



MITCHELL COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

The Hon Alex Hawke MP

Federal Member for Mitchell
Assistant Minister to the Treasurer



Welcome to the February edition of the Mitchell newsletter

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(Sky AM Agenda 24.2.16)

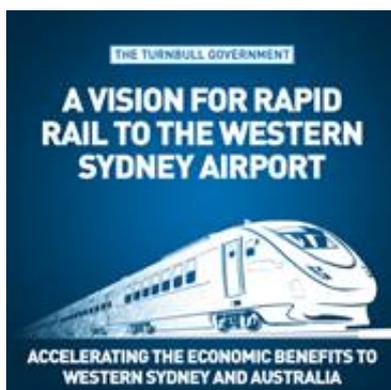
This month I have highlighted a number of community initiatives and events, in particular Round 2 funding through the [Stronger Communities Programme](#). Also thank you to everyone in our district who participated in [Clean Up Australia Day 2016](#). This year across Australia more than 682,000 people took part and an estimated 15,657 tonnes of rubbish was removed across the weekend of Clean up.

Email me at Alex.Hawke.MP@aph.gov.au with your feedback. Also to stay in touch *like* my [facebook](#) page, [twitter](#) or check out my [website](#).

Legislation recently debated in Parliament:

- [Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment \(2016 Measures No 1\) Bill 2016](#)
- [MPI – Housing Affordability](#)
- [MPI – Economic Leadership](#)

Vision for Rapid Rail Link to Western Sydney Airport



The [Prime Minister](#), the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, announced today that the Federal Government would work with the NSW Government to consider how to deliver a rapid rail link to the second airport. The Australian Government will work with NSW to investigate costed options to get the rail link operational when the airport opens in 2026 to accelerate benefits for the people of Western Sydney.

Australian 2016 Defence White Paper



The [2016 Defence White Paper](#) sets out the Coalition Government's comprehensive and responsible long-term plan to ensure Australia's national security. It is the right strategy for a modern Australia in a more complex world. The Government will increase Defence spending by \$29.9 billion over the next decade to deliver the strategies and plans set out in the [2016 White Paper](#).

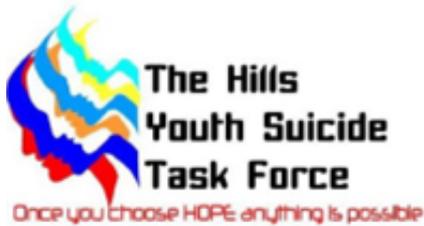
The people of Mitchell can be confident the Turnbull Government will continue to deliver on its most important task - defending our nation and protecting and promoting our national interests.

Rouse Hill Billy Cart Derby – 17 April 2016 – register now



The 5th Annual [Rouse Hill Billy Cart Derby](#) is held on **Sunday, 17 April** at 10am. This is a great family event and an opportunity for the community to have fun combined with friendly competition. I have previously attended and highly recommend this as one of the '*must experience*' [events](#) in our district.

Youth Mental Health Forum – Friday 18 March 2016



The Hills Youth Suicide Task Force will be hosting their second [Youth Mental Health Forum](#) for High school students Year 9-12 at **Event Cinemas, Castle Hill** from 10am – 2pm on Friday, 18 March 2016. The aim of the forum is to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health, raising the issue of youth suicide and how to access help.

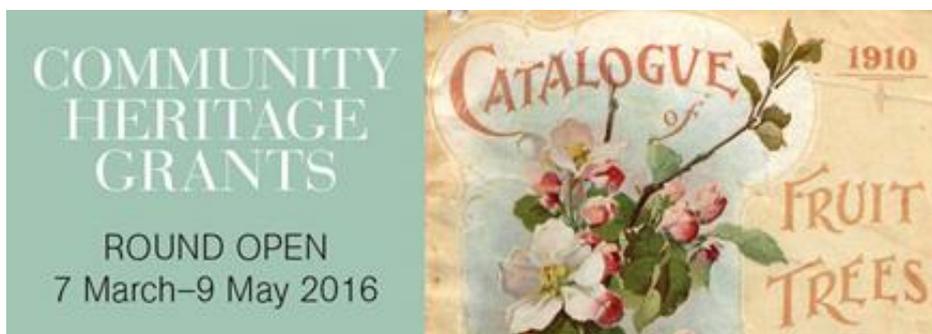
For further information please email clr.byrne@thehills.nsw.gov.au.

Stronger Communities Program - **ROUND 2** **closes 1 April, 2016**

The Mitchell Stronger Communities Programme – Round 2 is now open. The programme is to fund small capital projects which will deliver social benefits. Please click [here](#) for further information and application forms. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the [guidelines](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please contact my office if you need any further information on the [Stronger Communities Programme](#) on 9899 7211 or alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au.

Community Heritage Grants 2016 Round open – **deadline extended** – 2 March 2016



The [Community Heritage Grants](#) (CHG) program provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and Indigenous groups. **Applications close on Monday, 9 May 2015.**

Commonwealth Bank Community Grants – **Apply Now**



If your organisation Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and supports the health and wellbeing of Australian youth, you may be eligible to apply to the [CommBank Staff Community Fund](#) for a grant of up to \$10,000. [Apply](#) before **Monday, 28 March 2016.**

Clean Up Australia Day – **THANK YOU**



[Clean Up Australia Day](#) held on Sunday, 6 March 2016, was a great opportunity

for the community to come together and clean up the Winston Hills Scout Hall, Winston Hills. Thank you to the co-ordinator, Des Saunders and the many volunteers who gave of their time and worked hard in cleaning up Oakes Reserve, Oakes Road, Winston Hills.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence



The [National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence](#) is on Friday, 18 March 2016. This is a key anti-bullying event for [schools](#) and communities to help deliver the message that violence and bullying will not be tolerated. Click [here](#) for further information.

Harmony Day – celebrate our diversity



This year's theme is '*our diversity is our strength*'. Harmony Day is an Australian Government initiative held annually on **21 March** to [celebrate](#) our cultural diversity.

For further information visit www.harmony.gov.au

Consultation on the Objective of Superannuation

[The Minister for Small Business and Assistant Treasurer](#), the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, has released a [discussion paper](#) entitled '[The objective of superannuation](#)' for public consultation to kick-start the process for meeting the Government's commitment to enshrine the [objective of superannuation](#) in law.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the discussion paper by lodging a submission [online](#). Submissions will close on **Wednesday, 6 April 2016**.

ADM and Certificates of Appreciation - **Are you eligible?**



The [Australian Defence Medal](#) (ADM) has been established to recognise Australian Defence Force Regular and Reserve personnel who have demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation by serving for an initial enlistment period or four years service, whichever is the lesser.

[Certificates of Appreciation](#) are a way of expressing the nation's thanks to those who have made a contribution towards Australia's efforts in war, conflicts and peace operations.

If you are eligible for an Australian Defence Medal and/or Certificate of Appreciation please contact my office for an application form on 9899 7211 or email alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au

myDeductions – tax claims made easier



Individuals claiming [work-related expenses](#) as an employee can now keep your records electronically using the [myDeductions app](#) by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). I encourage workers to download the ATO app and use the myDeductions feature, as it is a great way to maintain your records.

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

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