



# MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

Federal Member for Deakin



## DEAKIN COMMUNITY NEWS SPRING 2018

### MESSAGE FROM MICHAEL

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Deakin Community News.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter, both locally and in the Government.

In my former role as the Assistant Minister to the Treasurer, I worked very closely with Scott Morrison and I know that he will serve our country with distinction as our new Prime Minister.

While it's easy to get caught up with the rumblings in Canberra my focus will always be on standing up for our community and the lives of everyday Australians.

I'm focused on lowering electricity prices, reducing crime, building better infrastructure – such as the East West Link and Melbourne Airport Rail Link – reducing congestion, and building a stronger economy.

The Government also announced a Royal Commission into Residential and Home Aged Care which will look at the quality of care provided to senior Australians and young Australians with disabilities. This is long overdue.

We also have a huge program of local projects which are all designed to improve our local area.

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

Yours sincerely

**Michael Sukkar MP**  
Federal Member for Deakin



### 2018 Deakin Community Awards

#### Celebrating Service to Our Community

Over 120 award recipients from across Whitehorse and Maroondah were honoured at this year's Deakin Community Awards.

More than eight hundred people came together to celebrate the invaluable contribution of Deakin's most humble, dedicated, and passionate local heroes.

The overall Deakin Community Award winner, **Edwina Ricci**, was recognised for her years of service to a number of community organisations like the Croydon Chamber of Commerce, Croydon Rotary, SALT, City of Well Being, and local education.

Edwina was selected by a panel of community representatives from both Whitehorse and Maroondah, along with four other category winners – **Mark Freeman** from Ringwood Cricket Club (open category winner), **Madeline Sweeney** from Park Orchards Netball Club (youth category winner), **John Oettinger** from North Ringwood Care (seniors category winner), and **The Babes Project** (group category winner).

Congratulations, once again, to all award recipients, and thank you to all those who made this year's award ceremony an exceptionally special evening.

### MAROONDAH HOSPITAL MRI

Since being granted a **Medicare license** for the new MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) service, made possible by a **\$7.3 million** investment by the Federal Government, we're pleased to announce that over **6700 people have been provided with affordable access to the MRI**. The health and wellbeing of our community is always a priority so it's fantastic to see this service being put to good use.



### WALKER PARK UPGRADE

Walker Park in Mitcham is finally being upgraded after 61 years. Site preparations and initial works are expected to commence in December 2018 with the main construction starting early 2019. The expected completion date is February 2020. It's a long overdue and well deserved upgrade for the clubs and the community who will now be able to watch their favourite sporting games out of the cold and inside the new pavilion. The project was kick-started by a \$400,000 Federal grant.



### BUILDING BETTER ROADS FOR DEAKIN

At the last election I committed \$8m to upgrade the Dorset Rd, Exeter Rd, Bellara Dve and Maroondah Hwy intersection.

The project has started and when it's completed:

- ✓ Delays at the intersection will be more than halved (a 57% decrease in time sitting at lights);
- ✓ There will be better accessibility to shops and parking; and
- ✓ Safety will be improved for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

Projects like these are important because the less time you spend stuck in traffic, the more time you can spend with your family.



A digital representation of the intersection after works are completed

Michael Sukkar MP | Federal Member for Deakin

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# What's happening in Deakin



## LOCAL PROJECTS

### MAROONDAH HOSPITAL CAR PARK

Works are set to commence on a new multi-level car park at Maroondah Hospital. The Federal Government provided \$2 million to get this project off the ground. The new car park will have more than 500 spaces and is going to be built over a ground level staff car park on Grey Street. This project would not have been possible without the support of my State colleagues, Dee Ryall MP and Heidi Victoria MP who have both tirelessly lobbied for this project.



### NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE'S NEW STADIUM

Students at Norwood Secondary College are excited about the soon to be completed stadium at the school. The new facility will provide a large enough space for the school to hold its assemblies, along with a range of other uses; the stadium will also be utilised by the Ringwood Hawks Basketball Association. \$1.6 million was invested by the Federal Government to build the stadium.

### H.E. PARKER RESERVE NETBALL UPDATE

Construction is well underway on the new Multi-Sports Complex and netball stadium at H.E. Parker Reserve in Heathmont. A structural frame has already been erected on top of the recently completed cement base. The build is set to be completed at the end of February 2019. \$10.5 million was secured from the Federal Government to build the new stadium which is set to be one of the premier sporting complexes in the Eastern Suburbs.



***"We're all very grateful for Michael's advocacy and funding support for the Walker Park Pavilion. The project wouldn't have been possible without him."*** - Garry Wathen - Mitcham Football Club



### H.E. PARKER RESERVE CRICKET AND FOOTBALL UPDATE

Plans are afoot for the construction of new clubrooms for the Heathmont Cricket and Football Clubs at H.E. Parker reserve. Design plans have been completed and are currently being approved, with construction set to begin shortly. A modular construction method will be used so that most of the work is done off-site and there is minimal disruption to the clubs.



### CROYDON BOWLS

Croydon Bowling Club has received a brand new deck. Members will soon be able to enjoy the new social area which has arrived just in time for the summer bowls season. I was pleased to support this project with a Federal Government grant and officially open the new area alongside Maroondah City Council.

### 3RD CROYDON SCOUTS

The new floor and kitchen at 3rd Croydon Scout Hall has been installed and is now being well utilised by members. It's a big improvement from the much loved and well used old timber floor and kitchen facilities. I'm proud that the Federal Government was able to assist in funding the much needed upgrade.

### EASTFIELD PARK CLUB ROOMS

I'm pleased to have partnered with Maroondah City Council to jointly invest \$150,000 towards creating female and family friendly change rooms and bathrooms at Bensons Oval in Eastfield Park, Croydon. The rooms are shared by South Croydon Junior Football Club and Eastfield Cricket Club.



### RINGWOOD ATHLETICS

Throwing cages at AC Robertson Field at Proclamation Park in Ringwood have been upgraded. The upgrade ensures that the new cages now meet the International Association of Athletics Federation's standards. The new throwing cages complete the \$2.86 million overhaul to the athletic park making it one of the best equipped facilities in the area.

### ARMISTICE CENTENARY GRANTS PROGRAM

The Armistice Centenary Grants Program is an Australian Government fund for community projects to commemorate Australia's wartime history and the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Local organisations received \$50,000 of funding for the following community projects:

- Ringwood Historical Society and Ringwood RSL** - Ringwood First World War Heritage Walk
- Rotary Club of Mitcham** - Remember Armistice Memorial
- Rotary Club of Maroondah** - Ringwood Lake Park Peace Garden Enhancement
- Croydon RSL Sub-Branch** - Heroes of Croydon Memorial







## OUR COMMUNITY



### ST JOHN AMBULANCE

The Maroondah Division of St John Ambulance are a group of dedicated volunteers who selflessly give their time to help save lives through First Aid and advanced pre-hospital care. I visited the group for a quick educational CPR session and to thank them for their service.



### DEAKIN'S STUDENT LEADERS

Dr Susan Alberti AC, 2018 Victorian of the Year, was the guest speaker at our recent Student Leadership Roundtable. Sue has a wealth of life experience, business knowledge and has a truly inspirational life story. It was a privilege to have Sue along to share with our local student leaders.



### UNIVERSITY OF THE 3RD AGE

I caught up with the team from U3A Croydon to talk about their plans for the group and some of the courses and activities they are currently running for their members. U3A is a self-funded, voluntary organisation formed to provide learning opportunities to members aged 50 plus who are retired or not working full-time.



### WELCOMING SPRING

Tintern Grammar's annual Spring Celebration is a brilliant evening out for the family. Over 350 people joined in the celebration which helped raise funds for Rural Aid's Buy-A-Bale appeal.

### EFL GRAND FINAL

This year's Division One EFL Grand Final was between Vermont Football Club and South Croydon Football Club. Both teams played a great game and it was fantastic to see so many supporters turnout from our local community. Congratulations to Vermont who eventually came out on top.



***"Michael and his office went above and beyond in helping me with my sister's visa application. I am very appreciative for his assistance."*** - Hema from Croydon



### SHADES OF PINK

The Shades of Pink fundraiser, supporting the Eastern Health Foundation, was a tremendous success. I was pleased to be able to support their fundraising efforts with a \$50,000 contribution from the Federal Government towards improved 3D imaging for breast cancer detection.



### RAINBOW HOUSE

It's always a pleasure to visit the amazing people at Glen Park Community Centre. This time was no exception with the opening of their new facility, Rainbow House. Glen Park does a tremendous job supporting people with disabilities and continues this mission through the programs at Rainbow House.



### DAD'S GROUP INC

Dad's Group is a local not-for-profit organisation committed to connecting new Dads, improving men's health, preventing family violence and reducing isolation and suicide. I'm proud to have recently assisted the group in securing a \$300,000 Government grant to help support the great work they do in our community.



### KAREN CULTURE NIGHT

The Eastern Karen Community Association with the assistance of Croydon Hills Baptist Church, did a fantastic job putting on an enjoyable and educational cultural show.



### BERT'S CENTURY

As the local Federal Member, I am truly privileged to be invited to and a part of so many significant events and occasions. I recently joined Bert Thompson and his family to celebrate his 100th Birthday. A hundred years is a significant milestone and I was honoured to be part of the special day.





## RINGWOOD AUSKICK

I joined the Ringwood Football Club's Redbacks Juniors for their final Auskick clinic for 2018. Auskick is a fantastic way for kids to stay active and get involved in local sport.



## WOMEN'S FOOTY IN THE EAST

It's fantastic to see women's footy taking off in the Eastern Suburbs. Dr Susan Alberti AC, who is synonymous with and helped establish the AFLW, recently joined me to watch an exciting game between Ringwood East and Croydon South, two great local teams.



## LUNCH WITH THE LADIES

250 passionate Mitcham Football Club supporters gathered at Walker Park for this year's Ladies Lunch. All of the proceeds from the lunch were generously donated to help fight Motor Neurone Disease.



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Thank you to the Whitefriars College Year 11 Politics class for inviting me along as a guest speaker. I always enjoy the opportunity to talk to our young people about our democracy, politics and service to the community and our country.



## OUR NEWEST CITIZENS

It's always a privilege to recognise and welcome Deakin's newest citizens on behalf of the Federal Government at our local citizenship ceremonies. Congratulations, again, to all those who have become Australian citizens this year.



## NATIONAL TREE DAY

National Tree Day started in 1996 and since then more than 3.8 million people have planted 24 million trees and plants and it's still growing. Tree Day is an opportunity for us to do something positive for our community. This year, I joined the Antonio Park Advisory Committee and a big team of volunteers for the day.



## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

### STILL FIGHTING FOR THE East West Link!

If the East West Link had proceeded as planned – without the Labor Party spending \$1.3 billion of your money to cancel the project – this new road connection would be nearly finished. Sadly, the Eastern Freeway is gridlocked; and getting worse by the day. With \$3 billion still on the table to build the link, you can show your support with a 'Just build it!' sticker on your car, truck or trailer. If you'd like to support the campaign to get the East West Link built, you can request a sticker by sending me an email at [Michael.Sukkar.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Michael.Sukkar.MP@aph.gov.au).



### OTHER MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- ✓ \$5 billion for **Melbourne Airport Rail**
- ✓ \$3 billion for the **East West Link**
- ✓ \$1.75 billion for the **North East Link**
- ✓ \$500 million to upgrade the **Monash Freeway**
- ✓ \$475 million for a **rail link to Monash University's Clayton campus**
- ✓ \$225 million to electrify the **Frankston line to Baxter**

## TAKING A STAND AGAINST CRIME

### Crime is up since the election of the Andrews Government.

While the Labor Government ignores my calls for tougher sentences for violent criminals and more police, we are making Deakin safer:

- ✓ \$456,000 for CCTV in Croydon;
- ✓ \$400,000 for CCTV in Ringwood and Ringwood East;
- ✓ Tougher laws to crack down on child sex offenders;
- ✓ Tougher sentences
- ✓ Deporting criminals; and
- ✓ A \$32 million investment in the Australian Federal Police.





# Out and About in Deakin



Watching Croydon Football Club on a Saturday



Croydon Hills Mens' Shed



North Ringwood Football Club



Local Sporting Champions



Ringwood East and Heathmont Bendigo Bank Branches' 15th Birthday



Croydon Ranges Cricket Club



Eastmont Kindergarten's 50th Birthday



Visit to Maroondah SES



Whitehorse City Council 2018 Community Dinner



Senior Citizens Club of Maroondah



Ringwood Croquet Club's Season Launch



Tintern Grammar Presentation Ball



Sport and Life Training Breakfast



Italian Senior Citizens Club



Yarrunga Community Centre Visit



New Emergency Vet in Ringwood



Kenworth Trucks Visit



# Out and About in Deakin

- ✓ Visited the **Ringwood** Men's Shed
- ✓ Attended the Chinese Women's Association of Victoria's AGM in **Mitcham**
- ✓ Met with the team at Arrabri Community House in **Bayswater North**
- ✓ Caught up with locals at the **Croydon North** Shopping Plaza
- ✓ Met with the team from **North Ringwood** Medical Sailing Ministries
- ✓ Visited Canterbury Gardens Community Church in **Kilsyth**
- ✓ Enjoyed the Aquinas Old Collegians Grand Final Eve Breakfast in **Ringwood**
- ✓ Celebrated **Vermont** Elderly People's Homes 50th Birthday
- ✓ Caught up with the Greek Elderly Citizens Club of Maroondah in **Ringwood East**
- ✓ Congratulated the Centre for Holistic Health in **Forest Hill** on receiving a Federal Government grant
- ✓ Attended **Ringwood** Cricket Club's season launch at Jubilee Park
- ✓ Dropped into the **Croydon** Ranges Cricket Club Season Launch at Silcock Reserve
- ✓ Participated in the Pathways for Carers Walk in **Ringwood East**
- ✓ Celebrated **Heathmont** Scout Group's 60th birthday



## WHY THE NAME CROYDON

In the 1840s land in the area now known as Croydon was used for grazing cattle by early settlers from Melbourne and neighbouring areas.

Croydon was originally called White Flats after the silvery-white, coarse grass that grew there called 'White Top'.

It would probably have remained White Flats if most of the white plants hadn't disappeared, ploughed in by farmers.

The name Croydon was selected after the home town in England of the wife of the original owner of the land on which Croydon station was built.

*Information courtesy of the Croydon Historical Society.*



## 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.

My wife, Anna, and I recently celebrated our son Leo's first birthday and look forward to continue 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](http://www.michaelsukkar.com.au) for more information and to fill out an online survey.

