



MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

Federal Member for Deakin

Assistant Minister to the Treasurer

Deakin Community News | Spring 2017

Dear fellow resident

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Deakin Community News.

It's been fantastic to meet so many of you out in the community, at train stations, shopping centres, local clubs and schools. I look forward to getting outdoors a bit more as the weather begins to get warmer.

Warmer weather means more of us will be turning on our air-conditioning. Energy prices are spiralling out of control and now many Victorians are beginning to worry about power shortages over the summer.

Australians rightly expect to have access to reliable power. I'm pleased to reassure you that our Government is actively exploring ways of keeping power stations operating - securing affordable electricity and saving jobs.

Recently we held the fourth annual Deakin Community Awards. The night was a fantastic success with a record audience attendance and many worthy recipients, including overall award winner, Colonel David Jamison AM (Retd).

As part of my Ministerial responsibilities as Assistant Minister to the Treasurer, I have been working on the Government's housing affordability package. The package includes generous tax cuts for first home buyers, incentives to encourage older Australians to downsize, and a vacant property tax on foreign property owners.

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.

Michael Sukkar MP



Croydon CCTV

We have committed \$456m to upgrade and install CCTV cameras in Croydon Main St and surrounding areas. Cameras have already been installed at Cheong Park.



Footy Finals

It was fantastic to attend the EFL's Grand Final between two clubs close to my heart, South Croydon and Vermont.

Congratulations to South Croydon for getting across the line and securing its first Division 1 premiership, and well done to all the other local clubs for really making this a great season.



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.



Deakin Community Awards

Thank you to everyone who attended the Deakin Community Awards and helped make it a memorable event. Congratulations to all the community groups and tireless volunteers that received an award.

It was my pleasure to acknowledge **Colonel David Jamison AM (Retd)**, President of the Ringwood RSL, as this year's overall award winner. The other finalists were David Dressing, Bwe Thay, Keith Kilner, Helen White and Nance Swingler.

The category winners were:

2017 Deakin Community Youth Award – **Thanushi Peiris**

2017 Deakin Community Seniors Award – **Georgia Hammond**

2017 Deakin Community Group Award – **Nadrasca**



East West Link Rally

A big thank you to everyone who attended the **Build The Link Rally** outside Castello's Daisey's Hotel in Ringwood.

Melbourne's traffic congestion is spiralling out of control, especially on the Eastern Freeway carpark.

Construction of the East West Link would have been well underway if Daniel Andrews' Labor Government hadn't cancelled the project and wasted \$1.2 billion of your money in the process.

The East West Link is shovel ready – \$3 billion in Federal funding is still available for this vital project and to any Government that wants to build it.

Let's get Victoria moving again by building the East West Link.

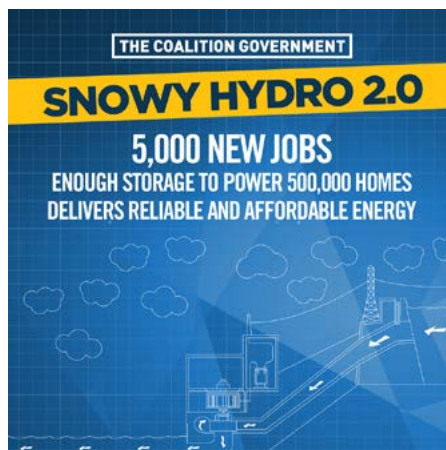
#JustBuildIt



Green Army projects

The Green Army has begun work at BJ Hubbard Reserve in Ringwood North and Yarran Dheran in Mitcham. It's a hands-on environmental action program that has improved a number of local areas across our electorate.

I'm looking forward to the great improvements that will be made to BJ Hubbard Reserve and Yarran Dheran over the next 6 months.



Energy Prices

Australia has some of the highest energy costs in the world.

Daniel Andrews taxed Hazelwood Power Station out of existence and Bill Shorten wants to bring back the carbon tax.

Meanwhile, we're upgrading the iconic Snowy Hydro project, to power 500,000 new homes with reliable and affordable electricity and examining ways to ensure the continuation of stable base load electricity, most notably through the extension of the Liddell Power Station.

Australians can't afford to suffer the blackouts and high electricity costs that the Labor Party have inflicted on South Australia and that Bill Shorten wants to repeat nationally.



Keep up to date with Michael on Facebook:
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Housing Affordability

Recently, I introduced legislation to improve housing affordability outcomes for all Australians. The measures, which I've had responsibility in developing, include the **FHSSS**, incentives to encourage older Australians to downsize, and a vacant property tax on foreign property owners.

Every Australian deserves a fair go at owning a home. The Government is making this a reality through:

- The FHSSS, which provides a generous tax cut for first home buyers to help them save a deposit more quickly.
- Older Australians will be able to contribute the proceeds of the sale of their home into superannuation, removing barriers to those wishing to downsize.
- Foreign owners will be taxed for leaving residential properties unoccupied.



Eastern Volunteers Funding Extended

I enjoyed dropping by Eastern Volunteers in Ringwood for a quick catch up and morning tea.

Volunteers and staff work tirelessly to provide a range of services to those that need it most in our community.

I'm pleased to announce that the Federal Government has extended funding to Eastern Volunteers, allowing them to continue serving our community.



Visit to Waldreas Village Aged Care

It was lovely to meet with residents and staff of Waldreas Village in Ringwood and have the honour of presenting an award to Ms Andrea Devine – Estia's resident admissions ambassador. Waldreas Village was also successful in receiving additional Government funded places



"Chicks with Sticks"

I attended the last meeting of Ringwood's Chicks with Sticks on Wednesday, 20 September to thank Angela Leung and her team of volunteers for their service to our community.

Chicks with Sticks has donated knitted items to those in need for more than ten years.



Croydon Men's Shed Extension

Croydon Men's Shed officially opened its new facilities, which include a newly constructed break room and outside work area.

I was delighted to assist with the upgrades by providing \$150,000 through the Coalition Government's Capital Development Grants programme.



Bellbird Dell Reserve

It was fantastic to spend the day with residents in Vermont celebrating 40 years of the Bellbird Dell Reserve.

The Dell is a local gem – providing much needed open space local residents and wildlife.



Student Leadership Roundtable

It was great to host students from Aquinas College, Blackburn High School, Emmaus College, Heathmont College, Melba College, Mullauna College, Norwood Secondary College, Ringwood Secondary College, Tintern Grammar, and Yarra Valley Grammar for a fantastic Student Leadership Roundtable.

A big thank you to Dave Burt from Sport Life Training for the brilliant presentation on leadership.



Mental Illness Funding

I joined representatives from Eastern Melbourne PHN, Eastern Health and Neami National to announce \$2.5 million of federal funding to support young people suffering severe mental illness.

This funding is welcome news for residents and mental health service providers in Deakin, who will be among those to benefit.



eSafety Forum

I recently held Victoria's first eSafety Seminar in Ringwood. Thank you to everyone from the Deakin community who attended what was a most informative presentation.

Our Government established the eSafety Commissioner in 2015 and is committed to ensuring young people have safe and positive experiences online. For further information, please contact my office or visit <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>.



Local Sporting Champions

Another successful round of Local Sporting Champions Grants have been awarded to assist young athletes to take part in sporting competitions around the country.

Congratulations to Jamieson Calvert, Fraser Elliot, Campbell Fraser, Calvin Fairhurst, Hailey Ferris, Evan Maury, Blake Mitchell, Becky Petty, James Patterson and Ben White.



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 community infrastructure including better roads and upgraded sporting facilities
- The need for tougher sentences for violent criminal offenders

Out and about in the electorate of Deakin



Box Hill United Soccer Club Game



Breakthrough Church



North Ringwood Football Club



Different Journeys' Pathway for Carers project



Chinese Women's Association of Victoria 30th anniversary



Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony



Melba College's Rock of Ages production



Norwood Football Club



Aquinas Old Collegians Grand Final Day



East Ringwood Football Club



Irabina Autism Services Grand Final Fundraiser



Croydon City Arrows Club's 60th Anniversary



Italian Senior Citizens' Club of Croydon



New Croydon business, TJ's on Main



Maroondah District Scouts



Ringwood Bowls Club season opening



Mitcham v Croydon Footy Match

Out and about in the electorate of Deakin

- ✓ Dropped in to Whitehorse Historical Society's Heritage Family Day in **Mitcham**
- ✓ Presented awards to Maroondah District Scouts in **Heathmont**
- ✓ Supported **Croydon** City Arrow's Senior Women's Heart Foundation Fundraiser
- ✓ Opened the season for the **Ringwood** Croquet Club
- ✓ Attended the Presentation Ball for students from Tintern Grammar School
- ✓ Had the honour of speaking at a recent 'Shednite' in Blackburn



- ✓ Attended Maroondah Primary School Speech Competition, organised by the Rotary Club of **Croydon**
- ✓ Supported the AFL Grand Final Luncheon to raise money for **Bayswater North's** Irabina Autism Services
- ✓ Hosted a stall at the Taralye Market Day in **Blackburn**
- ✓ Officially opened the new outdoor area at the **Ringwood** Bowls Club
- ✓ Visited the aged care residence, BlueCross Livingston Gardens, in **Vermont South**
- ✓ Supported the Rangeview Preschool Christmas in July fundraiser in **Mitcham**
- ✓ Celebrated the Global Green Program with Year 8 students from **Ringwood's** Aquinas College
- ✓ Enjoyed the Lions Club of **Vermont South** Changeover Dinner



- ✓ Opened the new Amacal+ Pharmacy in Eastland Shopping Centre
- ✓ Helped serve at **Croydon South's** The Church of God Community Friendship Meal
- ✓ Enjoyed the opening night of **Ringwood** Secondary College's Chicago production



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 2017. 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 feel blessed to have recently welcomed our son, Leo, into our lives 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.



It was great to introduce Leo to meet the Prime Minister in Canberra recently.