

Bridget McKenzie

The Nationals Senator for Victoria

Newsletter



October 2012

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See you @ the Bendigo Show!

Spring has sprung and what better time of year to celebrate all that is great about Victoria's thriving agriculture sector.

A fantastic range of shows are scheduled across the state, giving us an opportunity to promote careers in agriculture, teach people where their food and fibre comes from and most importantly, champion the benefits of a regional lifestyle.

Recently, I have joined thousands of Victorians at the Royal Melbourne Show and the superb Elmore Field Days.

The Annual Bendigo Agricultural Show will be on again Friday 26 – Saturday 27 October 2012. Bring the family along for a great day out and don't forget to drop by The Nationals stand to say hello.

Above: The Nationals were out in force at the Elmore Field Days

Right: Hearing from the Strathfieldsaye PS student leadership group

Ensuring a bright future for our kids

Last sitting, Senator McKenzie and her Coalition colleague, Senator Chris Back successfully moved a motion in the Australian Senate to secure an important education inquiry with the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (EEWR) Committee:

Teaching and learning – maximising our investment in Australian schools

Under the terms of reference, the committee will consider matters such as: the effectiveness of current classroom practices in assisting children to realise their potential in Australian schools; the structure and governance of school administration and its impact on teaching and learning, and; factors influencing the selection, training, professional development, career progression and retention of teachers in the Australian education system.

Senator McKenzie is keen to ensure the views and experiences of Victorian stakeholders are highlighted throughout the inquiry process. Educators, parents and other interested parties are encouraged to provide a submission to the committee by 26 October 2012.

The EEWR committee will hold a series of public hearings around Australia on dates to be announced, and will report back to the Senate on 21 March 2013.

Senator McKenzie is currently participating in a range of inquiries through her extensive committee involvement, including the management of the Murray Darling Basin, the importation of potatoes from NZ and the Renewable Energy Electricity Amendment (excessive noise from wind farms) Bill.

For information about any of these inquiries or notes to assist with the preparation of submissions, contact Senator McKenzie's office on 1300 889 103 or follow the Senate committee links on the APH website at www.aph.gov.au



Psst...visit my website for all my latest media releases and speeches!

The Nationals Federal Conference 2012

Last month, party members from across the nation united in Canberra for The Nationals Federal Conference.

More than 70 motions were debated over two days, covering a wide range of issues.

Acting on the concerns of Victorian potato farmers, Senator McKenzie successfully moved an urgency motion calling on the Agriculture Minister to immediately instruct Biosecurity Australia to conduct a full analysis of the latest science provided by industry, prior to a decision being made on the importation of potatoes from any country containing the zebra chip disease.

Senator McKenzie also teamed up with her Coalition colleagues in the Senate in the lead up to conference, to refer the matter for inquiry to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs Committee.

The full suite of determinations made at this year's Federal Conference can be found on The Nationals website,

www.nationals.org.au

OUT & ABOUT top - bottom: I had an inspiring trip to Afghanistan over the parliamentary winter break. Pictured here, Chief Petty Officer Shaun Elliott demonstrates search techniques on the Counter IED range at Multi National Base Tarin Kot; I also travelled with my EEWRC committee to China, where we learnt about their education system; I've seen some impressive technology and heard interesting stories from people at agricultural shows across Victoria; I had a great afternoon out at the Victorian School Clay Target Shooting championships in Bendigo. Congratulations to overall champion Penny Jones (pictured) for a stellar performance under pressure; attending a rally with potato growers outside Ballarat. They expressed genuine concern about the impact of zebra chip disease on their industry if fresh NZ imports are allowed into the country.

Senator meets troops in Afghanistan

Recently Senator McKenzie was privileged to participate in the Parliamentary Australian Defence Force Program, which saw a group of politicians visit our troops in the United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan.

As part of the program, Senator McKenzie attended the main Australian Defence Force staging base for Middle Eastern operations located at Al-Minhad Air Base, Tarin Kot and Kandahar.

Senator McKenzie said one of the highlights of the trip was seeing the Bendigo-made Bushmaster out in the field and hearing our soldiers praise the vehicle for saving their lives.

"Our defence men and women do a sterling job - their professionalism, creativity, determination and courage should make us all very proud," she said.

Senator McKenzie also paid tribute to the soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. Lest we forget.

Out & About



Contact Bridget

Need help with a federal government issue? Does a loved one have a 90th or 100th birthday or milestone anniversary coming up? Please contact my electorate office to see how we can assist.

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