



THE FILE - 2

Peter Adamis 22 August 2014

This is a special revised edition of THE FILE -2 as a result of additional information that has come to hand. In previous editions of the BaillieuGate series, we advised readers that Ted Baillieu would be stepping down before the next State election. It would appear by recent reports that our prediction in this case was correct.

Whatever the public may think of Ted Baillieu, in my mind, Ted was always a staunch Liberal who over the years has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Liberal Party. The unfortunate part of his many achievements has been overshadowed by the sycophants and recalcitrants' that surrounded him. These unnamed individuals which hung onto the coat tails of Ted Baillieu will now be clamouring to identify his successor who ever that may be.

The recent BaillieuGate leaked tape affair was an unfortunate episode in a long line of positive achievements; Ted did not deserve such treatment. However Ted is also partly to blame because he had criticised his colleagues and as such 'treachery' in politics is akin to falling on one's sword so to speak. I have known Ted Baillieu since 1990 and during that time he has always been a gentleman. Many would not know or be aware of his many behind the scenes achievements with Melbourne's diverse communities and/or of his good work with charities. Having said that, does not mean that Ted Baillieu is above criticism especially when one is in the public arena. I, for one wish him all the best and hope to see him contribute further to the Liberal Party that he loves.

I am of the belief that despite the positive remarks concerning the looming State Election, Ted Baillieu has considered all the options and variables open to him and has realised that he is clinging to a rapidly sinking ship whose crew is working feverishly to man the bilge pumps and calk up the many holes to stop it from sinking. With this in mind Ted Baillieu has taken the attitude that its best to leave the ship while it is still afloat and swim while he can, leaving the rats and crew to struggle on their own. The question of succession is an interesting one and the possibilities and ramifications are enormous. Potential successors in waiting. The following are but some of those possibilities:

David Davis. Will it be that David Davis who has always coveted the seat of Hawthorn? He would be a good possibility and certainly the one to retain the sycophants and recalcitrants' that surrounded Ted Baillieu. David Davis however may have his own demons to haunt him and those being his management of the Ambulance and the Hospitals, which are outstanding issues that keep dogging him from reaching a solution to the stakeholders involved. He may however be hard-pressed to win the job should it go to a local preselection, given that he has many political enemies. In any event should David Davis take the spot for Hawthorn who will be given the nod for his vacant seat in the Upper house. The mind boggles at the possibilities.

Mary Woolridg. Can it be possible that Mary Woolridg will finally get the nod from all sections of the Liberal Party bar a few, for the lucrative rights to the seat of Hawthorn. one may think so after being brutally bruised in the battle for Kew. Who knows what the outcome may be and again who knows whether Mary Woolridg would be content with being just the minister and not the job of Premier. Despite Mary Woolridg impeccable public persona, some are of the opinion that she is another Margaret Thatcher hiding behind a veil of political expediency plotting for the Premier job. Mary is well known has many supporters across all political alliances and may have the skills necessary to take on a leadership role. This mantle of leadership should it ever occur will be contested by Matthew Guy (Planning Minister supported by Senator Scott Ryan) and Michael O'Brien (Treasurer supported by Peter Costello).

John Pesutto. John Pesutto is relatively a young man who has over the years gathered the wisdom of years by embroiling himself in Liberal Party politics and having a hand in the changes to Liberal Party reforms. He has also been instrumental in supporting the Premier Denis Napthine and advising him on a number of portfolios. Whether the debacle over the Nurses issue is a matter than comes back to haunt him is another matter. All in all, John Pesutto has tried on a number of occasions to be preselected and of each occasion has been rejected by the local delegates. John is a good operator who deserves the opportunity to be presented with an electorate worthy of his standing. If John Pesutto fails to win pre-selection John can opt to attempt to fill in the either vacancy in the Upper house should Mary Woolridg and/or David Davis decide to contest Hawthorn. However if you were to ask me to make a bet (and I am not a betting man), I would place my money on John Pesutto to win the seat of Hawthorn

John Roskam. John Roskam the current Director Public Affairs is a canny and shrewd operator who deserves to be seriously considered as a candidate. John Roskam has an enormous amount of corporate and political knowledge whose skills would be an asset to any electorate and support to parliamentary colleagues. The only way that John Roskam would be offered the job at Hawthorn is via an Administrative Committee preselection where all the members are pro John Roskam and would have no problems in winning such an in-house preselection. That is, if he is acceptable to the current reigning premier, Denis Napthine. Should John Roskam be unsuccessful he like John Pesutto can opt to attempt to fill in the vacancy in the Upper house depending who is preselected.

Kevin Donnelly. Kevin Donnelly is a smart operator who is no stranger to the political minefield and well versed with the machinations of the Liberal Party. Currently an adviser to Christopher Pyne, Kevin may also consider an attempt for the Upper house should Mary Woolridg and/or David Davis decide to contest the seat of Hawthorn. In the event David Davis wins Hawthorn and Kevin Donnelly wins the Upper house vacated by David Davis it will be bring back bitter sweet memories of a preselection battle of a bygone era.

Sue Smethhurst A journalist by profession, Sue Smethhurst stood against Margaret Fitzherbet for an Upper house seat (Southern Metropolitan) and lost. She is a relatively newcomer to the Liberal fold, but is keen to make an impression but may consider contesting the Upper in the event Mary Woolridge wins Hawthorn. Despite some local support Sue Smethhurst has a long way to go to achieve her political ambitions, but having said that, the future may look even more rosier post the State election in late November.

Greg Hannan. Greg Hannan was once a staffer who worked for Nick Kotsiras (a protégé of Frank Greenstein - the current Metropolitan Male President; whose star is slowly being extinguished) also stood for the Upper house seat (Southern Metropolitan) against Margaret Fitzherbet and lost may consider contesting the Upper house should Mary Woolridge win Hawthorn. Greg Hannan has also ambitions to become a parliamentarian and should he become unsuccessful again, he will require to reconsider his alliances and mentors in order to be worthy of any future consideration.

Jason Aldworth. Jason Aldworth's name has also been touted as a potential contender but insider sources indicate that Jason is enjoying what he is doing in his current role as a public relations consultant and may be reluctant to join the growing ranks of hopefuls. Mind you, Jason Aldworth is a smart operator whose mentor is none other than that political gladiator and Liberal power Broker, Michael Kroger.

Tony Snell. The Liberal Party President may decide it's time to shed the mantle of leadership and take on the cloak of a parliament. Tony Snell has the political experience, the rungs on the boards, huge network amongst the Socialist left of the Liberal Party, well known amongst Melbournes diverse communities, well versed in parliamentary procedures and has the potential for growth as a Minister in Government. Should Tony Snell decide to take the plunge it will create a leadership vacuum within the membership and at this stage there is no known candidate that will be able fill his shoes.

Jan Kronberg. The stepping down of Ted Baillieu has also ramifications for Eastern where Jan Kronberg could consider the third spot. Jan Kronberg was dumped in favour of Mary Woolridg to take the first spot at the request of the Premier Denis Naphthine. Jan Kronberg is currently contesting the number four seat at eastern Metro and stands to be given a golden handshake in the process. Jan Kronberg has been a quiet achiever, working behind the scenes building up the assets and resources of the lower house electorates. It is my guess that Jan Kronberg will contest the fourth spot as she has not been pre-selected and it may be up to the Administrative Committee to decide the fourth and fifth spots.

Vasan Sirinivasan. Vasan Sirinivasan, a local Indian businessman and well known amongst Melbourne and Australia's Indian community may also consider throwing his hat in the ring should Jan Kronberg not stand for the third spot in Eastern Metro. Vasan Sirinivasan stood unsuccessfully in the past for a number of electorates, Forest Hill and Northern Metro are two cases that come to mind. Vasan Sirinivasan once a supporter of Ted Ballieu fell out of favour when his advice to Ted Baillieu over the Indian students and taxi driver incidents was criticised. Vasan Sirinivasan is a shrewd operator who has been able to galvanise diverse communities in supporting the Liberal Party but these achievements have not always been acknowledged by the Liberal Party and one wonders why he still perseveres. Vasan Sirinivasan is also considered to be a close friend of Matthew Guy, the Planning Minister.

Keith Wolahan. Keith Wolahan is an interesting chap who I am of the belief has the potential makings of becoming a very good parliamentarian at the Federal and State level. Keith is a barrister by profession and came into prominence when he defended two soldiers who were charged for actions whilst operating overseas in a hostile environment. Keith Wolahan has also seen two tours of Afghanistan and one tour of East Timor and as a result of has been decorated for his superb actions whilst on operation. It is not a surprise to find that Keith is well thought of and respected by his military colleagues and peers alike.

He along with Eddie Gawonda (local power broker in the seat of Bulleen who is a close friend of Matthew Guy the Planning Minister) has been working quietly and diligently behind the scenes in the Federal seat of Menzies. Keith, who is well liked by many; is at times misunderstood as a result of his actions and some believe that he may be moving too fast without realising that engagement and consultation are the key ingredients in any political aspirations. I am of the opinion that Keith Wolahan would be the ideal choice for an Upper house seat should either Mary Woolridg and/or David Davis win Hawthorn. I for one wish Keith Wolahan all the best in his endeavors to achieve his full potential in the political arena. We will hear more of Keith in the future.

Andrew Ananievski. Young Andrew Ananievski is a protégé of Anthony Fernandez, a local war lord in the Ivanhoe electorate and considered a good friend of the Michael Kroger. Andrew is also close friends with Matthew Guy the Planning Minister and Richard Dalla-Riva who is currently in the Eastern Metropolitan region (Upper house) and dumped by the former premier Ted Baillieu. Andrew Ananievski while currently the secretary of the Ivanhoe electorate supporting Carl Ziebell, is also university student whose ambitions are to become a minister in a Liberal Government. I am of the belief that Andrew Ananievski will want to contest the number four and/or five spot in Eastern as a means of gaining experience as a candidate in a preselection. My guess is that he will have a difficult time obtaining the necessary numbers to achieve his objectives and should look elsewhere.

Recalcitrants and sycophants. The stepping down of Ted Baillieu is also an sign for the many recalcitrants and sycophants that have been dragging down Ted Baillieu down over the years with their ill conceived and wrong advice. Now with Ted out of the picture, these unnamed individuals should take a good look at themselves and decide that its time they went back into the shadows and took up farming mushrooms fed on manure. Many of these are in staffer positions and others are the hangers-on and lobbyists who stand to lose much should the downhill trend continue. The trend to remove these individuals one could say, began with the Battle over the Kew preselection. A battle that saw the rise and fall of political careers and influential personalities within the Liberal Party. Whether these same individuals have seen the writing on the wall remains to be seen but let me be the first to advise readers that a political blood bath of biblical proportions will occur post the State election no matter what the result may be. These recalcitrants and sycophants have been put on notice.

Rise and fall of political alliances. These same individuals have poisoned the mind of Ted Baillieu over the past 25 years and have not allowed Ted to see other points of view. There are many of us who like and respected him throughout the years and yet for the

sake of political alliances were kept at arms distance. Ted as indicated above had all the hall marks of a fine leader and would have still been Premier had he realised that some of the advice been provided was detrimental to his political platform.

With Ted stepping down, it may also mean the demise of the alliance of which David Kemp is considered to be the titular political leader. Should this alliance disintegrate, over time, you can be sure that the recalcitrants and sycophants will seek to be absorbed by the three remaining groups whose leaders are allegedly, Liberal power broker Michael Kroger , Senator Scott Ryan and the former Federal Treasurer Peter Costello. Whatever the outcome of the State election, whatever is to occur will happen according to political plans and deceptive plots that were conceived and mapped out some time ago. There are rumours around the old windmill that those who are aligned with David Kemp and his entourage are doomed to political oblivion. It is now just a matter of time as to who will make the first move to achieving their political ambitions.

Authors note: Apologies to the purists for the grammar and punctuation.



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FORMER VICTORIAN PREMIER TED BAILLIEU TO QUIT POLITICS

State political reporter Alison Savage Fri 22 Aug 2014. Former Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu will not recontest the seat of Hawthorn. (AAP).

Former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu has announced he will be quitting politics, saying now is the right time to leave. Mr Baillieu holds the seat of Hawthorn and has sat on the backbench since resigning as premier last year.

He said it had been an honour to serve the people of Victoria. "I have today advised the Premier that I will not be recontesting the seat of Hawthorn at the forthcoming election," Mr Baillieu said in a statement. "I have not sought a front bench position and do not harbour a desire to return to the Ministry," he said. Mr Baillieu had previously indicated he would recontest the state election, but said now was the right time to go.

"On reflection, now is the right time to step aside and provide an opportunity, in time for the party to select, a fresh face to join the Liberal team," he said. "I do so knowing the Coalition Government has an exceptional record of achievement and a powerful agenda to build a better Victoria." He said he believed the Government had a good chance of winning the state election in November. "Premier Denis Naphthine and the Deputy Premier, Peter Ryan, as always, have my full support and friendship," he said.

"I am confident that the Coalition Government with the support of the people of Victoria, can secure a further term of government. I know that is in the best interests of our state." It is understood the Liberal Party would not need to hold pre-selections for the blue-ribbon seat of Hawthorn because the election is so close. Ted Baillieu has represented the seat of Hawthorn since 1999. He served as Opposition Leader from 2006 and was the Liberal Party's State President for four elections.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-22/former-victorian-premier-ted-baillieu-resigns/5689476>



FORMER VICTORIAN PREMIER TED BAILLIEU TO QUIT POLITICS

Alison Savage Friday 22 Aug 2014

PHOTO: Former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu will not recontest the seat of Hawthorn. (AAP). Former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu has announced he will be quitting politics, saying now is the right time to leave.

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Mr Baillieu had previously indicated he would recontest the state election, but said now was the right time to go. "On reflection, now is the right time to step aside and provide an opportunity, in time for the party to select a fresh face to join the Liberal team," he said. "I do so knowing the Coalition Government has an exceptional record of achievement and a powerful agenda to build a better Victoria." He said he believed the Government had a good chance of winning the state election in November.

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Replacement 'not a captain's pick': Naphine. Premier Denis Naphine said the Liberal Party must now decide whether to choose Mr Baillieu's replacement through a preselection ballot or through an Administrative Committee. "It's not a captain's pick, that's not the way the Liberal Party works," Dr Naphine said. "We have a very democratic process within the Liberal Party, and the Liberal Party will decide these matters."

But he would not comment on whether Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge would be a suitable candidate. Ms Wooldridge was left without a seat after her Doncaster electorate was abolished in a redistribution. That's the challenge in front of the Liberal Party, to choose among many, many good people, as to who is best to represent Hawthorn. Denis Naphine, Victorian Premier.

She was then defeated in a bitter a pre-selection battle for Kew in the lower house. Ms Wooldridge is now leading the Liberal ticket for the eastern metropolitan region in the senate. "That's the challenge in front of the Liberal Party, to choose among many, many good people, as to who is best to represent Hawthorn and the Liberal Party at the upcoming election," Dr Naphine said. In an earlier statement, Dr Naphine said the state would not be in the strong position it is in now without Mr Baillieu's "tireless efforts".

"I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Ted Baillieu for his extraordinary contribution to the people of the Victoria, the Parliament and the Liberal Party," he said in a statement. Dr Naphine credited him for winning the 2010 state election and forming the coalition between the Liberal Party and Nationals in the lead up to the vote. "Under Ted's leadership as Premier of Victoria, the Coalition Government brought the budget back to a sustainable footing and introduced a raft of successful policies developed during his time as leader of the Opposition.

"Without Ted's tireless efforts and contribution as both leader of the Opposition and Premier of Victoria, this great state would not be in the strong position that it is in today. "I am proud to say that Ted Baillieu is also a close friend, whose advice over the years, I have valued and appreciated." David Davis quiet on lower house bid. Health Minister David Davis would not be drawn on whether he might move to the lower house to replace Mr Baillieu. "I don't think today is a day for that. Today is a day for discussion about Ted Baillieu's legacy," Mr Davis said.

He had a sense of justice, a sense of purpose, a sense of commitment to Victoria. David Davis, Victorian Health Minister "I'm not even talking about it today. What I'm saying very clearly is that Ted Baillieu has contributed massively to Victoria." Mr Davis said Mr Baillieu's legacy had not been tarnished by the way he quit the premiership. "He was a very good premier. He was also a very committed person in his advocacy for Hawthorn," he said. "He was determined to see good outcomes for all Victorians. "He had a sense of justice, a sense of purpose, a sense of commitment to Victoria. He is truly a great Victorian."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-22/former-victorian-premier-ted-baillieu-resigns/5689476>

FORMER PREMIER TED BAILLIEU RESIGNS

August 22, 2014 Josh Gordon and Henrietta Cook

Former premier Ted Baillieu is bowing out of politics, vacating the prized seat of Hawthorn just three months from the November 29 election. In a shock announcement which caught the Coalition government off guard, Mr Baillieu said he had advised Premier Denis Naphine he would not be recontesting his seat. Mr Baillieu has previously pledged to stay on, resisting pressure from some quarters that he vacate his plum electorate to make way for fresh talent. On Friday Mr Baillieu, who stood down as premier in March 2013 after facing pressure from within his own party, was giving little away.

"On reflection, now is the right time to step aside and provide an opportunity, in time for the Party to select, a fresh face to join the Liberal team," he said in a statement. "I do so knowing the Coalition Government has an exceptional record of achievement and a powerful agenda to build a better Victoria." The announcement set off a flurry of speculation about who might replace him in Hawthorn, which the Coalition holds by a margin of 16.6 per cent. John Pesutto, who has a long history in the party and currently serves as Premier Denis Napthine's legal counsel, is understood to be "very interested" and is regarded by many as a strong candidate. Other sources said Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge - who Mr Baillieu has strongly backed - was another strong possibility.

They said Mr Baillieu had decided to wait until now to make his resignation announcement because it meant the administrative committee would select the candidate, bypassing the local vote. "We think Ted is trying to get Mary Wooldridge into the seat." Ms Wooldridge lost preselection for the seat of Kew in March to former Stonnington mayor Tim Smith, but has since been preselected for an Upper house seat. Institute of Public Affairs director John Roskam is believed to be in the mix of potential candidates. Public relations consultant Jason Aldworth is also being touted as a possibility. Mr Baillieu entered politics in 1999 as the member for Hawthorn.

The former architect held a number of shadow ministries including Tertiary Education and Training, Gaming, Planning and the Arts. More recently he has been chair of the Victorian Government's ANZAC Centenary Committee. He was elected Leader of the Victorian Liberal Party in 2006. A spokeswoman from Mr Baillieu's office said he would not be addressing media. It is understood that Mr Baillieu is working in his office today. The former premier's private conversation was at the centre of the dictaphone scandal that has recently enveloped Victorian politics. In the conversation, which was between Mr Baillieu and a Fairfax journalist, he criticised his Liberal colleagues.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/former-premier-ted-baillieu-resigns-20140822-1074a3.html>



TED BAILLIEU TELLS VICTORIANS 'IT HAS BEEN AN HONOUR TO SERVE AFTER ANNOUNCING HE WILL QUIT POLITICS

MICHELLE AINSWORTH HERALD SUN AUGUST 22, 2014. Ted Baillieu resigned as premier in March last year. Former premier Ted Baillieu will quit politics at the November state election. Mr Baillieu has released a statement announcing he will not contest the November 29 election.

He had previously said he would recontest and had been preselected for his seat of Hawthorn. It is understood Mr Baillieu was keen to serve another term, but felt he could do other things with his life outside parliament. Mr Baillieu resigned as premier in March last year after explosive recordings were published detailing secret deals between Mr Baillieu's chief of staff and a former adviser. He will celebrate 15 years in parliament in September. It is likely the Liberal Party will have to hold a preselection for his prized Hawthorn seat, which he holds with a strong 16 per cent margin.

An honour to serve. In a statement released this afternoon Mr Baillieu said it had been an honour to serve his electorate and the people of Victoria. "It is a privilege to have served the Liberal Party at the highest levels including as State President through 4 elections and Parliamentary Leader through 2 elections, including leading the Party and Coalition back to Government in 2010," Mr Baillieu said. "In turn it has been an honour to serve the electorate and the people of Victoria, as Member for Hawthorn, Arts Minister and Premier. "And of course I wish to thank my wife Robyn and our children Martha, Eleanor and Robert, whose love and support has been a joy." Mr Baillieu said he had been pleased to pursue his local responsibilities and his work on the ANZAC committee since he stepped down as premier.

"I have not sought a front bench position and do not harbour a desire to return to the Ministry. "On reflection, now is the right time to step aside and provide an opportunity, in time for the Party to select, a fresh face to join the Liberal team. "Premier, Denis Naphthine and the Deputy Premier, Peter Ryan, as always, have my full support and friendship. "I am confident that the Coalition Government with the support of the people of Victoria, can secure a further term of government. I know that is in the best interests of our State. "I take this opportunity to thank the people of Victoria for the trust they placed in me and the honour of serving."

A remarkable accomplishment. Premier Denis Naphthine paid tribute to Mr Baillieu and thanked him for his contribution to Victoria. "I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Ted Baillieu for his extraordinary contribution to the people of the Victoria, the Parliament and the Liberal Party," Dr Naphthine said. "Ted has been a member of Parliament and a strong representative for the people of Hawthorn since 1999.

"Ted became leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party in 2006 and famously led the Coalition to victory in 2010. Dr Naphthine said Mr Baillieu had been instrumental in forming a coalition with the National Party prior to the last election. "Under Ted's leadership as Premier of Victoria, the Coalition Government brought the budget back to a sustainable footing and introduced a raft of successful policies developed during his time as leader of the opposition.

"Without Ted's tireless efforts and contribution as both Leader of the Opposition and Premier of Victoria, this great state would not be in the strong position that it is in today. Dr Naphthine said Mr Baillieu's recent work as chairman of the Anzac centenary committee was a shining example of his dedication to recognising Victoria's wartime history.

"I am proud to say that Ted Baillieu is also a close friend, whose advice over the years, I have valued and appreciated. "On behalf of the Government and the people of Victoria, I would again like to thank Ted Baillieu for his contribution to this state and wish him, Robyn and his family all the very best for the future." Federal opposition leader Bill Shorten has also congratulated Mr Baillieu on his service to the state.

"Ted Baillieu has risen to be premier of Victoria, that is a remarkable accomplishment accorded to very few people," Mr Shorten said. "I recognise and pay respect to his public service and to achieving the office of premier of Victoria. "I think the Liberal Party are probably wondering if they did the right thing in replacing him, but today I say to Ted Baillieu

congratulations on your service and now your family get you to come back to them." Opposition health spokesman Gavin Jennings recognised Mr Baillieu's achievements as premier and questioned why he was replaced by Denis Naphine last year. "Ted Baillieu has every right to resign of his choosing, we wish him well," Mr Jennings said.

"When he was the premier he did an important thing, he commissioned an inquiry into the child abuse in care and in fact that is something he will be fondly remembered for and we can thank him for that. "It is extraordinary to this day we do not know the reasons within the Liberal Party why he was removed by his party and replaced with premier Napthine."

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria-state-election-2014/ted-baillieu-tells-victorians-it-has-been-an-honour-to-serve-after-announcing-he-will-quit-politics/story-fnocxssc-1227033105827>



TED BAILLIEU TO QUIT VICTORIAN POLITICS AT NOVEMBER STATE ELECTION

Australian Associated Press The Guardian Friday 22 August 2014. Ted Baillieu says it is the right time to step aside. Photograph: Julian Smith/AAP. The former Victorian premier says he will not recontest his seat of Hawthorn at the poll on 29 November

The former Victorian premier, Ted Baillieu, will quit politics at the November state election. Baillieu says he will not recontest his seat of Hawthorn at the 29 November poll. Baillieu, who stepped down as premier in March 2013, said he had not sought a frontbench position and had no desire to return to the ministry.

"On reflection, now is the right time to step aside and provide an opportunity, in time, for the party to select a fresh face to join the Liberal team," he said in a statement on Friday. He said the premier, Denis Naphine, and the deputy premier, Peter Ryan, had his full support. "I am confident that the Coalition government, with the support of the people of Victoria, can secure a further term of government. "I know that is in the best interests of our state."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/22/ted-baillieu-to-quit-victorian-politics-at-november-state-election>



FORMER VICTORIAN PREMIER TED BAILLIEU TO QUIT POLITICS

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 22, 2014 John Ferguson. Ted Baillieu will not stand at the next Victorian election. *Source:* News Limited. FORMER Victorian premier Ted Baillieu will quit politics at the November 29 election. Mr Baillieu announced today he will stand down, making way for a candidate to contest the election in the Liberal Party's third safest seat in the Victorian parliament.

His decision to quit was not unexpected, having been the subject of internal speculation after he was forced out of the premiership in March 2013. The party will have to decide whether to open up his Melbourne seat of Hawthorn to a preselection ballot or have it determined by the Liberal administrative committee. Mr Baillieu has quit less than 120 days before the election, which means that a ballot is not automatic. His factional opponents have long argued that Mr Baillieu would quit in this time frame to prevent being rolled internally. Mr Baillieu said in a statement: "I have today advised the Premier that I will not be recontesting the seat of Hawthorn at the forthcoming election.

"It is a privilege to have served the Liberal Party at the highest levels including as state president through four elections and parliamentary leader through two. "In turn it has been an honour to serve the electorate and the people of Victoria, as Member for Hawthorn, arts minister and premier. "And of course I wish to thank my wife Robyn and our children Martha, Eleanor and Robert, whose love and support has been a joy. "I have not sought a front bench position and do not harbour a desire to return to the ministry." Comment is being sought from Health Minister David Davis to determine whether he will move from the Upper house to contest the seat.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/former-victorian-premier-ted-baillieu-to-quit-politics/story-e6frgczx-1227033128151>



FORMER VIC PREMIER BAILLIEU QUILTS POLITICS

PATRICK CARUANA AAP AUGUST 22, 2014. Former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu won't recontest his seat in the November state election. *Source: AAP.*

FORMER Victorian premier Ted Baillieu has been farewelled from politics as a giant of the Liberal Party. LESS than four years after leading the coalition to government, and within 18 months of losing the top job, Mr Baillieu says he will leave politics at the November election.

Mr Baillieu, 61, said it was in the best interests of the party and the state for him to depart. "Now is the right time to step aside and provide an opportunity, in time for the party to select, a fresh face to join the Liberal team," he said in a statement on Friday. Mr Baillieu became leader of the Liberal Party in 2006, and led the coalition to a shock one-seat victory in 2010. Denis Napthine, who replaced Mr Baillieu as premier in March 2013, thanked his predecessor for his years of hard work.

"Without Ted's tireless efforts and contribution as both leader of the opposition and premier of Victoria, this great state would not be in the strong position that it is in today," Dr Napthine said. "I am proud to say that Ted Baillieu is also a close friend, whose advice over the years I have valued and appreciated." Deputy Premier Peter Ryan said Mr Baillieu had left a great legacy. "Ted Baillieu is a great Victorian who has made a magnificent contribution to the life and times of our state," he said. Opposition frontbencher Gavin Jennings wished Mr Baillieu well, but said there were unanswered questions about his departure from the premiership.

"It is extraordinary, to this day, we do not know the reasons within the Liberal Party why he was removed by his party and replaced with Premier Napthine," he said. Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said the coalition might have made a mistake in getting rid of Mr Baillieu. "I think the Liberal Party are probably wondering if they did the right thing in terms of replacing him," he told reporters. "But today I say to Ted Baillieu congratulations on your service, and now your family get you to come back to them."

Liberal Party State director Tony Snell said the 200cm-tall Mr Baillieu was a giant of the party. "I would like to congratulate Ted Baillieu for his 15 years of exceptional service to the Victorian parliament and his lifelong dedication to the cause of the Liberal Party," he said. Mr Snell said the party would soon begin the preselection process to find a candidate for Mr Baillieu's seat of Hawthorn.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/ex-vic-premier-baillieu-to-quit-politics/story-fn3dxive-1227033176448>



VICTORIAN ELECTION WITH 100 DAYS TO GO WHAT ARE THE BIG ISSUES?

Denis Napthine (R) and Daniel Andrews. Political parties often want to focus on a narrow range of contested issues – our job is to broaden that out. Photograph: David Crosling AP Image.

To kick off our new blog, our Melbourne editor explains why unemployment, Tony Abbott and (obviously) the East West Link will all affect this critical state election. One hundred days out from the Victorian election, welcome to our new blog. The idea is that this is a place to talk about politics, dig into issues you're interested in, discuss, argue and share. Do let us know what's going on in your electorate, and feel free to contribute pieces, long and short, in your area of expertise or interest. There are three of us based in Melbourne, and our emails and Twitter handles are at the bottom of this post. As always, we'll share the best we see from anywhere around the web, so let us know if we miss something. And remember, Guardian Australia has a secure drop if you want to let us know something anonymously and confidentially.



Workers outside the Alcoa plant in Point Henry, Geelong, which the company plans to close. Photograph: Joe Castro/AAP Image.

To kick off, here are five issues we think will be, or should be, central to this campaign. It's not exhaustive – health and education are always crucial – but it's a start. Political parties often want to focus on a narrow range of contested issues. Our job, with your help, is to broaden that out.

Issue one: where are the jobs? In July, the unemployment rate in Victoria hit 7%, a 12-year high (the national figure was 6.4%). As the Age's economics editor, Peter Martin, pointed out, the last premier to lead the state to an election with such a high unemployment rate was Jeff Kennett in 1999 - he lost. The state's population is galloping along and not enough jobs are being created to cope with it. The economy is straining, and the looming closure of the car industry in 2017 and the decline of manufacturing is particularly hurting Victoria.

Outside Melbourne, the job rate is even worse in many areas – it's 10% in Geelong (the three-month average figure is 8.4%). Saul Eslake, chief economist for the Melbourne-based Bank of America Merrill Lynch, says the Victorian economy has been "remarkably resilient" given it isn't a resource state and its industries have been vulnerable to the high Australian dollar – its major events program works a treat, too – but the years when it outperformed NSW are over.

"I think Victoria is struggling," Eslake told Guardian Australia. "I don't think the Labor party is finding this any easier, to define an economic vision. Where are the major drivers of growth in Victoria going to come from given that the long established drivers are clearly under threat or in decline?" The Napthine government's response is a \$27bn infrastructure program – mostly in transport projects – to boost jobs and economic growth. Labor has announced a jobs program of its own and a competing transport plan. It would be a relief if there was some bipartisanship on infrastructure projects – and trust that they'll actually be delivered – but that's been elusive so far.

Issue two: the Abbott factor. To get a sense that Victoria really is Australia's big progressive state, consider this: at the September federal election, when voters were exhausted with the Rudd/Gillard Labor government, the Coalition still couldn't win the two-party preferred vote in Victoria. Labor received 50.20% after preferences. Monash University politics lecturer Paul Strangio says that the state has been progressive since the 1980s and conservative parties here need to be – and usually are – dominated by "small l" liberals who understand the local mindset.



For instance the premier, Denis Napthine, opposed the federal attempt to water down the Racial Discrimination Act. Denis Napthine and Tony Abbott: conservatives would prefer the PM stays away. Photograph: Joe Castro AAPImage. Last year, Tony Abbott mused that "Melbourne is my second home" but most conservatives would prefer he stay away.

Labor is, of course, joyous, with one insider saying Abbott is "like an alien" in Victoria. An analysis of Newspoll. This included the budget backlash, found that while the Abbott government had lost ground since the election across the country, Victorians had revolted: Labor was ahead of the Coalition in Victoria by 58% to 42%. Locally, the government is countering with digs at Labor's perceived weakness – its close ties to unions that have been accused of misconduct and alleged corruption, especially the CFMEU, a generous donor to the Victorian Labor party. So why is Victoria so progressive? There are lots of theories on that, one of them being the weather.

Issue three: the environment. Scientists, including those in the CSIRO, say climate change will mean more frequent and intense bushfires. OK, we're the Guardian, but we still think this matters, even if only the Greens are likely to try to push it to the centre of this campaign. Neither the Coalition nor Labor have been eager to discuss climate change and how Victorians will need to adapt to what scientists, including those in the CSIRO, say will mean more frequent and intense bushfires and deadly heatwaves.

For instance, the federal Department of Environment says that, without global action on climate change, the average number of days above 35C in Melbourne is likely to increase from nine to 26 by 2070. Mildura, in the north of the state, is expected to face as many as 107 days of very high or extreme fire risk every year, up from 80 now. That's potentially life-changing, and life-threatening.

There's the sleeper issue of coal seam gas and whether Victoria's moratorium on it will be lifted – just after the election. It's doubtful any of the big parties, Greens aside, will want to discuss that either, but community action groups have popped up around country Victoria and are determined they won't get away with it. The government commissioned former Federal minister Peter Reith to do a report which strongly recommended the moratorium on fracking be lifted and new CSG licences issued.

The question will be whether the government, and Labor, articulates a clear position, at least in principle, before the November election, and either argues the case for the unconventional gas industry with strict oversight, or declare it's too risky environmentally or politically. Or say nothing. The future of wind farms in Victoria is also at stake, with the government's restrictions on where they can be built reportedly costing the state in jobs and investment, and with Labor pledging to loosen the rules. We'll keep an eye on the response to the Morwell coalmine fire when the inquiry reports in late August – the rehabilitation of the mine, and preventing another public health and environmental disaster.



Issue four: law and order. Victorian police: the Napthine government is getting 'tough on crime'. Photograph: Julian Smith/AAPImage. Almost daily now the government gives a "drop" to local tabloid the Herald Sun on its latest "tough on crime" initiative. In the past few days, there's been Australia's toughest "king hit" laws; the seizure of assets suspected of having being obtained unlawfully; and allowing the publication of the name of anyone charged with breaching a family violence intervention order.

The Napthine government has been active on law and order, increasing sentences, reducing the discretion of judges and adding prison beds to cope. It's been a big shift in approach in this state and it's undoubtedly popular, especially in the outer suburbs and regional towns. Labor has, with few exceptions, been reluctant to resist, although it is more sceptical of mandatory sentences. The broader question is whether any of this has been effective in reducing crime, and whether the cost is justified. Victoria's peak legal body, the Law Institute of Victoria – as well as many other legal groups – is scathing about the trend, demanding evidence that any of it has worked.

It says most of the measures have been borrowed from NSW, and haven't worked there either. What has been welcomed is the attention on family violence after a number of horrific cases, including the death of 11-year-old Luke Batty at the hands of his mentally ill father in February. For the first time anyone can remember, family violence will be an election issue. Over-worked and under-resourced domestic violence groups believe now is the time to better coordinate services and increase funding. All sides of politics are sensitive to this issue, with Labor leader Daniel Andrews calling it a "national emergency" and pledging a royal commission if elected. The police union, a powerful lobby group, is suggesting that offenders who repeatedly breach intervention orders be forced to wear GPS tracking devices.



Issue five: transport and planning. Melbourne has just been named the world's most liveable city, which pleases even ironic Melburnians, but it has growing pains. Photograph: Daniel Fogarty AAP. The government's Plan Melbourne estimated the city would grow to be home to 7.7 million people by 2051, up from 4.3 million now.

How to house more people, how to move them around when gridlock already chokes the city at peak times, how to make it a good place to live whether you're rich or poor, live in the inner or outer suburbs, is beginning to be talked about seriously. Central to the discussion are contested transport plans, worth billions of dollars and to take decades to complete. The centrepiece of the government's plan is the East West Link, an 18km motorway running from east to west through the inner northern and western suburbs, to be built in two stages. It is the East West Link that has caused the biggest controversy, because of its cost. There's also a new rail tunnel from Southern Cross station to South Yarra, an airport rail link, and level crossing upgrades. Labor is opposed to the East West Link.

Pledging instead to upgrade 50 level crossings (a major headache in Melbourne), build a truck off-ramp to cut congestion on the West Gate bridge, and build a rail tunnel from South Kensington to South Yarra. It is the East West Link that has caused the biggest controversy, because of its cost (about \$18bn for both stages), the growing and sometimes ideological debate about whether roads or public transport should be prioritised, and an issue that dogs state governments – transparency. (Here's my colleague First Dog on the Moon's take on the road.)

Naphtine calls it a "congestion buster", but well-organised, inner-city groups are campaigning hard against it, there are two legal cases attempting to force the release of the full business case, and there has been a lot of coverage of residents unhappy about having their homes acquired and demolished. As well, the government says it will sign the contract in October – just before the election – and it is under pressure to delay the signing to let Victorians have their say. Opinion polls suggest the government has not yet convinced most voters that the East West Link should be the highest infrastructure priority, but Labor wants it both ways. It is against the project, but says it will honour the contract if it is signed by the government before election day.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/victorian-election-the-countdown/2014/aug/21/victorian-election-with-100-days-to-go-what-are-the-big-issues?CMP=ema_632



POLITICIANS WARNED AS VIC JAILS FILL UP

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Victoria's prison population has surged 35 per cent in four years, politicians are being warned ahead of a state election where law and order issues are again at the fore.

Not-for-profit group Jesuit Social Services (JSS) has marked 100 days out from the November 29 poll by urging political leaders to pull back from a policy battle over who could be tougher on crime. 'Victorians deserve more than a race to the bottom on law and order,' JSS chief executive Julie Edwards said on Wednesday. 'There is little evidence to suggest these policies will make our community safer - on the contrary, prison often exacerbates the problems that lead people to offend in the first place.' Victoria's prison population has increased from 4581 to 6230 since the 2010 state poll.

Ms Edwards said earlier law and order reforms had contributed to the increase, and more was coming with legislation for ten-year mandatory jail terms for 'one punch' attackers introduced to parliament this week. Prison operating costs also surged 50 per cent from 2009-10 to 2012-13, and this money was better spent on programs to tackle substance abuse and social disadvantage. 'If we want to create safer communities, we need to invest in programs targeting the root causes and underlying disadvantage behind crime,' Ms Edwards said. The Australian Bar Association (ABA) and the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) have also voiced concerns about the law and order focus of the Victorian government.

ABA president Mark Livesey QC said mandatory sentences meant there was no incentive to enter an early guilty plea, adding to justice system costs and waiting times. 'We also need to recognise that (one-punch attacks) are often opportunistic acts, often fuelled by alcohol, and offenders are not likely to pause to consider that there is a mandatory sentence,' Mr Livesey said. LIV president Geoff Bowyer said politicians were fostering the perception 'we live in a dangerous society'. '...and that all offenders should just be locked away for a long time, rather than developing better programs to divert and monitor offenders,' he said.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/news/politics/national/2014/08/20/politicians-warned-as-vic-jails-fill-up.html>