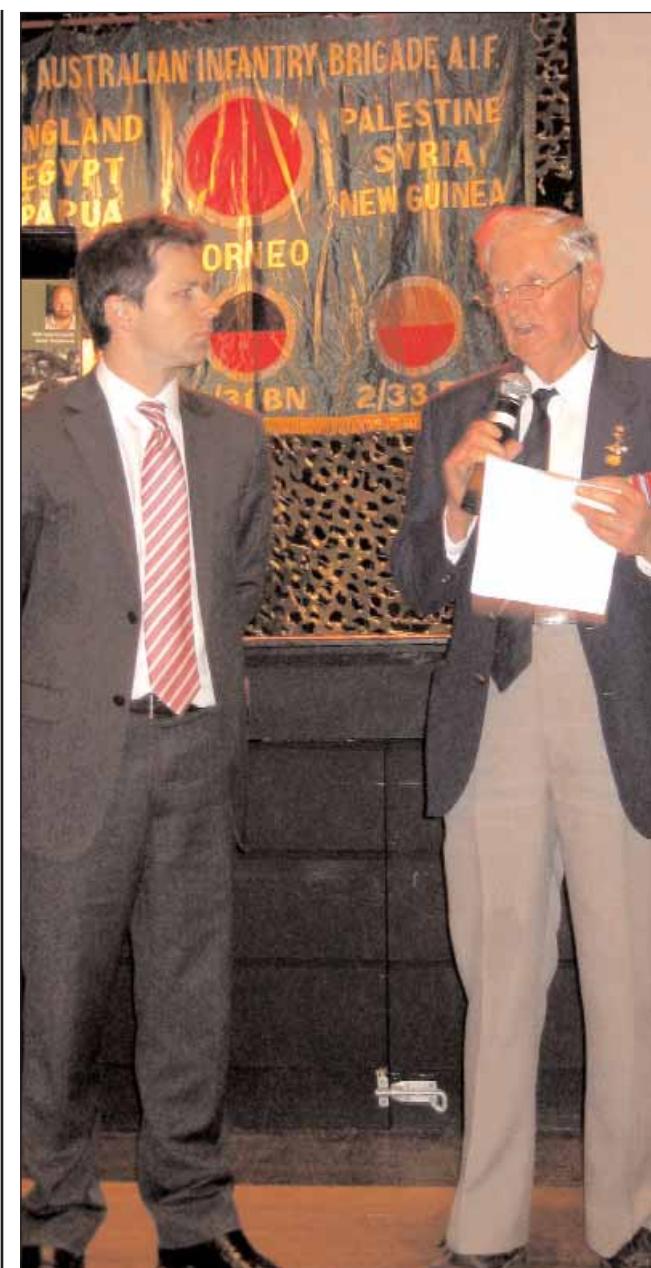




*Jason Clare and documentary producer Stig Schnell
with St Euphemia College students Adrian Andrews and Njegoslava Petrovic*



Jason Clare with Kokoda veteran Norman Ensor

BEYOND KOKODA

Over 250 people attended the Bankstown Town Hall yesterday to see a special screening of the film Beyond Kokoda put on by Federal Member for Blaxland, Jason Clare MP. "History students from six local high schools;

Bankstown Grammar
Birrong Girls High School
Chester Hill High School
La Salle College
Malek Fahd Islamic School
St Euphemia College

were joined by mums and dads, seniors and veterans at yesterday's event," Mr Clare said.

"Everyone who came along made a gold coin donation, helping us raise \$850 for Legacy - the charity that assists ex-service men and women, and their families.

"The documentary, Beyond Kokoda, which will be released for sale next Anzac Day was incredibly moving. There was a lot of emotion in the audience and many tears were shed," Mr Clare said.

Birrong Girls High School teacher, Victor Davidson said, "At one point when I was feeling emotional myself I looked along the row and noticed

most of my girls were wiping their eyes too. Extension History was never more powerfully informed and enriched than in Bankstown Town Hall today."

The highlight was at the end of the documentary when the audience heard from our own local Kokoda hero, 85 year old, Norman Ensor.

*Office of Jason Clare MP
MEMBER FOR BLAXLAND*

BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL TO RECEIVE \$771,000 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Bankstown City Council will be offered \$771,000 this financial year as part of the Rudd Labor Government's \$300 million community infrastructure stimulus package to help local communities respond to the global financial crisis.

The money can be spent on local projects that can start immediately to stimulate economic development and improve the quality of life in our local community.

"This is a great opportunity to get moving on important local projects – things like improving our community centres and upgrading sports grounds," Mr Clare said. "We want projects that stimulate our local economy in the short-term; create jobs in our local community; and provide practical community infrastructure for the long-term," Mr Melham said.

Bankstown City Council will also be eligible to apply on a competitive basis for larger projects seeking a minimum Commonwealth contribution of \$2 million or more.

The funding was announced by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd as part of the new regional and local Community Infrastructure Program at the Australian Council of Local Government in Canberra this week.

"This is some welcome relief for our communities who are feeling the pinch of the global financial crisis," the MP's said today.

This is an initial down-payment on the Australian Government's plans to meet urgent needs in communities and create long-term infrastructure. Ongoing funding will be delivered in the May 2009 Budget following consultation with local government.

This down payment will be delivered by June 30, 2009.

The \$300 million will be delivered – in two parts – a \$250 million fund offered to all councils and shires as well as a competitive \$50 million fund for projects seeking \$2 million or more.



E-HEALTH SYSTEM EXCELS ACROSS EU

The e-health unit of the "Sotiria" Chest Diseases Hospital in Athens, a public teaching hospital, is among the top 35 medallists competing for the 2008 European e-Inclusion Award (inclusive public services category), an initiative by the European Commission to reward excellence and good practice in using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services for tackling social exclusion. "Sotiria"'s e-health unit was established in 1999, with the support of EU's research and development programmes. The service provided by the unit offers home and community based integrated care, rehabilitation and monitoring. The medallists will compete with each other for the 2008 e-Inclusion Award during the Ministerial Conference in Vienna on December 1.