

# IS LIBERAL LEADERSHIP BEING QUESTIONED, ATTACKED OR UNDER FIRE IN VICTORIA

Peter Adamis 7 June 2014



Denis Napthine



Tony Snell



Ted Bailleau



Michael O'Brien



Matthew Guy



Damien Mantach

The article "Tide turns on Coalition sea of blue states" has a strong flavour and a smell of subtle innuendoes and sarcasm. A reader does not have to be a super analyst to read between the lines that this is a subtle but direct attack on the leadership and management of the Liberal Party in Victoria. As a right wing and conservatism outlook on life as well as and Liberal carrying card member, I am left with a sense of doom, insecurity and loss regarding the intentions and hidden reasons if any for the article.

It certainly is thought provoking, well thought out with relevant examples regarding the negative nature of the Liberal party in Victoria particular. To attack the Liberal Party Leader Tony Snell and his management team headed by Damien Mantach is rather extraordinary especially at a time when the government has enough matters to contend with in its hands. Certainly Tony Snell has done his best to quell any recalcitrant Liberal party members by placing his own pole in strategic positions and surrounding himself with members who are loyal to him. That is what any leader would do when they find themselves in such a precarious and highly controversial leadership role

However having said that an exceptional leader would also surround himself with the best team of advisers and supporters that will provide an unbiased opinion this giving the leaders an all round view of what is occurring with his or her environment. There is no room or place for recalcitrant's, nefarious characters or sycophants in a professional/volunteer political organisation otherwise the leader would fail to grasp and take heed of opportunities that may come their way. The leader of a political party is elected to lead and manage the political resources, processes including fund raising and selection of candidates for the parliamentary party.

This article goes to the heart of the malady that is currently affecting the Victorian Liberal party and finding a panacea for the ills that eroding the conservatism within is difficult indeed. One could argue that mediocrity may have infiltrated the management team and that of the parliamentary wing, one could put forth a case that candidates being selected are not on merit but

based on a numbers game. One could be so bold as to describe incidents and events that could have been avoided, where sitting members are doing nothing while their staff alienate members and still worse one could point the finger at recalcitrant members of parliament who are misusing their parliamentary privileges. We could say that some sitting members lost their seats because they neglected and failed their electorate during their time in office. We could say many things, but we refrain our selves because of our discipline and loyalty to the party and yet what is the point if theses alleged matters are not resolved amicably.

Although I am a firm believer in generational change, I feel that recent changes at the management level within the Liberal Party leaves, were hasty after a prolonged, well coordinated attack on a long term serving member who deserved more for the sycophants and recalcitrant's driving that attack. These attacks on a personal and professional level left members with a sour taste leaves a lot to be desired and have lost the skills and political wisdom of good minds. Any generational change within any organisation should be tempered with a conglomeration of political wisdom, experience, knowledge, life skills, social skills, networks and acknowledge that political seduction is not conducive to good working relationships.

Removing deadwood as indicated by the article below does not mean to rip out the heart and soul of individuals that have been long time members and supporters of the Liberal party, no it means removing deadwood that have recalcitrant and sycophant egotistical self interested ideals. Certainly the undermining of Ted Baillieu did not go down well with many of Liberal party supporters and the matter could have better handled. I am sad to say that this occurs on many levels within organisations, groups and sections of the community and therefore is certainly not directed only at the Liberal party alone. Leadership is earned, not a right, leadership can be thrust upon anyone and not handed out according to friends and supporters. Leadership is a difficult role as it means both leading and serving those who have elected you the responsibility.

Whatever leadership and management issues facing the Victorian Liberal party are matters which have traditionally been resolved within the Liberal Party without the intrusion of the National body being involved. Certainly it is not the responsibility of the media to judge the leadership style of any political party other than to provide an unbiased opinion based on their observations and not relying on disgruntled Liberal Party members who have nothing better to do that to undermine the leadership and management.

In the end it will be up the Victorian people to voice their opinions on who is to govern the Victorian electorate and until the State Elections in November this year, it is best to keep ones powder dry until the last of the poling has been counted. If Tony Snell and his management team are successful, it should be an end to the bitter infighting within the Liberal Party. However if on the other hand as some liberals have hinted Tony Snell and his leadership management team fail to deliver the goods, it will be inevitable that drastic changes will occur and many heads are destined to roll.



*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