



The Mornington Messenger

FEBRUARY 2009

MORNINGTON

MOUNT ELIZA

MOUNT MARTHA

MOOROODUC

From David's Desk...

The fires that still burn across Victoria are a natural disaster on a scale never before dreamt of, let alone experienced, in this State.

Thankfully the Mornington Peninsula is so far largely untouched by the tragedy and terrible destruction visited on other parts of Victoria.

But we must remain vigilant, for the risk is still extremely high, and will remain so until the autumn rains.

The State's emergency services have performed beyond all expectations, both during the immediate emergency and it's aftermath, and in the grim task of recovery and victim identification.

The men and women of local our local CFA Bri-

gades have been in the thick of the action at Kinglake, at Bunyip and many other blazes across the State. In re-

‘Despite all that has been thrown at them they have been equal to the task’

cent years we have experienced a run of large and long-running fires which have placed enormous pressure on our fire-fighters, this last probably the worst ever seen.



Despite all that has been thrown at them they have been equal to the task. As a community we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. They have been prepared to leave their families, and to put themselves in harms way to protect the lives and property of their fellow Victorians.

While no words can ever be sufficient I thank them sincerely for all they have done, and all they will do in the dark days ahead. They have set a selfless example for us all.

Freeway Fumble Continues

In the latest installment of the Frankston By-pass saga the Panel assessing the EES has requested a costing for "option 2A", which would see construction of the Frankston Bypass to Eramosa Road, but no further .

If this plan is adopted by 2031 almost 57,000 vehicles a day will pass through the Mornington Tyabb Road/Moorooduc Road intersection. An increase of almost 50% on 2006 volumes.

Clearly this is not a viable option, it would simply re-locate the present congestion in Frankston further south. Option 1, supported by 87% of local residents would see traffic drop to 25,600 cars a day.

It's time to stop stalling and start the work.

Bushfires Condolence Book

Members of the Mornington community wishing to offer condolences to victims of the recent fires and show support for our emergency services workers are invited to sign the official Condolence Book at the Mornington Electorate Office.

The bushfires have been an

unimaginable tragedy and all Victorians were moved as the disaster unfolded on TV screens and Radios across the State.

It is important to reach out to those who have been directly effected, and to let them know our thoughts and prayers are

with them at this difficult time.

The condolence sheets will be collected from around Victoria and bound into books for presentation.

They are available for signature Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 5.30pm.

In the House...

5th February 2009

Mr MORRIS (Mornington) — Last week Victoria sweltered through some of the hottest weather on record. It was not exactly a surprise; for years we have been warned that change was coming.

The government has had more than enough time to be prepared. Nowhere is the lack of preparedness more apparent than in the in-

creasing frequency of power failures in this state. The government has a responsibility to all Victorians to make sure that a reliable power supply is maintained.

What have we heard this week? The government claims that improved communication is the answer so that people will know when their power is going to fail! That is exactly what I would expect from this government. It is trying to explain away the problem instead of fixing it.

This is not a trivial issue. Large areas of Mount Eliza were without power, without warning, for more than 14 hours. In Mount Martha a constituent with two elderly parents, both of whom require oxygen, was without power for over 2½ hours, which meant only one parent at a time could access oxygen and then only because of the emergency arrangements they had made. This was despite the parents being registered with United Energy as having critical needs. Being a good citizen, my constituent did not wish to make any unnecessary demands on the already overstretched public



Simply go to:
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health system. Thankfully on this occasion tragedy was averted — with no thanks to the government. When my office contacted United Energy on her behalf, we were advised that 8500 people had their power off because too much power was being used. We were also told in no uncertain terms that the Minister for Energy and Resources was to blame for the problems with the system. They got that right.

I call on the Premier and his minister to explain to the people of Victoria why they have failed them so spectacularly.

The Month ahead:

The Victorian Parliament sits:

24th—26th February

10th— 2th March

31st March—2nd April

MICA Ambulance Service still at risk

Despite claims to the contrary Victoria's Health Minister is pushing ahead with his restructure of the Frankston mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) service, which will see the current two-crew stretcher-carrying unit based at Frankston disbanded and replaced with a single responder unit.

This cut is simply the latest in a long line of diminished health services for Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula. In 2008 the Peninsula Community Health Service was swallowed by Peninsula Health,



David with residents and staff at "The Mornington" determined to protect the Peninsula MICA Units

and in 2007 we had lost the hydrotherapy unit at the Mount Eliza centre, an annexe of Peninsula Health.

The government claims the MICA 'reforms' will expand the services available to the community, but the reality is that the existing two-person team will be split and turned into two single responder units, one based in Chelsea! The plan has been heavily criticised by local surgeons and medical staff.

A petition supporting the retention of the two person crews is available for signature at the electorate office. For copies call Sharon Tierney on 5975 4799.

With the compliments of...

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