



# Melissa Parke's Fremantle Panorama

Federal Member for Fremantle

Spring 2008



## Facing climate change

As part of the annual Sustainability Day at Murdoch University, Oxfam Australia hosted a forum on 11 September about climate change and its implications for poverty. Melissa Parke addressed the forum, detailing the work now being done by the Rudd Government to tackle the problem and she signed her name on Oxfam's giant poster calling for climate change action.

## Investing in sparkies of the future

The 12-year-old College of Electrical Training has been bolstered by a \$1 million federal allocation to help pay for the new campus it opened in Jandakot last March.

Currently catering to 200 students, the new skills centre provides training in fields such as electrotechnology and electrical trades.

"The Government is committed to improving the skills of Australians to cope with the challenges of today and the changing workforce of

the future," said Melissa Parke. "Investing in the infrastructure for training is a vital part of this commitment; it's a key part of our effort to address capacity constraints in the economy and fight inflation."



The funding was provided through the Government's 2007-08 National Training Infrastructure Program.

CET opened its first campus in Balcatta in 1996 with 40 students; the college currently has 1,060 enrolments overall.

## Opposition attempts to block progress

It's been almost a year since the Rudd Labor Government was elected to office and we've already delivered on a number of key election promises — ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, an apology to Indigenous Australians, ending mandatory detention of asylum seekers, and repeal of an unfair industrial relations policy, among other things. But there's still a lot of work to do to address shortcomings in Australian society.

Measures such as Labor's Commonwealth Dental Health Program — proposed as a starting point in the effort to overhaul the nation's inadequate public dental service — and an increase in the Medicare Surcharge Levy threshold, that would have given average income earners up to \$1,200 in tax cuts, are two of the measures being stymied by the Coalition Opposition in the Senate. The Coalition had more than a decade of opportunity in booming global economic conditions to improve the lives of ordinary Australians. It's now time for the Opposition to allow the elected Government to act.



## Looking to unlock the gates for public open space

Cantonment Hill Residents' Action Group representatives Patrick Howard, right, and John Syms, left, show Melissa Parke the hilltop they want returned to local keeps for public open space.

## A “Kings Park” for Fremantle?

Eleven years of trying has not dampened the spirits of the Cantonment Hill Residents Action Group in its quest to secure for public use the craggy hilltop, oval and stores where the old traffic bridge leads into Fremantle. Now Melissa Parke is endeavouring to have the 5-acre property returned to city ownership at minimal cost.

In mid-September, Melissa met with Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support the Hon Dr Mike Kelly MP to bring the issue back onto the front-burner.

Initially deeded to the city by the Crown in 1892 in the same spirit that Kings Park was given to Perth “for the purposes of a public garden,” Cantonment Hill was requisitioned by the

military in the lead up to WWI. And the spectacular spot has been in Defence’s sticky grips ever since.

With the historic former signal station, Cantonment Hill gives a magnificent 360-degree panorama of the port city and its environs. It is intended that the area become a public lookout and interpretation centre.

## Pinakarri launches grey water system

Using water from its brimming rainwater tanks the Pinakarri co-operative housing community in Hamilton Hill launched its new grey water system in an August ceremony on the grounds.

Melissa Parke started the first load of rainwater-fed laundry, the discharge from which was dispersed onto Pinakarri’s gardens instead of into the sewer.

The project was funded by a federal Community Water Grant.

While that program is being continued into next year, Melissa is now advocating for community groups to be included as the state and federal governments sit down to decide the scope of the Rudd Government’s 10-year, \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* solution.



# Community

## Wavepower shows promise for zero-emissions quest

Melissa Parke and Minister for Climate Change and Water Senator the Hon Penny Wong toured Carnegie Corporation's Rous Head wavepower research and development facility on 10 September. Carnegie's CETO 2 system uses submerged buoys which move up and down with the ocean swell, driving pumps to pressurize seawater. Delivered ashore via a pipeline, the seawater

is used to drive turbines that produce electricity and can also be used to supply a water desalination plant. Both processes produce zero carbon emissions. Melissa praised the technology for its clean simplicity, its minimal impacts on the marine environment, and for the fantastic potential it holds to provide carbon-free base-load power and fresh water around Australia.



### Checking it out

Carnegie Corp's Greg Allan explains the CETO 2 wavepower technology to Penny Wong and Melissa Parke as Mechanical Fitter Lyle Mitchell conducts a test.

## Adoption scheme aims to bring life to policy

At a recent ceremony in Perth, Melissa Parke was adopted by five-year-old Chloe Corfield, pictured, and her family of White Gum Valley. During a meeting at their home, the Corfield's shared details of their life since Chloe was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome to put a face on the everyday



challenges they encounter. Run by the Developmental Disability Council of WA, the Politician Adoption Scheme helps politicians to represent the rights and needs of people with disabilities by providing an on-going personal insight into a family's life.

## Climate Ready grants program is open for business

Businesses looking to develop products, processes and services to tackle climate change can now apply for matching grants to fund research and development, proof-of-concept and early-stage commercialisation activities. The \$75 million Climate Ready grants program is part of the Rudd Government's Clean Business Australia initiative. It is a competitive, merit-based program that aims to increase the level of high quality innovation by small to medium-sized enterprises in Australia

and is one of more than 30 programs delivered by AusIndustry, the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research's business program delivery division. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$5 million. The next application deadline is 4 December, with two more rounds being offered through March and June next year. For more information visit the AusIndustry website: [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au), call the hotline at 13 28 46 or email [hotline@ausindustry.gov.au](mailto:hotline@ausindustry.gov.au).

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Send us your email address to get updates on events and news in the electorate.

Register your details on the "Contact Us" form at [melissaparke.com.au](http://melissaparke.com.au)

Do you know a fabulous VOLUNTEER who makes a difference in your local community?



Please call or email my office to nominate them for award of a certificate signed by PM Kevin Rudd, Jenny Macklin MP, Sen. Ursula Stephens and myself.

# Melissa speaks...



## House Debates – Statements by Members Allied Merchant Seamen's Association (01-09-08)

Last week in Fremantle I attended a wreath-laying ceremony for the Allied Merchant Seamen's Association. Australia has used merchant ships in peacekeeping and wartime operations since 1885, but it was in the Battle for Australia period of the Second World War that the merchant navy played its most extensive and heroic role. Unfortunately it is a role that has gone largely unrecognised and unappreciated in Australia until now. The Rudd Government has delivered on an election commitment to promulgate 3 September as Merchant Navy Day, a day that is also commemorated by Canada and the UK. During wartime all mariners, even though

not enlisted in the armed services, were expected to serve or continue to serve without question on merchant ships engaged in war activities. They carried weapons, vehicles, munitions and food, they evacuated civilians from threatened areas and they transported troops to and from areas of conflict. Merchant seamen were not provided with uniforms, leave or medical and pension benefits, yet they were directly aiding the war effort and were the target of attacks from enemy ships, submarines and aircraft. Four hundred and thirty-five Australian merchant seamen are known to have lost their lives serving in the merchant navy. It is time to pay tribute to the heroism and sacrifices of the Australian merchant navy.

## House Debates – International Day of Peace (22-09-08)

In September 2001 the United Nations General Assembly declared that the International Day of Peace should be observed annually on 21 September, as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The UN Secretary-General has noted that observance of this day would provide a pause for reflection by the international community on the threats and challenges we face, and relieve those involved in violent conflict of the daily burden of fear. During my time with the United Nations, one of the things that disgusted me most was witnessing the use of cluster bombs — bombs that open in midair, dropping hundreds of smaller bombs. Many of these bombs do not explode on impact but remain in trees and on land as a deadly legacy, killing and maiming civilians, including children, years into the future. The government's continued strong support for the international treaty to ban cluster bombs, which I understand will be ready for signing by the end of the year, will be an important contribution to reducing global violence.

I note that my predecessor in the electorate of Fremantle, Dr Carmen Lawrence, moved a motion on 11 September 2006 recognising the International Day of Peace. In her speech, Dr Lawrence quoted former US President Dwight Eisenhower, and I think it is worth reiterating those words today:

***Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. The world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.***

**— Eisenhower**