

# CACTUS

*For those who thrive in a harsh environment*

**Senator**

**Mitch Fifield re-  
veals all about**

**Labors Great Big  
New Tax**

**O-Week Edition 2012**

**Cocktails  
and politics:  
The biggest  
event on the  
Liberal  
Calendar**

**'How to Write a  
Left Wing Es-  
say' with  
Robert  
Langdon**

**21**

**GREAT  
READS FOR  
A BUDDING  
LIBERAL**

**Same drop**

**Politics, Budget and  
Beer— Canberra Trip**

**2012**







La Trobe University  
**LIBERAL CLUB**

**Edited by Jemma Townson**

**Please feel free to contact the club**

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**Matthew Guy MP**

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***Cactus February 2012***



## President's Report for 2012

Welcome to our first edition of Cactus for the year. If you are reading this then you have already made a step in the right direction (pardon the pun).

I'd like to welcome, on behalf of the La Trobe University Liberal Club, all our new members for 2012. Liberal Students is an excellent movement that allows students like you to interact with like minded people both socially and politically.

In this edition you will find key dates for events, club meetings and functions we have coming up throughout the year - everything you need to know about being a Liberal Student... well almost everything... we have to keep some stories for the pub.

First off I would like to invite you to the clubs O-Week Tour of Parliament House with Matthew Guy MP, followed by drinks at Liberal Party headquarters 104 Exhibition Street. This event will be held on Tuesday 28th February.

I joined the club in 2009 and haven't looked back. The opportunities that have been presented to me in the last 3 years are some that I would have never received if I had not been apart of the club. You are following in the footsteps of some of the greats. The Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy and Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Nick Wakeling, are both previous club presidents. Sophie Mirabella, Scott Ryan, Kelly O'Dwyer, and Mitch Fifield are just

some of the many that cut their teeth in student politics.

Last year was an exciting and challenging year for the club, but what we put in we got back ten-fold. Our O-Week saw another year of engaged, enthusiastic club members enter the ranks.

The SRC elections in September were certainly memorable and along with our normal coalition with Labor Right we formed a motley crew with campaigners from the Asian Students Association and the Chinese Society, the Turkish Society and the Islamic Society. After a long, tiring week we polled 44%. The highest poll for a number of years.

Also this year we had more regular meetings with debate topics such as 'Monarchy vs the Republic' and 'The La Trobe University Liberal Club supports the legalisation of marijuana.' All first years are encouraged to enter into the debates either formally or at the pub!

By joining the club you become apart of an organisation called the Australian Liberal Students Federation (ALSF). For more than thirty years liberal students from across Australia have been fighting the good fight on campus. We have fought long and hard for voluntary student unionism, which became a reality in 2005. Twice we have had to face the battle since, and now the Gillard government is committed to reintroducing compulsory fees. The club is wholly against this Great Big Tax and I urge you to check out [www.stopstudenttaxes.com](http://www.stopstudenttaxes.com) for the whole story.



Each year along with clubs throughout Australia we hold heaps of great events for you as first years to enjoy. Every year we travel to Canberra to hear the disgraceful budget being handed down, and meet with MPs and senators from Australia. Also in 2012 we will be travelling to Sydney for the ALSF conference as well as a litany of social functions with fellow liberal students. As I say to every new member of the club, how much you get involved is for you to decide, yet the more you get involved, the greater the reward will be.



## Immediate Past President:

### Robert Langdon

To all the first years that are reading this and who have joined the La Trobe University Liberal Club, I commend you on your decision. Joining the club was one of the best decisions I ever made on campus. I have gained lots of experience and I have made many friendships that will be long lasting as a result of joining the club.

In 2006, I wandered over to the Liberal Club as a curious first year and two years later was elected President. I served from 2008 to 2010. In 2010, I was elected Vice-President of the Australian Liberal Students' Federation (ALSF) and worked full time for a Federal Member of Parliament in the lead up to the 2010 Federal Election.

I write in this O-Week edition of *Cactus* as the Immediate Past President of the club and I would like to tell you a bit about the political environment on campus. As you may be aware from your first moments on campus, La Trobe University is an extremely politically active university.

Marxist posters are planted everywhere on campus. The group responsible for this rubbish is known as Socialist Alternative, comprised of professional students and hippies in their ninth or tenth year of an Arts Degree, who have no intention of graduating and who exist only to promote political ideals that fell with the Berlin Wall. They are a walking contradiction. For example, they support gender equality between men and women, yet oppose the War in Afghanistan because it was led by the United States, while ignoring the fact

that this war aims to defeat an enemy, the Taliban, who were one of the worst oppressors of women in the 20th century.

Elsewhere on campus are two Labor factions, full of professional student politicians, who run for positions on student unions to add a line to their CV. Labor Left are the dominant Labor faction on campus and run the Union, while Labor Right are the better of two evils. Most members of these two factions are members of the Labor Party. These two control the National Union of Students (NUS) which in my opinion is probably the most dysfunctional and corrupt organisation in Australia. The NUS has spent much of the last three years lobbying the Federal Government as they seek to reintroduce Compulsory Student Unionism (CSU). Much of this lobbying has been successful. Despite promising at the 2007 Federal Election that VSU was not under threat, today, the Labor Government has abolished it. This is one of the main issues on campus.

In 2005, the Coalition government lifted a huge financial burden on students by making student union membership voluntary, empowering students to choose which services matter to them. The benefits have been enormous, with students saving up to \$600 per year. Labor has just reintroduced CSU. The Gillard Government's policy removes this choice, forcing students to pay \$250 for services they may not want or be able to afford. This money is often spent on far left political propaganda, rather than providing services on campus.

The La Trobe University Liberal Club is the only champion of small government, individual freedom and individual responsibility on campus. We strongly oppose this policy and are working closely with the ALSF and



the Federal Opposition on a national campaign called Stop Student Taxes to oppose CSU. In 2009, the ALSF was successful in blocking Labor's first attempts to reintroduce CSU by convincing Senator Steve Fielding to block the passage of CSU. However, as a result of the recent Federal Election, our efforts have shifted from those who held the balance of power in the Senate to the rural independents who hold the balance in the House of Representatives.

I encourage all new members to get involved. The fight for VSU is just one of the many activities the club partakes in. This article doesn't take into account state and federal Elections, student elections, our pilgrimage to Canberra during the Federal Budget Week, our trip to ALSF Federal Council and a myriad of other social functions put on every month for members. You will read plenty about these activities in this edition of *Cactus*.

I look forward to meeting all the new members of the club over the coming months and I invite you to attend our annual drinks on the roof function at '104'; the colloquial name for the headquarters of the Victorian Liberal Party.



# Who's Who

If you're going to name drop at a party— do it well!



Matthew Guy MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Life Member LULC  
Former President of LULC



Kelly O'Dwyer MP  
Member for Higgins, Liberal Students all worked hard on her campaign with great results in 2009. Attends all our events



Craig Ondarchie MLC  
Newly Elected, Only Lib in the North other than M. Guy— Loves cricket and family, all— round good guy.



Scott Ryan MP  
Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Fair Competition. Life Member of MULC. Elected in 2007. Excellent Public Speaker



Nick Wakeling MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for Health  
Life Member of LULC



Sophie Mirabella MP  
Member for Indi. Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. Famous for telling it like it is.



Bernie Finn MLC  
Elected to the Upper House in 2006 after serving in the lower house.  
Loves Liberal Students and will always take time out for us.



Mitch Fifield MP Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Carers and the Voluntary Sector. Defender of Voluntary Student Unionism.



Jan Kronberg MLC  
Our Friend in the east. Does a lot in the community for womens groups and small business

Remember this is just the start. By the end of this year you'll be name dropping along with the best of them!!



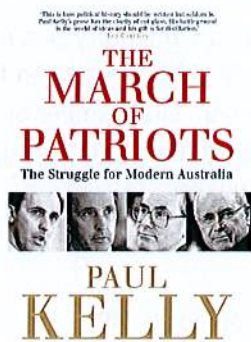
## Australian Politics Generally

Paul Kelly, *The End of Certainty*.

This is a long but readable book on the events of the 1980s and early 1990s

Paul Kelly, *March of the Patriots*

Follows the political lives of Paul Keating and John Howard. Relatively unbiased.



Michelle Gratten (ed.) *Australian Prime Ministers*. Australian History through the lives of its Prime Ministers.

### The Liberal Party

Gerald Henderson, *Menzies Child*.

A candid, somewhat coy account regarding the history of the formation of the Liberal Party by a former liberal staffer.

Andrew Norton. 'Liberalism and the Liberal Party of Australia' in the *The Politics of Australian Society*, Edited by Paul Boreham et al. A pro-liberal account, assess liberal and con-

servative elements of the Liberal Party. Has a guide to other publications on the party

John Nethercote (ed.), *Liberalism and the Australian Federation*. A variety of authors have combined to provide an overview of liberalism and the Liberal Party (or its predecessors) from 1901 to 2001.

Judith Brett, *Robert Menzies' Forgotten People*. The psychobabble in the second part of the book caused it to get a few bad reviews, but the first part is by far the best thing written by a leftist about the origins of Liberal thinking and is well worth the read.

### Liberalism

Greg Melleuish, *A Short History of Australian Liberalism*. The title is self explanatory. Available from the centre of independent studies.

[www.cis.org.au](http://www.cis.org.au)

Ian Hancock, *National and Permanent*. Less acerbic than Hendersons text, this account of the Menzies era debunks some myths and misconceptions Menzies and the party he lead.

John Gray, *Liberalism*. John Gray's views become increasingly crack-pot from the early 1990s, but this book is from

the 1980s and is an OK survey of the history of liberal thought.

Stephen Holmes, 'The Liberal Idea' in his *Passions and Constraint*. Holmes is concerned mostly with the history of Liberal ideas, and is a tad on the left of liberal tradition, but is very well-informed, very sharp and always worth reading.

### The ALP

Don Watson, *Recollections of a Bleeding Heart*. An account of working for Paul Keating. Put aside any dislike to Keating and ignore Watson's own personal beliefs- reading a couple hundred pages of this long book provides more insight to what federal politics is like behind the scenes than anything else that's available.

John Warhurst and Andrew Parkin (eds), *The Machine*. Labor confronts the future. A collection of essays about the ALP, including all the various state branches.

Mark Latham, *The Latham Diaries*. Introspective musings of a former politician, or the biggest, most public betrayal against his former Labor friends and colleagues? The Latham Diaries provide any budding politician a depressing insight in to the hardball game of the Labor machine politics. Not for the squeamish



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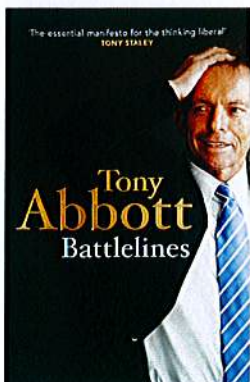
## Elections and Voting Behaviours

Clive Bean and Ian McAllister, 'From Impossibility to Certainty: Explaining the Coalition's Victory in 2001', in John Warhurst and Marian Simms, 2001: The Centenary Election. For understanding who and why they vote for the various parties.

Pamela Williams, The Victory. A very easy and enjoyable read about the great victory in 1996 of John Howard over Keating. A counter-point to this insiders' account is David Marr et.al. Dark Victory. A Partisan and at time paranoid collection of various opinions as to the "real reason" how and why Howard won the 2001 Election, despite wishful predictions of his demise from the fourth estate

## Conservatism

Tony Abbott Battlelines. An easy read that follows the rise of Tony Abbott and his views on conservatism, the monarchy and welfare. Published before he became leader of the Liberal Party.



Peter Costello The Costello Memoirs. An autobiography from the best treasurer of our time. Gives a candid account into his personal, political and even student life, including his much speculated relationship with Howard. The 5 chapters on tax reform are not for the faint hearted.

### THE COSTELLO MEMOIRS



PETER COSTELLO  
WITH PETER COLEMAN

Jerry Muller, Conservatism an anthology of social and political thought from David Hume to the present day. Contains a useful introduction distinguishing orthodoxy and conservatism.

## Markets

Milton and Rose Friedman, 'The Power of the Market' in their Free to Choose. Friedman is probably the most famous 20<sup>th</sup> Century free-market economist, partly because he writes very clearly. He is a user-friendly figure who provides an easy introduction to market ideas.

Schools' Brief 'State and Market', The Economist, 17 February 1996, pp.66-67. Available on the library's online catalogue. A remarkably concise account of how markets work and the types of markets failures.



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## Hack Speak

### AGM ( Annual General Meeting)

Most organizations have an AGM; this is where the new executive is elected.

### ALP Club

Campus incarnation of the socialist left faction of the ALP. Currently dominate the SRC.

### ALSF (Australian Liberal Students Federation)

Peak representative body for Liberal Clubs. In past years it was the focal point for nasty factional battles, however it underwent significant reform in 1996.

### AUJS (Australasian Union of Jewish Students)

Jewish representative organization who has a history of being politically 'solid.'

### Caucus

A necessity of every political group, they vary as to whether or not they are binding on their members. Ours are not, but the left generally are. A group's discussions are held in private before a united front is presented in public about a particular issue. Liberal Students have been known to refer to a caucus as a cactus— being the pricks are on the outside!

### Clark v University of Melbourne

In 1977, Melbourne University SRC Treasure Robert Clark (ALSF Life Member and now state member for Box Hill) won a case against Melbourne University in the Supreme Court of Victoria. The legal effect of the decision was to ensure that student organization spent student money on goods and services of benefit to those who funded them— not some hideous lefty campaign. Unfortunately for moderate, everyday students, organizations such as the SRC con-

tinues to flout the law for the next few decades.

**CSU( Compulsory Student Unionism)** Outlawed by the former Howard Government, CSU saw students pay compulsory fees whether they wanted the positions put forward by their student union or the services it offered. Shamefully reinstated by the Labor Government in 2011.

### Dirt Sheet (aka shit sheet):

1. Litany of lies and scurrilous innuendo published by your opponents about you in an attempt to damage you politically.

2. Important, relevant and factual information about your opponents that you publish to allow voters to make an informed choice.

### Disgrace

Commonly used accusation directed at an intoxicated Liberal Club member by their colleagues.

### Dodgy

Definition of an action that doesn't seem quite right

### Doing the Numbers

Mythical process of trying to determine who has the numbers to win a particular ballot. Lobbying, pleading, begging, buying or bullying for votes.

### Front

Notorious political tactic used by our opponents where a group of students claim to represent a particular interest in the hope of attracting votes and directing them to their true masters. Done with considerable success by the ALP Club in 2008 with 'Free Parking' and 'More Beer'

### Guild

The 'other' student organization (the first being the SRC) that makes financial decisions of the student guild (union). Unfortunately exclusively controlled by trots given that you need to be a member to a) stand for elections and b) vote in said elec-

tions. No right minded person is going to cough up more than \$100 per annum for nothing but a membership card. Liberals wont be seizing control anytime soon.

### Hack

One who still finds student politics enjoyable and rewarding after a few years. If you're reading this magazine, you are on your way!

### Incompetent

Term frequently used to describe political opponents of little talent. See SRC.

### Independent

Someone who claims to be independent is either:

Confused

A Liar

### Labor Club

Labor Right on Campus. Membership is growing and Liberal Clubs often have to make the hard decision to join forces with them during SRC election time.

### Labor Unity

Right-wing ALP faction, inhabited (loosely speaking) by Shorten, Rudd, Conroy, Swan and others.

### Labor Students (LS)

The National labor left student faction. Continually rebranded under a different name following ever-frequent splits in the caucus room.

### Landeryou, Andrew

Former student politician said to have entered in shady deals with the Melbourne University Student Union that eventually saw the downfall of the ALP administration in 2003. Now runs a slanderous blog.



## **National Union of Students (NUS)**

Allegedly the peak representative body of campus student unions. Its true purpose is to provide jobs for ALP hacks and disseminate ALP propaganda on university campuses across the country. Previously siphoned billions of dollars of student money since its inception, before VSU stopped the rot.

## **One-Oh-Four** (104 Exhibition St)

Victorian Liberal Party HQ. Known to be the venue of many rooftop parties hosted by liberal students.

## **Preferences**

Position on somebody's how to vote card

## **Quorum**

The min number of people required to hold a club or committee meeting. An inquorate meeting means no business can be conducted. "Pulling Quorum" is the somewhat commonly used practice where you and your supporters leave upon realizing that you don't have the numbers, thus rendering the meeting inquorate.

## **Rabelais**

Trot rag with a readership of about 200. Also the University's official student newspaper. Commonly used by the campus lefties to slag off their political opponents, generally us. Current editor is quite moderate, and allows us to publish articles.

## **Ray, Darren**

Former ALP-connected, corrupt Melbourne Uni Students Union Chief who embezzled a lazy \$182,00 from tax payers and students. Currently being asked to pick up the soap in the shower in Victoria's Prisons system after being jailed in February 2008.

Exhibit A as to why VSU > CSU.

## **RO (returning officer)**

The person who runs elections. Required to listen to your complaints about an opponents illegitimate or illegal conduct. Current RO that's kicking around is an ex Labor staffer who is passively biased and soft.

## **Rolled**

Term used to describe one who has been defeated in a ballot.

## **Sex**

A pastime that some become involved in in student politics for hope of finding t. It shall be for you to judge how successful these people are!

## **Soft**

The opposite of Solid

## **Solid**

A person, organization or policy can be described as solid if it is in line with your opinions as to what is right.

## **Solid Citizen**

Essentially, the Liberal Student Version of the Trot's 'comrade.' It is a mark of respect and trust of somebody

## **SRC**

Students Representative Council.

Currently dominated by a coalition of Labor Left hacks and unfavorable socialists,. The more attractive of the two student organizations to win office in- SRC office bearers are paid a stipend. However, this generally doesn't bring competence to the Council- at best it is financially mismanaged, and at worst blatantly raped of its resources for loony left campaigns. See incompetent.

LULC currently holds 2 committee spots and one office bearer position.

## **Stack**

Someone who joins an organization purely to vote for a particular candidate. Their joining is usually orga-

nized and paid for by the lucky candidate.

## **Trot**

Anyone who thought Leon Trotsky was the best thing since Bloody Sunday. Now, anybody who espouses ideas that are considered to be relatively left-wing, which explains describing other Liberals (Judith Troeth et al) as trots and why (more rarely) people we call trots call other people trots.

## **Turd**

Frequently used term to describe one who Liberal Students find offensive. Often used as an appendage or modification to a name, e.g. the Leader of the Greens may be referred to as 'Bob Turd.'

## **VSU (Voluntary Student Unionism)**

The ability to decide for yourself whether or not you join the student union. VSU has been the *raison d'etre* of the ALSF and individual Liberal Clubs since the 1970s and was achieved in 2006. Hated by the campus left, the University and others who like to spend your money.

## **"What About..."**

Perfectly understandable beginning to things you know nothing about. Never be afraid to ask questions- we all started out that way.

## **YLS (Young Liberals)**

Associated youth branch of the Liberal Party, has been a resurgence in the last 18 months.



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## A Golden Opportunity for the Liberal Party

Matthew Mast

**Despite our enthusiastic predictions for a return to government, it is key that the party recognises the golden opportunity laid out before it. The possibility of a return not only to office but of liberal ideas to the heart of the nation, which can only be achieved with a relevant and focused renewal of the liberal message. The Labor Party's failings have become just what the party requires.**

Ever since Tony Abbott ascended to the leadership of the Federal Liberal Party in 2009, polling has progressively indicated a generous Coalition election victory. The Labor Party has since then fallen to record low poll figures, replaced a leader and become unable to shake off a never ending trap of policy and publicity blunders. With the additional renewed energy of the Opposition, fighting hard to procure a new election for the people, things have not been looking up for the Gillard minority government. It is becoming more and more likely that from anywhere between now and 2013 there will be an election and that the Coalition is in a favourable position.

Such a situation in Australian Politics is generally without precedent. Incumbent governments tend to take some time to fall apart; they don't usually take as many successive hits regarding trust with the public and Oppositions prove ineffective whilst they engage in introspective soul searching and renewal. The prospect of a traditionally premature return to government

and the catastrophic implosion of the Labor administration means that for Liberals it's high time they seriously consider their *own* future. But it can not simply be a matter of finding strategies to reach a victory: Australia is at a point where the values of central and leftist government are for the time being on the low and with a leader who has proven he can amplify this sentiment there is indeed a strong chance that if the party can manage to proceed to tap in to and answer what it is that *truly* troubles and inspires the people with some positive and bold solutions of its own, it can both (yes) win the election, but more importantly fundamentally assert the dominance of the values of liberty and good governance in place of the government's central planning and oversight, a real paradigm shifter. It is only possible to do so with a more relevant, positive and *personal* approach which in Australia requires just what has transpired- an effective opposition and a climate that begs change. Enter the human element with liberal appeal, and exit the day to day attack politics and reactionary policies.

The timing is right to think deeply about the way in which the Liberals can execute this superior strategy of ideological dominance by conceptual relevancy. The fusing of liberalism with the realities of every day life for the voters. As explained earlier it is important more than anything else that the Liberals seize on the opportunities which have been laid out before them by a disastrous government and a time where the people are ready to listen- to more than just 'no.' Given that Labor values are at a low in this country and support of the people for the government with it, it is now the precise moment to prepare to finally break through and fight a domi-

nant campaign and gain endorsement for a new policy agenda in Australia..

In the campaign, which will be the stage of exacting such a plan, there must before all else be a recognition and removal of our key weakness, using the current political climate to turn it into positives. It is in the remedying of this one weakness that the party can also find the greatest direction for the new vision spoken of.

The remaining strength of the Labor Party which proved in 2010 to damage the Liberals considerably and minimise Anti-Labor emotions. Primarily that *Labor always has been and has become even more so an interventionist party.* While this is certainly not a virtue, it is easily more set and more prone to offer vast services and money to the electors; think the National Broadband Network or the Building the Education Revolution. In 2010 the Coalition failed to counter this tactic, appearing the less generous and adventurous of the two, and entrenching in the mind of the people Tony Abbott's reputation as negative and reactionary.

It pays to recall that in this climate, when people grow tired of politics, policy can truly stand out. To this effect there has become a fierce distinction fostered by the government between 'investors' and 'slashers' of public spending. Labor reminded the people that an Abbott government would 'rip out' funding for hospitals, education and welfare. Despite warnings of gross debt and government inflation, the people of Australia are not libertarian minded folk and this is commonly ground that the Liberals lose out on when out of office.

There are obvious enough grounds for why the party must



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not follow suit, and should rather take the lead and communicate a better case for restrained spending and a reduction in the size of government which is more relevant to the daily travails of common people, and easy to argue for in the context of the damage the governments approaches to spending and intervention are inflicting on us. While it is hard to preach to the electorate about something like wage restraint, it is easy to engage the people in the argument through viewing damage done by self serving unions and the Fair Work Act- creations of the Labor way and the government. If this can happen, there will no longer be the element of fear bringing down the party's successes, and the debate can shift towards the party's liberal perspectives.

The best way at the moment to do this is to use the success of Abbott's aggressive political style but bring out the human quality. If this can be done, the party will be able to shift the current discourse that weakens it and will find its way into office with moral integrity behind their liberal policies. Thinking back to 'Menzies 'The Forgotten People', it would be an extremely valuable thing for the party to once again make the connection with the voters who have considered returning to it., preaching a true narrative about the values which our governments have drifted from but remain true to voters; thrift, hard work, home ownership and recognition of effort, with strongly principled policies and stand out reforms to facilitate prosperity in this new age. Talk about the morals of the question, bring the issue right into the home of the voter. And there are plenty of modern day issues to present as testament; the way in which national debt is accrued while

household expenses increase, the rising power of unions which have destroyed jobs in traditional workplaces, stopped work and harmed industries, the governments interference in our schools, hospitals and billing accounts, the incredible rise of welfare which is not on par with employment increases and threaten to divide society between the workers and the shirkers. There are more than enough. What is needed is for someone to articulate it, consistently, every day, and it is clear that Abbott's success in bringing out the worst of Labor is a valuable way to achieve this.

The philosophy of the thrifty and hard working individual is but one of the facets of a truly successful liberal policy. In articulating liberal values as relevant, we must think about how they can become this, as well as something the voters can desire. The Liberal Party needs to tap back into the aspirations of the common man, which it lost in 2007. It must convince people that they can achieve their dreams, that hard work will be met with success, and that business will be encouraged and embraced.

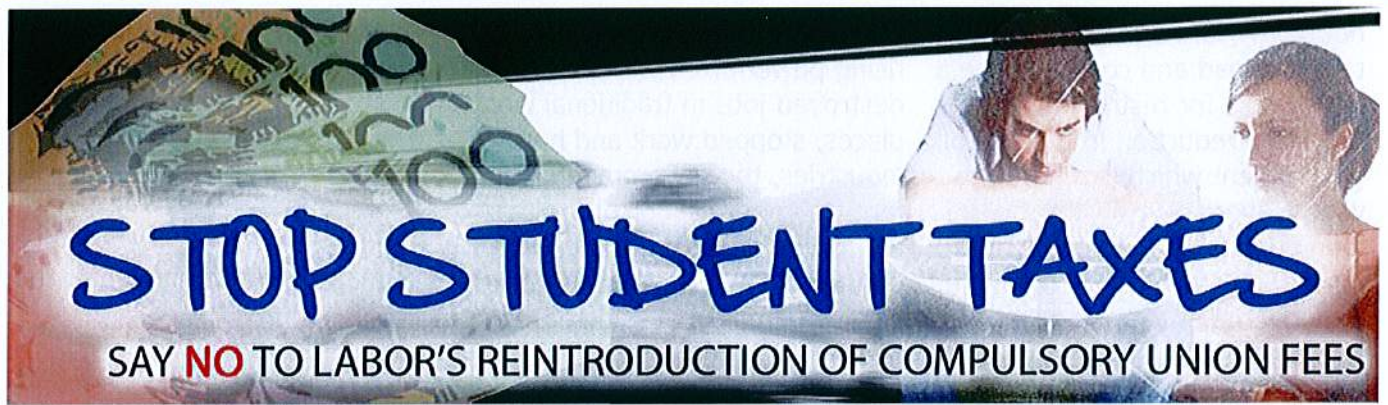
There are many policies which will be able to help Australia and the Liberal Party, but the main point of this particular piece is to outline that it must first be the strategy and vision that the party works on, and with a heavy focus on the great weakness of Labor's hip-pocket manipulations. We are optimistic for the future, but it is complacency which ends governments faster than anything else.

The past few years should be proof enough.

Matthew Mast is a second year LULC Member and doing a double arts major, politics and legal studies, second year.

He's a member of the Casey (fed) and Monbulk (vic) branches and an aspiring journo/policy researcher





## **Why did you have to pay \$263 to sign up to Uni?**

**The Gillard government just slugged students \$263 a year in the name of student services and representation.**

In 2005, the Coalition government lifted a huge financial burden on students by making student union membership voluntary, empowering students to choose which services matter to them. The benefits have been enormous, with students saving up to \$600 per year.

This choice has forced student unions to provide better services – the ones popular with real students – not student union leaders.

The Gillard government's student tax has removed this choice, forcing students to pay \$263 for services they may not want or be able to afford.

The Gillard government's student's tax will remove the incentive for student unions to provide the services real students demand.

The Gillard government's student tax will increase student debt – the last thing they need amidst the financial crisis.

***Join the fight against the Gillard government's student tax – because it's about students, not student unions.***



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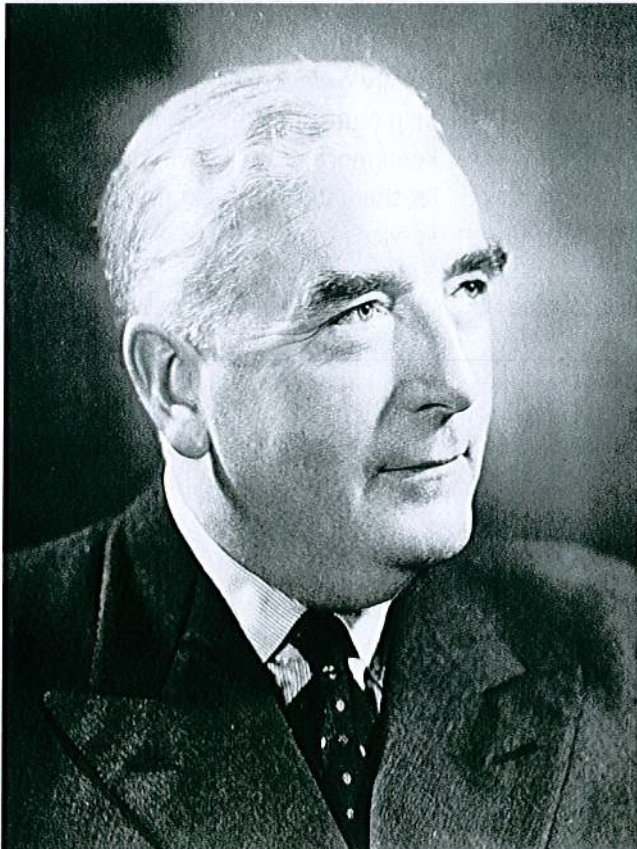
## Our Principles:

While the club has a diverse range of views, and those views are fostered, they are the general principles on which our political philosophy is built.

We believe in Liberal public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedoms, traditional Australian values, and strong national defence.

We believe that individual liberty and choice, including freedom of association, religion, speech and the right to property, are the keys to an autonomous and free civil society.

We believe that the government should not compete with the private sector, which is the best method of providing prosperity for all Australians.



We believe in the rule of law and justice giving all citizens equal rights and responsibilities.

We believe in security for the nation, local communities and citizens.

We believe that Liberalism, based on small government, individual rights and free markets, is the political philosophy best for Australia's future.



## Labor's \$250 Tax on Students

Nowhere is the difference between the Liberal and Labor Parties more evident than in our views on tax. Liberals think tax should be limited and Government should be as small as possible; never unnesseciarily intruding in the lives of citizens, but the federal Labor Government thinks the solution to every problem is to tax, yax and then tax some more.

With carbon tax, mining tax and a student tax all on the cards for 2011, the Government is beginning to reach in to Austraklian's pockets at an alarming rate.

Labor's Student tax was brought before parliament last year, its a disgraceful attempt to slug Australian students with a fee of up to \$263 a year, supposedly for services that most students neither want nor use.

The coalition freed students from the upfront compulsory fee burden in 2005 when it introduced voluntary student unionism (VSU). Our reforms ensured that students could finally enjoy their right to freedom of association and choose for themselves whether they wished to spend their hard-earned money supporting particular services.

Many students were tired of seeing their money wasted on extreme political campaigns . But ultimately this debate is not about whether student unions promote left-wing or right-wing causes. The central issue is that under Labor's plan, many students will be compelled to support student organizations against their will.

Labor claim this new tax on students is needed to sustain services. But it is not the role of student unions or universities to behave like a fourth tier of government. Federal , state and

local governments provide a social safety net for the whole community, students included.

The position of the Government, many university vice-chancellors and student unions seems to be that students are not capable of making their own judgments about whether they wish to voluntarily support student services. Instead, they must be compelled.

This is a particularly condescending view. Students are trusted to choose their own institution, course and subjects. When they do so, they make long-term judgments about issues such as their future career path. Yet their critical faculties supposedly leave them when it comes to deciding whether they will need particular services.

Labor argue that their plan does not amount to compulsory student unionism because the university would collect the fee rather than the union. This is a con and a sham. Students can choose not to be a union member, but will still have to pay an equivalent fee, much of which will be passed to student unions. It's "no fee, no start."

Contrary to claims of VSU opponents, the argument that fees are needed to fund university sport doesn't withstand scrutiny. Thousands of community sporting clubs exists all over the country, funded by their participants

And run by volunteers, the don't need to

compel support. Community sporting clubs survive and prosper because they offer something people want a price they are willing to pay. There is a lesson in hat for student unions.

When a student union claims it cannot survive without compulsory fees it is an admission of failure. It is a confession what they are offering is



not attractive enough to elect voluntary support. Therefore that support must be compelled.

Instead student unions need to change their attitudes and begin to offer what students want, not what unions think students should want.. The smart students union will survive, because they will offer students the facilities and services they desire at a price they are willing to pay.

The best way to help struggling students is not to hit them with a new tax to fund services chosen by a university or union, The best way to help students is to allow them to keep more of their own money and let them decide which non-academic services they need.

Today's students are Australia's future. Labor should show more faith in them.

**Senator Mitch Fifield is a Senator for Victoria since 2004 and is the Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate and Shadow Minister for Disabilities, Carers and the Voluntary Sector.**



# Canberra Trip 2012

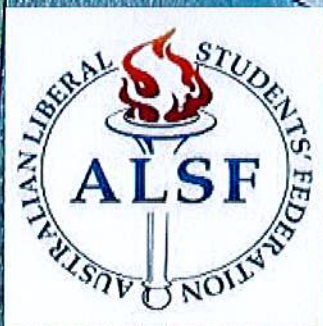
**Australian Liberal Students Federation  
Annual Budget Trip.**

**Come and meet with MPs from all over  
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**May 8th, 9th and 10th**

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## How to write a left-wing essay

If you want good marks at university, then pander to the biases of your teacher. This is the key to underlying lesson many first year students learn, the hard way, with poorly graded essays that most likely was written after lots of hard work and research

However, below are the secrets every successful second and third year humanities students knows. The art of writing a left-wing essay to appease your lecturer or tutor is actually more of a science and can be broken down into a process driven approach.

Essentially, the key fundamental rule to this approach is to omit anything that your lecturer or tutor may disagree with. So how does one work out what their biases are?

The sensible student who seeks academic success must establish a profile for their lecturer, so that everything going into the essay can be calculated to pay a dividend...This is done not just be careful examination of reading materials, but by paying attention to off the record, sly, on-the-side remarks. When your lecturer begins to wander from the subject material and instead talk about family life, current events or jokes at the expense of the prime minister, do not put your pen down and dismiss it as unimportant. This is the wrong move. Instead make note of these remarks to successfully build a profile for the

examiner.

Some examiners are openly Marxist and in these scenarios half your work is done. Other examiners are far more coy about their views, but will drop on the side comments in reference to topics like homophobia, multiculturalism and unspoiled nature.

Another way to build a profile for you examiner is to research their past work. The university had an extensive website that has profiles on almost all academic staff listed with their previous work. A good thirty minutes research on the brief content of their work is far more appealing in my opinion than five or six hours of hard work. Especially considering which approach is likely to produce a desirable grade.

The first paragraph of your essay should invoke an emotional state in the examiner. Nothing is better for an examiner then re-reading their own views being rehashed by a student of theirs.

The alternative approach to this is to tackle their bias head on, but this is a dangerous move. By tackling them head on, your examiner most likely will become highly critical of your work and unable to put aside their bias and reward you on merit. Instead, exploit their bias and have them dancing to your own tune.

There are some right-wingers out there who are critical of this approach, but the straight As you receive as a result of minimal work in contrast to their low pass-

ing graded is enough of a retort to demonstrate the merits of this approach.

If you would like to learn more about writing a left wing essay, it is recommended you read Mark Lopez's 'The little black school book.'

**Robert Langdon is the Immediate Past president of La Trobe University Liberal Club and recent completed his law degree.**



## Liberalism and Conservatism

Andrew Moore

In the Liberal Party of Australia there are different strands of ideology; this essay is an introduction to those ideas. The two main strands of thought that have emerged within the party are liberalism and conservatism. Liberalism is best understood when fragmented into neoliberalism, social liberalism and classical liberalism. Conservatism has a strong focus on tradition and slow change. The history of the party reveals a diverse tradition in ways of thinking.

The Liberal Party is rooted in socially liberal traditions; however, there has been a shift to a more socially conservative and (economically) neoliberal outlook. Sir Robert Menzies, who was the main force behind the formation of The Liberal Party of Australia in 1945 and was its leader until 1966, was very much a social liberal for his time. This tradition was largely continued in Liberal Party leadership (though there were always constructive disagreements within the party over ideology) until Malcolm Fraser lost his prime ministership to Bob Hawke. During this time there was some internal conflict between the social liberals, called

'wets', and the socially conservative and neoliberals, called 'dries'. It is widely agreed that in the Liberal Party of Australia's 13-year stint in opposition the dries gained the upper hand and eventually John Howard took the Liberal Party of Australia to victory in 1996. However, there remains a group of vocal social liberals or wets in the party to this day as was seen in recent times with Brendan Nelson and Malcolm Turnbull serving for a period of time as leader of the party.



Liberalism, first and foremost, focuses on the value of the individual. Classical liberalism focuses on the primacy of individual rights in order to be free from arbitrary rule by the state. Rights such as fair trial, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and rights to own property are essential to political liberals, however, political liberals view government as an important institution to defend individual rights, without imped-

ing on them. Classical liberalism also supports a free market, or laissez faire capitalism.

Social liberalism is the idea that the state should eliminate certain evils in order to make sure that citizens' basic needs are met, such as freedom from poverty, education and health care. This view mandates that the state allows some inequality, in order to make individuals work hard, but that inequality can be ameliorated by those who are better-off, just not to the extent that hard work isn't generously rewarded. Social liberals are referred to in the media as "small l liberals", they tend to be more to the center of the political spectrum, rather than hard right.

Neoliberalism emerged in the 1970s as a follow-on from classical liberalism and a response to social liberalism. It is characterised by a belief that things like welfare, taxes and government regulation had gone too far. This view taken to its extreme sees the state's role as very small, only needing to concern itself with law and order, international relations and defence.

Conservatism is the other main strand of ideology in the Liberal Party of Australia. In understanding conservatism it helps to understand its historical roots; con-



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servatism was coined in revolutions, such as the French Revolution. These conservatives wanted slow and gradual change in placing limits of the King's (Louis XIV's) power and allowing more democratisation in the decisions of the legislature. This was opposed to the radicals who wanted rapid change in over-throwing the King and putting in place a completely new political framework. In "Battle Lines" (2009), Tony Abbott makes a distinction between two semi-oppositional views of conservatism saying "there are essentially two types of conservative; those who fear change and instinctively resist it, and those who respect the decisions society has made and want the future to reflect the best elements of the past". This distinction is important as conservatism is often falsely represented to purely mean resistance to change, especially by leftist media.

Conservatism is a moral, as well as a political ideology. As the example of the French Revolution demonstrates, social conservatives place large emphasis on existing institutions, postulating that they have intrinsic value and worth, rather than creating change for change's sake. There is a strong sense of nationalism in conservative thought, attempting to represent a nation as unified in one bloc. Conservatism has also come to represent the idea of society interacting via a certain set of beliefs (especially religious ones) in order to func-

tion optimally. Though conservatism is influenced by religious thought, many people who use the conservative label have no religious affiliation. Social conservatism is an important offshoot in conservative thought which focuses on enforcing or encouraging the aforementioned set of values or behaviors. It is too simplistic to view people as fitting into any one strand of liberalism or conservatism, rather that there are parts taken from each to form an individual's ideas.

Many in the media have pointed out the apparent conflict between liberalism and conservatism within the Liberal Party of Australia. The most controversial element of conservatism when compared to liberalism is the idea of limiting individual rights, assuming it promotes societal harmony. This is exemplified in the issue of gay marriage, To a liberal there is nothing inhibiting gay marriage as it allows for more individual rights, whereas, to a conservative gay marriage goes against traditional values and should not be allowed.

Though the ideas of conservatism and liberalism contradict, they also depend on each other to produce a functional state. After all, there is little point in having individual freedom if there isn't a government to conserve it. This ideological conflict can actually be beneficial as it allows for discussion within the party to ensure the best decision can be

made on issues.

Even with the elevation of someone like Tony Abbot (more of a dry) to the leadership of the Liberal Party of Australia there is still a respectful and constructive disagreement in the ideas of liberalism and conservatism within the broad church of the Liberal Party.

**Andrew Moore is a 2nd Student at La Trobe and joined the club in June 2010.**



## Canberra Budget Trip 2011 – From the Eye of First Year

There is no more daunting of a feeling than to go out on a limb and join a campus political club during O-Week. No one would blame you if you were inclined to suspect that by joining the Latrobe University Liberal Club (LULC) you wouldn't expect there to be too much more than standard political events and meetings. I must admit this is how I first envisaged the club, but aside from the Presidents fondness of alcoholic beverages (preferably Cider) and the clubs "all you can drink" first year policy, it didn't hit me that the club would do allot more than standard and usually dry political activities. Well this was until I went to the annual Victorian Liberal Students Association (VLSA) Canberra Budget trip in May which revealed the real "mojo" of student politics.

The Latrobe delegation to Canberra was organized by the LULC committee, which as a member took the decision that a road trip rather than flight would be the best way to travel to Canberra. Although today each one of us on that committee came to reflect with disappointment on our former selves judgment, three "convoys" of cars took the eight and half hour drive to Canberra on a surprisingly warmish Melbourne day. My drive was characteristically filled with heated political arguments, loud and of course "Hip" music and frequent references to a person named "Tim Green" a meant to be fellow passenger, whom we never quite found. All in all we arrived to Canberra with our sanity reasonably in tact, where ahead of us a large list of social and political activities

would fill in our three days in the Nations Capital.

The Canberra Trip was filled with significant amounts of social activities rafting from social drinks and cocktails at parliament house, to social drinks at German Bars, to drinks at restaurants, hotel rooms or any inhabitable place in which one can drink with fellow Liberal friends and members of Parliament. Mooseheads, a popular bar in Canberra, was probably my favorite, where clouded but still eventful memories of shots with Monash University Liberal Club students and games of Billiards with Melbourne University Liberal Club students epitomized the brilliant networking and friendships that can be made on this trip. The social activities where typical of a good Liberal organized event small in cost but always fun! As a first year I was exposed at the social events to the more casual side of politics, a side if I may mention where you are likely to learn more about politics and the on goings in Canberra than by engaging in the formal political process. It would be very difficult to have much more fun than one can have at Liberal events at the Canberra trip and I would strongly recommend you put on your drinking caps and enjoy the raft of activities offered to you.

Aside from the social events of the Canberra trip was also a raft of excellent and highly politically stimulating events at Parliament house during the busiest week in Canberra during the year. There is really nothing quite like being apart of the action at parliament house in Canberra where instead of relying upon journalists to provide you with the days scoop, you can instead witness the events in person, listen to the mumblings and chatters of the corridors of parliament and quite literally dis-

cuss such matters with MP's over coffee or have the unfortunate experience of waiting inline at "Aussies Café" behind Bob Brown (the real Prime Minister) while he orders his usual inner city replica "Soi Latte". Without sounding clique, for myself, a typical political hack, the best part of the political side of this trip was to have the privileged of sitting in the gallery during the Hon. Tony Abbotts budget in reply speech. It is very difficult to not get caught up in the excitement of this extraordinary sitting of the house, where usually disorderly conduct such as clapping, laughter and the odd mutter of agreement is allowed by the Speaker (within reason of course), which enables you to literally feel as though you are apart of the reply and contributing to the atmosphere of the event that is literally being projected to millions of Australians. I would above all recommend that as a first year you experience this particular speech and witness our extraordinary democracy unfold in front of you.

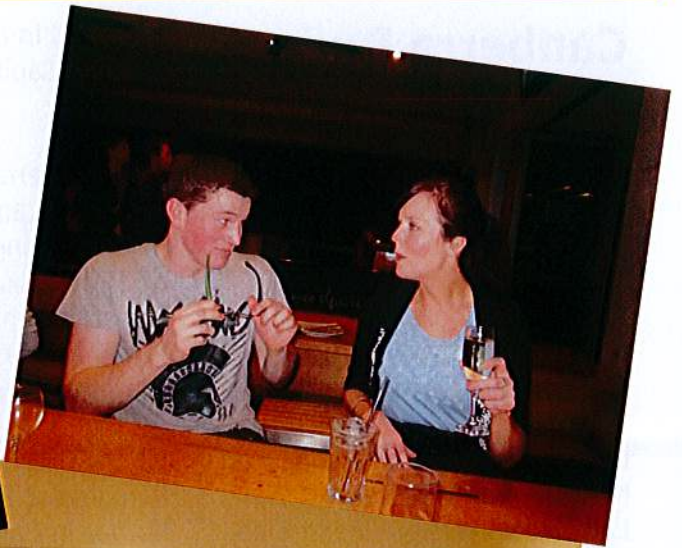
For a first year student and member of the Latrobe University Liberal Club, I could not recommend this wonderful trip to you any more than I have already done. The trip is an excellent introduction to University as well as University Political life and enables you to establish invaluable friendships and experience once in a lifetime experiences that you will never forget. I hope that you decide to attend this years VLSA trip as a member of the LULC delegation and that you get as much out of it as I did in 2011.

Goodluck!!

**Jack is a 2nd Year Law / Arts student and a committee member at LULC.**

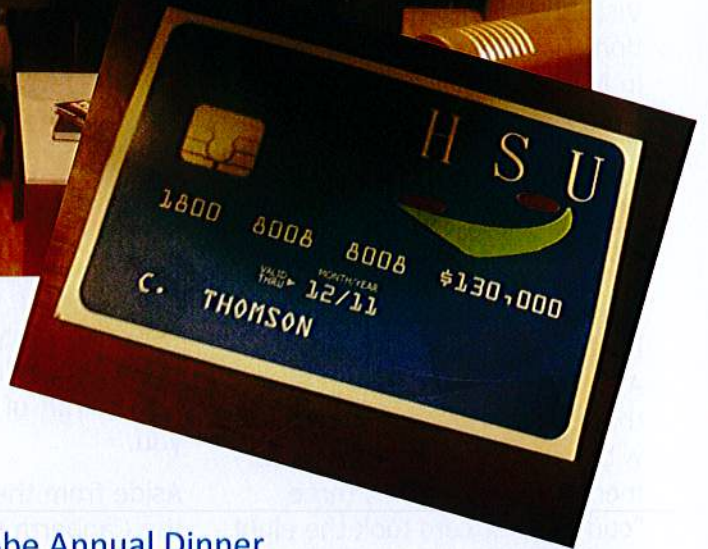
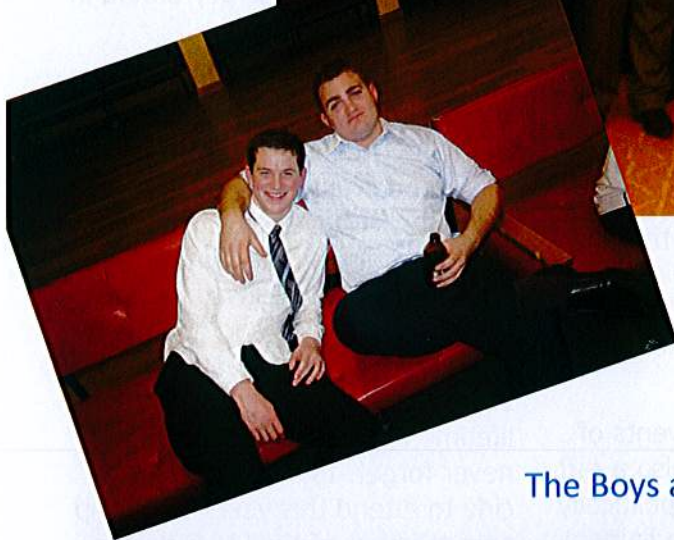


Presidents Table



Right:  
LULC with  
Senator  
Mitch Fifield  
in Canberra

Below:  
Man Love



The Boys at La Trobe Annual Dinner







Liberal Siren  
Siobhan  
Harris

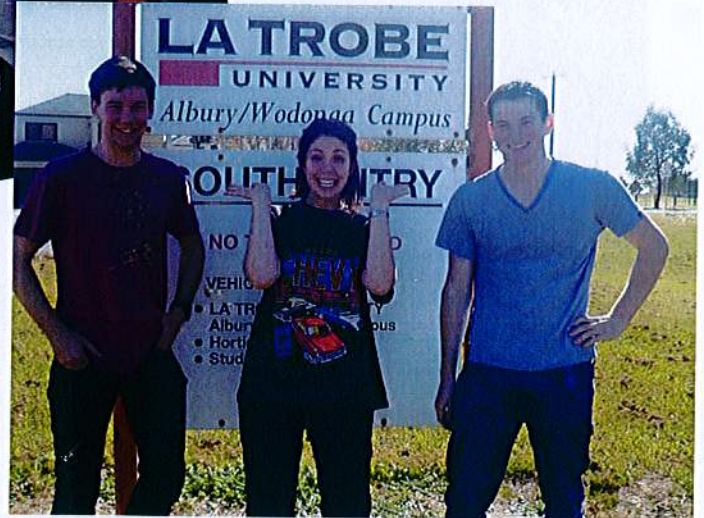


Above: Andrew, Xavier and Jemms  
at ALSF Conference Queensland.



Left: The club with Matthew Guy  
MP at Ivanhoe Festival

Ryan Murphy Moore, Siobhan  
Harris and Andrew Moore en  
route to Canberra



The boys accidentally running  
into Joe Hockey in the halls of  
APH during Canberra Budget  
Week.

The new team at the  
Sky News Desk.





*The Victorian Liberal Students' Association*  
*Invites you to attend a tour of*  
*Victoria Parliament House with Matthew Guy,*  
*Minister for Planning*  
*On February 28th at 6:30pm*  
*To be followed by a cocktail party at*  
*Liberal Party HQ rooftop*  
*104 Exhibition Street at 7:30pm*  
*The cost is free*  
*Neat casual is required.*

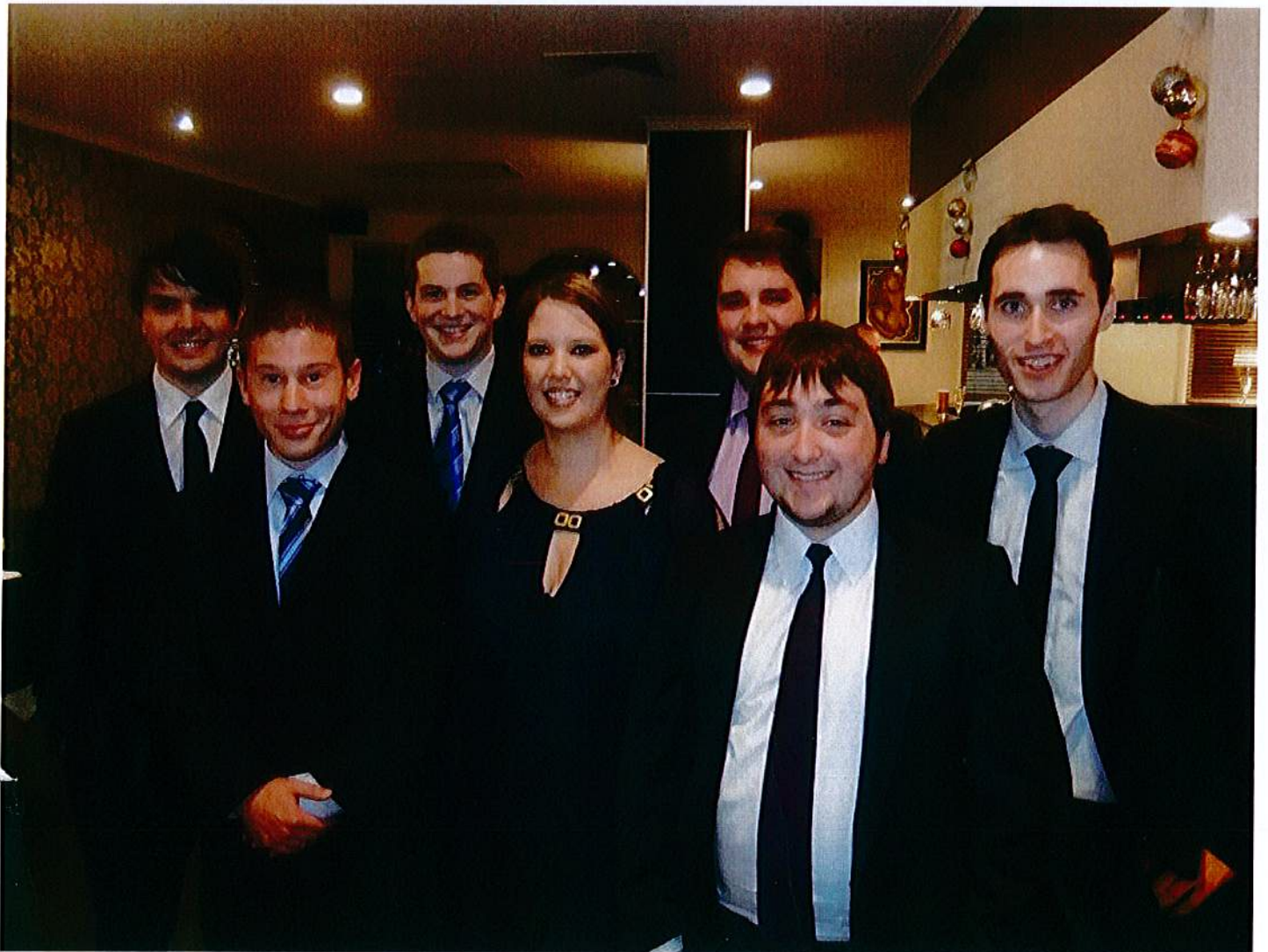


*Enquiries should be di-*  
*rected to Gemma Townson*  
*on*  
*0438 534 111*



'The heart of the wise inclines to the right  
and the heart of the fool to the left.'

Ecclesiastes 10:2



[latrobeliberals.org/](http://latrobeliberals.org/)



