



BAILLIEUGATE2

Peter Adamis 25 June 2014

We are providing an update to the BaillieuGate1 leaked tape with information sourced from public, online resources, discussions with members on both sides of the political divide and personal observations.

This article is but an opinion of the author and not associated with any media or online relationships. BaillieuGate makes fascinating reading as it is believed that more is yet to come as the political scorpion prepares itself to strike back at the very heart of a rotten political structure within Victoria.

Victorians are becoming sick and tired of the stunts and silly antics of those who have been elected to represent them. Many believe that in Victoria the public is ready for a whole new generational change that is laced with the wisdom of its elders. According to the political trends that we are being subjected to, it can be safely assumed that the BaillieuGate leaked tape is but an example of what is yet to be exposed in the coming months.



Jeff Kennett. I applaud individuals like Jeff Kennett who has the courage of his convictions to come out publicly and say what he feels about the BaillieuGate leaked tap and what should occur in order to cleanse the Liberal party of recalcitrant's and sycophants who are past their use by date. More members should be following his example and stand up say it as it is without fear of favour. This author may not be a follower of Jeff Kennett (Although we both have served in the same Regiment - RAR), but I admire his commitment, honesty and tenacity to speak his mind.

Sycophant and recalcitrant . The words sycophants and recalcitrant's apply to those who returned to the fold after Ted Baillieu narrowly won the Victorian State election, the same individuals who worked under Ted Baillieu and gave him the wrong advice on many matters, the same individuals who deserted Ted Baillieu at a time when he needed counselling and encouragement and not undermining him, the same individuals responsible for creating havoc during preselection periods and finally it is the same individuals who are providing the wrong advice to Denis Naphine and Tony Snell.

Privately some members are saying that it has been engineered by members within the Liberal party in order to bring down the Denis Naphine Government and clear the stable of lazy, non performing and recalcitrant members of Parliament who have been doing absolutely nothing to contribute to the welfare of Victoria.

Tony Snell . Tony Snell is now in a difficult position as his allegiances and alliances are slowly being eroded and many are now looking to relocate and/or find allegiances based on solid foundations. His handling of a number of issues over the past few years has certainly put many Liberals offside. It is alleged that this is no better illustrated when he amongst many others (not named at this stage) worked against the past female Vice President Sandra Mercer Moore and replaced her with Caroline Elliott who has much to learn.

It is believed that at the last State Council election the numbers who attended were by half of the Liberal Party delegates with the remainder staying away in absolute disgust at the manner the Liberal Party ship was drifting from its Conservative moorings. Mind you, I am of the belief that Tony Snell has done a marvellous job and should be commended for heralding in some new changes, but he has not gone far enough and should consider stepping down at the next State council elections.

Damien Mantach. The leaked tape is but another indication of the current Liberal management team to bring into line sycophants and characters that have been reducing the productivity and effectiveness of a Denis Napthine Government. The State Director, Damien Mantach is doing a reasonable job at keeping his management team together but at what cost to his credibility. His hands are basically tied to the President Tony Snell. It has been rumoured around Liberal party circles that although he has a good grasp of the Victorian Politics, he reacts only when politically necessary and not for the long term good..

Others indicate that he has been indecisive and ineffective by not doing what he was employed to do and that is to be not involved in the political decision making and only to manage the professional side of the Party such as Election campaigns. Whatever the case may be, one cannot fault him for keeping a diverse team together under many changing circumstances and environments. However despite all of his innovations, many within the party are of the belief that it is time that Damien re-considered his future.

Frank Greenstein. The administrative Committee side kick and alleged "multicultural recruiter" Frank Greenstein. It is my view that the word multicultural is no longer viable not appealing to the general public who have now lived under this divisive description of new Australians. The word to many is that multicultural is only a vehicle to becoming a good Australian citizen, nothing more and nothing less. Who some say has used the young Liberal and upcoming new generational members in manners that have left them with a sour taste in their mouths. An example is when young Liberals who are clamouring for a generational change are used up after allegedly being promised safe seats, positions on the Administrative council, only to be spat out at the other end when a project has been completed.

It is alleged that this same Frank Greenstein was also responsible for the delay and overturn of a decision in Goldstein because the vote did not go as expected and that it may have upset the apple cart so to speak with the sitting member. The young and upcoming Liberals were not happy about the outcome, but took it into good grace and bowed out to the leaders on this occasion. Frank Greenstein it is alleged is also responsible for and

picking protégés to stand for seats in unwinnable electorates and encouraging new diverse community members to raise funds on the promise of being offered a seat. One gentleman of the Pakistan/Indian origins did just that and only to find that he had been shafted.

Generational Change. There is a new wind blowing and it's not as result of El Nino or climate change, but it has its origins in the groundswell of the younger generation chaffing at the bit so speak to be heard and to be heard now. Top marks must be given where credit is due and that is to the progress by stealth from unlikely sources within the Liberal party. The credit of course must go to Matthew Guy and Scott Ryan via his best man Scott Pearce. Both of the gentlemen have been silently working behind the scenes shoring up alliance creating new allegiances, installing their own into key positions, monitoring the dominos as they fall one by one and active use any opportunity that may be useful for their long term goals and objectives. combination of youth and elders with ration of 70% new generation and 30% elder generation.

Such a combination in any organisation is lethal in political terms and productive one in industry. It is where the activities generated by the youth are tempered with the wisdom of the elders who act as mentors in some cases. This is the true essence a generational change. It is unfortunate that many in the Liberal Party are against drastic changes as it affects many whose positions, status and comfort zones will be undermined and that they will no longer feel a sense of belonging and useful in any sense. Generational change in this context does not necessarily mean a complete overhaul of an organisation or political structure other than to describe a change that is a win win situation for all.



Matthew Guy. It is no secret want that Matthew Guy wants to become the next Victorian state Premier but is currently blocked due to the lack of numbers held by Denis Naphine's conglomerate made up of Ted Baillieu/David Davis mob, Peter Costello/Michael O'Brien fledglings and the Michael Kroger Coalition. However now with the current revelations arising from the Ted BaillieuGate leaked tape, it would appear that the Ted Baillieu/David Davis relationship and influence may be reduced and could disappear altogether within the next twelve months.

Mathew Guy is a very smart operator having been around the traps for a long time and many can still remember him when he was running around as a youngster prior to and during his days at university. Many including the author liked him and supported him on his climb to the top of the political pyramid. The only fault with Matthew Guy is that he has been noted for his ruthlessness with his past friendships and has been found to make the odd slip of the tongue now and then which could one day come back to bite him.

Mathew Guys recent foray into Northern Metropolitan region failed when he tried to get his mate Sirinivasan Vasan (Indian origins) up as the preferred candidate. That battle was won by the Ted Baillieu/David Davis mob who were allegedly found to have been working around the clock three days prior to the preselection to get their candidate Gladys Lieu up.

Gladys won so it seems convincingly with a little help from the current sitting member Craig Ondarchie who is believed to be also a groupie of the same team. Mind you despite what is said there is no love lost between Matthew Guy and Craig Ondarchie but both put on a facade for the public which as it should be. Gladys Lieu a member originally from eastern Metropolitan is working to close her knowledge gap of the new electorate, building new relationships and raising funds for the State election campaign.

What does this mean to the Denis Naphine government, only the political strategists can answer such a question and we mere mortals, the Victorian voters can only loom and analyse the facts as they come to hand hoping that some good will come out of the current chaos we call parliament. From a personal point of view I am nostalgic for the days of Jeff Kennett who energised a failing Victorian landscape and put Victorian back n the map as a vital and productive state of Australia. Alas such leaders as Jeff Kennet and Sir Henry Bolte are hard to find these days. Still it's not all lost, who can tell what the winds of generational change bring post November State elections.



The Voice from the Pavement - Peter Adamis is a Journalist/Commentator and writer. He is a retired Australian military serviceman and an Industry organisational & Occupational (OHS) & Training Consultant whose interests are within the parameters of domestic and international political spectrum. He is an avid blogger and contributes to domestic and international community news media outlets as well as to local and Ethnic News. He holds a Bachelor of Adult Learning & Development (Monash), Grad Dip Occupational Health & Safety, (Monash), Dip. Training & Assessment, Dip Public Administration, and Dip Frontline Management. Contact via Email: abalinx@netspace.net.au or via Mobile: 0409965538



KENNETT QUESTIONS BAILLIEU STAYING ON

JUNE 25, 2014

FORMER Victorian premier Jeff Kennett has questioned why fellow former premier Ted Baillieu remains in parliament, saying leaked tapes recording him criticising colleagues shows he's unhappy in the job. MR Kennett also ruled out a return to politics, telling Fairfax Radio that talk of such a move was "absolute stupidity".

Mr Baillieu is heard referring to independent MP Geoff Shaw, upper house Liberal MP Bernie Finn and his "crazy mates" and federal government minister Kevin Andrews in a taped recording between himself and a journalist from The Age. Mr Kennett said the tape shows Mr Baillieu is unhappy in the job.

"The point is, why do you continue in the job when you're clearly not happy with many of those who work there?" he said. Mr Kennett said any decision was up to Mr Baillieu, but added: "If you're no longer happy there ... move on." "Change is good and Ted could have

another career." Premier Denis Napthine said he had spoken to Mr Baillieu but would not be drawn on the subject of leaked comments the former premier made about his Liberal colleagues. "If you want to know what Ted Baillieu thinks, ask Ted Baillieu," he told reporters on Wednesday. The premier said the people of Victoria were not interested in side-shows.

The Age believes the reporter's tape recorder was stolen after the May state budget. Labor deputy leader James Merlino said the leaked tape and speculation about Mr Kennett returning to parliament showed the government was "tearing itself apart". "Denis Napthine can protest all he likes but this is a government divided," Mr Merlino said. He said the leaked tape showed a dysfunctional government. "You have extraordinary commentary from a former premier to his own colleagues," Mr Merlino said. "This is Liberal versus Liberal, colleague versus colleague." He said Labor had nothing to do with the leaking of the tapes.

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/kennett-questions-baillieu-staying-on/story-e6frku9-1226966154128>

TED BAILLIEU TAPE EXPOSES DIVISIONS

THE AUSTRALIAN JUNE 25, 2014 John Ferguson Victorian Political

ROGUE Liberal activists have been blamed for leaking a secret recording of former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu condemning several colleagues and fuelling a politically damaging abortion debate during a conversation with a Fairfax Media journalist. In the recording, which was allegedly stolen, the former premier unloads to the journalist about the abortion issue and a contested state preselection. Premier Denis Napthine yesterday failed to back Mr Baillieu after The Sunday Age recording was leaked across the Liberal Party, detailing Mr Baillieu's covert dealings with the journalist.

In an extraordinary turn of events, The Sunday Age's off-the-record interview with Mr Baillieu was leaked after Fairfax claimed a recorder was stolen, enabling a political opponent or opponents to swoop. Mr Baillieu was quoted attacking state Liberal MPs Michael Gidley, Murray Thompson and Bernie Finn and — by implication — the party's candidate for the safe inner-eastern seat of Kew, Tim Smith. The recording has embarrassed the newspaper and appears to have been distributed nationally, possibly using email addresses aggregated from the party membership.

The party is expected to call in forensic experts to determine who gained access to the emails, which included key advisers in the Abbott government. The crisis has strong parallels with a 2008 scandal when Liberals from party headquarters were found to have run a blog openly condemning Mr Baillieu, who was then opposition leader. Several senior Liberals yesterday slammed Mr Baillieu for speaking to The Sunday Age reporter, whose dictaphone allegedly disappeared earlier this year.

It is not normal for journalists to record off-the-record conversations with MPs, with the convention being that only on-the-record discussions are taped with the permission of the interviewee. Mr Baillieu, also recorded attacking this journalist, has refused to comment. Several government MPs yesterday demanded Mr Baillieu be forced out of the government, although he is endorsed for his safe inner-city seat to run again at the November 29 election.

In the recording, Mr Baillieu alleges that rebel independent Geoff Shaw was sponsored by key members of the Liberal Party. "Shaw has been sponsored into this position by a bunch of people from the very first day led by (antiabortionist MP) Bernie Finn and some of his crazy mates in the parliamentary team," Mr Baillieu says in the conversation.

He says that this year's Kew preselection was "really, really nasty" and draws a comparison with the 2002 leadership coup suffered by Dr Napthine and the preselection of Mr Gidley in 2005. Asked if Mr Gidley was anti-abortion, Mr Baillieu says: "Yep. yep." On Mr Gidley, Mr Baillieu says: "And he was no good then." On Murray Thompson, a veteran MP who is the son of former premier Lindsay Thompson, Mr Baillieu says: "No idea who you're talking about because I never hear his name mentioned anywhere anymore. Not even by himself."

The recording was leaked with a largely accurate transcript and "dirt sheet" alleging the reporter is actively involved in Liberal preselections, a claim that's strongly denied by The Age's editor-in-chief Andrew Holden. "It appears the dictaphone of one of our reporters has been stolen, and one conversation on that recorder used to attack her and a member of parliament. The actual recording proves the transcript has been edited in such a way as to support those attacks," Mr Holden wrote on The Age website.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/ted-baillieu-tape-exposes-divisions/story-e6frgczx-1226965605670>

BAILLIEU SHOULD QUIT FOR HIS WELLBEING

3AW Mornings 25 June, 2014

Former Premier Jeff Kennett has questioned why Ted Baillieu would want to remain in parliament after a secretly recorded tape emerged of him blasting colleagues. In the recording, Mr Baillieu criticises some MPs' views on abortion and jokes about others leadership ambitions. He also accuses some within the party of firing up rogue MP Geoff Shaw to drive the abortion debate. Speaking on 3AW Mornings, Beyond Blue chairman Mr Kennett said if Mr Baillieu's unhappy at work and with his colleagues, he should leave for his own well-being.

"What this tape indicates is that Ted is unhappy still. He's not happy with the people he works with," he told Neil Mitchell. "We know 25 per cent of people don't want to go to work, they've got stress and anxiety. "Why would you want to continue to work in a workplace when you don't have to if you're unhappy about those you work with?" Mr Kennett said the fact that Mr Baillieu was recorded apparently without his knowledge was "morally dishonest".

"I think The Age owe us all an explanation. Did they record it without Ted's knowledge?," he questioned. Mark Forbes, news director and former state political editor at *The Age*, told 3AW Breakfast it appears the journalist's dictaphone was stolen. "It went missing at a function. I don't want to specify the function because it may indicate that it was taken by a person of a certain political persuasion," he said. "We don't have evidence of that. What we have evidence of is obviously someone clearly knew, and could see, the tape was from The Age.

"They clearly listened to it... and obviously made a conscious decision not to return it." Mr Forbes also said the theft of state political reporter Farrah Tomazin's recording device wasn't an isolated case. "This is actually the second dictaphone of an Age state political reporter to go missing in a short space of time," he said. "[The other was from] state political editor Josh Gordon. That contained a numbers of interviews, largely on the record rather than off the record. "That is also a concern to us."

<http://www.3aw.com.au/blogs/neil-mitchell-blog/baillieu-should-quit-for-his-wellbeing/20140625-3arww.html>

TOILET-ROLL VISION BRINGS ABOUT DEMISE OF ST TED

THE AUSTRALIAN JUNE 25, 2014 John Ferguson Victorian Political Editor

THE myth of St Ted is finally busted. The Fairfax recording paints a Dorian Gray canvas of a bitter, scorned and unreliable chronicler of Victorian political history. Baillieu's decision to run down several colleagues cheapens the former premier's core political asset: his claim that he never destabilises his own party and has never been a rat from within the Liberal ranks. That Baillieu would turn on the son of a former Liberal premier to a journalist underpins the extent to which losing the premiership has robbed him of his objectivity and judgment.

Murray Thompson, a long-time backbencher, was yesterday bemused by the Baillieu attack, observing there were more important issues worth pursuing. What is worth dissecting, however, is the extent to which *The Sunday Age* tape exposes Baillieu's weird analysis of his own party. Baillieu singles out this reporter for criticism about the way his party has been reported, as far back as 2002, falsely and foolishly insinuating that Denis Naphine lost the leadership 12 years ago because of a few people aligned to party elder Michael Kroger.

The truth — known to all and sundry — is that Naphine was punted when a cross-factional alliance of MPs knifed him in desperation. Baillieu's world is so narrow it is as if he sees the political landscape through toilet paper rolls and not binoculars, a habit that killed his premiership. When Baillieu was pushed last year he was executed because of the broad view he was destroying his government. Only the most rusted-on supporters thought he was doing a good job. The idea that the recent Kew by-election was decided by anti-abortionists is as scurrilous as it is wrong. The issue, according to those who know, may have swayed 10 to 15 votes, when the winner of the ballot absolutely swamped Community

Services Minister Mary Wooldridge, 155 votes to 100. It was an issue but not the difference. Again, conspiracy theory killed off. More broadly, Baillieu's analysis of the 2005 Michael Gidley preselection and the warring over Kew this year is so flawed as to be remarkable. In the past seven years, the Victorian Liberal Party has slowly been transformed and the old guard has largely moved on. It is neither simple nor wise to try to typecast the party as being a series of silos controlled by factional figures; the transformation of the party is still under way. As MPs yesterday wondered why Baillieu was taped in the first place and then how it was leaked, there was also a looming consensus. Baillieu has had his day and should quit the parliament. St Ted is beyond political redemption.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/toiletroll-vision-brings-about-demise-of-st-ted/story-e6frgd0x-1226965605839>

BAILLIEU STOLEN TAPE EXPOSES RUCTIONS

June 24, 2014 Mark Hawthorne and Richard Willingham



Ted Baillieu. *Photo: Wayne Taylor*

Bitter ructions in the Victoria Liberal Party have been thrust into the spotlight, distracting from Premier Denis Naphthine's efforts to seize control of the political agenda.

On Tuesday morning an email featuring a recording of a private conversation between former premier Ted Baillieu and a *Sunday Age* journalist was sent to Liberal Party members in Victoria.

The Liberal Party has now launched an investigation to discover who may have illegally accessed a computer database and emailed members - which was sent from an Elizabeth McRobert, who the Liberal Party says is not a member. In the recording, Mr Baillieu is critical of parliamentary colleagues, including upper house MP Bernie Finn and rogue Frankston MP Geoff Shaw. Mr Baillieu speaks of Mr Finn and his "crazy mates" pushing Mr Shaw on several issues.

Following the suspension of Mr Shaw from Parliament earlier this month the Naphthine government has moved to recapture the political agenda focusing on law and order and spruiking a series of new tough-on-crime laws. But the email has again made public divisions within the state Liberal Party, forcing the Premier to field questions on the latest round of infighting. "This is a sideshow. What we are on about is getting on with governing for Victoria," Dr Naphthine. He said all questions regarding the tape should be directed to Mr Baillieu.

Fairfax Media believes the private conversation was taken from the tape recorder of *The Sunday Age's* state political editor Farrah Tomazin, which was stolen just after the state

budget in May. The Liberal Party does not yet know who - if anyone - accessed its database and sent the email. "It is unclear who is responsible for the distribution of the material but we note that Fairfax Media is seeking legal advice over the matter and stolen recording devices," state director Damian Mantach said. Mr Mantach and a colleague were summoned to the Premier's office just after 10am on Tuesday, where they met the Premier's key advisers and were asked to explain how the email addresses were obtained.

The release of the tape has renewed calls from some within the Liberal Party for Mr Baillieu to retire from politics, which would free up the prized seat of Hawthorn for a fresh face. Mr Baillieu did not wish to comment on Tuesday. Party sources said the email was sent from a Gmail account and used an American-based email proxy service called Mail Chimp to avoid junk mail and spam filters. "Everyone on our database has received the email, which is a concern," said one party insider. Editor-in-chief of *The Age*, Andrew Holden, said he was "appalled by the defamatory claims made in the email and rejects them totally".

"Our reporters do not take part in the internal matters of political parties and we always respect confidentiality of information and sources," Mr Holden said. The email also alleges that the tape recording was released by *The Age* state political editor Josh Gordon last week, after a private conversation with a person in the Liberal Party. "I strenuously deny the allegations," Mr Gordon said. "At no stage have I ever been privy to or had access to the private conversations of my friend and colleague Farrah Tomazin. I did not contact anyone last week to discuss internal party matters and I certainly did not email any private conversations to anyone in the Liberal Party," he said.

The Age has reported the theft to the police. In a case of history repeating for the Liberal Party, the email also references the last major breach of the party's computer policies back in 2008. Two young Liberals working for the party started an anonymous blog called [he who stands for nothing](#) blog which was devoted to undermining Mr Baillieu when he was Victorian opposition leader. The blog referred to Mr Baillieu as "Red Ted" and accused him of being too far "left" for a Liberal Party leader.

An investigation ordered by Mr Baillieu traced the blog to two staffers at Liberal Party headquarters in Melbourne, Simon Morgan and John Osborn. Both were sacked. Tuesday's explosive email cites the case saying "Mr Baillieu not only insisted that they were sacked, but that they be thrown out of the Liberal Party for disloyalty." The email called on party members to do the same to Mr Baillieu, and kick him out for breaching party rules.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/baillieu-stolen-tape-exposes-ructions-20140624-zskhc.html>

DIRTY WORK REVEALS A SPECIAL KIND OF HATRED

June 24, 2014 Josh Gordon State political editor for The Age.

There is a special kind of hatred in politics. It is not the predictable hatred political operatives feel towards opponents on the other side of the political divide. It is the deep, toxic, personal hatred members of political parties reserve for their own kind. Usually it roils away beneath the surface; all too often it boils over. Whoever it was that nefariously

obtained a dictaphone, illegally accessed the Liberal database and emailed a recording of a private conversation between *Sunday Age* journalist Farrah Tomazin and former premier Ted Baillieu was clearly so blinded by factional hatred they were prepared to inflict significant damage on their own party. Five months out from the state election, Denis Naphine desperately needs to reclaim the political agenda after years of controversy, including leaked recordings, an internal plot to overthrow former police commissioner Simon Overland and months of parliamentary chaos linked to the Shaw saga.

This week Naphine tried to demonstrate his government was getting on with "governing for all Victorians" with new laws allowing police to confiscate the assets of drug traffickers. But once again he was thwarted by his own party. One theory in Liberal circles is that there is a small but active group of disgruntled Liberals who are conducting a guerrilla-style campaign to destabilise the government. The objective of this crack squad of right-wing commandos is to induce a loss for the Coalition to clear the way for promotions, fresh blood and a new conservative agenda after the November 29 election, sources say.

Loopy though this may sound, the undermining has been so persistent and severe you have to start to wonder if such theories are credible. The recorded conversation between former premier Baillieu and journalist Tomazin is hardly extraordinary in terms of content. In it Baillieu is mildly critical of some of his parliamentary colleagues. Big deal. Indeed, since stepping down as premier in March last year after effectively being knifed by his own colleagues, Baillieu has been restrained and disciplined.

What is extraordinary is that someone, or a group of people, is prepared to go to such extraordinary lengths – including possible theft of a recording device and using an internal database – to destabilise the party. You have to feel sorry for Naphine. Right now the worst enemy he has is not the Labor Party but his own colleagues who seem intent on thwarting the government's re-election chances.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/dirty-work-reveals-a-special-kind-of-hatred-20140624-3ardw.html>



VICTORIA'S NAPHTHINE GOVERNMENT HIT BY TED BAILLIEU TAPE SCANDAL

THE AUSTRALIAN JUNE 24, 2014
John Ferguson Victorian Political Editor

Former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu allegedly criticised his colleagues in a leaked recording. Picture: Josie Hayden Source: News Corp Australia

THE Naphine government has been rocked by a leaked recording detailing former premier Ted Baillieu's strident criticism of colleagues.

Plunging the Coalition into yet another pre-election scandal. The Sunday Age newspaper has blamed a thief for stealing a recorder, which contained a conversation earlier this year between Mr Baillieu and one of its reporters. Premier Denis Napthine today called on Mr Baillieu and the newspaper to deal with the scandal gripping the Coalition.

In the recorded conversation, which has leaked widely, Mr Baillieu attacks Liberal colleagues including Bernie Finn, Michael Gidley and Murray Thompson and plays down the merits of the newly-preselected Member for Kew Tim Smith. He is also highly critical of the forces aligned to party heavyweight Michael Kroger, accusing them of being behind the preselection debacle that forced Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge to contest an Upper House seat. "You know I am not a briefer," Mr Baillieu is quoted as saying in a transcript while slamming some of his colleagues.

Mr Baillieu also criticises this reporter's coverage of the 2002 leadership challenge endured by Dr Napthine and suggests the Kroger forces were using the same tactics as 12 years earlier. However, Mr Baillieu appears to have confused his history of a preselection involving Mr Gidley, which occurred in the middle of the last decade. He also fails to understand the dynamics behind Dr Napthine's execution as Opposition leader, which was — in the end — a cross-factional decision to replace him in late 2002 with Robert Doyle. In the recording, Mr Baillieu appears to blame antiabortionists for hijacking the Kew preselection earlier this year.

Mr Baillieu says that rebel independent Geoff Shaw was sponsored by key members of the Liberal Party. "Shaw has been sponsored into this position by a bunch of people from the very first day led by (antiabortionist) Bernie Finn and some of his crazy mates in the parliamentary team," Mr Baillieu says in the interview. "And a very senior member of the organisation who is very close to (federal minister) Kevin Andrews and they've been going for it ...' He says that the preselection is "really, really nasty" and draws a comparison with 2002 and the preselection of Mr Gidley. But Mr Gidley was preselected in 2005.

Mr Baillieu claims that Mr Gidley was described as a potential future leader, the same description used by this reporter about Mr Smith in the Kew by-election this year. Asked if Mr Gidley was anti-abortion, Mr Baillieu says: "Yep. yep." On Mr Gidley, Mr Baillieu says: "And he was no good then." On Murray Thompson, a veteran MP who is the son of former premier Lindsay Thompson, Mr Baillieu says: "No idea who you're talking about because I never hear his name mentioned anywhere anymore. Not even by himself." Dr Napthine yesterday refused to be drawn on the substance of the recording, referring the matter to Mr Baillieu and Fairfax.

Fairfax yesterday claimed the recording had been stolen. The question of who leaked the recording is unclear. A transcript of the conversation was also leaked and sent to many MPs. There is no suggestion the recording was leaked by The Sunday Age. A transcript of the recording, sent to state MPs and Liberal Party members, suggests it was made by Melbourne's The Sunday Age and then mysteriously leaked. It details extensive criticism by Mr Baillieu of MPs Bernie Finn, Michael Gidley and Murray Thompson.

It is also critical of this reporter from The Australian and the Liberal candidate for Kew Tim Smith. Mr Baillieu refused to address the waiting media. Premier Denis Naphine will hold a press conference at 12.30pm. The recording was made at the height of the Kew preselection scandal and focuses heavily on alleged anti-abortion forces in the government. Fairfax is yet to comment.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/victorias-naphine-government-hit-by-ted-baillieu-tape-scandal/story-e6frgczx-1226964913169>



Ted Baillieu recording reveals deep Liberal Party divisions

June 24, 2014 Richard Willingham
State Political Correspondent for The Age

Former premier Ted Baillieu today at question. Time *Photo: Wayne Taylor.*

Deep divisions in the Victorian Liberal Party have been made public, plunging the Napthine government into a fresh round of internal fighting.

A recording of former Premier Ted Baillieu and a Fairfax Media journalist was emailed to Liberal Party members on Tuesday morning in which Mr Baillieu criticises other Liberal MPs including western suburbs MP "Bernie Finn and his crazy mates", as well as some of the factional manoeuvring over preselection. An email accompanying the recording calls for penalties to be imposed on Mr Baillieu. Fairfax Media believes the private conversation was taken from the tape recorder of *The Sunday Age's* state political editor Farrah Tomazin, which was stolen some time after the state budget in May.

The very public airing of the tapes has highlighted tension within the party. Following a lengthy party room meeting on Tuesday morning, Mr Baillieu dodged the media. Premier Denis Naphine refused to answer questions about the stolen recording, and referred questions to Mr Baillieu. He said he had read a transcript of the conversation but there had been no meeting with Liberal Party state director Damien Mantach. "This is a sideshow. What we are on about is getting on with governing for Victoria."

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/ted-baillieu-recording-reveals-deep-liberal-party-divisions-20140624-3aq70.html>



NAPHTHINE WANTS TO KNOW HOW BAILLIEU TAPE BECAME PUBLIC

MATTHEW JOHNSTON, ANNIKA SMETHURST, MICHELLE AINSWORTH
HERALD SUN JUNE 25,
2014

A leaked audio recording allegedly reveals former Premier Ted Baillieu criticising colleagues. Picture: Hamish Blair.

PREMIER Denis Naphthine says *The Age* newspaper must explain how a private conversation between a journalist and former premier Ted Baillieu ended up in the public domain. The audio recording has revealed deep divisions within the Liberal Party, with Mr Baillieu calling party colleagues "crazy" and accusing them of supporting Frankston MP Geoff Shaw.

The Age claims the tape recorder that held the audio was stolen sometime after the May Budget. Entering Parliament a short time ago, Dr Naphthine wouldn't comment on the motivation of those behind the leaking of the tape. "The question has to be asked of *The Age* about how this happened," he told 3AW. "Here is a background briefing given to a professional journalist which has now been widely circulated. "Questions need to be asked of *The Age* as when did they call in the police to investigate this alleged theft."

Former Victorian premier Jeff Kennett has questioned why Mr Baillieu is remaining in Parliament after a leaked recording emerged of the ousted Liberal premier criticising party colleagues. "Why doesn't he get out and do something he enjoys, with people he enjoys being around?" Mr Kennett told the *Herald Sun*. "It shows that Ted is still upset, is still frustrated by a number of his parliamentary colleagues. "If you are frustrated by people around you, why commit yourself to another four years with them? Why make yourself unhappy?"

"I have often asked myself why Ted, who's served the party well, who got the party into government, who resigned because of his own inability to maintain the support of colleagues, would want to continue a career in Parliament." A leaked recording of an off-the-record discussion between Mr Baillieu and a Fairfax journalist has revealed deep rifts within the party and the Government over the issue of abortion, just five months before Premier Denis Naphthine faces a state election. In the recording Mr Baillieu attacked colleagues, including backbencher Bernie Finn and his "crazy mates", for their anti-abortion stance.

A leaked recording of an off-the-record conversation between Mr Baillieu and a journalist from *The Age* was sent to Liberal members and state and federal MPs from all parties on Tuesday. Mr Baillieu is heard criticising party colleagues who he thought had derailed Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge's bid for the seat of Kew and attacking anti-

abortion MPs. The leak led Mr Kennett to suggest Mr Baillieu's time in Parliament may be up because he is "unhappy" and "still frustrated by a number of his parliamentary colleagues". The recording, which *The Age* said was lost and had been stolen, shows Mr Baillieu believes elements of the parliamentary party revved up rogue MP Geoff Shaw over abortion.

Mr Finn said he didn't want to comment. But Mr Shaw hit back, telling the *Herald Sun* the background briefing "just shows his disgraceful leadership". "He (Baillieu) never talks to his backbenchers so what would he know anyway?" Mr Shaw said. "Baillieu, (former Speaker Ken) Smith and (Premier Denis) Napthine are holding back conservative views in the Liberal Party." Mr Baillieu did not respond to phone calls. In the recording Mr Baillieu says "I'm not a briefer", and that the situation around the abortion debate was "really nasty".

Dr Napthine tried to downplay the infighting and insisted his government was getting on with the job: "We're not going to be distracted by these sideshows. We're getting on with governing for all Victorians." *The Age* editor-in-chief Andrew Holden told ABC radio it was unclear where the reporter's recording device had been found and "how it went missing". It was a confidential recording "we would have never put out into the public sphere", he said, apologising to Mr Baillieu. The Victorian division of the party is doing a forensic check of its databases after an email with the leaked recording went to many members as well as staff and MPs in Canberra and Victoria. It did not go to all members, suggesting it did not come from the central party database.

The email mentioned a number of Liberals who are enemies of members aligned with former powerbroker Michael Kroger, accusing them of leaking. Mr Kroger declined to comment. State party president Tony Snell emailed members last night saying the email contains "a number of false and defamatory statements" and is "a deliberate attempt to undermine the Liberal Party's efforts to win the state election". "I share the frustration and anger members, who are working so hard to ensure the re-election of the Government, will feel with this behaviour, which is contrary to the party's culture and traditions."

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/napthine-wants-to-know-how-baillieu-tape-became-public/story-fni0fiyv-1226964816425>



BAILLIEU GATE

Derryn Hinch Thursday, 07 March 2013

That seasoned and encyclopaedic political kingmaker, Michael Kroger, took umbrage on *PMLive* last night when I – admittedly drawing a long bow – mentioned the word Watergate in the same breath as Ted Baillieu's shock resignation.

But it wasn't that far-fetched. President Nixon's White House henchmen Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman were his Chief of Staff and Domestic Affairs Adviser. When they got named by the Watergate Special Prosecutor, Tricky Dick was forced to cut them loose. Bring the analogy home. The *Herald Sun* this week runs an explosive front page expose (which like Watergate involves secret tapes) and involves a Chief of Staff. This time, Premier Baillieu's COS, Tony Nutt.

Part of the Watergate scandal involved the party hierarchy and hush money. Here in Victoria it involves Liberal Party boss Damien Mantach and money paid to Tristan Weston after he was made the fall guy in the Overland scandal. After the tape story broke (and even though he claimed he hadn't heard the tapes or read all the transcripts) Premier Baillieu cleverly (?) flick-passed the whole imbroglio to IBAC for a corruption investigation.

Unlike Nixon, he didn't sack or suspend his Chief of Staff which was ludicrous. And fatal. And his Cabinet knew that. How can a man remain as a confidant and an adviser when he is being investigated by IBAC? Even more so, when the question must ultimately arise: 'What did the Premier know, and when did he know it?' To continue the Watergate theme. Baillieu admitted at a rare media conference that the tapes did raise questions about Nutt, Mantach and Weston who was Deputy Premier Peter Ryan's former adviser. The tapes also raise questions about Ryan, the National Party leader, but that's for another time.

And questions still remain for the now-former Premier. His media conference response was: 'I am unaware of the details of those conversations until today, (sic) conversations I was unaware of, in detail, other than being aware that Mr. Nutt, in his role, had had conversations with Mr. Weston'.

Yeah, right. This is why Baillieu and the new accidental premier – the recycled Denis Naphine – must explain why an elected leader quit only half-way through his first term in office. Naphine is whistling Dixie if he truly believes it when he says, with a straight face: 'The people of Victoria will understand what has happened and the people of Victoria will make their own judgements over the next weeks and months'.

Trust me sunshine, the people of Victoria do not understand what has happened. They went to bed last night with one premier and woke up this morning with a new one. One whose name they can't even pronounce. Nap-theen, Nap-thyne. Naptheen sounds good because it reminds me of Naptholene and the Libs have certainly pulled their latest leader

out of mothballs. As Opposition leader a decade ago the new premier had an approval rating of 7 or 8 per cent. I believe Napthine is a caretaker Premier and, using his favourite racing parlance, he'll be scratched (or nobbled) before the November 2014 election.

One final point. Only hours before his resignation, a defiant Ted Baillieu announced his government would go on with determination and courage. Watching the news, I thought he actually gagged on the word 'courage'. Must have been prescient. Oh, and Mr. Kroger, remember when Richard Nixon said so convincingly: 'I will not resign?'

<http://www.humanheadline.com.au/Hinch-Says/baillieu-gate>