



MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

Federal Member for Deakin



Deakin Community News | Autumn 2014

Dear fellow resident

We have a lot to be optimistic about in 2014.

People in Deakin are starting new businesses, building new houses, undertaking further study and investing in their futures.

The Coalition Government is getting on with the job of creating a stronger and more prosperous nation by scrapping bad taxes, cutting red and green tape, ending the waste, building infrastructure and strengthening the Budget.

As your Federal Member, I am delivering on the commitments that I made at the election. I am working hard to upgrade our local roads, improve our sporting facilities, make our community safer, and to build the East-West Link so that Deakin families don't waste precious time in traffic.

It has been a busy start to the year and it has been fantastic to see so many of you out and about, including at sporting games, school presentations, community group meetings and special celebrations.

We are fortunate to have such a strong and active community here in Deakin and I look forward to us going from strength to strength in 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sukkar MP



Countdown to Anzac Centenary

The deadline is fast approaching for community groups to apply for funding through the **Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program**. I have set up a local committee to consider applications for projects to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac. Up to \$125,000 is available in Deakin for local commemorations. Contact my office or visit anzaccentenary.gov.au



Increased autonomy for public schools

I welcomed the opportunity to become the nation's first ambassador for the Coalition Government's \$70 million Independent Public Schools initiative, launched at **Ringwood Secondary College**. School communities are best placed to make decisions on how their schools should run so I am looking forward to promoting increased autonomy for public schools in Deakin.



Visit studentsfirst.gov.au

Funding for our future

Our Deakin volunteers do a tremendous job, including at the **Whitehorse Historical Society** and **Field Naturalists Club of Victoria**. I was delighted to present Government grants to these volunteer organisations to assist with their valuable heritage and conservation work.

Visit environment.gov.au/gvesho



Delivering for Deakin sporting clubs

I recently announced the Coalition Government will provide up to \$930,000 towards three important sporting projects in Deakin. This announcement delivers on my election commitments, with:

- ✓ **\$400,000** to assist **Norwood Sporting Club** redevelop Kevin Pratt Pavilion in Ringwood's Mullum Mullum Reserve
- ✓ **\$500,000** to assist **East Ringwood Football and Cricket Clubs** with a new pavilion and change rooms at East Ringwood Reserve
- ✓ **\$30,000** to assist **Mitcham Football Club** erect safety netting at Walker Park

I look forward to continuing to work with all local sporting clubs to implement important initiatives for our community and deliver genuine benefits for the people of Deakin.



20th Anniversary for AIR

The Association of Independent Retirees' Melbourne Eastern branch marked 20 years since formation in February. The AIR plays an important role advocating for people who fully or self-fund their retirement and I enjoyed celebrating this milestone with members.



Improving aged care services

I recently had the pleasure of visiting the BUPA Aged Care Home in Croydon to meet with residents and staff. I have visited a range of aged care providers to better understand how we can improve services to our elderly and to make life easier for our dedicated aged care staff in doing their important work.



Clean mission in Mitcham

On Clean Up Australia Day, I joined forces with local residents and members of the Simpson Park/Somers Trail Advisory Committee to remove rubbish in the Heatherdale Creek parklands. Congratulations to everyone in Deakin who did their bit on the day to care for our local environment.



My maiden speech

On 18 November 2013, I delivered my Maiden Speech in the House of Representatives. In this speech, I expressed that the Deakin electorate:

"...is a community held together by our shared commitment to family, hard work and generosity".

I also outlined my vision for the Deakin electorate and nation more broadly, along with my motivation for entering public life:

"I want to help make Australia strong, prosperous and generous. I want us to be strong in our values and freedoms, strong in our family and community life, strong in our sense of nationhood and strong in the institutions that protect and preserve our democracy".

Please contact my office if you would like a printed copy of my maiden speech or visit my website michaelsukkar.com.au to watch it online.



Boosting job services

I am committed to improving employment services in Deakin and recently invited the Assistant Minister for Employment, Luke Hartsuyker, to meet with three local job service providers – Mission Australia, Reed in Partnership and Sarina Russo. It is important that local job service providers have a say in how to deliver services more efficiently and effectively.



Ringwood SC celebrates 60 years

This is a significant year for Ringwood Secondary College as the school celebrates 60 years of education. I attended a special assembly to mark the occasion and extended my best wishes to Principal Michael Phillips and the school community for a successful program of anniversary events.



Trains roll into Mitcham

It was a pleasure to join the Premier of Victoria, Dr Denis Napthine MLA, and others to officially open the new train station in Mitcham. As part of the Mitcham Rd grade separation, this premium station provides great facilities for our community, including new bus bays, 800 car parks and CCTV. It will also significantly improve traffic flow on Mitcham Rd.

“I wish to thank you for your support. It is pleasing to know I am represented by an individual who cares about members in his electorate and takes time to demonstrate his interest.” M. Purdue, Forest Hill



Building better roads

The Coalition Government is building the road infrastructure of the 21st century. Here in Deakin, that means **upgrading the Surrey and Junction Roads’ intersection** in Blackburn North, and **installing traffic lights at the Bedford Road and Great Ryrie Street intersection** in Ringwood.

As part of the Government, I am delivering on these local road projects as well as the East-West Link, which I spoke about in the Parliament.

“I am fighting for the infrastructure that Deakin residents so desperately need... Importantly, the East West Link project will not only reduce traffic congestion and travel times but also provide a significant boost to local jobs with the creation of 3,200 jobs during the construction phase of the project...”

Hansard, 5 December, 2013



Progress on Ringwood pool

The construction of Aquanation, the Maroondah Council’s state of the art aquatic and leisure centre in Ringwood, seems to be going swimmingly. I recently had a sneak peak of the facility, which has received \$10 million in Government funding.



Voice your views

My first Community Forum will be held at the Ringwood RSL on Wednesday, May 7, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. It is important for me to hear about what matters to you. Contact my office for more information and to register your attendance. I hope to see you there!



Out and about in the electorate of Deakin

- ✓ Presented student leadership badges at **Blackburn Lake Primary School**
- ✓ Attended a Defence Force Welfare Association Roundtable at **Ringwood RSL**
- ✓ Cooked up a storm on the Rotary Club of **Mitcham's** Egg 'n' Bacon stall at the Whitehorse Farmers Market
- ✓ Joined in celebrations for the 66th anniversary of Chin National Day
- ✓ Presented a flag to students at **Croydon Community School**
- ✓ Presented student leadership badges at Tinternvale Primary School in **Ringwood East**
- ✓ Toured the Junction Road Parklands in **Nunawading**
- ✓ Supported **South Croydon Cricket Club** at their "Pink Stumps" Ladies Day Function
- ✓ Helped out at the Rotary Club of **Mitcham's** op-shop
- ✓ Welcomed in the new year at the **Ringwood Chamber of Commerce and Industry** barbecue
- ✓ Attended a meeting of the Lions Club of **Croydon**
- ✓ Visited the Greek Senior Citizens Clubs in **Ringwood** and **Forest Hill**
- ✓ Enjoyed some netball with the Melbourne East Netball Association at HE Parker Reserve in **Heathmont**
- ✓ Attended the Whitehorse and Maroondah Citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day
- ✓ Dropped in to talk to small business owners in **Bayswater North** and **Vermont**



- ✓ Celebrated Bendigo Bank **Heathmont's** 5th anniversary
- ✓ Supported **Nunawading Vikings Basketball Club** to purchase a new defibrillator
- ✓ Enjoyed lunch with the residents of Lionsbrae Aged Care Facility in **Ringwood East**
- ✓ Attended a match day lunch with the **Vermont South Cricket Club** at Terrara Park
- ✓ Toured the BUPA Aged Care Home in **Croydon**
- ✓ Attended lunch at Koonung Cottage Community House in **Blackburn North**
- ✓ Joined members of the **Blackburn RSL** for dinner
- ✓ Presented a flag to residents at Forest Hills Village in **Nunawading**
- ✓ Sponsored the Community Cricket Challenge at Jubilee Park in **Ringwood**
- ✓ Attended a meeting of the Maroondah Catenians in **Mitcham**

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.

Contact details

My office is updating our community database and I would be grateful if you sent us details for your community group.

Fundraising hampers

I am personally donating a hamper to each community group in the Deakin electorate to assist with fundraising in 2014. Contact my office to find out more.

Know an award winner?

To celebrate the achievements of our community, I am introducing the **Deakin Community Awards**. The awards will be presented in July and I will be writing to community groups to invite them to nominate people who deserve recognition. Contact my office for more information or to submit a nomination.

Keep updated on the awards at www.michaelsukkar.com.au

Awarding our students

School students make a strong contribution to our community in Deakin and it was my great privilege to recognise some of these contributions through the presentation of the **Deakin Shield**. Forty-six schools in the electorate took part in the Deakin Shield 2013. All of the students who received an award are now in the running to be named the **Deakin Student of the Year** later this year. Congratulations again to all of the award recipients!

