

Enclosed is my
30 SECOND SURVEY



WINTER 2023

Deakin Community News



THE HON
MICHAEL SUKKAR MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **DEAKIN**

Shadow Minister for Social Services
Shadow Minister for the NDIS
Shadow Minister for Housing
Shadow Minister for Homelessness



Michael's Message



Dear Local Resident

Welcome to the latest edition of the Deakin Community News.

Over the past few months as I've travelled around our community, it's clear that the ongoing cost-of-living pressures are making life harder for many. From higher interest rates, to increasing energy bills and grocery prices, the pressure on households and families only continues to worsen.

Before the election, the Albanese Labor Government promised to make life easier by delivering 'cheaper mortgages' and to reduce power prices for all Australians by \$275 a year. The Government has broken faith with both of these promises.

Here in Deakin, our community has been as active as ever and I've continued to spend as much time as possible getting around our community and catching up with as many local community groups as possible.

A particular highlight for me was the annual Deakin Community Awards, held each year to recognise the local individuals and groups who selflessly serve our community. As always, the range of volunteer award winners was both impressive and inspiring.

Over the last few months, I've also continued to work on delivering a number of projects commenced by the former Coalition Government. In each case, I'm confident that these projects will make our community a better place to live.

Disappointingly, the Albanese Labor Government is still threatening to cancel a number of key local road and community infrastructure projects in Melbourne's east, which I can assure you I'll keep fighting for.

I hope you find the enclosed newsletter informative. And as always, if there is anything I can do to help you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or my office.

The Hon Michael Sukkar MP
Federal Member for Deakin
Shadow Minister for Social Services
Shadow Minister for the NDIS
Shadow Minister for Housing
Shadow Minister for Homelessness



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Our Local Community



Trajan Scientific and Medical

It was wonderful to visit **Trajan Scientific and Medical** in **Ringwood**, a business which designs and manufacturers scientific and medical devices. I've been visiting Trajan - a significant local employer - for around a decade now, and the business gets bigger each time I visit. It has also gone truly global with customers all over the world and operations in North America, Europe and Asia.

Melbourne East Netball Association Grand Finals



Congratulations to all of the **Melbourne East Netball Association** Grand Finalists, including the under 11s who I joined for their presentation.

Chin Arts and Multicultural Festival

It was great to be part of the recent **Chin Arts and Multicultural Festival** at Croydon Main Street.



Our Newest Australian Citizens

I am always honoured to welcome our newest Australians at local citizenship ceremonies.



Winter Shelter

I enjoyed helping out with **Winter Shelter** at **Croydon Hills Baptist Church**. This program provides shelter, hot shower and food for those experiencing homelessness, with nearly 300 volunteers from seven local churches.





Our Local Community



2023 Deakin Junior Club Twilight Tournament

I was proud to sponsor the all-day **Deakin Junior Club Twilight Tournament** once again this year. It was great to be able to drop in to see our junior netballers in action. Thanks to the outstanding team at **Melbourne East Netball Association** for having the competition run like clockwork.



Deakin Challenge Cup

I enjoyed hosting the **Deakin Challenge Cup**, the annual competition between the bowls clubs within Deakin. It was a nail-biting finish with tournament host **Vermont South Bowling Club** defeating **Mitcham Bowling Club** in the final, with the thrilling match coming down to the final bowl.



Norwood Senior Football Club

It was great to join the **Norwood Senior Football Club** for their season launch. It was wonderful to also recognise Geoff Boyd as the club's newest inductee as a life member.

Anzac Day 2023



Thanks to everyone who turned out for a local Anzac Day dawn service, including the wonderful service put on by the dedicated team at the **Ringwood RSL**.



2023 Deakin Student Leadership Roundtable Series

The 2023 **Deakin Student Leadership Roundtable** series commenced recently with student leaders from secondary schools throughout the electorate. As always it was great for me to connect with our local school leaders and to hear their perspectives.



Local School Visits

I enjoy my regular visits to speak with local students including my recent visit to **Holy Spirit Primary School**.

Noel Jones Cup



I joined the **East Ringwood Football Club** and **Vermont Football Club** for the inaugural **Noel Jones Cup**.



Maroondah Night Run

I had a great time participating in the **Maroondah Night Run**. Thanks to **Maroondah City Council** for organising this brilliant annual event and for accommodating some of us slower runners.



Our Local Community



Maroondah Community Assist



It was great to visit **Maroondah Community Assist** who provide emergency food relief in our local community. Their new hub is part of the new **Community Wellbeing Hub** in Croydon, also home to a number of other local community groups and service providers.

Mingarra Retirement Village



I recently held my annual forum and afternoon tea at **Mingarra Retirement Village** in Croydon, talking all things politics.

Eastern Karen Community Association



I was pleased to support **Eastern Karen Community Association of Victoria** at their recent fundraiser where they cooked up a storm with some delicious Karen recipes.



Maroondah Social Darts Association

Thanks to the **Maroondah Social Darts Association** for inviting me along. It's great to see so many members enjoying the competition.



Whitehorse Historical Society

Congratulations to the **Whitehorse Historical Society** for their new exhibition at the **Schwerkolt Cottage Museum** complex. I visited recently and am really impressed with the new display which tells some of the important history of the Whitehorse area.

Ringwood Eisteddfod

The **Ringwood Eisteddfod** is in its 69th year and is a local institution. I recently visited the 6 years and under Pianoforte Solo section who are all remarkable junior musicians.



National Volunteer Week

I visited the **Rotary Club of Mitcham Op Shop** during National Volunteer Week to thank them for their efforts on behalf of our community.



Maroondah Rugby Club

It was great to catch up with some of the players from the **Maroondah Rugby Club**.



Australia Chin Community Awards Night

Congratulations to all of the award recipients at the **Australia Chin Community 2023 Awards Night**.



Our Local Community



Glen Park Community Centre

It's always wonderful to visit the brilliant team at **Glen Park Community Centre**. I dropped into a number of classes and also caught up with the outstanding Café on the Park crew who were particularly excited at some of the new equipment I helped fund to support their emergency relief meals program.



2023 Easter Eggstravaganza



Thanks to everyone who came along to the **2023 Easter Eggstravaganza**. I'm proud to be a sponsor of this wonderful annual event for local families.



Chinese Women's Association of Victoria

I recently met with the inspiring team at the **Chinese Women's Association of Victoria**.



Sharing Hope

Congratulations to the **Sharing Hope** team for another successful business breakfast, raising much-needed funds for humanitarian work in Burma.

Mitcham Baptist Church



It was great to recently visit **Mitcham Baptist Church** for their Mandarin language service.



Bendigo Bank Ringwood East, Heathmont and Croydon

It was wonderful to join the celebrations for the 20th birthday of the **Bendigo Bank Ringwood East, Heathmont and Croydon**, a great local institution.



Eastern Emergency Relief

Thanks to the **Eastern Emergency Relief Network** for inviting me to visit and catch up on their work.

Luther College



It was entertaining to join the Year 8 students at **Luther College** to see their mock-elections in action.



Life's Little Treasures

I had the opportunity to visit the Ringwood-based **Life's Little Treasures Foundation**, who are dedicated to providing support for families of premature or sick babies.



Our Local Community



Hope City Mission



Thanks to all the team at **Hope City Mission** in Croydon for the incredible food relief program they provide to those in need.

SES Whitehorse Unit



I visited the **SES Whitehorse Unit** to thank these remarkable volunteers for the work they do supporting our local community.

North Ringwood Football Club



It was great to be at the recent football match between **North Ringwood** and **Croydon** football clubs.

Crossway LifeCare

It was great to meet with Matt Jones and the team at **Crossway LifeCare** including the **Community Pantry** volunteers who are helping so many people that need it right now.



Maroondah Calisthenics Club

It was fantastic to be able to catch up with the students, coaches and volunteers from **Maroondah Calisthenics Club**, who were busily training for their upcoming competitions.



Norwood Junior Football Club

Congratulations to Sarah and Wayne Knight, who were recently inducted as Life Members of the **Norwood Junior Football Club**.



Rotary Club of Maroondah

It was wonderful to join the **Rotary Club of Maroondah** for Eastern Health's recent fundraising dinner.



Maroondah United Football Club

Congratulations to the **Maroondah United Football Club** on their 20th birthday this year.



Deakin Community Awards

The 2023 Deakin Community Awards was a very special evening where more than 500 members of our community came together to recognise individuals and community groups who selflessly serve others.

In all, we recognised 67 individuals and 18 group award winners who were all richly deserving of this recognition.

A special congratulations goes to our overall category winners:

- *Abbey Whitaker and Brodie Smith from Ringwood Little Athletics in the Youth category*
- *Jen Eslick from St James Netball Club in the Open category*
- *Andrew Brownlie from the Rotary Club of Maroondah in the Seniors category and the SES Maroondah Unit in the Group category.*
- *Andrew Brownlie received the overall Deakin Community Award for his decades of service to our community.*

I also want to thank The Australian Children's Choir and East City Sound for their wonderful performances and Cr Kylie Spears, for her outstanding effort as Master of Ceremonies.

Congratulations again to all of our award winners, and those who nominated and supported such a wonderful group of people for recognition this year.





Community Projects



Sportlink, Vermont South



It was great to join the official opening of the **Sportlink** redevelopment, which is now one of the best local netball facilities with four covered outdoor courts. Having kicked this project off in 2019 with a \$1.5 million grant, it's been wonderful to see our junior netballers from the **Whitehorse Netball Association** getting the benefits of this important community investment.

Heatherdale Reserve Pavilion, Mitcham



It was fantastic to formally open the new **Heatherdale Reserve Pavilion** and it's better than we ever imagined. This was a collective effort over many years and I am proud to have played a part with \$2 million of funding from the former Coalition Government. My congratulations to the outstanding volunteers at the **Heatherdale Cricket Club** and **Heathmont Jets Junior Football Club** who made this worthwhile project a reality.



Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon



The new **Dorset Recreation Reserve** is now complete and is home to the **Croydon City Soccer Club** and our local Burmese community groups. The outdoor volleyball courts have also been getting a workout and I am pleased to see our community making good use out of this facility.

East Ringwood Reserve, Ringwood East



The new lighting at **East Ringwood Reserve** has been completed. I was proud to commit funding for this project which was later matched by the State Government. Credit to all the volunteers at **East Ringwood Football Club** and **East Ringwood Cricket Club** for making it happen.

Vermont South Club Pavilion, Vermont South



Our upgrade to the **Vermont South Club Pavilion**, home to the **Vermont South Bowling Club**, is progressing quickly and due to be completed by Christmas. I'm proud to have kick-started this upgrade with a \$300,000 grant and pleased to be partnering with **Whitehorse City Council** on the project.



Canberra Update

Cost Of Living

After one year of the Albanese government, many Australians will be feeling as though they are under significantly more financial stress.

Before the election, the Prime Minister promised Australians would be better off under Labor. He promised cheaper power prices along with 'cheaper mortgages' and higher wages.

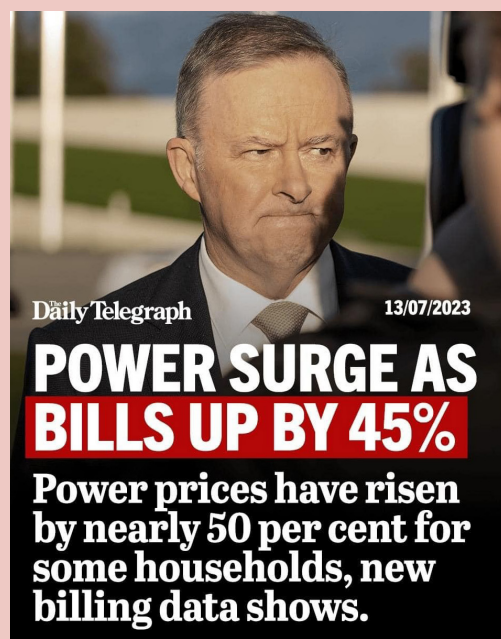
Instead, energy prices are skyrocketing, families are suffering under 11 interest rate rises, and real wages are going backwards as the cost of living continues to get worse.

On top of this, Labor's recent budget poured fuel on the inflation fire, meaning mortgages and prices will remain higher for longer. As a result, Australians with a mortgage of \$750,000 are now paying \$1,856 more each month or more than \$22,000 extra per year.



At the same time, power prices are tipped to surge by 45 per cent this year, despite the Prime Minister promising 97 times during the election that your power bills would reduce by \$275.

In Parliament, I've spoken about Labor's broken promises in these areas and how this is impacting members of our community.



Trip to India

After working closely with our local Burmese community for 10 years, I travelled with local community leaders to the India/Burma border region to see firsthand the issues faced by Burmese refugees and displaced people. I also used it as an opportunity to forge even closer ties between Australia and India.



Voice to Parliament

Parliament recently passed legislation enabling a referendum for an Indigenous "Voice" to Parliament. In my view, Australians should never be divided by race. **That's why I'll be voting No.**

While we all want to help Indigenous Australians in disadvantaged communities, this "Voice" is certainly not the answer. Many Indigenous Australians don't want this.

And once it's in the Constitution it won't be undone, and we'll be stuck with the negative consequences forever. The government is also deliberately refusing to reveal key details before the vote.

We need to bring Australians together, not divide them.





MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR DEAKIN



30 SECOND SURVEY

The issues

Please number the four issues that concern you most.

- ☐ Keeping taxes low
- ☐ Keeping our borders strong and secure
- ☐ Better hospitals and health outcomes
- ☐ Investing in better education, skills, training opportunities
- ☐ Building better and safer roads
- ☐ More secure jobs with higher wages
- ☐ Tackling climate change
- ☐ Helping small businesses get ahead
- ☐ Reducing cost-of-living pressures for families
- ☐ Tackling local crime and drugs
- ☐ Affordable and reliable electricity
- ☐ Supporting older Australians and Aged Care
- ☐ More affordable housing

The issues

If you could raise one issue in the Federal Parliament, what would it be?

The issues

If you could fix one problem in our local area, what would it be?

About Politics

Please select one of the following options: (optional)

I ALWAYS support the following party

- ☐ Liberal ☐ Labor ☐ Greens ☐ Independent/Other

OR I USUALLY support the following party

- ☐ Liberal ☐ Labor ☐ Greens ☐ Independent/Other

Your details

Please complete the following details so that I can stay in touch and keep you informed.

Name

Address

Home phone

Mobile phone

Email

Your work

Please select the option which best reflects your current situation:

- ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time ☐ Self-employed
☐ At home parent ☐ Unemployed ☐ Student
☐ Age pensioner ☐ Disability pensioner ☐ Self-funded retiree

Your Occupation



Thank you for completing this survey.

Simply take a photo and email your completed survey to:
Michael.Sukkar.MP@aph.gov.au

Alternatively, you can scan this QR code to complete the survey online.



Out and about in Deakin



Community Noticeboard

Congratulatory messages

My office can help organise congratulatory messages from the King, 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 2023.

Australian flags

Exchange Students and Community groups can request flags and flag packs from my office.

Times tables charts

My office has times tables wall charts available for local primary school students.



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 have represented the electorate of Deakin in the Federal Parliament since 2013, serving as a Minister in the former Coalition Government. I am now honoured to be the Shadow Minister for Social Services, NDIS, Housing and Homelessness.

My wife Anna also grew up in the local area, and we are fortunate to be raising our sons, Leo and Nathan, in our local community.

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

