



Lest we forget

The Wimmera Mallee Broadsheet

News from Andrew Broad MP for the people of the Wimmera, Mallee and Mildura regions

April 2016

Message from Andrew Broad

In light of my recent visit to the Middle East region, I have been reflecting on the value of community and the benefits that come from working together.

Joining our Defence Force personnel in the Middle East and learning about their operation, was a humbling experience and I realised just how much life and death hinges on every member's dedication to their job.

Far from home and in hostile territory, there are no small roles in the Defence Force. Every member is valued for their contribution and from the cooks and maintenance teams to the pilots and bomb disposal experts, each member plays a part in ensuring the ADF can do their job. They are a community, where shared responsibility unites them.

I see a similar sense of community in the Wimmera and Mallee, where people, often quietly, are working to advance and support their local area. Our sporting clubs, volunteers and community action groups work with our nine local governments and with me, to passionately advocate for our region.

The Wimmera and Mallee's recent funding successes are in no small way, a reflection of their faith in and commitment to, their communities.

I am proud to represent such hardworking people and I view my office in Canberra as the Embassy for the Wimmera and Mallee. It is from that office that the issues that are important to us, are launched. I regularly meet with the Prime Minister and other ministers, briefing them on the needs of our communities and making sure that all Australia is considered and advanced by the decisions our government makes.

We have achieved a lot for our region and it's my hope, that we will continue to work together, to support each other and grow together.

Just as with the Defence Force, the spirit of unity in our region not only defines who we are, it also defines our future.

Andrew Broad MP

Federal Member for Mallee



Whilst Andrew was in the Middle East Region in January, he took the opportunity to meet three former Wimmera Mallee boys who are currently serving Australia in operations overseas.

With Anzac Day once again approaching, it seems appropriate to recognise the efforts and sacrifices these three soldiers, along with their fellow troops, are making in order to pursue the ideal of world peace. Often, when we think of Anzac Day, war and battle scars, both physical and mental, our thoughts are cast back to the horrors and courage of Gallipoli. However, the challenges faced by today's soldiers are just as real. Far from their homes and their loved ones, these men and women are helping to equip a nation to reclaim its freedom, hope and independence. They do so with the ever present threat of snipers, IEDs and bombs. They see, first hand, what one group of people is prepared to do to another; IEDs are disguised as toys, claiming the most innocent of victims, nowhere and no one is safe. It is hard to imagine the strength of character required to witness these atrocities and not be hardened by them.

The three men Andrew spent time with from the Wimmera and Mallee region were only too happy to forget about the realities of the Middle East for a while and chat about home.

"They're all so focused and committed to their mission in the Middle East but what also struck me was their attachment to 'home'.

"Each of them spoke about the things that keep them going on the tough days, the things they think about. Mainly, they think about everything they will do when they get the chance to go home. The BBQs they'll have, the cricket they'll watch and most of all, the family and friends they'll see.

"I was reminded of how much they all give up, most especially, the time they miss with their children and partners and I came away with a renewed sense of pride in our Defence Force, what they do, why they do it and most of all, the people who do it."



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Above: Photos (from left) Andrew with Lauren Monahan who began a 'shop local Swan Hill' campaign; Andrew meeting with Moses Kakagne, who was supported by Swan Hill residents to visit from Africa to learn about our farming techniques; Mallee Excellence Award winner, Ashlee Grace; Karen refugee in Nhill shows off her stunning work and inspiration for a new business; Heywire 2016 Mallee participants, Sophie Hallam and Seamus Spicer.

\$370,000,000 AND COUNTING

Over the last three years, the Australian Government has committed over \$370 million dollars to our region, through various grants and programs. From Roads to Recovery to health and community services, funding has been supporting our region's growth.

Recently, we have seen confirmation that another two projects in the Mallee have been successful in the National Stronger Regions Fund. The **Mildura Airport** will receive \$10 million towards the upgrade of the runway, which will allow it to handle larger aircraft and to also manage emergency diversions. The **Mildura Recreation Reserve** also had a successful submission and will receive \$723,000 towards upgrades to their facilities. Well done to all involved.

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PROMOTING THE POSSIBILITIES

If we want to drive the economy of our region, we need to invest our time, our money, our ideas and our hope in where we call home. It's up to all of us to make the Wimmera and Mallee great.

There are some fabulous grant opportunities available, to help give our community and business projects the financial boost they might need to go from 'idea' to reality. Many organisations have already seized the opportunities to grow their region and next time it could be you.

Here's what we've been announcing recently:

The successful Wimmera Mallee applicants for Round One of the Stronger Communities Programme, (a grant that seeks to support smaller, community based projects) and many of them are already getting their projects underway.

Congratulations go to:

Great Western Football Netball Club
Irymple Junior Football Club
Nangiloc and District Bowls Club
Swan Hill District Agricultural and Pastoral Society
Wooroonook Lake Foreshore Committee
First Donald Scouts (Scout Association Aust. Vic. Branch)
Brim Sports and Social Club
Nhill Neighbourhood House Learning Centre

Wycheproof - Narraport Football Club
Kerang and District Community Centre
Warracknabeal Golf Club
Mildura Lawn Tennis Club
Dimboola Boat and Waterski Club
Sunraysia Disability Group Inc.
Glenorchy Golf Club
Swifts Football Netball Club

Andrew looks forward to all these organisations completing their projects and he strongly encourages everyone to consider applying for this and any other grant that is available to help you get the start up you need. More information on grants can be found via Andrew's website <http://www.andrewbroad.com.au/Helpful-Links.aspx>



OUT AND ABOUT WITH BROADY

Andrew wasted no time getting back on the roads of the Wimmera and Mallee at the beginning of this year. He is determined to keep his Great Country Towns Tours on the top of his priority list for 2016.

He kicked it all off by heading to Rainbow, stopping off in Hopetoun and Jeparit on the way. On the same trip, he visited Wooroonook Lake Foreshore to meet members of their Committee, who successfully applied for funding through the Stronger Communities Programme.

February also saw Andrew stopping in at Swan

Hill to see the Heartbeat of the Murray Laser Light Show and to attend the Mary MacKillop Hospitality Trades Skills Centre opening.

In early March, like most of the Wimmera, Andrew made a beeline for all the tractors at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days. With the urge to extend his road tripping, Andrew has also ventured to Horsham, Kaniva, Dimboola, Woorinen, Tyntynder, St Arnaud, Charlton, Kerang and Cohuna. He also made time to join in the fun at the Nullawill 125 year celebration and the Women on Farms event in Hopetoun.

HEALTH NEWS

In mid March, Andrew was delighted with the opening of Rural North West Health in Warracknabeal. Andrew has been consistent in lobbying for better health care services in the region and he said this was another important step in the right direction.



WHAT DO YOU ASPIRE TO?

La Trobe University rewards students who work hard to make positive changes in their communities through volunteering, with an early university offer. Successful applicants will receive an offer into their course in September, before they receive their ATAR. Open to all community minded year 12 students, this is a great way to ease some of the pressure of final exams and a wonderful way for La Trobe to recognise our hard working leaders of tomorrow. Why not give it a go?

Applications open in June. Find out more at latrobe.edu.au/study/aspire

MALLEE ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

While we are thinking about our year twelves...

Do you know someone currently studying year 12 at a school in the Wimmera or Mallee?

We are looking for nominations for the Mallee Encouragement Award, which goes to a student who is working hard to create the future they're dreaming of. Awarded students receive a certificate which recognises their efforts and would make a great addition to any resume.

For more information contact your school or our office.

Another way we can help our young people become the best that they can be.

TRAINEESHIP HELPING TO CLOSE THE GAP

It's always great to see the tangible results of a programme and the positive impact it can have on lives.

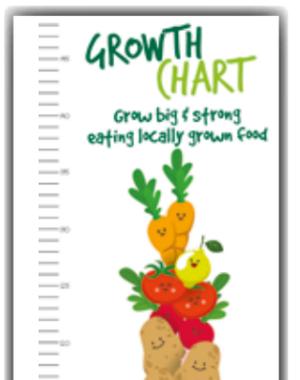
Mildura's Corey Badenoch, recently completed a Mallee CMA Indigenous Traineeship, funded by the Federal Government's National Landcare Programme. Receiving a mix of formal and on the job learning, the traineeship has changed Corey's life.

Since completing his traineeship, Corey has worked casually with the Mallee CMA but in April, the next phase of his life will really begin when he takes the skills and experience he has gained through his Traineeship to the Australian Defence Force. In the space of two years, Corey has transformed his life and we wish him every success for the journey ahead.



LITTLE BUT GETTING BIGGER

We have Growth Charts to give away so you can keep tabs on how fast your kids are growing. Contact our office and we will send one straight out to you.



KEEP INVESTING LOCALLY

Let's keep the shop local campaign going in 2016 because when you spend your money in stores and businesses in your town, you are helping it to grow.

If we want vibrant regions, it's our job to add the **COLOUR**. So don't go online - shop where you live.

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driving our economy



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