Message from the Parliamentary Secretary

As 2011 draws to a close, the Secretary of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, Hon Brian Ellis MLC, extends his best wishes to supporters and friends.

"It has been a busy year and your Liberal team has been working hard to ensure strength and prosperity for Western Australia," Brian said.

"On behalf of all the Members of the Parliamentary Liberal Party I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas. We look forward to working for you in 2012 and beyond!"

Working together for Wanslea

The long associated link to child welfare and care organisations at the Wanslea site, located at the intersection of Eric and Railway Streets in Cottesloe, has been strengthened with current developments planned for the area continuing in this vein.

In particular, North Cottesloe Primary School will benefit significantly, with the old Army buildings located next to the heritage listed main building being redeveloped into an onsite Early Childhood Education Centre.

Other groups involved in the process include the Wanslea Wellness Centre, National Trust, Cottesloe Childcare Centre, North Cottesloe Pre Primary Centre, Cottesloe Playgroup, Cottesloe Toy Library, Cottesloe Scout Group, and North Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club.

After much consultation, the next stage will see the design and construction of the various facilities required by each group.

"As the local Member, I have undertaken to support this process in any way I can," Colin said.

"All participants involved are to be congratulated for their willingness to work together to achieve the best outcome."

Traffic safety improvements for Wanneroo

Paul with concerned residents and school children at the busy Wanneroo Rd intersection

Paul Miles MLA is delighted that the some major traffic issues are being addressed in his electorate of Wanneroo.

Soon local school children will be able to cross the busy and hazardous Wanneroo Road/Dundebar Road intersection with greater safety.

Paul said following an on-site meeting with Transport Minister Troy Buswell and representatives from two local primary schools, the Minister has approved a $30,000 upgrade of traffic signals at this intersection, which will include a pedestrian walk facility on the northern leg.

Minister Buswell has also approved the installation of traffic lights at the entrance to Lake Joondalup Lifestyle Village on Wanneroo Road, fulfilling another election commitment.

"The safety of residents is paramount in an electorate with such heavy traffic corridors," Paul said.

"I’m pleased that the Liberal-led Government has supported my push for these improvements."
North Metropolitan Region Report

Wherever you are in WA, there’s always a Liberal Member willing and able to help!

Praise for new Seniors Advice Centre

Making decisions about the best housing option for retirement living can be a very stressful time for many seniors. With the establishment of the new Seniors Housing Centre, Carine MLA Tony Krsticevic said that retirees can now rest assured they will have easy access to all the advice and information they need.

Tony has long been a strong advocate for this type of service and was delighted that Liberal-led Government has acted in the interest of WA seniors.

“Seniors in my area often worried they had nowhere to go for free independent advice and support when it came to retirement living options,” Tony said.

“I’m pleased that Commerce Minister Simon O’Brien has acted to make this fantastic initiative a reality.”

The establishment of the centre was the result of feedback received from retirement industry and residents’ groups during an extensive review of retirement village legislation.

For more information visit the website at www.commerce.wa.gov.au or call Tony’s office on 9246 1800.

Premier visits Ocean Reef electorate

The Premier recently visited the electorate of Ocean Reef where local MLA Albert Jacob and North Metro MLC Michael Mischin were able to highlight infrastructure issues important for the area.

After visiting Joondalup Arena, the Premier was taken to the Currambine train station, where he engaged with commuters and heard about problems with the limited park’n’ride options available at the station.

Later, the Premier attended a community forum with over 300 local residents.

“The community forum provided a great opportunity for people to meet the Premier and ask some direct questions about the issues that are important to them living around Ocean Reef,” Albert said.

“The event was a great success and I was glad the Premier was able to confirm the Liberal-led Government’s stance on issues such as the Mitchell Freeway extension and Ocean Reef Marina development.”

Duncraig SHS Bushranger Cadets improve their direction

Hillarys MLA Rob Johnson was delighted to present a Lotterywest cheque to the Duncraig Senior High School Bushranger Cadets to support their Geocaching Program.

Geocaching is an outdoor sporting activity in which participants use a GPS device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers called “geocaches.”

The grant provided the Cadets with GPS units to use on group camps such as the “The Amazing Race” geocaching event held in Point Peron this year.

New Career Centre online website leads nation

Training and Workforce Development Minister and North Metro MLC Peter Collier recently launched a new website that provides the most comprehensive training and career information in the nation.

The new Career Centre website provides users with the ability to access expert information in real time through interactive online technologies, and social media communications streams.

“New this website provides people with easily accessible and free advice specifically relating to a huge range of Western Australian specific career and training information, including labour market information on areas of skills shortage,” Peter said.

“WA is the only State with this type of integrated technology careers service. It’s so clever, people can even access it from their mobile phone.”

It supports initiatives introduced by the Liberal-led Government including the Career Centre in Perth, a State-wide network of 14 Workforce Development and five Aboriginal Workforce Development centres.

Peter launches the Career Centre website

Rob with (l-r) Rachael Porter, Cadet Unit Leader; Stephen Spice, Principal Duncraig SHS; and Connor Jarvis, Cadet Deputy Unit Leader

The aim of these camps is to encourage teamwork, clear communication and problem solving skills. They also give students an understanding of GPS technology.

“I was very happy to donate prizes to the Cadets for this camp and was told that they had a fantastic time,” Rob said.

“It’s wonderful to see our local students get involved in such productive activities which build knowledge and develop their skills.”

Wherever you are in WA, there’s always a Liberal Member willing and able to help!
East Greenwood development progressing

Kingsley MLA Andrea Mitchell has been monitoring the progress of the proposed redevelopment of the old East Greenwood Primary School site.

“A lot of planning is currently being carried out and the Department of Housing is now seeking, through tender, to engage a private partner to undertake the development,” Andrea said.

The process is expected to be finished early in 2012, after which the community and City of Joondalup will be consulted.

According to Housing Minister Troy Buswell, the development will include the allocated 11 per cent social housing, with the remainder of the sites sold to home owners and private investors.

Some financial assistance may be available for those people wanting to buy into the market.

“After visiting the site with the Minister, I’m pleased that the government has committed to ensure the development is in keeping with the location,” Andrea said.

The Department of Housing will manage the site and is available to answer questions from the public.

Scarborough Community Forum

Last month the Premier joined Scarborough MLA Liza Harvey and over 250 local residents for a community forum at the Doubleview Bowling Club.

After mingling with locals over morning tea, the Premier addressed the crowd on a number of projects within the Scarborough electorate and across Western Australia.

Community members, including local school children, were then invited to ask questions of the Premier and they did not hold back.

In his responses, the Premier provided informative and at times frank comment on the Liberal-led State Government’s policy initiatives.

“It is really important that residents get the opportunity to engage, not only with their local MP, but also with Cabinet Members,” Liza said.

“We were particularly thrilled that the Premier was able to visit the electorate and locals relished the opportunity to speak with him.”

It was a successful forum, with the Premier sharing the Liberal-led Government’s achievements thus far, and outlining his vision for WA for next year and beyond.

Butler Senior High School in the works

North Metro MLC Michael Mischin and Education Minister Liz Constable recently visited the building site of the new Butler Senior High School, which when complete will provide education for up to 1,200 students from years 8 to 12.

The Liberal-led Government is investing $53 million to build stage one of this new school. Stage one will accommodate 670 students, including up to 70 education support students with high needs from ‘feeder’ schools at Butler, East Butler and Quinns Beach primary schools.

General school features include an administration block, student services area, library, eight classrooms, sports hall and cafeteria. Specialist workshops for technology and enterprises classes and a performing arts centre are also included.

“This simply confirms the State Government’s commitment to providing high quality school environments for all WA public school students,” Michael said.

Funding for foreshore restoration

More than $900,000 in State Government Riverbank grants will go towards shoreline protection and rehabilitation projects to improve the Swan Canning Riverpark.

Environment Minister Bill Marmion said the latest round of funding included $912,761 for 12 priority local projects to address erosion control, revegetation, weed control, riverwall repair and preparation of foreshore management plans. Locally, the City of Nedlands will receive $67,500 for revegetation and bank stabilisation at Pt Resolution Reserve and $250,000 of Emergency Works funding for repairs and replacements to the river wall west of Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club.

The works will be undertaken through partnership arrangements with local and State Government agencies and the Swan River Trust’s Riverbank Program.

“These projects are another example of the State Government working closely with local government and environmental and foreshore protection groups, to ensure our rivers and shorelines are preserved for generations to come,” Bill said.
North Metro health discussion

Liz with Health Minister Dr Kim Hames and local community group leaders at her electorate office in Stirling

North Metro MLC Liz Behjat recently held the final “Let’s Talk” community forum for the year at her electorate office in Stirling, with Health Minister Hon Dr Kim Hames, as the guest speaker.

As in the past, Liz hosted various local community group leaders at the forum.

“It was a great opportunity for the group to discuss health related issues and ideas with the Minister face to face,” Liz said.

Some hot topics discussed at the forum included the 4-hour wait rule, interpreter services available to patients in metropolitan and regional hospitals, and the future direction of health in Western Australia.

The group were particularly interested in the development and progress of the Fiona Stanley and New Children’s Hospitals.

“Feedback from guests was positive and they appreciated the Minister making time to discuss important health matters with them,” Liz said.

Liz will host more “Let’s Talk” community forums in her electorate next year.