

Newcastle  
Young  
Liberals

# The News Castle

Volume 1, Issue 2

October, 2000

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NUSA Watch	2
Newcastle Young Liberals in the Newcastle Herald	3
October calendar	4
Student election	4
Newcastle Young Liberals in the Newcastle Herald	6
What the Liberal Party means	8

## Welcome!

The Newcastle Young Liberals has been an exciting and dynamic branch over the last 12 months and I have been delighted to be a part of this.

I am pleased by the number of new members we have attracted and we are currently the largest Young Liberal branch in the entire Hunter region.

We had our Annual General Meeting last month and this brought with it an exciting new team for the next 12 months:

President—David Williams  
Vice President—Matt Vigar  
Secretary—Kara Densby  
Treasurer—David Beddoe



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

I am privileged to have your support and confidence to lead the branch through another year. I am also especially pleased to have such enthusiastic and talented individuals form the branch executive with me.

The next 12 months will be an important period because we will have a Federal election sometime within that period. This will be a tough election and the Liberal Party will be seeking a third term in office.

In Newcastle, we will, of course, run a candidate for the Federal seat. In elections gone by, Newcastle has been dismissed as a Labor stronghold, an unwinnable seat—and one that has not deserved a “real” or quality candidate—a name plucked out and given to the voters at the last minute.

I’m not content with that, and I don’t believe the people of Newcastle are, either.

Whereas we do have to be realistic—Newcastle won’t change its voting allegiance overnight, and not even by the next election—but the demographics of the city are changing. We have more young professionals. We have an independent Lord Mayor for the first time in 20 years. We have a Liberal senator and a member of the Liberal Party on the local council. BHP has gone, and the city now has the opportunity to reinvent itself. We need not remain a “steel city” but can seek to become something new and fresh.

I want to see the Newcastle Young Liberals be part of this. We’ve had wonderful media successes in the last 12 months but there is so much more to do. I want to see a visible Liberal presence established in this city, with real and viable candidates in elections—people who are able, and people who are known.

We have a task ahead of us this next 12 months, and I don’t think there is a finer group of young people in this city who can sustain a momentum for positive change than the Newcastle Young Liberals.

## Special points of interest:

- ? The Newcastle Young Liberals is the largest Young Liberal branch in the Hunter valley.
- ? Patricia Forsythe and Virginia Chadwick are former members of the Newcastle Young Liberals.
- ? The Newcastle Young Liberals have a new executive for the coming 12 months.

## NUSA Watch ...

By Kara Densby

So what has NUSA – the University students’s association – been doing on your behalf lately?

Well, they spent \$250 of your money constructing a paper-mache head of our fine Prime Minister, John Howard. Why? Well, your guess is as good as mine.

Some bad street theatre appears to be the case though – if you check out the latest OPUS (yes, that oversized, over-funded, yet substantially lacking in worthwhile content publication, torn between filling its pages with left-wing propaganda, or pornography) on page 15, there is a delightful shot of a young chap in a giant John Howard head (no, not the afore mentioned paper-mache head, there were bigger and brighter prospects for it – it was swinging in the breeze like a colossal piñata for a tide of feral looking things to vent their frustration on) participating in a mock fight.

This was all a part of the fun and festivities of “Resurgence,” NUSA’s attempt to reclaim the uni

from its “occupation by right-wing corporations.”

No, no, don’t laugh – they really believe it. So concerned was the student population that a massive 500 turned up, by Melinda Nunn’s calculations, and I think she may be flattering herself a bit with this figure.

I’ve got to say, the photos seem to indicate that NUSA

barely scraped up 15 students to attend. That’s right, not even the lure of free food and entertainment

could bring out a groundswell of support for NUSA – just read OPUS to find such NUSA luminaries as Melinda and the Vice-President lamenting the lack of student participation in this event.

I bet you’re all glad to hear that you financially supported the local participants in Melbourne’s SII riots.

Yep, that’s right, NUSA contributed \$5300 in total to support these fine, upstanding citizens engage in their “peaceful” protest. I, for one, am appalled and disgusted that one cent of student funds was used to support the SII protests. No one can deny the right to free speech that exists for

all, but this doesn’t extend to violently preventing others from exercising their right to the same. The audacity of these people to assume that they could prevent a peaceful meeting from going ahead, simply because they do not share the views expressed is simply breath taking. But then, I’d be surprised if hypocrisy was not a dominant characteristic of the left.

Here they were, protesting everything under the sun, including animal rights (which is an issue I am certainly partial to supporting myself), and they were throwing marbles under the hooves of horses.

The protesters seemed to feel that they were above the law. I would suggest that if I went down to the Charlestown Square car park and leaped atop an innocent motorist’s vehicle and proceeded to thrash myself down on the bonnet continually, stopping only to enhance the car’s paintwork, a friendly police officer would escort me on my way.

Would it make any difference if it was Allan Morris’ car? No, of course not. It’s just not acceptable. The SII protests were a disgrace to this nation – violence is not the way we conduct politics.

“The protesters seemed to feel that they were above the law”

## The Newcastle Young Liberals in the Newcastle Herald ...

### Left-wing blocks others' free speech

From David Williams

THE violent S11 protests demonstrate yet again that the left-wing radicals who claim to speak so loudly about rights and freedom are, in fact, the ones who are most prepared to deny the rights and freedoms of others.

It seems that to these people democracy should be replaced by simply the will of those who are prepared to be loud and violent, rather than rational and informed.

David Williams  
New Lambton  
September 11

### Delegates' rights denied

From Kara Densby

I AM appalled by the actions of those S11 protesters who resorted to violence in Melbourne.

Perhaps the greatest thing about Australia is the notion of free speech and the support of peaceful protest.

Yet these protesters have actively demonstrated contempt for the rights of those with a different viewpoint to meet peacefully.

The World Economic Forum delegates have the same right to air their opinions as those supporting the ideals of S11 and the disgraceful attempts by S11 protesters to restrict this right reveal the true nature of the S11 alliance.

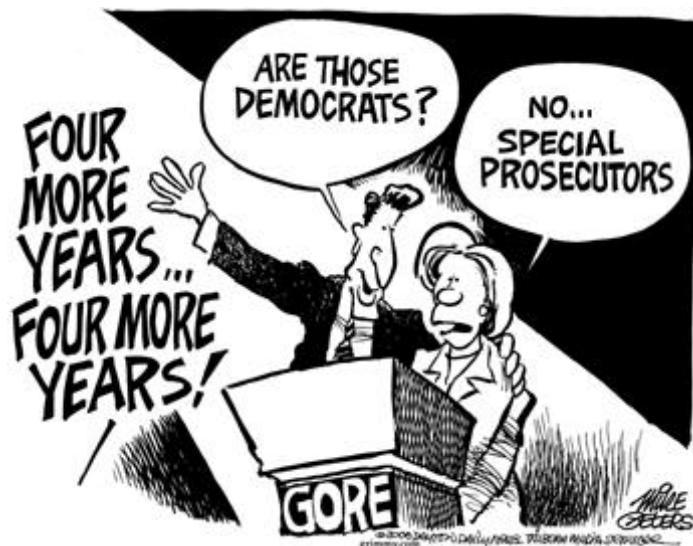
Clearly, the S11 alliance believes the right to free speech exists exclusively for those who share their views and their actions of today have indicated that they will resort to violence to prevent opposing viewpoints from being discussed in an open and peaceful manner.

In Australia no-one has the right to vandalise a car and terrify its occupants or, perhaps most despicably, attack an ambulance officer performing his duty of providing them with medical assistance if required.

This was the activity of the S11 protesters, captured on video for the world to see.

It was not a protest; it was simply the violent intimidation of a group of people subscribing to a different set of beliefs to S11 and the attempted prevention of a conflicting viewpoint being expressed in peace.

Kara Densby  
Belmont  
September 11



## Schedule of Events

- ? 15 Newcastle Young Liberals. Customs House, 4pm.
- ? 16 Earlwood Young Liberals 50th Anniversary Dinner—with Prime Minister John Howard.
- ? 16 Student elections! Remember to vote for Kara!
- ? 21 Campaign Training Seminar. North Sydney Leagues Club, Abbott St, Cammeray. 9:00am—4:00pm. Stuart Coppock on (02) 9581 7400 for more information.
- ? 23 Newcastle SEC AGM. 8:30pm. TPI House, corner of King and Auckland Streets, Newcastle. All members of the Newcastle Branch and Newcastle Young Liberals are invited to attend.
- ? 31 Young Liberal Council, Sydney, 7:00pm—10:00pm. \$3 entry levy.

# October 2000

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

©2000 Shannon Burns

www.shannonburns.com



"Trust me: cattle futures are the last place you want to invest."

## Student election report

By Kara Densby

Well, I didn't win. Not that I was expecting to. It wasn't a fair and democratic election. Not that I was expecting that it would be. Granted, though, I didn't think NUSA would be so blatant in their conduct of a rotten election. Yet they were. You all know that I was left off the ballot paper for the position of Education Officer. How could you not, after all, I got my fifteen minutes of fame in the Newcastle Herald. But oh how the saga continued...

The first day of polling, David and I noticed that some candi-

dates were distributing material that was in breach of the NUSA constitution, which stipulates the precise guidelines for the conduct of elections. Our interest in this fact stemmed only from our desire to have the same opportunities as other candidates, so we brought this to the attention of Rachel Frecker, the Returning Officer, herself a student and also a candidate in the Union elections. Ms Frecker certainly had some interesting things to tell us. In

her capacity as Returning Officer, she made "private rulings" allowing these candidates to have this illegal material, but had not sought to inform other candidates of this option. When questioned, her response was that this was "not a real election" – yes, sadly that's a true quote. She also admitted that she had

*(Continued on page 5)*

grave concerns about VSU – the primary policy I ran with.

The Deputy Returning Officer, in contrast to the Returning Officer, did not justify the illegal material with claims of a private ruling. She, instead, told us that all of the material was perfectly legal, and the confusion was solely an error on my part! When I questioned her on this, she told me that it was all in the constitution, and when I questioned further she heartily told me she would show me. She directed my attention to the section of the constitution that explicitly says the only materials the candidate may use and distribute are 500 copies of their policy statement, to be printed in the NUSA printery. Apart from this, a candidate can spend no more than \$5 on adhesives. For a bit of background, each candidate is required to submit a policy statement for his or her nomination to be considered valid. Hence, the acceptable material of 500 copies of one’s policy statement is clearly the policy statement that was to be submitted. Seems pretty clear to me, and I’ll bet that you’re not having any trouble with it either. Yet, she told me, nay insisted, that “policy statement” could mean anything – including “how to vote” information, banners, fliers and miscellaneous what-not. Not only was this absolute, total rubbish in an attempt to justify the appalling conduct of the election, it was in conflict with what the Returning Officer had told us – she, by her admittance that she had issued

private rulings to allow for this material, indicated that it simply was not material allowed under the constitution.

I also have a new appreciation of hypocrisy following this election. I had the Deputy Returning Officer in my ear about where I could put my election fliers, seemingly oblivious to my opponents fliers super-glued to trees and paths ... it took her a day to act on my complaints – which were made only to confirm whether I could also place my material in similar locations. Then, as I simply walked by the polling booth, not a scrap of election material in hand,

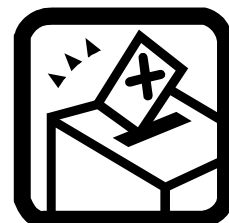
“Hypocrisy, thy name is NUSA ...”

Melinda Nunn (our President-elect for about 10 minutes) pounced on me and began lecturing me about how close to the polling booth I could stand. Upon innocently attempting to cast my vote, Jo Murray tried to give me a refresher course in the rules, by objecting to the fact that, while I marked my ballot paper, David held my policy statements. It is a breach of the constitution to have a person campaigning who is not a member of NUSA - which David is not. Yet, David was not campaigning, he was simply holding my materials so that I could vote. Regardless, however, it was interesting to note that the constitution certainly seemed to apply

to me! Hypocrisy, thy name is NUSA ...

This has all been followed up with quite some interest on the University Internet newsgroup nu.general - follow through to the threads on the election to read some of the pathetic comments. Both David and I have been personally attacked, as has the Liberal Club itself. Most disturbingly, I was called a reactionary and a whiner. Reactionary I can handle, but a whiner – well, my fragile heart could barely hold up against such an onslaught. I was disappointed, though, with the many false accusations made about me – such as that I had withdrawn from the election, and that was why I had been left of the ballot listings.

But so it goes on, and our President-elect has resigned even before taking up the position. I hope that there will be an explanation from her on this. As for me, I am running again the week of October 16-19 for the position of Faculty Rep for Economics and Commerce. Come one, come all and cast your vote – it would be very sad to lose a Liberal presence on NUSAC.



# The Newcastle Young Liberals in the Newcastle Herald ...

## University student elections “not a real election” declares returning officer

“NUSA - the University of Newcastle Student’s Association - are up to their old tricks,” said David Williams, President of the University of Newcastle Liberal Club.

“Campaigning has begun today for this week’s student elections, and with it the same old rorts,” David Williams said.

“The Liberal Club’s candidate was left completely off the ballot paper for the Education Officer position,” David Williams noted, “When we pointed this out, the returning officer allegedly re-drew the ballot at the last minute. By strange coincidence, our candidate was drawn at the bottom of the new ballot - where she just happened to be drawn in the other positions she is running for.”

“Still, what can we expect from NUSA,” David Williams said, “when the returning officer - Rachel Frecker - is a paid employee of NUSA and also a student, eligible to vote herself, in this week’s election”.

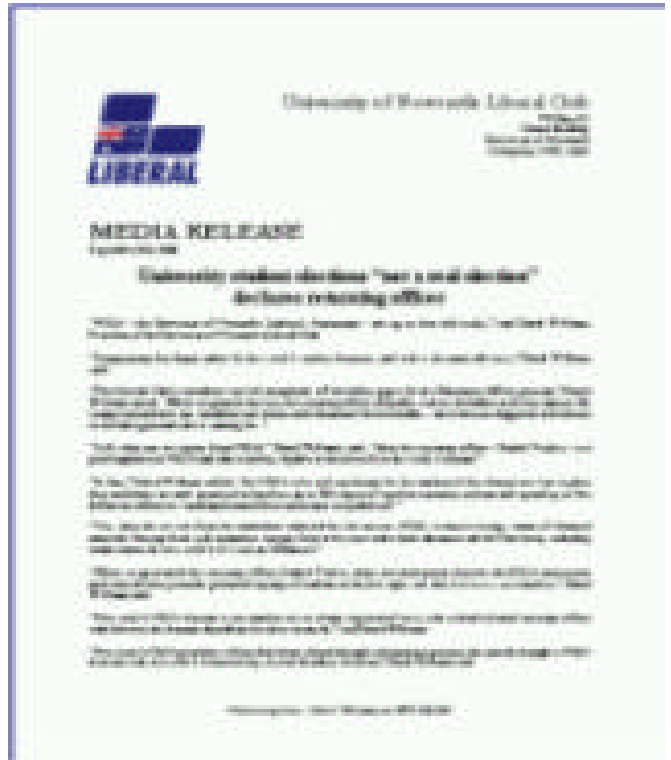
“In fact,” David Williams added, “the NUSA rules and regulations for the conduct of the election are very explicit that candidates are only permitted to hand out up to 500 copies of a policy statement and can only spend up to five dollars on adhesives - anything beyond these constraints are prohibited.”

“Yet, what do we see from the candidates endorsed by the current NUSA executive except reams of electoral materials flowing forth with comments ranging from every issue other than education and the University, including endorsement for next week’s S11 riots in Melbourne.”

“When we questioned the returning officer, Rachel Frecker, about this discrepancy between the NUSA constitution and what she has privately permitted a group of students to do, her reply was that **it is not a real election**,” David Williams said.

“This week’s NUSA election is just another rort in a long sequence of rorts, with a clearly biased returning officer who believes the elections should not be taken seriously,” said David Williams.

“Next year’s NUSA president will not have been elected through a democratic process, but merely through a NUSA decision with this week’s election



## Labor and the Unions

From Mark Scarfe

IT is appropriate that Sharon Grierson won the Labor pre-selection for the federal seat of Newcastle.

As a school teacher she works in one of the most heavily unionised workplaces in this country.

The ALP is now under the control of the union movement, a fact that was shown at its conference in Hobart where two thirds of delegates were current or former union officials.

This, when only a quarter of Australians new belong to a union, with numbers on the decline.

Newcastle is a traditional Labor town so if Ms Grierson does win election, what can she offer a town that is changing in so many ways?

I fear not much.

With a party that feels that Newcastle is a safe seat, why would they d any money here if they already have the majority vote?

With an election within the next 12 months, will the citizens of this great town be happy to toe the party line once again?

Mark Scarfe  
Belmont North  
October 2



**Questions:** Newcastle University Liberal candidate Kara Densby claims she has been singled out for not following a 'radical' line.—*Picture by Wade Maguire.*

## Dirty tricks alleged in Uni election

POLITICAL tensions have emerged in the University of Newcastle student's elections.

The Liberal Party has accused left-wing interests of dirty tricks against a conservative candidate.

At stake are executive positions on the Newcastle University Students Association, which oversees a \$1.3million budget.

Arts/Commerce student Kara Densby, 20, is standing for the Liberals for the position of education officer.

Ms Densby claimed she had been left off the ballot paper.

Her complaints prompted a redraw.

She is last on the ballot.

Among her policies is support for voluntary student unionism.

That policy is supported by the Federal Coalition Government but strongly opposed by student associations.

Ms Densby believes she is paying for not falling into step with student 'radicals'.

Newcastle University Students Association deputy returning officer Justine Atkinson denied any bias had been shown against the Newcastle Liberal Club candidate.

Political equality was written into the organisation's charter, she said.

Well done Kara Densby ('Dirty tricks alleged uni election' NH 5/9) for standing up for your beliefs. Political equality may be written into the students association policy but it is my opinion that these are only words and certainly not followed by the political left-wing radicals.

**Elaine Patterson, Kotara**

Editor's note: Elaine Patterson is a retired independent member of the Newcastle City Council

### 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](mailto:youngliberals@hotmail.com)



PO Box 65  
Union Building  
Callaghan 2308

Phone: 0419 226 354  
Fax: 02 4921 6911

Email: [youngliberals@hotmail.com](mailto:youngliberals@hotmail.com)  
**Article contributions welcome!**

**NEWCASTLE YOUNG  
LIBERALS**

*Taking Newcastle forward*

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

## What the Liberal Party means

### An extract from the maiden speech of John Howard, Member for Bennelong concerning the 1974 Budget (26 September, 1974)

I come here not only as a representative of the 69,000 electors of Bennelong but also as a member of the Liberal Party of Australia. It is a Party of which I have had membership for the past 17 years, a Party whose basic philosophy I have never doubted, and a Party which I still believe commands the greatest breadth of political base of any political party in Australia. I am pleased to sit on these benches with my colleagues of the Australian Country Party. I, for one, applaud and endorse the formation of a joint Opposition front bench. I think that it has given to the workings of the Opposition in this Parliament a thrust and effectiveness which will enable us to do well in presenting the anti-socialist cause in Australia.

I have never doubted the relevance of the basic philosophy of the Liberal Party to the needs and demands of Australia. The philoso-

phy of the Liberal Party has been expounded by many who are far more eloquent and knowledgeable than I. In recent times I can find no better enunciation of the basic principles on which the Opposition Parties are built than in a quotation from a speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Snedden) when opening the joint Opposition campaign for the election in May this year. He said:

*The Liberal and Country Parties offer you an Australia built on deep respect for the individual. On his, and her, dignity and freedom. The right to succeed, to accept responsibility, to work harder if they wish and to be rewarded for it. The individual's success is the community's success.*

I repeat those words because they form the basis of my approach to the Budget:

***The individual's success is the community's success.***

In those words one finds summed up the differences that lie between members of the Government and we on this side of the House. Inherent in that proposition that the individual's success is the community's success is that it is only through the creation of community wealth by the efforts of individuals in the com-

munity that it is possible for government to undertake social welfare and to fund their operations. I think that the Government has ignored the place of the individual, not only in the Budget which was presented by the Treasurer (Mr Crean) last week but also in many of its economic policies undertaken since it took office. The Government has ignored the fact that it is necessary to give incentive and help to the individual. It is on that rock that I believe the Budget that has been presented founders. For that reason I lend my very strong support to the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition on Tuesday of this week when he documented in a very lethal fashion the shortcomings of the Government's economic policies.

...

It will hurt a lot of people. It will make a lot of people feel that real freedom of choice is under very, very direct attack, because there are many hundreds of thousands of people in this community who are prepared to make additional sacrifices to exercise a freedom of choice. They are not privileged people, but they are people who feel **they ought to have the right to exercise this freedom of choice**. That freedom of choice is under very, very severe attack and limitation by this Budget.