



▲ John Forrest with Jean & Jim Moore following the medal presentation in Mildura.

John recently presented an Australian Defence Medal to Jim Moore of Mildura.

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) was established to recognise Australian Defence Force Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for an initial enlistment period, or four years service whichever is the lesser.

Jim was a Navy Reserve for five years and served the six months qualifying as an ordinary seaman and gun layer on the aircraft carrier HMAS Vengeance in 1954, at the tail end of the Korean War. They brought the 77th Squadron back to Australia from its base Japan just before the truce was signed.

Jim, a retired bank manager and member of the Rotary Club of Irymple, said the experience was excellent with great discipline, and he encourages young people to do similar, whether it is volunteering with the Country Fire Authority, St Johns Ambulance, Sea Cadets or the CMF.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A POLLIE

In January, John was asked to speak to Horsham Probud about being an Australian parliamentarian.

In essence, it is about having a willingness to put your two bob's worth into the national discussion to make things better in your electorate, and helping ensure our Australian lifestyle remains the envy of others.

It is about working long hard hours and driving through the night.

When elected as Member for Mallee in 1993, John accepted that if you don't perform in this game, you get dumped at the next election and the voters, or the party selection committees give someone else a go.

That's the way it should be.

The job means the Harley Davidson's resting in the shed, the patio's taken five years to build and the lawns always need mowing.

Bits & Pieces

FLAGS
As the local Federal Member of Parliament, John is pleased to provide and present the National Flag to local schools, not-for-profit organisations and individuals.

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLORS

Murray Mallee and Mildura	03 5022 0799
Swan Hill	03 5032 2562
Kerang	03 5450 3285
Horsham	03 5381 1646

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES
Congratulatory messages for Golden and Diamond wedding anniversaries and for 90th and 100th birthdays are available from the Prime Minister and John. For Diamond, wedding and 100th birthday celebrations, a message from the Queen can also be arranged.

PHOTO CREDITS
Wimmera Mail Times, Wimmera Sports Assembly, Warracknabeal Herald and Australian War Memorial



Representation

John's role is to represent the people of the Mallee in the Federal Parliament so if there is an issue that needs his attention, please contact either of John's offices.

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Useful Web Sites

- Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman - www.tio.com.au
- Families Australia - www.familiesaustralia.org.au
- The Essential Handbook for Independent Contractors - www.business.gov.au/contractors
- Australian Communications and Media Authority - www.acma.gov.au
- Scams - www.scamwatch.gov.au
- Switchover to digital television - www.digitalready.gov.au
- A general one-stop site for Federal Government information - www.australia.gov.au
- Keep Kids Safe on the Net - www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/report.asp

Grant Web Sites

John is always happy to support funding applications in the Mallee Electorate. The following are some useful funding web sites:

- State Grants - www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au
- Proceeds of Crime - www.crimeprevention.gov.au
- Health and Ageing - www.health.gov.au
- Government Community Grants - www.grantslink.gov.au
- Agriculture - www.daff.gov.au
- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal - www.frrr.org.au
- Sport and Recreation Victoria - www.sport.vic.gov.au
- Australian Institute of Sport (Ausport) - www.ausport.gov.au/ais
- Telstra Seniors - www.telstraseniors.com.au/how-grants-work.aspx

MALLEE ELECTORATE FACTS:

First proclaimed in 1948/49 the Mallee Electorate is 70,694 square kilometres. It is the largest geographical electorate in Victoria with only 11 larger electorates Nation wide.

The region is noted for a variety of industries including tourism, services, manufacturing, dried fruit, citrus, stone fruit, almonds olives, pistachio and other nuts, bee-keeping and pollination, wheat and other cereals, wool, sheep, vegetables, forestry, wine grapes, table grapes, dairying, beef cattle, meat works and sand mining.

To give an idea of the size of Mallee, the total area of England, Scotland and Wales is 219,000 square kilometres, or equivalent to just 2.8 Mallee electorates.

England at 130,395 sq kms is 1.67 times the size of Mallee; Scotland 78,772 sq kms is about the same size, and Mallee is 3.75 times bigger than Wales.

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John Forrest MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MALLEE

NEWS FROM JOHN FORREST MP FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE ELECTORATE OF MALLEE

ISSUE 27, JUNE 2010

THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia



The completion of pipe laying for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline gives John an enormous amount of satisfaction. After years of debate, the largest single water supply scheme in the nation is finished.

He remembers well the consternation of his fellow parliamentarians when he made a pledge in 1993, that the whole Wimmera Mallee Pipeline would be completed before the end of his term in Parliament.

Such election promises were considered reckless but this project replacing the Wimmera and Mallee's old and leaking channel system with a pipeline was something that was essential and should be done in a three-way Federal, State and customer partnership. John stuck to his commitment that the benefits of this scheme "sold itself" and that all that was needed was political commitment by the State and Federal Governments.

Former Member for Mallee Peter Fisher and

John met with Wimmera Mail Times Editor Maurice Lawson before the 1993 election. The purpose was that the whole Wimmera Mallee channel system should be piped at an estimated cost of \$380 million, not just the Northern Mallee Pipeline.

It is sobering to think where our farmers and townships might have been during the past five years of drought if the pipeline had been rejected as a worthwhile water conservation project. The old channel system was losing 90 percent of the water pumped in transmission. Construction of the Northern Mallee Pipeline started in the early 1990s, and was completed in 2001.

The big funding break came in 1996, with the formation of the Natural Heritage Trust which provided the Federal funding mechanism for the replacement of a channel system that itself stood in the history of civil engineering as an achievement of great note.

A final cost of some \$688 million and the 8790 kilometre pipeline's completion on March 30, 2010, was celebrated at Horsham on Thursday, April 15, 2010.

This is Australia's biggest water saving project, replacing 18,000 kilometres of wasteful earthen channels to save 100 gigalitres of water a year, and yet it barely scored a mention in the national media. It was achieved by all parties, political, local government, water boards and individuals pulling together for a common purpose.

Much work still needs to be undertaken to complete the channel back-filling, allocation of the huge amount of water saved, and decisions about the Wimmera Irrigation System.

Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to our storages filling, staying full and ensuring our farms and communities develop economically, socially and environmentally as a result.

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Analogue Television Switch-off

The time has come for all homes in the Mildura television viewing area to prepare for the switch-off of analogue television transmissions this June 30.

John hopes everybody is ready and he's been working hard to hold the Australian Government to its commitment that no viewer will be worse off.

While there will be community repeater towers in Ouyen, Robinvale and Underbool, quite a number of people in the more remote areas or black spots might have to consider a satellite dish.

In the case of satellite reception, John has been advised that there will be access

through a dedicated news channel for local television news services currently provided by free to air broadcasters in their terrestrial broadcast areas.

John has fought long and hard for local news on satellite, including to remote Murrayville which, while in the Mildura Rural City Council municipality, is not on the Mildura broadcast licence area. Murrayville is in a remote licence area and negotiations are continuing with the satellite broadcasters to enable the Mildura signal as soon as possible after switchover, rather than in 2013.

The Federal Communications Minister announced on April 14, an agreement between the Commonwealth and

broadcasters, Southern Cross Media and Imparja, to establish a joint venture company Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST).

The concern is that with a significant amount of infrastructure still to be built, it may not all be available for the analogue switch-off date of July 1.

The VAST service will make available in all parts of Australia, the same amount of channels as in capital cities.

There are two ways to find information about the switchover, by visiting www.australia.gov.au/digitalready, or calling 1800 20 10 13.

Barnaby Joyce Water Visit



John pictured with Barnaby Joyce and Simon Birmingham.

The Nationals Shadow Minister for Regional Development Infrastructure and Water, Barnaby Joyce, accompanied by Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Murray Darling Basin Simon Birmingham, held discussions with irrigators in Mildura on April 21.

Barnaby and Simon met with three groups and then attended a dinner at Mildura Settlers. The information gained, plus a lot of follow-up material will be used in developing Coalition water policy.

Of great concern is the Rudd Government's plans to further erode irrigator water

entitlements under their "Sustainable Diversion Limits" which could force irrigators to give up to 30 percent of their water entitlement back to the environment without compensation.

This would be an enormous impost on irrigators who have already borne a high cost.

Local Sporting Champions



▲ Pix – John with Local Sporting Champions at Horsham, Nathan Berry, Nick Adamson, Emma Avery and Jayden Kuhne.

John had great pleasure presenting certificates to four young Horsham athletes during a ceremony at the Horsham Volleyball Tournament.

The Federal Local Sporting Champions program is designed to support young people through financial assistance towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when participating in state and national level sporting competitions, either as an athlete, coach, umpire or referee.

Those eligible include young people between 12 and 18 years of age at the time of the nominated sporting competition who are required to travel greater than 250 kilometres return to participate in the nominated National Sporting Organisation- endorsed state or national sporting competitions, or national school sport competition.

Grants of \$500 are available for successful individual applicants, and \$3000 for successful team applications. More information at www.ausport.gov.au; Wimmera Sports Assembly www.wrsa.org.au, or Mallee Sports Assembly www.malleesportsassembly.org.au

Murrayville Centenary

John saluted the township of Murrayville on achieving 100 years in early April.

Murrayville is a fine example of a strong regional Australian community built on human energy, expertise and tenacity.

Many of the people of in the Murrayville district can trace their families back to those eager early settlers who had enterprise, courage and a determination to succeed.

Modern farming is now the norm with its big gear and precision sowing using satellites in the sky, new crop varieties planted at the optimum time and gleaned by harvesters of a size, never imagined by John Ridley of Hindmarsh who built his first stripper in 1843.

Opening up land for farming from Ouyen west to Murrayville began in 1908, with 104,000 acres (41,600 hectares) in the Murrayville district becoming available "on good terms to bona fide settlers" in 1909. The following year, some 55,000 acres (22,000 hectares) of crop was sown here. What an achievement.

Elderly carers deserve a break

One of the greatest challenges for ageing parents is to ensure their disabled children have the security of lifetime accommodation and care.

Supported employment and day services represent a respite break and helps prolong the well-being of older parent/carers.

However, people with a disability generally age earlier than the mainstream Australian population and retire earlier from their supported employment workplaces.

But what happens then?

This is the great conundrum faced by parents, carers, and grandparents who have assumed responsibility for their disabled grandchildren.

Sadly, there's no obvious pathway to assist ageing disabled people with their work to retirement transition, the shift from work to a day service, or long term disability accommodation.

A lack of long-term accommodation options for their disabled sons or daughters places great burden on ageing parents/carers at a time in their lives when they are less able to cope. Often it causes them to postpone their own needs for aged-care accommodation.

The situation is exacerbated in remote communities because younger people who would otherwise assist their parents with their disabled sibling, have to leave home to seek employment or educational opportunities.

The time has come for the Commonwealth to make their lives easier and give assured government-funded care for the disabled in retirement, and ensure their parents or grandparents/carers, have a less stressful life in their later years.

Australia Day

On Australia Day, John visited Dergholm in the far south west of the Mallee Electorate.

Many people have heard about Dergholm but have little idea where it is. Early European settlers were coming through this area in the early 1800s, carting wool from the north through Poolaigelo, Dergholm and Casterton to Portland.

In 2010, Dergholm is the most southern town in the Federal Electorate of Mallee which stretches some 400 kilometres up the South Australian border to Mildura, across to Swan Hill and Cohuna on the Murray River and including nine municipalities.

Do Not Call Register

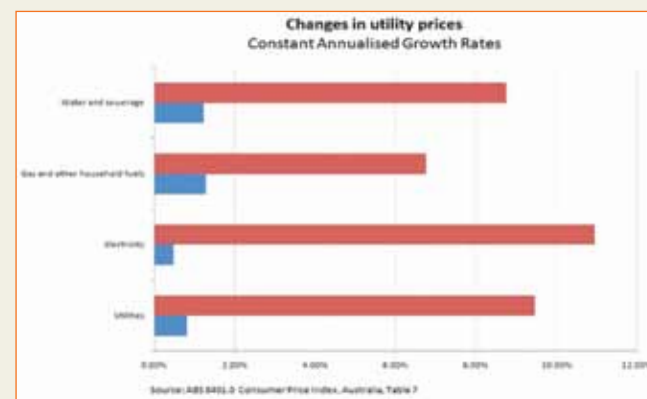
Consumers who signed up to be on the Do Not Call register in May 2007, will need to do so again if they want telemarketing calls blocked for another three years.

Numbers not re-registered by the expiry deadline will be automatically removed from the register.

More than 4.3 million home, mobile and VoIP numbers are currently on the register. The numbers must be used primarily for private or domestic purposes to be on the register.

For more information, call 1300 792 958 or visit www.donotcall.gov.au

Ouch!



Australian Bureau of Statistics data has revealed dramatic increases in home utility prices including electricity, gas, and water which have squeezed working family budgets in the past two and a half years.

Real electricity prices have jumped by 10 percent a year when, in contrast, these charges went up by an average of less than 1 percent a year previously.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

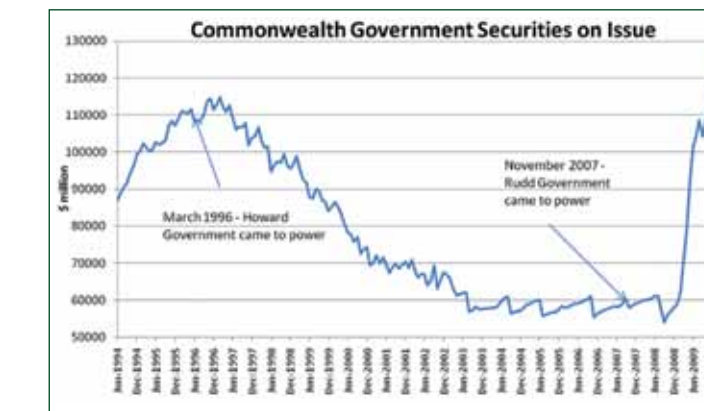
The year 2009-10 has been tumultuous to say the least.

Australia has taken a financial and emotional beating as the elected government struggles with delivery of the Home Insulation Program, the Building Education Revolution, the deferred Emissions Trading Scheme, Border Protection policy, the cost of a proposed National Broadband Network, Green Loans, the promised 260 new Childcare Centres, Interest Rate increases for home buyers, retaining the means test on Private Health Insurance rebates, Grocery Choice and Fuel Watch.

In Mallee, we're still awaiting the final Federal \$25 million contribution promised in 2007, for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, money that would be very handy to assist farmers with the cost of filling in old channels, some of which are quite substantial and require contracted heavy equipment.

Government indebtedness has escalated in the past two and a half years, at a rate still not fully comprehended by many. Because the money has come from reserves and borrowings, it will have to be repaid plus interest, by the taxpayer.

Who is going to re-pay Australia's debts



This graph represents a startling example of National Debt growth in a remarkably short space of time, and makes one wonder where we'll be in 12 months time.

The debt spiral started about November 2007, and Australian Government public borrowing has probably never increased at such a rate before.

How will we, the taxpayers, reduce this burgeoning debt. The interest bill alone is frightening. The May 2010-11 Budget shows accumulated interest expenses on government borrowings reaching some 45 thousand million dollars (\$45,500,000,000) in the four years to the end of 2013-14.

This money, paid in interest on public debt, could have achieved a lot in education, police officers, nurses and teacher wages, housing, hospitals, roads and rail line upgrades -- if there was no debt.

Keep kids safe on the net

When you get a spare moment, check out the following website for tips on how to keep your kids safe on the net. <http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/report.asp>

PLOUGHSHARES AND PROPELLERS FAME



Bruce Hughes, Kel Jeffery, Bruce Anderson, and John presenting historic items and a copy of "Ploughshares and Propellers" to the Australian War Museum in Canberra.

"Ploughshares and Propellers" a comprehensive regional Air Force history launched on Anzac Day 2009, is now on display at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The book grew from a small start to 560 pages telling the stories of 84 former RAAF members from Kerang and district.

The project was driven by Kerang identity and former National Serviceman Bruce Anderson starting in late 2007, to gather the stories of "Five Flying Farmers" who had fought in the two World Wars. The book quickly grew into "Ploughshares and Propellers" when the volume and quality of material was realised.

In addition to the Australian War Memorial, copies have been received by Buckingham Palace, Australian Defence Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, RAAF Museum at Point Cook and RAF Museum Hendon U.K..

The Directorate of the RAAF has now granted permission to place the Air Force insignia on the title page of the second printing with the words "Heritage Collection 1200 copies" and on the front cover "Heritage Collection RAAF Museum Point Cook".