



MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

Federal Member for Deakin
Assistant Minister to the Treasurer



DEAKIN COMMUNITY NEWS SUMMER 2018

Dear fellow resident

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Deakin Community News.

We have another big year ahead in 2018.

Our community is constantly improving and last year we saw some big projects completed, with many more commencing soon.

We're upgrading local roads, footpaths, parking and lighting, from small scale repairs to large projects involving the installation of traffic signals, and improving the flow and direction of traffic.

We've already committed over \$23 million to get these vital works completed and to make sure local pedestrians and commuters are safe on the road.

This is in addition to \$3 billion we still have available to build the East West Link.

We're also making Deakin safer by investing over \$1 million in CCTV cameras and lighting throughout our suburbs. \$456,000 has been secured for CCTV cameras in Croydon which are due to be installed soon.

I am always looking to support further crime prevention infrastructure, and will be announcing further investments during the year.

Furthermore, we're continuing to improve local sports stadiums and grounds, schools, parklands and community halls – with more projects than ever before being funded and completed in Deakin.

A large part of Deakin's success is credited to the selfless work of our community leaders and volunteers that offer their time and services to improve our day to day lives.

That's why we continue to support a whole range of volunteer groups with funding, as well as providing grants to purchase equipment, furniture and other necessities.

Growing up in Ringwood and living locally, it makes me proud to see our community become one of the best places to live in the country.

As always if you have any feedback or questions, please contact me via email at Michael.Sukkar.MP@aph.gov.au or call my office on 03 9874 1711.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sukkar MP
Assistant Minister to the Treasurer



DEAKIN COMMUNITY CUP

The Deakin Community Cup, once again, delivered a nail-biting competition between junior cricketers from the Ringwood and Box Hill Cricket Associations.

As always, I'm extremely proud to sponsor the cup as a part of my commitment to support local summer sport in our area.



DORSET RD/MAROONDAH HWY

\$8 million has been provided by the Federal Government to ease congestion at this notorious intersection.

Travel times through the intersection are expected to be more than halved.

Construction is set to commence early this year.



DEAKIN SHIELD

The Deakin Shield, generously sponsored by Eastland, is awarded to local students who have excelled during the school year.

It was my great pleasure to recognise more than 156 talented and hardworking students, from 52 local schools, at the end of last year, for their musical, sporting, artistic, community service and academic achievements.



H.E. PARKER RESERVE

\$10.5 million has been committed by the Federal Government for the new state-of-the-art H.E. Parker Multi Sport Complex in Heathmont. Construction is underway and is scheduled for completion later this year.



NEW VINNIES AT BURNT BRIDGE SHOPPING CENTRE

It was a privilege to help formally open the new Vinnies at Burnt Bridge Shopping Centre.

With the generosity of local volunteers, the store will support the wonderful work Vinnies does in our community, so make sure you get down there and check out some of the great bargains on offer!



CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The Government is helping small businesses reach their full potential, by creating the right policy settings, delivering tax cuts, cutting red tape and extending the Instant Asset Write-off.

It was wonderful to speak to local business owners from Ringwood and Croydon at the joint Chambers of Commerce meeting at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood and explain how the Government is backing small business to grow our economy and create local jobs.



DEAKIN CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Deakin Christmas Giving Tree in support of the Salvation Army in Ringwood. With your help, the Salvation Army has been able to assist the most vulnerable in our community experience the joy of receiving something special at Christmas.



ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

I joined Major Brendan Nottle from the Salvation Army outside Parliament House, after he walked 703km to raise awareness for, and encourage more action to tackle homelessness. As the Minister responsible for housing, I can say that Major Nottle's incredible advocacy has had a significant impact on Government policy.



MAROONDAH FESTIVAL

The Maroondah Festival is one of the largest and best events in our local calendar. It was fantastic to meet so many locals at last year's Festival. Thank you to everyone that came and said hello.



OUR HISTORY

The Heathmont History Group plays an important role in documenting the evolution of Heathmont over the years. I was fortunate enough to view their latest publication, the Heathmont Sketchbook, which beautifully presents many of Heathmont's iconic sights.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day is a time to reflect on those who gave their lives in service of our country, protecting the freedoms and values that matter most. Services were held all around Deakin, including at Blackburn, Mitcham, Ringwood and Croydon RSL.

It was an honour to be able to lay a wreath at Ringwood RSL last year.



LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS

It's fantastic to be able to recognise Deakin's young athletes through the Local Sporting Champions Grant Programme. Do you know a local sporting champion? Applications for the next round of grants are now open. Visit: <https://online.ausport.gov.au/lsc/apply/individual>



SPORT & LIFE TRAINING (SALT)

\$100,000 of federal funding was given to SALT to help tackle the 'Ice' problem locally.

SALT work within our community and play a significant role educating young men and women in our local sports clubs about the impacts of alcohol abuse, the devastating effects of drugs like 'Ice', and assist in fostering cultural change.

THE MISSING LINK

Another day, another reminder about how much we need the **East West Link**.

Almost a decade after a road corridor between the Eastern and Western suburbs was recommended as Melbourne's most important project, we are still waiting for this missing link. Sadly, Daniel Andrews, Bill Shorten and Labor forced Victorians to stump up \$1.2 billion **not** to build this crucial project.

State Opposition Leader, Matthew Guy, recently committed to work with me and the Federal Government to build the EWL if elected in 2018. This is a welcome announcement, with \$3 billion still available from the Federal Government.

Only the EWL will fix the Eastern Freeway carpark. **#JustBuildIt!**



CHILDCARE

More support for families paying childcare fees is just around the corner. The Government is overhauling the childcare system and contributing **\$2.5 billion** to support hardworking families.

The Government's childcare package includes:

- Introducing a better-targeted activity test to ensure taxpayer subsidised childcare places are targeted to those who depend on it in order to work, or work more hours.
- **Delivering the highest rate of subsidy to those on the lowest income levels and more hours of subsidy to those who work the most.** We're increasing the base subsidy from around 72 per cent to 85 per cent for more than 370,000 families earning around \$65,000 or less a year.
- Families earning up to around \$185,000, will **no longer be limited by an annual \$7,613 cap** on the amount of subsidised childcare they can access – that's more than 85 per cent of families using childcare and means families won't run out of subsidy mid-year as happens now. Families earning more than around \$185,000 will also benefit from an increased cap of \$10,000.
- A **\$1.2 billion Child Care Safety Net** will support vulnerable children and families who need extra support.



FETE SEASON

School Fete season in Deakin was a great success with so many schools taking advantage of the warm weather to raise money and foster community spirit.

I enjoyed lending a hand at a number of local fetes and sharing in the enjoyment of these events.



BERNIES MUSIC LAND'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

It was fantastic to join the celebrations at Bernies Music Land's 40th birthday.

Bernies, based in Ringwood, is the epitome of a local family business that is a part of, and contributor to, our local community.



McHAPPY DAY

It was my fifth year helping behind the counter for McHappy Day at Ringwood McDonalds – raising money for the families of seriously ill children.

Thanks to the staff for making me feel a part of the team each year.

YOUR VOICE IN CANBERRA

I will continue to stand up in the Parliament for the issues that matter to the Deakin community. Issues I've spoken on recently include:

- ✓ Securing lower energy prices
- ✓ Improving safety and security in our suburbs
- ✓ The need to tackle traffic congestion, and to build the East West Link
- ✓ New and improved infrastructure including better roads, health services and upgraded community sporting facilities
- ✓ The need for tougher sentences for violent criminal offenders



What's happening in Deakin

ONGOING LOCAL PROJECTS



NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE STADIUM

The Government has officially approved \$1.6 million in funding for the construction of a new sports stadium.

The facilities will benefit both the school and Ringwood Hawks Basketball Association.



HEATHMONT FOOTBALL CLUB

\$500,000 is secured for the upgrade and redevelopment of the Heathmont Jets FC clubrooms.

With matching support from Maroondah City Council, a significant and overdue redevelopment will commence shortly.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

\$456,000 for CCTV in Croydon

\$400,000 for CCTV in Ringwood and Ringwood East

\$200,000 for security lighting in Nunawading



MORTON PARK CLUBROOMS

\$500,000 is available to redevelop the out-dated clubrooms at Morton Park in Blackburn.

The rooms are home to Blackburn Football and Cricket clubs, which are in desperate need of more space to accommodate the senior and junior teams, and allow the further expansion into the women's competition.

GREEN ARMY PROJECTS

The Green Army has recently completed works at Yarran Dheran in Mitcham and continues on the ground at BJ Hubbard Reserve in Ringwood North.

Over 6,000 native trees and plants have been planted at Yarran Dheran, an outstanding improvement which residents can now enjoy.

Similar activities are occurring at BJ Hubbard Reserve which will be completed soon.

MAROONDAH HOSPITAL CAR PARK

Up to \$2 million in funding is available to help build more than 350 new parking spaces at Maroondah Hospital.

These new parking spaces will ease congestion in the surrounding streets, improving safety and allowing a better flow of traffic.



WALKER PARK UPGRADE

\$400,000 has been secured to upgrade and redevelop the clubrooms at Walker Park in Mitcham. The upgrade will ensure the clubrooms at Walker Park can accommodate the growing club's needs of Mitcham Football and Cricket clubs.



DELIVERED LOCAL PROJECTS

CROYDON MEN'S SHED

I officially opened the Croydon Men's Shed extension last year. I'm proud to have secured \$150,000 for the upgrade, alongside Swinburne University of Technology and David Hodgett MP who contributed much needed funds as well.



NORTH RINGWOOD SENIOR CITIZENS HALL

\$20,000 was provided by the Government to assist in refurbishing the hall at North Ringwood Senior Citizens Club. The renovation has made the hall much more open and accessible for everyone.



EAST RINGWOOD SPORTING PAVILION

The impressive new multipurpose pavilion in East Ringwood – named after local great, Brian Coopersmith – has officially opened its doors. I was thrilled to open the new facility after securing \$500,000 in funding to get the project off the ground, plus a further \$40,000 to fit out the community hub and install a new scoreboard. A great result for our community!



WHITEHORSE MEN'S SHED

The Whitehorse Men's Shed has received \$20,000 to upgrade its equipment and build new facilities.

The funding means that the Shed can introduce more activities and support more members.



KEVIN PRATT PAVILION FITOUT

The Kevin Pratt Pavilion is home to U3A Ringwood, as well as Norwood Cricket and Football Clubs.

\$20,000 was provided to assist in the purchase of furniture and fitout of the new pavilion.

NEW FACILITIES FOR BLACKBURN FOOTBALL CLUB

Blackburn Football Club has completed the construction of new shelters at Eley Park – thanks to a \$20,000 grant from the Government.

It officially opened the facilities in June 2017, including new coaches' boxes, spectator shelter and interchange shelter.



NEW ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARDS

New electronic scoreboards have been installed for:

- ✓ Croydon Junior Football and Croydon North Cricket Clubs at Barneong Reserve in Croydon.
- ✓ Ringwood Football, Cricket and Spiders Football and Netball Clubs at Jubilee Park in Ringwood (jointly funded with Bendigo Bank Heathmont and the clubs themselves).
- ✓ Heathmont Jets Junior Football Club and Heatherdale Cricket Club at Heatherdale Reserve in Mitcham.
- ✓ South Croydon Junior Football Club and Eastfield Cricket Club at Benson Oval in Croydon.
- ✓ East Ringwood Junior Football Club and Ainslie Park Cricket Club at Ainslie Park in Croydon.

*I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of each of these clubs in matching dollar for dollar the funding provided by the Government.



GIRL GUIDES HALL

The Croydon West Girl Guides Hall was built in 1964 and was in need of a refresh.

\$10,000 was secured from the Government to assist with minor works to improve these facilities.

CROYDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Government provided \$10,000 to the Croydon Historical Society for a publishing project to give future generations insights into the current life of Croydon.

The photographic book captures the interior and exterior of buildings through the suburb and is an invaluable information and educational resource for Croydon.



MAROONDAH CALISTHENICS CLUB

The hall is set to receive a long overdue facelift this year. Facilities, including bathrooms and disability access, will be upgraded along with a number of other improvements. \$20,000 was secured by the Government to assist with the upgrades.

MAROONDAH HOSPITAL'S MRI LICENCE

Patients now have more affordable access to the MRI service at Maroondah Hospital made possible by a \$7.3 million investment by the Government.

The contribution provides access to bulk billing facilities to use this vital piece of equipment.



RINGWOOD BALLET STUDIO REDEVELOPMENT

It was an honour to open the \$638,500 redeveloped Ringwood Ballet Studio alongside Maroondah City Council and the Ringwood Ballet Group.

The newly renovated space is equipped with better facilities for students and provides a more welcoming environment for parents and guests.



JUST BRASS RINGWOOD

The Just Brass Band is a Salvation Army program which provides free weekly music tuition to school children.

I was pleased to support their work with a \$15,000 grant for the purchase new instruments and equipment.



VERMONT SOUTH CRICKET CLUB

The cricket nets at Livingstone Primary School have been upgraded.

The new nets are a major improvement on the school's sporting facilities and will benefit the children and local sporting clubs immensely.

\$20,000 was contributed through the Stronger Communities Grants programme.



RINGWOOD BOWLS CLUB

Ringwood Bowls received a new cafe and patio area for members to relax before and after a game.

\$20,000 was made available to help fund the project.

LOCAL ROAD PROJECTS

MAROONDAH HWY/DORSET RD

- ✓ \$8 million secured
- ✓ Travel times through the intersection will be more than halved
- 🔄 Construction expected to start early this year

HEATHMONT VILLAGE CAR PARK/CANTERBURY RD

- 🔄 \$1.2 million to complete road safety works on Canterbury Rd
- 🔄 Improved bollard arrangement, lighting and pathway enhancements and the realignment of traffic signals on Canterbury Rd
- 🔄 Works are expected to start this year and be completed by July

BEDFORD RD/GREAT RYRIE ST

- ✓ \$1 million funding from the Government
- ✓ New and improved traffic and rail signalisation has been installed
- ✓ Project completed early 2017

MAROONDAH HWY/DUNLAVIN RD

- ✓ \$100,000 committed
- ✓ Widening and resurfacing of the existing right turn lane and upgrading of the road signs and pavement markings to improve safety, traffic and access conditions at the intersection
- ✓ Project completed at the end of October 2017



CANTERBURY RD/BEDFORD RD

- 🔄 \$50,000 to improve safety at the intersection
- 🔄 Community consultation underway



UPCOMING PROJECTS

Following the Government's third round of Stronger Communities Grants the below projects have been funded:

- ✓ 3rd Croydon Scout Group kitchen and floor upgrade
- ✓ Blackburn Bowls social area upgrade
- ✓ Croydon Bowls access and social area upgrade
- ✓ Forest Hill Football Club new electronic scoreboard
- ✓ Heatherdale Tennis Club court resurfacing
- ✓ NewHope Playspace signage and equipment
- ✓ North Ringwood Football and Cricket Clubs toilet, change room and accessibility upgrade

- ✓ Norwood Junior Football Club electronic scoreboard
- ✓ Ringwood Athletic Club throwing cage upgrade
- ✓ Ringwood Soccer Club lighting upgrade
- ✓ South Croydon Junior Football Club and Eastfield Cricket Club change rooms refurbishment



Out and About in the electorate of Deakin



Aquinas Old Collegians Grand Final Eve Breakfast



Chinese Women's Association



Ringwood Men's shed



Forest Hill Police Station



Launching Nadrasca's New Digital Press



Lions Club of Croydon School Breakfast Club at Croydon Primary School



Lipscombe Park Kindergarten - 50th Anniversary



Safe Lace Basketball Camp



Greek Elderley Citizens of Maroondah



Maroondah Singers' Christmas Concert



The Rotary Club of Croydon's Christmas Raffle



Open Space Women's Craft Group



Our Lady's Fete in Ringwood



Dads Group 'Man with a Pram'



Ringwood Uniting Church Pre-school



Whitehorse Festival

Out and About in the electorate of Deakin

- ✔ Welcomed our newest Australian citizens at the Maroondah citizenship ceremony in **Ringwood East**
- ✔ Dropped into **Blackburn** Football Club's Annual Grand Final Eve luncheon
- ✔ Joined the Circolo Pensionati Italiani in **Nunawading**
- ✔ Attended the Koonung Cottage Community House Christmas Lunch in **Blackburn**
- ✔ Attended the Whitehorse Historical Society unveiling of a new exhibit in **Mitcham**
- ✔ Attended the Brentford Square Trader's Community Safety Discussion in **Forest Hill**
- ✔ Attended end of year Christmas celebrations with the **Ringwood** RSL War Widows
- ✔ Visited **Croydon** RSL Sub-Branch
- ✔ Visited the Artist of the Year exhibition at Maroondah Federation Estate in **Ringwood**
- ✔ Attended Diwali celebrations in **Vermont**
- ✔ Attended the Whitehorse Carols in **Nunawading**
- ✔ Visited **Box Hill, Ringwood, Croydon and Forest Hill** Police Stations for an update on crime in the area
- ✔ Attended the Eastfield v Croydon Ranges T20 cricket match
- ✔ Visited the **Vermont South** Club for their gala day
- ✔ Attended the **Blackburn** Calisthenics College annual concert
- ✔ Attended the **Ringwood** Ballet Group community matinee performance
- ✔ Attended the **North Ringwood** Seniors Christmas party
- ✔ Attended the **Ringwood** RSL Presidents Volunteer function
- ✔ Attended **Croydon** Primary School's Twilight Fete
- ✔ Attended the **Blackburn** RSL Christmas celebrations
- ✔ Attended **Ringwood** Secondary College's opening of their new junior school building
- ✔ Congratulated Caitlin Hurly from the 2nd **Blackburn** Scout Group on receiving her Queen's Scout Award



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 in 2018. Please contact my office.



About Michael

Born and raised in Ringwood, I grew up in a small business family.

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 in the Federal Parliament and serve as the Assistant Minister to the Treasurer.

My wife, Anna, and I have recently been blessed with our son, Leo, and look forward to raising him in our local community.

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

www.michaelsukkar.com.au for more information and to fill out an online survey.

Keep up to date with Michael on Facebook: facebook.com/Michael.Sukkar.MP

Follow Michael on Twitter at: [@MichaelSukkarMP](https://twitter.com/MichaelSukkarMP)

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