

The Randall Report

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A Community Newsletter from Don Randall MHR, Federal Member for CANNING

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Protecting the Canning River

Don Randall recently launched the Fishcare brochure at Kelmescott Primary School. The Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group has released this educational brochure on caring for fish stocks in the Canning River.

Mr Randall praised the combined efforts of the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group, Armadale City Rivercare, Kelmescott Fishcare Group and the Kelmescott Primary School for the hard work they have done so far restoring the riverbank.

"Teacher, Ms Leonie Renaldi and her class deserve special mention for their efforts in protecting the riverbank from erosion and planting native rushes. It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm from young people who want to protect our environment."

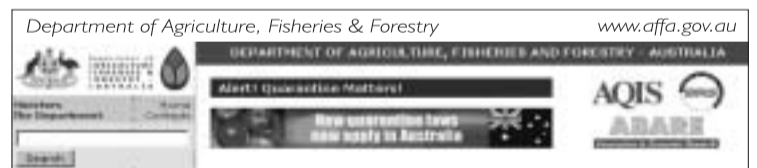
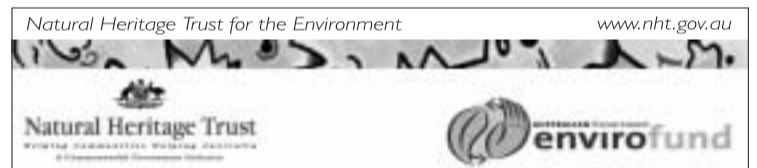
Please contact my office if you would like a copy of the Fishcare brochure.



Don discusses work involved in the project with Colleen Martin, Co-ordinator of the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group

The Coalition Government's environment weblinks

information on the internet



NEWS FLASH!

Western Australia leads the nation in the jobs surge with the national unemployment rate falling to 6% for only the 4th time in 13 years. WA now has the lowest unemployment rate in the country at 5.7%.

Don Randall said, "It demonstrates that despite the drought and the sluggish world economy, Australia's economy is continuing to grow and prosper. This is largely due to the solid economic management policies of the Howard Government."

You are in the electorate of Canning if you live in one of the following suburbs...

Armadale, Banksiadale, Barragup, Bedforddale, Birchmont, Blythewood, Bouvard, Bridgewater, Brookdale, Brookland Greens, Byford, Canning Vale, Carcoola, Cardup, Castle Glen, Challis, Clifton Hills, Coolup, Crestwood, Darling Downs, Dawesville, Dwellingup, Erskine, Etrilyn, Fairbridge, Falcon, Forest Lakes, Forrestdale, Furnissdale, Halls Head, Hamel, Herron, Holyoake, Hopeland, Huntingdale, Inglehope, Jarrahdale, Karragullen, Karrakup, Kelmescott, Keysbrook, Kooljerrenup, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston, Livingston, Mardella, Marrinup, Meelon, Miami, Mount Nasura, Mundijong, Murray Lakes, Myara, Nambelup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, North Pinjarra, North Yunderup, Oakford, Oakley, Oldbury, Pinjarra, Point Grey, Preston Beach, Ranford, Ravenswood, Roleystone, Sanctuary Waters, Serpentine, Solus, South Yunderup, Southern River, Stake Hill, Teesdale, Thornlie, Tuart Grove, Wagerup, Wannanup, Waratah, Waroona, West Pinjarra, Westfield, Whitty, Whittaker, Wungong, Yunderup.



In providing this report to the Canning electorate, I wish to briefly highlight several significant issues that are of interest to many of you.

Firstly, the Australian economy continues to outperform all other like world nations. In fact, it continues to grow faster than all but one other OECD member nation. This economic strength is good for all Australians, particularly families.

Currently unemployment is at an all time low of 6% nationally. Youth unemployment is also being addressed in Canning.

This is being achieved with a three-fold increase in apprenticeships, training places and the popular Work For the Dole Scheme (which delivers a 78% jobs outcome), so that a far better future emerges for our young people than before the election of the Howard Government.

The rate of strikes in this country is also at a record low. This means greater productivity and more income in the pockets of Australian workers. This is at odds with the threat of unions that they would not be able to work with the Coalition Government. It is also no coincidence that that here in WA 37,085 workers have signed onto Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) in the Federal jurisdiction when only 12 have signed to the Gallop Labor union brokered Enterprise Bargaining Agreements (EBAs). It is clear the regressive state laws have

inspired workers en mass to shift to the Federal scene.

Home loan interest rates are at 30-year lows. Most respected financial commentators are predicting a downward move in the near future. Low home mortgage interest rates combined with the reduction by the Federal Government of personal income tax means putting money back into the hands of every day Australians. It is most pleasing because this results in a greater benefit to low to middle income workers who want to work but also want to keep a greater portion of their hard earned money. The fact is that the "working poor" and low income earners have a greater incentive to work and to escape from the welfare cycle under the Howard Government.

Finally, there is still more to do and the task of providing better outcomes is never complete. However, under the continued strong leadership of John Howard the chances of sustainable growth and reform to areas such as education and health are more secure. The major barrier hindering good government at the moment is an obstructive Senate, which for political purposes opposes any productive measures proposed by this Government.

The best thing Mr Crean and the minor parties in the Senate can do is to stop this behaviour so the Howard Government can get on with the job it was elected to do.

Don Randall



Don addresses a public meeting on the proposed race circuit in Oakford

Premier Gallop fails public schools in Canning

Don Randall has called on the State Government to explain why their funding for public schools falls short of its rhetoric before their State budget was delivered in May.

"The fact is that the State Government's claims of real government school funding increases do not hold up against examination of their budget figures.

"Additional expenditure of \$64 million from the Gallop Government for its state government schools in 2003-04 translates to an increase over their latest Budget of only 2.8 per cent.

"While it is pleasing to see the State Government deliver some sound initiatives in relation to more funding for specialist literacy and numeracy teachers, they have failed to match the Commonwealth's rate of increase for its schools.

"In this year's Budget, the Western Australian Government increased funding to Western Australian government schools by 5.3% compared to the Howard Government's increase of 5.9%.

"Furthermore, over the next financial year, the revenue raised through the GST, and delivered to the Gallop

Government, will total \$2.9 billion. Premier Gallop has no excuse for using at least some of this money to boost funding for government schools in Western Australia. State and Territory governments have primary responsibility for adequately funding their own schools and a growth in revenues tax from the GST enables them to do this.

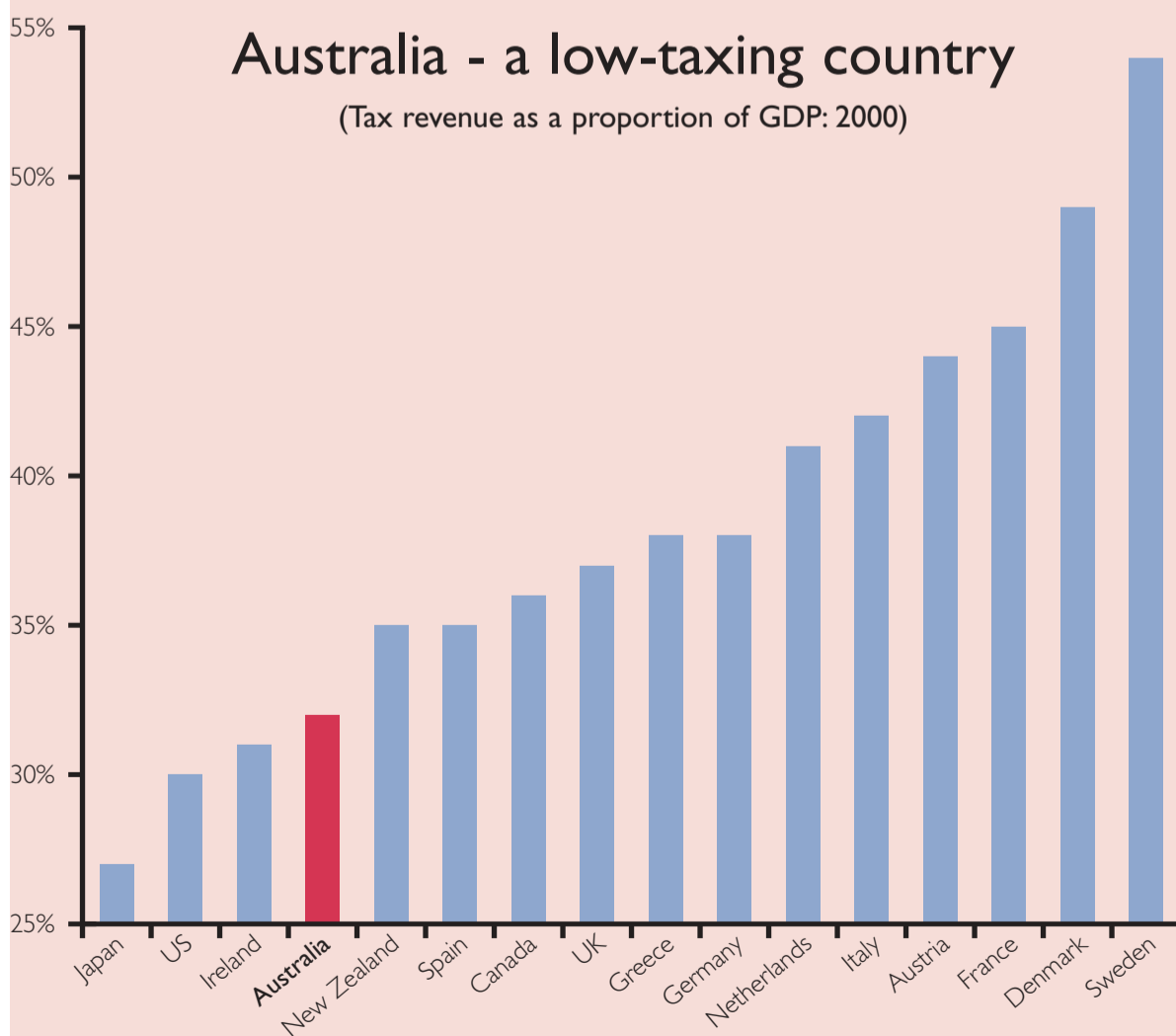
"The Howard Government is committed to continuing to provide substantial levels of funding to produce real results in schools and it is not unreasonable to expect the Gallop Government to provide similar funding commitments."

Did you know?

A major new report by the Australian Council of Social Service into Australia's taxation system has found average workers in Australia pay less income tax than their US counterparts and, contrary to popular mythology, Australia is one of the lowest taxing countries among the developed nations.

This report shows conclusively that:

- Australia is the 6th lowest taxing OECD country, with only Mexico, Ireland, Korea, Japan, and the United States collecting less tax in proportion to GDP.
- Average Australian workers pay 23.1% of their income in income taxes, compared with 24.6% in the United States when all US social security and state taxes are included.



Source: OECD Revenue Statistics. Note: Fourteen smaller or less developed OECD countries have been omitted (e.g. Luxembourg and Turkey). Of these, only two (Mexico and South Korea) raised less tax revenue than Australia and twelve raised more.

Providing safer roads in Canning

Armadale residents' are the big winners with new Black Spot funding of \$320,000 allocated to the Armadale City Council for a high priority road safety project to be completed as part of the Federal Government's ongoing National Black Spot Program.

Mr Randall said, "This funding will allow a project on Lake Road and Railway and Seaforth Avenues to install a roundabout and close off the intersection at the railway.

Mayor Reynolds said, "Council is pleased that another of the accident problem areas on its road system will soon be treated. The round-a-bout forms part of the works necessary to close the Lake Road rail crossing and to link Lake

Road to the Tonkin Highway extension and the bridge over the Albany Highway.

"Council now needs to work with Main Roads WA to find the rest of the funds necessary to complete this important link."

Together we can make our roads safer. Do you know of any dangerous intersections, pedestrian crossings or other local road problems? Please let me know because although most roads are the responsibility of State and local governments, I'm happy to do what I can to help improve road safety in Canning.

Please write down any details and send them to my office at PO Box 465, Kelmscott WA 6991 or fax to 9390 1211.

Border protection policies deliver major savings

Don Randall has welcomed news the Government will save \$467 million over four years due to the reduction in illegal boat arrivals to Australia.

Mr Randall said, "The success of offshore processing, and the resultant reduction of illegal boat arrivals has enabled us to return money to the Budget.

"Coalition Government policy to counter people smuggling, including processing all unauthorised boat arrivals offshore has resulted in no boat arrivals onshore since August 2001 and no new arrivals at offshore centres since December 2001.

Consequently, the Government has downgraded its estimate of the number of illegal arrivals from 4,500 to 1,000 a year from 2003-04.

"This is a remarkable achievement given that some 1,515 people arrived in the

first three weeks of August 2001 alone. It means the Government has had the opportunity to review the size and scope of the proposed Christmas Island facility.

"The proposed 1,200 person purpose-designed and built facility will be scaled down to 800 places. This will comprise both purpose-designed and

built places, along with contingency places.

"The Government remains committed to the construction of the detention facility on Christmas Island but the timing imperative, which involved a truncated tender process, is no longer critical, because of the reduction in boat arrivals."



Burnt out dormitories at Port Hedland detention centre following riots

Labor cuts health services at Armadale Health Campus



Don Randall has voiced deep concern following discussions with distressed elderly constituents about the reduction of podiatry services at the Armadale Health Campus and labelled the measure as blatant cost cutting by an insincere State Government.

Mr Randall said, "It is becoming clear in my discussions with constituents that the Podiatry Clinic at the Armadale Campus will only to be available for patients with very specific health concerns. In a letter to one patient who has been to see me, it has been stated that services will only be offered to children, diabetics and those with a predisposition to injury.

"Clearly this decision has been made with no consultation with current patients and they are only made aware of the situation when they attend a consultation and try to make another, only to be informed that if they do not slot into these categories, the service will cease for them at the end

of June. Some 560 patients could be affected by this unwarranted decision.

"The justification offered for limiting podiatry services is totally unacceptable. It is said that an effort is being made to make services more accessible to patients by providing them at a number of different sites in the community. However, the alternative sites already exist - there are no additional sites and restricting access at the Armadale Health Campus simply means there is one less site. It is a complete falsehood this decision will create improved services - it does the exact opposite and will affect the most vulnerable, the elderly.

"There are many issues for elderly patients including transport. The service at the Health Campus is on a public transport route, whereas some of the other services do not provide transport or if they do, it is limited and inconvenient. Costs are also slightly higher at alternative

community based podiatry clinics.

"It has also been suggested that equipment at the Armadale Health Campus will be transferred to other providers in the area. This will surely affect the quality of the service available to those who are still entitled to access podiatry services.

"It is obvious Mr Kucera and the Gallop Government are cutting services at the Armadale Health Campus, despite assurances it would not happen. What is most disappointing is that they are doing this by stealth.

"I am calling on Mr Kucera to honour his public commitment to maintain and increase services at the site and will be writing to him urging him to do so. In previous correspondence to me he has assured me the State Government supports enhanced health service delivery at the Armadale Health Campus, yet this decision is quite contrary to that."

Gallop Government wrong on cannabis agenda

Don Randall has echoed the concerns of his State Coalition colleagues about the harmful effect of the Gallop Government's cannabis agenda, saying that while previous generations approached cannabis use in a more relaxed way there are numerous reasons to take its use seriously. He also said this legislation ignores all the evidence cannabis use is not benign in its effects.

Mr Randall said, "This legislation sends the wrong message to our children about drug use. Furthermore, while Labor ignores increasing instances of ambulance bypass and general access to health services, Bob Kucera's priority is to introduce legislation to make it easier for those who want to get stoned."

What Labor proposes:

- A person found with up to 15gms or 30gms of cannabis in their possession will receive an on the spot infringement notice for \$100 or \$150 respectively. The on the spot penalty for cultivating up to 2 plants is \$200.
- There is no limit to the number of cannabis infringement notices that

may be issued and no consequent escalation in penalty. If a person does not want to pay the fine, they are able to attend a lecture - at their convenience.

Mr Randall said, "The Labor Party believes the possession and cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be decriminalised. It says cannabis use is not harmful, everyone does it and that current cannabis laws are clogging up the court system.

"Aside from all the problems associated with smoking - bronchitis, asthma and a range of cancers, there is emerging evidence that cannabis is a drug upon which users become dependant. That is, once they start, many smokers need the drug regularly to feel normal.

"Even more disturbing is the hardening link between regular use and mental illness."

Recent studies on cannabis use show:

- Three studies recently published in the British Medical Journal strongly put the case that cannabis use can trigger schizophrenia. The most compelling report from Swedish research suggests ado-

lescent cannabis users are four times more likely to develop this debilitating disorder.

- A major New Zealand study found 10 per cent of kids using cannabis before the age of 15 developed schizophrenia by 26. This is three times the rate for non-users.

Mr Randall said, "Though prudence would demand that cause and effect is yet to be established, when you also consider the ready use of multiple drugs by teenagers - often cannabis with ecstasy, alcohol and amphetamines, it is a potentially lethal cocktail."

"The Coalition Government has demonstrated it is tough

on drugs - this is in complete contrast to the State Labor Government. Young people will never achieve their potential if we make it easier and more attractive for them to begin drug use. As such, cannabis is a major threat and this legislation ignores this fact entirely."

Developing a more robust Australian tourism industry

The Coalition Government recently released the Green Paper, *A Medium to Long Term Strategy For Tourism*. Mr Randall said, "This industry is vital for small business and jobs in Canning, and needs restructuring to remain competitive and profitable.

"Growth in tourism is also essential to Australia's continued economic growth and export earnings. This Green Paper asks important questions on actions we need to address to help the industry to confront challenges and grow. Importantly, it suggests ways in which governments may reform their support structures for the industry to better respond to the needs of today. It also poses challenges for the tourism industry to take into their own hands.

"I urge all interested parties in the Canning electorate (this may include participants in

tourism, transport, construction, finance and other tourism-related industries, the education and research sector, local government agencies and members of the general community) to comment on these suggestions.

Copies of the Green Paper are available at www.tourism.gov.au. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact my office on 9390 1211 for a copy.

Submissions should be received by 18 July 2003 and sent electronically to tourismplan@industry.gov.au or sent in hard copy form to:

Tourism Strategy
Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
PO Box 9839
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Celebrity News

Fred Kersley's outstanding contribution to sport has been acknowledged with the 2003 Sport Award at the Western Australian Citizen of the Year Awards held recently. Fred has contributed to the racing industry as a reinsman, master trainer and ambassador for Western Australia. He has been thrust into the limelight as the trainer of champion racehorse, Northerly.

Armadale's Ashley Sampi was the Round 8 National AFL Rising Star nominee for

following his outstanding performance for the West Coast Eagles. Ashley is one of the AFL's most exciting young prospects and has further enhanced Canning's sporting reputation.

Melicia Mar from Southern River has been awarded the Australian Students Prize for 2002. Each year the Commonwealth Government awards 500 Australian Students Prizes nationally to recognise outstanding academic achievement in the final and most demanding years of secondary education.



Kelmscott Primary School students Sophie Herbertson and Lucy Leeder help Don plant a tree on Arbor Day