

FROM DAVID EVERIST

Dear fellow Liberal Party member;

I do hope I am not being presumptuous in writing you this letter, but I am deeply concerned about the future of our great party. The result in the recent state election was gut wrenching and left many with a deep sense of anger.

This anger in part was fuelled by the events that have occurred in the party over the last two years. People with personal agendas used the party membership as a play toy and in some cases party prestige was used to assuage personal egos.

The state president and others have stood down from the executive for varying reasons. Some were pushed, some jumped and some fell. They have left a legacy of crumbling membership, a financial debacle and no succession plan. It is amazing that their empire crumpled so quickly.

Driven away were party supporters but more importantly party funders who closed their cheque books. We had the ridiculous situation where the state parliamentary party was touting for funds. We have seen people corralled into the party with promises of action that had little bearing to main stream politics.

We had loyal party members who believe in free enterprise, small government and a fair go being labelled Left Wingers. Who a load of unmitigated rubbish. We heard about factions operating in the party and most of us were in the wilderness totally unaware of any major power play.

Thank goodness change has occurred and some level of sensibility has been established but the unrealistic dreams of power linger in the McEwan electorate and the Macedon SEC. The overall problem is aptly demonstrated with the Woodend branch refusing to release funds for the Macedon campaign. A pure act of bastardy.

What could be called the forces of evil are working hard to take over McEwan and other electorates so therefore it is so important you make your presence felt at the McEwan AGM being held in the Beveridge Community Centre on Wednesday February 6.

I give you a commitment that I and others are prepared to fight for the basic values we hold dear.

“We may not know in detail what the Liberal party stands for but we certainly know what we do not want”

This scourge must be stopped in its tracks in the name of decency. No more changing of minutes, exclusion of members, hateful speech, refusal to support candidates and branch stacking.

Please send your thoughts and I am happy to expand on any points. For personal contact send me your telephone number. Also please talk to fellow party members

David

RESPONSE BY MALCOLM MCLEAN

Dear Loyal Liberal Party Member,

I received a copy of an email sent out by David Everist from a very upset and angry longstanding Party member.

The member was devastated at the tone that was in this email and having read it myself I was equally upset so much so I feel prompted to respond and try and bring some semblance of balance to an otherwise shocking email.

I ask that you please, if have received this email that you read my response.

- Please don't blame the staff and the volunteers for the failure of the State Parliamentary Party. They were never in front in the polls in 4 years and no campaign can rescue politicians who are so far behind for so long;
- Membership is not crumbling - it has increased;
- He refer to a financial debacle - what planet is he on? The outgoing President has left more than \$30m in the Bank, secured 90% of the Cormack money forever and caught the former State Director stealing money when the previous Admin Committee were asleep at the wheel;
- I am told this was the most expensive campaign ever. There was no shortage of donors but weakness in the State Party and a toxic Federal brand led to a poor State result. Again, stop blaming the volunteers and the staff.

I have been the recipient of this type of shocking undermining emails from Ian Quick in the past who I personally see as a self-serving party wrecker but have chosen not to respond his emails.

But this one I couldn't let go as a concerned party member in McEwen FEC I felt that this is too close to home not to react.

What we don't need are people like David Everest continually abusing members and driving them away. The anger is against people like Everest who abuse older members and run websites constantly attacking other members.

PS. On another matter It is rumoured that Our New State President Robert Clarke has Cancelled all SENATE Pre-Selections which is absolutely outrageous

Cheers Mal

Malcolm McLean
Sales & Marketing