



MITCHELL COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

Alex Hawke MP
Federal Member for Mitchell



alexhawke.com.au



Welcome to the August edition of the Mitchell e-newsletter

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Spring is near which means it is time for our iconic [Orange Blossom Festival 2014](#). A variety of events are being held throughout the month of September.

Federal Parliament resumed this week and the Prime Minister announced further important counter terrorism measures to lessen the terrorism threat within Australia and overseas. The measures the Government are proposing on your behalf can be found [here](#).

The Australian Government is developing a new [Defence White Paper](#) to be released in 2015. The 2015 Defence White Paper will reflect the Government’s overall strategic, national security, fiscal and broader policy priorities. Over the next three months, the external Defence White Paper [Expert Panel](#) will lead a programme of community consultation and a [public submissions](#) process through which individuals and organisations can provide input to the development of the 2015 Defence White Paper.

The closing date for public submissions is **Wednesday, 29 October 2014**. For further information, visit www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper.

Separately I have expressed my concerns with proposals for government to increase its capacity to access and store our metadata via private companies.

My remarks are contained [here](#).

I would value your feedback on this important discussion.

Regards,
Alex

Vinegar Hill – Charter Night

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Small Business Summit Greater Western Sydney – 8 October 2014



(Click image to watch my interview at the Media Launch of the Small Business Summit Greater Western Sydney)

[The Sydney Hills Business Chamber](#) will be hosting the Small Business Summit Greater Western Sydney at 7:00am on **Wednesday, 8 October 2014** at Hillsong Convention Centre, Solent Circuit, Norwest Business Park, Baulkham Hills. I recently attended the media launch and had the opportunity to meet the keynote speakers, [Craig Rispin](#), Business Futurist and Innovation Expert – The Future Trends Group and [Naomi Simson](#), Founding Director of Red Balloon.

As well as two keynote speakers this year's Small Business Summit will have two panels of high profile business leaders to motivate and empower small business owners. The Summit will bring together people from all avenues of business, representatives from three levels of government, community groups and networking groups.

This will be a stand out event in the Hills district with an expected 1000 people to attend.

To register or for further information visit <http://www.sydneyhillsbusiness.com.au/>.

Hills Mayoral Sleepout – a huge success



(Clr Alan Haselden, Hills Deputy Mayor, Clr Andrew Jefferies, Alex Hawke MP, Mayor Clr Dr Michelle Bryne and Clr Jeff Lowe)

It was raining, it was cold but the [Mayor's Winter Sleep Out](#) last weekend was an outstanding success. [70 people slept out at Bella Vista Farm](#) to raise money for the homeless and domestic violence victims in The Hills. An amazing \$40,000 was raised and will go towards the Community Foundation of North Western Sydney's [Bridging the Gap program](#).

Thank you to those who sponsored myself and other participants to assist in raising vital funds for those in need in our community.

Click [here](#) for local media coverage.

Hills Adventist College Kellyville – Official Opening of ‘S Block’



(Alex Hawke MP and Ralph Luchow, Principal, Hills Adventist College)

This week, students and staff at [Hills Adventist College](#) in Kellyville celebrated the opening of their Senior School Block that was built with the help of \$650 000 in Australian Government funding.

I had the immense honour to formally open the new facilities on behalf

of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Senator the Hon Scott Ryan.

The project, totalling over \$2.3 million, was funded through a \$650 000 Australian Government grant, and by a contribution from Hills Adventist College of over \$1.7 million.

The project involved the construction of a two storey block which is the first stage of the Senior School building programme. The first floor consists of two science laboratories, a preparation area, storage, a chemical storage cupboard and staff offices. On the ground floor is the food technology room, a preparation area and pantry, a laundry, staff offices, a function room and a textile laboratory. On both floors are student amenities and student locker bays.

Australian Government funding was provided through the [Capital Grants Programme](#).

Orange Blossom Festival 2014



Spring begins next week and the [Orange Blossom Festival](#) is only a few weeks away.

There are a number of community based events held throughout the Festival, two include the POP UP Park on Main Street Event held from **9am on Saturday 13 September 2014** and The Designer Markets & POP UP park from **10am on Sunday 14 September 2014**.

Click [here](#) for a list of all the events to mark this wonderful festival in our district.

Community Medic – serving first aid needs to the homeless



Simon Robinson of [Community Medic](#) and a team volunteers attended the [Hills Mayoral Sleep Out](#) at Bella Vista Farm last weekend. Simon spoke to the Sleep Out participants of the work Community Medic do by giving [first aid and health related assistance](#) to the homeless who are living rough on the streets in Sydney and Western Sydney.

Community Medic was established in 2012 and established a [residential care cottage](#) for 'at risk' homeless in Parramatta. Their trained volunteers include Registered Nurses, Medical Technicians and Advanced First Aiders who provide a street level first aid service to the homeless.

Thank you to the volunteers at Community Medic who so freely give of their valuable time to make a tangible difference in people's lives of providing first aid and giving health related assistance to the homeless and most at risk in our community.

Student Cultural Exchange – Germany, Japan and Norway



(Rachael Ivers, Sophie Richardson, Alex Hawke MP, Caillin Allison and Hannah Curtis.)

It was a great pleasure to recently host an afternoon tea and present four local high school students with the Australian Flag and National Symbols kit. Rachael, Sophie, Caillin and Hannah are participating in an overseas student exchange program through [Southern Cross Cultural Exchange](#) in Germany, Norway and Japan and [World](#)

[Education Programme](#) in Germany.

Their families and friends will miss them but I wish the girls all the very best as they experience another culture, school and home life in another country.

Crestwood Public School – interviewed by Yr 6 students



(Damon, Elijah, Alex Hawke MP, Jelena and Lara)

Four Year 6 Students from Crestwood Public School were chosen to recently interview me in my role as a Federal Member of Parliament. Year 6 students were learning about Federal Government in the lead up to their trip to Federal Parliament, Canberra. Damon, Elijah, Jelena and Lara were well prepared with their questions and I was impressed with the arrangement of the interview.

Road Safety Grants - \$10,000 on offer



The [National Roads & Motorists Association \(NRMA\)](#) is offering road safety grants to support local road safety initiatives for users in NSW and ACT. There are ten \$10,000 grants available. Eligible government, Not-for-profit organisations, schools, pre-schools or youth groups are able to apply.

Submissions are to be lodged online at www.mynrma.com.au/grants. Applications close Tuesday, 30 September 2014. Visit the website for further information.

Rotary Club of Vinegar Hill – Charter Night



(L- R: Bruce Nicholls, Club Secretary, Alex Hawke MP, Haran Ramachandran, Club President, Ahsha Ramachandran, Stephen Dinte, Club Vice-President and Ray Williams MP, State Member for Hawkesbury)

On Saturday, 16 August 2014, I attended the Charter Night of the [Rotary Club of Vinegar Hill](#) – our newest Rotary Club in the Hills district. The Club is named after the historical [Battle of Vinegar Hill](#). This a new vibrant club headed by Rotarians, Haran Ramachandran, President and Vice President, Steven Dinte.

Unlike other Rotary Clubs, the Rotary Club of Vinegar Hill is a “coffee club”, which meets weekly at the Griddle Restaurant in the Rouse Hill Town Centre. They are also a family club, which means that members are encouraged to bring any of their family, including children, to the meetings.

Counter Terrorism Measures for a safer Australia

The Australian Government recently announced [\\$630 million of new counter-terrorism measures](#) that will help combat the threat posed by home-grown terrorism and also, discourage or deter Australians from travelling offshore to participate in conflicts.

As part of its \$630 million Counter-Terrorism package the Government will invest:

- \$13.4 million to strengthen community engagement programmes in Australia with an emphasis on preventing young Australians from becoming involved with extremist groups;
- \$6.2 million to establish a new Australian Federal Police Community Diversion and Monitoring Team for returning foreign fighters and those who support them;
- \$32.7 million for a multi-agency national disruption group to

investigate, prosecute and disrupt foreign fighters and their supporters; and

- \$11.8 million for the Australian Federal Police to bolster its ability to respond to the threat of foreign fighters at home and abroad including local and regional Liaison Officers and two new investigative teams to help reduce the threat of extremists leaving Australia.
- \$64 million in measures to [counter violent extremism and radicalisation](#).

I strongly support these increased measures that will deter people from participating in conflicts and will reduce the incidents of false documents for travel.

National Flag Day – September 3



[Australian National Flag Day](#) is on **Wednesday, 3 September 2014** and all Australians are encouraged to fly the flag on September 3 to remind us of the common pride we have in our nation.

As Australia's foremost national symbol it is appropriate that we honour the place and importance of the Australian National Flag.

I encourage individuals, community organisations, local authorities, businesses and schools to celebrate Australian National Flag Day by flying or displaying the Australian National Flag on 3 September.

For information on flag raising protocol visit, www.itsanhonour.gov.au.

2014 Paws in the Park - Pawsitive Steps towards Mental Health Walk



There are a variety of great community groups throughout Mitchell who advocate and work toward raising awareness of mental health issues in our society. On **Sunday, 31 August 2014**, Paws in the Park is

being held at Castle Hill Showground. Paws in the Park are combining with [Pawsitive Steps towards Mental Health Week Walk](#) where you can walk with your dog. Pawsitive Steps includes access to information provided by mental health support agencies, NGOs and private mental health service providers of the Hills district.

It is a great opportunity for residents to participate in a 30 minute walk to raise awareness of mental health issues in the society and obtain necessary information from professionals and support groups while having a family fun day with your pet dog.

Representing the communities of Baulkham Hills, Beaumont Hills, Bella Vista, Box Hill, Castle Hill, Kellyville, Maraylya, Nelson, Northmead, North Rocks, Rouse Hill, West Pennant Hills and Winston Hills

**Electorate Office: Suite 8/23 Terminus Street,
Castle Hill NSW 2154**

Postal address PO Box 1173, Castle Hill 1765

Email: alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au

Phone: (02) 9899 7211

Fax: (02) 9899 7990

Authorised by Alex Hawke MP,
8/23 Terminus Street, Castle Hill NSW 2154.

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