

TONY ABBOTT VISIT TO SCULLIN

Abalinx 6 June 2016 Peter Adamis



Today is a day when all those who cherish the freedoms we take for granted should remember the gallant me who stormed the beaches of Normandy some 72 years ago, some 72 years ago, the Allies open up a second front while the Russian were fighting the same hostile enemy on their doorsteps. The conglomeration of the Allies made strange bed partners in the modern sense of the word, coupled with their different ideologies and view of the world as we know of it today.

I write this out of respect for the fallen and has nothing at all to do with the visit of Tony Abbot to the Victorian Labor held electorate. Scullin may not mean much to anybody except to the parties opposing each other, battling for the hearts and minds of an electorate so firmly embedded in the ideology of the working man. This in some sense is not much different to the difference in the ideologies of the allies in World War 2 except that those involved are of the same nation. On reflection, although one cannot reconcile these two warring political groups and yet one gets the sense that there is very little difference between the two.

On one hand the policies and campaigning techniques between the two are very similar and one wonders whether they are operating out of the same political campaign manual and use the same advisers to create their alleged winning policies. Mind you, that seasoned political gladiator from Victoria, Michael Kroger has not been idle. He has cleverly let loose the tiger from the wild, amongst the other political gladiators in the arena, while he stands back as the Captain of the Pretorian Guard waiting patiently to see who will survive.

To his credit, Tony Abbott has kept back, allowing Malcolm Turnbull to have his turn at being Caesar and having the responsibility of giving the thumbs up or down according this wishes. Alternatively Malcolm Turnbull being the clever politician that he is, wants to win the will of the people will make the decision that will appease them.

Where does this leave Tony Abbott in the Political coliseum, in or out of the arena? My guess is that he is on the outer circle of the arena watching from the sidelines, doing what he is always good at and that is demonstrating loyalty and supporting the team that he loves so much. That team being a conservative Liberal Party so dear to his heart.

Ironically today of all days, Monday 6 June 2016, Tony Abbott answered the call from his Victorian colleagues to visit and support them with his presence in a little known electorate tucked away in the North of Melbourne. An electorate that is clearly a Labor held seat by Andrew Giles, contested ferociously by a young mother, Melanie Stockman. Although this is Melanie's first foray into the world of politics, she is not shy in making her presence felt in the heartland of Labor, even it meant requesting the big guns to come to her aid from Canberra.

Melanie had been prepared for Tony Abbotts visit for some time and despite her nervousness at meeting Tony Abbott, she put her best foot forward and gave it her best shot. Surrounded by a strong contingent of supporters from as far as the Mornington Peninsula, Melanie strode armed with flyers, Corflutes and with determination into the fray. It was Lalor station that Melanie made her appearance and it was there that Tony Abbott came in to provide the support.

Never in the history of 25 years campaigning has the calibre of Tony Abbot ever made an appearance or even set foot in the electorate of Scullin as it was seen as a strong Labor held seat. Melanie however had other ideas and felt that Scullin was being neglected by those who wielded the influence in Canberra and made her mind up that Scullin was worth battling for the hearts and minds of the people. After all did not every vote mean a vote towards a greater coalition presence in the Senate?

The trains pulled into Lalor station from either direction and quickly filled the platform with those returning home after a long day at work. The camera captured the surprised look on the people coming face to face with being met with Tony Abbott while Melanie and her supporters hovered around the station platform greeting and passing on flyers. The train passengers once they got over the shock of seeing Tony About, milled around him, asking for selfies to be taken, group photographs, having a chat, asking how come he was in Lalor and gave him the ok thumbs up as he was cool for coming to Lalor.

Tony Abbott was in his element and was no stranger to mixing with Australians from all walks of life, especially when one of his calibre has walked the talk and rubbed shoulders with royalty and the common man in his abode. His humble approach to each and every person he met with was a sight to see and not once did he wince when people asked to be photographed with him. Ever so generous that one wondered why the change in leadership when unity was required and not that of personal ambition. Suffice to say, nary a negative word was uttered about his current status and only positive exuberance was demonstrated whilst he was assisting in distributing flyers and meeting with the people of Lalor. That was the measure of the man.

Tony Abbott remained in location for over one hour meeting the numerous passengers alighting from the train carriages, had time to speak with the supporters and wished them well. Once individual and group photographers were taken, he and his support from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) departed to their next scheduled campaign meeting. It is of interest to note that his AFP support was an ex Royal Australian Army infantry soldier from the 2nd Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment and that he had been by Tony Abbott's side constantly throughout the last few years. On his departure farewells were made and Melanie thanked all her supporters for coming from so far away to support her.

One can guess from Melanie's determination that she will give it her best shot and make sure that the people of Scullin are given the opportunity to vote for an alternative member to represent them. Melanie has a small but experienced campaign team that are committed and resolute in providing the best support to Melanie Stockman. Melanie can bathe quietly in the knowledge that she was the first to be able to attract a man of Tony Abbott's calibre to an electorate that is at times neglected by the major league players. We wish her well in her endeavours.

As always, my apologies for the poor grammar, punctuation and savagery of the 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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