



MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

Federal Member for Deakin



Deakin Community News | Summer 2015

Dear fellow resident

A new year brings new challenges and opportunities.

Over recent weeks, I have been reflecting on the past year and readying myself for what lies ahead in 2015.

The Coalition Government was able to achieve a great deal last year.

These achievements included scrapping the carbon tax and the mining tax; delivering Free Trade Agreements with Japan, Korea and China; cutting around \$2 billion in red tape; strengthening our borders and preventing deaths at sea; and putting in place the long-term structural reforms necessary to fix the budget.

We also confronted some challenging issues connected to national security as well as the budget mess left by Labor.

We laid down the strong foundations upon which we will build in 2015, with more economic growth and more jobs.

Locally, I was your voice in Canberra and worked with the community on the delivery of important projects to make Deakin an even better place to live.

I will continue to be your tireless advocate in 2015, making sure your views are heard in the Parliament and that key projects are completed.

I am very positive about what this year holds for us in Deakin, and I wish you and your family every success for the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sukkar MP

Deakin Community Cup

It has been my privilege to support our junior cricketers in Deakin this season. Together with the Box Hill Reporter District Cricket Association (BHRDCA), I hosted the inaugural Deakin Community Cup at Vermont South's Terrara Park. More than 60 children, from 10 junior clubs, competed in teams representing the north and south of the electorate. Thank you to everyone who turned out for the Cup and helped raise nearly \$700 for Taralye, the oral language centre for deaf children in Blackburn.



East West Link

As you know, if the East West Link does not go ahead, it will hurt all of us living in Deakin the most. Local residents are fed up with wasting time stuck in traffic on the Eastern Freeway. It is my job to fight for what is in the best interests of Deakin, and I have listened to your pleas for the East West Link. Read more inside on my fight for the East West Link.



Happy Australia Day

I always look forward to Australia Day and the opportunity it presents for us to reflect on what it means to be an Australian. It is rewarding to join Deakin's new citizens as they formally make a commitment to our country. Similarly, I enjoy visiting schools and community groups throughout the year to present Australian Flags and talk about the rewards and responsibilities that come with calling Australia home. Please contact my office to receive an Australian Flag.



Upgrading local roads

In line with my election commitments, it is exciting to see the progress of two important projects to upgrade our local roads. The Coalition Government is fully funding the \$1 million **upgrade of the Bedford Road and Great Ryrie Street intersection in Ringwood**. Funding has been approved, a contractor appointed and planning work is under way. The Government has also committed \$500,000 towards the **upgrade of the Surrey Road and Junction Road intersection in Blackburn North**. VicRoads is currently working on a plan to improve safety and ease congestion at this busy intersection. I look forward to updating you on developments throughout 2015.

“A big thank you to Michael and his office for sorting out a problem I had with Centrelink earlier this year. After many attempts at trying to deal with Centrelink, it was great to have the issue with my aged pension finally resolved by Michael. Again, thank you so much for your help.” - Joan, Ringwood



Better childcare for families

The Coalition Government remains firmly committed to making child care more affordable, flexible and accessible. We tasked the Productivity Commission with undertaking the largest review of the childcare system since the 1990s. The review overwhelmingly confirmed that families are struggling as a result of child care fees increasing 53 per cent under Labor's watch and want change. Local families and childcare operators reinforced this to the Assistant Minister for Education, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, when she visited Deakin. The Government is working to deliver a modern child care system that supports today's 24/7 economy, not the 9-to-5 working week of last century.

Meet Michael

Come along for a coffee & chat at The Food Republic, Shop 1 & 2/28-30 Blackburn Road, Blackburn on Wednesday, 4 February, from 10am to 11am.

I also hold regular 'Listening Posts' on Saturday mornings to keep in touch with local issues and receive your feedback.

I will be at the following places from 10:00am to 11:30am:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Saturday 31 January | Main Street, Croydon |
| Saturday 7 February | Ringwood East Market |
| Saturday 14 February | Blackburn Station Craft Market |
| Saturday 21 February | Burntbridge Shopping Centre, Ringwood East |



Celebrating our students

It is a highlight of my year to present the **Deakin Shield** to students who have made exceptional contributions to their school and the wider community. Forty-six schools took part in the Deakin Shield in 2014. Students were recognised for their efforts in a range of categories including community service, sport, music, academic and leadership. Congratulations again to all of the award recipients!

Fighting for the East West Link



I know Deakin residents are desperate for the East West Link to be built because you have been telling me, and your pleas for this project have grown even louder since the state election. Thank you to everyone who has phoned, emailed, or contacted me on social media over recent months to encourage me to keep fighting for the East West

DEAKIN

Sukkar vows Link support

Thomas O'Byrne

DEAKIN federal Liberal MP Michael Sukkar has promised to campaign "on every front" to ensure the East

Mr Sukkar said last month's state election result, in which the Liberals held the seats of Ringwood,

"We've got a big campaign ramping up - it'll be on every front," he said. While he admitted most

Mr Sukkar, who won the seat of Deakin with a swing of 3.8 per cent, said his cam-

about the tradies who are spending hours and hours in traffic, the mums and dads who are spending less time with their families - that's the real lived experience."

Link. I understand how important this major road project is to you. The East West Link will slash travel times across the city, giving families more time to spend together and boosting the productivity of our businesses. This shovel-ready project will also create 6700 jobs and give Victoria a much-needed economic boost. That is why the Federal Government

committed \$3 billion to the project – funding that remains available for the Labor State Government to build the East West Link. Deakin's message to Labor is clear: we need the East West Link.

To keep updated on our fight for the East West Link visit

www.michaelsukkar.com.au

Red tape cut by \$2.1 billion

The Coalition Government is cutting red tape to make life easier for small businesses and strengthen our economy. As part of the Deregulation Taskforce, I have listened to small business owners concerned about the burden of red tape. Nearly half a million small businesses are now exempt from pay-as-you-go requirements and around 1.4 million myTax users will be able to use prepopulated income tax returns, saving countless hours and costs. The Government promised to cut more than \$1 billion of red and green tape each year and



we have more than doubled our target, removing over \$2.1 billion of compliance costs.

Green Army gets going

Deakin's Green Army will mobilise this year to help enhance our local environment. The teams will be deployed across three sites – **Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Heatherdale Creek Parklands and Eastfield Park** – to carry out tasks such as weed control, mulching and revegetation. I am looking forward to the first Green Army project starting at Blackburn Lake Sanctuary in March, building on the incredible efforts of local volunteers.



The Green Army will provide young people with employment and a chance to learn new skills and make a real difference to the environment.



Making our streets safer

I am delivering on my election commitment to make our community safer through the Coalition Government's Safer Streets Programme. Work has already commenced on the design and consultation for **\$200,000 of security lighting in Nunawading**, and installation is set to start mid-year. The **\$400,000 expansion of the CCTV network in Ringwood and Ringwood East** also gets underway next month, with Maroondah City Council identifying priority locations and consulting with the community. The lighting and CCTV cameras will provide a huge boost to public safety, helping to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.



Morning tea with PM

More than 100 people, representing community groups from throughout Deakin, welcomed the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister over a cup of tea. I was proud to introduce the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, to some of the exceptional people who foster Deakin's strong community spirit. As the Prime Minister stated on the day, "the strength of any community is in the quality of its citizens".



Deakin Christmas Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone who donated to the first-ever Deakin Christmas Giving Tree by dropping a gift at my office or the Heathmont Bendigo Bank. The Ringwood Salvation Army was thrilled to accept the very generous donations of toys, vouchers, non-perishable food and other items. Your gifts made a real difference to local families in need at Christmas.



New Colombo Plan

University students from the Deakin electorate have an unparalleled opportunity to live, study and work overseas in our region, as part of the Coalition Government's New Colombo Plan. More than 3000 Australian undergraduate students will participate in 2015 in the program in 32 destinations – from Pakistan in the west, to Mongolia in the north and the Cook Islands in the east.

Visit www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan/

Commemorating the Anzac Centenary

I am providing \$125,000 for commemorative projects in Deakin under the **Anzac Centenary Local Grants Programme**. The Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies received a grant to publish the book, *For God King and Country, They Answered the Call: a Salute to the Blackburn, Mitcham, Nunawading and Vermont Volunteers*. Blackburn's MS Australia will spend a grant on a series of Anzac concerts, while Eastern Regional Libraries will put funding towards a website listing the details of local men and women who served in the First World War. More grant announcements are expected in the coming weeks, and I look forward to supporting commemorative events throughout 2015.



Your Voice in Canberra

I regularly speak in Parliament on both local and national issues, as well as contributing to debate on key legislation. I have recently spoken on:

- East West Link
- National security measures
- Humanitarian aid to Iraq
- Red Tape Repeal day

To read my speeches visit www.michaelsukkar.com.au



Supporting local sport

The Local Sporting Champions program continues to provide young people with valuable support to participate in sport. Thirty-two young people from Deakin received funding last year and I hope to present even more grants in 2015! Grants of \$500

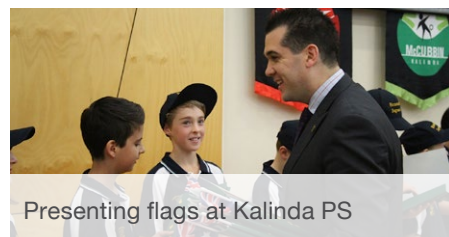
are available to help 12 to 18-year olds with the cost of taking part in state, national and international sporting championships, as well as School Sport Australia state or national championships.

Visit www.ausport.gov.au

Out and about in the electorate of Deakin



Visiting officers at the Croydon Police Station



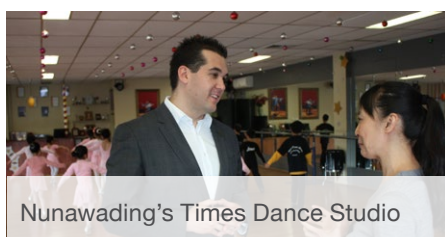
Presenting flags at Kalinda PS



Chinese Women's Association of Victoria



Ringwood Art Society
Artist of the Year



Nunawading's Times Dance Studio



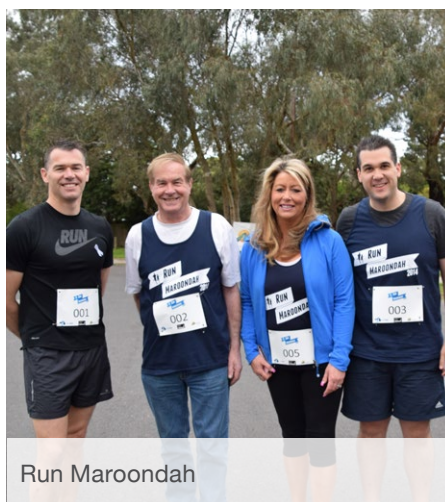
Touring Aquanation



Maroondah Festival



Maroondah SES training



Run Maroondah



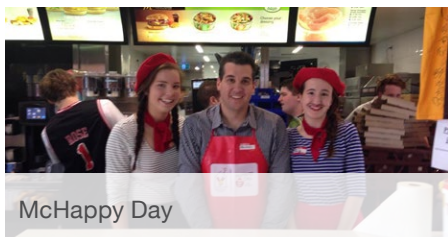
Swinburne - Croydon campus



Whitehorse Relay For Life



St John's Parish Fete



McHappy Day



Prime Minister joins in chemistry class at Luther College

Out and about in the electorate of Deakin

- ✓ Supported McHappy Day by serving at **Ringwood** McDonald's
- ✓ Spoke to Mount Pleasant Road Primary School students in **Nunawading** about the role of the Commonwealth Government
- ✓ Attended numerous school fetes including St Timothy's Twilight Fair in **Vermont** and the Old Orchard Primary School Fete in **Blackburn North**
- ✓ Enjoyed lunch with Greek senior citizens at the **Forest Hill** Hall
- ✓ Joined the Maroondah SES unit for a training session in **Croydon**
- ✓ Opened the **Ringwood** Art Society Artist of the Year Awards and Exhibition
- ✓ Attended the MENA Blue Day Breakfast in **Heathmont**
- ✓ Worked at **Mitcham** Newsagency for Support Small Business Day
- ✓ Participated in the Maroondah Relay for Life and the Whitehorse Relay for Life, and Run Maroondah in **Heathmont**

- ✓ Joined the Chinese congregation at the **Ringwood** Salvation Army's Sunday Service
- ✓ Presented Australian Flags to the **Croydon** RSL Sub-branch
- ✓ Assisted with an afternoon program at Irabina Childhood Autism Services in **Bayswater North**
- ✓ Attended afternoon tea at **North Ringwood** Senior Citizens' Centre
- ✓ Opened Victoria's Journey of Remembrance Presentation at **Heathmont** College
- ✓ Delivered keynote speech at the **Croydon** Main Street Traders' Association AGM
- ✓ Visited Nadrasca, the disability employment service in **Nunawading**
- ✓ Joined residents for dinner at Victoria Grange in **Vermont South**
- ✓ Met staff and parents at the Taralla Kindergarten in **Ringwood East**
- ✓ Attended Eastern Suburbs Photographic Society's meeting in **Blackburn**

- ✓ Held a stall at the Maroondah Festival in **Croydon**
- ✓ Attended the Chinese Women's Association of Victoria AGM in **Blackburn**
- ✓ Opened Heritage Gardens Aged Care's new extension in **Bayswater North**
- ✓ Laid a wreath at the **Ringwood** Memorial Clocktower on Remembrance Day
- ✓ Spent a morning weeding with volunteers at **Blackburn** Lake Sanctuary
- ✓ Joined the **Mitcham** Senior Citizens' Club for a game of bingo



Community Noticeboard

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 would be delighted to personally donate a hamper to assist your community group or school with fundraising in 2015. Contact my office to find out more.

Congratulatory messages

My office can help organise congratulatory messages from the Queen, Governor General and the Prime Minister for milestone birthdays and wedding anniversaries.



About Michael

I have lived, worked and been a part of the Deakin electorate all of my life. Born and raised in Ringwood, I learnt the virtues of hard work from my parents, who ran a local small business.

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.

Prior to entering the Parliament, I worked as a lawyer and advised many of Australia's most successful individuals and largest corporate groups.

I am honoured to represent the electorate of Deakin. As a local, I understand the issues that concern residents and I am working hard to be a strong voice on key local, national and international issues in the Parliament.

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