



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

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The Federal Government recently announced Commonwealth Funding of \$560,000 will fix four [dangerous black spots](#) in the Hills, under the Black Spot Programme, including \$400,000 for the [installation of traffic lights](#) at the intersection of Wrights and Windsor Roads, Kellyville.

Unfortunately, another horrific accident has occurred on [Memorial Avenue](#) which again has highlighted the need for immediate safety upgrades to be implemented by the Road and Maritime Services. In January 2015, the NSW Roads Minister promised an immediate safety upgrade. I have written again to the Minister urgently requesting these works be carried out before another incident like this occurs.

The [House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment](#) is inquiring into the administration, transparency and effectiveness of the Register of Environmental Organisations under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. In my role as Chair of the Committee, I attended public hearings in Townsville, Queensland and in Hobart, Tasmania in July, with further [public hearings](#) to be held throughout Australia over the coming months.

There has been a lot of media coverage on this inquiry particularly with the hearing in Hobart where the committee had the opportunity to seek clarification from the former Senator, Bob Brown on the specific work of the Bob Brown Foundation.

[ABC Tasmania News](#) and [Northern Tasmania ABC Radio](#)

As always, your feedback is important to me. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [Alex.Hawke.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alex.Hawke.MP@aph.gov.au) or my office on (02) 9899 7211.

Regards,  
Alex

## Hills Locals appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair of RDA Sydney



*(With Jim Taggart OAM)*

The appointment of the [Regional Development Australia \(RDA\) Sydney](#) Chair and Deputy Chair of RDA Sydney was announced recently by the Australian Government. I welcome the appointment of [Dr Robert Lang](#) as Chair and [Professor Jim Taggart OAM](#) as Deputy Chair of RDA Sydney.

The RDA committees will play an important role in linking local, state and federal governments to address critical issues in our region. They will also help in guiding community groups and local stakeholders to access public or private funding opportunities, including the Australian Government's \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund.

## Russell Brothers Reserve Dedication



[The Rotary Club of Vinegar Hill](#) secured NSW Government funding to establish an ANZAC Monument at Russell Reserve, Rouse Hill. Yesterday, I had the privilege of attending the opening of the Russell Brothers Reserve Dedication together with my colleagues, [State Member for Castle Hill, Ray Williams MP](#) and NSW Minister, [the Hon Victor Dominello MP](#).

The memorial commemorates the lives of two brothers, [Arthur](#) and [William](#) Russell, who were both killed in action during WWII.

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Vinegar Hill for their vision to establish the monument in tribute to the ultimate sacrifice given by the Russell Brothers in serving our nation.

## **Funding for Community Projects to Reduce Violence Against Women**

Community organisations in Mitchell can apply for grants to help deliver projects that will reduce violence against women and their children. A total of \$4 million is available under the Building Safe Communities for Women and their Children initiative to fund one-off projects to address domestic violence.

Applications close **2pm AEST Thursday 27 August 2015**. Further information is available [here](#).

Victims of domestic and family violence and / or sexual assault, as well as their family and friends can contact 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732 or visit [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

## **Hills Daily Grind – Volunteers needed**



In January, The Hills Community Aid launched the Hills Daily Grind coffee van run to support the homeless and people in need with kindness cups (free coffee) as well as giving the opportunity for people to gain training and hands on experience. At this year's Hills Relay for Life, Hills Community Aid ran a successful Hills Daily Coffee van. This fantastic organisation is seeking casual volunteers, where you can learn to make coffee, engage with your community and make a difference in someone's life.

For further information contact the Hills Daily Grind team on 9639 8620 or email: [hillsdailygrind@hca.org.au](mailto:hillsdailygrind@hca.org.au)

## **Mitchell Local Sporting Grants – Applications NOW OPEN**





Applications are now open for young local athletes to apply for the Local Sporting Champions program.

The [Local Sporting Champions program](#) is designed to support young people participating in state, national and international level sporting championships as an athlete, coach or official. A grant of \$500 per individual is available to help meet costs such as travel, equipment, uniforms and accommodation.

Applications for grants can be made to the Australian Sports Commission online at [www.alexhawke.com.au](http://www.alexhawke.com.au) (click on the Local Sporting Champions icon). Successful applicants will be determined by a local sports panel from the Hills district.

## Stronger Communities Programme: Mitchell Consultation Committee



Community leaders are encouraged to submit an expression of interest to join the Mitchell Consultation Committee under the Stronger Communities Programme. The [Mitchell Community Consultation Committee](#) will work to identify projects which are a priority and to ensure this funding delivers the best possible outcomes for our community. For further details on how to apply, click [here](#).

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the Stronger Communities Programme guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions which are available on the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's website <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/SCP>.*

## Pawsitive Steps – Sunday 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**. This extremely successful Annual Mental Health event, which has become a central part of the Hills Area’s community events, is expanding to a **Wellbeing Expo**. The event will focus on mental health awareness in conjunction with dog activities and exercises.

Local businesses and service organisations including Mind Connections Specialists Mental Health Services, Rush Hour Australia, Baulkham Hills Lions Club, Kellyville Pets and the Hills Private Hospital are working tirelessly to contribute to this memorable event.

Please register now for a hot breakfast by following this link – [www.trybooking.com/148484](http://www.trybooking.com/148484)

If you are interested in having a stall on the day, please call 0407 195 464 and/or send an email to [pawsitivehills@gmail.com](mailto:pawsitivehills@gmail.com).

## DonateLife Week 2015 – 2-9 August



DonateLife Week is Australia’s national awareness week to promote organ and tissue donation and to encourage family discussion and asking ‘if you would say yes to a life-saving transplant, have you said yes to becoming an organ and tissue donor?’.

For further information please visit [donatelife.gov.au](http://donatelife.gov.au)

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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

**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.

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