



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

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Over the last 4 weeks, the Government has achieved the passage of some significant measures including pension reform and laws to strip citizenship off dual nationals who are terrorists.

One disappointing development has been the controversy surrounding appearance of Mr Zaky Mallah, on the ABC's Q&A programme. I have long been a proponent of the view that the ABC has strayed beyond the requirements of its Charter, and that as a taxpayer-funded broadcaster it should strive to be more representative of the community. As such, I called on the ABC to pick up its game, and will continue to subject it to appropriate scrutiny.

On a positive note, Australia and China have auspiciously signed a Free Trade Agreement. The agreement provides a roadmap for dismantling economic barriers between our two nations, and brings to a close a decade of negotiations instigated by the Howard Government. The document represents the culmination of a seismic shift in our relationship, and leaves Australia well positioned to enjoy the fruits of the "Asian century".

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find references to the Stronger Communities Programme. If you are involved in, or know of, a local not-for-profit organisation which is seeking a grant for some form of capital works, I recommend that you visit [here](#).

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

**PS: Parliament has seen some very important issues debated, some updates:**

- [Jobs and Small Business Package](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Youth Employment and other Measures\) Bill 2015](#)
- [Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment \(Employee Share Schemes\) Bill 2015](#)

## Strengthening Australian Citizenship



Australia's Security continues to be at the forefront of national debate. In the final week of Parliament before winter recess, legislation was introduced to update the [Australian Citizenship Act 2007](#) so dual nationals who engage in counter terrorism can be stripped of their citizenship.

I strongly support this [legislation](#). Those who fight with terrorists or plot against Australia and are dual nationals should forfeit their Australian citizenship.

## Forum with the Hon Julie Bishop MP



*(Pictured here with the President, Directors and General Manager of Castle Hill RSL Club)*

700 people filled the Lyceum at [Castle Hill RSL](#) to welcome the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, with the Minister saying the arrival was like an “Oprah welcome”. The Foreign Minister spoke on a number of issues including domestic security and the [New Colombo Plan](#). Julie Bishop also answered a number of questions relating to uranium sales to India, foreign aid, and foreign ownership of Australian property.

Thank you to the Hills community for attending the Forum and the warm welcome you gave to the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Local media covered the Minister’s visit to Mitchell in the [Hills News](#) and the [Hills Shire Times](#).

## Motor Neurone Disease Morning Tea



Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of hosting the [Motor Neurone Disease](#) (MND) NSW Global Day in Parliament House with my Parliamentary colleagues - including the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, who attended to convey his support. The aim is to raise awareness of this insidious disease, as there is no known cure and no effective treatment for MND.

Last year, along with thousands of other Australians, I took part in the Ice Bucket Challenge, an awareness initiative which raised \$3 million for [research](#) and for providing vital support and services to those living with Motor Neurone Disease.

## Recognising Our Local High Achievers

So many people have been recognised and honoured in the Hills district recently and it is a privilege to be able to showcase these people for all they have accomplished in their chosen field.

**Congratulations to the following recipients in Mitchell who were recognised in the [Queen's Birthday 2015 Honours](#):**

- [Dr Russell Clark AM](#) – Member of the Order of Australia, for significant service to geriatric and rehabilitation medicine, and to international relations, as a clinician and educator in Asia and Africa.
- [Reverend Kay Clark OAM](#) – Medal of the Order of Australia, for service to the Anglican Church in Australia.
- [Paul Biscoe OAM](#) – Medal of the Order of Australia, for service to the community through volunteer roles with a range of organisations.
- [Lynette Leerson OAM](#) – Medal of the Order of Australia, for service to the Indigenous community of Western Sydney, and to reconciliation.

**Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 [Australian Small Business Champion Awards](#). Two winners were from the Hills district:**

- [Gracelands Early Education Centre](#), Kellyville – winner of the Child Care Centre category, and
- [The Temple Skincare](#), Castle Hill – winner of the Beauty Services category.

**Congratulations to all the winners announced at the [2015 Sydney Hills Local Business Awards](#). The winners were:**

- Business of the Year – [Lemoncello](#), West Pennant Hills
- Business Person of the Year – [JC Travel Professionals](#)' Freddy Mikhael (Founder, Owner and Managing Director), Baulkham Hills

**Congratulations also to:**

- Our [Hills Youth Ambassador](#), Sophia Wakeling, on being accepted to participate in the prestigious [2015 Yale Young Global Scholars](#) program for outstanding high school students in the USA.
- [Baulkham Hills Sports Club](#) on being recognised as one of the top 5 most popular clubs in the state at the prestigious [2015 People's Choice Competition](#).
- [Major General Glennie OAM](#) on being awarded the prestigious Outstanding Contribution to the Club Industry Award at the recent 2015 Clubs & Community Awards.

## Hills Building and Design Awards



Congratulations to all the winners announced at the [21st Annual Hills Building & Design Awards](#) held recently at Curzon Hall, Marsfield.

[Deicorp Constructions Pty Ltd](#) is the 2015 Overall Winner of the Hills Building & Design Awards, also taking out the Residential Landscaping Urban Award and the Residential Building Outdoor Living/Entertaining Award and Residential Dwelling (custom design and built homes) - \$1,250,001 and above Award.

For a complete list of winners click [here](#).

## **Stronger Communities Programme – guidelines now available**



The Coalition Government's new [Stronger Communities Programme](#) will provide \$45 million over two years to fund small capital projects in local communities. Our community will receive funding of \$150,000 per year over two years, to support projects that deliver social benefits.

Guidelines for the Programme are now available on the [Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website](#).

## **Hills Redkite Appeal**



*(Pictured with Sophia Wakeling, Olivia Wakeling, Clr Michelle Byrne and Ross Colosimo)*

Last month, I had the pleasure of being the Master of Ceremonies at the Hills Redkite Appeal organised by Olivia Wakeling and her team of volunteers. Olivia at 15 years of age organised a successful event and raised over \$2,400 to help battle children's cancer.

[Redkite](#) is a support organisation working with children and young people with cancer and their families.

## Hills Youth Suicide Taskforce Forum

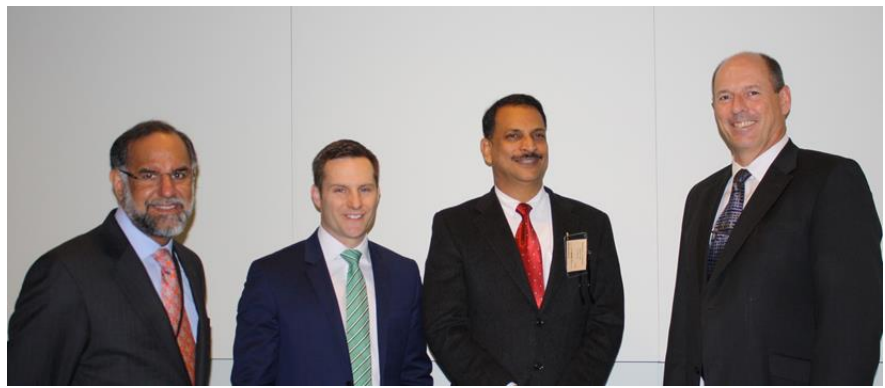


*(Members of the Hills Youth Suicide Task Force)*

The aim of the [Hills Youth Suicide Task Force](#) is to eliminate youth suicide in the Hills by raising awareness and eradicating the stigma surrounding mental health.

The Task Force are hosting a [free forum](#) at 9am – 2pm on Friday, 31 July at St Pauls Anglican Church, Castle Hill. For further information please email [clr.byrne@thehills.nsw.gov.au](mailto:clr.byrne@thehills.nsw.gov.au) or [click here](#).

## Indian Goodwill Parliamentarian Delegation



*(HE Navdeep Suri – Indian High Commissioner, Alex Hawke MP, Mr Rajiv Pratap Rudy – Delegation Leader, and Luke Simpkins MP – Member for Cowan)*

As Chair of the Australia/India Parliamentary Group, together with my colleagues, we welcomed the members of the Indian Goodwill Parliamentarian Delegation on their recent visit to Canberra.

The Indian Goodwill Parliamentary Delegation led by Mr Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Minister of State Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge) and Parliamentary Affairs met with members of the Australia/India Parliamentary Group to discuss skills and matters of mutual interest. The newly appointed Indian High Commissioner, His Excellency Navdeep Suri, also attended the function.

There was great dialogue and I look forward to strengthening parliamentary ties between India and Australia, with the hope of sending an Australian delegation to India in the future.

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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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