



BAILLIEUGATE 13

Peter Adamis 5 August 2014

On reflection one would believe that the matter of the BaillieuGate leaked tape affair would have been concluded, that Denis Naphine would have disciplined and/or counselled Ted Baillieu over his poor commentary about his parliamentary colleagues and that the Place investigation would have been over. Unfortunately that is not the case.

Labor party saga and exposure. Mr. Samaras the Labor culprit for orchestrating the BaillieuGate leaked tape affair allegedly destroyed the tape in my opinion did so because there were other recordings that he did not want to be made public. Recordngs that would have embarrassed the Labor Party in its lead up to the State election. The man was but a fool to thin that he could pull it off. Everyone knows that those who lay traps for others a have a habit of falling into their own trap. the leaked debacle will have caused irreparable damage to its campaign to win over the trust and confidence of Victorian voters and should never have been put into operation in the first place. it appears that some within the Labor party were out to shore up their political status and support base but failed in executing their plans effectively.

No Liberal Party involvement in BaillieuGate affair. In the absence of any tangible evidence and/or anecdotal information, it is becoming apparent clear that there was no Liberal party member associated with the leaking of the tape other that somehow Liberal party membership email addresses were involved. In one of the scenarios provided in a previous article, it was pointed out that two Liberal party upper house members had inadvertently sent out emails without 'hiding' or using the "BCC" aspects of a n email program.

Mismanagement of BaillieuGate leaked Tape. This error on their part may have cost much embarrassment and cause much angst against a number of Liberal party members who were allegedly suspected of being associated with the leaking of the tape and its distribution. Had the Liberal party Secretariat and/or Party officials identified by name these alleged suspects, defamation action would have soon followed those accusations. Sad to say, we can be sure that this matter will not rest until all the dominoes have fallen, political masks have been revealed and the hidden agendas of those who have been undermining the Premier will soon be known. One hope that those who have leadership ambitions do so in the confines of their dreams and be prepared to take on that mantle of leadership when the timing is correct.

Purge, house cleaning or restructure. Is there a purge by the Liberal parry Socialist left against the right wing conservatist members or is it merely housing cleaning and/or a restructure of party membership. Whatever the case may be, the facts speak for themselves and the weight of evidence is leaning towards an unwarranted purge of members. The battle between the two has been ongoing for some time and now that the State election is looming, both sides are storing their political weapons in preparation for a battle post election. Candidate, potential candidates, leaked tapes, leaking ministers and those posturing for positions and status all form part of the overall conspiracies that are being hatched behind closed doors.

Future leaders. There is a flurry of excitement going on at the moment for potential leaders to leader the Liberal party into the future. Even as we write there are some who reflect upon the good old days and would prefer that some of the 'old proven war horses' were back into the fray. 'War horses' such Peter Reith, Peter Costellos, Jeff Kennett, Rod Kemp and others of their vintage. However such a move would only raise the ire of a number of budding new leaders who are nipping at the heels of the current leaders. Whoever is to be selected will require to be acceptable and be known to the majority of the Liberal Party membership.

The current team. The current leadership and management team led by Tony Snell have come under scathing attacks from both within and outside the Liberal membership base and no matter what decisions are being made, Tony Snell has been able to steer clear of any major controversial subject that will be seen as a negative of his leadership style. Tony Snell is believed to be interested in running for the title of President again in order that all of the David Kemp's reforms are embedded within the Liberal party.

Denise Naphine. Denis Naphine to his credit is doing the best he can under the circumstances in remaining in control of his own political ground and keeping happy those up and coming younger members of his cabinet who are watching his performance and are hot on his heels waiting for the opportunity to pounce. These younger members of Parliament is a reminder of the huntsmen who are following the hounds who chasing the fox who is chasing the hare and so forth until one or the other is caught, escapes or gives up. One wonders whether Denis Naphine is the Hound, the fox and/or the hate. It is my guess that he is the fox and that the others in the chase failed to identify him as that.



Days of solidarity and need to make good decisions: Pictured are Amanda Millar and Jack Lyons – Liberal candidates that Norma Wells. It is of interest to note that Jack Lyons disgraced candidate is pictured here with the charming Norma Wells who supported Jack and Peter Wiseman in Bendigo against Chris Earl a right wing conservative

Administrative Committee. It is being rumoured amongst Liberal members that maybe some of those on the Administrative Committee are not good judges of character and make poor decisions that will return at some future date to bite them. In all my years as a member of the Liberal party, I cannot remember so much controversy surrounding the members who have been elected to the roles of decision makers. Some members had been elected by default, others using the numbers game, others on allegiance and then worse of all, some on the old boys' net. There are only a few that have the political depth and experience to make the appropriate decisions that ate in the interest of the Liberal Party.

Wrong directions and wrong decisions made. It is my opinion that the current administrative Party is not doing enough regarding the State Election and they should be focusing on wining the State election rather seeking to feather their own nest and worrying about whether they will still be there the following year. It well known that no matter which of the two groups that one belongs on an ideological level, a member will be judged on their merits and will normally be re-elected if they have been working in the interests of the Liberal Party.

Grass roots members alienated. Membership Unfortunately this Administrative Committee has alienated many of the long time members and not addressing the main issues that are facing them. they are so intent on finding scapegoats that resources are being wasted and hampering the good work being conducted by the State director Damien Mantach. Whether this is the fault of top level management only Tony Snell the Liberal party President and his Executive can answer such a two edged question.

Young Liberals are they a conglomeration of political tribes. The young Liberals in NSW appear to becoming more militant in their political activities and their military methodologies of factionalising and categorising members is becoming untenable at a time when unity it is the best option to move forward and achieve their political objectives. Victoria Yong Liberals are being deliberately kept apart by interested influencers that have their origins at the federal parliamentary level, right and left wing groups and associations with educational institutions. Other young liberals are drawn to personalities whose leaders have their own agendas to execute and use their influence, resources and manpower to effectively gain political support, status and positions of influence. More of this in future articles.



Tony Abbott calls of changes. Passionate supporter of free speech and said that the Government was starting from scratch and believes in unity and thus taken the action not to proceed with any changes to 18C. Therefore one could say with some certainty that Tony Abbott showed leadership today.

By taking off the table any changes to 18C of the racial and discrimination Act. Tony Abbot said when it came to terrorism he felt that everyone has to be part of team Australia. that those who had dual citizenship and returned to serve in the Defence of the country will not be seen as being involved in any terrorist activities. To assist Australian National Security organisations over \$600 million dollars will be provided over the next four years to assist them into their roles in securing the interests of Australia. In addition data retention legislation with the normal safe guards such as warrants would be considered to enable law enforcement agencies to identify and prevent potential security threats.



George Brandis the Attorney General also took the podium to state that changes to the definitions of terrorism, training what constitutes a terrorist group, to fighters in overseas conflicts had been considered and legislation being made to reflect those changes. Powers have been drawn up for the national security agencies and legislation is before the Senate committee and expects with the bipartisan support of the Labor party it should be passed through Parliament.

Changes to Australian passports. Julie Bishop The Foreign Minister spoke about making changes regarding leaving and entering the shores of Australia. Changes such as making it difficult for any Australian to become involved in an overseas conflict. These changes being made in light of alleged Australian citizens who have been involved in, associated with and /or committed atrocities against mankind in designated areas. The cancellation, suspension and/or non approval of a passport, the questioning of alleged terrorist and any association with a terrorist organisation. These changes which are in the interests of Australian security are long overdue and it is believed that they will soon become legislation.



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STAKES RAISED IN TED BAILLIEU TAPE SAGA

JOHN FERGUSON The Australian August 05, 2014 John Ferguson Political Editor

ANY offender who illegally has used the Ted Baillieu dictaphone recording faces up to 15 years' jail for handling or receiving stolen goods under Victorian law, dramatically increasing the stakes in the hunt for the Labor figure who helped disseminate the information. David Galbally QC said yesterday the receipt of the recordings allegedly stolen by Victorian ALP headquarters would constitute a breach of the law, exposing the conduit to heavy penalties.

The office of Labor leader Daniel Andrews is under pressure to explain in full the role it played in the listening to and potential distribution of the recording. Opposition members are increasingly alarmed about the potential for Mr. Andrews or someone close to him being implicated by police in the affair in the run-up to November 29. Mr. Andrews's office refused yesterday to answer questions publicly from *The Australian* in the latest strategy being used to gag debate on the issue.

Victorian Labor's assistant secretary Kosmos Samaras has admitted listening to and destroying a Fairfax Media recording of Mr. Baillieu, the former Liberal premier, and himself on the grounds that they had been unauthorized trappings. But he has denied disseminating the information, an assurance that is being strongly supported across the party. It has now emerged that those who handled the recordings after they were copied by Mr. Samaras face tougher penalties than those potentially being handed to Mr. Samaras.

Mr. Samaras had sought legal advice on the use of the recordings and said none of the recordings should be disseminated, a declaration that many believe was ignored by one or more members of the Labor parliamentary machine. Mr. Andrews has emphatically denied any role played by his office in the dissemination of the recording. Mr. Galbally, an eminent criminal lawyer, told *The Australian* that anyone who was involved in the dissemination of the material on the recorder could face heavy penalties.

Asked if the circumstances of the recording being leaked constituted a handling stolen goods offence, he said: "The answer to that is yes. And it's receiving stolen goods." The Victorian Sentencing Manual describes handling stolen goods as a greater offence than the initial theft of goods, which carries a maximum 10-year jail term. Two staff in Mr Andrews's office were involved in the fallout over the tape but have denied ever disseminating it. They were his chief-of-staff John McLindon and press secretary Chris Reilly.

A third staff member, Lissie Ratcliff, has denied through a third party any involvement in leaking the Baillieu interview. Mr Samaras has emphatically denied disseminating the recording of Mr. Baillieu, in which the now backbencher slammed several colleagues. The Liberal Party initially accused some of its own members of receiving the Baillieu recording from Labor but there is a growing theory that Labor may have accessed Liberal Party membership emails.

<https://plus.google.com/106210093180875476946>



GOVERNMENT CALLS ON LABOR TO COOPERATE WITH POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO DICTAPHONE RECORDINGS

Tue 5 Aug 2014.

PHOTO: Opposition leader Daniel Andrews has denied Labor distributed recordings of Ted Baillieu talking to a Fairfax journalist. (ABC News)

Police are reportedly close to interviewing several key Victorian Labor figures as part of an investigation into leaked recordings from a journalist's dictaphone earlier this year. Senior Labor Party officials have admitted to listening to a recording of a conversation between a Fairfax journalist and former premier Ted Baillieu in which he criticised some of his party colleagues. The tape recorder was taken from a lost property box at a Labor state conference in May and emailed to Liberal Party members in June.

Government Minister Matthew Guy said police were expected to interview some of Mr Andrew's staff this week. Victorian Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews has denied his office leaked the recording to members of the Liberal Party. Mr Guy has called on Mr Andrews to guarantee his full cooperation with a police investigation. "The Government calls upon Daniel Andrews to make it clear that if the Victorian Police investigate and ask him to give evidence," Mr Guy said. "That he won't hinder the investigation, that he himself will offer himself for investigation, indeed for interview with Victoria Police."

Deputy Labor leader James Merlino denied Labor was involved in distributing the tape, but said the party would cooperate fully with the police investigation. "I'm not going to provide a commentary, I'm not going to give instructions to Victoria Police," Mr Merlino said. "I'm not going to say what they should or should not do or how they should view it. This has been a mess from the beginning." A spokesman for Mr Andrews said the Opposition Leader was on public record a number of times guaranteeing his cooperation with the police.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-05/government-calls-on-labor-to-cooperate-with-police-investigatio/5649356>



TAPE AFFAIR A RECURRING NIGHTMARE FOR POLITICIANS

August 1, 2014 Chris Johnston Senior Writer for The Age.

Daniel Andrews fields media questions on the tapes affair last Monday.

Photo: Justin McManus. Once the domain of private detectives, Dictaphones and recording devices are now much more widespread.

They've long been a tool of trade for journalists but increasingly human resources consultants, accountants, social workers, lawyers, researchers and therapists are also deploying them – and in the digital age where "life logging" is taking off, recording the minutiae of our lives can easily extend to recording our interactions with others. They are also becoming more common in family law cases, according to criminal and family lawyer, Mark Woods, who warns that in Victoria even Facebook chat is legally a conversation.

"We spend a lot of time concerning ourselves with the legality of the recorded conversation," Woods, who is also the chairman of the Law Institute of Victoria's access to justice committee, said. "It used to be obvious if someone had a tape recorder, it was a brick, and there was little opportunity to say you didn't know you were being recorded. Now it not so obvious."

The issue of taping came explosively back into Victorian media, political and legal circles this week in the fallout from *The Age* stolen-dictaphone affair. To recap: *The Sunday Age's* state political editor, Farrah Tomazin, dropped her dictaphone at the ALP state conference in May. The dictaphone included a conversation between her and former Liberal premier Ted Baillieu in which Baillieu was critical of Liberal factions and the role they'd played in the heated Kew by-election.

Political reporters regularly have these kinds of off-the-record conversations, in person and by phone, sometimes taped, sometimes not. Usually they remain private which is why politicians allow them to happen. But this one didn't remain private. The dropped dictaphone was handed into lost property where it was taken by an ALP staffer and listened to by others including assistant state secretary Kosmos Samaras and staff from Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews' office.

After obtaining legal advice that it would be illegal to distribute the contents, Samaras and others say they destroyed the digital recorder – rather than return the recorder to its owner. Somehow a copy of the Baillieu conversation ended up being emailed to hundreds of Liberal MPs and members by someone claiming to be a Liberal Party member, causing strife within the Coalition until the ALP's role was revealed this week, creating havoc within Labor. In Victorian politics it seems the spectre of the 'tape', the intercepted call or the leaked recording is a recurring headache for all sides.

An infamous early example was the interception of a poisonous phone call between former Victorian premier Jeff Kennett and then shadow minister Andrew Peacock about fellow Liberal John Howard, in 1987. Last year secret tapes revealed deep divisions within the state government – in the bitter aftermath of the Victoria Police leadership battle around then-chief commissioner Simon Overland – and helped end Baillieu's premiership. Then last weekend it was revealed state Liberal director Damien Mantach had been secretly recorded telling party members about how to "legally" hide campaign donations. (Mantach had earlier been caught up in the Overland affair as well). But what are the legal and ethical questions at play in taping others?

The legal answers are complex and in some cases very subtle. Mark Pearson, professor of journalism and social media at Griffith University and co-author of *The Journalists' Guide to Media Law* says a 1979 Commonwealth law deems interception of a phone call an offence but appears to say a digital recorder attached to the phone is not an interception. Ethically it is a difficult area, according to media academics.

Journalists routinely tape phone calls for accuracy and shift between on-the-record and off, especially in political reporting. The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance code of ethics advises not to "exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice". The Fairfax Media code of ethics does not prohibit taping but does value protection of sources and "sensitive information". State and territory laws differ, and are less to do with hardware and more to do with privacy and consent. In simple terms it is not illegal in Victoria, the Northern Territory or Queensland to record without consent a phone call you make or receive or a private conversation you are having.

However in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and the ACT it is illegal to record without consent that phone call or conversation. The states and territories have exemptions around the notions of public interest and also 'express' and 'implied' consent. When journalists are speaking to and recording politicians, Pearson said, legality and 'implied consent' were mired in the "murky territory of the flow of an interview with someone who might be media literate or in high office and someone who you may have banter with or a friendship with in some way."

The repercussions from *The Age* tape affair, meanwhile, continue. Andrews' chief of staff John McLindon, Samaras and ALP state secretary Noah Carroll admit listening to the dictaphone. and Andrews had denied that McLindon offered to resign over the issue. The Liberal Party has called in forensic auditors to find computer breaches that led to its distribution.

<http://www.watoday.com.au/victoria/tape-affair-a-recurring-nightmare-for-politicians-20140801-zzcgw.html>

SOMEONE'S LISTENING – BUT IS IT LEGAL?

August 1, 2014 Chris Johnston *Senior Writer for The Age*

To tape or not to tape? This has been the question in Victorian legal, media and political circles this week in the midst of *The Age* dictaphone affair. To recap – a small dictaphone belonging to *The Sunday Age's* state political editor, Farrah Tomazin, containing a conversation with former Liberal premier Ted Baillieu was handed in to lost property at Labor's state conference, in May. The journalist had unknowingly dropped it. In an off-the-record "background" conversation, Baillieu was critical of colleagues.

The recorder was obtained by ALP assistant state secretary Kosmos Samaras and listened to by other senior Labor staff, including some from opposition leader Daniel Andrews' office. Samaras claimed he was angered to hear his own voice on a separate recording in what he thought was an off-the-record conversation, and as a consequence listened to all the recordings with the same journalist. After obtaining legal advice that it would be illegal to distribute the contents, Samaras says he destroyed the digital recorder and all copies of the conversations.

But at some point a copy of the Baillieu call ended up with a third party and was emailed to hundreds of Liberal MPs and members by someone claiming to be a Liberal Party member, but using a false name. The conversation was mainly about Liberal factions and a heated Victorian pre-selection battle earlier this year. Political reporters regularly have these kinds of phone conversations, sometimes taped, sometimes not. Usually they remain private, which is why politicians allow them to happen. But this one didn't.

Once the domain of private detectives, dictaphones and recording devices are now widespread. Every smartphone can act as a recorder. Most people would understand that journalists use them, but what about human resources consultants, accountants, social workers, lawyers, researchers and therapists? All could potentially have once-private recordings subpoenaed – or, indeed, accidentally drop their recorder.

Tapes are also becoming increasingly common in family law and custody cases, according to Mark Woods, the chairman of the Law Institute of Victoria's access to justice committee, and a practising criminal and family lawyer. One warring partner records the other, or arranges to have them recorded on the phone, in person, or online in an application such as Skype. "We spend a lot of time concerning ourselves with the legality of the recorded conversation. It used to be obvious if someone had a tape recorder – it was a brick – and there was little opportunity to say you didn't know you were being recorded. Now it is not so obvious." The legal answers are complex and in some cases very subtle.

There is a Commonwealth law from 1979 but, according to Mark Pearson, professor of journalism and social media at Griffith University and co-author of *The Journalists' Guide to Media Law*, it is mainly concerned with telecommunications hardware, infrastructure and "interception". It deems interception of a phone call an offence but appears to say a digital recorder attached to the phone is not an interception. Professor Pearson wrote in 2011, after the *News of the World* phone hacking scandal, that journalists' desks were littered with recording devices and they broke surveillance laws every day, from illegal hacking at one extreme to recording their own calls at the other.

Ethically it is a difficult area, according to media academics. Journalists routinely tape phone calls for accuracy and conversations shift between on-the-record and off, especially in political reporting. The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance code of ethics advises not to "exploit a person's vulnerability or ignorance of media practice". The Fairfax Media code of ethics does not prohibit taping but does value protection of sources and "sensitive information". State and territory laws differ, and are less to do with hardware and more to do with privacy and consent.

In simple terms it is not illegal in Victoria, the Northern Territory or Queensland to record, without consent, a phone call you make or receive, or a private conversation you are having. However, in NSW, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and the ACT it is illegal to record that phone call or conversation without consent. All states and territories have exemptions around the notions of public interest and also "express" and "implied" consent.

Public interest in the context of being recorded, said Professor Pearson, was usually a circumstance "if it was clear before the recording that it was a major story of particular public importance and so it was basically a calculated move reflecting the overwhelming public importance of what was about to unfold". Within the often dark art of journalists speaking to and recording politicians, he said, legality and "implied consent" were mired in the "murky territory of the flow of an interview with someone who might be media literate or in high office and someone who you may have banter with or a friendship with in some way".

The repercussions from *The Age* tape affair, meanwhile, continue: opposition leader Daniel Andrews maintains no one in his office was involved in the spread of the tape, and has denied that his chief of staff, John McLindon, offered to resign. Yet McLindon, Samaras and ALP Victorian state secretary Noah Carroll have admitted listening to the dictaphone's recordings. The Liberal Party also has called in forensic auditors to find if there are computer breaches that led to the tape's distribution.

<http://www.watoday.com.au/victoria/someones-listening-8211-but-is-it-legal-20140801-zzclz.html>



VICTORIAN LABOR PARTY MEMBERS COULD HAVE BROKEN LAW BY PLAYING PRIVATE RECORDINGS: MEDIA LAW EXPERT

Stephanie Chalkley-Rhoden
28 Jul 2014.

PHOTO: Labor members admitted they listened to private conversations taped on an Age journalist's dictaphone.

Members of the Victorian Labor Party could have broken Victorian Surveillance Devices Act if they played recorded private conversations to others, according to a leading media law expert. Victorian Labor's assistant secretary Kosmos Samaras has admitted he destroyed a recording device belonging to Fairfax journalist Farrah Tomazin after listening to its contents. Mr Samaras said it contained a conversation he had had with Ms Tomazin that was recorded without his consent.

Mr Samaras also admitted to playing the recordings to Victorian Labor state secretary Noah Carroll and Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews's chief of staff John McLindon. Publish doesn't have to be publishing on a news website or in the media, it can mean playing it to just one or two other people. Justin Quill, media lawyer. "You don't need someone's permission to record them, but you can't publish that conversation without that person's consent," media lawyer Justin Quill told the ABC.

"Publish doesn't have to be publishing on a news website or in the media, it can mean playing it to just one or two other people. "This would be considered a private conversation under the Victorian Surveillance Devices Act. "Legal advice to Daniel Andrews would probably have been to not say what he said today." The Age's editor in chief Andrew Holden defended the decision made by Ms Tomazin to record the discussions, saying she had done nothing wrong. "Based on the facts as I know them, Farrah Tomazin was entitled to record the conversation because she was a party to it and she did not have the intent for the recording to be published, so she would be in the clear legally," he said.

Dr Matthew Rimmer, an expert in intellectual property law, called the situation "a media law quagmire". "It's a real doozy of a controversy. It goes into a whole host of legal and ethical issues that can become quite complex when dealing with things recorded on and off the record," Dr Rimmer said. "There are legal arguments for either side (Labor and Fairfax) because we're trying to unravel a murky factual scenario.

"Journalists take notes and recordings for very good reason - in case they need to prove what they're reported is true. "The fact that information held by the journalist on the recording device has been copied and published raises issues around whether there's been a breach of confidentiality. "The editor-in-chief of the Age has said the ALP extracted and copied the recording, which could be also be a copyright law issue."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-28/recording-someone-without-their-knowledge-not-illegal/5629902>

DICTAPHONE SAGA FORMER PREMIER TED BAILLIEU SAYS OPPOSITION LEADER HAS LOST ALL CREDIBILITY

30 Jul 2014 ABC

Victorian Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews has lost all credibility over Labor's role in accessing a reporter's recording device, according to former Victorian premier Ted Baillieu. The Labor Party admitted on Monday that senior officials listened to and made copies of a recording of Mr Baillieu speaking to a Fairfax journalist. The conversation was recorded on the reporter's dictaphone, which was subsequently lost and ended up at Labor Party headquarters after the state conference in May.

During the private conversation, Mr Baillieu could be heard criticising some of his party colleagues. Mr Andrews denied his office was involved in leaking the recording, which was eventually emailed to hundreds of Liberal members and MPs. Mr Baillieu said the Opposition Leader's explanation of events was not credible. "Senior people in the Labor Party have known for more than two months that they were an integral part [in], what any measure, is an unlawful act and they have said nothing," he said.

"I think he's lost all credibility. "It ought to be of a significant interest to the people of Victoria because if the Labor Party sticks with Daniel Andrews now they can have no credibility either." Mr Andrews said he was convinced his office had nothing to do with leaking the damaging recording of Mr Baillieu. "I've sought assurances, I've been given assurances that no member of my staff had any involvement whatsoever in the distribution of this material," he said. "It was destroyed, it was deleted and that was, as far as they were concerned, the end of the matter." Police were continuing to investigate the matter.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-29/daniel-andrews-has-lost-all-credibility-baillieu-says/5632860>



THE YOUNG LIBERAL SPY NETWORK

ACT News August 3, 2014 James Robertson *Reporter*

Secret files kept on political recruits: Simon Fontana. *Photo: Anthony Johnson.* Young Liberal political operatives have been keeping secret records of ostensibly casual conversations with party members at social functions and reporting back to senior political staff in a bid to snare factional recruits. E-mails obtained by The Sun-Herald reveal the operatives took notes over the past three years at events such as the annual Young Liberal ball which were used to identify "high potential" recruits for the party's centre right faction and its political enemies.

"Tonight is the most important night of year," Young Liberal vice-president Tobias Lehmann wrote in an email to 20 factional operatives in March 2013, equal parts pep talk and spy manual, before a new members' night. "It's critical to identify and start to factionalise them ASAP," he wrote. Instructions ranged from a dozen suggested conversation topics for teasing out political leanings to a reminder to observe body language:

"Please don't everyone ask the same questions to every person use a mix of them, as the different report will create the complete picture. Make it a conversation! Not an interview." One request for intelligence at a post-federal budget function in 2012 was said to have generated 90 replies and a "great deal of information". "Its best practice to write your report as you go during the evening, this way everything is fresh in your mind and you don't have to write it while hung-over," Mr Lehmann wrote. "After you finish chatting to someone write up the notes then and there and then move onto the next person.

"Everyone is expected to provide a report and, Simon [Fontana] and I need them within 48 hours." Then Young Liberal president Simon Fontana is currently the chief of staff to Planning Minister Pru Goward. Until stepping down this year, he was a member of the NSW Liberals' all-powerful state executive committee along with the Premier. Mr Lehmann now works as an adviser to upper house whip Peter Phelps. Neither Mr Fontana nor Mr Lehmann responded to detailed questions.

Operatives were told to go so far as to shut down any conversations between new members and their factional opponents on the party's left and right: "What starts as a chat with a Grouper [member of the left], turns into an internship in Joe Hockey's office, and then that member is as good as lost". At the Young Liberal ball in 2012 intelligence was emailed to the group as the night went on. "Just met Matt and Marie," one said. "He just started up a business to try on clothes before you buy them online. She is a nanny and a dress maker. He is more keen than her because he likes to talk about business policy."

Young Liberal branches have the same input into state and federal preselection conferences as any normal branch. They make up about 15 per cent of the all 370 NSW Liberal branches and a significant political power base. One ex-Young Liberal branch president said he and others were asked to share information on members' political leanings with a NSW parliamentarian preparing for a preselection battle. Mr Fontana was installed as Young Liberal president after federal MP and NSW centre right factional boss Alex Hawke swung support behind him.

The Liberal party is locked in debate over a proposal by former Prime Minister John Howard to allow the direct election of lower house candidates. The move is opposed by the party's dominant centre right and left factions.

How to factionalise a young Liberal. A 'solid' is someone whose factional loyalty is assured: do not waste time talking to them. A HIPO is a "high potential" recruit, or someone who appears ripe for induction into a faction. 'H' the name of the centre-right faction. Group is the name given to the left wing faction. Taliban is the name given to the right wing faction.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/the-young-liberal-spy-network-20140802-zzofu.html#ixzz39IHx4ZLd>



BENDIGO WEST LIBERAL CANDIDATE JACK LYONS QUILTS OVER RACIST, SEXIST, OFFENSIVE JIBES INCLUDING BENDIGO 'NEEDING AN ENEMA'

James Campbell State politics editor Herald Sun August 05, 2014. Former Liberal candidate for Bendigo West, Jack Lyons, with Premier Denis Napthine. Picture: Facebook. Jack Lyons has withdrawn his candidacy for the seat of Bendigo West.

A LIBERAL candidate at November's state election has quit in disgrace after party officials were told of hundreds of offensive sexist and racist posts on his Facebook page. Jack Lyons, who was standing for the marginal seat of Bendigo West, quit two hours after the *Herald Sun* alerted party officials.



He had described the regional city as "needing an enema" and called its historical Golden Dragon Museum "ching chong gardens". The former publican is the second Liberal candidate to fall victim to social media. Last week, Aaron Lane departed as a candidate in western Victoria after his anti-gay tweets hit the headlines.

In June, Labor's candidate in Frankston quit over bullying claims at her old workplace. Premier Denis Napthine said the comments were offensive and totally inappropriate. Dr Napthine said the seat would still be contested by the party. This morning deputy Opposition leader James Merlino said Mr Lyons' views had "no place in our society". "(Premier) Denis Napthine needs to come out and apologise to the people of Bendigo that he ever preselected this joker to run for a seat," Mr Merlino told 3AW. "He needs to make sure that there's no one else in his team with these kinds of views."



Mr Lyons had earlier defended his Facebook updates, in one of which he described women's hair as a "part of the blur above where her t--- are". "They're jokes, mate. I can't help what's there. I hope I haven't offended anyone. "I don't think I have.

"I'm a normal Aussie living life and enjoying it." Other posts included a reflection that the best pick-up line was: "Hey, does this rag smell like chloroform to you?" In another post Mr Lyons mocked poverty in Africa, saying if they live in mud huts and "have to walk 5 miles everyday for water ... why not build the f---ing huts closer to the f---ing water". He defended that thought on Monday, saying: "Isn't that common

sense?"

Jack Lyons with Prime Minister Tony Abbott. Picture: Facebook. Mr Lyons said he was particularly fond of an update about the six great kings who had brought immense happiness into people's lives: "Drin-King, F---King, Lic-King, Suc-king, Span-king and Wan-king....." "I've got that one on a T-shirt," he said. Mr Lyons's Facebook page is also full of professions of his love of pornography including one in which he confessed: "You know you have a problem when every letter of the alphabet triggers a porn bonanza in your address bar ...". But Mr Lyons denied he was obsessed with pornography.

"I'm the same as everyone else," he explained. "A lot of stuff gets sent to you and you sometimes you might flick it on and sometimes you don't. I don't know, it's not something I go looking for." As for his use of the term "Chinky", Mr Lyons was at a loss to explain why he had referred to Asians that way. "I don't know. No idea. Isn't it in most of the movies and stuff you see? Isn't that in all the *Hangover* movies and all that?"

In a statement last night, Liberal Party State Director Damien Mantach said Mr Lyons had withdrawn his candidacy. "His comments were written as jokes and were posted in a closed Facebook page some years before he became a member of the Liberal Party," he said. "However, Mr Lyons acknowledges the comments are juvenile and offensive. He has apologised unreservedly."

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/bendigo-west-liberal-candidate-jack-lyons-quits-over-racist-sexist-offensive-jibes-including-bendigo-needing-an-enema/story-fni0fit3-1227013304657?sv=fabc5dc53aec9f5ee43e44086b1f8234&nk=9edbd8a0368a3f3fec4e4d076e0c262f>

LIBERAL CANDIDATE FORCED TO QUIT OVER BAD TASTE POSTS

John Ferguson From: The Australian August 05, 2014 John Ferguson Political Editor

BAD taste social media comments last night claimed another Victorian Liberal candidate contesting the November 29 poll, infuriating and embarrassing the party machine. Jack Lyons, the party's candidate for the marginal regional Labor seat of Bendigo West, was forced to quit after attacking the central Victorian city he proposed to represent. Mr Lyons reportedly wrote disparagingly of the Chinese who helped build the gold rush city in the 1850s. He also wrote on Facebook of his attraction to pornography.

"You know you have a problem when every letter of the alphabet triggers a porn bonanza in your address bar ...," he reportedly said. Liberal state director Damien Mantach said last night he accepted the resignation after the transgressions emerged. "Jack Lyons has tonight withdrawn his candidacy as the Liberal Party candidate for Bendigo West," he said. "The majority of the comments were written as jokes and posted in a closed Facebook page some years before he became a member of the Liberal Party ... Mr Lyons acknowledges the comments are juvenile and offensive. He has apologised unreservedly."

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LIBERALS SECOND CANDIDATE QUILTS IN DISGRACE

August 5, 2014 Richard Willingham *State Political Correspondent for The Age.*

With Henrietta Cook and Darren Gray. Jack Lyons (right) with Premier Denis Napthine. Jack Lyons out over offensive comments.

Victorian opposition's James Merlino is calling for an apology from the Premier after Liberal candidate for Bendigo West. Jack Lyons stood down in light of a series of racist and sexist social media posts. The mayor of Bendigo and father of a disgraced Liberal candidate said he was "devastated" by social media comments made by his son who will no longer contest the seat of Bendigo West. Cr Barry Lyons said his son Jack's comments, posted on Facebook, could not be defended. "As parents, my wife Betty and I are disappointed and devastated," Cr Lyons said in a written statement.



Jack Lyons. "Jack's actions have cut his political career short. His comments and actions are not defensible. "I'm sure no offence was intended or meant but Jack has recognised his mistakes and stepped down." The statement was released on Cr Lyons' behalf by a spokesman for the City of Greater Bendigo, who said the mayor would not be available for interviews. Jack Lyons withdrew his candidacy for the marginal seat held by Labor's Maree Edwards over comments on his Facebook page. It was the second candidate for the upcoming state election that the Napthine government has withdrawn in less than a week.

The Facebook posts from Mr Lyons included him saying Bendigo was "needing an enema" and labelling its Golden Dragon Museum "ching chong gardens". On one post he laughed at African poverty, asking why people lived in mud huts and had to walk "5 miles everyday for water ... why not build the f---ing huts closer to the f---ing water". He also posted that a good pick-up line was "Hey, does this rag smell like chloroform to you?" Premier Denis Napthine said Mr Lyons' comments were unacceptable.

Dr Napthine said the Liberal Party had taken strong action against Mr Lyons, who stood down on Monday night, and attempted to turn the blowtorch back on to the Labor Party. "The actions taken by Mr Lyons and the Liberal Party are strong and decisive actions, which are in sharp contrast to the Labor Party's lack of action on dealing with its people involved in the tape-gate affair," Dr Napthine said on Tuesday morning. Mr Lyons resignation follows the withdrawal of Liberal Aaron Lane over offensive posts on Twitter.

Labor's Helen Constan has withdrawn over bullying claims. Social media, Dr Napthine said, was a minefield for everyone including politicians. Deputy opposition leader James Merlino said Mr Lyons' comments were 'offensive', 'unacceptable' and 'disgusting'. "We have now had two Liberal party candidates removed within a week for racist, sexist and homophobic

comments." He called on Dr Naphthine to apologise to Bendigo voters for preselecting Mr Lyons.

http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/libs-second-candidate-quits-in-disgrace-20140804-3d4pw.html?eid=email:nnn-130mn654-ret_news1-membereng:nnn-04/11/2013-news_am-dom-news-nnn-age-u&campaign_code=13IN0008&et_bid=21099901&promote_channel=edmail&mbnr=MTMzOTE2ODE

BOTH PARTIES HAVE CANDIDATE WOES: VIC LIBS

AAP AUGUST 05, 2014

THE Victorian government says it's unfortunate when preselected candidates don't go to elections, following the resignation of a second Liberal candidate over offensive social media posts. JACK Lyons resigned as the Liberal candidate for Bendigo West on Monday night after the media reported he had made racist and sexist social media posts. The resignation came after the Liberal Party's western region candidate Aaron Lane stepped down last week over crude tweets. Planning Minister Matthew Guy said controversies happened in both major parties, and the Liberal Party would move on.

"There's always periods where you'll have a candidate who may not proceed to the state election," Mr Guy told Fairfax radio. "So these things are certainly unfortunate but obviously Jack Lyons has apologised for the comments he's made and we'll move on as a party." Premier Denis Naphthine said a new candidate would be selected for Bendigo West. "We'll continue to work hard in all our seats right across Victoria," Dr Naphthine told reporters on Tuesday. But the opposition says the government must explain how Mr Lyons came to be preselected.

Deputy Opposition Leader James Merlino said the comments Mr Lyons made were offensive and unacceptable. "(Dr Naphthine) needs to assure the people of Victoria there are no other people with these views," Mr Merlino said. "All parties have vetting processes and all parties at times, candidates come up that are not acceptable. "The difference this week is we've seen two candidates with sexist, racist and homophobic views." Labor's candidate for Frankston Helen Constas resigned in June after an old bullying complaint was reported.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/latest-news/explain-lib-preselection-vic-alp-demands/story-fn3dxiwe-1227013682665>