rebates are available for products purchased on or after 1 November 2007 for residential properties, including homeowners and tenants.

- * **Low Flow Showerheads** - \$30. Must feature a rating of 3 or more stars under the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS).
- * **Washing Machine** - \$200. Must feature a rating of 4 or more stars required under WELS.
- * **Dual Flush Toilets** - \$150. For 3 litre by 6 litre dual flush toilets to replace older inefficient toilets.
- * **Garden Goods Pack** - \$50. Can include mulch, soil wetting agents, tap timers (must spend at least \$150).
- * **Home Water Audit** - \$110. Performed by a registered plumber.

More information including full terms and conditions, and application forms, are available by phoning the **SA Water Rebates Hotline** on **1800 130 952** or by visiting **www.sawater.com.au**

Office Traineeship



After almost one year of working at the Goyder Electorate Office and completing studies at TAFE SA, Diantha Geroudis, will successfully finish her Office Administration traineeship in March.

Diantha has worked at the Electorate Office in Maitland assisting with clerical duties and constituent enquiries.

I am a strong believer in giving young people employment and career opportunities. Trainee-

ships and apprenticeships provide our youth with skills and experience needed for the future.

I hope that a new trainee will commence when Diantha finishes in March and I look forward to giving another young person a chance to get into the workforce.

Together with my Personal Assistants, Kim and Skye, we have enjoyed having Diantha work with us. The valuable skills she has obtained from on the job training and through studying at TAFE will go a long way in helping her obtain future employment.

Tax Summit in May

Martin Hamilton-Smith, Leader of the Opposition, announced in mid 2007 that the Liberal Party would be inviting comments from South Australians on the tax policies of the Rann Labor Government.

As Shadow Minister for Finance, I have been heavily involved in this review with submissions received from large and small business and interested people on things such as property taxes, payroll tax, stamp duty, motor vehicle taxes, gambling taxes, insurance taxes, mining royalties and the NRM levy and Save the River Murray levy.

The Liberal Opposition is conducting this review to ensure that South Australians are able to have a voice in the tax policies of the Government.

The Tax Summit is to be held in early May, at Parliament House, where the public, and certainly all those who made a submission will be invited.

New Portfolio's

In January I was given responsibility for two additional portfolio's, Public Sector Management and Federal/State Relations.

Adding to my roles as the Shadow Minister for Finance and Shadow Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, I look forward to the challenge ahead this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff about electorate and State issues on 8832 2455.