



Welcome to the February edition of the Mitchell e-newsletter

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Hills Small Business Exchange Expo

I was pleased to welcome the strong endorsement of the party room of the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott and the Deputy Liberal Leader, Julie Bishop.

The Government is fully focused on addressing the debt and deficit legacy left to us by the former ALP Government. We want to build a more secure Australia with a strong and stable economy; an Australia that we can all be proud of.

In particular I welcome the Prime Minister's announcement that the Government will not proceed with the paid parental leave scheme. Instead the Government will work on building a families package to make childcare more affordable by keeping parents' cost down and putting more money in pockets. This is directly in line with the feedback I have received from many families within Mitchell.

The Prime Minister has also announced the creation of a small business and jobs package which will focus on a small business tax cut. This will provide vital assistance to our small business community in these tougher economic times.

I want to thank all of you who contacted me with your views on the performance of the Government and with your ideas on many different issues. I look forward to working hard to ensure that all your suggestions and concerns are heard by the Ministers and by the party room. Your feedback is invaluable and I encourage you to continue contacting me.

Regards,
Alex

Recognising our high achievers locally: honours and awards



(Alex Hawke with Gareth McCray OAM)

We are truly blessed in the Hills to have many outstanding leaders and volunteers in our community. Special congratulations go to our Australia Day Honours and award recipients for 2015. They are to be commended for their accomplishments and the difference they have made in the life of this community and beyond.

- **Professor Jeremy Robert Chapman** – awarded a Companion AC for eminent service to medicine, particularly in the areas of clinical and biomedical research, to the development of ethical policy and practices for organ donation, acquisition and transplantation, and to renal medicine organisations and publications.
- **Gareth McCray** – awarded an OAM for service to the community, to radio broadcasting, and to education.
- **Joan Edwards** – awarded an OAM for service to people with a disability.
- **Brian Parsell** – awarded an Ambulance Service medal for extensive service to NSW Ambulance and the community.

Congratulations also to all the winners of the Hills Shire Council Australia Day Awards

- Citizen of the Year - **Bev Jordan**
- Citizen of the Year Certificate of Commendation – **Melanie Morson**
- Citizen of the Year Certificate of Commendation – **Brian McCombe**
- Young Citizen of the Year – **Claudia Chow**
- Youth Citizen of the Year – Certificate of Commendation – **Dirk Jenson**
- Senior Citizen of the Year – **Kui Chuen Donald Wong**
- Community Project of the Year – **Summer Fest and Street Smart Bus Event**
- Community Project of the Year – Certificate of Commendation – **Rabbit on Mental Health Campaign.**

Centenary of ANZAC - Update





This year marks 100 years since the landing of Gallipoli. The Centenary of Anzac Hills Committee has put together a program of events to commemorate the occasion including a stage play, displays, commemoration services, school activities, WW1 music rendition and an 1812 overture.

To find out more about these events as well as information on World War I, Local Honour roles and other resources please go to the [Centenary of Anzac website](#) or the [Facebook page](#).

Construction to begin on the NorthConnex



(An artist impression of the new NorthConnex Tunnel photo: NSW Govt)

The first sod has been turned marking the start of work on the \$3 billion NorthConnex project.

This project when completed will link the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the M2 at West Pennant Hills and will save motorists travel time. It will also reduce the number of heavy vehicles using Pennant Hills Road by more than 5000 a day.

This project is an example of the Australian Government investing in critical pieces of infrastructure that will boost the NSW economy, create thousands of jobs and provide benefits to the community and freight industry.

The NorthConnex is expected to be completed in 2019.

Join me for Clean up Australia Day



[Clean up Australia Day](#) encourages communities across Australia to come together to clean up, fix up and persevere their local environment.

This year the Lord Mayor of Parramatta Scott Lloyd, Cllr Bob Dwyer, Cllr Mark Taylor and I will be joining the Winston Hills Girl Guides at Third Settlement Reserve, Winston Hills. If you have some time to assist please feel free to come along and pitch in. It would be great to meet you and have you on board for this important initiative.

Date: 1st March, 2015

Where: Third Settlement Park, Edison Parade Winston Hills

Time: 9am – 11am

Registration: To register to join click [here](#)

Addressing the 2015 Australian India Youth Dialogue



(Alex Hawke addressing the Australian India Youth Dialogue)

[The Australia India Youth Dialogue \(AIYD\)](#) is a platform for young leaders of Australia and India to engage with one another and to explore opportunities to strengthen the relationship between India and Australia.

Every year, 15 leaders from each country come together to discuss economic, political, cultural, social and environmental issues facing both nations.

I was privileged to address the 2015 Australia India Youth Dialogue, an important part of our ever strengthening relations between India & Australia. It was encouraging to see young leaders collaborating and empowering each other to create a sustainable relationship between both countries.

Opening of the Hills Community Aid's office at Rouse Hill





(Alex Hawke with Baulkham Hills MP, David Elliott, and Hills Shire Councillor, Mark Taylor)

[Hills Community Aid](#) has opened a new office at the Vinegar Hill Memorial Library and Community Centre to meet the growing demand for services in the Northwest.

Hills Community Aid is a not for profit that provides a range of community based services, programmes and activities for residents of The Hills Shire and surrounding areas.

The new office will offer information and referral services as well as supported playgroups [Emergency relief](#) and [No Interest Loans](#).

Launch of the Hills Daily Grind



(Alex Hawke with Baulkham Hills MP, David Elliott, and Hills Shire Councillor, Mark Taylor, CEO of Hills Community Aid, Ben Jackson, and volunteers)

[Hills Community Aid](#) launched The Hills Daily Grind mobile Coffee van. Hills Community Aid is one of the best community based service groups for assisting those in need in our community.

This initiative provides training opportunities, equipping people with skills in order to gain employment. The van also provides a mobile information service for Hills residents.

The Hills Daily Grind will be at a number of community events during the year. Please stop by, grab a coffee and support this fantastic initiative.

Tour De Hills Bicycle Classic 2015



The Castle Hill Rotary will be running their 20th annual Tour De Hills Bicycle Classic on Sunday 1st March, 2015 at The Australian Hotel & Brewery.

Last year, this event raised \$37,000 for motor neurone disease research, headed up by Dominic Rowe and his team at Macquarie University. This year Castle Hill Rotary hopes to raise \$60,000 for this critical research.

The event offers a 90km, 50km and 30km ride, each taking in a scenic, yet challenging ride through the Hills.

For more information or to register click [here](#).

Australian Open Chess Tournament in Castle Hill



The 2015 Australian open chess tournament was recently held at the Castle Hill RSL. Over 200 adults and children from across Australia and overseas battled it out for cash prizes over ten days.

Chess is the world's most popular board game and this event provides an opportunity for locals to participate in one of the biggest chess tournaments in NSW.

The Australian open chess championship is looking for businesses to sponsor the event to ensure it is a success into the future and to continue to provide opportunities for locals to engage in the game of chess at a competitive level.

For more information or to sponsor this event please email info@ausopenchess.com

Upcoming Sydney Hills Small Business Exchange Expo





The Hills Shire Council will host the inaugural [Small Business Exchange](#) on 11th March 2015.

This expo will provide information on a number of topics including; Government support and grants, Taxation and superannuation, Insurance, Legal and accounting procedures, Social Media, IT Support, Legal and accounting, Business Coaching, Service Office Solutions, and Recruitment.

Businesses can pre-book 15 minute appointments with a number of agents including the Australian Taxation Office, Australian Securities and Investment Commission and the NSW Small Business Commissioner's Office. There are also workshop sessions on key topics of interest.

There is no cost to attend this event. For more information or to register [click here](#).

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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