



MICHAEL SUKKAR MP

Federal Member for Deakin



Deakin Community News | Winter 2015

Dear fellow resident

Welcome to another edition of my community newsletter.

Over these past few months I have enjoyed getting out into the electorate and seeing many of you again.

Thank you to those people who have attended one of the many listening posts, coffee and chats, and community forums I continue to hold across the Deakin electorate.

In the face of Australian citizens travelling overseas to engage in terrorist activities, many Deakin residents have expressed support for the Government's tough actions to strip citizenship from dual-nationals who threaten the safety of ordinary Australians.

It is important the Government does whatever it can to protect our borders and communities from extremist violence and criminals.

The Government is also delivering tax relief and reducing red-tape for small businesses, which are the engine room of our economy, employing over 4.5 million people and producing over \$330 billion of our nation's economic output per year.

Families will also get better access to more affordable and flexible child care options and benefits under the Australian Government's new families package, announced in this year's budget.

I am proud to have delivered these measures as part of a government, which cares for the economic security and prosperity of all Australians.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Sukkar MP



Green Army deployed

The Green Army has been mobilised across the community to help preserve and protect our natural parks and reserves through various land care projects.

Projects are now underway in **Eastfield Reserve, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, and Heatherdale Creek.**

The Green Army is a key Government commitment with \$525 million budgeted over four years.

The programme encourages practical action to support local environment and conservation projects, providing training to 15,000 young Australians by 2018.



East West Link

Infrastructure Australia's recent data shows that the cost to the Victorian economy caused by traffic congestion will reach \$9 billion by 2031, with the two most costly bottlenecks located in Melbourne's east.

The only shovel-ready, and congestion-busting project Victoria had was the East West Link, until Labor abandoned the residents of Melbourne's outer-eastern suburbs. This resulted in 7,000 lost jobs and \$640 million of taxpayer's money wasted.

I remain committed to the East West Link project, and will continue to fight to build the road. The Australian Government will keep its \$3 billion commitment on the table to build the East West Link.





More Affordable Child Care

The Australian Government's new child care measures will make child care more affordable. From July 2017, the new Child Care Subsidy will help more families get into work and stay in work.

- ✓ Working families with incomes between \$65,000 and \$170,000 will be around \$30 per week better off.
- ✓ Working families earning less than \$65,000 will get an 85% subsidy of child care fees.
- ✓ A Child Care Safety Net will help those families earning less than \$65,000 that don't meet the activity test.
- ✓ A Home Care (Nannies) Pilot will help people like shift workers access child care.



Centenary of Anzac 1915 – 2015

This year we commemorate the Centenary of Anzac, remembering the more than 8,000 Anzacs who died and over 18,000 wounded during the Gallipoli campaign, and the more than 60,000 Australian lives lost during the First World War, and those lost in subsequent conflicts.

I attended many commemorative services across the electorate, including Emmaus College's moving tribute to the Anzacs with their dramatisation of personal stories (pictured).



\$3m for Ringwood Knowledge and Innovation Centre

I am pleased to secure \$3 million to deliver the new Centre for Regional Knowledge and Innovation at Realm, Maroondah City's new civic space, in Ringwood.

The Centre, located within the Eastland shopping centre redevelopment, will support small businesses in Maroondah to develop skills, create jobs, drive investment, and grow business.



Keeping Australians Safe

The Australian Government is taking a number of measures to keep our cities and neighbourhoods safe from extremist violence and terrorist activities.

New laws will soon be introduced that will strip citizenship of any Australian dual-national who engages in terrorist activities at home or abroad.

These new laws target "lone wolves" who threaten the peace and security of ordinary law-abiding Australians.



More Security for Seniors

The Age Pension will continue to increase twice a year at the highest available indexation rate.

From 2017 pensioners with modest assets will have pensions increased by an average of \$30 per fortnight.

For 90% of pensioners, there will either be no change in pension arrangements, or higher pensions.

Part pensioners will continue to get cheaper PBS medicines with the Seniors Health Care Card.



Growing Jobs and Small Business

The Australian Government's \$5.5 billion Growing Jobs and Small Business package provides Australian small businesses major incentives to invest, hire and grow.

Small business can now claim an immediate tax deduction for each and every asset purchase up to \$20,000.

Incorporated small businesses with annual turnover up to \$2 million can now enjoy a 1.5 per cent cut in the company tax rate, and unincorporated small businesses a 5 per cent tax discount, up to \$1,000 a year.



Surrey and Junction roads upgrade

The upgrade of the Surrey and Junction roads intersection in Blackburn North has commenced, and is due to be completed by the end of winter.

The upgrade will deliver improved traffic conditions for all road users by providing better lighting, and improve traffic flows for cars, bikes, and buses.

I am proud to have worked with the local community to secure \$500,000 to deliver this vital road safety project.



Strengthening Foreign Investment Regulation

Housing affordability for first home buyers is getting harder with competition from foreign investors in residential property.

The Australian Government is giving the ATO greater powers to ensure compliance and enforcement of foreign investment rules, scrutiny and transparency over residential and agricultural property purchases.

New application fees and stricter penalties will apply to foreign investors in residential and agricultural property purchases.

I recently hosted a foreign investment in residential real estate forum for local residents with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer (pictured).



Your Voice in Canberra

It's important to be a strong voice for all those you represent.

I regularly speak in Parliament on local and national issues. Recently I have spoken on:

- The prevention of violence against women;
- Foreign investment;
- Support for the East West Link;
- Jobs and small business;
- National security & anti-terrorism; and
- Budget funding for Deakin.

You can read my speeches by visiting my website:

www.michaelsukkar.com.au



Local Sporting Champions

The Local Sporting Champions programme continues to provide young people with valuable support to participate in sport, like Lachlan MacKenzie and Samantha Olsen (pictured).

Grants of up to \$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.

For more information visit: www.ausport.gov.au



MENA Deakin Twilight Tournament

Each year I sponsor a twilight netball tournament in association with clubs from Melbourne East Netball Association (MENA).

Hundreds of local young girls and boys compete in the tournament for the coveted Deakin Cup.



Norwood Football Club upgrade

The Kevin Pratt Pavilion redevelopment project at Norwood Sporting Club is currently underway with construction due to be completed later this year.

This is another election commitment being delivered.



Clean Up Australia Day

An army of local residents descended on Heatherdale Creek Parklands in Mitcham to remove litter and debris from around the parklands as part of this year's Clean Up Australia Day.

Thank you to all those dedicated volunteers who participated in Clean Up Australia Day.



Mock Parliament

Holding a mock Parliament is a great way for students to get an understanding of Australia's parliamentary system, law-making and our liberal democratic traditions. Melba College students (pictured) and I recently held a mock Parliament to debate the banning of homework.

Many students visit me at Parliament House in Canberra and watch the debate and questioning in the House of Representatives or Senate. I was pleased to receive Kalinda PS (pictured) and Vermont PS students at Parliament.



Deakin Shield

The Deakin Shield recognises the achievements of local primary and secondary students both inside and outside the classroom.

The Deakin Shield is presented for achievement in three categories – academic excellence, community service and a category nominated by the school (sporting, musical or other discipline).

Schools are invited to nominate three students in each of the categories.

Students at Melba College and Vermont PS (pictured) have been recent Deakin Shield recipients, along with students from 46 other local schools.



“I appreciate [Michael's] timely response to my concerns. My daughter is now having her matter followed up by Centrelink following representations from your office. I am grateful for the personal contact and for your willingness to help my daughter and beautiful little granddaughter.” -Daryl



Student Leadership Roundtable

The Deakin Student Leadership Roundtable program is an opportunity for local students to engage with me, as their local Member of Parliament, on issues that matter to them.

This year's participants from each of our local secondary schools have enthusiastically engaged in the program and are a credit to their schools, and I look forward to our further meetings this year.

Out and about in the electorate of Deakin



Australian Zo Organisation's Cultural Show at Ringwood Secondary College



Cutting the ribbon at the Irabina Autism Services Superhero Fun Run



Maroondah Citizenship Ceremony



Opening of refurbished building at Nunawading Christian College - Primary



Rev'd Penny Charters, All Saints' Anglican Church, Mitcham



North Ringwood Senior Citizens Centre



Whitehorse Chinese New Year Festival



Combined Rotary Clubs of Whitehorse Fair



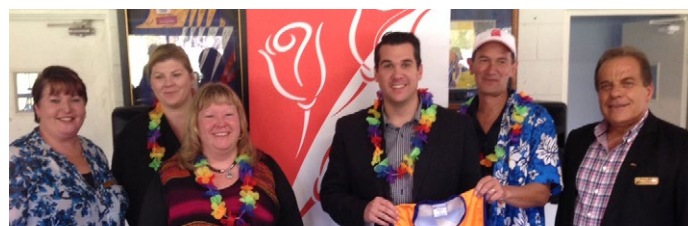
Melbourne East Netball Association's Pink Day to support Breast Cancer Network Australia



Neale & Jan Daniher, Blackburn Football Club - MND fundraiser



Blackburn Red Cross



Heathmont Jets Football Club's Cystic Fibrosis Victoria fundraiser



No 1 Ticket Holder at Aquinas Old Collegians FC



Norwood Football Club's season opener



Greek Elderly Citizens Club of Nunawading

Out and about in the electorate of Deakin

- ✓ Presented leadership badges to school leaders at Mullum and Parkmore primary schools
- ✓ Celebrated Chinese New Year Festival with the Asian Business Association of **Whitehorse**
- ✓ Attended the opening and dedication of the new science and mathematics building at Yarra Valley Grammar in **Ringwood**
- ✓ Visited the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place jobs, education and family services expo in **Ringwood East**
- ✓ Supported **South Croydon** Cricket Club's Pink Stumps Day
- ✓ Celebrated Mass at St Philip's School, **Blackburn North** for its 50th Anniversary
- ✓ Dined with players, supporters, and members at **Ringwood** Cricket Club President's lunch
- ✓ Visited and thanked Eastern Health volunteers at **Maroondah** Hospital
- ✓ Marked International Women's Day with the Chinese Women's Association of Victoria
- ✓ Attended the Parkmore, Marlborough, Laburnum, and Antonio Park primary schools fetes
- ✓ Marked Harmony Day with children at Larch Street Kindergarten in **Blackburn**
- ✓ Opened the City of Maroondah Gift race meet organised by the **Ringwood** Professional Athletic Club
- ✓ Attended the Lions Club Easter Children's Community Fair in **Mitcham**
- ✓ Attended the 25th Birthday of the **Croydon** Stroke Support Group
- ✓ Enjoyed afternoon tea with Senior Citizens of **North Ringwood**
- ✓ Visited the residents and toured facilities at Donwood Aged Care in **Croydon**
- ✓ Laid a wreath with Kalinda PS students at the Australian War Memorial
- ✓ Helped out at the Tintern School's open



day and school fair in **Ringwood East**

- ✓ Visited Goodstart Early Learning Centres in **Vermont** and **Croydon South** to speak with parents about childcare
- ✓ Spoke at the launch of the Australian Fuzhou Business Association in **Nunawading**
- ✓ Celebrated Mother's Day High Tea with residents and families at Bupa Aged Care **Croydon**
- ✓ Attended the **Nunawading** Swimming Club's 2015 Annual Presentation Evening
- ✓ Attended the War Widows Association of **Ringwood's** annual lunch
- ✓ Guest speaker at the Rotary Club of **Nunawading's** Pride of Workmanship awards

Community Noticeboard

Australian Flags

Community groups and exchange students travelling overseas can request flags and flag packs from my office.

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 Parliament.

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