



# THE FILE - 5

Peter Adamis 28 August 2014

THE FILE in this edition is a conglomeration of articles that cover past and present including the sad passing of a long time Liberal. At the present moment in time, focus is on the Victorian State election, what drives it and the effects of a Federal Liberal Government. Terrorism, border protection privacy, ASIO and ASIS powers and their lasting effects on society.

## CONTENTS.

1. THE FILE
2. THE DUDS AND DAZZLERS ON ABBOTT'S FRONTBENCH
3. BOTH VIC PARTIES PLAY DOWN ALP POLL BOOST
4. PROMISE UNFULFILLED, BUT A DIGNIFIED SERVANT
5. TEAM AUSTRALIA? ONLY IF IT'S FOR ALL OF US
6. SECURITY AGENCIES FACE BILL TO NAME MPS PUT UNDER SURVEILLANCE
7. SUPPORT FOR TONY ABBOTT'S TERROR CRACKDOWN
8. POLL SHOWS VICTORIAN PREMIER DENIS NAPHTHINE MAY LOSE AT STATE ELECTION
9. BALLARAT MAYOR JOSHUA MORRIS JUMPS INTO STATE POLITICS
10. MINISTER TOURS BETH WEIZMANN
11. ABBOTT ANNOUNCES COUNTER TERRORISM FUNDING
12. DON'T ATTACK ISLAMIC LEADERS ASIO BOSS
13. WE NEED TO SEPARATE THE GENUINE BATTLERS FROM THE BLUDGERS
14. RELATIVES HUNT ONLINE TO SOLVE MALAYSIA AIRLINES MH370 MYSTERY
15. LIBERALS AT ODDS AS TED BAILLIEU'S RESIGNATION TRIGGERS SPLIT

### **MH370 to domestic terrorism.**

This past week we have been inundated with material from across the world regarding terrorism as being the main topic at the dinner table. Gone are the horrors of the downing of MH17, and as yet no one knows of its predecessors location the MH370, forcing relatives and friends to scour the internet seeking clues and answers to the location and/or sighting of the aircraft. We have also seen ASIO chief come out in public support of our Australian Muslim communities advising those ignorant of the Islamic culture that Muslim leaders are in indeed supporting Australian institutions in combating terrorism and ensuring that programs are being implemented as a deterrent to radicalism of Australian Muslim youth.

### **Victorian State election.**

In Victoria, the government is battling against the tide of unpopularity and attempting to spread the message that the future will be bright and beautiful. Whether this is 'pork barrelling' remains to be seen, but what is certain is that Denis Naphtine will not go down without a fight and will endeavour to throw whatever recourses are at his disposal. He note that anyone else knows that his political carer hangs in the balance and it may be his last opportunity to make his mark on politics beg[re a new generation of hungry and determined political individuals fill the vacuum after his departure from the leadership.

**Mantle of leadership.** Once the outcome of the seat of Hawthorn is decided, and should Mary Woolridge decide not to take the leadership plunge, the field narrows down to Matthew Guy and Michael O'Brien. Should this scenario play out, it will mean the demise of the Ted Ballieu alliance and factions associated with him and as previously demonstrated absorbed into the remaining alliances. Whoever is to tackle on the mantle of leadership may be a leader in opposition and what better place to be in order to reorganise and restructure a political party than has alienated its members to the core.

Whoever is to take on the mantle of responsibility must take measures to reconcile the many alienated members who are currently being loyal to the party without becoming directly involved in the decision making. Whole swathes of Liberal party members need to be convinced that the changes to be made are and will be in the interests of the broad membership and not to a few. The effective use of the Star chamber is but a beginning.

**Star chamber .** Some say it was an initiative of John Howard and others advise that it was a concept created by the military who use similar systems to identify potential leaders. Research however indicated that it had its origins in the ancient high court of England where it was controlled by the reigning monarch and in time came to mean lawlessness and oppressive tribunal that often met in secret. Whatever the case may have been in the past, the current Star Chamber is an inner circle of individuals tasked with identifying suitable people to fill government and ministerial positions. The Star chamber now comes into question whether it is still a viable piece of machinery in identifying solid citizens to take on the mantle of ministerial and government responsibilities.

In Victoria, it is believed that the Star chamber is made up of individuals from the Premiers office, the upper house, Lower House, Finance, the political wing, Cabinet secretaries and administrative staff personally selected. They are tasked with the identification of individuals who have the necessary qualifications, corporate knowledge, skills and life experiences to fill ministerial and government roles. One could say that it is a mini "ASIO" of the political parties whose responsibility is to vet individual applications.

When the Star Chamber was first implemented it worked like a charm, however over time the processes became arduous, long and complicated and it meant that good people had not been appointed due to factional alliances and less skilled and qualified individuals. In other words, "Jobs for the boys", yes men and women, sycophants and recalcitrants. The first cracks began to appear some four years ago when those in power failed to effectively use the Star chamber for what it was designed for and generational changes were not implemented. Victorians deserved and deserve better.

The ineffective use of the Star chamber led to poor community and communication advisers being selected on merit. As a result of this failure to select good advisers, the Victorian government have done a poor job at selling their policies. It took the media to expose the failings of these advisers and in doing so Victorian voters lost faith in the political process and their leaders. The communication advisers and staffers lacked the emotional, political, business and life experiences to communicate their messages to a Victorian public. These mediocre politicians have become merely the mouth pieces of sycophant communication advisers.

Rarely do we see these days politicians with the gumption to call a spade a spade and to bring the people with them. While at the Federal level, Tony Abbot in my opinion is one of those rare individuals who will call it as he sees it and the recent no change to 18C was a classic example of what leadership is all about. Tony Abbott realised that any changes to a legal system that was working effectively for over twenty years should not have been changed based on ideological reasons alone.

In Victoria, unfortunately both premiers Ted Ballieu and Denis Napthine had and have poor communication advisers that obviously were allegedly vetted by the Star chamber and as such many were based on deals being done, factional alliances and jobs for the boys. Ted Baillieu, I have always stated was and is still a good political personality and leader whose sycophant communication advisers are responsible for his downfall and have much to answer. Yes men and women should be relegated to a bygone era where mistakes were often made and never in the interests of society but only to enrich the pockets of those in the inner circle.

One hopes that the new crop of advisers are better trained, qualified with the appropriate life experiences to enable them to provide good and timely advice that is in the interests of all Victorians and Australians alike. If not then the Star Chamber is likely to be relegated to its ancient origins where it met always in secret and was used unlawfully to ensure that the elite and only those within the inner circle were invited.

**Monitoring Parliament and whose is responsible.** The recent revelations by Senator Nick Xenophon that members of parliament are being monitored within the parliamentary system strikes to the heart of democratic values and the need to be free from such surveillance. Such are the concerns amongst some parliamentary colleagues that it is creating alarm bells in Canberra and one wonders whether there is a need for such monitoring and who does it give an advantage to. Is it the security services whom are tasked with monitoring recalcitrant citizens or the body of law makers elected by society to represent them. This is a serious issue that must be faced in order to safe guard not only the government, but the Members of parliament and their sources of information.

**Social services.** Welfare Services is back in the limelight with calls for the identification of who and who is not at risk of being categorised as an Aussie battler. If it is to be based solely on financial status its doomed to fail. If it's based on current and not future living standards, it is also doomed to failure. Therefore a close and compassionate examination of the welfare services system needs to be conducted in order to find a solution to an ever growing problem amongst the youth in particular. Current thinking amongst Victorians is that should no methodologies be found to assist young school leavers and those under the 30 year old bracket, crime involving assaults, thieving, drugs and a rise of gangs may be the outcome. This fact alone will drive many people and communities into security enclaves similar to the ones in South Africa in order to feel secure from harm. There is a message here that cannot be ignored, especially at a time when Victorian jails are at their maximum. Andrew Bolt in his blog certainly makes a compelling case.



Ted Baillieu

Mary Woolridge

John Pesutto

John Roskam

**Hawthorn a seat worth fighting for.**

This is not a battle between the left right or centre, but a battle between those who deserve it and those ensconced on maintaining the status quo. It is our understanding that Ted Baillieu will not support John Roskam not John Pesutto a long time ally and loyal lieutenant. For whatever reason it may be, Teds no supportive stance can only send a powerful message that loyalty does not necessarily mean bipartisamn support when it comes t the big prize. It also indicates that elitism is still rife in the party and that these alleged elitist are doing whatever possible to remain a viable and relevant power within the Victorian Liberal party.

The more they persist with such a stance can only create further divisions and instability within the party. One can truly say that this is also of "wanting to keep all of the cake and not share it with any one, no matter who they are". In my opinion, if John Pesutto has the rungs on the board and has the qualifications, experience and political knowhow, he should be given the nod. But then again who are we to meddle in the affairs of an electorate that has the potential to bring about generational change, tranquillity, reconciliation and stability. Ted Baillieu it would appear wants to go out with a bigger bang and is not content to bring about tranquillity. This will all fall upon Mary Wooldridge's shoulders should she decide to move to the Lower House.

**Online misbehaviour candidates replaced.**

It didn't take long for the party hacks t replace two promising young Liberals who were caught sending messages that are considered to unpalatable to a society that has changed. It's a pity but thats politics for you and now the incumbents are aware that life in the hot seat will not be a gravy train. Should the two members decide upon any future political career they need not worry as other before them who have fallen on their sword have managed to get up and become senators in some cases and others to be in lucrative organisations all positions.

Good talent is hard to find these days but what can you do other than to work with the resources that are currently available to you and ones that you can influence manage and control. such are the lives of the political leaders we have today. Puppets o a string. Where are the 'DOERS' not "GUNNAS' and when will the real men and women of our society stand up and be counted, Victorian voters are screaming out for good talent and we certainly dont want mediocre and has-beens' to represent us.

**Alan Jones - A passing of long time Liberal.** Today a long time Liberal passed away. No it's not the Sydney Broadcaster that has gone from our midst, but a humble man who gave is all to a political party, a man who deserved more than he gave. Alan Jones, a member of the Eltham Branch, a past Chairman of Templestowe province, Jaga Jaga, Greensborough and Eltham. The Liberal party should be acknowledging the people who have over the years contributed to the well being and longevity of its members, especially those in the ranks that have tirelessly worked on its behalf as volunteers. Alan Jones was one of them.

Alan was responsible organising the resources and coordinating the Candidate Alastair Urquhart or coming close to winning Jaga Jaga back in the 1990s, survived by his beloved wife Kerry and son Nathan and grandchildren. Alan was always there for those who wanted advice on political and local area politicians. Our thoughts go out to the family and we along with them grieve his passing. A true gem in the rough.

Alan was always there for others and one could say that he lived his life for others. Never one to say an unkind word about anyone, a compassionate man who lived his life according to the values that today are not often seen. He will sadly missed by the many whose lives were touched by Alan. A stalwart supporter of Liberal values, not afraid to stand up for the little battler and not above putting his money in his pocket to assist others. He has left many protégé in his wake and those who have benefited from his advice have not been sorry to be the beneficiaries. A real Aussie Battler" - Rest in peace old friend!



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



## THE DUDS AND DAZZLERS ON ABBOTT'S FRONTBENCH

**Robert Gottliebsen Politics National Affairs**

Unless there is a dramatic improvement in the government's performance during the current parliamentary sitting, Joe Hockey is in great danger of losing the Treasury portfolio.

Christopher Pyne and Peter Dutton will be under pressure in education and health. We can now see clearly who the outstanding performers are in government ranks and why the government finds itself in so much trouble in the opinion polls. Among the outstanding performers are Julie Bishop, Andrew Robb, and Scott Morrison. Increasingly, Mathias Cormann is looking like a winner in finance. Joe Hockey could be a great Treasurer but he got caught in two strategic mistakes and, as so often happens, the pressure they created led him to stumble in other areas, including when he inferred that poor people don't drive as much as rich people.

The Abbott government came to power with the most detailed plan ever put together by an opposition party. The main author of that plan was Andrew Robb. The plan was designed to reduce expenditures but at the same time offered a vision for the future. When Tony Abbott finalised his cabinet, Robb was taken away from the task of implementing his plan via the finance portfolio and given a chunk of the vision in trade and tourism. After that, leaving aside wins on the carbon tax and stopping the boats, it was all downhill. The government decided extra expenditure measures were required because the long-term deficit they had inherited was greater than expected.

But while the education plan put forward by Christopher Pyne and the medical co-payment plan put forward by Peter Dutton were well-intentioned, they were not thought out as well as they would have been had they been part of the original Robb plan. Add the fuel excise change and a few other nasties that were not in the Robb plan, and suddenly the government was battling with the Senate on far too many fronts. Worse still, when the government added the extra nasties, it did not drop off the increased spending options like paid parental leave and research, so it tried to sell savage cuts and new expenditures at the same time. That's a high-risk strategy.

However, it had forgotten the vision of Robb's plan. As Jeff Kennett and Paul Keating will tell you, governments can't go hard on expenditure cuts if there is no vision. Given the confusing signals from Abbott, Clive Palmer had a ball. But he behaved so badly that he used up enormous political capital, which should give the government another chance. While by no means impossible, it is going to be hard for Hockey to stage a comeback. If he doesn't, I would reshuffle the Hockey-Robb-Cormann trio, giving Hockey trade and making either Robb or Cormann treasurer, and making the other the finance minister. Robb and Cormann in combination will help smarten up Pyne and Dutton.

Tony Abbott needs to start selling the Robb vision of the new Australia which was so brilliantly set out at the ADC Leadership conference. In addition, Abbott needs to embrace the visions of Bruce Billson in job creation via small enterprises, Eric Abetz in commercial construction and Malcolm Turnbull in communication. If Abbott fails to do that, then Australia has a magnificent deputy prime minister who can replace him. But I am sure Tony Abbott will be too smart not to make the required changes if his current approach does not deliver in the August-September parliamentary sittings

<http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2014/8/25/national-affairs/duds-and-dazzlers-abbotts-frontbench>



## **BOTH VIC PARTIES PLAY DOWN ALP POLL BOOST**

AAP August 25, 2014

Both sides of politics have played down the latest poll which shows a landslide Labor win in the November 29 Victorian election. Newspoll has the Liberal Party on a primary vote of 32 per cent, and the coalition total on 35 per cent.

Labor leads the coalition on a two-party-preferred basis 55-45 per cent. But Premier Denis Napthine says he is not concerned. "There's only one poll that counts, the 29th of November," he told reporters on Monday. Dr Napthine said his government had achieved a lot since coming to power in 2010, and had plans to do more. But he denied there was a problem selling that message to the public.

"Myself, my ministers, and my candidates are out there each and every day talking to Victorians, listening to their concerns and explaining to them how we as a coalition government, are building a better Victoria," he said. Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews agreed that it was not worth reading too much into the latest poll. He said it would tighten up between now and the election. "There are polls almost every week and this will be a close election," he told reporters. "This will be a close election and I take absolutely nothing for granted," he said.

<http://www.9news.com.au/national/2014/08/25/02/55/labor-easily-leads-coalition-in-vic-poll>



### PROMISE UNFULFILLED, BUT A DIGNIFIED SERVANT

August 26, 2014 The Age

Eight years ago, when Ted Baillieu was selected to replace Robert Doyle as the new state Liberal leader, it was suggested, perhaps unkindly, that Mr Baillieu's strongest suit was that he did not carry factional or personal baggage. He was akin to a blank canvas, someone on whom voters could project whatever hopes and ideals they preferred. The enigmatic Mr Baillieu, who served a short-lived period as premier from November 2010 to March 2013, is preparing to retire from politics at the next election.

He will be missed, and that is partly because of the gaping sense that so much that seemed to be promised by him was never fulfilled. Under Mr Baillieu's leadership, the Liberal Party was able to put a lid on the tiresome factional disputes that for years pitted allies of the former premier Jeff Kennett against forces aligned with the then-united faction represented by Peter Costello and Michael Kroger.

Mr Baillieu ran a sound, though unsuccessful, election campaign in 2006 and subsequently proved a strong leader in opposition. In those four years, the Liberals clawed back support as Mr Baillieu called for more exacting management of transport, hospitals, schools, community services and infrastructure programs. Labor dropped the ball on all these issues, and Mr Baillieu led the Coalition to a finely balanced victory in late 2010.

But once in power he never seemed to kick the government vehicle beyond first gear. To say he was cautious was too kind. Indecisive was closer to the mark. The promises made so eloquently from the opposition benches did not materialise either swiftly or, in some cases, at all. Remember the promise of 2008 that "Victorian teachers will become the highest paid in Australia"? Or that he promised "no spin, no secrecy" from his government?

Under Mr Baillieu's leadership, the state's coffers were managed to a surplus and the state retained its AAA credit rating despite the strains affecting many parts of the economy immediately after the global financial crisis. The downside, though, was that the government became extraordinarily reticent to commit to any major projects. It hemmed and hawed so much that, by late 2012, even the business community had rounded on the Coalition, accusing it of sinking into malaise, if not total inertia. The Coalition clearly had a plan for growth when it came to government, but by the time Mr Baillieu stood down as premier in March 2013 there were serious concerns about its ability to execute.

There was also a growing sense that disunity and frustration had taken hold again within Coalition ranks. Mr Baillieu resigned the premiership in 2013 after Frankston MP Geoff Shaw, accused of abusing his parliamentary expense account, resigned as a Liberal and switched to the independent benches. Mr Shaw declared he no longer had confidence in Mr Baillieu, who at the time was struggling to contain a scandal involving secretly taped discussions between his chief of staff and a disaffected former adviser.

Oddly enough, Mr Baillieu was the focus of another tapes scandal recently. A recording of a conversation he had with *The Sunday Age's* Farrah Tomazin, in which he made disparaging remarks about colleagues, was released to Liberal MPs and party members. There are unresolved questions about who inside the Liberals distributed that tape and whether those forces achieved their goal. Mr Baillieu, a small-l liberal, moves on. It will be most interesting to see how elements on the right wing of the Liberal Party line up when the administrative committee assesses potential candidates for his safe seat of Hawthorn. For all his leadership failings, Mr Baillieu has served Victoria with dignity. He promoted ideals of inclusiveness, especially multiculturalism. Our community would be well served with more of his ilk.

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/the-age-editorial/promise-unfulfilled-but-a-dignified-servant-20140825-3eaun.html>



## TEAM AUSTRALIA'? ONLY IF IT'S FOR ALL OF US

Tim Soutphommasane The guardian Monday 25 August 2014

'Making the decision to start a new life in another country is not one that is taken lightly'.  
Photograph: Tim Wimborne/Reuters

Manufacturing patriotism can sometimes do more to divide than to unite – genuine civic pride comes from within. Modern Australia is a success story of multiculturalism. Gone are the days when people felt awkward about the word “multicultural”, when people doubted the benefits of immigration. We have grown more comfortable in our own skin, whatever colour that may be. And we are relaxed in knowing that there is more than one way you can be Australian.

For all of our multicultural success, we must remain vigilant of bigotry and racism. Racial discrimination remains in many forms. Take the recent incident involving Nilson Dos Santos, an Australian citizen originally from Brazil – told by a Sydney café owner he would not be offered the job because he was black.

Earlier this month, we saw nasty racist violence, when a gang of youths threatened Jewish schoolchildren on a bus Sydney, in an abhorrent anti-Semitic attack. In our federal politics just this week, we have seen intemperate outbursts of xenophobia. There are also more insidious challenges. One concerns the reporting and commentary about Australia's Muslim and Arab communities, in light of armed conflicts in Iraq and Syria. Australians – of all faiths and backgrounds – have every reason to be troubled by these developments. In particular, we have every reason to repudiate Australian citizens who are fighting as militants overseas. But if you were to read the letters pages of our newspapers, tune into talkback radio, or scan the comments sections of news websites, you would be mistaken for thinking there were no “moderate” Muslim-Australians prepared to repudiate domestic extremism.

This is far from the truth. While there are very serious issues with “home-grown terrorism”, we should not be casting aspersions on Muslim and Arab Australian communities at large. Not when so many of its leaders and members have unequivocally condemned terrorism. Not when even the Director-General of ASIO David Irvine has commended Muslim community leaders for the positive role they have played in countering domestic radicalism. We should not be judging entire communities, whose members are law-abiding citizens, on the basis of a very small minority of extremists.

The issue has been complicated by another thing. It was unfortunate that the government's recent abandonment of changes to the Racial Discrimination Act were explained as necessary for bolstered counter-terror measures. As far as I am aware, there was never a suggestion, from any community, that retaining racial vilification laws was necessary for fighting domestic extremism. It also makes no sense to say that the dumping of section 18C changes was motivated by special concerns about Muslim Australians. After all, the law doesn't protect religion as an attribute.

The argument for retaining section 18C was always rather more direct. Namely, if Australian society is committed to racial tolerance, this commitment should be reflected in our law. The law should set some civil standards of acceptable behaviour. The law should provide remedies for public acts of racial vilification. There should be no legal right to be a bigot. It is understandable that many Muslim Australians, and also Arab Australians, would have felt bitter sweetness about the announcement on 18C. This hasn't eased during the past fortnight. There has been sustained talk about the need for a commitment to a so-called “Team Australia”. I have heard from many Muslim and Arab Australians a serious concern that their communities are being singled out. That they are having their national loyalty unfairly questioned.

For those who have migrated here, there is rarely any question about loyalty to Australia. Making the decision to start a new life in another country is not one that is taken lightly. There is no more powerful aspiration than to be a citizen. It is an act solemnised by the pledge taken when someone naturalises as a citizen: “I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people, whose democratic beliefs I share, whose rights and liberties I respect, and whose laws I will uphold and obey.” In those four clauses we have writ the contract of citizenship in this country. This contract is central to the success of Australian multiculturalism.

We have a robust form of multiculturalism. One with its foundations in liberal democracy, and one which has never shield from rejecting cultural beliefs and practices that are inconsistent with our civic values. One where diversity is entirely compatible with patriotism. In a multicultural Australia, we have a love of country that is founded not on race or ancestry, but on citizenship.

If "Team Australia" is simply shorthand for an Australian liberal democratic community, for a community of equal citizens, I don't think any of us would have an issue with it. Signing up to this is already part of the contract of multicultural citizenship. All of us are already signed up. We are all proud to be Australian. But if "Team Australia" is meant to suggest something else, we are entitled to ask for an explanation. Manufacturing patriotism can sometimes do more to divide than to unite. Genuine civic pride comes from within; it is not something that others can command us to display.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/aug/25/team-australia-only-if-its-for-all-of-us>



## SECURITY AGENCIES FACE BILL TO NAME MPS PUT UNDER SURVEILLANCE

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 26, 2014 David Crowe. Senator Nick Xenophon left.

SECURITY agencies could be forced to reveal the names of the politicians they have been spying on when the Senate considers a rare move to demand answers about the surveillance. Independent senator Nick Xenophon will make the move today in a bid to have the details tabled in the upper house after months of mystery over whose phone calls and emails have been monitored.

With Labor and the Greens also concerned about the surveillance, Senator Xenophon could build the numbers required to force Attorney-General George Brandis to reveal the names to the Senate. Australian Federal Police Commissioner Tony Negus confirmed in November that the agency needed only "internal authorisation" to monitor an MP's phone, which triggered concerns in parliament that whistleblowers could be identified if they got in touch with their local politician. Mr Negus told a Senate committee hearing last November that some members of federal parliament had been subject to "authorisation orders" to check their communications. "I can tell you it is less than five," he said.

Senator Xenophon will table a notice of motion today to get the Attorney-General to table, by September 25, the names of any past or present federal, state or territory members of parliament who have been subjected to authorisations to monitor their communications. "Unless this is resolved there will be a chilling effect on MPs being able to do their work in terms of talking to whistleblowers and journalists," he said last night. "Whistleblowers would no longer feel confident about contacting MPs — and that's completely unsatisfactory."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/security-agencies-face-bill-to-name-mps-put-under-surveillance/story-e6frg8yo-1227036515965>



## SUPPORT FOR TONY ABBOTT'S TERROR CRACKDOWN

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 26, 2014 Phillip Hudson, Paul Maley & *Brendan Nicholson*

VOTERS have overwhelmingly backed the government's proposed crackdown on foreign fighters returning to Australia from countries such as Iraq and Syria as Tony Abbott considers attending a special UN Security Council meeting on the issue next month.

A Newspann, conducted exclusively for *The Australian* at the weekend, reveals 77 per cent of voters would support new laws that require people travelling to particular countries to prove they have not been in contact with any terrorist groups. The poll shows women and those over 50 were the strongest supporters of government action amid alarm raised by security agencies about potential home-grown terrorists who come back to Australia with radicalised attitudes.

The poll — coming a fortnight after world leaders condemned a photo of Australian terrorist Khaled Sharrouf's son holding the severed head of a Syrian soldier and days after the brutal beheading of American journalist James Foley by a suspected British fighter with the terror group Islamic State — reveals nine out of 10 Coalition supporters and seven out of 10 Labor voters would support the action flagged by the Prime Minister. Mr Abbott has said he wants "new legislation to make it easier to identify, to charge and to prosecute people who have been engaged in terrorist activities overseas such as, for instance, by making it an offence to travel to a designated area without a valid reason".

Today's Newspann shows 79 per cent of women and 74 per cent of men back new laws. Among people over 50, 86 per cent favour tougher action, compared with 70 per cent of those under 50. Thousands of foreigners, including as many as 150 from Australia, have joined the fighting in Syria and Iraq, where the terrorist outfit Islamic State has declared a caliphate. Mr Abbott has pledged strong support for international action, and sources said it was a "live option" for him to travel to New York next month for the special UN Security Council meeting that will be chaired by US President Barack Obama on tackling the surge of foreign fighters.

It will be only the second time Mr Obama has chaired a meeting of the council. In London, Lord Mayor Boris Johnson has called for a change to British laws to introduce a "rebuttable presumption" that people who travel to warzones without notifying authorities have done so for terrorist purposes. Taking a tough stand against terrorism featured in a political strategy meeting of Abbott government ministers yesterday and cabinet's national security committee. Mr Abbott will today announce \$64 million in funding aimed at lessening the terrorist threat at home with money to support community groups and security agencies as part of a \$630m counter-terrorism package, which was announced earlier this month.

Today's announcement will include \$13.4m for community group activities to discourage young people from becoming involved with extremist groups, \$6.2m for police to monitor returning foreign fighters, \$32.7m to investigate, prosecute and disrupt foreign fighters and \$11.8m for the Federal police.

"Recent images of brutal killing in Syria and the brazen presence of Australian citizens amongst the foreign fighters telegraphs the need for action to counter radicalisation," Mr Abbott will say today as he outlines the spending plans. "As Team Australia, we need to support community efforts to prevent young Australians being radicalised and leaving Australia to join extremists overseas, and to ensure those who return do not become involved in terrorist activity here."

Mr Abbott will pledge that "local engagement" will be at the heart of the plans, with the government to consult about youth diversion activities, better healthcare, mentoring, employment and education support and counselling. There will also be funding and support for "at risk" individuals to "disengage from their activities" and to combat radicalisation online and in social media through education programs. "The best defence against radicalisation is through well-informed and well-equipped families, communities and institutions," he says. Forging an international plan to tackle foreign fighters featured heavily at the recent AUSMIN talks in Sydney with US Secretary of State John Kerry and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

US ambassador to Australia John Berry told *The Australian* yesterday: "How to handle this is a matter of grave concern for the international community." The Iraqi government has vowed to prosecute Sharrouf and another Australian, Mohamed Elomar, for crimes committed in Iraq, if they fall into Baghdad's custody, at the same time saying its military has turned the tide against the militants. Iraq's ambassador to Australia, Mouayed Saleh, yesterday painted an upbeat picture of the security situation in northern Iraq, which in June was overrun by thousands of fighters from Islamic State.

He said the stunning success enjoyed by the Sunni terror group in northern Iraq was unrelated to the political crisis that had gripped the prime ministership of Nouri al-Maliki, a divisive figure who most agree spurred Islamic State's rise by alienating Sunni communities in Iraq's north. Instead, he blamed traitorous officials for collaborating with Islamic State as they marched on Iraq's northern province of Nineveh.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/support-for-tony-abbotts-terror-crackdown/story-fn59nm2j-1227036630551>



## **POLL SHOWS VICTORIAN PREMIER DENIS NAPHTHINE MAY LOSE AT STATE ELECTION**

**AAP THE WEEKLY TIMES AUGUST 25, 2014**

Out: Victorian Premier Denis Naphthine is heading for a loss at the November state election, according to the latest Newspoll.

THE latest Newspoll shows Victoria's Coalition government will be swept from power at the November 29 election. The poll for shows the Liberal Party's primary vote is just 32 per cent and the combined Coalition figure is 35 per cent. Premier Denis Naphthine's net satisfaction rating has dropped into negative territory, as Labor leads 55 to 45 per cent on a two party-preferred basis. If the result is replicated at the November 29 election, the Coalition will become the first one-term State Government since the 1950s.

The polls tell a different story in NSW, where the Coalition looks like it will cruise through to another election win in March. This is despite corruption scandals and its unpopular promise to sell off electricity assets. The Coalition leads Labor 55 to 45 on a two-party preferred basis in the latest Galaxy poll, which is up two points from the previous poll in May. And in a sign that corruption scandals are doing little to harm the government's standing, 43 per cent think Premier Mike Baird is best able to tackle corruption in NSW, compared with Labor leader John Robertson at 15 per cent.

<http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/politics/poll-shows-victorian-premier-denis-napthine-may-lose-at-state-election/story-fnkerdda-1227035499630>

## **LIBERALS AT ODDS AS TED BAILLIEU'S RESIGNATION TRIGGERS SPLIT**

*JOHN FERGUSON* From: The Australian August 28, 2014

FORMER Victorian premier Ted Baillieu's resignation has exposed a deep fault line in the Napthine government and the Liberal Party, embarrassing the incumbent leader and speeding up talk about post-election leadership change. Mr. Baillieu was firmly opposed to Planning Minister Matthew Guy having any chance of succeeding Premier Denis Napthine any time after the November 29 election. While Dr Napthine is entrenched as leader on the condition he wins the election, supporters of Mr. Guy and Treasurer Michael O'Brien have been involved in a subtle game of positioning in the lead-up to the poll.

Mr. Baillieu is believed to be convinced that Mr. Guy played a key role in his own downfall last year, along with other senior Liberals including former premier Jeff Kennett and former minister Nick Kotsiras. Multiple Liberal sources said Mr. Baillieu, while fully supporting Dr Napthine, was intent on backing Mr. O'Brien over Mr. Guy and that a rapprochement had occurred with the forces loyal to former federal treasurer Peter Costello.

The central aim was for Mr. O'Brien to eventually succeed Dr Napthine. Liberal sources said that as part of the fallout over the leadership, Mr. Baillieu was now refusing to back Dr Napthine's legal counsel, John Pesutto, for Hawthorn. This is despite Mr. Pesutto being one of Mr. Baillieu's most loyal lieutenants, having been part of his Hawthorn machine for 20 years. Party insiders believe that Mr. Baillieu, who declined to comment yesterday, is backing Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge for the safe inner-eastern seat in a move that could become messy for the party three months before an election.

If Ms Wooldridge does run, it will be despite having recently won a bloody upper house preselection after losing the race for the inner-eastern seat of Kew to rising Liberal star Tim Smith. Ms Wooldridge refuses to comment. If she runs, she will have to defeat close political ally and Institute of Public Affairs chief John Roskam, and Mr. Pesutto. The Australian understands Dr Napthine has privately said he does not want to get involved in the Hawthorn preselection. Mr. Roskam yesterday confirmed he would be nominating for the seat.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/liberals-at-odds-as-ted-baillieus-resignation-triggers-split/story-e6frgczx-1227039262663>



## BALLARAT MAYOR JOSHUA MORRIS JUMPS INTO STATE POLITICS

The Standard Tuesday August 26, 2014 MATTHEW DIXON August. 25, 2014. Josh Morris MP: Just what the doctor ordered, Ballarat Mayor Joshua Morris will make the jump into state politics at this year's election despite previously ruling it out.

Cr Morris was selected on Monday night as a Liberal Party candidate for an upper house seat in Western Victoria. The open position is second on the ballot and is seen as almost a certainty to be elected into parliament at November's election. In an interview with *The Courier* in November last year Cr Morris adamantly denied he would play any part as a candidate in the upcoming election. **In the 2014 state election, Joshua Morris told The Courier last November he would "absolutely not" run.**

It is unknown what impact this decision may have on the City of Ballarat and Cr Morris's mayorship with chief executive Anthony Schinck previously refusing to comment on the issue and the impact it may have on the council. Cr Morris refused to comment yesterday. Another City of Ballarat councillor Samantha Macintosh had previously nominated for preselection for the spot, however would not comment on the position when contacted by The Courier on Monday. The meeting to decide on the position was held by the Liberal Party Administrative Committee of which Cr Morris and Premier Denis Napthine are members.

Speaking early on Monday, Western Victoria MP Simon Ramsay said he understood there was 12 candidates seeking preselection for the seat. "I am very aware of some of the people who have nominated, they have rung me and sought some advice and I have been very happy to provide that," he said, "It has been somewhat overshadowed I think that the admin are also meeting to discuss the preselection for the seat of Hawthorn where it was recently announced the previous premier Ted Baillieu was vacating."

Mr Ramsay is expected to be the first name listed on the ballot paper for the Liberal Party. The open position on the ticket was created after the downfall of previous candidate Aaron Lane who was exposed using Twitter to attack homosexuals and referring to former Labor leader Simon Crean as a "big C" and former speaker Peter Slipper as "a giant C". In tweets made between 2011 and 2012, Mr Lane liberally used derogatory terms.

<http://www.standard.net.au/story/2511860/ballar-at-mayor-joshua-morris-jumps-into-state-politics/?cs=135>



## MINISTER TOURS BETH WEIZMANN

August 25, 2014 by Brenda Segal

Matthew Guy, the Victorian Minister for Planning and Multicultural Affairs has been given a tour of Melbourne's Beth Weizmann Community Centre. Matthew Guy, the Victorian Minister for Planning and Multicultural Affairs has been given a tour of Melbourne's Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

Minister Guy was joined by David Southwick MP, Member for Caulfield and Elizabeth Miller MP, Member for Bentleigh on the tour of the community centre and the Lamm Jewish Library of Victoria. A light lunch, hosted by the Zionist Council of Victoria included a round table, informal discussion with the attendees regarding their work, community needs, their co-location in a Jewish community hub as well as security issues.



From L-R: Jeff Morrison, Vice President of the Zionist Council of Victoria with Elizabeth Miller MP, David Southwick MP and Minister Matthew Guy. Presidents of the major organisations who are tenants at Beth Weizmann were invited to attend. Minister Guy was thrilled to get to know the Jewish community centre and the organisations that spend the most time in this precinct.

<http://www.jwire.com.au/news/minister-tours-beth-weizmann/45736>



## ABBOTT ANNOUNCES COUNTER TERRORISM FUNDING

Tuesday, 26 August 2014

The Federal government will spend \$64 million on measures to stop young Australians from being radicalised and heading overseas to join extremist groups in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced the package, which is part of the coalition's renewed efforts to fight terrorism, saying it didn't target any specific religion or community group. Some 60 Australians are fighting in Iraq and Syria with groups like Islamic State, also known as ISIS, while another 100 are providing support from Australia. 'We need to understand that this is a very, very significant issue and it is more of an issue today than it was a couple of years ago because of the unfolding disaster in northern Iraq and eastern Syria,' Mr Abbott told reporters in Melbourne on Tuesday.

'This is a movement - as we've seen on our TV screens and front pages of our newspapers - of utter ferocity, medieval barbarism allied to modern technology - that's how serious and dangerous this movement is. 'Because of the Australians who are involved with this movement, what might otherwise be a problem in a far away country is a problem for us.' The package includes \$13.4 million boost to community engagement programs, with an emphasis on preventing young Australians from becoming involved with extremist groups, and \$6.2 million to establish a new Australian Federal Police Community Diversion and Monitoring Team to target returning foreign fighters and their supporters.

Some \$32.7 million will go toward a multi-agency national disruption group to investigate and disrupt foreign fighters and their supporters, and a further \$11.8 million for new local and regional AFP liaison officers. Mr Abbott said the best defence against radicalisation was 'well informed and well equipped' families and communities. 'We want to stop radicalised youngsters

from leaving this country to join terrorist groups overseas, we want to work with our allies and partners to try to monitor them while they are overseas,' Mr Abbott said. 'We want to be able to charge them and jail them where they have been working with terrorist groups overseas.'

<http://www.skynews.com.au/news/national/2014/08/26/abbott-announces-counter-terrorism-funding.html>



### **DON'T ATTACK ISLAMIC LEADERS ASIO BOSS**

August 27, 2014 David Wroe National security correspondent

Director-General of Security: David Irvine addresses the media during a press conference at Parliament House. Australian Security Intelligence Organisation boss David Irvine will on Wednesday hit back at suggestions that Muslim leaders are not doing enough to counter extremism in their communities, saying they should be thanked rather than criticised.

In a speech to the National Press Club in Canberra, Mr Irvine will also step up his campaign for Australians to get behind new security laws, saying that the threats of both terrorism and espionage, while serious, are manageable if agencies have the necessary powers.

The ASIO director-general of security will argue the current system of checks and balances of intelligence and security powers does not need any serious overhaul – effectively rejecting suggestions that agencies should be forced to get warrants to access communications “metadata”. Fairfax Media understands Mr Irvine will reject criticism of Muslim leaders. In Tuesday's party room meeting, some Coalition MPs said Prime Minister Tony Abbott should not be reaching out to certain Muslim groups, as he has done in recent weeks.

“The security environment today is becoming more complex since I was appointed as director-general of security in 2009, in part due to the march of technology and in part because of changes in the nature of the threats we face,” Mr Irvine will say. “In the past two years, however, the situation in Syria and now Iraq has radically complicated the threat, adding energy and allure to the extremist Islamic narrative.

The draw of foreign fighters to Syria and Iraq is significant and includes more Australians than all other previous extremist conflicts put together. The number of Australians of potential security concern to ASIO has increased substantially.” Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop said Arab countries as well as the West needed to stop the spread of extremist groups such as Islamic State. She will take the issue of foreign fighters to the United Nations. Ms Bishop spoke with US Secretary of State John Kerry on Tuesday morning and said afterwards that Australia was ready to continue helping Washington in Iraq. “The United States has been taking a leadership role . . . in Iraq,” Ms Bishop said. “We've been working closely with them to prevent the humanitarian crisis and Australia stands ready to continue to help avert a humanitarian crisis in northern Iraq.

“It's a matter for countries around the world, not just the United States, not just Australia but Arab states as well, to take action to prevent this kind of terrorism from spreading.” Ms Bishop said she and Mr Kerry discussed their joint plan, announced recently after the AUSMIN

(Australia-United States Ministerial Consultation) meeting in Sydney, to take the problem of foreign fighters with extremist groups to the UN General Assembly leaders' meeting next month. While much attention has focused on Westerners – including dozens of Australians – joining groups such as Islamic State, there is also increasing pressure on Iraq and Syria's neighbours to stem the flow of money and fighters from within their borders to the conflict zones. Saudi Arabia hosted a crisis meeting at the weekend to discuss the problem with Egypt, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Ms Bishop's comments came as the Abbott government announced it was spending \$64 million to stop radicalisation of Australians at home. The money will come from the \$630 million counterterrorism boost the government has already announced. Attorney-General George Brandis said the threat of extremists coming back from the Middle East was the "greatest national security threat that Australia has faced in many years". "The escalating terrorist situation in Iraq and Syria poses an increasing threat, unlike any other that this country has experienced, to the security of Australians both at home and overseas," he said. Australia has so far contributed humanitarian air drops to refugees in Iraq fleeing the onslaught of Islamic State fighters. The federal government is considering more substantial military involvement, but that would depend on Washington deciding to get more involved.

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/dont-attack-islamic-leaders-asio-boss-20140827-3edeq.html>

## **WE NEED TO SEPARATE THE GENUINE BATTLERS FROM THE BLUDGERS**

**Andrew Bolt herald sun august 27, 2014**

Andrew Bolt writes that we need to put a face to the welfare class to illustrate it. WE'RE told that battlers. Like some surprising pensioners in the papers lately — are being rescued from sheer horror by Labor and so-called billionaire Clive Palmer. Labor leader Bill Shorten, for instance, is determined to save such people from the Abbott Government's "unbelievably tough cuts and cruelty". He means cruelty like the Government wanting to slow the rise in the age pension, now claimed in full or part by 90 per cent of Australians of retirement age.

Or like making school leavers go on training schemes rather than stay home on the dole. Or like those other tweaks the Government plans to the \$70 billion a year we're now spending to keep an incredible three million Australians on one of the four main welfare payments — the dole, age pension, disability payments or single-parent handouts.

Palmer, for instance, wildly claimed he knew pensioners who were left with only \$15 a week of spending money after their nursing home's cut, which so moved him that he joined Labor and the Greens in the Senate to reject government plans for a \$7 Medicare co-payment. In fact, "we're not going to have a co-payment of even one cent". No, no, no. Don't ask pensioners to pay even one cent for a trip to the doctor! Send the Medicare bill — now \$18 billion a year — to the rich!

Even though we're now spending billions we don't have on an exploding welfare bill, we could not possibly ask battlers to pay even one cent more for anything. But let's now put some faces to this welfare class to illustrate its utter deprivation. Here are three people, taken at random from newspaper reports over the past fortnight — people needing Australian workers to dig ever deeper for them.

## CASE 1: THE DISABILITY PENSIONER

THE *Herald Sun* reported on the good luck of a disability pensioner who had “quit work after injuring his back” — “a true ‘Aussie battler ‘who has been living off a meagre pension since 2001”. Meagre? This “battler” who hasn’t actually worked in 13 years had nevertheless just got “back from a trip to Macedonia” when he called in at his local hotel and “outlaid \$50” on Keno tickets “and then went to play a poker machine”. One of the Keno tickets luckily won the “battler” \$3 million, guaranteeing he’d never again have to fly economy to Europe on his “meagre” pension.

## CASE 2: THE OLD AGE PENSIONER

THE Australian reported recently on a 71-year-old pensioner distressed by the Government’s plan to slow the increase in the pension to the inflation rate. The pensioner, a former actor and author, said she was so hard up that “I only shower every second day and go to bed early in winter to keep warm and avoid heating costs”. Sitting in her beautifully appointed living room, so long that one expansive wall featured three large windows, she said her poverty would be even worse if her family home were ever included in the pension assets test.

Oh, the cruelty of this Government. Yet this same pensioner last year gave a lecture at the Wheeler Centre, which introduced her as a woman who’d “travelled around the world”, just launched her book at the Byron Bay Writers Festival and recently been “playwriting co-ordinator” at the Ubud Writers Festival in Bali.

## CASE 3: THE NEWSTART PENSIONER

THE *Daily Telegraph* reported this month on the arrest of Harriet Wran over the murder of a Redfern drug dealer. The story is tragic. Wran is the daughter of former NSW premier Neville Wran, who on his death this year left her a chunk of his estimated \$40 million estate. But Harriet Wran was an ice addict and had already run through a lot of her father’s money. The 26-year-old also ran through taxpayers’ money, taking the \$560-a-fortnight Newstart allowance given to unemployed people supposedly eager to work.

I am not saying these pensioners are typical. I am not saying the dole is generous or that aged pensioners all live high on the hog. But these three cases, all from recent newspaper stories, do suggest that talk of “battlers” on “meagre” handouts facing the “cruelty” of a Government seeking to staunch the haemorrhaging of our public finances is far too simplistic. Our welfare culture does need curbing. Our public spending is out of control. And before you insist welfare cuts are “unfair”, ask how unfair it is on workers — the real “battlers” — to pay for some pensioners who could afford to pay a little more of their own way.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/we-need-to-separate-the-genuine-battlers-from-the-bludgers/story-fni0ffxg-1227039081877?nk=b8c0c170a211aeea51b7a7a8be876c27>



## RELATIVES HUNT ONLINE TO SOLVE MALAYSIA AIRLINES MH370 MYSTERY

25, 2014 News.com

Sarah Bajc, whose partner Philip Wood was on flight MH370, continues the search. Source: AFP

CHINESE physics student Jimmy Wang had no interest in aviation until March 8, when Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 went missing with his 58-year-old father Wang Lijun on board.

But Wang, 31, now spends evenings combing through aviation blogs for Boeing 777 technical specs, exchanging what he finds with fellow MH370 next-of-kin. He is one of hundreds of relatives who are channelling their grief in a cross-border but so far frustrating citizen campaign to solve aviation's greatest mystery. "Malaysia Airlines and others are not doing their jobs, so we have to organise," Wang, who abandoned graduate studies in Sweden to be with his grieving mother, said via Skype from his home in the city of Anyang.

"I cannot live the rest of my life in questions." Through Chinese microblogging site Weibo — 153 Chinese were aboard MH370 — a closed Facebook group and Skype "meetings", participants exchange findings, discuss the latest theories, and assess proposals for group action. The group, with some 300 members and calling itself Voice370, receives and debates advice from aviation, legal and other experts. Most exchanges, held mainly in English, are conducted via webcam or extensive email strings, with members voting on strategies for pushing Malaysia Airlines and governments involved in a search for more information.

"It's really quite a community," said Sarah Bajc, an American whose partner Philip Wood was on the flight. "I feel compelled to do everything in my power to find Philip. We owe it to them." Flight MH370 disappeared with 239 people on board en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. No trace has been found despite an extensive search in the southern Indian Ocean.

Some next of kin have accused the airline and Malaysian authorities of a bungled response — its military tracked MH370 on radar after it mysteriously diverted, but did nothing — and of withholding data from the public.



K.S. Narendran's wife Chandrika Sharma was on flight MH370. Source: AFP. In an open letter to authorities in Malaysia, Australia and China in May, Voice370 demanded to see satellite and other data that Malaysia says indicates MH370 went down in the Indian Ocean. The information was eventually released but shed little light on what happened. In June, several families, including Bajc, launched a drive to raise \$5 million for any whistleblower with information on the jet's fate.

Only \$100,500 has been raised. "You get tired, and part of you wants to put it behind and say, 'That's where it all ends', and part of you says, 'You can't rest until you figure things out,'" said K.S. Narendran, an Indian business consultant whose wife, Chandrika Sharma, was on MH370. The airline and the Malaysian government deny charges of a cover-up. "We would like to assure the next of kin of MH370 that our commitment to the search for this flight has remained consistent and has strengthened," Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said in an August 9 statement.



A Malaysia Airlines plane. Source: *AFP*  
The government is yet to announce any findings of its investigations. Its attention is now diverted by the July 17 downing of MH17 over war-torn eastern Ukraine. Bajc said MH17 underlines the importance of Voice370, particularly the need to highlight "critical flaws" in global aviation and to police "incompetent" airlines and authorities.

She no longer joins the video meetings, as she and others look for different ways to pressure authorities, such as lawsuits against the airline or Boeing. No significant lawsuits have yet been filed. Some families say they are sifting through the complexities of where and how best to file a case in such an unprecedented disaster. "It's my father. I'm his only son," Wang said. "No matter what happened, we need to bring them back. "I think if I don't do this, I will feel guilty."

<http://www.news.com.au/travel/travel-updates/relatives-hunt-online-to-solve-malaysia-airlines-mh370-mystery/story-fnizu68q-1227035509480>