



The Hon  
**Josh Frydenberg MP**  
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR KOOYONG  
 MINISTER FOR RESOURCES, ENERGY & NORTHERN AUSTRALIA



## Kooyong Community News

Summer 2015/16

### **Dear fellow resident**

*Christmas leads us all to reflect on another year that has come and gone. For my part, I have continued to focus on delivering for our community and for our national needs.*

*This year, the Government has successfully negotiated landmark bilateral and regional free trade agreements – creating Australian jobs and investment. Our \$5.5 billion small business package delivered for millions of small business owners in Kooyong and around the nation. We have also continued our \$50 billion infrastructure investment program.*

*With more than 50 schools in our area, I have continued to engage with local students, awarding the Kooyong Student Prize for the second year.*

*We have also raised funds for cancer research and homelessness and seen millions of dollars in funding made available to local creative businesses, researchers and infrastructure projects.*

*I am honoured to represent Kooyong, and will continue to work hard for our community. I wish you and your family the very best for the festive season, and a happy and healthy new year.*

*Josh Frydenberg*

### **Malcolm Turnbull in Kooyong**

It was wonderful to visit Auburn High School with Malcolm Turnbull and meet with Principal Maria Karvouni and the teaching staff who run an impressive bilingual Chinese program and binational French program. The school has effectively integrated technology into the school's curriculum with the use of other flexible learning methods and web-based approaches.

This includes online collaborative learning using internet conferencing, skype, wikis and use of interactive whiteboards and online quizzes.

During the visit we also presented student leaders with a special certificate for their efforts in putting together the Anzac Commemorative Arts and Literature Exhibition.



### **Kooyong Giving Tree supports homeless**

The Kooyong Giving Tree has raised in excess of \$10,000 in cash as well as in-kind donations from our local community since we established it in 2012.

Donations will once again go to Servants Community Housing in Hawthorn and Kew. Non-perishable food, gift cards, unworn clothing and new blankets can be left at my office on weekdays from 9:30 am – 5:30 pm until 18 December 2015.



### **Camberwell Girls Grammar social justice students**

I recently received 80 handmade flowers from an inspirational group of young students from Camberwell Girls Grammar School who are involved in the school's social justice program. The theme of this particular program was "Gender Inequality", which highlighted human rights issues that affect women and prevent them from gaining the education and skills they need. The handmade flowers reflected the importance of investing in women's development and empowering women to overcome the injustice of extreme poverty.

# Out and About in Kooyong

## Schools' Regional Constitutional Convention

The Schools' Regional Constitutional Convention program provides a meaningful opportunity for secondary students to engage in discussion about the Australian Government and our Constitution. Students who are inspired by the Convention have the opportunity to further their involvement. They can apply to attend the State Convention at Victorian Parliament House, and to the National Convention at Old Parliament House through the Civics and Citizenship Education program. This year I addressed the Regional Convention at Strathcona Baptist Girls' Grammar on the topic of Australia as a good global citizen.



## Season's Greetings from Belmore School

Thank you to the wonderful students at Belmore School in Balwyn who produced a stunning artwork for my Christmas card this year. For the past five years, I have chosen a local disability group to design my card, and I was delighted that Belmore School Principal, Ms Karen Overall, agreed for her students to design this year's card.

I had the pleasure to visit Belmore School with a representative from Village Roadshow to present students with complimentary movie tickets which they loved.



## Grants support stronger communities

The Coalition Government's Stronger Communities Programme will deliver \$150,000 in funding for small capital projects in Kooyong in 2015. A number of community groups will share in the funding available as part of the first round. The program is designed to improve local community participation and cohesion, and contribute to the vibrancy of our community. Community groups are encouraged to apply for the second funding round, which will open shortly and will close in early April 2016. Please contact my office with any enquiries.



## Kooyong Volunteer Grants

I recently announced the Government's \$20 million Volunteer Grants 2015 program which recognises the valuable contribution of volunteers and encourages volunteering in local communities. Kooyong community groups have been asked

to apply for grants online at [www.dss.gov.au/grants](http://www.dss.gov.au/grants) to acknowledge the selfless work of their volunteers.

Our volunteers help to make our community a much better place.

Successful applicants will be notified in May 2016.



## Boroondara Business Breakfast

I addressed 120 local business and community figures at the Boroondara Business Breakfast hosted by the City of Boroondara at the Hawthorn Arts Centre. Of particular interest to attendees was the Government's significant support in the Budget for Australia's two million small businesses, as well as our free trade agreements.



## Local auxiliary supports the Royal Children's Hospital

There are over 50 Royal Children's Hospital auxiliaries in Victoria raising much needed funds to support the hospital and improve the lives of sick children.

I was delighted to speak at the Hawthorn Auxiliary's inaugural "Wish Them Well" charity gala at the Hawthorn Town Hall. Funds raised will support the hospital's Department of Developmental Medicine.



# Funding to find a cure for dementia

The Government recently announced that seventy-six researchers will share in \$43 million to support bold and innovative new ideas to not only tackle the impacts of dementia but to find ways of preventing and curing the disease.

These fellowships are part of the Coalition Government's \$200 million election commitment to dementia research and will ensure that Australia remains at the forefront of international best practice. With more than 340,000 Australians living with dementia, and without a medical breakthrough, the number of people with dementia is expected to be around 900,000 by 2050. This is why dementia research is so critical to the future of so many Australians, not only those living with dementia but for all the families, friends and carers who are impacted. I am delighted to support the work of Alzheimer's Australia Vic in Hawthorn and I am pictured with CEO, Maree McCabe, one of Australia's leading Alzheimer's researchers, Professor Colin Masters, from the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and volunteer, Patty Trajkovska.



## 2015 Kooyong Student Prize

There are over 50 schools in Kooyong, educating some 30,000 students. It is important to recognise the efforts of our hardworking and committed young citizens.

The Kooyong Student Prize, now in its second year, provides an opportunity for each school in the electorate to highlight the achievements of two of their students who excel in academic ability, leadership skills and community service.

It is always a pleasure to meet with prize winners and their families and to wish them well in their future endeavours.



## Capital grant for Alia College



This year I presented Alia College with a \$900,000 Federal grant from the Government's Capital Grants Program to enable the school to purchase its existing site. This will enable the school to better devote their resources towards educating and nurturing young minds. During my visit to Alia College I had a chance to catch up with a history class and discuss issues that are important to them. Alia College plays an integral role in our local community and provides students with a unique and creative environment with excellent results.

## Surrey Hills Men's Probus Club

There are many local Probus clubs in Kooyong. I was delighted to speak to members of the Men's Probus Club of Surrey Hills about the economy, Australian foreign policy, and national security. The club offers valuable opportunities for active retirees and semi-retirees living in the area to socialise, advance healthy living, and further shared intellectual and cultural interests.



## Focus on families

It was great to host the Kooyong Social Services Forum with the then Minister for Social Services, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, at the Camberwell Baptist Kindergarten. The Forum provided the opportunity for residents to engage with the Minister about new government measures and ask questions, particularly about changes to pensions and childcare services.

Following the Forum, the Minister and I visited Little Learners Early Learning Centre in Camberwell. It is becoming increasingly clear how important early childhood education is for our kids, and the role government can play in assisting families with the challenges of paying for quality childcare.





## U3A Hawthorn 30 years in action

University of the Third Age is celebrating its 30th year providing courses and lectures on the most topical issues. It is a valuable opportunity for retirees and seniors to continue to enjoy lifelong learning and engage with others. U3A is an excellent community organisation and always looking for volunteers – so get it touch! I had the opportunity to speak at their meeting in Hawthorn and discuss my views on the Australian economy and our prospects in Asia and respond to a range of questions.

## Kew Cenotaph dedication

The Kew Cenotaph was first unveiled by His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Lord Stradbroke, in August 1925 to commemorate the service of young men and women from Kew that served during the Great War. I joined state and local government leaders, young students from Kew High and Ruyton Girls, along with ex-service men and women, Kew Rotary and members of the local community to remember and honour the service of those men and women in a special ceremony.



## Local Colombo Plan students visit Canberra

I was delighted to welcome New Colombo Plan scholarship recipients from Hawthorn's Swinburne University who recently visited Parliament House. The first Colombo Plan was launched in 1951 and symbolised a ground breaking effort by the Menzies Government to engage with Asia and to further cross-cultural understanding across national lines. Today, the tradition set down by the then Minister for External Affairs, Richard Casey, continues with the Coalition committing \$100 million over five years to renew engagements through the New Colombo Plan. The scholarship facilitates opportunities for students to work and study in Asian economic hubs including Singapore and Hong Kong.



## Fintona Year 10 students visit Parliament House

As a local representative it is always a great privilege to show bright young minds around Parliament House. I am pictured here with a Year 10 politics class from Fintona Girls' School who were fortunate enough to make the trip up to Canberra as part of their curriculum. I always look forward to welcoming students to Parliament House and encourage anyone from the electorate to contact my office if they are planning a visit.



## Deepdene Uniting centenary

The Deepdene Uniting Church recently celebrated its centenary and it was an honour to join Rev Alistair Macrae and the congregation at a moving service that marked a milestone in the history of the Church and the community.



## Centenary funding for St Columbs memorials

Funding provided by the Government's Centenary of Anzac Local Grants Program has enabled Hawthorn's St Columbs Church to restore its World War I memorial windows and honour boards. I joined Rev Mike Flynn and St Columbs parishioners for a remembrance service and the formal dedication of the restored memorials.



# Around the House

## High-tech Hawthorn firm benefits from FTA

The Asia-Pacific region is a driver of global economic growth. The Government's conclusion of three bilateral free trade agreements in the region, as well as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, promises significant national benefits and new opportunities for our businesses, farmers, manufacturers and service providers.

On day one of the China Free Trade Agreement, more than 85 per cent of Australian exports will be tariff-free, rising to 90 per cent on full implementation. The Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement between 12 countries will eliminate over 98 per cent of tariffs in the region. The Government is assisting exporters and importers to maximise the opportunities presented by the free trade agreements. Benefits from these agreements will flow to Australian sugar, beef, wine and services exporters by securing access to significant new markets.

Reed Leighton from Leighton O'Brien, a global technology firm based in Hawthorn East, is very excited by the China Australia Free Trade Agreement: "CHAFTA builds on the already effective Government programs and takes our market opportunities to a new level. Our company provides services to the service station industry – China has 120,000 service stations – Australia has 6000 – 20 times the size of our Australian market. An FTA with China is great for technology companies like Leighton O'Brien."



## Having a discussion on tax reform

It is critical that we have a community wide discussion on tax reform. Our current tax system has a heavy reliance on income and company tax.

In an environment of economic change and disruptive technology, we need to ensure that our tax system is efficient, effective and fair. It must also encourage businesses and individuals to save and invest, foster innovation and provide the revenue for the provision of necessary government services to those who need it most.

The Turnbull Government has started the conversation on tax reform by putting everything on the table while consulting and engaging widely with all of the key stakeholders, including the States and Territories, ACOSS and community groups. The Prime Minister has said that fairness is absolutely critical to reforms of Australia's tax system and discussion should not be focused on single issues such as the GST. It is important that any changes are part of planned reforms, rather than piecemeal changes, and to do this we need a real discussion on taxation issues. As both a Cabinet Minister and your local Member of Parliament, I welcome receiving your comments and views on designing a tax system that can take us into a more prosperous future.



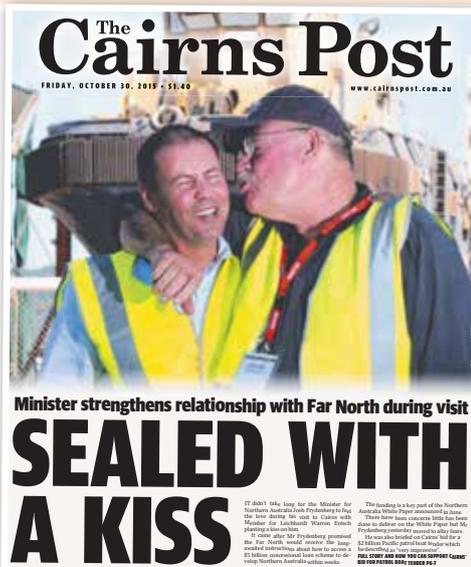
## Realising the potential of Northern Australia

It was an honour to be appointed to the first Turnbull Cabinet as the Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia.

I have already visited many communities and businesses around Australia including Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns, the Pilbara, Kalgoorlie, Perth and Darwin. I will continue to work hard to promote our vibrant and productive resources sector, and to continue to grow and expand our energy sector including through the production of renewable energy.

The region of Northern Australia comprises only 5 per cent of our nation's population, yet 40 per cent of our land mass. It is endowed with 17 million hectares of arable soil and receives 60 per cent of the nation's rainfall, yet we use and capture less than 2 per cent of it. It accounts for 90 per cent of our nation's gas reserves as well as truly world class tourist attractions. The North is also home to three top universities that have a strong track record in driving innovation. If this was not enough, it is also the gateway to the burgeoning middle classes of the Asia Pacific - in fact, Darwin is closer to Singapore than it is to Sydney.

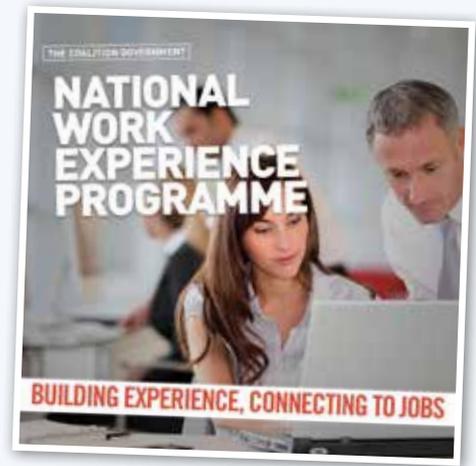
There is much to be done to ensure that we can truly capitalise on the enormous potential available above the Tropic of Capricorn.



# National Work Experience Program

The Coalition Government has introduced a new National Work Experience Program that connects young job seekers with employment opportunities.

The initiative facilitates transition into paid work, and employers who offer paid employment after placement may be eligible to receive a wage subsidy of up to \$6,500 over 12 months. Eligible job seekers will be able to volunteer to undertake work experience for up to 25 hours per week for a maximum of four weeks. Importantly, participants will continue to receive income support payments while in an unpaid placement together with a supplement to assist with the costs of participation. Local jobactive providers can be contacted for advice: [www.matchworks.com.au](http://www.matchworks.com.au) or [www.directrecruitment.com.au/job-seekers](http://www.directrecruitment.com.au/job-seekers), or visit [www.jobactive.gov.au](http://www.jobactive.gov.au).



## Taking a strong target to Paris

Preserving the environment is an important local and international issue. I once again addressed several hundred community members at the Lighter Footprints Climate Change Forum. Thanks to modern technology I attended the forum by teleconference while on a ministerial visit to Far North Queensland. Audience questions to me focused on Australia's energy mix and the Government's response to climate change. While fossil fuels will remain a part of global energy demand for some years, I emphasised the bipartisan commitment to generate 23.5 per cent of Australian electricity from renewable energy by 2020.

I also highlighted the Government's effective climate change policies and our commitment to reduce Australia's carbon emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.



## Financial System Inquiry delivers for consumers

The Government's response to the Murray Financial System Inquiry will help to ensure an efficient, fair and resilient financial system for Australia. The Government will legislate a ban on excessive credit card surcharges. We will act to improve superannuation governance, having already introduced legislation to require that all regulated fund trustee boards have a minimum of one-third independent directors, including an independent chair. We will also lift the professional, ethical and education standards required of financial planners. Overall, the Government's response will help ensure that consumers are treated fairly, and have the confidence to invest, and plan for their retirement.

## \$100m to tackle family violence

Women and children have the right to feel safe and live without fear of violence. The Government recently announced a \$100 million package to strengthen the safety net for women and children at-risk. The package improves frontline support and services, leverages technology to keep women safe, and provides education resources to shift community attitudes on violence and abuse. The package includes \$21 million for specific measures to help Indigenous women and communities. Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, has been instrumental in reviewing options to address the scourge of domestic violence.



## Noticeboard

You can sign up for my e-newsletter and share your views with me by completing the online survey on my website. Please contact me to discuss issues of concern to you or for assistance with:

**Congratulatory messages** – special anniversary and birthday messages.

**Grants** – assisting groups to identify available grants.

**Australian flags** – presentation of the Australian flag to schools and groups.

**Exchange packs** – material for exchange students.

**School visits to Parliament House** – assisting to organise school visits to Canberra.

**Emergency magnets** – if you would like an emergency number magnet please contact my office.

The Hon **Josh Frydenberg MP** | Federal Member for Kooyong | Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia

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