



# The Randall Report

NOVEMBER 2008

A community newsletter from Don Randall JP MP, Federal Member for CANNING

## ATC pioneers graduate

**A** new era of tradesmen is ready to take on the workforce.

Local apprentice mechanics, bricklayers, carpenters and steel framers are well on their way to successful careers, following the graduation of the Perth South Australian Technical College's inaugural class.

Don Randall was proud to see the first local Australian Technical College (ATC) intake receive their trade certificates at a graduation ceremony last week.

"These ATC pioneers are completely job ready. They've trained

in an industry area for up to two years, received a specialised education that has given them small business and employability skills."

"On top of completing the first two years of their apprenticeship, they've also received their Year 12 certificate."

One of the Coalition's biggest investments was establishing 25 ATCs, all with state-of-the-art infrastructure, offering school-based apprenticeships and strong links with local industry.

Mr Randall said the successful 2005 bid by the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells, together with the Armadale Redevelopment

Authority, had paid dividends for the local area.

"Local governments and industry had the foresight to offer greater opportunities to the youth in our region. University is not for everyone and Australia has industries that require skilled people to work in highly valued trade professions."

Since opening in 2007 the Perth South ATC has grown from 67 young apprentices to 143, training in both Armadale and Maddington.

Mr Randall was delighted to present the 2008 Armadale Citizenship Award to Armadale campus' Carpentry and Joinery apprentice Benjamin Crook.

"Benjamin has shown he is a community-orientated young man, with exceptional leadership skills and a strong willingness to learn."

"Benjamin has already secured employment and will continue his apprenticeship at Ausco Building Systems and I have no doubt he will excel. He has a bright future in the building industry."

Technical College CEO Trevor Williams labelled the first group of graduates 'trailblazers' and said the ATC's success was clear to see with 30 potential employers now on board.

Despite exceeding enrolment targets in 2008, the Rudd Labor Government has left the future of Australian Technical Colleges in doubt and has scrapped the Coalition's plans for 100 additional ATCs worth \$2.1 billion.

Federal Government funding will cease at the end of 2009. Perth South ATC Chairman, Rod Slater, urged Western Australian Training Minister, the Hon Peter Collier, to work with the College to secure funding to keep the doors open.



ATC automotive apprentices show off their fine tuned skills for Don Randall.



Congratulations to Armadale Citizenship Award recipient and ATC Carpentry and Joinery Apprentice, Benjamin Crook.

### Take up a trade.

Perth South ATC is now seeking enrolments for 2009 for school based apprenticeships in:

- Automotive
- Metals and Engineering
- Bricklaying
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Steel Framing
- Cabinet Making
- Electrical

Call 1300 303 677 or Don's office for more information.

## Local artists shine

**L**ocal artists have an impressive collection of work on show at the Art House in Kelmscott.

Don Randall recently visited the Armadale Society of Artists' Railway Avenue base and was impressed with the exceptional local talent.

The Art House is a place for local artists to come together, attend workshops and offers a place to display their works to the public.

Society President David Box and Vice President Dorothy Marshall took the time to show Mr Randall around the premises, including the studio areas.

The Society conducts classes for the local community, including art therapy classes for people with mental health problems.

"There are a number of fantastic workshops available for people wanting to hone their artistic skills, or simply wanting to try their hand at something new," said Mr Randall.

Mr Randall encouraged Canning residents to drop into the Art House and enjoy the local works on display.

The Art House is open from 10am – 3pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Local artist and Society Vice President Dorothy Marshall shows Don Randall her work in progress.

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, Camillo, Canning Vale, Carcoola, Cardup, Castle Glen, Challis, Champion Lakes, Clifton Hills, Coolup, Crestwood, Darling Downs, Dawesville, Dwellingup, Erskine, Etrilyn, Fairbridge, Falcon, Forest Lakes, Forrestdale, Furnissdale, Halls Head, Hamel, Harrisdale, Herron, Holyoake, Hopeland, Huntingdale, Inglehope, Jarrahdale, Karragullen, Karakup, Kelmscott, Keysbrook, Kooljerrenup, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston, Livingston, Mardella, Marrinup, Meelon, Miami, Mt Nasura, Mt Richon, Mundijong, Murray Lakes, Myara, Nambeelup, Nirimba, North Dandalup, North Pinjarra, North Yunderup, Oakford, Oakley, Oldbury, Piara Waters, Pinjarra, Point Grey, Preston Beach, Ranford, Ravenswood, Roleystone, Sanctuary Waters, Serpentine, Seville Grove, Solus, South Yunderup, Southern River, Stake Hill, Teesdale, Thornlie, Tuart Grove, Wagerup, Wannanup, Warratah, Waroona, West Pinjarra, Westfield, Whitby, Whittaker, Wungong, Yunderup.



Since my last Randall Report the world has changed dramatically in many ways. The most notable event has been the 'melt down' of world financial markets and the economic flow on effect to the rest of the world.

Australia has not, and will not, escape the negative knock on effects, which include job losses, increased inflation, the slowing of growth in our own economy and the collapse of the stock market and home values.

The unintended benefit to those with a mortgage is that interest rates will need to be rapidly reduced.

There are many unfortunate consequences of this financial malaise.

For example, pensioners and those who are relying on superannuation are under real pressure. Single pensioners have said for a long time that they cannot live on \$273 or week.

Mr Rudd and Mr Swan agreed that they couldn't either. That's why people like myself have been consistently calling for a rise in the base rate of pensions because all pensioners, veterans, carers and those receiving government entitlements have been slipping behind.

As part of their \$10.4 billion rescue package, the Labor Government was finally required to address the seniors' situation, confronting all of those on a pension as well as low income families.

However, we in the Federal Opposition firmly believe that although a series of one-off bonus payments was necessary and helpful, there needs to be genuine structural reform of the base rate of pensions, family entitlements and taxation.

Those with superannuation arrangements face a challenging future with financial institutions being forced to freeze payments. Superannuation funds are being severely curtailed in their dividend payment, as asset values collapse. Of course a big drop in interest rates does not help those on superannuation incomes.

While the Turnbull-led Opposition continues to call for Government action on the high cost of petrol and groceries, the Rudd Labor Government responds in cynical way by calling for a series of inquiries and long-term reports.

Like the former Carpenter Labor

Government in Western Australia, Mr Rudd has begun to perfect the process of inquiry. He plans to 'watch' and then report which delivers little to ease the pain and hurt of families and those battling in our community.

I have had many calls from those in my electorate who feel forgotten in the current economic situation.

I hear comments like "I'm one of those so-called working families and we feel left out even though Mr Rudd keeps referring to us".

Another is along the lines of "I'm part of this so-called middle Australia and we are being sidelined. We pay our taxes and don't receive any family tax benefits or don't qualify for any lump sum payments. We're working hard and pulling our weight but we are the forgotten people".

As further pressure mounts on the Australian economy the Rudd Government needs to make sound policy judgements based on good advice from our expert regulators.

Unfortunately, Mr Rudd and Mr Swan have been making 'knee-jerk policy on the run' and politically motivated decisions. They then look to the regulators to back them up when those decisions go pear-shaped and unintended consequences follow.

Just imagine the poor shape that Australia would be in if Mr Rudd had been confronted by the state of the Australian economy that the Howard Government inherited from Paul Keating in 1996.

That is, \$96 billion Government debt, deficit budgets, massive unemployment, low growth, high inflation and a paralysed workforce.

Compare that to the economy Mr Rudd inherited. That is, no government debt, a budget surplus of \$22 billion, a future fund with more than \$60 billion in reserves.

In addition, employment at was at record lows, mortgage rates were low, inflation was under 3% and growth was high.

Really, for Mr Rudd, it was like winning lotto when he won the 2007 Federal election.

Lets hope, for the sake of Australia's future, that he does not squander it.



### Don's Office details:

**2851 Albany Highway, Kelmscott WA 6111**  
**Phone: (08) 9390 1211**  
**Fax: (08) 9390 1255**  
**Toll free: 1300 301 867**

## Local Banks proud service medal

Janice Banks was surprised to learn she was eligible for a service medal, so it was particularly special when she received her Australian Defence Medal (ADM) recently.

With her husband and two children present, the Canning Vale resident was presented with her ADM by Don Randall and Captain Brett Dowsing, HMAS Stirling Commanding Officer.

Mrs Banks served in the Royal Australian Navy as a radio operator between 1971 until her discharge in 1976.

Mr Randall said Mrs Banks' career in the navy was a fascinating one.

"Mrs Banks was in Darwin over Christmas in 1974 when the devastation of Cyclone Tracy struck, killing 71 people," said Mr Randall.

"She formed part of the team working on monitoring and



*Captain Dowsing and Don Randall congratulate Janice Banks (joined by husband Graeme and children, Kylie and Troy) on receiving the Australian Defence Medal.*

restoring communications, as well as determining the extent of the damage."

Mrs Banks said she could not have been more proud of her time in the armed services, saying it was among the "best times in her life."

Mr Randall said that the ADM was introduced to recognise people just like Mrs Banks; those that had served their country with pride and distinction but did not qualify for existing medals

because of the type, or length of their service.

The medal recognises current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) Regular and Reserve personnel, and volunteer and National Servicemen, who have served since the end of World War II. More than one million Australians are eligible for the medal.

Are you eligible for an Australian Defence Medal? Call Don's office for information.

## Get kids in2CRICKET

Parliament House was hit for six when the Australian Cricket Team bowled in to promote Australian Cricket's new entry-level program MILO in2CRICKET.

Formerly known as Have a Go Cricket, Milo in2CRICKET is a six to 12 week program that gives children aged between five and 10 years old the opportunity to hone their cricket skills, keep active and make new friends.

"There are in2CRICKET centres throughout Canning.

"I encourage parents and carers to get their children involved

in this grassroots cricket program," said Mr Randall.

"Everyone enjoys a game of backyard cricket — it's an Australian institution. So having some of our most successful international sportsman get behind such a worthy and popular program is a great way to encourage healthy living and sportsmanship at a young age, through a favourite Australian pastime."

"Plenty of children dream about representing their country in the baggy green. In2CRICKET could be the first step in your child's cricket career and, at the very least, they are going to have a lot of fun!"



*Don Randall with Australian Test Captain Ricky Ponting at the launch of in2CRICKET.*

For more information log on to [www.in2CRICKET.com.au](http://www.in2CRICKET.com.au) or call Don's office.

## Kelmscott student scoops national prize

Eilidh Nicholson's outstanding Year 12 results have earned her top honours.

The 2007 Dux of Kelmscott Senior High School was one of only 52 West Australian students to be awarded a prestigious Australian Students' Prize (ASP).

With an impressive TER of 99.75, the Mount Nasura resident was awarded the national prize for academic excellence, receiving \$2,000 cash and a certificate acknowledging her achievement.

Mr Randall was delighted to congratulate Miss Nicholson recently and present her with an Australian Students' Prize certificate.

Miss Nicholson has gone on to study Actuarial Science at Curtin University, with her outstanding TEE results earning her a full merit scholarship.

"I always loved maths but I also loved economics and knew that I didn't want to any of those 'traditional' maths jobs that would see me outside of the business environment. So when a career councillor suggested actuarial science, which is big on cal-



*Top of the class. Eilidh Nicholson receives her Australian Students' Prize from Don Randall.*

culus but incorporates a lot of the other areas I liked, I knew it was something I'd be interested in," said Miss Nicholson.

Miss Nicholson has now completed an extremely successful first year of university, making the Vice Chancellor's list for first semester for being in the top one per cent of Curtin University students.

"Eilidh is an extremely capable young woman and her academic success is a testament to her hard work. I wish her all the best with what is sure to be an extremely successful career," said Mr Randall.

"It's great to have recipient of such an esteemed award in the local area."

# Labor soft on our borders

The Rudd Labor Government continues to give the impression that under its watch Australia's borders are open to people smugglers.

Don Randall said it was no coincidence that since the Labor Government was elected the number of unlawful arrivals on our shores was climbing.

Over recent weeks four vessels have been intercepted off the coast of Australia.

"Smugglers are being encouraged to test the waters once again because they know that Labor is a soft touch on border protection," said Mr Randall.

"Smugglers are taking advantage of vulnerable people and for a quick buck they are willing to take their chances, risking imprisonment and fines of up to \$100,000."

"The Government and the Immigration Minister, Senator Chris Evans, have done nothing to deter people from arriving at our

## Smugglers eye asylum policy

*Smugglers eye asylum policy (Sydney Morning Herald, 8/10/2008, page 14)*

shores illegally. They have sent all the wrong signals."

"The Labor Government has ripped \$67 million from border security. They have closed processing and detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island and they have abolished Temporary Protection Visas, instead stating that refugees will receive a permanent visa regardless of how they get here."

"The bottom line is that if smugglers make it to Christmas Island then Labor will roll out the welcome mat to the mainland. Smugglers have been given the green light that their criminal and repugnant activity will be tolerated by the Rudd Labor Government."

"Australia has a proud history of

welcoming overseas arrivals with skills, experience and the enthusiasm to make Australia their home."

"Second only to Canada, Australia also generously welcomes genuine humanitarian refugees – almost 14,000 in 2007-2008."

"Illegal and unlawful arrivals destroy Australia's outstanding reputation on immigration and the integrity of our migration system. Australia must maintain a good, non-discriminatory migration system for the benefit of all Australians."

The Coalition remains committed to doing everything it can to discourage people smugglers by protecting Australia's borders.

## Softer migrant rules must be checked urgently

The 14 boat people who have been taken to Christmas Island will test the Federal Government's new rules for dealing with unauthorised arrivals. Whether they were emboldened by the relaxation of the rules to try to get to Australia cannot be known yet.

*Softer migrant rules must be checked urgently (The West Australian, 4/10/2008, p20)*



Don Randall inspects graffiti near his electorate office.

## Taking graffiti to task

When it comes to brazen graffiti vandals 'enough is enough'.

Don Randall is calling on the Barnett-led State Government to urgently honour its election commitment to reinstate the *Graffiti Taskforce* to tackle the graffiti epidemic head on.

Mr Randall has written to Police Minister, the Hon. Rob Johnson, outlining his concerns about the scourge of graffiti and calling on the reinstatement of the *Taskforce*.

"It's time to get serious about ridding society of ugly graffiti and senseless vandalism by speeding up graffiti removal and cracking down on offenders," said Mr Randall.

"The *Graffiti Taskforce* has been by far the most effective strategy in keeping our local streets as clean as possible."

"The *Taskforce* is designed to work closely with local governments and to educate community groups, businesses and neighbourhoods on ways to stamp out vandalism."

"The previous Labor State

Government dismantled the *Taskforce* and did nothing to clean up local streets. Under its *Goodbye Graffiti* program the process became slow and dysfunctional. It simply didn't work and catching vandals was a low priority," Mr Randall told the Parliament.

"We all know that a key deterrent is removing the graffiti immediately."

"Stamping out unwanted, ugly vandalism must become a priority at a neighbourhood, community and government level."

Mr Randall said there were numerous examples of Canning businesses spending thousands of dollars annually on cleaning up graffiti including replacing broken windows.

"The cost of regularly cleaning up graffiti is an unsustainable burden on businesses trying to make a go of it."

"Residents are frustrated that the police have not been adequately resourced to act on reports of vandalism and the problem has got much bigger than local councils can handle."

## Wanted: High speed broadband

The Labor Government's single biggest infrastructure promise is rapidly becoming a farce. The \$4.7 billion National Broadband Network (NBN) is no closer to reality now, then when Labor was elected one year ago.

"The 98 per cent of Australian households promised a high speed connection have been misled," said Mr Randall.

"The tender deadline for the network has been extended again until November 26th 2008. Even major industry players are sceptical about the process and Labor's ability to deliver on its promise."

"Even if the NBN gets off the ground the Minister

for Broadband has refused to rule out suggestions that the network could take up to 13 years to complete. That's three times as long as promised."

"In the meantime I continue to receive calls from frustrated Canning residents unable to get broadband at their homes."

"Despite all its hype about a digital revolution the Australian public are being left in the dark. This is taxpayers' \$4.7 billion which could be better spent."

In contrast the Coalition's broadband plan would have benefited all Canning residents, with Mandurah, Pinjarra, Waroona and Dawesville to be among the first areas in the country to reap the rewards of exchange upgrades and 14 new wireless broadband sites.

## Did you know?

Perth is the sunniest capital city in the world.

Perth averages eight hours of sunshine each day, all year round.

## The petrol price pinch



Continued high petrol prices are putting increasing pressure on the household budget.

The October average for unleaded fuel in the metropolitan region was \$147.2 per litre.

Last year Mr Rudd promised he'd do something about the rising cost of petrol, but when Labor won Government in November 2007 the average price in the metropolitan area was \$130.5 per litre.

Locally, fuel has gone up by

almost 17 cents per litre since Mr Rudd became Prime Minister.

Labor's only idea seems to be talking about a 'Fuel Watch' scheme, as if watching petrol prices will bring them down. The falling international oil price is not being reflected at the local bowlers. The way the Government can reduce prices is to cut tax.

Local families don't expect a silver bullet, but they deserve better than a Labor Government firing blanks.

## Local students win poster prize

Artwork by talented year five students at Carey Baptist College has been judged best in Australia.

Carey Baptist College beat hundreds of entries from schools throughout Australia to win the National Primary Schools' Poster Competition.

The College's poster was judged as the best, most original, most creative and most entertaining entry using the 'It's our House' theme.

The competition was a part of May's celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the opening of Parliament House in Canberra in 1988.

Mr Randall recently visited the school and presented them with their prize-winner's cheque for \$2,000 and a plaque commemorating the award.



The replica of Carey Baptist College's poster on display in Mr Randall's office

"It's great to see Canning school art exhibition," said Mr Randall. "Special congratulations must go to art teacher, Corrien de



Don Randall congratulates Carey Baptist College's Primary School Principal, Jenny Argue, and the year five class on taking out the National Primary Schools' Poster Competition.

Villiers, for inspiring the students to create such a bright and meaningful piece of work."

Mr Randall said the judges, ABC's Chief Political Correspondent Chris Uhlmann and Parliament House Art Services Director Kylie Scroope, had a

tough decision to make but ultimately the Carey Baptist College poster was a clear winner.

"There's obviously a number of budding artists at Carey Baptist and I'm thrilled to have a replica of the poster displayed in my busy office," said Mr Randall.

## Bonnie babes at Parliament

There were no tears in sight and plenty of smiles at Parliament House on National Babies' Day.

Don joined hundreds of mothers, babies and young children to support the outstanding efforts of Bonnie Babes Foundation.

One in 20 Australian babies are born prematurely and 50,000 babies each year are lost from miscarriage and still birth.

"The Bonnie Babes Foundation is a non-for profit volunteer organisation which raises money for medical equipment, medical research, education and training, free family crisis counseling services, and support services for premature babies and their families, said Mr Randall.

"The work of the Bonnie Babes Foundation is invaluable and their efforts make a real difference to thousands of Australian families during difficult times."

Mr Randall supported Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull, in his calls for the Government to honour the Coalition's election promise to give the Bonnie Babes Foundation



Don Randall celebrates National Babies' Day with his colleague Sophie Mirabella MP and her new daughter Alexandra.

\$800,000 towards its counseling services for mothers and families of miscarriages, stillbirths and premature babies.



Mr Randall was honoured to be presented with life membership to the Memorial Light Horse Troop by Jack Matthews.

## Light Horse honour

The Kelmscott-Pinjarra 10th Light Horse Memorial Troop surprised Don at last month's Kelmscott Show by paying him ultimate compliment – awarding him honorary life membership.

Mr Randall said he was proud to support the work of the Memorial Troop over a number of years in preserving the history of the Light Horse Regiment and he had been humbled by the Memorial Troop's generous gesture.

"Life membership is a great, and unexpected honour, but the real heroes are the men that dedicate their time to carrying on the Light Horse tradition," said Mr Randall.

"Through the work of the local Light Horse Memorial Troop the legend of the light horsemen lives on in Canning. Members are to be

commended for carrying on the heritage of the Regiment and teaching our younger generation about the sacrifice made by servicemen."

"The group has an impressive display of Light Horse memorabilia which they proudly show at schools and community events throughout Western Australia."

The 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment was the only AIF Light Horse regiment recruited in Western Australia during the First World War.

Canning has strong ties to the Regiment with the infantry first mounted in Pinjarra and the Kelmscott Oval used as a training ground by the volunteer infantry during World War One.

The Regiment went on to distinguish themselves at Quinn's Post, Pope's Hill, The Nek and on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915.

## Pension reform needed

On December 8th Canning pensioners will finally get some relief from sky high housing costs, grocery bills and petrol prices.

The \$10.4 billion 'Christmas Bonus' package includes a one-off \$1,400 lump sum payment for single pensioners and \$2,100 to coupled pensioners.

"Together with Canning pensioners I welcome these one-off payments given rising grocery prices, rising fuel prices and the current climate of global economic instability," said Mr Randall.

"The bonus for pensioners is certainly welcome and long over-

due, but now Mr Rudd and Mr Swan must address raising the base rate of pension rather than using bonus payments as political tools."

"The Prime Minister seems content to sit on his hands and wait for yet another review to be completed some time next year. Canning pensioners deserve better."

"Pension Watch won't help, Mr Rudd. Actions speak louder than words."

"Pensioners rightly expect longer lasting relief in response to increasing cost of living pressures after the Prime Minister campaigned on the issue in the lead up

to the 2007 Federal Election. Let's not forget that this one-off measure was designed to stimulate the economy. It's not a compassionate response by the Government to the ongoing plight of pensioners struggling to meet the increasing cost of living."

"It's the Coalition's \$20 billion budget surplus, built up through careful economic management of the Australian economy, that is being used to help secure Australia's future."

If you would like to sign the petition calling for a rise in the pension base rate call Don's office on 9390 1211.



### FAST FACT

The flag flying atop Canberra's Parliament House is about the same size as a double decker bus!

The mast is 81 metres high and weighs 220 tonnes. The flag is 12.8 metres by 6.4 metres.