

Quintessence

The Newsletter of the Bel-Air and Newcastle Young Liberal Branches

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The Return

Explanation of the choice of the title!

By The Editor – Tim Riley, Bel-Air Y/L

Aristotle the great Greek Philosopher believed that the world consisted of four elements: earth, water, fire and air. These four elements in conjunction with the four qualities hot, dry, cold, moist in varying combinations constituted earth. There was also a fifth element quintessence, this was the element which made the stars shine in the dark sky at night. Stars were installed in the highest place in the hierarchy of natural substances, nothing existed outside of the stars. Though Aristotle's theory of the universe was incorrect, he had one thing correct, some matter is indescribable and important but it is always open to question.

Presidential Thoughts

By David Williams, President, Newcastle Y/L

Welcome to this first edition of 'Quintessence' boldly proclaiming that Liberalism is alive and well in Newcastle!

This newsletter jointly represents Newcastle Young Liberals, Bel-Air Young Liberals, and the University of Newcastle Liberal Club. Tim Riley has produced it with flair and diligence and I am sure you will agree it is a fine publication ☺

I'm proud of these three stout bodies. In 1999 we ran candidates in the March State election and the September Local Council

election. We protested Labor antics and upheld Coalition policies on TV, on radio, in print. We battled with our leftist Students' Association on campus.

Sometimes they got the jump on us, and infiltrated our meetings – but at other times we won the day, and showed their protests to be frivolous wastes of compulsorily acquired student funds.

Our efforts won us a mention in the Senate Hansard - I'm sure there were a few surprised looks in the chamber that day! Not only were there Liberals in Newcastle, but there were enough to make a Club! Our efforts also won the University Club the award of 'Most Improved Club' from the Australian Liberal Students Federation, and the Newcastle Young Liberals the award of 'Patricia Forsythe Country Branch of the Year' from the NSW Young Liberal movement.

Not that we did any of our things for this result or any kind of reward or recognition. We did it because we believe. We are passionate. We are committed. We joined the Liberal Party for a reason, and in this city we have a clear mission and purpose.

Newcastle is, of course, a traditional Labor 'heartland'. Yet, it is here that we find low morale, generational unemployment, and disenchantment in general.

The Labor message has engulfed this region, but yet it has not prospered from it. It's time that a new message was proclaimed in this city - a message of hope

and encouragement that shows Australia at its best. Sir Robert Menzies is the towering figure of Australian politics - he was Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister, and he founded one of the two major political parties. Yet, also, Menzies came from a small, country town.

He went to Melbourne on a scholarship and with diligence, intellect and effort rose to the leadership of the nation. Back then, Australia was a place where anyone could succeed with hard work and application.

And it still is. With hard work and application you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

This reflects core Liberal values. An open society, equality of opportunity, encouragement for initiative, reward for labour, and the chance to dream and succeed.

This is why I joined the Liberal Party. If there is any party in Australia that encourages and fosters initiative and enterprise - the true creators of wealth and employment - it is the Liberal Party. If there is any party in Australia that can provide the highest standards of health, education, justice and social welfare - it is the Liberal Party.

I'm proud to be a Liberal in Newcastle, and I'm proud of our Young Liberal branches and University Club. We may not be large in number, but we are strong in spirit.

Liberal, stand proud. Stand strong. We have a message for this city.

1999 – Tragedy and Triumph.

Kara Densby, DVP, Bel-Air Y/L

For a Liberal, the year 1999 will always bring memories of crushing defeat.

On the night of the state election I think we all felt a sense of great sadness, and for me this was complemented by searing sunburn and the onset of a particularly nasty dose of the flu. The axe fell on many a Liberal that night – Ron Phillips and Michael Photios to name just two. It's also true that a lot of the publicity the Liberal Party has received this year has not

been flattering. But if you get down to the basics of it, while the election result was nothing but a tragedy, across the state we have also witnessed a number of triumphs.

You actually don't have to look far to see the spirit of Liberalism burning brightly as it gathers strength. Take the University of Newcastle Liberal Club. 1999 is our first year in operation after a long absence of liberal activity on campus, and we were awarded "Most Improved Club" at this year's Australian Liberal Students' Federation Federal Council in Melbourne in July. I think it is fair to say that we were lucky that Voluntary Student Unionism was such a hot topic – and something we all feel very passionate about. VSU gave us a lot of publicity, as although there are many students who support it, we were the only organised group on campus. We fought hard for VSU, and in particular I think special mention must go to our three brave debaters, David Williams, Rachel Price, and Tim Riley, who certainly put up a gallant effort in the midst of a NUSA onslaught. We also owe a lot to David for his efforts in capturing media attention, including a superb piece on NBN regarding NUSA's rally outside Senator Tierney's office.

Sadly, VSU didn't survive its trip to the Senate, and that was, indeed, a tragedy. All is not lost though – as freedom of association will always be something Liberal students will strive for, and the shocking, disgraceful campaign conducted by NUSA and the delightful National Union of Students served only to highlight the fact that freedom of thought, speech and association has no place on a university campus controlled by the loony left. We were threatened with legal action, and many attempts were made to force us to display NUSA propaganda, but in the end we did triumph – we proudly stood up for what we believed in, and brought the truth to many students (those who were not intimidated away from our table), despite

all attempts by our opponents to prevent this from happening. Most importantly, I feel, it was a powerful demonstration of the core principles of liberalism, and that is, after all, what we are all about.

I couldn't end though without mentioning Newcastle Young Liberals. Twelve months ago, Newcastle Young Liberals was fighting for its very existence. Today it is a vibrant, active branch, recently awarded the "Patricia Forsythe Trophy for Country Branch of the Year", from the NSW Young Liberal Movement. The Newcastle Y/Ls also brought two motions to State Convention, including one regarding Capital Gains Tax (and yes, it was a tragedy that this one went down – letters of complaint to Bronwyn Bishop, MP!) and another on VSU – a triumphant success.

Tragedy has infringed on the fortunes of the Liberal Party in 1999. This fact cannot be avoided. However, the efforts of the Young Liberals in Newcastle, Labor heartland itself, indicate that triumph will far outweigh tragedy in the coming years.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Rachel Price, Secretary, Newcastle Y/L

I would like to thank all those members of Newcastle Young Liberals for the commitment and enthusiasm towards the movement that has resulted in our branch being awarded the Patricia-Forsythe trophy for country branch of the year. We would not have received this without the efforts of many members. In particular I would like to thank our president David Williams.

David has been responsible for the resurrection of Newcastle Young Liberals and the Newcastle University Young Liberals this year. In this time the Newcastle Young Liberals has met monthly, participated at Young Liberal Convention, had policy passed at the NSW Liberal Convention and attended Young Liberal Council meetings in Sydney. The Newcastle University Young Liberals has

also been active on campus. University Young Liberals has participated in debates, supported various government policies on campus and been interviewed by local media reporters.

In the next year we will strive to increase our presence at Newcastle University and in the Newcastle area. Currently we have only one member on the university student union and we plan to increase this number. The Newcastle Young Liberals and the Newcastle University Young Liberals are currently working together to organise orientation week activities to increase the number of members in the area.

Once again I would like to thank all members for their support in the Newcastle Young Liberals and the Newcastle University Young Liberals and wish everyone a merry and safe Christmas.

Dates Worthy of the Diary

The most important date for the New Year is O-week at the university – we need volunteers so as to be able to gain vast numbers of new members. Please help!

For the Virtual Waxheads

<http://www.nsw.liberal.org.au/>

NSW Division of the Liberal Party

<http://www.younglibs.org.au/>

NSW Young Liberals

<http://www.alsf.org.au/>

Australian Liberal Student Federation

<http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Congress/6749/>

University of Newcastle Liberal Club

<http://www.pm.gov.au/>

Prime Minister's Web site

<http://www.marisepayne.com/>

Senator Marise Payne online collection, including Coalition members with Web sites

If any one has any interesting political or non political Web pages please email them to the editor.

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Women's Council Delegate:

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Women's Council Delegate:

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Simon Westaway, Timothy Riley, Kara Densby,
Cynamon Toner, April Westaway

The complete details of the Bel-Air Y/L will be put to print when the editor receives them

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