

LIBBY'S NEWSLETTER



An Update from Libby Coker
Your Federal Member for Corangamite



LIBBY.

BETTER
TOGETHER



May this Christmas bring joy, peace and a renewed sense of hope.

As we approach the festive season, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to you all.

There have been many exciting times this year and many new initiatives to help curb cost-of-living pressures.

From strengthening Medicare to paid parental leave, rental and energy relief to thousands of fee-free TAFE places and teaching scholarships – the Albanese Government has been busy taking some of the pressure off Australians.

Let's cherish the moments spent with loved ones this season, and look forward to a new year filled with opportunities for growth and positive change.

Warm regards,

Libby Coker

SANTA'S HELPERS

I recently visited local Australia Post depots in Grovedale and Torquay, to thank them, prior to Christmas, for their dedication.

As we approach one of the busiest times of the year for Australia Post, we know employees are working seven days a week, around the clock, to deliver Christmas parcels.

And with Christmas just around the corner, my parliamentary colleagues and I delivered some parcels of our own under the Kmart Wishing Tree.

Christmas should be the most wonderful time of the year - but for those who are struggling, it's one of the toughest.

Thank you Kmart and the Salvation Army for supporting this initiative again this year.



PAID PARENTAL LEAVE

Talking to mums in my electorate of Corangamite, they said expanding paid parental leave to 26 weeks would make a difference and advance gender equality.

I recently met up with some of my youngest constituents of the Surf Coast Shire and their parents at the Geelong Multiple Birth Playgroup.

Playgroup secretary Jemma Smith, the mother of one-year-old twins, said the changes to paid parental leave would have made a huge difference to her life when her boys, Angus and Charlie, were born.

Once it passes Parliament, increasing the length of the payment from 20 to 26 weeks will ease the cost-of-living pressures for young families like Jemma's and, importantly, create greater capacity for parents to share parenting, build a career and earn a pay packet.



COST-OF-LIVING

The Albanese Government's number one priority remains addressing the inflation and cost-of-living challenge.

We know a lot of people are doing it tough. That's why we are delivering \$23 billion in targeted relief, while not adding to inflation.

This includes, energy bill relief, making medicines cheaper, making it easier to see a doctor, cheaper child care, building more social and affordable homes, fee-free TAFE and wages rising at the fastest rate for a decade.

We're also making it harder for foreign investors to buy property in Australia and have introduced our 'Help to Buy' scheme to Parliament which will mean some home buyers only need a two percent deposit to buy a house.

We have done all this at the same time as we've delivered the first budget surplus in 15 years.



EDUCATION

As a former teacher, I understand both the importance and challenges of working in education.

Recent surveys show most teachers do not think what they do is valued by the community. We need to change that.

We need to ensure more young Australians want to be a teacher and, that they stay in the profession.

That is why our government launched a new television campaign to raise the status of teachers across the country.

Part of this campaign is to build a workforce, but we also understand incentives help.

So, from next year Commonwealth teacher scholarships worth up to \$40,000 will be available to 5000 students, because teachers matter when it comes to giving our children the best start to life.



SURF'S UP

More than 50 of Australia's top politicians joined world tour surfing competitors, Paralympians and industry experts to launch Australia's first Parliamentary Friends of Surfing group at Parliament House in Canberra.

The Parliamentary Friends of Surfing Group will promote surfing and raise awareness about the importance of surfing to our economy, to local jobs and to our culture.

Among those in attendance was 2024 WSL world tour athlete and Jan Juc local India Robinson, Surfers for Climate co-founder Belinda Baggs and Surfing Australia CEO Chris Mater.

Surfing Australia highlighted key goals for the sport over the next decade, including the opportunity to host the ISA World Surfing Games for five consecutive years (2025 – 2029).



NEW AQUATIC CENTRES

The North Bellarine Aquatic Centre (Stage One) is now officially open - thanks to \$10 million from the Federal Government and \$5.5 million from the City of Greater Geelong.

And we will soon begin Stage Two - a \$40 million world class indoor aquatic complex - a joint commitment of Federal and State governments. The facility will include an eight-lane 25-metre heated pool, warm water pool for exercise and learn to swim, cafe, gymnasium, and, group exercise studio.

The Torquay pool is also on track - thanks to \$20 million from the Federal Government, \$13 million from the State Government and \$9.8million from the Surf Coast Shire council.

It will include an indoor 25-metre pool for swimming lessons and another warm water pool for exercise classes and hydrotherapy, gym, cafe, allied health suites and amenities.

Torquay pool construction is earmarked for a mid-2024 start.





STRONGER COMMUNITIES

I was pleased to visit a local women's workshop that is carving a new path after receiving support from the Federal Government's Stronger Communities grant.

The Bellarine Women's Workshop recently received a \$2500 funding boost to help continue its valuable community work.

The registered charity aims to use craft and woodworking to break down social isolation and improve the mental health of women on the Bellarine.

Bellarine Women's Workshop secretary Mel Rogers said the grant would allow the 18-month-old organisation to purchase tools to expand its wood craft program.



QUEENSCLIFF MUSIC FESTIVAL

It was a great pleasure to open the 25th Annual Queenscliff Music Festival.

I think we can all agree that life is better with music. It is good for the soul. It uplifts the spirit, holds a mirror to our culture and brings us together to celebrate creativity and friendship.

So, when I was informed the Queenscliff Music Festival had been awarded a \$85,000 Federal Government grant under the LiveMusic Australia program, I was thrilled - thrilled to support an amazing festival that has been entertaining music lovers for 25 years!

I am pleased to say this grant has helped to extend the three-day festival to include a Thursday night program, for the first time this year.



CANINES OF CORANGAMITE

A pasta-loving kelpie with a photogenic leap was crowned top dog for of our inaugural Canines of Corangamite calendar.

The exuberant seven-year-old pooch from Armstrong Creek, caught the eye of many, with her captivating airborne moment winning the coveted People's Choice Award.

The joyous image of Maisie defying gravity will feature in April, while eleven other finalists won the honour of being pin-up pooches throughout next year.

Thank you to Maisie's owner Ethan who took part, along with 200-plus other locals who entered their four-legged friends into our competition. You are all amazing and loved.

Newsletter subscribers are eligible to receive a 2024 calendar. For your free copy, visit our Armstrong Creek office.



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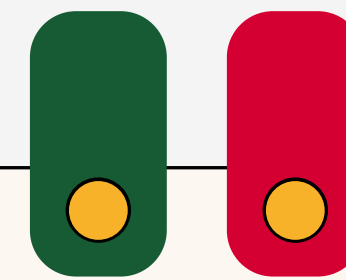
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- Passports
- Pensions, and My Aged Care
- Child support
- Veterans' Affairs

Authorised by Libby Coker MP, ALP, 26/500-540 Torquay Road Armstrong Creek VIC 3217

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