



MITCHELL COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

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Federal Member for Mitchell



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Welcome to the December edition of the e-newsletter

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **The future of Holden in Australia? PM Agenda with David Speers & Nick Champion**
- **Shop Small – supporting small business**
- **Billabong Retreat – Award Winners**
- **Small Business helpline to help Mitchell employers**
- **2013 Hills Building and Design Awards – Winners**
- **Christmas Carols in Mitchell**
- **Christmas in the Hills – Tickets are on sale NOW**
- **Castle Hill Powerhouse Discovery Centre: Holiday program**
- **Ballot opens for 100th Anniversary**



It was a great privilege to be appointed by the Prime Minister, to Chair the [**House Standing Committee on the Environment**](#). I look forward to working with Environment Minister Hunt and all of my Parliamentary colleagues on this critical cabinet policy area.

In addition, I have also been appointed as a member of the [**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**](#), the [**Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters**](#) and the [**House Standing Committee on Education and Employment**](#). Through this work of the Parliament I will be able to better reflect the views and aspirations of our community directly in the Abbott Government.

Federal Parliament has sat most of December and I have been sad to miss our great school presentations and many great local Christmas events!

Christmas is a time of year when we come together as a community and when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. As a Christian, I have always been proud of Australia's Christian heritage, which in my view has made our country the peaceful, tolerant and successful nation that it is.

Regardless of your beliefs, Christmas is a time to celebrate and enjoy this season with your family and friends. On behalf of Amelia and myself I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, safe and prosperous 2014.

Regards,
Alex

PS: Some of my recent parliamentary activities:

- This week I wrote to the Auditor-General to request an audit of the Early Years Quality Fund which was reported by [The Australian](#) today.
- [WestConnex](#) – *“Coming to office as a new government with a new start....*
- [Small Business](#) – *“This week, as part of the Shop Small campaign....*
- [Environment](#) – *“It is a great keeping of our election commitment....*
- [MPI – Asylum Seeker](#) – *“The last six years were an example of policy failure....by any government in this country's history”.*
- [Migration Amendment](#) – related media article: [Govt defends special visas facing axe](#) – (West Australian online 11.12.13).

Questions in Question Time:

- [Small Business](#) – *“My question is to the Minister for Small Business.....*
- [Typhoon Haiyan](#) – *“My question is to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.....*
- [Carbon Pricing](#) – *“Is the minister aware.....*
- [Registered Organisations Commission](#) – *“Minister, what action is the government taking to ensure....*

**The future of Holden in Australia? PM Agenda
with David Speers & Nick Champion**



Labor mugged by reality on their policy failure on future of Holden in Aus [#pmagenda](#) with @david_speers & @nickchampionmp [#auspol](#)

Shop Small – supporting small business



[Shelton's Meats](#) in Castle Mall was opened over 30 years ago by Ron Shelton. Matthew Wright has been the proprietor for 14 years and has continued the family store. Shelton's Meats are generous in their community involvement by giving to charity and donating to schools.

[Shop Small Campaign](#) was introduced in November to promote and encourage people to support local small business. Small businesses are the backbone of our great community. As part of Shop Small Campaign, I had the wonderful opportunity to 'serve' behind the counter and also cook some of Shelton's Meats award winning gourmet sausages.

Shelton's Meats are also donating all funds raised from the sales of 'dog bones' to [Tallowood School](#).

Billabong Retreat – Award Winners



Congratulations to Paul and Victoria von Bergen, the owners and operators of the [Billabong Retreat in Maraylya](#) on being successful in their application to receive a *T-QUAL Grant* under the [Tourism Quality Projects \(TQP\) Program](#).

It is fantastic that the Billabong Retreat will receive a grant of \$110,000 to construct new eco-treetop double cabins, eco-shelters, a nature and wellness treetop education centre and waste water facilities. I wish them every success as they embark on the expansion of the retreat.

Billabong Retreat was also announced winners at the [NSW Tourism awards](#) held last month. They won the new category 'health and wellbeing' and the 'unique accommodation' category.

Small Business helpline to help Mitchell employers

A new small business helpline has been established to provide small businesses with quick and stress-free access to workplace relations advice.

Small business people in Mitchell who call the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) will now receive priority service which will help them to efficiently improve their understanding of the laws so they are confident to grow, invest and create jobs. Click [here](#) for further information.

2013 Hills Building and Design Awards – Winners



Congratulations to all the winners announced at the 20th Annual Hills Building & Design Awards. The winners were:

- Winner Overall Excellence in Building & Design, Innovative architectural design category - Erhat Constructions for the stunning Franciscan Friary chapel at Kellyville.
- Winner Residential project/exhibition home - \$250,000-\$400,000 and Environmental management – [Ichijo Homes Pty Ltd](#)
- Winner Residential Dwelling – Best Custom Designed Home & Built Home \$750,001-\$1,250,000 – [Kassis Classic Homes](#)
- Winner Residential Dwelling – Best Custom Designed Home & Built Home \$1,250,000 and above – [Denton Homes](#)

For a complete list of winners [click here](#).

Christmas Carols in Mitchell



Christmas Carols are great for the whole family to enjoy. Below are some of the Christmas Carol events in the Hills district:

Saturday 14 December

Carols on the Green – [Northmead Bowling Club](#) – 166 Windsor Road, Northmead - 6.30pm

Sunday 15 December

Family Christmas Festival and Carols – [Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church](#) - 32 Showground Road, Castle Hill – 5:00pm.

Tuesday 17 December

Carols in the Park - [Salvation Army Rouse Hill](#) – Cnr Brampton Drive & Casablanca Avenue, Beaumont Hills – 7:00pm.

Wednesday 18 December

Carols by Candlelight Festival and Christmas Markets – [Christmas in the Hills](#) – at Bella Vista Farm from – 3pm.

Wednesday 18 December

Carols by Candlelight – [North Rocks Community Church](#), North Rocks Park, cnr North Rocks Road and Farnell Avenue – 5:00pm.

Thursday 19 December

Carols in the Park - [Salvation Army Rouse Hill](#) – Cnr Beaumont Drive & Layton Way, Beaumont Hills – 7:00pm.

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 December

Carols Spectacular – [Hillsong Church](#) - Solent Circuit, Norwest Boulevard, Baulkham Hills – click on link for times.

Sunday 22 December

Christmas Community Festival – [Hillsong Church](#) – Solent Circuit,
Norwest Boulevard, Baulkham Hills – 11.30am.

Christmas in the Hills – Tickets are on sale NOW



The [Carols by Candlelight Festival and Christmas markets](#) event will be held at Bella Vista Farm on Wednesday 18 December from 3pm. The 2013 [Christmas in the Hills](#) is a great family event where we are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas. Tickets can be purchased from [Castle Hill RSL](#) or [online](#). *If you purchase online you can present your receipt (ticket) at the gate on the day.* Tickets can also be purchased on the day at the gate.

All the funds raised are going to three fantastic causes; [Woodbury Autism Education & Research](#) at Baulkham Hills, [Tallowood School](#) at Kellyville and [Lifestart](#) at Baulkham Hills.

Castle Hill Powerhouse Discovery Centre: Holiday program



Make-and-Do activities or Meccano machines and Lego Robotics are some of the workshops at the [Powerhouse Discovery Centre](#) at Castle Hill in January 2014. Commencing from Tuesday, 14 January, the Powerhouse Discovery Centre offer a host of activities, shows and full day programmes for the kids.

For a detailed list of shows and workshops [click here](#).

Ballot opens for 100th Anniversary commemorations at Gallipoli



Australians who would like the opportunity to attend [ANZAC Day commemorations](#) at [Gallipoli in 2015](#) can apply for the ballot now.

The 100th anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli will be very significant commemorative occasion for the people of both nations. Places will be available for 8,000 Australians, 2,000 New Zealanders and 500 official representatives of all countries involved in the Gallipoli campaign including Turkey.

Ballots will be held for both the Australian and New Zealand places. The ballots **close at midnight on 31 January 2014** and applicants will be notified of the outcome in March 2014 to allow enough time for those successful to make their travel arrangements and pay for the trip.

For more information on Anzac Day commemorations at Gallipoli, eligibility for the ballot and to apply, visit www.gallipoli2015.dva.gov.au. To request a paper application form, call Ticketek on 1300 364 002.

Tour De Hills Bicycle Classic 2014 – Save the Date



The [Tour De Hills Bicycle Classic 2014](#) is being held on **Sunday 2 March 2014** at the Australian Hotel & Brewery. Registrations are now [open](#).

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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