



# MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

Federal Member for Deakin



## Deakin Community News | Spring 2015

### Dear fellow resident

Welcome to another edition of the Deakin Community News.

This edition highlights the significant investments the Australian Government is making to improve our local area.

This includes the recent opening of the new **Aquanation leisure and aquatic centre** in Ringwood, along with the soon to be completed **Ringwood Town Square precinct Library, Learning and Cultural Centre** as part of the Eastland redevelopment.

There have also been a number of significant road upgrades which are underway or completed, like the **Bedford Road and Great Ryrie Street intersection** in Ringwood; the **Surrey and Junction roads intersection** in Blackburn North; and a range of **safety improvements along Oban Road** in Ringwood.

The Deakin Community Awards, held in July, celebrated the achievements of local unsung heroes, by recognising their tireless dedication and service to our local community.

And as always, I have continued to be your tireless advocate, making sure your views are heard in Canberra and across our nation.

Deakin is a great place to live, and with your help we are making it an even better place to raise a family, do business, and enjoy yourself.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sukkar MP



### East West Link Rally at Parliament

In August hundreds of supporters gathered on the steps of the Victorian Parliament to protest at the Andrews Labor Government's costly decision to scrap the East West Link.

Residents from Melbourne's eastern suburbs wanted to make their voices heard in support of improved road infrastructure across the city.

With your support, my fight for the residents of Deakin continues to put pressure on the Victorian government to build the East West Link.



### Aquanation opens with a splash

The \$48 million Aquanation leisure and aquatic centre opened in Ringwood, boasting of a 66.5 metre 10-lane pool, diving facilities, 30-seat café, child care facilities, seating for 800 spectators and two club and community meeting rooms, gymnasium and more.

The Australian Government contributed \$10 million towards the delivery of the project, which will benefit the 800,000 patrons expected to use the centre each year.



## HumphreyLaw – the sock specialist

HumphreyLaw started off as a small sock manufacturer, located on an old lemon tree orchard in Heathmont in 1947.

The family company, now run by siblings, Rob and Elizabeth, has recently been awarded an Australian Government contract to manufacture socks for the Australian Defence Force over five years.



## Bedford Rd & Great Ryrie St upgrade

Stage 1 works of the \$1 million road safety upgrade at the Bedford Road and Great Ryrie Street intersection commenced in September.

This road safety project will mean greater safety for local residents and school students moving through the intersection and rail crossing.



## Fixing Oban Road black spots

I am proud to deliver \$738,000 to remove and fix two black spots along Oban Road, Ringwood – at the Mullum Mullum and Wonga roads intersections.

This funding complements traffic signal upgrades at the Oban Road and Maroondah Highway intersection.

***“Michael, I just wanted to let you know we are forever grateful for your help. Let me assure you that the work you do is important and has immeasurable impact on ordinary people like us.”*** –Glenn from Ringwood



## Luna Nameplates Industries – automotive readjustment grant

Luna Nameplate Industries in Bayswater has received \$109,000 as part of the Australian Government’s Automotive Diversification Programme.

This funding is critical for companies like Luna Nameplate Industries to grow its business and plan for the future, while also retaining important skills and jobs in our local manufacturing sector in Deakin.



## Centre of innovation opens at Realm

The opening of the new Centre for Regional Knowledge and Innovation at Realm in Ringwood will create 10,000 direct jobs and 16,000 indirect jobs. This will generate billions of dollars worth of employment and investment growth and productivity for local business, manufacturing and industry.

I was able to secure \$3m in this year’s budget to deliver the Centre, which will provide education and skills training, business development, and job opportunities for local residents and business.



## Australian aid for Myanmar

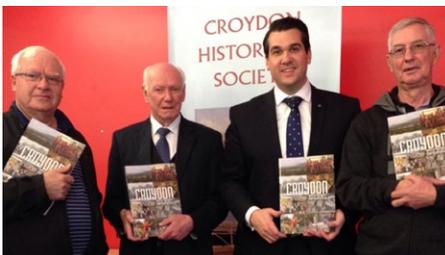
The Australian Government announced that it would provide \$3 million towards the humanitarian relief effort in Myanmar following Cyclone Komen and heavy monsoonal rains, which have caused widespread flooding and landslides.

Deakin has a very large population of refugees from Myanmar – mainly from the Chin state area, one of the worst hit places – and a community with which I have a very close and enduring relationship.

I worked closely with the Minister for Foreign Affairs to deliver this urgent aid without delay.

***“We, at the ACRC, would like to thank you so much for helping the local Chin community during this difficult time, and listening to our voices.”***

–Simon Sang Hre, Australia Chin Relief Committee



## Croydon Inside & Out book launch

The Croydon Historical Society’s photographic book *Croydon Inside & Out* details the changing face of the suburb over time, and records the events and people that helped shape its history.

I am proud to have delivered on my election commitment of a \$10,000 Community Heritage Grant to make work on this book possible.



## Recognising our local Chinese community

Hundreds of local Chinese residents gathered at Blackburn’s Asian Lounge to congratulate Dr Ka Sing Chua for his tireless work and contribution to our community.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, was on hand to welcome members from the local Chinese community from within Deakin, and spoke about the positive benefits of the China Australia Free Trade Agreement.



## Deakin Christmas Giving Tree

The annual Deakin Christmas Giving Tree is a great way for local businesses, families, community groups and schools to help those less fortunate in our community.

This year’s Christmas Giving Tree will support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society, who will distribute hampers to needy individuals and families over Christmas.

If you would like to donate children’s toys, clothes, blankets and non-perishable food to this year’s Deakin Christmas Giving Tree please contact my office on 9874 1711.



## 2015 Deakin Community Awards

The Deakin Community Awards recognise our local unsung local heroes, whose tireless service and dedication to our community normally goes unrecognised.

Congratulations to this year’s finalist: Liz Coles, Gus Puopolo, Ray Freeman, Kevin Poile, and John & Jenny Fearn-Wannan.

Ray Freeman won the overall award for his decades of service as a member of the Whitehorse Community Chest, Eastern Emergency Relief Network, the Lions Club of Nunawading, and the Ringwood Cricket Club.



## New Colombo Plan

The Australian Government's New Colombo Plan aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific in Australia by supporting Australian undergraduates to study and undertake internships in the region.

Studying Law and International relations, Deakin university student, Natasha Ritchie (pictured), was fortunate enough to be selected to be part of the program and travel to study for a semester in Indonesia this year.



## Student Leadership Roundtable

The Deakin Student Leadership Roundtable program is an opportunity for local students to engage with me, as their local Member of Parliament, on issues that matter to them.

Recently, students sat down with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, at Norwood Secondary College to discuss a range of topics from education to foreign affairs to leadership in our daily lives.



## Anzac Day Schools Award

2015 marks one hundred years since the fateful Gallipoli landing by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, which gave birth to the Anzac legend we now commemorate.

Aquinas College received an Anzac Day Schools' Award for the 2,000 ceramic poppies staff and students made to commemorate the sacrifice and service of all Australian defence personnel.



## Local Sporting Champions

The Local Sporting Champions programme continues to provide young people with valuable support to participate in sport, like Blake Ritchie, Serena Gibbs, Nikki Anderson, Stephen Dang, Ethan Newnham, Ainslee Mackenzie, and Shiori Bak (pictured).

Grants of up to \$500 are available to help 12 to 18 year olds with the cost of taking part in state, national and international sporting championships, as well as School Sport Australia state or national championships.

For more information visit: [www.ausport.gov.au](http://www.ausport.gov.au)



## Your Voice in Canberra

It's important to be a strong voice for all those you represent. I regularly speak in Parliament on local and national issues, including:

- The growth of employment and new jobs in Deakin;
- My ongoing fight for the East West Link; and
- Mandatory minimum sentences for crimes involving violence against women and children.

You can read all my speeches by visiting my website:

[www.michaelsukkar.com.au](http://www.michaelsukkar.com.au)

# Out and about in the electorate of Deakin



Chin Community of Victoria Family Fun Day



Taralye Power of Speech



National Hearing Week



Vermont Men's Shed



Big Aussie Barbie for Prostate Cancer



Mitcham Primary School fete



Heatherdale Bowls Club



Run Maroondah



Ringwood Croquet Club season opening

Forest Hills Retirement Village



Whithorse Citizenship Ceremony



EFL Finals



MENA Blue Day



Forest Hill Football Club



Tintern Friends of Young Farmers Spring Celebration



Crossway Baptist Church



Blackburn Girls Football

# Out and about in the electorate of Deakin

- ✓ Helped out with **Ringwood** Prostate Cancer Support Group's Big Aussie BBQ
- ✓ Supported the MENA Blue Day Breakfast in **Heathmont** for Blue September
- ✓ Pitched in at the Rotary Club of **Nunawading's** Blue September fundraising BBQ
- ✓ Launched jobactive sites in **Ringwood** at Sarina Russo Job Access Centre and Salvation Army
- ✓ Afternoon tea with residents of Pinnaroo in **Vermont**



- ✓ Guest speaker at Evergreen Senior meeting at Holy Spirit Parish in **Ringwood North**
- ✓ Attended a civic recognition of Youth Members in Scouting & **Whitehorse** District Reporting Evening
- ✓ Turned the sod at RALAC Lionsbrae

- new development in **Ringwood**
- ✓ Attended the Taralye Market Day in **Blackburn**
- ✓ Enjoyed a dessert and coffee night at **Ringwood** Church of Christ 'Piecemakers' group's QUILTS Plus exhibition
- ✓ Celebrated the 40th anniversary of **Mitcham** Community House
- ✓ Visited Top Kids Child Care Centre in **Ringwood**
- ✓ Launched the Eastern Regional Library Centenary of ANZAC database
- ✓ Helped students at Antonio Park PS, **Mitcham** plant trees for National Tree Day
- ✓ Opened the Girls Footy Day at **Blackburn** Football Club
- ✓ Attended the induction of Fr Tony Doran as Parish Priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, **Ringwood**
- ✓ Supported **Blackburn** FC's Burners Big Freeze in aid of Motor Neuron Disease research
- ✓ Attended the **Maroondah** City Council's 2015 Photo Competition Awards Evening
- ✓ Attended **Vermont** Football Club's 35th Annual Sports Night
- ✓ Visited residents at **Vermont** Elderly People's Homes



- ✓ Guest speaker at **Norwood** FC Life Members & Wooders Coterie Group Dinner
- ✓ Enjoyed afternoon tea with residents at Ferndale Gardens in **Bayswater North**
- ✓ Attended an afternoon tea at Donwood Community Aged Care in **Croydon**
- ✓ Spoke with parents and staff at **Ringwood** East Child Care
- ✓ Toured the Children's Corner Learning Centre in **Nunawading**
- ✓ Addressed Grades 5 & 6 students at **Antonio Park** PS about their projects on Australian Prime Ministers



## Community Noticeboard

### Australian Flags

Community groups and exchange students travelling overseas can request flags and flag packs from my office.

### Congratulatory messages

My office can help organise congratulatory messages from the Queen, Governor General and the Prime Minister for milestone birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

### Fundraising hampers

I would be delighted to personally donate a hamper to assist your community group or school with fundraising. Please contact my office to arrange a hamper.

## About Michael

I have lived, worked and been a part of the Deakin electorate all of my life.

Born and raised in Ringwood, I learnt the virtues of hard work from my parents, who ran a local small business.

I attended Aquinas College in Ringwood before earning a double degree in Commerce and Law from Deakin University and later, a Master of Laws at the University of Melbourne.

I am honoured to represent the electorate of Deakin. As a local, I understand the issues that concern residents and I am working hard to be a strong voice on key local, national and international issues in Parliament.

With the support of my wife Anna, I am committed to making a real difference to the lives of people living in Deakin.

