



## Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2015

### TO FOLLOW ALEX



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Federal Parliament has concluded for the year and will resume on [Monday, 9th February 2015](#). Thank you to everyone who has passed on their thoughts and opinions to me throughout the year.

While I receive a range of differing perspectives on most issues, I certainly appreciate the sincerity of those who let me know their views.

In December and January there are many [community events](#) held throughout the Hills district, I have highlighted some events within the e-newsletter including, [Christmas in the Hills](#) and the [Sydney Hills Sand Sculpting Championship](#). I hope you and your family have an opportunity to attend some of the great community events that are being held throughout the summer.

Christmas is a time of year when we come together as a community to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and Australia's Christian heritage. The celebration of Christmas is also a time to be grateful and appreciate the blessings of peace and security we continue to enjoy as a nation.

On behalf of Amelia, Jack and myself I wish you and your family a holy Christmas, and a happy, safe and prosperous 2015.

Regards,  
Alex

**PS: Below are links to recent speeches I have made in Parliament**

- [Trade Training Centres](#) – *“Industry was at the front and centre of the Australian Technical Colleges because it was about getting young people jobs—getting young people work...”*
- [Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Bill \(No 1\) 2014](#) – *“The government, ... is making some minor amendments, ...to the Intelligence Services Act and to the Criminal Code. They are amendments I strongly support.”*
- [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) – *“I rise to address some of the recent commentary that has been circulating about reductions in funding to the ABC.”*

**Christmas in the Hills – Last Days to purchase your tickets!**



Don't miss out as tickets are selling fast. The [Carols by Candlelight Festival and Christmas markets](#) signature event will be held at Bella Vista Farm on **Wednesday, 17 December 2014** with the markets and festival commencing at 3pm and Carols at 7pm. With more than 8000 people attending last year you wouldn't want to miss the 2014 [Christmas in the Hills](#) event. Click [here](#) to purchase your tickets.

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.

## Shop Small Campaign: supporting small business – Nest Café



*(Alex Hawke with Evan Kalpaxis)*

Evan Kalpaxis and Lena Sotiris are the owners of the Nest Café at Beaumont Hills, which is located within Kellyville Pets. It was a pleasure to recently support the [Shop Small campaign](#) at this friendly local business in the Hills district.

“The Café is pet friendly and the food and personal service was great. I commend Evan and Lena for establishing a quality local family café during their two years of ownership.

The [Shop Small campaign](#) is a fabulous initiative, dedicated to supporting small business owners who do big things for customers and communities around Australia.

## Sydney Hills Sand Sculpting – new to the Hills



The Hills Shire Council will host the [International Sand Sculpting Championship](#) at Bella Vista Farm Park from Boxing Day until 26 January 2015. The event had previously been hosted at Windsor and this year's theme is *Celebrating 20 Years of Pixar*. For fans of Finding Nemo, Cars, Toy Story, Wall-E and many more, the Sydney Hills International Sand Sculpting Exhibition is a must see during these January school holidays.

For more information click [here](#) or to [purchase tickets](#). This event is part of the Sydney Hills Events Summer Series for more information on what to do over summer in the Hills district visit [Summer Series](#).

## WATER SAFETY CAMPAIGN – saving lives



Newslocal, [Royal Life Saving Society NSW](#) and [Castle Hill RSL](#) combined to launch the [2014 Summer Water Safety Campaign](#) at Castle Hill RSL Club.

This joint initiative aims to slash the number of drowning deaths, particularly children aged under five years of age, that occur each year.

## Sydney Thunder Fan Day – Sunday, 14 December



In conjunction with [North West Hurricanes DCC](#) and Hills Shire Council, [Sydney Thunder](#) fan day will be held at the Bruce Purser Reserve, Rouse Hill from 9am – 2pm, **Sunday, 14 December 2014**. An opportunity to meet the squad and enjoy a family day out, visit the [website](#) for details on how to get to the venue as there is no parking at Bruce Purser Reserve on the day.

## 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:

**Sunday 14 December**

Hills Community Carols – [Hills Adventist College](#) – Sports Oval, 4 Gum Nut Close, Kellyville from 5:00pm.

**Sunday 14 December**

Community Christmas Party – [West Pennant Hills Community Church](#) – 32 Eaton Road, West Pennant Hills – 3:55pm.

**Tuesday 16 December**

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

**Wednesday 17 December**

Carols by Candlelight Festival and Christmas Markets – [Christmas in the Hills](#) – at **Bella Vista Farm** from – 3:00pm.

**Wednesday 17 December**

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

**Thursday 18 December**

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

## **Crowdfunding Campaign – funding for Lincolne Innes Trust**



[The Rotary Club of Norwest Sunrise](#) (Bella Vista) and the [Rotary Club of Rouse Hill](#) are on a mission to raise funds for 21 year old quadralegic, Lincolne Innes to enable him to have more freedom and independence.

Two years ago, Lincolne went surfing and tragically on that day became a quadriplegic. The [Clubs](#) have established a [Crowdfunding campaign](#). For more details on Lincolne's story and how you can help please visit <http://igncreate3.readyfundgo.com/projects/lincolnes-freedom-road/>.

## **Give Blood – Urgently needed**



During the Christmas season blood levels get extremely low. Donating blood saves lives and gives back to the community, and for some, it is their only hope. One in three people will need blood, while only one in 30 people donate blood. Blood is needed now for lifesaving treatments.

For more information visit the [Red Cross Blood Service](#), or call to make an appointment **13 14 95**.

Dates when the Mobile Donor Red Cross Blood Service will be in our local area include:

**Norwest Marketown Shopping Centre, Norwest Blvd**

**Tuesday 23 December**, 12:30pm – 6:00pm

**Wednesday 24 December**, 9:00am – 2:30pm

**Rouse Hill (Rouse Hill Town Centre – Cnr Market Lane and Tempus Street)**

**Thursday 18 December**, 12.30pm – 6.00pm

Click [here](#) for Mobile Blood donor services in January, 2015.

## **Get Ready Fire Guide – Have you made your plan?**



The [NSW Rural Fire Service](#) (RFS) has already had demands placed upon it with the number of fires we have had in bush areas close to populated areas.

The message from the RFS is MAKE A PLAN – even if your plan is over a year old they encourage you to review it. Download your [bush fire survival plan](#) at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au). You can also download the Bush Fire Survival Plan guide or our [MyFirePlan](#) on your iphone or [android](#) phone.

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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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