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G'day Eastern Vic,

January was a busy month out with community and particularly on committees, including my role chairing the Lilydale Suburban Revitalisation Board.

Last year was a big year for the government. We released the Housing Statement, took the first steps to bring back the SEC, introduced Best Start, Best Life providing free kinder and massive investment in upgrading kindergartens, and also invested in public health and education right across the state.

Here is a quick snapshot of what this looks like in Eastern Victoria in health and education alone:

Health

- $1.1 billion redevelopment of Frankston Hospital
- A new West Gippsland Hospital
- An expanded Wontaggi Hospital
- A new Aged Care Wing at Maffra Hospital

For Education, upgrades at:

- Mt Eliza North Primary School
- Eastbourne Primary School
- Leongatha Secondary College
- Lakes Entrance Primary School
- Paynesville Primary School

I'll be getting out into the community even more this year. Join me across Gippsland and on the Peninsula to talk with locals on street stalls, doorknocks, letterboxing, town halls and community meetings.

If you'd like to join me register your interest at www.tommcintosh.com.au/volunteer.

Educating the Next Generation

Ahead of students starting back at school this year, school upgrades have been finished right across the state, with a number of new schools opening up for 2024.

In Eastern Victoria it means kids at Korumburra Secondary College will return to $12.8 million in modern upgrades and refurbishments, while students at Rosebud Secondary College will benefit from over $10 million in upgrades to their facilities. In Orbost 2024 will be the first year of the integrated Orbost Community College after more than $8 million in upgrades.

Over $9.7 million in funding has gone into upgrading and expanding Dromana Primary School. A new kindergarten has opened at Karmai Community Children's Centre to start 2024, and Yarram Early Learning Centre will open a brand new kinder room.

These are just some of the exciting education projects in Eastern Vic being supported by the government. There's a reason Victoria is known as the 'education state'!

Jodie Belyea

Anthony Albanese has asked Jodie Belyea to stand for Dunkley and continue the incredible work of Peta Murphy.

Jodie is not a career politician. She’s a community leader who has come from a TAFE background to teach at the tertiary level, and founded a volunteer-led group called the Women’s Spirit Project to offer wellbeing programs to local women, but most of all, she’s a genuine Frankston mum.

I'm looking forward to continuing to talk with locals about how this energetic community leader, mum and teacher can carry on Peta's legacy fighting for Dunkley in Canberra.

Make sure you’re enrolled before February 5th for the March 2nd by-election.

CFA

CFA
MORNINGTON

I had tours of both CFA South East Region Command in Dandenong and Mornington CFA.

CFA volunteers put their lives on the line to protect the community, and as summer rolls on we continue to depend on them for our safety.

Our CFA region has 223 Fire Brigades and nearly 10,000 vols stretching across the five districts of Bairnsdale, Sale, Morwell, Warragul and South East Metro.

My first memory on the farm is seeing CFA trucks racing up the driveway to fight an incoming fire.

It was great to talk to Michael and Trevor and discuss the incredible work that the CFA does.

Sorrento SES

Mark from Sorrento SES, now based in Rosebud, showed me how they prepare and respond to emergencies and even gave me a demo of the jaws of life.

Thanks to the Sorrento SES and emergency services workers and volunteers across the state for their amazing work giving up their time to help others when they need it most!

Mornington Market

Twice this month I was at Mornington Market and Mt Eliza Village alongside local volunteers, talking to locals about the issues that matter to them.

I'll be making regular appearances here so come on down and say hello. Register on at tommcintosh.com.au/volunteer if you'd like to join.

Camp Manyung YMCA

Just a walk to the beach, YMCA Camp Manyung is a adventure camp which helps students experience the Mornington Peninsula. Thanks to $188,000 in funding from the government the camp will have essential upgrades.

Manager Jim talked me through how every activity is all abilities and showed me how the new works will better support campers there for years to come.

Strikers Football Club

Great to visit Strikers Football Club to chat with President Adrian and other committee members about fees increases for soccer in Victoria, as well as to get a tour of the club facilities.

Mornington Racecourse

The Government's Victorian Racing Industry Fund has invested more than $478,400 in upgrades to Mornington Racecourse, with 29 new LED lights going in, alongside facility improvements. This is also a big boost to the local economy, with the sand track construction generating ten new local jobs, and the veterinary facility construction creating 20.

Good day for it too alongside Paul Mercurio MP.

Mornington Rotary Club Art Show

The Mornington Rotary Art Show supports hundreds of Victorian artists, and profits are redistributed to a good cause through the Mornington Rotary. Great work all.

Gippsland

Coal Creek Korumburra

Along with Councillor Claire Williams, I toured Coal Creek Community Park and Museum to see their new program which lets students experience life in a late 1890's school room, giving students the benefit of exploring Australia's national identity and the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This great initiative was made possible thanks to the government's Strategic Partnerships program, with Coal Creek sharing in $8.2 million in overall funding to support unique educational experiences.

Korumburra Community Hub

The new Korumburra Community Hub, which opened recently after a $5 million investment from the Victorian Government, is bustling and is being put to good use by locals!

Korumburra Men's Shed

Always great to see John and Matt at the Korumburra Men's Shed, who do a great job running this important service for locals.

The new shed is coming along nicely, and I can't wait to come back to check it out when construction is done.

Railway Precinct

Lots of progress being made on the South Gippsland railway precincts development project, made possible by $2 million in government funding.

Manager of Infrastructure Jareth Goss gave me an overview of how the project is coming along and took me around the site.

Korumburra Bena Football Netball Club

New changerooms are going up at Korumburra Football Netball Club, which will provide players and match officials with top-of-the-line facilities for game day and training.

Club President Ken showed me how the upgrades are coming along, and what's in store for the year ahead.

Newspaper Coverage

- MP's Red Ribbon Day for Pier Opening
- New Upgrades at Mornington Racecourse Boost Safety and Local Jobs
- Sea to Plate Dining a Catch
- Coal Creek's Education Funding Injection (subscription is free)

Media Releases

My office has been active distributing media releases for all the work the government is doing in Eastern Vic. Check some of them out below:

- PENINSULA SPRINGS INTO 2024 WITH TOURISM FEATURE
- REBUILT RYE PIER DECKED OUT FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS
- NEW FACILITIES UNVEILED AT MORNINGTON RACECOURSE

Wrap-up

Thanks for reading my monthly update. Hopefully you got a nice break over the new year's period and are ready for a big 2024. I say it every month but make sure you stay safe and keep up to date on the Vic Emergency app to stay aware of natural disasters. If you need any assistance with constituent matters please reach out to my office.

Follow me on Facebook to stay up to date with everything I'm up to, and head to my website if you want to get involved with any of our events.

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