



Troy with Robert Edwards and Mayor of Parkes Ken Keith at the Tullamore Irish Festival



Kathryn Wheeler



Belinda Strahorn



Kirby Dunlop

Meet the new kids on the block

My Parliamentary Assistant Kathryn Wheeler has been on board since the election campaign and will soon be relocating from Dubbo to work from Parliament House.

Belinda Strahorn is my Communications Manager and is no stranger to the media

having worked for many years in the television, radio and print industry.

Kirby Dunlop is my temporary staff assistant who will be working in Dubbo during university holidays.

Together we are passionate about working hard for the Dubbo electorate.

In the Chamber

The following is a list of speeches, questions and responses I have made in the Chamber on matters that affect the Dubbo electorate.

Parliamentary Speeches

- 14/06/2011 Inaugural Speech
- 15/06/2011 Carbon Tax
- 15/06/2011 Infrastructure NSW Bill 2011
- 17/06/2011 Increase in Police Numbers
- 20/06/2011 Crimes Amendment

(Murder of Police Officers) Bill 2011

21/06/2011 Destination NSW Bill 2011

Parliamentary Questions

- 06/05/2011 Murray Darling Basin
- 27/05/2011 Two Ways Together Program
- 23/06/2011 Rebuilding Regional NSW

Winter Electorate Tour

Forbes, Parkes, Peak Hill, Narromine, Yeoval, Canowindra, Eugowra, Trundle, Tullamore, Bogan Gate.

Dates for your Diary

Mulga Bill Bicycle Event, Yeoval
29th-31st July
Forbes Street Yeoval

Celebrate the childhood of Banjo Paterson living in Yeoval, with a full program of poetry, bike riding, competitions, street parade, art exhibition, photography exhibition, craft show, vintage motor show, set in the country charm of Yeoval, fun for the whole family.

Memories of Elvis Evening, Parkes
13th August
Various venues in Parkes

Elvis Revival Inc. will stage a candlelight vigil just prior to the Anniversary of The King's passing on 16 August 1977, involving a candlelight vigil. The Candlelight Vigil will take place at the Elvis Memorial Wall, located within Kelly Reserve adjacent to Bushman's Dam on the Newell Highway (candles supplied if required - free to attend).

Tullamore Agricultural Show
12th-13th August
Tullamore Showground

Peak Hill Agricultural Show
23rd-24th August
Peak Hill Showground

Trundle Bush Tucker Day
2nd-4th September
Trundle Showground

The 24th Annual Trundle Bush Tucker Day will take place in 2011 and is a unique bush experience for the whole family to enjoy. Live entertainment all day, free bush tucker tasting, bush cooking competition and plenty of fun games including the 'Billy Boil Sprint' and the 'Damper Throw'.



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The SOAP Box

July 2011

from **Troy Grant** MP Member for Dubbo

Troy's Inaugural Speech



On the 14th June I delivered my inaugural speech in the 55th NSW Parliament in front of family, friends and former work colleagues from the NSW police force. It was a chance to share with others some of my triumphs as a country police officer and an opportunity to thank the people who have shared and shaped my journey. It was also an opportunity to shed some light on personal battles I have faced over the years which has shaped my passion to seek a better outcome for my communities and forged my desire to serve my community.

I'm a son of regional NSW and I'm passionate about my community. I'm proud of the fact that the history of the Dubbo electorate has played a part in shaping the history of our nation, that the Dish in Parkes beamed those famous images of man's first walk on the moon and that the Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo created the world's first rhino embryo in vitro fertilisation. These are massive achievements from our electorate demonstrating our capacity to contribute to the growth of NSW that has been denied to our area from the previous government. The lack of investment into our road and rail infrastructure and the lack of health funding and infrastructure in Western NSW were examples I highlighted in my speech and issues I'm so eager to see improved.

My inaugural speech can be found on the internet at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

G'day and welcome to the winter edition of my first newsletter as the Member for Dubbo.

Since the election on May 26 it's been a whirlwind beginning to my Parliamentary career.

As well as striding the corridors of Parliament House and settling into my electorate office in Dubbo I have also been appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources.

This role will see me work closely with Primary Industries Minister Katrina Hodgkinson and enable me to have an even greater input into issues affecting the Dubbo electorate such as water and native vegetation.

Since the election I have hit the ground running to get on with the job of representing the Dubbo electorate. The Dubbo Base Hospital redevelopment is on track with a total State commitment of \$72.7 million and a \$7.1 million pledge from the Federal Government. Planning and processes are underway and next on the list is Forbes and Parkes Hospitals. We have waited many long years for the hospital upgrades and I will do all I can to see them come to fruition.

With Parliament's winter recess upon us shortly I'm looking forward to touring the electorate. I'm keen to hear your views on the issues affecting you so I encourage you to make contact with my team in Dubbo.

I thank you for the faith that you have placed in me and I will work hard to repay every day I stand in Parliament.

Let's get down to business.

Troy Grant mp

Member for Dubbo

Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources

"I'm passionate about my community"

Lending a hand for Volunteers Week

I rolled up my sleeves and took to the shop floor at Dubbo's Emmanuel Care clothing store in May as part of National Volunteers Week.

Volunteers give so much to the communities within the Dubbo electorate so I thought it fitting to show how much I care by volunteering myself.

Emmanuel Care manager Beth Wykes and her team of volunteers showed me a lot of patience as I tried to get to grips sorting clothes.

Emmanuel Care has been operating in Dubbo for 23 years and currently has 25 volunteers helping at the Talbragar Street clothing store.

Some of the volunteers are on probation and parole and are fulfilling their community service hours, some are work for the dole participants and others are retired.

I took pleasure in meeting 82 year old Doreen Cossburn who has been volunteering on and off for forty years in communities throughout the Dubbo electorate.

Thank you to all volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to a wide range of local activities.



Caroline Sidoti (Emmanuel Care Dubbo Volunteer) and Troy Grant

Improved reading help for regional and rural students



Troy and John Williams MP Member for Murray Darling/ National's whip and some Royal Far West kids at the NSW Centre for Effective Reading in Manly

Students in the Dubbo electorate now have improved opportunities to address their reading skills thanks to the NSW Centre for Effective Reading in Manly.

Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and I recently visited the centre - formerly Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School - which will address complex reading difficulties faced by some rural NSW primary school students. The Centre has facilities at Royal Far West School, Manly, Westmead, Wagga Wagga and Dubbo.

This is great news for students in the Dubbo electorate and was a major promise I made during the election campaign. I commend the parents of children with reading difficulties who fought so hard to see the program revived.

More than 270 students from rural NSW are expected to be supported through the Centre this year.

Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli said that in a mean spirited exercise in budget cutting, the former Government closed the Dalwood service. Then, under pressure, Labor propped it up with changed eligibility criteria, making it harder for students to enter the program.

Mr Piccoli said that since the election of the Coalition Government in March there have been major changes in the way the Centre, which is a joint education/health initiative, delivers its services.

This includes re-instating the four week residential program, establishing a new steering committee, and opening up the eligibility criteria, making the Centre's expertise available to more than 950 government and non-government rural primary schools.

The first five day clinic took place in June, the second, for four Year 6 students, started on 20 June, and the first four week program begins in late July.

Support for plain packaging of tobacco products

My mum has been a smoker for many years and is unfortunately now suffering from the health impacts as a result.

It breaks my heart and I have tried for years to get her to stop without much success.

That's why I support all endeavours to help reduce access to cigarettes through the Commonwealth's drafted plain packaging legislation for tobacco products.

Statistics show that more than 9,100 Australians are diagnosed with lung cancer each year and the number of new lung cancer cases for men is projected to increase by 17 per cent, from 5,384 in 2001 to 6,301 in 2011.

The social costs of smoking in NSW are over \$8 billion annually.

Along with the NSW Liberals & Nationals and major health organisations, I believe that by reducing the appeal of tobacco products to smokers and young people and increasing the noticeability of health warnings, smoking rates will decline.



Troy and Barry in Narromine



Troy and the Trundle Troopers

Peak Hill students visit Parliament House

I was delighted to meet Peak Hill Central School captains Michelle Westcott, Jane Bendall and Brenden Westcott when they visited NSW Parliament as part of the Government Secondary Schools Leadership Program in May.

For many of the students this was their first visit to Macquarie Street and I took pleasure in showing them around my home away from home.

I also met the 2011 school captains from Dubbo College South, Delroy and Senior Campus, Canowindra High School, Parkes High School, Trundle Central School and Yeoval Central School.

These students are the leaders of tomorrow and perhaps some of them will be attracted to politics.

Whilst I recommended politics as a career, I also reminded the students that

being an MP was hard work, but rewarding knowing that you are doing your best to help the community you live in.

I presented each school that was represented with a copy of the book 'Australia's First Parliament'; soon each school in the Dubbo electorate will receive a copy of the book.



Left to Right - Brenden Westcott, Troy Grant (Member for Dubbo), Jane Bendall & Michelle Westcott

"More than 270 students from rural NSW are expected to be supported through the Centre"