

Newcastle
Young
Liberals

The News Castle

Issue 3

February, 2001

The real thing ... not just a shadow

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Special points of interest:

- ? The Newcastle Young Liberals is the largest Young Liberal branch in the Hunter valley.
- ? Greg Hansen, Country Vice President and newly appointed Young Liberal patron, is a former member of the Newcastle Young Liberals.
- ? The Newcastle Young Liberals was voted 'Country Branch of the Year' 1999 and 'Best Branch Newsletter' 2000.

Welcome!

The Newcastle Young Liberals is an exciting and dynamic branch, and I'm sure the best is yet to come.

We've worked hard to establish a visible and viable Liberal youth movement in the Labor heartland of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

This year I look forward to what we can achieve in the coming Federal election.

With vast swings of 17%-20% required in the various electorates we adjoin, actually taking the Federal seat may not be something we could realistically hope to achieve, at least this year.

Yet, this does not mean Newcastle should be ignored. Why, because of this, we actually have tremendous potential.

We can try out new campaigning schemes without fear of losing the seat. We can campaign tirelessly to promote the Senate without fear of ignoring a lower house candidate.

Indeed, on that point alone, we have the potential to massively increase the Liberal Senate vote as compared to, say, Bradfield and other safe seats where the upper house vote can possibly only increase marginally (because it is already so high in relative terms!)

We also have the tremendous opportunity to campaign for our neighbouring seat of Paterson, where popular local Bob Baldwin

is seeking re-election. The Labor party will be seeking marginal Coalition seats in NSW that they can steal, but we will be looking to regain Paterson from them!

It's an exciting year ahead of us and I am committed to developing the branch even further in the lead up to the election.

I will be seeking excellent guests for our meetings to inspire us and from whose experiences we can draw upon.

I will be seeking to have campaign training seminars taught here by both the State NSW Division and Young Liberal executives.

I will be seeking ministerial advice and information as to how we can best promote the Liberal solutions to the problems that Novacastrians face—unemployment, poverty, and an aging and disabled population.

Friends, I urge you to be not only committed to the coming Federal election but to be consumed by it. We need to see the continued success of the Howard Government.

And when we analyse the myriad of figures at the end of it all, be sure to look at the Senate voting breakdown. Be sure to look at the swing towards Bob Baldwin in Paterson as we reclaim the seat.

In it all, I'm sure, you'll see the hard work of the Newcastle Young Liberals.



2000-2001 President of the Newcastle Young Liberals, David M. Williams

University News

By Kara Densby

Greetings one and all! I hope you all had a fantastic festive season! Now it's time to get back into some serious Liberal business in this very important election year.

I'm very happy to announce that I was elected onto the University Students' Association governing committee—NUSAC—in the role of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce Representative, at the student elections last year.

You'll recall the media coverage we gained in the local press concerning the left-wing rorts that occurred during that election, some of which was reprinted in our last issue.

I'm really excited that I will have an opportunity to inject some Liberalism into the workings of our Students' Association. It's the first time (that we know of) that an endorsed Liberal has been elected onto this body, so it's a great achievement for all of us.

I owe a great deal of thanks to all of those who assisted me in any capacity during the

campaign, but in particular I'd like to thank David Williams for his outstanding commitment to the cause.

I'll certainly keep all of you informed about the goings on at NUSA, and please don't hesitate to bring any concerns you may have to me.

The best thing we can do is ensure that we have a strong presence on campus this year, in order to help secure the re-election of the Howard Government.

That conveniently brings me onto the subject of O-Week ...

We have our stall booked, and now it's just a matter of getting lots of volunteers.

Last year we out-performed both the Labor and Democrat groups, and let's face it – in the atmosphere we are working in, that's a great achievement.

This year, O-Week is being held over Wednesday February 21st through to Friday February 23rd.

I'll be there for all three days that our stall is operating, but I'm looking for some help.

I have a number of commitments for NUSA, particularly on Wednesday 21st, so I'd really appreciate anyone who can come along at some point.

Just get in touch with either David (dave@qed.newcastle.edu.au, 0419 226 354) or myself (rykar@hotmail.com, 0418 972 936) to get involved.

“We have our [O-Week] stall booked, and now it's just a matter of getting lots of volunteers”

Our Local Parliamentarians

Federal—Senator John Tierney
senator.tierney@aph.gov.au

State—Hon. Mike Gallacher
Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Fair Trading
michael.gallacher@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Local—Councillor Yvonne Piddington
ypiddington@ncc.nsw.gov.au

Schedule of Events

- ? 4 Newcastle Young Liberals—4pm, Customs House. With guest speaker Greg Hansen!
- ? 5 NSW Young Liberal Office Bearers' Assembly. Contact Mark Coure (details on back page).
- ? 12 Newcastle FEC AGM—tentative date. Details to be announced!
- ? 15 Young Liberal Business Network. Contact Andrew Constance (details on back page).
- ? 27 Young Liberal Council, Sydney. \$3.00 entry fee. 7pm-10pm, St. Andrews Hall, George St. Includes 'Single Speakers' competition.

February 2001

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4 NYL
5 OBA	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 FEC	13	14	15 YLBN	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 YLC	28				

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PERSONNEL



"We'll let you know if anything opens up for a 'professional downloader of Napster files'."

Country Branch of the year 1999 'shadowed' by Country Branch of the year 2000

By David Williams

I was impressed to read a recent issue of 'The Shoalhaven Shadow' (number 1).

This is a new publication by Shoalhaven Young Liberals, with Gareth Ward as President.

Shoalhaven were the Young Liberal Movement 'Country Branch of the Year' for 2000.

As Country Branch of the Year, for 1999, the Newcastle Young Liberals are proud to be an inspiration for other regional branches.

We took the award for 'Best Branch Newsletter' in 2000 and it looks like Shoalhaven may follow in our footsteps once more, as we seek out a new accolade!

The Shoalhaven Shadow is a fine publication and I encourage you to get a copy.

Indeed, how it can fail to be well received when it has such a similar appearance to the fine "News Castle". Mind you, Shoalhaven have definitely provided extra value with their added typos!

Seriously though, all the best to Shoalhaven YLs and their President, and I look forward to more friendly inter-branch competition to come!

Being a Liberal in dead red heartland

By Kara Densby

Sometimes it's pretty hard to be a Liberal in Newcastle.

I often talk about my experiences at University and in Newcastle in general, and as you know all Liberals in this area have copped their share of abuse from our less enlightened fellow Hunter residents.

But the truth is, with all the bad stuff comes a lot of great stuff that Liberals in more friendly areas may never get to experience.

We have a unique opportunity in Newcastle to be the voice of the Liberal Party in our region. Our numbers may be small, but we can achieve so much!

Although we find it very hard to gain publicity for the Liberal cause, we have had a number of great successes – spanning all forms of media from newspaper to television to radio.

This mainly comes about because there is often simply no opposition being voiced.

Take Voluntary Student Unionism—VSU—for example.

The University of Newcastle Liberal Club exploded onto the campus on the strength of our committed VSU cam-

paign. We were the only organised group working for the success of VSU – and so the people came!

NUSA, the Students' Association, were drawn out of their cave, as they were actually forced to get out there and try and convince students that NUSA was worth having around, and we got tremendous publicity. By taking up an issue that no one else would touch we put ourselves on the map.

We are presented with opportunities that are probably not there for all individuals in areas where Liberal activity is high.

Again turning to the University, I have come to be known by staff and students alike as 'a Liberal'. While at times I am made to suffer for this, at other times it gives me the chance to promote our party.

For example, in a politics class once, my lecturer asked me to talk about the role of the Liberal club on campus – and I am most impressed to say I shared that class with many members of the Labor club, and they were quite embarrassed by our considerable size!

"Explanations" flew as to how we "must understand" that the Labor party has left and right factions. This was somehow supposed to justify the Labor club's poor relative showing.

On another occasion, my American History lecturer somehow managed to squeeze in the comment that "John Howard's a dickhead" and "Gough Whitlam's an Australian hero" (that was in an attempt to find an Australian comparison to Abraham Lincoln).

Yet, before I could jump in to criticise, he asked me if I would share the "Liberal" opinion with the class.

I was greatly surprised, but I took up the opportunity to talk about my admiration for Prime Minister Howard.

A few people looked at me as if I were crazy, but others told me they admired my courage, one even telling the class that she was a Liberal supporter but had always been too scared to say anything.

Several others asked about my involvement in the party, and some expressed their

"The Labor club ... were quite embarrassed by our considerable size!"

(Continued on page 5)

anger at my lecturer’s comments, terming them inappropriate for a lecturer to have said in a class.

I don’t believe any of this would have happened if I were not a well-known Liberal on campus.

What I think this demonstrates is that we are in a unique position. The Liberal Party has a lot to offer its members, and although we miss out on some things because we are not in a Liberal area, we do have other opportunities.

It is easier to make a name for ourselves for one thing. For the simple fact that there are really no Liberals on campus, it is easy to become the face of the Party.

Personally, I have found it to be a great confidence building activity to be involved in.

I never thought before I joined the Liberals that one day I would be standing in the middle of Lake Macquarie Fair arguing with Jill Hall (Federal MP for Shortland) about the private health insurance rebate.

I’ve seen her since then, and she still remembers me as “the girl from Lake Macquarie Fair.”

Sadly I think the reason she remembers me is because she doesn’t get

a lot of opposition – but again, that can work in our favour, as it does provide us all with a great opportunity to get involved.

Each and every one of us in Newcastle Young Liberals have the opportunity to take up the Liberal cause and advance the fortunes of our fine party in this great town.

It’s not always easy – but it’s always a challenge.

A friend of my Grandfather once informed me that my Grandfather “would roll in his grave” if he knew I was a Liberal, but I really don’t think so.

I am sure my Grandfather would be proud of my commitment to the cause that I feel so passionate about.

It is that kind of passion and commitment that we need to show to the people of the Hunter.

I doubt my Grandfather would have been able to bring himself to support our Party, but I know he would have been impressed by the work I have put into achieving something I believe in.

“Jill Hall ... still remembers me as ‘the girl from Lake Macquarie Fair’”

We all do have a lot to be proud of – we may not have election wins beside our names, but we have the dedication and commitment to be the face of the Liberal Party in Newcastle, for better or worse.



What Liberalism means ...

The maiden speech of Senator John Tierney

13th March, 1991

Mr President, I thank you and honourable senators for this opportunity to address the Senate. I am honoured to be here today, replacing Senator Peter Baume ...

One of Senator Peter Baume's most enduring achievements was his contribution to the development and articulation of Liberal philosophy. In the book *Australian Liberalism: The Continuing Vision*, which sets out the evolution of liberalism in this country from Alfred Deakin at the time of federalism through to the present, Peter Baume reaffirms the importance of the individual when he writes: "Our problems are best solved by a redistribution of power—away from the Government and back to individuals, and this can only be achieved by stating and restating our fundamental liberal commitment to the maximum liberty of each person".

This philosophy is very much in line with that of Sir Robert Menzies, who, at the founding of the Liberal Party in 1944, said:

I see the individual and his encouragement and recognition as the prime motivating force for building of a better world.

It was such a speech that first attracted me to the Liberal Party. Turning on the radio one evening in 1958, I heard Robert Menzies deliver a speech at the opening of a poultry farmers' conference. The occasion was very ordinary, but the speech was extraordinary. This eloquent man outlined with such grace his vision for Australia and there was I, a boy with a bad stutter recovering from the effects of polio, totally intrigued, listening and drawn to the Liberal vision of an Australia built on a deep respect for the dignity and the freedom of the individual, of an Australia where one could be rewarded for effort and where enterprise would be encouraged, and of an

Australia where there is real equality of opportunity and choice.

If one were to try to encapsulate this philosophy in one phrase it would be that the success of the community depends upon the success of the individual. The Australia in which I grew up in the 1950s and 1960s seemed to be the manifestation of this philosophy. When I look back, these seem to have been the golden years of Australia. Then we had the third highest standard of living in the world. Australia Felix was the slogan; Australia unlimited. And why not? Then, unemployment stood at between one and 2 per cent; inflation fluctuated between 3 and 4 per cent; and interest rates were at 6 1/2 per cent. Do honourable senators remember those figures? As for overseas debt, we tended to have a surplus ...

I want to look closely at a region in my State of New South Wales which in a concrete way is indicative of what is wrong with the Australian economy. Like Australia as a whole, the Hunter Valley is rich in resources. In fact, it is the richest valley in Australia. I know it well because I have lived there for the past 19 years. I am very proud to be the first Liberal senator from that region ...

The Hunter is a magnificent region with magnificent people and, more than any other, it pulls its economic weight in this country. We generate 50 per cent more gross domestic product per capita and 90 per cent more exports per capita than the Australian average. But just as the 1980s and 1990s have seen a slide from the golden era for Australia, so too in the Hunter. Like Australia, the Hunter could have done far better, especially if governments over the past 90 years had not neglected the area ...



The Newcastle Young Liberals in the great scheme of things ...

By Kara Densby

It's true to say that our fine party has the reputation in some quarters of only being interested in Sydney, and in particular the Northern suburbs. I've never believed this to be the case. We are all proof that the Liberal Party is greatly committed to all regions in New South Wales, as we wave the Liberal flag in the face of a Labor onslaught.

However, it remains a concern that the Young Liberals do not forget those branches of the movement that lie beyond the Sydney skyline. It is of great concern to me that the vast majority of Young Liberal Council meetings in 2001 have been scheduled to take place on Tuesday evenings (I believe with the exception of two). Time and time again I, and many other regional members, have tried to explain to the Executive that it is extremely difficult for regional members to attend functions on weeknights, yet nothing has changed. I think we all appreciate the fact that the majority of members are from Sydney, but the Liberal Party must be responsive to the needs of regional Australia if it is to have any hope of election success in the future. For this to happen, the Liberal Party must first demonstrate respect for members in these areas. At the moment, I believe there are a number of barriers to this in the Young Liberal Movement. For instance, the failure of the current Young Liberal Presi-

dent, Andrew Constance, to fulfil his promise to create a position on Young Liberal Executive dealing with regional issues, performed by a regional member, is a troubling indication of the lack of respect for all regional members.

The end result of all of this is that regional members often do not feel like they are part of the wider movement. The biggest problem that this presents is that it tends to give the impression that the Liberal Party has little interest in areas like Newcastle. I hear that a lot from people when I am at polling booths or handing out flyers. I'm often told that the Liberal Party couldn't care less about Newcastle, and that we can't even be bothered manning all of the many polling booths in the area. This is simply not true. Our numbers are small, but, as I indicated in another article in this edition, we have achieved so much, and we try so hard. It is very important that the Young Liberals, and the wider Liberal Party, make every effort to provide the same opportunities to regional members as are available to those in Sydney, as this is the first step in proving that the Liberal Party really is a party for all of us. Accordingly, I encourage you all to join the group of us who trek down to Sydney to attend functions, and get in touch with your State Executive (contact details on the back page) and let them know that the needs of regional members are important too!



The Newcastle Young Liberals' executive contact details

President	David Williams	0419 226 354
Vice President	Matt Vigar	0412 782 106
Secretary	Kara Densby	0418 972 936
Treasurer	David Beddoe	0409 311 279

PO Box 65, Union Building
Callaghan, NSW, 2308

Email: youngliberals@hotmail.com

The NSW Young Liberals Movement executive contact details

President Andrew Constance 0402 224 153

Vice Presidents

Policy	Belinda Lawton	0409 305 000
Development	Mark Coure	0419 479 010
Administration	Lucy Wicks	0410 539 563

Directors

Communications	Simon Moore	0403 046 556
Activities	Ainslie Thomas	0418 240 637
Community Youth Outreach	Dean Gillespie	0410 623 444
Finance	Trent Mumford	0412 115 400

Officers

Membership	Adla Abraham	0410 577 715
Political	Matthew Watts	0409 017 891
Administration	Natasha Maclaren	0409 227 496
Women	Melanie Gibbons	0418 212 120
Tertiary Institutions Liaison	Nathan Booker	0414 872 547
Website	Andrew Perry	0413 045 300

Note: All members of the NSW YL state executive can be reached by e-mail using an email address of the form firstname.lastname@younglibs.org.au (e.g. andrew.constance@younglibs.org.au)



PO Box 65
Union Building
Callaghan 2308

Phone: 0419 226 354
Fax: 02 4921 6911

Email: youngliberals@hotmail.com
Article contributions welcome!

NEWCASTLE YOUNG LIBERALS

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

Taking Newcastle Forward!

NSW Young Liberal Movement Calendar of Events, January—June 2001

January	21	Friends of the Movement Drinks (Email Mark Coure for details)	April	1	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting
	25	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting		7	Annual Young Liberal Ball
	30	Young Liberal Council		15	Deadline for <i>May Action!</i> magazine
	31	Deadline for February <i>Action!</i> Magazine (Send articles to Simon Moore)		18-20	Youth Forum 2001
February	4	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting		23-27	Statewide Bus Trip
	5	Office Bearer's Assembly		28	Young Liberal Council
	7	New Members Evening	May	1	Certificate of Political Representation
	15	Young Liberal Business Network		2	Debating Training Seminar
	27	Young Liberal Council (Including Single Speakers Competition)		6	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting
March	4	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting		13	Young Liberal Debating Competition
	9	Women's Breakfast		25	New Members Night
	20	Mock Pre-Selection		29	Young Liberal Council
	27	Young Liberal Council	June	3	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting
				8	Dorothy Peters Memorial Dinner
				14	Mock Parliament
				26	Young Liberal Council