



BAILLIEUGATE 12

Peter Adamis 1 August 2014

Just when life was becoming normal the public is struck with further revelations of political misdemeanours and surprisers that belong to party political administrative archives and the dungeons.

BaillieuGate ongoing saga.

The BaillieuGate leaked tape saga is continuing with no concrete results other than to discredit a political party that erred in its strategic use of the BaillieuGate leaked tape. Having said this does not mean that there no more repercussions with their opponents in the Liberal Party. It would appear that it is now confirmed that a political witch-hunt is occurring as we speak and a purge of the membership is occurring to weed out toes who are not compatible with the Socialist left wing of the Liberal party.

Political witch hunt.

Over the past few days those members who were originally suspected of being involved have been contacted by senior Liberals and advised that they were no longer considered to be a party to the nefarious leaking of the BaillieuGate leaked tape and/or associated with the distribution of the email to Liberal party members. The employment of an outside resource to 'forensic audit' the Liberal party networks is not the way to go and one should be looking at the errors made by parliamentary colleagues in their failure to hide the emails in the first place when they are sent out to members. When the dust finally settles, one can be sure that old scores will be settled, political knives be shaped. powder in the musket, targets identified and a reshuffle of positions of influence and power. If parties can overcome such a scenario and world together for the good of Victoria and Australia, all the better for it.

Damien Mantach.

I have said tis before and will probably repeat it after the State election that I feel sorry for the Liberal State Director, Damien Mantach, not being given the longitude and latitude to control the situation and having to do the bidding of others, but I guess that the negative side of being the State Director. In days of old, the State Director had the power to use his discretion whether to decide what was in the best interest of the Liberal party without the continuous interference of self interest groups. Should the Liberals lose government, the first person to be asked to resign will be the State Director and the blame be placed squarely on his shoulders even though he would have done everything humanly possible to bring about a Denis Napthine Government.

Private lives should be private.

Private lives only become public when individuals have gone beyond the parameters of a civilised society and or outside the limits of the law itself. While the recent cases of Peter Slipper and Geoff Shaw are but some examples, there are others who have escaped the long arm of the law because of their knowledge of that law and have used it to extricate themselves from being charged.

Some of these members are still serving in Parliament and/or hold senior positions. Although on a personal level I may not be happy with them escaping, I am of the belief that their activities of responsibility should be curtailed as an example to others and to demonstrate that no one is above the law. To continuously flout the law as it stands and to bring the office they hold into disrepute only leads to a public loss of confidence and trust.

Gays in political circles and positions of responsibility. There are vicious rumours circulating within both political parties of candidates considering going on the attack against their political opponents based on sexual preferences. These attacks would not be made by the candidates themselves but by their supporters in a gross attempt to reduce their voting appeal and discredit them in the eyes of a public that is now enlightened with changes in society and have realised. If this is the case then it's a sad day for Australians where personal life styles and private lives are made public in order to win votes. Politics should be about policies and being able to communicate to the electorate in order to represent them and not to denigrate an opponent to win a few measly votes. Aaron Lane is but one example of what can happen to a candidate who decides to create an environment that is not compatible with today's society.

Doing the job is what is important. I have been accused of being a right wing conservatist and I don't hide behind the veil of a 'Victorian elitist society but lead a life that is compatible with my immediate surroundings and accept people for whom they are. I have nothing personal against those whose life style is different from mine and I would only be happy to work with them on any level as long as their private life remains their own. I say this because having worked with people from diverse backgrounds and different sexuality preferences and life styles, that at no time did I feel or was made to feel out of place or indifferent. My concern working with such people was whether they could do the job on hand.

Misuse of power and influence. It is true that in some political parties gays, hold senior positions and are in a position of influence and power, but that should have no relevance in regards to their competence, responsibilities and the work they do. Their private lives are private and should remain so and be treated like any other member of our society. There again there are those who use their sexual life style preference to employ, influence, control and coerce others into travelling along a path that is not compatible with their beliefs and outlook on life. These most of are the most dangerous and I would call them the latter day predators of our society that use their influence in an inappropriate manner.

Michael Kroger and Bill Clinton. There are a few in the inner circle that were aware of the close relationship that Michael Kroger had with the former President of the United States Bill Clinton. That close relationship has come to light in the release of an audio tape regarding the opportunities to destroy Osama bin Laden. Michael Kroger the Liberal Party power broker and political gladiator recalls Bill Clinton's recollection of Osama bin Laden and his lost opportunities to bring about his demise. Michael Kroger in his infinite wisdom brought out the audio recording long after Bill Clinton was in Australia

and kept the tape secret until recently. Michael Kroger said that it was only since Bill Clintons return did he remember the audio tape and decide it was time to release it to the public after approval was granted by Bill Clinton. See below for additional reporting by Francesca Chambers from the Daily Mail.

Diplomatic overseas posts. There is no reason in my view for top performers who have been consistently contributed to the political, economic, welfare and stability of Australia to be considered for a diplomatic or overseas trade mission. It matters little what side of politics one may be as long as their networks, contacts and friendships are in the interest of Australia. To go even further, it is my opinion only that Michael Kroger should be given an overseas post commensurate with his status. Given that others have also been offered overseas posts, there is no reason at all why good talent cannot be utilised effectively. Michael Kroger has many and diverse networks throughout the world he would make an ideal ambassador to the USA, Canada, Britain and/or countries that would benefit Australia given his merchant banking experience as well. A diplomatic post,

Double Standards by Denis Napthine. I find it of great interest that Denis Napthine; according the article by the Australian that he said: "There is no place in my team or in the Coalition for this sort of behaviour and these sorts of comments," . I say this in light of the comments made by Ted Baillieu regarding his parliamentary colleagues and the disciplinary action against Geoff Shaw. I expect Denis to discipline Ted Baillieu over this comments and demonstrate that he is in control of the parliamentary wing. Punitive action against a potential and aspiring politician is not the way to go. I have always been an advocate for justice, fair crack of the whip, for the battler and doing the right thing by setting an example. Its time our law makers and those representing the public followed suit.

Aaron Lane undermined within. This young man's tweets should have been brought to the attention of the administrative committee when he was being preselected and not wait for it to become public knowledge. Methinks its stink to high heaven of some form of collusion amongst certain left wing socialist to discredit the candidate and those who support him. What kind of message is Denis Napthine sending. It's not his role to dictate. Today he may be the Premier, tomorrow he is just another citizen "walking the pavement" like the rest of us. I expect all politicians to set an example for other to follow and not become elitist in their attitude. I am quite sure that the new and upcoming generation will sit up and take notice of how they treated one of their own.

A rocky road for Ricky Muir. This is an interesting turn for the books. Tensions arising between personalities, amongst members and now the dumping of Mr Druery who helped Ricky Muir become a Senator. Who is at fault, who is to blame and what is to happen are questions that soon will be answered. What is not yet known is whether Ricky Muir will survive the political arena and the gladiatorial battles and challenges that he is destined to face. Without his advisers, without the support of his party and with a diminishing confidence by membership of him, it is quite possible that Ricky Muir could be one of the first Senators to be relieved of his position as not being representative of anyone other than himself.

If I was Ricky Muir, I would shut my mouth and beg forgiveness and understanding on the grounds of inexperience and lack of political procedures from the party he represents. Ricky Muir is not in a position to dictate and nor does he have the numbers to carry his political party. What he does have is the capacity to bring about the demise of his party and make it the laughing stock of Canberra and the rest of Australia. Already now people are asking how in heavens name did this man ever be elected. This flaw in the system needs to be reviewed and plugged.

Return of Helen Kroger. If this is to be the case, one can speculate on who is to replace him. Will it be someone from the political party that he was initially representing at the last Federal election or will it be a matter for the Electorate office to decide as to his replacement. Not being conversant with all of past political models and precedents, is it possible that there is room for the return of the second runner up to replace Ricky Muir. Less stranger things have happened in politics and this is but one event that could make political history. That is the return of former Senator Helen Kroger by default. I cannot see why this cannot be made possible given the above actions being played out by the potential removal of Ricky Muir from the Senate. We certainly live in interesting times.

Abalinx is not a replacement for Vex News. It has come to the authors attention that there are some who are attempting to define the Abalinx website and what it stands for. Some are trying to tie it in with Vex News and that is trying to replace it. In the first place Abalinx has been around a lot longer, secondly Abalinx is about enhancing the quality of life through Social Media, thirdly Abalinx is not merely a political site as it involves many other facets of society which can be visited and also by a quick perusal of its about page. Most of all Abalinx is supported by a number of like minded individuals who have the same or similar outlook on life.

Disclaimer. Abalinx has been instrumental in supporting diverse groups ranging from political, community, military, cultural and national including providing free information on other subjects such as occupational health and safety, career, mature age and employment. It is a not for profit organisation that is not reliant on external funding from any source. Abalinx has no favourites and prefer to be seen as saying things as they are and writing about life from a grass roots point of view. Information that is relevant to all Victorians and Australians alike will be considered sacrosanct and as always, readers and associates contributions are most welcome. Be always sure that your identity is safe with us.



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LIBERALS URGED TO HELP POLICE OVER TAPE SAGA

JAMES CAMPBELL, MICHELLE AINSWORTH HERALD SUN JULY 29, 2014

A LIBERAL figure suspected of leaking the secret Baillieu tape at the centre of a scandal engulfing Labor leader Daniel Andrews has challenged his own party to call in the police.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/liberals-urged-to-help-police-over-tape-saga/story-fni0fit3-1227006291335>

TROUBLES MOUNT FOR VICTORIAN LABOR LEADER DANIEL ANDREWS IN STOLEN TAPES DRAMA

JOHN FERGUSON The Australian July 31, 2014 Political Editor Melbourne

VICTORIAN Labor leader Daniel Andrews's strategy of stonewalling over the stolen tapes affair all but collapsed yesterday as his colleagues privately questioned whether his leadership would survive the scandal. Labor has gambled on the debate over the stolen recordings dying by the end of this week, giving the opposition the chance to repair the damage caused by the controversy. But a flustered Mr. Andrews struggled yesterday to deal with ongoing questions about what his staff knew — and when — about the controversy tearing apart his credibility.

Mr Andrews has denied any involvement of his staff in the distribution of an unauthorized recording of former premier Ted Baillieu made by Fairfax Media. Yesterday he attempted to stop answering questions about the row, referring reporters to his past on-the-record comments. But after repeated questioning, Mr. Andrews stood by his communications director Lissie Ratcliff amid speculation she was the conduit to the Liberal Party for the allegedly stolen Baillieu interview.

Ms Ratcliff did not respond to a series of questions from *The Australian* on what role she had in the scandal but a spokesman said: "The opposition staff member referred to had no knowledge of the recording prior to it being emailed out by Liberal Party members. Any assertion to the contrary is wrong." There is no immediate threat to Mr. Andrews's leadership but his cross-factional support has slumped as a result of the scandal. There is persistent speculation Mr Andrews's office played a bigger role in the affair than has been admitted so far. Mr Andrews denied his chief of staff, John McLindon, had offered to resign over the affair.

<https://plus.google.com/106210093180875476946>

DANIEL ANDREWS BLAMES PARTY HQ OVER TAPES

THE AUSTRALIAN JULY 30, 2014 John Ferguson Political Editor. Vic Labor says damaging files never sent. VICTORIAN Labor leader Daniel Andrews yesterday cut loose

his party's head office over the stolen tapes affair, emphatically declaring that no one in his personal office was involved in the distribution of the recording.

This means the Opposition Leader believes the only real culprit in handing the recording to a Liberal Party operative for dissemination must be at Labor's headquarters, which is staffed by factional opponents. "No one in my office, no one on my staff, had any involvement with this matter," he said. This is despite persistent speculation in the ALP that Mr Andrews's staff were part of a broader conspiracy to disseminate the recording of former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu attacking colleagues in an unauthorised conversation recorded by Fairfax Media. The row over the tape has, for the first time in nearly four years, raised serious questions about the viability of Mr Andrews's leadership, with an election due on November 29.

Victorian Premier Denis Napthine yesterday undertook to provide police with any evidence of wrongdoing unearthed by the Liberal Party during its investigation into the scandal. Labor's assistant Victorian secretary Kosmos Samaras has admitted intercepting and destroying a *Sunday Age* recorder containing at least four unauthorised conversations with political figures. He is one of the four people secretly recorded and he was furious the recording, which was found in the party's lost property after the May state conference, was ever made. Mr Samaras copied one of the files from the recording but says that on legal advice he did not distribute it.

Despite this, the Baillieu conversation found its way into Liberal hands and was widely distributed to hundreds of people, severely embarrassing the former premier. The matter is being investigated by Victoria Police, and lawyer David Galbally has warned theft charges could follow because the recording belonged to the person who recorded it. It is also an offence carrying a penalty of up to five years' jail for anyone who wilfully and unlawfully destroys or damages any property. Mr Andrews said no one in his office had spoken to police, adding: "The theories about this will almost always be more interesting than the truth."

Dr Napthine said that it was up to police to determine whether a theft had occurred. "It looks like a theft, it smells like a theft, I think it is a theft," he said. "The Liberal Party will fully co-operate with the police; if police ask for information, it will be fully provided." The *Sunday Age* has alleged to police that reporter Farrah Tomazin's dictaphone was stolen at the ALP state conference in May, although security footage showed it had been lost. This led to police questioning Mr Samaras and an admission by him that he had destroyed the dictaphone because it contained a series of unauthorised conversations, including one he had with Tomazin.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/daniel-andrews-blames-party-hq-over-tapes/story-e6frgczx-1227006392507>



FORMER PREMIER TED BAILLIEU LASHES ALP OVER SECRET RECORDING SAGA

MATT JOHNSTON, JAMES CAMPBELL, MICHELLE AINSWORTH
HERALD SUN JULY 29, 2014

FORMER premier Ted Baillieu has lashed out at Daniel Andrews and the opposition over their role in the tapes saga that has engulfed him.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/former-premier-ted-baillieu-lashes-alp-over-secret-recording-saga/story-fni0fit3-1227005000107>

LIB STAR BUSTED FOR CRUDE TWEETS

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 01, 2014 John Ferguson Political Editor

A RISING Victorian Liberal star has been exposed using homophobic, sexist and foul language on social media, imperilling his preselection and future in the party. The Australian has obtained a series of tweets by Institute of Public Affairs research fellow Aaron Lane, who is also an endorsed state Liberal candidate at the November 29 state election. The tweets attack homosexuals, refer to former federal Labor leader Simon Crean as a "giant C" and refer to masturbation.

Mr Lane is a religious member of the Victorian Liberal Right, who uses the derogatory term "faggots" and writes: "The problem is (IMO) many homos make their sexuality a defining aspect of their being." He also tells a Twitter friend: "Just because he didn't (ejaculate) doesn't mean you're still a virgin, sweetie." Another tweet declares that "shirts are for faggots". Mr Lane has declined to comment but the party's state director Damien Mantach has summoned Mr Lane today for talks over his future.

"The Liberal Party finds the comments made by Mr Lane on social media to be inappropriate and offensive," he said. "The party takes these matters very seriously. Mr Lane will be required to attend a meeting at Liberal Party headquarters for further discussion about these comments." The messages were among thousands he has sent in recent years, many relating to contemporary political issues. Mr Lane is a former Victorian Young Liberal president and until a month ago was on the Victorian Liberal state executive, which effectively runs the party between state council meetings.

He was preselected in May to contest the Western Victoria Region for the state's upper house, a position he normally would be guaranteed to win. "This is a tremendous opportunity to contribute to the Western Region which has been home for my entire life," he told his local paper in May. There was speculation last night Mr Lane would be sacked as a candidate. Mr Lane, aged in his 20s, argued this year there was a "moral case" to abolish minimum wages to create jobs and get people to work.

"Our position is an ideological one and we don't shy away from that," he said. "This position can be seen as heartless and wanting people to work for a low wage. But it's about empowering individuals in being able to choose their own employment." Mr Lane is one of the highest profile young members, having run the Young Liberal movement and sat on decision-making bodies with Premier Denis Napthine. The worst of the tweets appear to have been made in 2012 and 2013, when Mr Lane was operating a closed account.

<https://plus.google.com/106210093180875476946>

VICTORIAN LIBERAL STAR AARON LANE SET TO PAY PRICE FOR CRUDE TWEETS

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 01, 2014 John Ferguson Victorian Political Editor

VICTORIAN Premier Denis Napthine has called for a rising Liberal star who was exposed using homophobic, sexist and foul language to stand down as a candidate at the state election. Dr Napthine said there was no place in his government for the views expressed on Twitter by Institute of Public Affairs research fellow Aaron Lane, whose crude tweets were revealed in *The Australian* today. "There is no place in my team or in the Coalition for this sort of behaviour and these sorts of comments," Dr Napthine said. "This issue will be dealt with by the Administrative Committee of the Liberal Party this afternoon."

The tweets attack homosexuals, refer to former federal Labor leader Simon Crean as a "giant C" and refer to masturbation. Mr Lane, a religious member of the Victorian Liberal Right, uses the derogatory term "faggots" and writes: "The problem is (IMO) many homos make their sexuality a defining aspect of their being." He also tells a Twitter friend: "Just because he didn't (ejaculate) doesn't mean you're still a virgin, sweetie." Another tweet declares that "shirts are for faggots". But Dr Napthine and other prominent Liberals today savaged the comments, almost certainly signalling that Mr Lane will be dis-endorsed unless he stands down first. The comments sparked outrage across social media and heaped pressure on the party and government to ensure Mr Lane is dis-endorsed from his winnable candidacy for the Upper House's Western Region, which covers 70,000 square km of western Victoria.

Mr Lane declined to comment to *The Australian* yesterday but the party's state director Damien Mantach summoned him today for talks over his future. "The Liberal Party finds the comments made by Mr Lane on social media to be inappropriate and offensive," Mr Mantach said. The messages were among thousands he has sent in recent years, many relating to contemporary political issues. Mr Lane is a former Victorian Young Liberal president and until a month ago was on the Victorian Liberal state executive, which effectively runs the party between state council meetings.

Mr Lane, aged in his 20s, argued this year there was a "moral case" to abolish minimum wages to create jobs and get people to work. "Our position is an ideological one and we don't shy away from that," he said. "This position can be seen as heartless and wanting

people to work for a low wage. But it's about empowering individuals in being able to choose their own employment." The worst of the tweets appear to have been sent in 2012 and 2013, when Mr Lane was operating a closed account. Liberal MP Clem Newton-Brown, whose Melbourne electorate of Prahran contains thousands of gay voters, slammed Mr Lane's comments. "Such comments don't represent the ideals and principles of the Vic Libs," he said on Twitter.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/victorian-liberal-star-aaron-lane-set-to-pay-price-for-crude-tweets/story-e6frgczx-1227009948415>



LIBERAL CANDIDATE AARON LANE RESIGNS AFTER OFFENSIVE TWEETS

August 1, 2014 Richard Willingham with Adam Holmes. Western Victoria candidate Aaron Lane. *Photo: courtesy The Warrnambool Standard.* Victorian Liberal candidate Aaron Lane, who made crude comments on social media, has resigned as the party's candidate for an upper house seat at November's state election.

A statement from Liberal party State Director Damien Mantach on Friday afternoon said Mr Lane had withdrawn his candidacy before a meeting with the Party's Administrative Committee. "The Liberal Party acknowledges that the comments made by Mr Lane on social media are hurtful to many people and are entirely unacceptable," Mr Mantach said. "While Mr Lane has unreservedly apologised for his comments, the Party believes it is important to send a strong message to the community that this behaviour will not be tolerated." Earlier Premier Denis Napthine had called from Mr Lane to stand down after it was revealed that he made offensive comments on twitter before he was preselected.



Speaking in Bendigo on Friday morning Dr Napthine said Aaron Lane, who has been preselected for the upper house Western Region, should stand aside.

Mr Lane has been called into Liberal headquarters for a please explain after it was revealed that he had made a series of crude posts on Twitter. "I believe that it's time for Mr Lane to step down," Dr Napthine said. "There is no place in my team or in the Coalition team for this sort of behaviour and these sorts of comments."



The Premier said the issue would be dealt with by party administration on Friday afternoon. Mr Lane, a former Young Liberal president and fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs, has been contacted for comment.

In some tweets, made before his preselection earlier this year, Mr Lane uses the derogatory term "faggots" and says: "The problem is (IMO) many homos make their sexuality a defining aspect of their being." He also refers to former Labor leader Simon Crean as "a giant C". Another tweet says that "shirts are for faggots". Liberal State Director Damien Mantach on Friday confirmed that he would be speaking to Mr Lane. "The Liberal Party finds the comments made by Mr Lane on social media to be inappropriate and offensive," he said in a statement.

"The party takes these matters very seriously." Revelations about Mr Lane follow earlier controversy this week when it was reported that Premier Denis Naphine instructed pro-life Liberal MP Bernie Finn to remove pictures of dead babies from his Facebook page. And last month Fairfax Media reported that the Attorney-General Robert Clark would speak at the World Congress of Families whose managing director, Larry Jacobs, is a strong supporter of Russian laws banning gay pride demonstrations and "homosexual propaganda". The same conference also features a speaker who links abortion to breast cancer. Mr Lane's comments have caused angst within the party.

Liberal MP for Prahran Clem Newton-Brown said there was no room for homophobic comments in Victorian politics. Labor's spokesman on equality Martin Foley said it was clear that the Liberal Party was still home to offensive views, citing Mr Clark's attendance at "an extreme conference". "You get kicked out of a pub with comments like this, but you don't get kicked out of the Liberal Party," Mr Foley said. "Sacking Aaron Lane is not enough, Denis Naphine must stand up to the rest of the Liberal Party's 'hate faction' and sack them too." Victorian Greens leader Greg Barber urged the Liberal Party to act on Mr Lane. "The Liberals already have enough hatemongers in the state parliament, we don't need one more," Mr Barber said.

http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/liberal-candidate-aaron-lane-resigns-after-offensive-tweets-20140801-zz90v.html?eid=email:nnn-130mn653-ret_news1-membereng:nnn-04/11/2013-news_pm-dom-news-nnn-age-u&campaign_code=13INO007&et_bid=21076032&promote_channel=edmail&mbrn=MTMzOTE2ODE



BILL CLINTON CONFIRMS HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY OSAMA BIN LADEN.

FRANCESCA CHAMBERS 1 August 2014

An audio tape of Bill Clinton from the day before 9/11 confirms he skipped chance to kill bin Laden.

Clinton made the remarks in front of a group of Australian businessmen on September 10, 2001. In the audio recording Clinton says he 'could have killed' Osama bin Laden but decided not to because hundreds of civilians would have also died. Clinton's account matches up with previously unconfirmed reports.

An audio tape of Bill Clinton released on Wednesday confirmed longstanding reports that he 'could have killed' Osama bin Laden but decided not to because he was concerned about civilian casualties in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

The audio recording, made with Clinton's permission by former president of Australia's Liberal Party Michael Kroger and released to Sky News by Kroger, reveals Clinton telling the former Australian politician and more than two dozen Australian businessmen about the missed opportunity during a visit to Australia several months after the end of his presidency. The conversation eerily took place the day before the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks masterminded by bin Laden. 'Osama bin Laden -- he's a very smart guy. I've spent a lot of time thinking about him, and I nearly got him once,' Clinton can be heard saying in the recording.

Audio of a meeting between former President Bill Clinton and former Australian political leader Michael Kroger from Sept. 10, 2001, reveals that Clinton had the opportunity to kill Osama Bin Laden when he was president but didn't 'I nearly got him. And I could have gotten, I could have killed him, but I would have to destroy a little town called Kandahar in Afghanistan and kill 300 innocent women and children.'

'And then I would have been no better than him,' Clinton said. 'And so I didn't do it.' Kandahar is the spiritual home of the Taliban, and it became the physical home of bin Laden during Clinton's second term as president. Bin Laden was believed to be living at a compound in Kandahar called Tarnak Farms at the time. Clinton's account of the abandoned bin Laden mission matches up with a 2004 NBC News report that showed the Clinton administration had eyes on bin Laden in the 2000 and in a 2005 book that claimed Clinton once has the chance to take out bin Laden but didn't.

During the 9/11 investigation NBC obtained a secret, CIA video of Tarnak Farms taken by Predator drones in the fall of 2000. The images in the video are difficult to make out to the untrained eye, but an intelligence analyst for NBC said the video shows a man roughly the same height as bin Laden in white robes walking around the compound protected by guards. The NBC report indicated that all intelligence suggested the man in the video was bin Laden and questioned why the government didn't kill him at that time. 'We were not prepared to take the military action necessary,' retired Gen. Wayne Downing, who ran counter-terror efforts for the Bush administration, told NBC.



Osama bin Laden, was later killed in a Navy SEAL raid in 2011, but not before carrying out the deadly September, 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people

The same incident was the subject of Pulitzer Prize winning author Steve Coll's 2005 book Ghost Wars and rehashed in journalist Jane Mayer's New York Times bestselling book - The Dark Side:

The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals - four years after NBC's report. In *The Dark Side*, Mayer summarizes Coll's reporting, explaining that through the use of Predator drones, bin Laden 'could be watched as he walked through the primitive, undefended, mud-walled compound he and his terrorist associates and their families inhabited in the bleak, sage-brush-strewn plains outside of Kandahar, Afghanistan. 'The video imagery was so exquisitely detailed, U.S. officials viewing the videotapes at the CIA and White House could make out a lone child's swing hanging in the compound,' she wrote. 'The robed man seemed to present an irresistible target for missile attack. But the swing haunted Clinton.

'The swing suggested innocent children lived there,' she noted. 'The United States, for all of its military prowess, was a hamstrung Gulliver in the face of Lilliputian terrorists willing to sacrifice innocent lives in a way no civilized nation could.' Previous reporting on Clinton's hesitancy to kill bin Laden also indicates that the former president was pressured by then-Attorney General Janet Reno not to use deadly force to capture terrorist targets. The CIA had 'no written word nor verbal order to conduct a lethal action' mission against bin Laden before the September 11 terrorist attack, a Clinton administration official told *The Washington Post* in 2004. 'The objective was to render this guy to law enforcement.'

A record of Bill Clinton's paid speeches shows that Clinton was in fact in Australia on the day that Kroger, the Australian businessman who released the tape, says the audio of Clinton was recorded. A comprehensive list of Clinton's speeches published by the *Washington Post* shows that Clinton was paid \$150,000 by J.T. Campbell & Co. Pty. Ltd. to give remarks on Sept. 10, 2001 in Melbourne, which confirms Kroger's account. During his interview with Sky News, Kroger said he kept the audio tape secret until now because he simply forgot about it. It was not until last week, when Bill Clinton was back in Australia for the opening of Torrens University Australia in Adelaide, that Kroger said he remembered the conversation.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2712433/Audio-tape-Bill-Clinton-day-9-11-confirms-reports-Clinton-killed-bin-Laden-didnt-casualties.html>



THE BRICK WITH EYES ENTERS POLITICAL ARENA IN AUSTRALIA

ROB TAYLOR July 30, 2014 Newcomers Shake Up Government Down Under; 'Cantina Scene in Star Wars. Billionaire miner Clive Palmer, with a mechanical dinosaur at Coolum Resort, is the head of the Palmer United Party. *Glenn Barnes/The Australian*

CANBERRA, Australia—In most countries, hurling kangaroo poo or a background in pro-rugby league as a human bulldozer nicknamed "The Brick With Eyes" wouldn't be elevators to high office. Nor would having a plan to build a replica of the Titanic, which would typically sink serious political ambitions faster than an iceberg. In Australia, however, they have proven a ready passport to power.

In one of the biggest upheavals in Australian politics in years, a disparate group of lawmakers, advocating everything from souped-up cars to looser restrictions on public nudity and BASE-jumping from city buildings, has taken its seats this month in the country's unpredictable upper house, the Senate. That is good news for satirists who have grown tired of career politicians working their way up through the ranks. But it is less welcome for the country's centre-right government and its prime minister, Tony Abbott, a former Oxford University boxing champion whose popularity is waning in the polls.

"It's going to be like the cantina scene in Star Wars," says veteran independent Sen. Nick Xenophon, referring to the spectacular assortment of life-forms in one of the movie's most memorable moments. A trailblazer for politicians outside the mainstream, Mr. Xenophon built a strong national profile for himself with the help of oddball stunts. These included baring his scar from chest surgery to reveal "a politician with a heart," employing an Elvis impersonator to sing "Love Me Tender" in support of navy shipbuilding jobs and being "kidnapped" by Tweedy Bird in support of student protesters.

But with a new political era about to dawn, even Mr. Xenophon thinks he has yet to see it all. "The new motto for the Senate is going to be 'Expect the unexpected,'" he says. Political views will range from a pro-gun libertarian and family-rights campaigners with views reminiscent of tea-party Republicans in the U.S. to a Greens senator who studied Marxism in Moscow at the height of the Cold War in 1977. One with the potential to confound Mr. Abbott is Glenn Lazarus, a 253-pound behemoth who earned the nickname The Brick With Eyes by tackling rugby league opponents head-on. He is aiming to adopt a similar approach to Senate politics, drawing parallels with former U.S. pro-wrestler Jesse Ventura, who became governor of Minnesota.

"I've always been the young, upcoming front-rower," said Mr. Lazarus, 48 years old, referring to his position as one of his team's biggest players. But he said he doesn't think his Senate opponents "will appreciate a shoulder charge or a crash tackle...So I'll refrain and hopefully get them on side with common sense."

Nick Xenophon. The Australian Senate is one of the world's most powerful upper houses, with members able to amend or block any legislation including budget bills. Mr. Abbott's conservative bloc needs support from at least six of eight Senate independents and swing voters to pass its legislative agenda. Without their support, his agenda is at the mercy of being voted down by the country's Labor opposition.

Ricky Muir. Newcomers include Ricky Muir, who represents the Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party in favour of all things road-related—such as fewer restrictions

on four-wheel-drive vehicles trundling into national parks. Little known ahead of last September's election, Mr. Muir shot to national notoriety after posting an online video of himself with a bottled beer in one hand and throwing hard black pellets of "kangaroo poo" at friends in a playful backyard fight, until then a pastime unknown to most Australians.

He also raised eyebrows with another short video, of his daughter driving her dad's car and spinning the wheels, in a short clip titled "8-year-old girl smoking tires." The video was later withdrawn after media attention. Mr. Muir has been keeping out of the limelight after learning of the pitfalls of national politics on prime-time television in June where he struggled to explain almost everything in his manifesto, including what his new power over decision-making would entail.

"Can we go to another question? I've got myself into a fluster," he asked on Australia's Seven Network, before saying his new role would be "bringing in the voice of the everyday Australian" into politics. Mr. Muir declined to speak to The Wall Street Journal. The quirky makeup of Australia's Senate is explained by the country's complicated voting system. Mr. Muir was few people's first choice—he received only 0.5% of 3.4 million votes cast in the state of Victoria. However, candidates can still be elected through complex preference deals that progressively redistribute the votes of rival candidates when they are knocked out.

"It will be part of the tapestry of democracy," says Mr. Xenophon. "It's just that we've never seen a tapestry like this before." To ensure his voice is heard in Australia's lakefront capital, Canberra, Mr. Muir has joined forces with billionaire miner Clive Palmer, who built a fortune selling real estate in the 1980s before using his wealth to build a mining empire and plan construction of a replica of the Titanic, an ambition still on the drawing boards.

Mr. Palmer, who lives on a tropical beach resort peppered with mechanical dinosaurs, turned the growing public disenchantment with Australia's major political parties into a successful run for the country's lower house at the head of a self-styled Palmer United Party. He arrives to Parliament in his own Rolls-Royce.

Members of his party include Mr. Lazarus, who leads the three PUP senators in the upper house. "We form a formidable front row in the political arena," Mr. Lazarus says. "I used to watch reruns of footie games," Mr. Lazarus says. "Now, I find myself sitting down each day to watch Question Time to try and get an idea what's going on," he says, referring to the practice in parliaments where opposing lawmakers can query government ministers.

"Part of the reason I decided to contest the election was that I'd been told by coaches that there are some that sit and criticize and others that try and make a difference. So I thought I'll give it a go," he says. Still, there is one issue that Mr. Lazarus plans to address immediately as he ponders matters of state. "I hope that buffet in Parliament is pretty big, because once I get there, there won't be much food left," he says.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/the-brick-with-eyes-enters-political-arena-in-australia-1406775734>

SENATOR RICKY MUIR SACKS CHIEF OF STAFF GLENN DRUERY

1 August 2014 Heath Aston *Political reporter.*

Senator Ricky Muir and his adviser Glenn Druery in happier times. Senator Muir has sacked his adviser. The office of Ricky Muir has imploded after the novice senator sacked his chief of staff, Glenn Druery. Mr Druery was escorted out of the Parliament by officers on Thursday night. Senator Muir, who represents the Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party, sacked the man known as "the preference whisperer" in an email on Thursday. Fairfax Media understands that a personality clash has emerged between Mr Druery and the party's founder Keith Littler



Keith Littler (pictured). Photo: Alex Ellinghausen Fairfax Media understands that a personality clash had emerged between Mr Druery and Motoring Enthusiast party founder Keith Littler. Mr Littler, a truck driver from Queensland who produces motor sport videos, has moved to Melbourne with his wife Sharyn, to steer his electorate office. Mr Littler ran for the Senate in Queensland, where the party was formed, but it was in Victoria that the party found success - through a preference strategy designed by Mr Druery.

Senator Muir and Mr Littler have been attending motorsport events outside of parliamentary sitting sessions. In an email to Mr Druery on Thursday night, Senator Muir said: "You don't get along with the staff." Another member of staff, Susan Bloodworth, who works in the Melbourne office, has quit in protest.

Canberra-based policy adviser to Senator Muir, Peter Breen, declined to comment on Friday, but he is understood to be considering his options. The upheaval comes as Senator Muir lost the support of the Victorian branch of the party, which voted to disband itself this week. Mr Druery told Fairfax Media: "I don't expect the party to survive in the long term but I wish Ricky all the best." Mr Druery said he was not willing to move to Melbourne and has found it hard to perform his task from Sydney where he has four children.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/senator-ricky-muir-sacks-chief-of-staff-glenn-druery-20140801-3cyf5.html>



VICTORIAN BRANCH OF RICKY MUIR'S PARTY TRIES TO REVOKE HIS MEMBERSHIP

July 31, 2014 Richard Willingham *State Political Correspondent for The Age.*

Senator Muir wasn't at the meeting where the Victorian branch of the Motoring Enthusiast Party tried to revoke his membership. The home branch of key crossbench senator Ricky Muir's party has voted to disband itself

and revoke the senator's membership, in protest at the treatment of grassroots members by the senator and senior officials. Illustration: Ron Tandberg.

The Victorian branch and the central branch of the Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party, which is dominated by Queensland founder Keith Littler, who now works for Senator Muir, have been at loggerheads ever since the shock election of the senator last year. The Victorian branch was sacked by the central branch following September's election – however the state branch does not recognise this move and has held meetings in protest. Senator Muir never attends these meetings, and he wasn't present at Wednesday night's AGM in Oakleigh when the branch voted to disband and revoke his membership.

The attempted break-up of the party raises a potential constitutional headache if Senator Muir leaves Parliament before his six-year term expires. Normally the party would find a replacement which would then be endorsed by the Victorian Parliament but with no formal party in existence in Victoria it is unknown how it would function. "The Vic [sic] members recognise that there is no direct course of action available when it comes to an elected senator, however they make it very clear that Ricky Muir faces a term as an independent senator, for his endorsement has been withdrawn by AMEP Vic, he has been expelled from the AMEP Vic branch, his membership revoked and he is no longer recognised as a representative of Vic motoring enthusiasts," one of the motions passed on Wednesday says.

The acting chair of the Victorian state council Stuart Brown said the reality was the party no longer existed in Victoria. He also said the party was declining in other states. The meeting heard that was clearly no connection or affiliation with the people who voted and supported Senator Muir into the Senate. "There is a general consensus amongst the membership that the initial promises and intentions of the party have been overwritten for personal goals," the report of the meeting to members says. Three motions were passed by the meeting, including closing the branch and no confidence in the national leadership team, especially Mr Littler. Mr Littler on Thursday declared the meeting unauthorised as it was held by ex-members of the Victorian Federal State Council.

"The ethics, agenda, claims and motivation of its conveners is highly questionable," Mr Littler said. "Individuals from the dismissed FSC have grasped every opportunity to slander, defame, and undermine Senator Muir and members of the party executive through print, electronic and social media; frequently perpetrating untruths and misinformation whilst consistently demonstrating their lack of unity and respect for the AMEP, Senator Muir, and the community we represent." Constitutional expert Professor George Williams from UNSW said it was a grey area of the constitution but the most likely result would be a replacement from someone in the party, regardless of whether it still existed in Victoria.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/victorian-branch-of-ricky-muir-party-tries-to-revoke-his-membership-20140731-zyzp3.html>