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Special points of interest:

- ? The Newcastle Young Liberals is the largest Young Liberal branch in the Hunter valley.
- ? Former Newcastle Young Liberal members include Greg Hansen, Virginia Chadwick and Patricia Forsythe.
- ? The Newcastle Young Liberals was voted 'Country Branch of the Year' 1999 and 'Best Branch Newsletter' 2000.

Welcome!

Last issue, I wrote that I had recently returned from Europe. Without meaning to sound like a jet-setter, I have now just recently returned from Singapore and China.

Just like last issue, I can report that any increase in petrol prices and devaluation of the local currency is as a global phenomenon.

In Singapore, the price of petrol is around \$1.50 per litre, meaning it would cost over \$60 to fill most family-sized vehicles.

Yet, the Australian media would have us believe that any economic hardships or high petrol prices faced in Australia are merely local issues, and what's more, the fault of the current Coalition Federal Government led by John Howard, despite its proven record on economic management.

Taxi drivers were keen to ask me where I came from, and when I replied "Australia", I was asked how the recent Asian economic crisis had affected us.

To me, it was a distant memory, but yet, to my well-advised Singaporean taxi-driver informants, it was still a living issue. They told me about the financial casualties that rolled from Asian nation to Asian nation, of the jobs that were lost, of the currencies that lost value.

So, once again—in the face of public comment that our Government is mean and that somehow in Australia we are simply isolated from the rest of the world and hence any problem that may occur is strictly of our own making— I must urge that we spread a different message.



Immediate Past President, and Liberal Candidate for the Federal seat of Newcastle, David M. Williams.

Australia is not unique in these circumstances, because we live in a shrinking world. Yet, Australia is unique in that the economic responsibility and strength of our Government has weathered these storms such that petrol prices are not as high as they could be, or such that some matters—which were a crisis to other nations—rarely scored a mention here.

Imagine where we would be if Beazley and co. were in power? Can you comprehend the spiralling interest rates, the rocketing inflation, the ever-increasing deficit?

After all, in many ways, Kim Beazley is hardly 'untested' - we have 13 years of recent Labor rule to look back upon, where Beazley played his part in various roles relating to Aviation, Finance and Employment.

Of course, this all helped bring about the infamous recession we didn't have until "we had to have it".

There has been a lot of noise from the Labor benches regarding reconciliation. Yet, I'm still waiting for Labor to say "sorry" to the unemployed generation!

The Federal Budget—My \$0.02 ...

By Kara Densby

This year's Budget has attracted considerable attention with regards to its apparent "focus group." The Budget contained considerable provisions that will be of benefit to the senior citizens in our community, both self-funded retirees and pensioners, and this has resulted in a barrage of criticism, accusing the Howard Government of "buying" votes, and ignoring other groups in society. Both claims are completely untrue.

To refute the claim that the budget ignores all in society except the elderly is easy – one only needs to examine the actual substance of the budget. The increase in education funding even attracted the approval and support of our Vice Chancellor! Rural and regional Australia is well looked after, with significant additional funding allocated, particularly with regards to health and telecommunications. Small business – the backbone of our nation – benefits too, with reductions in tax, and further tax benefits when purchasing vehicles.

The big picture is the most important thing though. Everyone wins when the economy is in good shape. Gone are the days of Labor's \$10 billion budget deficit, complemented by 11% unemployment. The Howard Government has repaid government debt – to the tune of some \$60 billion – and brought the budget into surplus. This budget cements the Government's economic responsibility, and that is what will provide long-term

benefits to the people of Australia.

Good economic management, demonstrated by this budget, is a key factor in helping huge numbers of Australians own their own homes. Current interest rates are in stark contrast to the 17% that weighed down families across this nation under Labor. As I put some thought into purchasing my own home next year, as opposed to spending dead

"Everyone wins when the economy is in good shape"

money on rent, I know that what I am looking for in a Government is the kind of economic responsibility that will stimulate the economy and help put my own property within reach. If interest rates returned to Labor levels, I would not be able to consider a mortgage to buy property. That's not political rhetoric – it's the truth. The Labor Party promote themselves as a Party out there helping the average Australian, but if they are elected to government, their history of economic mismanagement indicates that average Australians will be worse off, and owning your own home will become a goal increasingly difficult to achieve.

I think it's pretty sad that when a government makes provisions for the elderly in our community, they are accused of vote buying. I was horrified to read the comments of Young Labor's President, who labelled the budget an "old fogies" budget. Not only is it untrue that the

budget focused solely on the elderly, but the elderly are a most deserving section of our community. We're talking about the people who helped fight for our country's freedom, and on whose hard work our nation was built in the years following the war. We're talking about the people who made this great country what it is. To criticise the benefits they receive in this budget is appalling.

On a practical level, the increase in the tax-free threshold for self-funded retirees is one of the most sensible pieces of government policy I have heard in a long time. There is no denying the problem Australia faces as our population ages, and it becomes difficult for adequate pensions to be provided for our elderly citizens. Clearly, self-funded retirees save taxpayers a fortune, and this is the ideal situation. The more that can be done to make it easier for people to live in retirement without a government pension, the better it is. Further, these people should not be penalised for providing for their own retirement, they should be rewarded – they should, for example, have access to senior discounts in the same way pensioners do. This budget is a fantastic step in the right direction for encouraging self-funded retirees.

However, I can see the obvious problem it creates for the Labor Party, who pursue a culture of welfare dependency.....

Schedule of Events

? The Marlene Goldsmith Heritage Dinner, 7pm. Guest speaker: Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser AC CH. Cost \$65. RSVP to Belinda Lawton, policy@younglibs.org.au or PO Private Bag 2, Kings Cross, NSW 1340.

August 2001

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 *	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Items to be aware of ...

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are now due. Please renew your membership of the Newcastle Young Liberals for the low cost of \$16!!!

Payment can be made via credit card at the website – www.nsw.liberal.org.au/payments, or by cheque, made out to The Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division, and mailed to:

Private Bag No. 2
Kings Cross 1340

Gala Election Fundraising Dinner

Guest speaker: Peter Costello
When: Saturday 21 July, 7pm for 7.30pm.
RSVP: 17 July.
Dress: Lounge suit
Cost: \$100

State Council

The next State Council meeting will be held in Sydney on Saturday 21 July. Registration costs \$20.

Events include:

- ? John Howard will be giving the keynote address.
- ? Policy panels including Kerry Chikarovski and Ross Cameron
- ? Executive reports
- ? Policy motions

It will be held at the Novotel Hotel, Olympic Boulevard, Homebush, 9am-5pm. There is public transport available to the venue.

Please give some thought to coming – it is a great way to get involved in the Party!

For further details please contact Kara on 0418 972 936 or rykar@hotmail.com

Campaign Assembly

The Campaign Assembly will be held at the same venue as the State Council, on Sunday 22nd July, 9am – 1.30pm.

Events include:

- ? Campaign workshops
- ? An international campaign panel
- ? Federal campaign update

Registration cost combined with State Council. Contact Kara for more details.

Email and the Law ... NOT

By David Williams

I am sure that, like me, you receive many unsolicited e-mail messages.

Recently, there seems to be a spate of e-mails claiming that the Government is proposing new laws relating to e-mail and plans to charge for it, or to prevent the forwarding of e-mail for copyright reasons.

Being an I.T. professional, I find it disappointing that people forward on such messages when they are factually and technically erroneous. However, this I am used to.

What disturbs me more is that being a member of the Liberal Party, I find it very disappointing when fellow Liberals forward on such messages, when they are not only incorrect, but are potentially damaging to re-election, and when I would expect such fellow Liberals to be able to easily verify the veracity of the statements anyhow!!

Hopefully the following notes may be of use should you be told that such legislation is coming to pass - whether for your own interest, or to send back to your correspondent!

Firstly, here is a press release from the Attorney General himself, after claims that the forwarding of e-mail would be subject to copyright.

4 March 2001

E-MAIL AND COPYRIGHT LAW

Contrary to alarmist media reports, sharing e-mail is not banned by law.

Amendments to the Copyright Act that came into effect today do not outlaw the practice of forwarding personal e-mails to other people. That would be ridiculous.

The Copyright Amendment (Digital Agenda) Act updates copyright law to ensure it provides the same protections in an electronic environment as exist in a hard copy environment. For example, musicians whose music is distributed online without their permission will be able to take action to stop it, in the same way they can if pirate CDs are sold over the counter.

Forwarding a personal e-mail is unlikely to breach copyright laws. A court would need to find that the contents of the e-mail were an "original literary work". For example, if the e-mail was simply a joke that everyone had been re-hashing for years, it is doubtful it would have the necessary originality to be protected by copyright. Similarly, a casual exchange of personal information or office gossip would probably not be original enough to have copyright in it.

The Digital Agenda Act brings copyright law into the electronic age. It is an important reform that will further protect the rights of musicians, artists, writers, film makers and other creators of original works. It will also continue to allow users, especially libraries and educational institutions, reasonable access to copyright material through new communications technologies. It will not impose hefty penalties on everyday users of personal e-mail.

Secondly, here are some comments of mine regarding the claims that e-mail is going to be charged.

1. Firstly, there is no such thing as "Bill 602P". I am sure it can be seen that this e-mail hoax originated in the U.S.
2. There is no barrister or solicitor by the name of "Richard Stepp" in Canberra.
3. The "Australian Postal Service" is again modified from U.S. terminology.
4. I do not know what the revenue of Australia Post is, but surely \$230,000,000 in lost revenue is a remarkably outrageous figure!

Here is an article from AAP -

A petition warning of government plans to charge five cents per e-mail was a hoax, Australia Post said today.

The petition, sent via e-mail, said the government was trying to push through legislation allowing Australia Post to charge internet users an alternative postage fee.

"The Australian Postal Service is claiming lost revenue, due to the proliferation of e-mail, is costing nearly \$230,000,000 in revenue per year," the e-mail said.

It urges people to complain to Communications Minister Richard Alston's office.

Australia Post spokeswoman Stephen Walter said there was no such legislation and no plan to charge for e-mails.

"The best thing to do if you receive one of these e-mails is to delete it rather than compound the hoax by forwarding it on," Mr Walter said in a statement.

"As Australia's largest provider of internet fulfillment services, it is not in Australia Post's interest to discourage communication over the internet."

Mr Walter said the hoax began in the United States and Canada in 1999.

A spokesman for Senator Alston said the minister's office received hundreds of protest e-mails a day.

So - **PLEASE**, if you get any e-mails warning you of some bizarre Government conspiracy, resist the urge to forward it on! (And that includes our friends at the Shoalhaven Shadow!)



Meeting the Prime Minister

By Mark Scarfe

As a relatively new member to the party and a political novice, the 16th of May was a day I was certain not to miss, because this was the day our Prime Minister was coming to town to address the faithful.

It was a night for the real "true believers." I got there early so I was sure as to not to miss out. I needn't have worried as I was the first one there.

By this stage I was a bit nervous as I knew NO ONE, but I was proud to be there as a member of the Newcastle Young Liberals, and I was among friends.

I had a man introduce himself to me and we chatted for a while and I was introduced to others in the party. That's the advantage of coming early, you get to network and meet new people.

By this time I was a bit peckish so I had some of the nibbles on offer and an orange juice, when the word went around that the PM was running a bit late. Never mind, I can wait a bit longer.

So after a while I heard a rumbling and there he was, the 25th Prime Minister of Australia.

I had expected someone to announce his arrival but that never happened. As soon as he arrived he mingled with the crowd of about 300.

He was in good spirits and shook every hand and posed for pictures with anyone who asked. Now was my chance! I

my photo taken with him, which he obliged.

I then moved back to where I was and the PM gave us a stirring speech about the need to win Paterson and even stunned us and the press that was present with a few budget announcements.



With this the PM shook some more hands and made his way over to The Store for a charity dinner.

So far, this has been the highlight of my involvement

made my way towards him and the opportunity to say "hello."

Well, that was the plan. The closer I got the more crowded he was. When I saw an opening I was in. Senator John Tierney introduced me to the PM and we made small talk for a minute and I asked if I could have

ment in the party and I urge all member not to be shy and get involved and make your self known to senior members of the party.

It is a truly invigorating and rewarding experience and one you will not forget or regret.



Your Student Union at Work ...

By Kara Densby

It's time again to reflect upon the activities of the student feral left at our fine University ...

The recent National Day of Action passed with little commotion.

Sure, there were posters, loud music, and academics dressed up as beggars; but life seemed to just roll on for the vast majority of students, albeit a little less peacefully than usual.

The protest was held at lunchtime, in the busiest eating area on campus, but less than 100 people were there at any one time.

Further, when you take out of that number all of the students who were simply there to have lunch, the numbers start to look quite shaky.

Then, peel back the layers further to reveal those present who are either members of NUSAC or one of the Collectives, and there wouldn't have been enough actual, interested students there to form a beach volleyball team for this year's Beach Party. (If Darth Vice Chancellor would let them dump 300 tonnes of sand in the uni car park so they could have one...)

Sam Russell, Faculty Representative for Arts and Social Science, launched his election campaign for Education Officer with an impassioned plea to the University to spend more money on ... well, anything, really.

Sam is spearheading a perpetual National Day of Action – well, at least, one every week.

The theory behind this appears to be to eventually get the University to fully financially support and subsidise each and every student, and not just education related expenses – we're talking financial adoption!

The Education Collective, excluding myself, have come up with the idea of a "log of claims", whereby every student can write down what they think the university should provide for them.

More frequent, smaller, tutorials, free and unregulated access to the internet, more books in the Library (have you ever been to the Library?? There really are a lot of books in there. And there is another Library, even if it is on "the other side") top the list of claims.

As always, there's plenty of irony and hypocrisy lurking beneath these claims. I can only laugh at Sam's call for more face-to-face teaching—I've had the unfortunate experience of sharing classes with Sam and in an entire 14 week semester he attended about two lectures (if only his non-attendance policy transferred to tutorials too—he's a rather opinionated lad).

It is quite ironic that he asks for more class time when he obviously has such difficulty attending classes as is!

Week by week the claims get a little more outlandish and irrelevant. Calls for a common lunchtime have surfaced, which I think is sensible, because it is just too easy to buy food at the cafeteria as it is now, I'd like to queue up with all 10,000 other students at exactly the same time.

Now, apparently, the university should provide us all with condoms and tampons. I fail to see why the university should do this. The university is about education, not family planning and feminine hygiene.

Simply, it is not the university's responsibility to financially support each and every student in all aspects of their lives. Where would it all end? What if I didn't like the brand of tampon the university supplied? Would I be able to blockade the Vice Chancellor's car park until he personally chauffeured me to the local supermarket to finance the purchase of a brand more to my liking?

The current demands indicate an Education Collective with little grasp on reality.

Their complete inability to "get their priorities right" and focus on issues relevant to education are evident from the poor turnout of students as Education Collective protests.

Newcastle Federal Candidate announced

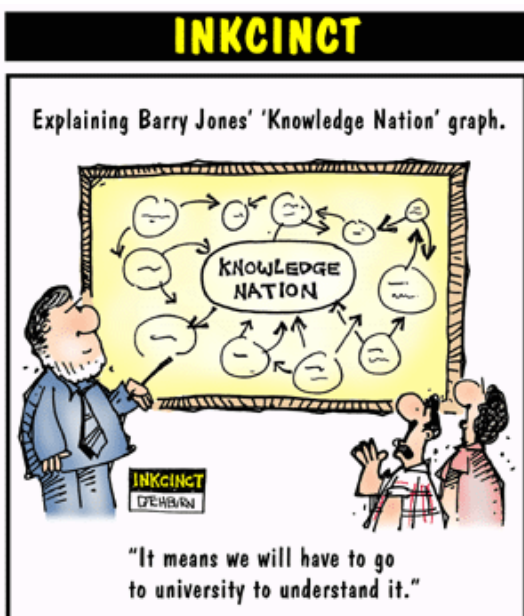
By Kara Densby

It is my pleasure to announce to you all that the Liberal Party's candidate for the seat of Newcastle for the 2001 Federal election will be Newcastle Young Liberals' very own David Williams!

As a veteran of both state and local government campaigns, David is well prepared to take on this new challenge. David will be running against Sharon Grierson from the ALP, who is contesting the seat of Newcastle following the long overdue retirement of Allan Morris.

If you can provide David with assistance during the campaign, he would love to hear from you. You can reach David by phone, on 0419 226 354 or you can send him an email to david.williams@altitude.com

Good luck David!



American Presidential Trivia

Which United States President was the first::

- to both fly in a plane and ride in an automobile?
- born after World War 2?
- born in a hospital?
- to be an ardent golfer?
- born in the 19th Century?
- born in the 20th Century?
- person over 65 to be elected President?
- to give a televised State of the Union address?
- to be the victim of an assassination attempt?
- to be photographed?
- to have a car phone?
- to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court?
- to have a telephone in the White House?
- to hold a televised news conference?
- to have an outdoor inauguration?

Answers:

- Theodore Roosevelt
- Bill Clinton
- Jimmy Carter
- William Howard Taft
- Millard Fillmore (7 January, 1800)
- John F. Kennedy (29 May, 1917)
- William Henry Harrison (68), followed by James Buchanan (65) and Ronald Reagan (69).
- Harry S. Truman, in 1947.
- Andrew Jackson, in 1835, he survived.
- John Quincy Adams
- Lyndon B. Johnson
- Ronald Reagan
- Rutherford B. Hayes
- Dwight Eisenhower
- James Monroe



The Newcastle Young Liberals' executive contact details

President	Kara Densby	0418 972 936
Vice President	David Williams	0419 226 354
Secretary	Kelsey Andrews	0419 169 538
Treasurer	David Beddoe	0407 943 816
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PO Box 65, Union Building
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Email: youngliberals@hotmail.com

The NSW Young Liberals Movement executive contact details

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Directors

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Activities	Ainslie Thomas	0418 240 637
Community Youth Outreach	Dean Gillespie	0410 623 444
Finance	Trent Mumford	0412 115 400

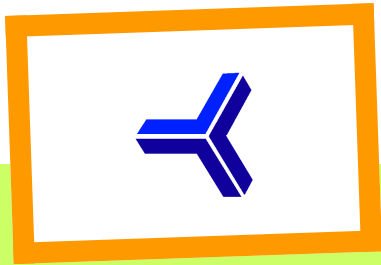
Officers

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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)

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

June	8	Dorothy Peters Memorial Dinner	September	7	Young Liberal State Convention
	10	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting		13	The Goldsmith Heritage Dinner
	14	Mock Parliament		25	Young Liberal Council
	26	Young Liberal Council			
July	15	Newcastle Young Liberals Meeting	October	7	Tennis Competition
	19	Robert Nestdale Oration		15	Deadline for November Action
	21	State Council		18	New Members Forum
	22	Campaign Assembly		30	Young Liberal Council
	31	Young Liberal Policy Convention			
August	21	New Members evening	November	26	Young Liberal Council AGM
	25	Election Forum			



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Taking Newcastle Forward!