

March 2011



Dr Mike Nahan MLA

Member for Riverton

A newsletter for the residents of Parkwood, Riverton, Shelley, Willetton and parts of Rossmoyne

Shelley Foreshore Breakfast

On Australia Day, I joined more than 1,000 people at the annual Australia Day Breakfast run by the Rotary Club of Rossmoyne on the Shelley foreshore.

The event is always very well run and there were plenty of activities to keep people entertained, including music from the Bush Band, the flag-raising ceremony and Holden and Vauxhall vintage car displays.

During the festivities, Rotary President Maxine Harrison presented José Smith with the Eddie Holmes Award for her 25 years of volunteering in hospitals, hospices and with Silver Chain. Her long community service is a credit to her and I also commend José's outstanding achievement.

Nearly \$1,700 was raised from a raffle on the day and proceeds from the breakfast were donated to the Queensland flood victims.

If you haven't experienced the fun of the Australia Day Breakfast on the Shelley foreshore before, make sure you put it in your calendar for next Australia Day.



Mike Nahan and Rotary Club of Rossmoyne President Maxine Harrison with some of the huge crowd at the event.

I also congratulate all the new Australians who participated in the City of Canning's Citizenship Ceremony.

Traffic Concerns at Caltex Garage

In February, I held a community meeting near the Caltex garage on High Road and Leach Avenue in Riverton after safety concerns were raised about vehicles queuing up to buy cheap fuel and blocking the road.



Mike addresses members of the community about the traffic problems at the Caltex garage on High Road in Riverton.

Canning Councillor Bev Olsen, Paul Gillbanks from Main Roads and Paul Kotsoglo who provides planning solutions to Caltex attended along with more than 25 local residents. Many residents told me stories of near-misses, road rage and people driving on the wrong side of the road to get around the queued vehicles.

The problem is particularly bad on Wednesdays when fuel is often at its cheapest rate. Although Caltex has a company policy of not affecting the safety and amenity of its neighbours, residents claim it is in breach of that.

I have spoken with Sergeant Brooker from the Cannington Traffic Police and asked him to regularly target the area and he has done so several times.

I have also written to Caltex calling for them to review the situation at their site and as jurisdiction for Leach Avenue lies with the City of Canning, I have written to Council asking them to undertake a traffic study as a matter of priority. A solution needs to be found as soon as possible and I urge all local drivers to obey the traffic rules and drive with caution when near this site.

Police Operations Tour

Following community concerns about anti-social behaviour issues within the electorate, I recently undertook a tour of the Police Operations Centre at Midland to learn more about how our local police manage calls for assistance.

Our local police do a great job in keeping law and order. Nowadays, police vehicles have access to handheld computers to assist them to instantly receive and coordinate tasks and to check vehicle registration details, drivers' licences and outstanding warrants. The Midland facility includes a major incident room, the Police Assistance Centre, where non-urgent issues on 131 444 are processed, such as reporting graffiti problems, and the Police Operations Centre, where the 000 calls are handled by specially trained staff to ensure the correct police response is made to the emergency.



A police officer explains the complex computer monitoring systems to Mike on the tour.



Mike at the Riverton McDonald's store helping to raise funds for McHappy Day.

McHappy Day

In November, I helped raise funds for McHappy Day and the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

It was very enjoyable working at the McDonald's Riverton and Willetton stores, where a percentage of the sales that day went to the charity to provide invaluable assistance to families who have a seriously ill child.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities provide day and longer-term accommodation for up to 250 families every night across Australia.

It was a fun event and nationally more than \$20 million was raised. Thank you to everyone for supporting McHappy Day so strongly and helping to make such a difference to families in need.

Fire Risk—Evaporative Air Conditioners

Following the terrible fires in February around Perth and the loss of more than 70 homes in Kelmescott and Roleystone, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority has put out an information sheet on what to do in regard to your evaporative air conditioning unit on your roof in the case of a fire.

Even small backyard fires can happen in a built-up area and if the embers get in your air conditioner, a fire can quickly spread throughout your home.

If there is smoke nearby, you should:

- Run the air conditioner to wet the filter pads.
- When smoke is over your home or ash starts to drop around your house, switch the air conditioner off.

- If the unit can run water over the filter with the fan turned off, continue to do so.
- If the water can't be run on its own, or if there is a power failure at the time, wet the air conditioner filter pads using a garden hose.
- Keep checking your air conditioner and the area around your home for spot fires from embers until the danger has passed.

If your home does catch fire, leave your home and call 000 immediately for help.

For more information on how to keep your property safe from fires, please contact my office on 9457 1282.

Local Educational Excellence

Our three local senior high schools, Rossmoyne, Willetton and Lynwood, have produced exceptional educational results, creating a local area of educational excellence.

Rossmoyne, under Principal Leila Bothams, had 66 winners of the Curriculum Council Awards and 24 students scored an ATAR of 99 and above. Rossmoyne is undergoing a State-funded \$14m capital works programme that will extend and enhance the school's amenities.

Willetton, under Principal Chris Booth, had 56 winners of the Curriculum Council Awards and 15 students scored an ATAR of 99 and above.

Willetton is leading the way with its ground-breaking Engineering programme, run by teachers Brett Boughton and Paul Hogg, who recently won the national Engineers Australia Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Willetton is one of the largest high schools in WA and it is achieving these exceptional results despite its facilities needing an upgrade. I am working with the school to assist them with their plans to secure future funding.



Mike talks with Willetton Principal Chris Booth (left) and teachers Paul Hogg and Brett Boughton who won the Engineers Australia Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Lynwood, under Principal Gary Anderson, achieved an unprecedented 100 per cent Year 12 graduation through its innovative programme that provided every Year 12 student with a mentor for support. Four of its students also won Curriculum Council Awards.

In addition, Lynwood Year 9 student Tyran Hanlon was one of nine students chosen to visit World War II sites in Athens and Western Crete as part of the Premier's ANZAC Student Tour 2011.

I will continue to work closely with all local schools to help them achieve the best results for our students.

Southlands Willetton Rotary Community Fair

Sunday 27 March 2011 from 10am–4pm

Burrendah Reserve on Burrendah Boulevard, Willetton

The Rotary Club of Willetton is hosting its annual Community Fair and there will be plenty of fun, activities and entertainment for the whole family, with many local community groups showcasing their activities and raising funds. I hope you will join me in coming along and supporting this wonderful community event.

Seniors Visit Parliament



Mike and members from the Herald Avenue Senior Citizens' Club on the steps of Parliament House ready for their tour for WA Seniors' Week.

In honour of WA Seniors' Week late last year, I organised for more than 40 members from the Herald Avenue Senior Citizens' Club to visit Parliament House for a tour of the facilities and morning tea.

I gave a talk to the group, which was led by President Mary Robertson, about a typical week in my role as a politician. Many of the seniors told me they had never visited Parliament before and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see how it works.

Members of the general public can also go on conducted tours at Parliament every Monday and Thursday at 10.30am. Anyone wanting to participate should assemble at the main entrance to Parliament House at least 5 minutes before 10.30am on the day of the tour.

If you would like more information about the tours of Parliament, please call my office on 9457 1282.

Perth Market City Visit

In February, I undertook a very interesting tour of the Perth Market Authority (PMA) facilities in Canning Vale with Acting CEO Peter Cooper.

Late last year, the PMA celebrated its 21st Anniversary of the opening of its Canning Vale Market City premises. It handles more than \$350 million worth of fruit and vegetables each year, leading the State in the marketing and distribution of fresh produce.

The Central Trading Area is a hive of activity from 6.30am each morning, as more than 3,000 people come on site each day, including buyers and sellers who gather to bargain over the produce. More than 300 forklift trucks buzz around the huge shed bringing new produce in and out. The facility also includes warehouses and storage and ripening rooms.

On Saturday mornings, a clearance market for leftover produce from the trading week is held between 7.30am and 9.30am, and a cash-only fish market also operates from 6am to 10am.



Acting CEO Peter Cooper and Mike Nahan check out the huge squashes available at the vegetable markets at Canning Vale.

There are speciality shops and restaurants, and on Sundays, local families flock to the very popular Weekend Market. I was impressed with the facilities and wish the PMA continued success for the future.

Showerhead Swap Programme

Up to two old, inefficient showerheads can now be swapped free of charge for more water efficient ones as part of a new State Government programme open to all households, which will save between 20 to 30 litres of water per person per day.

Simply take your old showerheads to any Bunnings store along with your water use account and receive your replacement showerheads for free.

Safety and Security Rebate for WA Seniors Card Holders

A rebate of up to \$200 per household towards the installation or purchase of home security devices and a further \$200 per household for the purchase and installation of electrical and fire safety items for seniors is now available.

For more information on how to apply, please call my office on 9457 1282.

Harmony Week 15–21 March 2011



Mike Nahan with many of the other foreign-born State MPs at Parliament House.

At Parliament, I am one of 12 foreign-born State MPs in the Legislative Assembly. I grew up on a farm in Michigan in the United States and have been in Western Australia for more than 30 years.

Cultural diversity has become a major part of the fabric of WA. If you look at your friends and relatives, you will see that most are either migrants or have been in the last generation or so. In fact, it is our diversity and newness that is part of our strength.

The Riverton Electorate has a very large number of overseas migrants and people are drawn to this area because of its ethnic diversity and its excellent public schools.

In honour of Harmony Week, I acknowledge the rich cultural and linguistic diversity that helps to make our local community so vibrant.