



David Elliott MP

Member for Baulkham Hills



Community Newsletter June 2011

Farewell and Welcome



*Keith Topolski, Rachael Taylor,
Nicole and David Elliott*

In my first newsletter, it would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the outstanding work done by my predecessor, friend and mentor, **Wayne Merton**.

Wayne served the people of Baulkham Hills with vigour and dedication throughout his twenty years as the member for Baulkham Hills, and for the preceding three years as member for Carlingford.

Of course, Wayne could not have done such a great job on his own, and with him right through until election day, were his wonderful staff, **Joan Andrew and Roslyn Rigby**.

Joan and Ros were kind enough to help me through my transition phase, and help my new staff, **Rachael Taylor and Keith Topolski**, settle in.

I hope that you all feel as relaxed and comfortable chatting to Rachael and Keith as you were with Joan and Ros, and that I might live up to the exceptionally high standards Wayne set as a local member.

I wish Joan all the best in her retirement as she treks around the Greek Islands, Wayne and Olwyn all the best in their retirement, and Ros the best of luck in her next career endeavour.

David Elliott MP
Member for Baulkham Hills

Maiden Speech

I recently had the honour of delivering my maiden speech to the NSW Parliament. It was a wonderful night and I am grateful for the local residents who took the time to watch on from the public gallery.

I was very keen to make mention of the role of **volunteering and the service of others** in my speech. Whilst my career has seen me serve as a political staffer, soldier and now politician, it is the unpaid service to the public which goes unheralded most often.

Indeed, the people of Baulkham Hills are not shy in stepping up and offering themselves, often working long

hours in the scorching heat of summer or the biting cold of winter, so that others may enjoy the use of our facilities in the community.

As a father of young boys who love their weekend soccer, I am all too aware of the importance of volunteers in our society and urge all members of the Baulkham Hills community to give of themselves for the betterment of our society.

I will always be ready and willing to help and recognise our volunteers, because, as a great man once said, if you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else!

Electorate Office: Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Phone: (02) 9686 3110 **Fax:** (02) 9686 3212 **Email:** baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Queen's Scout Award

Congratulations go to **Oscar Sheppard** of 2nd Baulkham Hills Scout Group for achieving the ultimate reward in Scouting, the Queen's Scout Award.

I was delighted to be present when Oscar was given his Queen's Scout Badge, which can only be achieved after completing all 13 areas of the **Venturer Award**, including unit management, initiative, ideals, environment, first aid, vocations, expedition, outdoors, expression, lifestyle, pursuits, citizenship and service.

Our community is in fine hands with young people such as Oscar leading the way! However, we do need adult leaders to help our young people along on their path towards community leadership.

If you are interested in becoming a Scout Leader, please call the NSW Regional Scouting Office on 9639 2488. All training is provided, and there are no formal prerequisite qualifications.

All you need is a love of the outdoors and a commitment to developing our community's youth.



M2 UPGRADE

As roadwork upgrades continue on the M2, traffic conditions are becoming increasingly fragile.

To ensure the safety of all who use the M2, should you experience any difficulties with your vehicle, please remember the following:

- **Stay in your vehicle**
- **Switch on your hazard lights**
- **Call 1800 196 266**
- **Wait for assistance**

To stay informed of all upcoming traffic changes on the M2, you can speak directly with the project team on 1800 196 266, or email at: enquiries@hillsm2upgrade.com.au or visit www.hillsm2upgrade.com.au.



Solar Panels

I am pleased with the news that the O'Farrell Government has decided to scrap the proposed changes to the Solar Bonus Scheme.

While the latest reports from auditing firm KPMG show the scheme's total cost will come in at 1.44 billion dollars, which is less than the originally estimated 1.9 billion dollars, it is still a four-fold increase of Labor's original estimate of 355 million dollars.

Although the scheme will likely add to household electricity costs over the next few years, the O'Farrell Government will continue to look for ways to continually reduce the cost of electricity for NSW residents.

This rising cost of electricity is the responsibility of one man: John Robertson.

No matter how you look at it, this is going to be John Robertson's tax on the people of NSW and I will make sure the O'Farrell Government holds him to account for his actions while in Government.

It is indicative of the increased costs of this scheme that the only way the O'Farrell Government could find to fix this scheme was through retrospective legislation.

Despite Labor's best efforts at obstructionism, **the O'Farrell Government will continue to work hard to find ways to drive down the cost of living for NSW residents.**



Thousands of Hills residents came together to celebrate, mourn, cheer and help at the 10th Annual Hills Relay for Life on May 14 and 15 at Castle Hill Showground.

In some cases, families spanning four generations chipped in to help raise much needed funds to fight against the spread of cancer.

I'm delighted that Castle Hill RSL donated \$10,000 on the Saturday morning to help with the fundraising efforts, and a heartfelt congratulations goes to Club president Warren Glenny for being on hand to deliver the cheque.

Special thanks must go to the sponsors of Relay for Life, including: the Hills Shire Council, Castle Hill RSL, C2K Fitness and Aquatic Centre, Castle Towers, Event Cinemas, Home World, Alex Hawke MP, International Productions, Gloria Jeans, Pittard and Partners, The Hills Shire Times, Home Hub Hills and Kellyville Pets. The event raised well over \$200,000 for cancer research and donations are still pouring in!

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North West Rail Link and Bus Services

It took just twelve days for our new Premier, Barry O'Farrell, to take the first steps in delivering the long overdue **North West Rail Link**.

On 5th May, Mr O'Farrell and Transport Minister, Gladys Berejiklian, joined myself and a host of local representatives for the announcement of the first project team to administer the construction of the line, with stations at **Norwest Business Park and Kellyville**, amongst others.

While the rail link is well overdue and much welcomed we continue to **need to fix the bus services around the Baulkham Hills electorate** as well.

With the roadworks on the M2, **the eastbound bus lane has been maintained to ensure commuters experience minimal delays with their morning travel times.**

Whilst the westbound lane has been removed, except for between the **Norfolk Tunnel and Barclays Road**, I am continuing to discuss the situation with the M2 project team and am hopeful of a resolution to the issue soon.

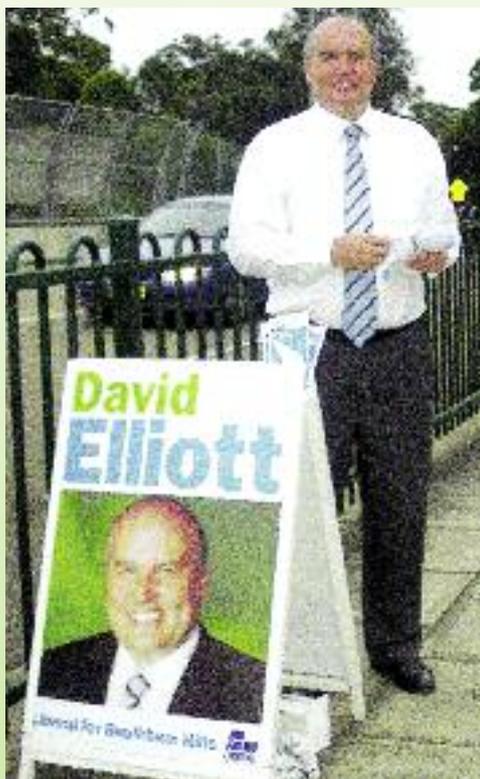


Working for Baulkham Hills

How can I help you?

As your local member, I can provide assistance with:

- Representations to State Government Departments and State Government Ministers
- Speaking about your issues in Parliament
- Justice of the Peace (JP) applications
- Tours of State Parliament for community and school groups
- Arrange for congratulatory letters for special occasions including wedding anniversaries and 90th and 100th birthdays



Your Say

By letting me know what your key concerns are, I can keep you better informed of the happenings in and around the Baulkham Hills electorate. Please tick any of the following boxes that concern you:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public transport services | <input type="checkbox"/> Returning Planning Laws to the local community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The state of our local roads | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Services and facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Our local police force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our local schools and TAFE | <input type="checkbox"/> The level of state taxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to healthcare services | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting our environment | |

Do you have any issues of concern which have not been mentioned, or do you have any comments you wish to make on these issues?

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Your details

Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss First name:..... Surname:.....

Address:..... Postcode:.....

Email:..... Phone:.....

What is your age? 18-30 31-40 41-55 56+

Please fax your completed survey to 9686 3212 or mail to: Suite 1, 25-33 Old Northern Rd, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153