



New balloted Australian Democrats Policy



Murray River

Photo by Aussie Kanck

Murray-Darling Basin Policy

Back in 2010 you could hardly have failed to notice the public debate about the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) with angry irrigators yelling loudly at public meetings and, outside some meetings, burning discussion documents.

As members you have strongly supported the ballot for our new Murray-Darling Basin policy. Clearly – just like these irrigators - you recognise the importance to Australia of this vast region which covers one-seventh of our continent.

For too long the MDB has been a vexed issue with conflicts between the four states and one territory that depend on it, and between those wanting it for drinking, washing and toileting, those using it to produce food and those advocating to protect its natural environment.

After decades of talking about it, Australia now has a national Plan for the MDB. However, it does not come into force until 2019 – some of the sectional interests made that a condition to their signing up.

However it is flawed: the prestigious Wentworth group walked away from the process because the decisions being made were based not on the best available science but political lobbying. The natural environment has been the loser.

Right now there is enough flow in the system to flush to the sea the 2.5 tonnes of salt per day that accumulate in the river. However, drought is the norm in the Murray-Darling Basin, and increasing population numbers are adding further pressures. When Australia inevitably returns to drier conditions there is no guarantee in the Plan that the mouth of the Murray will remain open. Should flow cease the consequent buildup of salt and other pollutants will slowly kill the river from the mouth upwards.

Our new policy is important as it recognises the problems, the pressures and competing interests in this system and offers solutions.

Sandra Kanck
Water Policy Co-ordinator

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

(In the order that nominations were received)

National President**Darren Churchill**

I have been privileged to serve as National President of the Australian Democrats for most of the past two years. I won't pretend that the past twelve months has been smooth sailing. Standing up to a faction which uses mostly undemocratic means to attempt to execute a hostile takeover of the Party, is not what one expects to be doing as elected President.

However, I have stood firmly, heeding your many emails and phone-calls, to protect the Party and its most valuable asset - you, the members – from an assault on democracy and attacks on the integrity of individual members. The AEC decision legitimising our current Secretary and Registered Officer is definitive and we must now work together to reunite and rebuild a co-operative party based on time-honoured values of honesty, tolerance and compassion.

The 'umpire' has ruled, and Party elder Lyn Allison has called for us to unite. We must! In the second Presidential ballot last year I promised to convene a special meeting to discuss how we can heal the rift. That meeting, a type of 'truth and reconciliation commission' is being planned for July in Melbourne, and I expect it to be held before this ballot has concluded.

In spite of the difficulties, I have continued to chair National Executive (NE) meetings with fairness and procedural correctness, as I did previously. I've upheld the Constitution and Standing Orders, allowing proper discussion, debate and decision-making at all times.

The incoming NE will have the responsibility of preparing our Party for the federal election. In a very short space of time, we must get our candidates in place and policies in the public domain, as part of our longer-term plan to get Democrats back in Parliament.

I offer the Party a return to stability plus the 'corporate knowledge' that is needed to run a steady ship. With an election imminent, that is extremely important. Our candidates and campaign teams need an effective "board-of-management" to run the day-to-day business of the Party, so candidates can have confidence in the administrative wing of the Party. My work, both in the 2012 membership audit and 2013 constitutional submissions to the AEC, has demonstrated that capacity.

I will provide the needed administrative support to our campaign teams as we gear up for the election. For the future, with the assistance of the entire NE, I will commence a major review/rewrite of our National Constitution, so as to strengthen our democratic processes and ensure that hostile take-overs can never again be instigated.

In spite of the difficulties with the renegade faction, recent achievements under my leadership include two policy consultations and a ballot, several Divisions working hard to get our election team in place, and steering the Party through some very difficult times.

I would welcome the opportunity to again serve as National President. I ask for your continued support and your vote. In turn I offer you a revived, rebuilt Party true to our Charter and Objectives led by the wisdom of experience.

Darren Churchill darren.churchill@australian-democrats.org.au 0412 196 473

Andrew Starr

I stand to unite the Australian Democrats.

It has been six months since the Party leadership split into two: two National Executives, two versions of the National Journal, and now two ballots for the presidential team. With no end to the dispute between both sides evident, I ask for your support in both ballots as a clear mandate to end the infighting.

My leadership will be one of reconciliation and reform. I strongly believe that the only way forward for the Party is for the Party to put aside their differences, and make the changes needed to prevent a situation like this happening again. As a person who has not been previously a member of the National Executive, my position as a third party will be greatly beneficial in liaising with both Executives and working towards mediation and a solution that unifies both sides.

I propose a three-point plan for unifying the Democrats as your National President:

1. Mediation. I believe that only mediation will be able to bring a decisive end to the dispute between both sides. I will broker an agreement with both parties to enter mediation with an independent arbiter, to seek a solution that will satisfy both sides.
2. Overhaul of Governance Documents. It is clear that the documents governing the operations of the Democrats are inadequate in resolving issues that arise at an executive level. I propose redrafting these documents to provide clear, concise, and unambiguous guidelines for the National Executive and broader Party to operate on.
3. Administrative Restructuring. Rebuilding a Party requires a massive amount of people power. I want to see the Party structured in such a way that allows members to utilise their talents to work together, and return the Democrats to Parliament.

Should I be elected as National President, I will work towards executing this plan as a priority. The longer the Party is hamstrung by infighting, the longer we will be out in the political wilderness. We all joined the Democrats because we believe that politicians should serve the people, and not vested interests or their own electoral prospects. We can bring that back to Australia.

If you have an idea for helping to restore the Democrats, want to discuss any concerns you have, or just want to say g'day, my best method of contact is via email at astarr.au@gmail.com. Together, we can make this Party great again.

Deputy National President

Robert Livesay

Dear Fellow Australian Democrats, I nominate for Deputy National President, Australian Democrats.

I bring 20 years of experience as an active candidate, as well as actively supporting other local- State and Federal candidates in by- and general elections, in several States.

This includes deputising for retired Senator Allison, printing and distributing parliamentary and Party flyers, and being a Party presence at a number of community functions.

Since late last year I have been Victorian Division President, actively and conscientiously representing Victorian Division members. Being able to give personal support and encouragement to them, and members of other divisions, in both electoral activity and in helping with the heavy burdens many bear in professional and personal lives because of their dedication to the Party of economic responsibility, ecological sustainability and social justice.

I bring to the workings of the Party my experience in the wider community on local, national and international issues. As an active local cricketer and volunteer staffer for cricket and local

AFL, and a number of community organisations I bring to the Party the skill involved in working with people with a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. With these skills I can help rebuild the Party of tolerance honesty and compassion.

I seek your support that we not only become the Party of balance and moderation in Federal, State and Local government, but government in our own right.

Thank You, Robert Livesay

David Collyer

I offer myself again to the members as an already-active participant on the National Executive - with more to give. I am a key member of the campaign team and the writer behind a significant proportion of our media releases and other campaign materials. I am intimately involved in Party strategy and direction.

I am one of the few public faces of the Party. In Victoria, I am the sole nominee for the lead Senate candidate role and eagerly await the results of the ratification ballot now underway.

Members have been dismayed by the conflicts created by the RebootD faction's attempt to take the Democrats over and refashion it to their unstated agenda. Some members withdrew in horror at the vicious political moves the faction employed. I did not. I stood fast, maintained a dialogue at all times, acknowledging merit where it could be found and strenuously resisted the many un-democratic actions outlined in the AEC report.

The mainstream Democrats have offered RebootD faction members an open hand in peace. This is not from a position of weakness but with strength and confidence. Making it work will be hard, but I am willing to try.

You can 'see' my values and passion in this video made for the Melbourne by-election:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9O2VFRG0rDU>

David Collyer Deputy National President Australian Democrats

Hayden Patterson

My name is Hayden Patterson, and I am asking for your vote for one of the five positions of Deputy National President of the Australian Democrats in this ballot.

I believe that I am well suited for this role, specifically in this time that our Party needs unity and to work together to put recent distractions behind us, and to build our membership numbers, as well as prepare for an upcoming election.

I started with the Australian Democrats approximately 5 years ago with minor administration assistance to the office bearers, and sat on several committees. Over the years, my involvement has gradually increased as my skills have become useful at various stages. I have been influential in getting the Australian Democrats more visible in the South Australian public with community events, and in setting up an Australian Democrats - SA Division - Facebook page. I have hand delivered thousands of leaflets to homes, and also currently hold the positions of Membership Officer and Policy Co-ordinator for the South Australian Division, as well as being a Branch Representative.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to work for our Party on a National level, and ask for your vote for me to represent our members both as a Division, and Nationally.

Hayden Patterson Haydenp1976@gmail.com 0408 361 360

Andrew Castrique

I am 55 years old, a member since mid 2000 and active in Mayo Branch since 2001. I have held various positions. My present role is as S.A. Division Secretary.

I have worked as a Laboratory Technician in mineral assay laboratories, a hospital biochemistry laboratory, and agriculture / soil analysis laboratory and am now employed as a Laboratory Technician at a Senior High School.

There is an old Chinese curse, 'May you live in interesting times'. Well, the last year certainly has been interesting for our Party.

In 1975, a very interesting time, Gough Whitlam's Labor government was dismissed. Straight after the announcement on the steps of Parliament House, Norman Gunston asked the Official Secretary to the Governor-General "Mr Fraser has formed the caretaker government. Does that mean he has to mow the lawns around Parliament House?"

In many other countries, an event like the dismissal would have resulted in riots or even civil war. In Australia our democratic way of life, our basic respect for others, is so ingrained we can talk, debate, argue, in safety. And still laugh at ourselves.

I joined the Australian Democrats as the Party that believes in open and honest government for all, respect for all, and plans for the long term future of this country. I will continue to support the Party to the best of my abilities.

Andrew Castrique 0421 653 501

Glenn Luxford

No statement submitted

Darren Churchill

Much information for my supporting statement can be found in my presidential nomination, so it is unnecessary and possibly unfair to repeat it here.

National Executive (NE) requires competency and preparedness to get involved and do work and preparedness to work effectively with the others who are elected. I have demonstrated this in my many roles over time in the Party.

At various times, as National President, Senior Deputy National President and acting National Secretary, I have served on every committee of NE, both as chair but as a general member. I have also contributed to sub-committees and working groups (eg. those related to like-minded parties).

I believe that regaining our political effectiveness through campaigning and re-engaging with the community are essential. My aim is to build task-orientated teams that will develop our campaigns and build membership growth.

If we are to grow the Party and develop it's potential, we must continue to build the team from solid foundations. That includes solid constitutional foundations. We must return to increased member participation and restoring the democratic process through positive ballots. By voting in this ballot and coming to meetings and sharing your input, together we continue to take the steps to rebuild and revive the Party, re-establish voter support and regain parliamentary seats.

Let's work constructively to get Australian Democrats policies back in the public domain and Democrats back in Parliament.

I ask for your support and your vote. Please contact me at any time if you have any questions.

Darren Churchill darren.churchill@australian-democrats.org.au 0412 196 473

David King

Hi my name is David King and I'm seeking your support to become a deputy National President of the Australian Democrats. I first joined the Australian Democrats in the mid nineties and filled many roles including Branch Convenor, regional organiser and State Campaign Manager NSW to name just a few.

I live in Blacktown NSW with my wife, two teenage daughters and a cat.

Distressed after reading the AEC report around issues relating to the leadership of the Australian Democrats it became clear that the best way to help was to bring my experience to the executive and support Darren Churchill, Roger Howe and the team.

During my tenure as State Campaign Director I ran 11 campaigns 7 with pleasing results 2 with average results and 2 which demonstrate exactly what not to do. It's my mistakes which I have learnt from that I believe will allow me contribute most to National Executive at this time.

It's time for you to deserve more from your executive as we prepare for the September elections. Management is about giving people the tools they need to make things happen.

You can contact on 0402 271 298 dking40@bigpond.com

Robin Davis

Events of the past year have demonstrated how important it is that people of high integrity hold key positions within the administration of the Party. We have seen how a few with other priorities can wreak great havoc. This is your chance to support those who respect the constitution, the time-proven conventions and procedures, the wishes of the members, and the unpaid contribution of those who do the real, day by day, hard work that holds this Party together.

I am proud to say that I am one of the workers. I joined the Australian Democrats in 2007 and since then barely a day has gone by when I haven't done some work for the Democrats - as a member of the Victorian Executive, as Victorian and National Membership Officer, as Victorian and National webmaster.

Most recently, despite the havoc referred to above, I have managed to rebuild the national and Victorian websites here: www.australian-democrats.org.au and here: www.vic.australian-democrats.org.au and the membership database, and set up a new payment processing system.

Before you vote I suggest you read this Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) report in full. It will help you decide who is worthy of your trust and who is not. <http://www.australian-democrats.org.au/downloads/letters/Reg5000PDF-Statement-of-Reasons.pdf>

I ask for your vote for the position of Deputy National President and that you select your other preferred representatives carefully so that the administration of the Party remains in competent, hard working and responsible hands.

Robin Davis membership@australian-democrats.org.au 03 9735 1168

Ronaldo Villaver

Dear Fellow Members of Australian Democrats,

This is to inform all members of Australian Democrats that I am nominating myself as Deputy National President of our Party in the forthcoming 2013/2014 National Executive Ballot.

Teamwork within the Party is on top of the agenda and shall remain the ultimate aim of each and every member of the Australian Democrats. It is a powerful tool for the Party to attain its primary objective of getting elected in the Australian Federal Parliament on September 2013.

Finance, strategy, technology among others is equally important and I believe will follow as the national executive team of our organisation and its members will be rowing on same direction.

As you probably know, I was the number two upper house candidate of our Party in the last NSW State Election. Likewise, during the last federal election, I was the Party candidate representing the Greenway Electorate.

Currently, I am involved in the Ethnic Community Council of New South Wales as its Vice-Chairperson.

May I then solicit the support of all Australian Democrats members on my candidacy.

Your vote for RONALDO VILLAVER is a vote for TEAM AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS.

Thank you in advance.

Yours in the Service of Australian Democrats,

RONALDO VILLAVER

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Mayo Materazzo

As a long standing S.E. member of 13 years, I've worked to keep this organisation, the only democratic party, stay strong as the avenue for our rights to be maintained.

As a member since 2000 I have been active in the roles on NSW State Executive include: - President; Vice-President; NE Rep; Division Secretary; Treasurer / Public Officer; Policy Committee ▪ 2007-11 Candidate - Federal & State Elections ▪ 2004-11 Federal & State Election Campaigns for A. Ridgeway and A. Chesterfield-Evans.

I will bring a broad range of experience to the administration and expansion necessary to maintain the Party and offer the voting public a 'democratic' political option.

Presently, I am outraged regarding the renegade members who recently have caused a split in the Party and stolen Party infra-structure including deceiving new unsuspecting members via Facebook, Twitter, etc. who believe they have joined the original Aust. Democrats.

Therefore I ask for your vote for Dep. Nat. President, so the Democrats can be restored to its 23 Principles and integrity as a 'member driven' Party and remove this autocratic renegade group.

Also Members its vital to play your part by getting involved for the Party's rebuilding for an going future by joining the Committees on National and State Divisions.

N.E. needs to plan an effective Campaign to continue our Party's involvement in the political arena and it is vital for members to join forces and then lobby for our Candidates in September's Federal Election.

This Party is worth fighting for.

(Ms) Mayo Materazzo

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Roger Howe

The Australian Democrats have been under attack, I stood up to resist a small minority from seizing control of this great, truly democratic party. I did this with the support of the Party membership, and will continue to fight the good fight with your support.

As the Senior Deputy President to National President Darren Churchill, I have been working twice as hard this last year to keep the Australian Democrats election ready. Darren Churchill and I, finalised the complex process of the Australian Democrats' political party registration with the AEC. We couldn't have done it without you, the members, substantiating your membership with the AEC.

Darren Churchill, Charlie Bell and I prepared the Party's response to the AEC over renegade claims to take over critical Party positions of National President, National Secretary and Registered Officer. A great deal of time, effort and documentation substantiated the good governance of the Party, as vindicated by the AEC report.

I am offering my experience, expertise and willingness to help administer the Party so that members can be heard on policy, campaigns and issues. So that every member's view has a forum to be heard within; that members' opportunity is alive and well, unlike other political parties.

If you want the Australian Democrats to continue to be well governed and a member based, democratic political party, I ask for your vote so I can continue to work for you, the members.

Please support my nomination, by voting 1 Roger Howe for Deputy National President.

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

ACT

Kal Slater

I haven't been a member of the Democrats for all that long, I joined in September last year and in that time I've seen the Party perhaps at its worst, but despite that I strongly believe that our Party, the Party of the people has a valuable place in Australian politics.

Now, more than ever, the Democrats are needed desperately back in parliament; Australia needs a party of the centre, a party of common sense, I want to play my role in returning our great Party back to the parliaments of this nation. I would love to represent Young Democrats in the ACT and I feel that my experience with organisations such as UN Youth Australia will aid me in communication and planning in a political, fast-paced environment.

My top priorities for our Party (apart from the obvious goal of getting members elected) are: Re-forming both the ACT Democrats and ACT Young Democrats as active Divisions in the Party, building on current promotional work to get the Party's name out there and focusing on building more comprehensive and detailed policy, particularly in areas of education, health and youth services. This is why I want your vote to join your NE.

Many thanks, Kal

NSW

Nigel Hancock

Although I have only recently joined the Australian Democrats, I have been a strong supporter of the AusDems since before I could vote. There is no point in denying that the Australian Democrats and with them the Young Australian Democrats have been going through a rough patch. The last few years have seen our membership slide and our disappearance from the political centre has left a vacuum that has seen most parties move to their right.

Engaging the youth has always been a strength of the Democrats. No party can survive without its base and the Young Australian Democrats has been a huge part of supplying both support and talent for the greater Party. In order to grow the Young Australian Democrats I would like to see a Democrats on Campus at all the Universities around Australia. Providing a meeting place for concerned young democrats to discuss the issues and rally behind national campaigns. Democrats on Campus can include TAFE's, youth groups and even high schools. These clubs can then be opened or expanded to include all democratic youth.

I would like the opportunity to work with members of the Young Australian Democrats across NSW and with colleagues in other states in joining with the Australian Democrats in growing a base of supporters and campaigners.

Regards, Nigel Hancock 0410 352 910

~~~~~ Ends ~~~~~

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