



# NORTHSIDER NEWS



- ✓ SCHOOL UPGRADES
- ✓ MORE LOCAL JOBS
- ✓ NEW HOUSING
- ✓ SMARTER, CHEAPER ENERGY
- ✓ BACKING LOCAL BUSINESS & CLUBS

## A Brighter Future for our Suburbs

The last twelve months have tested us in ways we never thought possible. Victorians have been extraordinary in our resilience – but the pandemic is not over and its economic impacts continue.

My focus is on getting residents and businesses the support they need, driving local investment and making sure jobs return to our inner northern suburbs.

As we work to rebuild our economy, we are using this opportunity to make our state fairer and stronger.

Historic investments in social housing, mental health, secure work, energy efficiency, education and transport are transforming Victoria – and as your local MP, I'm working to make sure our local community benefits from these exciting initiatives.

*Kat Theophanous*  
State Member for Northcote

## \$14.9 Million Upgrade

### Thornbury High STEAMing Ahead

Students at Thornbury High will be learning at the cutting edge of science, technology, engineering, arts and maths thanks to \$14.9 million in funding to build modern classrooms and a brand new STEAM Centre.

The funding is the culmination of a huge joint effort with parents, staff, students and the THS Redevelopment Group who worked alongside me to get this across the line within Government.

Together we are delivering a brighter future for Thornbury High.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Andrews Government is now funding Mental Health Practitioners in every government secondary school, including Thornbury High.

Photo: Locally we've already created more than 200 new jobs through the Working for Victoria program. This is John, one of 15 new recruits at the Bridge Darebin.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The State Government is introducing a Secure Workers Pilot Scheme, which for the first time will give insecure workers access to paid sick leave.

# Making the most of Victoria's ~~BIG BUILD~~ OPPORTUNITY

The BIG BUILD being undertaken by the Andrews Government is not just about infrastructure – it's about creating opportunity.

We are building better transport networks, more homes, better healthcare and making Victoria a renewable energy powerhouse.

Here are just some of the ways our community will benefit.



We're transforming how we move around with the Metro Tunnel, Airport Rail, Suburban Rail Link, North-East Link and removing 75 Level Crossings - including 4 in Preston.



\$6 billion will build 12,000 new social and affordable homes to support vulnerable Victorians, help more first home buyers and create 10,000 jobs every year over four years.



We're ramping up our wind and solar capacity, boosting energy efficiency in homes, changing how we recycle and making big investments in community-owned renewable projects.



A huge funding boost will go to hospitals, more support for nurses and paramedics and the biggest increase to mental health support we have seen - so more Victorians get the care they need.

## Jobs for our Suburbs

At the heart of our economic recovery must be jobs creation.

Our Jobs Plan will create 400,000 new jobs by 2025 and I'm making sure the inner north benefits from these opportunities.

That includes targeted support for our local traders, our creative industries and our manufacturing sectors – as well as more TAFE and training places to give Victorians the skills they need to get into work.

Photo: Raising a glass to 3 Ravens Brewery, with Minister Symes - 3 Ravens received a \$200,000 grant from the Victorian Government to modernise their equipment and help secure their future.



# VICTORIA'S BIG OPPORTUNITY



# Building Better Schools

I will keep working to deliver for our local schools.

The last 12 months have seen over \$45 million secured for school upgrades, on top of the \$25 million already delivered in 2019.

This means a new multipurpose hall for Bell Primary School, classroom upgrades at Croxton School, a new STEAM Centre at Thornbury High, and a complete transformation of Preston South Primary with a \$14.6 million upgrade.

Great schools are about creating opportunities for our young people – stay tuned as I continue to work with our schools to get them the facilities they need.

## Innovative Learning

Schools are not just about buildings. They're about giving our kids the support they need to thrive.

We're expanding school breakfast programs, employing 4,000 tutors to help those who need an extra hand, funding new jobs coordinators and putting mental health practitioners in secondary schools.

We're also completely transforming and expanding support for students with disabilities and getting targeted support to students with autism, dyslexia and complex behaviours.

I am committed to making sure the inner north gets its fair share of these benefits.

## FUNDED

- 
**\$14.9m**  
 Thornbury High
- 
**\$7.2m**  
 Bell Primary
- 
**\$7.9m**  
 Croxton School
- 
**\$18.9m**  
 Preston High

## PROJECTS Underway

- 
 Preston South Primary
- 
 Wales Street Primary
- 
 Fairfield Primary
- 
 Alphington Primary

## Getting the most out of Kinder

28 local kinders are benefiting from over \$323,000 through our historic School Readiness funding, giving children specialised support such as speech and occupational therapists, language and literacy experts and child psychologists.

Two of our local kinders, Yappera and Batman, also received a combined \$257,000 to upgrade their facilities – creating better spaces for our littlest Victorians.

## FREE IN 2021

We're making kinder free this year to ease the burden on families and help parents get back to work.

Every child enrolled in a funded kinder program will benefit. And families with children in unfunded programs will also get reduced fees. This will make a huge difference to families in Northcote.

Good for kids. Good for parents. Good for our economy.

# A New Bell Precinct

Work is underway to transform Preston – removing a massive four level crossings at Oakover, Bell, Cramer and Murray roads. This incredible rail project has so many benefits for our community.

-  New premium stations at Bell and Preston
-  Four level crossings gone so trains and cars can run smoother and safer
-  A shared pathway for cyclists and pedestrians to connect our suburbs
-  New open spaces with seating, nature play, sport and fitness areas, native gardens and more!
-  More local jobs and opportunities for local businesses

I'll keep making sure we get the best out of this project as we get on with the job of improving our suburbs!

**Bell Station precinct is getting more than 16 tennis courts worth of open space thanks to the Level Crossing Removal**

## Growing Sport

I'm determined to grow the inner north into a destination precinct for community sport.

This year we opened four new netball courts at John Cain Memorial Park, secured funding for an upgrade of Corben Oval cricket ground, finished new changerooms for the Fitzroy Stars and we're kicking in \$2 million to complete an indoor high-ball stadium in Thornbury.

Over 40 local clubs accessed \$1,000 COVID support grants and statewide we're pumping over \$21 million into community sport vouchers to get 100,000 more kids involved.

If your club needs more assistance reach out to my office.



## A YEAR IN PARLIAMENT

The floor of the State Parliament has never been more important – and as a member of the Government I've stood up to represent our community on the issues that matter.

Raising issues such as energy reform, pandemic support, funding to schools and sports clubs, mental health, wage theft, nurse to patient ratios, social housing and backing our creative industries and local businesses.

Head to my website to see my speeches in full, [www.KatTheophanous.com.au](http://www.KatTheophanous.com.au)

## GET IN TOUCH

If you need help with a state matter or have an issue of concern, please get in touch by phone or email. You can also drop by the Northcote office between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Αν χρειάζεστε βοήθεια με κάποιο κρατικό ζήτημα, καλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε με την Κατερίνα μέσω τηλεφώνου ή ηλεκτρονικού ταχυδρομείου. Μπορείτε επίσης να επισκεφτείτε το γραφείο στο 4/404-414 High St Northcote μεταξύ 9 π.μ. και 5 μ.μ. Δευτέρα ως Παρασκευή.

Se avete bisogno di assistenza di competenza Statale o su specifici problemi di vostro interesse, potete contattare Kat, telefonicamente o scrivendo una email. Potete anche rivolgervi direttamente al nostro ufficio di Northcote. Siamo aperti dal lunedì' al venerdì', dalle 9.00 alle 17.00.

如果您在州政府事务上需要帮助或有疑问，请使用电话或电子邮件与Kat联络。您也可以在星期一至星期五的上午9点至下午5点之间到Northcote办公室查询。



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