



## Welcome to the July edition of the Mitchell e-newsletter

### TO FOLLOW ALEX



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Hills Mayoral Sleepout – raising funds for the homeless – sponsor me**
- **Abbott Government Abolishes Carbon Tax**
- **Give and Take Families – making a difference to those in need**
- **The Hills Men's Shed**
- **2014 Paws in the Park - Pawsitive Steps towards Mental Health Walk**
- **My First Speech Competition**
- **EduTank – free tutoring service**

The shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 was an unspeakable crime and the loss of 298 lives, including 37 men, women and children who called Australia home is a horrific tragedy.

The Australian Government is committed to [Operation Bring Them Home](#). There are now over 200 Australian personnel deployed overseas on the operation. [Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston AC AFC \(retired\)](#) is leading Australia's efforts on the ground in Ukraine to help recover, identify and repatriate Australians killed.

Australia played a pivotal role in authoring the [resolution](#) adopted by the United Nations Security Council, calling on the armed separatist groups controlling the MH17 crash site to allow unfettered access to the international investigators.

The Prime Minister has established a [National Condolence Book](#) so members of the public can record their condolence to the families and loved ones of those lost on Flight MH17. The National Condolence Book has been placed in the Marble Foyer, Parliament House, Canberra. You can also contribute a message of [condolence online](#).

Condolence books have also been placed in Australia's embassies and high commissions throughout the world. In time, a copy of the condolence books will be provided to each of the Australian families who have been affected by this tragedy.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, has announced Thursday, 7 August 2014 to be a [National Day of Mourning and National Memorial Service](#) to honour the victims of Flight MH17. The Memorial Service will take place at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne at 10:30am.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families affected by this tragedy, as I know they are in yours.

Regards,  
Alex

**PS: Amelia and I welcomed our baby boy, Jack Alexander Hawke, on Tuesday, 8th July 2014 at 7:10am at Hornsby Hospital. Jack weighed 3.5kg and was 51cm long.**

## **Hills Mayoral Sleepout – raising funds for the homeless – sponsor me**



Hills mayor Clr Dr Michelle Bryne has co-ordinated the [Mayor's Winter Sleep Out](#) to raise money for the homeless and domestic violence victims in The Hills. All monies raised will go towards the Community Foundation of North Western Sydney's [Bridging the Gap program](#).

I have registered and look forward to participating in the Sleep Out on Saturday, 23 August 2014 at Bella Vista Farm. If you would like to sponsor me and help raise vital funds for the [Community Foundation of North Western Sydney](#), please [click here](#).

For further information or if you would like to register <https://register.eventarc.com/24572/hills-mayoral-sleepout>.

## **Abbott Government Abolishes Carbon Tax**



The Coalition promised to abolish the Carbon Tax and the last week of July sitting in Parliament the [Government delivered on its promise](#). The Repeal of the Carbon Tax is great news for local families and small businesses.

Scrapping the Carbon Tax will save the average household around \$550 a year, including around \$200 on the average household electricity bill and around \$70 on the average gas bill. This will reduce cost of living pressures for all Australians.

The Government's consumer watchdog, the ACCC, has been given extra funding and powers to ensure that savings are passed on to consumers.

Scrapping the Carbon Tax will also take a cost burden off local businesses. This will make it easier for them to compete and employ more people. Scrapping the Carbon Tax is just one part of our plan to build a stronger economy and create more jobs. It is also important we get the Budget under control, continue to reduce paperwork and build the infrastructure we need, like the [NorthConnex](#).

There's much more to do, but removing the world's biggest Carbon Tax from the backs of everyday small businesses and families is an important step in building a stronger economy.

## **Give and Take Families – making a difference to those in need**



In my role as Federal Member for Mitchell, I have the privilege of meeting people in our community who are incredibly selfless. They see a need, hear of a situation and then do all they can to help those during their time of hardship.

I recently met with Mel Belle, a mother of six, along with her husband, Nick, who established an [online based charity, Give and Take Families](#).

Initially, they set up a Facebook page to get donations for the victims of the Bushfires last October. Afterwards, Mel found there was a need for families in distress throughout the Hills district. Using Facebook Mel and her team of volunteers regularly update what is needed for these families in need.

Mel has been nominated for a Pride of Australia medal in the

Community Spirit category. I wish her every success.

## The Hills Men's Shed



*Malcolm Sinclair, Public Officer, Committee, Peter Theaker, President and Doug Burns, Secretary of the Hills Men's Shed*

The Hills Men's Shed is a very active group of men who get together twice weekly to not only make items from timber and metal but also to discuss men's health. The Men's Shed [was established in Australia](#) in 2006. And there are now over 1000 Men's Shed throughout Australia.

The Hills Men's Shed has been established for five years and have outgrown their premises. Currently they have plans in progress to double the space of their workshops. The Hills Men's Shed have completed local projects for Jasper Road Public School, Baulkham Hills Public School, and the Hills District Historical Society. They also do small refurbishments or repairs for a donation.

For further enquiries contact Doug Burns, Secretary on 0420 237 170 or [doug2205@bigpond.com](mailto:doug2205@bigpond.com)

## 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.

## My First Speech Competition



The House of Representatives has announced a national [My First Speech](#) competition for year 10 to 12 students across Australia. Students are being asked to imagine themselves as a newly elected MP and to write and present [a three minute speech](#) about an issue they are passionate about. First, second and third place winners will be flown to Canberra with a parent to present their speech live at Parliament House.

Click [here](#) for more details. Entries close Friday, **12 September 2014**.

## EduTank – free tutoring service



Recently, I was advised by a group of [local senior High School students](#) of an initiative they have established, EduTank. This is a free online tutoring service personalised for students from Kindergarten through to Year 10. [EduTank](#) is designed so each student receives a personal response to their questions by senior students who attend selective high schools.

For further enquires email [enquiries@edutank.org](mailto:enquiries@edutank.org)

---

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](mailto: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.

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe instantly](#)