



VICTORIA THE ACHILLES HEEL OR SAVIOUR?

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On the 10 May 2016 in an article named [What if series](#) I predicted the outcome of the Federal election with considerable accuracy. This prediction was not done by looking at the statistics, surveys or polls conducted by self-serving media

outlets, nor because of any political insight and monitoring media reports.

It was predicted by listening to the public and from reports around Australia that they were not happy but were not sure that they had the power to change.

The Federal election was an excellent example of the power of the people voicing their opinion when their health and wellbeing was threatened and watching their life saving being eroded by retrospective legislation. If the same can be emulated at the Victorian State level and Matthew Guy can tap into the resentment and pain caused by the Daniel Andrews government it is quite possible that he too can scape over the line like [Julia Banks managed in Chisolm](#). More on Matthew Guys chances of winning government below.

What if any lessons can be learnt from the campaign one wonders? Will those at the State level reconsider their political strategies and return to the drawing board. Will the political campaigners listen to alternative points of view, do they have the courage to walk the streets disguised as the ordinary citizen, mix it with the locals and learn firsthand what the people are feeling.

To do so would take courage, tenacity and will power to be able to shut up listen and take the criticism levelled at them by a public hungry for real leadership. That is what is missing at the moment. There are many leaders in our midst that would put to shame those who aspire to greatness and yet they are tired and just want a respite from it all.

Identifying potential leaders is a difficult task and no matter what we do, potential leaders take on a life of their own depending on their immediate circumstances, their personal values and moral upbringing instilled into them by the parents. I write this because many years ago I met a young man who I found to be charming and yet disarming without knowing the reasons why. This young man strode through the streets of Eltham, Greensborough and surrounding areas, growing up, observing and soaking in the sights, observing people's behaviour, living a life without a care in the world and generally enjoying himself.

Those who hand a hand in his upbringing encouraged him to pursue his dreams and wished him all the best of luck with his goals, whatever they may have been. They saw in him their hopes of a brighter future and such gave him every leeway and opportunity to grow and

develop. They even covered up many of his misdemeanours and petty foolishness by putting them down to the youthfulness of his age. Later this young man would grow with time, attend the local university and enjoy the corridors of learning. One could say without a doubt that this young man was going places.

It was a time when the unbreakable and remarkable friendship of two people in Victorian politics stood side by side and forged a relationship that shaped Australia and its people. That friendship withstood the strength of time and to the many that were associated with them wished it would remain so. These two leaders for whatever reasons for their disagreement did foresee the enormous changes to Victorian and Federal politics and thus change the course of political history.

The Liberal Party at that time had great leaders and administrators in Victoria, in the likes of Peter Costello, Michael Kroger, Jeffrey Kennett, Petro Georgiou, Frank Hangan, and up and coming stars Ted Baillieu, Julian Sheezel, Mitch Fifield, Giuseppe De-Simone, Helen Kroger, John Elliott, Joy Howley, Peter Katsambanis, Kelly O'Dwyer, John Pesutto, Helen Shardey, Matthew Guy, Michael Gidley, Wendy Lovell, Lorraine Elliot, Scott Ryan, Tony Smith, Karen Synon and many others too numerous to mention here.

Most of these I would refer to as political friends according to the alliances and factions at the time and the word cobber would apply only to about three people. Strange as it may be, reflection is wonderful thing, as it enables a person to unravel the many complex threads that united us and finally put to rest the frayed threads that were broken or torn. Those threads of friendship that remained were tested under difficult circumstances and despite the many disappointments remained true and strong without giving way to external pressures.

Those threads that were broken came about as a result of the differences between Peter Costello and Michael Kroger. Those differences created a schism within the Liberal Party ranks that is felt to this day. I wrote this as a guide to those seeking high office and for whatever reason they choose to serve the people to remember that life is a strange force that cannot be manipulated and/or controlled. It has a destiny of its own, one that is unknown to us mere mortals. If I could but twist time to my advantage and heal the rift between the Costello and Kroger camps I would. But even if that was possible the wounds and animosities that have developed between their supporters has spawned a new generation of [political hatreds that cross the line](#) which only generates mistrust and misunderstandings.

The relationship between Matthew Guy and Senator Scott Ryan is a strange one and yet one cannot fathom as yet who is leading who in the race for supremacy. Should Matthew Guy attain the high office of Premier, will he ditch his long time mate Senator Scott Ryan who is sure to lose his preselection next time round or will he remain a close confidante. Matthew Guy has surrounded himself with some very good advisers to be sure, but the one that shines out is young Scott Pearce who in his own right probably deserves a safe seat

for his many positive attributes and behind the scenes manipulation of events. Scott Pearce to his credit is a master of statistics and is cannily known for his Victorian perception of public opinion.

The other member of Matthew Guy's entourage is Tony Barry a former Deputy Director within the Victorian Division and now his Director of Communications. His former positions have included roles such as Manager of Regulatory Communications at Philip Morris International, Senior Consultant at Crosby/Textor Group, Media and Footy Tips Advisor at Christopher Pyne MP and Director of Finance and Operations at Institute of Public Affairs. Given these former roles, Tony Barry is in a unique position to brief the media in a manner that is perceived to be in the best interests of his master, Matthew Guy.

Having laid the ground work for the battles of the future, I wonder whether Mathew Guy becomes the saviour of the Liberal Party Victorian Division or will he be the Achilles heel. I say this because at the recent State Assembly, the bitterness and resentment that was present amongst those who attended was ready to burst but unfortunately the boil was not lanced allowing the wound to heal.

Let us not kid ourselves by the self-patting on the back that all is well within Liberal ranks. Politics is not one for the feeble minded and one needs a strong stomach to hold the bacteria in place. Matthew Guy in Victoria has his work cut out for him and I for one wish him luck as he needs to gather all of the threads that make up the fabric of the Liberal Party in Victorian politics. But what if an algorithm of Costello+Guy+Kroger = (CGK) alliance occurs? Would not that be a turn-up for the books! Watch this space.

As always, my apologies for the poor grammar, punctuation and savagery of the Aussie English language. All that I can say is that it is great to be alive and one does not give up in the face of adversity.



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