

# New facilities welcomed at Herdsmans Cove Primary

By ANDY BENNETT\*

I HAVE been fortunate to be part of two important recent events.

On Thursday, July 22, along with 50 guests, students, staff and families, I attended the official opening of the redeveloped buildings at Herdsmans Cove Primary School by the Federal Minister for Education, Simon Crean, and the Federal Lyons MHR, Dick Adams.

The opening was also attended by the State Minister for Education and Skills, Lin Thorp.

The building program at the school was funded under the Australian Government's National Building Economic Stimulus Plan – Building the Education Revolution program. As a result, the school community now enjoys three refurbished learning areas, a redeveloped multi-purpose hall and canteen and a beautiful new early learning centre that includes extensive out-



**Georgina Springer and Alalee Gimblett, student leaders from Herdsmans Cove Primary, welcome guests to the opening of the Herdsmans Cove redevelopments.**

door learning areas.

A reception was held in the new early learning centre which is proving to be a great hit with young children and families. Highlights were the speeches from students, parents and the school's principal, Carolyn Brown, about how much they were enjoying the new facilities and how the

improvements had opened up the school and accelerated the sense of community that is developing around the school.

For example, the Books for Breakfast program the school runs in the centre three times a week has been attracting up to 60 families and children and numbers attending the Launching into Learning

program for children up to 4 years of age are increasing due to the excellent new facility.

The second event was much smaller, but also very significant. On Wednesday, July 21 I met with principals and teachers from New Norfolk and Bridgewater High Schools and Oatlands, Campania and Glenora District High School and staff from the Tasmanian Polytechnic.

The group represents the consortium of schools that collaborated to make successful application to the Commonwealth Government to build the Regional Trade Training Centre on the Bridgewater campus of the federation.

The new building is on target for completion on September 22 and, following the installation of equipment, will be ready to deliver taster courses for students from mid-October.

The consortium met to discuss plans for the taster courses to be offered to our grade 9 and 10 students and other people interested in undertaking trade training from October through to December. We also discussed how the centre will run once it is fully operational at the start of the 2011 school year.

Initial plans were made for a series of community forums and open days to provide information about the many opportunities for accredited training the centre will offer. Much more information about those events will be distributed as the opening day draws closer.

When put in perspective, the opening at Herdsmans Cove and the Trade Training Centre meeting bring life to the federation vision.

The Herdsmans Cove redevelopment will further increase our capacity to deliver integrated quality pre-schooling and early years education for the local community. The Trade Training Centre will enable us to deliver individualised learning programs for secondary students and managed transitions into training and employment and improve adult learning opportunities.

Those needs were clearly described as priorities for education and training during the extensive community consultations that followed the fire at Bridgewater High School in October 2007.

It is an exciting time to see those needs being provided for and it is an exciting time to be a member of our community – and there's more to come.

## Further updates:

### Building Program

- The gymnasium on the Bridgewater campus is on target for a September completion date.

- Stage 1 of the middle school refurbishment will be completed by the start of term 3.

- The footings and the concrete slab of the new grade 9 to 12 learning facilities have been poured.

- The redevelopment and new buildings at Gagebrook Primary School are on track for completion in December.

- The extensive artificial turf play and sporting area at Gagebrook was opened for use at the start of July.

- The project teams for the Indigenous Children and Family Centre and the Learning and Information Network Centres to be built next to the



**Sue Riley, left, secretary of the Herdsmans Cove Primary School Association and president of the School Parent and Friends, and Lyn Springer long-time school community member and parent address guests at the opening of the redevelopment.**

Brighton Civic Centre have been meeting with the consultant architects to plan how those two facilities will work together.

### Federation School Association

- Community and parent representatives from Gagebrook, Herdsmans Cove, East Derwent Primary and Bridgewater High Schools have met on three occasions to plan for the establishment of the new Federation Association to come into being once the federation begins operation in 2011.

### Federation name

- Students, parents, families and staff have offered suggestions for the possible name of the federation. The joint school association group has

reduced the list to a shortlist of seven names. School communities are currently being surveyed for their preferred name.

### Federation website and email address

Our website at [www.education.tas.gov.au/basmllearningfederation](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/basmllearningfederation) is being updated to include news about latest developments including building concepts and plans. Your comments are welcome.

Alternatively, you can email comments to [bsm.learningfederation@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:bsm.learningfederation@education.tas.gov.au) or contact Andy Bennett at [Andrew.Bennett@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Andrew.Bennett@education.tas.gov.au) \*Andy Bennett is manager – Bridgewater and Southern Midlands Learning Federation



**Federal Minister for Education Simon Crean, left, Labor Lyons MHR Dick Adams, Herdsmans Cove Primary principal Carolyn Brown and grade 6 student Chloe O'Neil chat about the new early learning centre at Herdsmans Cove Primary.**