



Senator Sue Boyce, Alison Meretini, Claire, Dr Sally Baron-Hay and Donna Staunton at the Morning Teal to raise awareness and support to fight Ovarian Cancer.



Senator Claire Moore Weekly Update 1 Mar 2013

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"It was a great privilege to meet Alison Meretini, an Ovarian Cancer Survivor, and Dr Sally Baron-Hay, an Oncologist from the North Shore. I am really grateful for all the support from my fellow Senators and Parliamentarians. We must keep attention on research and development to make sure Sally gets all the support she needs to make sure there are more success stories like Alison's.

Senator Claire Moore, Labor Senator for Queensland

UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY TO BE AWARDED TO HMAS YARRA The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator the Hon David Feeney, has today announced that the World War 2 sloop HMAS *Yarra* will be awarded a Unit Citation for Gallantry based on her actions off Singapore on 5 February and in the Indian Ocean 4 March 1942. HMAS *Yarra* was sunk in March 1942 when it confronted a vastly superior Japanese force. This Unit Citation follows Senator's Feeney's acceptance of the recommendations from the recent Inquiry into *Unresolved Recognition for Past Acts of Naval and Military Gallantry and Valour* (the Inquiry).

The Inquiry was held by the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal). The Tribunal found that due to a lack of adequate evidence it would not be possible to determine what honours might or should have been awarded to three individuals from HMAS *Yarra* who were considered as part of the Inquiry. [Read more here](#)

INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL'S FINDINGS ACCEPTED: NO VCS TO BE AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY The Australian Government has today announced that no Victoria Cross (VC) will be awarded posthumously for any of the 13 individuals who were the subject of the recent Inquiry into *Unresolved Recognition for Past Acts of Naval and Military Gallantry and Valour* (the Inquiry).

Following intense community interest into whether these heroes of Australia's military past should be awarded a VC for acts of gallantry and valour, in February 2011 the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator the Hon David Feeney, directed the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) to inquire into the matter. [Read more here](#)

PRIME MINISTER OPENS NEW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT AT QUT The Prime Minister officially opened the new \$230 million Science and Technology Precinct at the Queensland University of Technology. The Australian Government provided \$75 million for the Science and Technology Precinct project through Round 2 of the Education Investment Fund. Other funding was received from the Queensland Government,

Atlantic Philanthropies, and QUT. The new facility will focus on the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics – key disciplines that drive innovation, productivity and economic growth. [Read more here](#)

\$85 MILLION FOR FLOODS SUPPORT PACKAGE AND FLOOD-PROOFING PROJECTS IN QUEENSLAND

The Gillard Government has today unveiled a Support Package to provide approximately \$45 million to help Queenslanders recover and rebuild after the Australia Day floods. The Commonwealth will also contribute \$40 million toward a Betterment Fund that will rebuild council-owned roads and assets so they are more flood proof. This assistance comes on top of the significant contribution that the Gillard Government is making already to assist Queenslanders to recover from the latest disaster events. The Government knows what needs to be done and we want to get on with the job of providing assistance where it is needed most. [Read more here](#)

HELPING QUEENSLAND SMALL BUSINESS BOUNCE BACK

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for Small Business Chris Bowen today announced a new \$2 million Queensland Natural Disaster Assistance program to help small businesses impacted by recent natural disasters to access expert advice and assistance so they can recover and grow. The program – part of the Australian Government's Small Business Advisory Services initiative – will provide vital help to hard-working small business men and women impacted by ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald. The Queensland Natural Disaster Assistance program will help local small businesses recover from the recent devastating natural disaster by increasing access to expert advice and tailored business services. [Read more here](#)

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE AFFORDABILITY OF INSURANCE

The Gillard Government will invest \$100 million over two years to reduce flood risk and bring about real reductions in insurance premiums. The National Insurance Affordability Initiative will invest \$50 million a year in targeted flood and other natural disaster mitigation measures, as well as establish a National Insurance Affordability Council. The Council will manage the national coordination of flood risk management, make recommendations to the Government on flood and other natural disaster mitigation projects and undertake other functions directed at reducing natural disaster insurance premiums. [Read more here](#)

EXTRA HELP FOR QUEENSLAND FARMERS

Flood-affected primary producers in more of the hardest hit regions of Queensland can now apply for clean-up and recovery grants. The grants of up to \$25,000 are available to help with the economic impacts of these devastating floods. Primary producers in targeted areas within the local government areas of Central Highlands, Gold Coast, Logan, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, and Western Downs are now able to apply for this assistance under the jointly funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. [Read more here](#)

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT

Twenty years ago, life for millions of Australians got easier. The then Deputy Prime Minister in the Keating government, Brian Howe, introduced an Act that would, for the first time at a national level, make it unlawful for people with disability to be discriminated against. The genesis of change was the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth), which commenced operation on 1 March 1993. *Twenty Years: Twenty Stories* marks the Disability Discrimination Act's twentieth birthday with twenty inspiring stories on film. [Read more here](#)

INCOME SUPPORT BONUS BILL PASSES PARLIAMENT

More than \$1.1 billion in extra income support payments will begin flowing to over one million Australians next month after key legislation passed Federal Parliament today. The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Income Support Bonus) Bill passed the Senate despite the relentless negativity of the Coalition, who once again voted against this extra support for people doing it tough. Allowances attracting the bonus include Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Austudy, Transitional Farm Family Relief Payment and Exceptional Circumstances Payment, as well as payments made under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme, and the Veterans' Children Education Scheme. [Read more here](#)

ANZAC CENTENARY GRANTS

— Claire announced yesterday that Projects to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary would be able to share in \$100 000 in federal funding grants. Claire said that between 2014 and 2018 Australia would commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the First World War.

“\$100 000 is being made available by the Gillard Labor Government to help enable community groups to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women in the First World War. This is an exciting opportunity to obtain grant funding for special projects in the electorate which honour those who served in the Great War. I encourage community and ex-service organisations to apply, “ Claire said. [Read more here](#)

More is available on the Anzac Centenary website: www.anzaccentenary.gov.au

HAVE YOU LOST A BANK ACCOUNT? — Claire encourages all Australians to log on to Moneysmart.gov.au website today to find any lost bank accounts they may have forgotten about. “There are literally hundreds of Australians with money in old bank accounts, which they have lost track of,” said Claire.

“These measures will help reunite Australians with their lost money sooner, and protect them from being eroded by fees, charges and inflation.”

Under the changes, the Government will pay interest on lost money transferred to ASIC; to preserve its value until it can be reunited with its owners. Under the old rules, this didn't occur. Claire said it's now far easier for people to track down lost bank accounts once they are transferred to ASIC and added to the online database at the MoneySmart website. Under the changes, this will now happen after three years of inactivity instead of seven.

CRACKING DOWN ON FOREIGN WORKER RORTS — The temporary skilled work (subclass 457) program will be reformed in response to the changing needs of the Australian economy and domestic employment market, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Brendan O'Connor announced today. The 457 program plays a vital role in ensuring that Australian businesses are able to source the skilled workers they need where they are unable to find suitably skilled labour in the domestic employment market. It is important, however, that the program settings take account of the needs of employers and that of the Australian domestic labour force. [Read more here](#)

WHAT'S ON?

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

FUND RAISING CONCERT FOR THE RED CROSS FLOOD APPEAL — City of Brisbane Pipe Band, Brisbane Dance Club, QLD Show Band, Bayside Youth Band, Down Under Tribal Belly Dancers will be playing at the **Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre, 241 Tingal Road, Wynnum**. Cabaret Style seating, Light Food and Bar Refreshments available on **Saturday 9th March 2013** from **7 p.m.** Tickets are \$10 each but for a family of 4 or more \$35. Prepaid tables of 10 are \$90.00 and tickets are available at the door. **Book now on (07) 3396 4966 or 0418 740 919 or www.topshowmusic.com.au/qshba**

NDIS FORUM WITH SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DISABILITIES AND CARERS SENATOR JAN McLUCAS — The First Forum will be for people with disabilities and their families and carers from 11.00 a.m. and the Second Forum will be for disability service providers and disability sector workers. **Forum 1 at 11.00 a.m and Forum 2 at 12.45 p.m.** Both forums will be held on **Monday 25 March 2013** at the **Carson Room, Mt Gravatt Bowls Club, 1873 Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt.**

Please RSVP with your name and contact number to: doug.stewart@aph.gov.au or **07 3252 7101 before 12.00 Noon on Wednesday 20 March 2013.** Please let us know, when you RSVP, if you will require any assistance on the day or if you have communication needs.

HANG OUT WITH CLAIRE AT THE RETRO BAR — Come and meet your Federal Representatives at **The Retro Bar on Wednesday March 6th from 6.30 – 7.30pm.** The Retro Bar is at 2071 Moggill Road, Kenmore, and entrance via Princeton Street Carpark. Free entry and canapés, cash bar. Enquiries to **0417 608 920** or email on mariaheenan@yahoo.com

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS AND SKIN CANCER EDUCATION WALK – Walk for Melanoma awareness on **Sunday 24th March 2013** at **Wynnum Bandstand Park, Lower Esplanade, Wynnum**. Highlights will include face painters, balloon sculpting, characters on stilts, zorb balls, Storm Troopers, raffles and much, much more. Register today by calling **1300 377 666**. There will also be a walk on the Sunshine Coast on **March 10**. For more information follow the [link](#) .

DO TIME TO STOP YOUTH CRIME – The **Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC)** is bring together community leaders, business people, celebrities and the media to raise awareness and funds for PCYC across Queensland. Participants volunteer to be detained in a portable gaol cell under the supervision of a policy office and need to raise bail in order to be released. Fiona McNamara will be joining the event between the **5th to 14th of April** and you can find out how to participate by visiting the website at www.time4kids.org.au

JUMP TO CURE DIABETES WITH JDRF! Last year Claire met with 2 great young **Juvenile Diabetes youth ambassadors** – Joshua and Sam. Josh and Sam came to the office in Fortitude Valley and they then travelled to Canberra for the *JDRF Kids in the House* annual event. They, like many other young people affected by type 1 diabetes, are great young people who want to find a cure for type 1 diabetes.

Josh and Sam asked for Claire's support and asked whether she would jump out of a plane for them! So, on 16 March, Claire will jump out of a plane to raise money for the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Jump to Cure Diabetes QLD!**

You can help by clicking on this link: [Jump to Cure Diabetes - Josh's Jumpers](#) and donating money – any amount you can spare would be terrific!

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY - Brisbane 2013 OUR BODIES OUR LIVES – 1 pm, Saturday 9th March. Meet at Brisbane Square then march to West End. International Women's Day 2013 is an opportunity to celebrate women's economic, social and political achievements as well as raise our voices to keep fighting for full equality. This year, show Queenslanders that we won't go back to the dark ages either in services or attitudes. The theme of the rally and march is **'OUR BODIES, OUR LIVES'** and all gender identities are welcome.

Claire's current committee work:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012. Submissions are closed. Reporting date: 13 March 2013

Australia's domestic response to the World health Organisation's (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of health report "Closing the gap within a generation". Reporting date: 27 Mar 2013

The conditions of employment of state public sector employees and the adequacy of protection of their rights at work compared with other employees. Submissions by 15 Feb 2013. Reporting date: 7 Jun 2013.

The Involuntary or Coerced Sterilisation of people with disabilities in Australia. Submissions by 22 Feb 2013. Reporting date: 24 April 2013

You can be involved in the work of a committee by lodging a submission to current inquiries. Claire has been involved in many Senate committees, and encourages everyone to [find out more info](#) on the role of committees, and to have a look at the [list of current committee inquiries](#).

Want to know how to get the Federal Government to consider your petition? Find out about petitioning the Senate [here](#), or petitioning the House of Representatives, [here](#).