



Welcome to the August edition of the Mitchell e-newsletter

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The Mitchell Stronger Communities Programme – Round 1 is now **open**. Local community and sporting groups are invited to apply for funding for new projects.

The [Stronger Communities Programme](#) is to fund small capital projects which will deliver social benefits. The program aims to improve local community participation, cohesion and contribute to vibrant and viable communities.

Key aspects of the program:

- Please submit details of your [proposed project](#) to my office by 5pm, **Friday 9 October 2015**.
- Local government and incorporated not-for-profit organisations are eligible to apply.
- Grants of between \$5,000 and up to a maximum of \$20,000 are available. There is a total funding pool of \$150,000 for 2015/16 year for the Mitchell electorate.
- **Applicants are required to confirm matched funding in cash or in-kind on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis.**
- Following consultation, the Mitchell Stronger Communities Committee will provide identified applicants with access to an online application form. Applicants will only be able to apply for funding once a link to the online form has been provided by my office.

Expressions of interest for the grant can be made by [downloading](#) the form and sending to my electorate office at Alex Hawke MP, PO Box 1173, Castle Hill NSW 1765 or via [email](#) or click [here](#) to lodge online.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the Stronger Communities Programme [guidelines](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Flag Day – 3

September

- National Stroke Week
– 14-20 September

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.

Regards,

Alex

Warren Miller – Vietnam veteran honoured



In my role as a Member of Parliament, it is always a privilege to recognise and honour veterans for their service to our nation.

The Castle Hill RSL Sub-branch was in touch with [Warren Miller](#) from Rowland Village, Galston, assisting with replacing his lost medals for his service during the Vietnam War. I recently hosted a [presentation ceremony](#) for Warren Miller where he was presented with full sized and miniature medals and a Certificate of Appreciation. The ceremony was attended by his family, friends and Castle Hill Sub-branch members.

Saluting Their Service Commemorations Grants



On 18 August 2015, the [Minister for Veterans' Affairs](#), Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson announced funding to assist local communities in honouring the service of our Vietnam veterans.

The program will award grants of between \$4,000 and \$20,000 for initiatives such as commemorative events and activities that directly commemorate any aspect of the Vietnam War, and which focus on camaraderie. The grant programme will open for funding on **14 September 2015 and closes at 5:00 pm AEDT on 31 October**

2015. The Department is currently updating the STS Guidelines and Application Forms for these grants and they will be available [here](#)

when the funding round opens.

The [Saluting Their Service grants](#) are designed to support activities and projects that highlight the sacrifice and service of Australia's servicemen and women.

- [Community Commemorative Grants](#) are available of up to \$4,000 for projects, to build memorials and preserve wartime memorabilia that are locally significant. Applications can be submitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs at any time for consideration by the Commemorations Grants Advisory Committee.
- [Major Commemorative Grants](#) are for significant projects that contribute to Australia's understanding of its wartime heritage and honour the service and sacrifice of its servicemen and women.

Round 2 applications close on 3 January 2016.

School Competition To Honour Australia's Vietnam Veterans



Secondary schools in Mitchell are invited to participate in the Australian Government's [Honouring Australian Vietnam Veterans schools' competition](#). The competition encourages students in Year 9 and 10 to explore the service of Australia's Vietnam veterans, and to reflect on the importance of remembering their involvement in the conflict. The competition is open from **Tuesday, 18 August 2015 until Friday, 8 April 2016**, giving students two full terms to participate.

Winning students will be invited to attend a three-day Canberra Commemorative Programme in August 2016, where they will attend the national commemorative event marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Further information is available at www.anzacportal.dva.gov.au/competitions.

The Facts about China Australia Free Trade Agreement





The [new trade deal](#) with China will provide huge opportunities for Australian exporters and local jobs. It removes barriers and gives Australian businesses access most other countries don't get. Already, Australia exports \$108 billion of goods and services a year to China – more than double what we import. Our [future growth](#) and jobs will rely even more heavily on trade.

This new trade agreement with [China](#), together with other new trade agreements signed with [Japan](#) and [South Korea](#), are critically important for Australia's future. The agreements will secure the future of many existing business and jobs and create new opportunities.

For comprehensive information on the China Australia Free Trade Agreement please click [here](#).

Jersey Day – 4 September 2015 – show your support



Friday, 4 September 2015 is [Jersey Day](#), an initiative established by the Gremmo family, in honour of [Nathan Gremmo](#), who tragically lost his life in an accident in May 2015.

Jersey Day is designed to raise awareness of The Organ and Tissue Authority and [DonatLife](#) Network. Show your support by wearing your favourite sporting jersey to work or school.

For more information visit www.jerseyday.com.au.

Securing Australian Shipbuilding



The Commonwealth Government announced it is delivering a long-term plan for a strong and sustainable [shipbuilding industry](#). Over the next 20 years the Government will invest over \$89 billion in ships and submarines for the Navy. We will also implement a continuous build of surface warships in Australia. This means that Australia's shipbuilding workforce will build Navy's Future Frigates and Offshore Patrol Vessels.

The Coalitions Government's historic investment in Navy capability will be a centrepiece of the fully-funded [Defence White Paper](#) due to be released later this year.

Export Market Development Grants



(previous recipients of EMDG scheme)

The [Export Market Development Grants](#) (EMDG) scheme is a key Australian Government financial assistance program for aspiring and current exporters. The scheme encourages small and medium sized Australian businesses to develop export markets

Applications for the grant are now [open](#) and must be lodged by midnight Monday, 30 November 2015. For new and existing businesses interested in applying for an EMDG please click [here](#).

Western Sydney Family Referral Service



The [Western Sydney Family Referral Service](#) officially opened a [new centre](#) at Rouse Hill yesterday. This is a new free and confidential service that supports families during times of difficulty and brings together families, support services and community resource to keep children and young people safe and well.

The Western Sydney Family Referral Service is managed by Relationships Australia NSW. For further information call 1300 403 373 or email: wsfrs@ransw.org.au

Pawsitive Steps – 30 August 2015



This year, **'Pawsitive Steps towards Mental Health'** is running for it's for its 5th consecutive year and will be held at **9:00am – 1:00pm on Sunday, 30 August 2015 at Castle Hill Showground**. The event will be focused on mental health awareness in conjunction with dog activities and exercises.

Please register at www.trybooking.com/148484 or for further information, please call 0407 195 464 and/or send an email to pawsitivehills@gmail.com.

Australian National Flag Day – 3 September





The [Australian National Flag Day](#) celebrates the first time the flag was flown on 3 September 1901. On Thursday, 3 September, Australian's are encouraged to fly or display our Australian National Flag.

For further information on the [history](#) of our flag or [protocols](#) for [Raising the Flag](#), please visit www.itsanhonour.gov.au. To obtain a complimentary copy of the Australian Flags booklet please contact my office on 9899 7211 or email alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au.

National Stroke Week – 14-20 September



strokefoundation

A Stroke can be debilitating and every 10 minutes an Australian will have a stroke. [National Stroke Week](#) is held on 14-20 September 2015, with the aim to raise awareness to prevent stroke in Australia. There are many ways you, your family or workplace can be involved. For further information visit www.strokefoundation.com.au

Take the Challenge: Be Aware. Live Healthy. Get checked.

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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