

The Australian Democrats Journal

Fair Go Party

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National —
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accountability, honesty, tolerance, compassion

Welcome to all our new members, who are reading their first Australian Democrat National Journal and hello to our ongoing members who have stuck with us through some hard times. A big thanks you, too, to office bearing members for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

It has been a big year for the Australian Democrats. It may not be apparent to many yet, but this year marks a turning point for us. The best way to describe the key effect of our national work this year is the change in our perspective about us. This is the key to our revival and, I believe our long-term future.

GROUNDWORK

We took a new direction this year on the party's National Executive.

We had valuable support from advertising firm EuroRSCG, from member Luke Miller establishing member discussions on-line



Right wingers and left wingers going nowhere
www.sangrea.net/.../political-cartoons.html

Politics. We had a lot of ground work to do to set up a solid foundation for an influx of members and renewed activity amongst the membership.

The rebuild campaign kicked off in April and goes through to getting Australian Democrats elected at the next Federal election, expected late next year. It was a steady start, we made membership more

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS ACTING NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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accessible with reduced rates, updated our website and assisted YADS and some States with website updates. We developed our presence in the on-line community and began fundraising.

We didn't want to be just engaging on-line and held a series of social gatherings in every State and Territory around the country on the last weekend in June, where Australian Democrats old and new could meet up. For me, this was one of the highlights



of our rebuilding, and evidence of considerable life in the party. I was able to attend three events that weekend, in Lismore, the Gold Coast and Brisbane and felt a new mood of optimism in members I met.

Voting
National Voting paper
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page 22

STRUCTURES

We have followed with updating our membership engagement structures, to make it easier for members to contribute to party activities and more suitable to their interests and time poor lives. Part of that is setting up on-line groups, the first of which, the policy groups, were initiated by an email to members and media, inviting members to get involved in policy development, sent out on 22nd July 2009. Within one week the members had established twenty-seven issue based policy groups. This was another major highlight for me.

Important factors in supporting this real time, accessible, democracy are modern communication networks and systems. We plan to show the way in online participation in democracy with a new state-of-the-art, sophisticated website. This is a focus of the rebuild in the second half of the year. Raising the funds and requesting proposals for the site, with the aim of launching the first phase by the end of the year.

In my first media interview in April the questions I got were "Was the media release really from us?" and "Weren't we dead and gone?" In my most recent interviews, in July, the question was "Is there a place for the Australian Democrats in the Australian political landscape?" (With some respected commentators agreeing with me that there is.) A big turnaround in a short time of focused work, well done everyone.

Now...

There are more and more ways to get involved in the party, as little or as much as you want. Please do so by voting in the ballots in this Journal, joining groups, donating, volunteering, recruiting members and spreading the word. It's our party, we own it, and we must make it work.

Julia Melland

DEPUTY NATIONAL PRESIDENT



WHAT A YEAR!

This was the first year for us as an extra-parliamentary party and, while it's been a trying time, we've certainly made a lot of progress in the early stages of Party re-building.

I have been working hard with my colleagues on the National Executive to lay the foundations for our Party's re-birth. I would define the last year as seeking to establish the frameworks and processes to ensure a functioning, accountable Party that better enables members to engage.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR RE-BUILDING

- The website, www.newdemocrats.org.au, is a great platform for members to discuss and organise.
- The Bastard Watch campaign has been very successful. Not just in terms of the positive media coverage we received (some of which is the best we have seen in many years), but in terms of the inspiration it has provided to many members as we are seen to be taking grassroots democratic action!
- Finally, engaging with new people has seen our direct volunteer base explode. We are receiving offers for Party campaign and administration positions that have been vacant for a long time. Particularly, marketing and fundraising.

Obviously, there is a long way to go, but there is real hope. I can see that from the many people

contributing to the Party and from the solid foundations that are being built.

The focus now has shifted to writing our future. Now is the time to create strategic directions and processes for the Party's re-birth. Projects I am currently involved with are:

- Creating a policy process at national and state levels
- Creating a framework for developing consultative strategic directions
- Envisaging what a new constitution will look like

I hope these are things you are thinking about too! As a member said to me the other day: 'It's exciting!' Indeed.

One complaint that I must acknowledge is the insufficient communication with our members. While communication has been improved, there is certainly more that can be done. I believe developing a strategic direction will help us to all be on the same page and the policies that flow from that, encompassing communication, will ensure that members are informed.

Clinton Barnes

May 2009

Ed note: Clinton Barnes resigned from the position of Deputy National President on 1 July 2009, stating that this was the end of his term.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN



Dear Members and Supporters,

On July 20 I announced that if the SA Democrats did not recruit 1000 new members by November 23, I would leave the party and stand as an Independent.

This was a radical thing to do and I know it felt like a slap in the face for many people — both those working so hard on the Rebuild project and long term members who have put their heart, soul and even their mortgages into the party for many years.

I am sincerely sorry for any hurt I may have caused but I believe it is absolutely the right thing to do and in the best interests of the Australian Democrats and our values.



I took this extraordinary step because I was watching the SA Division going through the motions in the lead-up to the election. It had enough active members to hold a meeting but not enough to get an MP re-elected or to run any significant grass roots campaign.

My division had very little money, energy and few members. We were headed for another familiar defeat.

We have a proud past but appeared resigned to a future of failure.

Given the events of recent years this is entirely understandable but for anyone who really wants to make a difference it is not acceptable.

My challenge to the party is designed to act as a circuit breaker that jolts the party out of its slumber and forces people associated with the party to choose it or lose it. If the current party members really want the party to continue they will start signing up new members. And if enough of the community wants the Democrats to continue they will join when they are asked.

If we wait until the election to ask for people to choose the party it will be too late. My challenge is designed to force that choice to bring life back into the Division before the formal campaign even gets started.

What happens in SA is critical. This is the only state or territory where we have a chance to have a Democrat in parliament from March 2010. No one is claiming that we are going to win one elsewhere so it could be SA or nothing for several years.

If we keep the SA seat our chances of winning elsewhere will be much greater.

I have been criticised for this move but I always expected that. Much more surprising was the level of support from both inside and outside the party from people who felt ‘something had to be done’.

I know not everyone is as positive about my challenge and I don’t expect them to be.

But I do believe that all Democrats must take a dispassionate and strategic look at what I have done and how things might unfold from here. These are the possible outcomes:

- a) We do not recruit a significant number of members and I stay. If that is the case we will almost certainly lose because we won’t have the resources to mount a campaign and the support to win it.

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- b) The Division fails to recruit a significant number of members and I leave. With no party or money behind me and possibly a damaged reputation, it is unlikely that I would hold the seat but with so many people hungry for independents my prospects would be slightly better than they would in a party with no resources or energy. And if I did attract significantly more votes than the party it would force a fundamental rethink of the future of the party.
- c) The Division recruits 600-700 and I leave the party. The party has lost an MP but has been reinvented, revitalised and have the longevity to build up and contest further elections. This sort of outcome would, if managed well by the party, see the party perform better than me in the 2010 election.
- d) The Division recruits 1000 and I stay — an outstanding success. You have an MP, an energetic party and a renewed brand. This is obviously the best outcome for the party. It is also the best outcome for me.

So I argue that a dispassionate approach demands that the party attempt to rise to the challenge however much some members may resent the way in which it was imposed.

Many will say the target is impossible. It will certainly be difficult but mathematically if we can recruit the first couple of hundred and each of those on average recruits one more member each we would reach that target.

It should not be difficult to get that first 200. There are friends, family members and the possibility of sponsoring students and seniors. I am personally prepared to contribute \$1000 to sponsor 100 students. And interstate members could also attempt to recruit any friends they might have in SA.

Now back to passion again. It is after all the lifeblood of politics.

Here in South Australia the Democrats have been the butt of jokes for years. The Attorney General Michael Atkinson has been publicly claiming that we don't have enough members to be registered as a party (150).

Now imagine 1000 members. And imagine a rally on the steps of Parliament House of hundreds of Democrats in party t-shirts all shouting "Don't count us out" "Come out and count us".

That would be a sight to relish.

It would build the momentum and energy the party is craving right across the country.

Yours sincerely,

David Winderlich

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My challenge to the party is designed to act as a circuit breaker that jolts the party out of its slumber and forces people associated with the party to choose it or lose it. If the current party members really want the party to continue they will start signing up new members. And if enough of the community wants the Democrats to continue they will join when they are asked.

ACT DIVISION PRESIDENT REPORT

The ACT Democrats began the year recovering from an exhausting 2008 ACT election campaign. We didn't manage to get anyone elected but with only two candidates and no official registration, we still did extremely well in terms of media coverage and exposure. We raised good



issues, pushed the Democrats message and were a part of the whole campaign. Even if our vote didn't reflect the interest that was shown to us.

This year has been focused on rebuilding, recruitment and re-registration. In other

words, we are committed to the Australian Democrats rebuild campaign at both a national and a divisional level. We also recognise that a major part of that is to recruit new members and look to having more than sufficient numbers to be registered in time for the next ACT Election. And through doing this to increase overall participation and member involvement with some real grass roots campaigns.

As I said in my speech at the Declaration of the poll:

“It's time to move into the future now. There are a number of new opportunities to explore as I take my party, the Australian Democrats, into that future and embrace it and look forward with a positive focus and new energy as the great *progressive* party we are.

In four years time we intend to contest the next election, from a position of greater strength. And further down the track, we will be able to look back and say: “We're still going strong. And we still ‘keep the bastards honest!’” “

The last section (above) received coverage on WIN (local Channel 9) News.

This is an important time for the party. Next year we will undertake our first national election without federal parliamentary members to lead us. I ask all members what I asked of ACT Division members when I became ACT Democrats president last May. That is, to continue

“to show the great faith they have shown in joining and being Australian Democrats. The needs of the party have to come first, at this time. And I ask members to join me as we all pull together with the common purpose of rebuilding, reshaping, and reinvigorating the Australian Democrats. We can be the great third force in Australian politics again. But that can only be achieved with a co-operative effort.”

The ACT Democrats thank all Australian Democrats members for the small part we play in this wonderful party.

Darren Churchill

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Darren.Churchill@act.democrats.org.au

SA DIVISION PRESIDENT REPORT

The last week has been a tumultuous one for the South Australian Democrats and quite a baptism of fire for the new South Australian leadership team. Now we know why they say a week is a long time in politics.

While we were disappointed at State MP David Winderlich's ultimatum that he will go independent if we cannot recruit 1000 new members in SA, we feel that we should take up the challenge. After all, the *FREE Australia party* signed up as many in only a few months.

To that end I have spoken with David and his team, National President Julia Melland, and many journalists. Of course we were disappointed that David did not consult with the party, and he set such a high target, and threatens to take a seat earned by Democrat efforts and funding, especially given that the membership voted him into the parliament only a few months ago. At my request, David's team have drafted a recruitment strategy which will be discussed at next State Executive meeting.

If you know of any Democrat minded friends or family members please contact them and ask them to join. We mustn't hide away in embarrassment of our party like we have in recent past. The reason why *FREE Australia party* has been so successful in recruiting members is because their members are patriotic and parochial about their party brand. This is exactly what we must be.

Let's not sit around and lament about our recent downfall and reminisce about the past. That is all history now. We must look towards a brighter future for our state, nation and party and take action to ensure that we can once more claim the mantle as the third force in South Australian politics and indeed Federal politics.



If you want to help recruit members to the party in South Australia, please send an email or phone me (details below) to let us know you are interested.

We will be collecting the names of those who will be helping the recruitment effort and providing resources and advice on how you can be effective and what to do.

If you are already confident in recruiting new members, you may want to proceed immediately using our core beliefs posted on the SA Democrats web site www.sa.democrats.org.au as an explanation of what we stand for. You may also want to raise that this is an opportunity of a lifetime in which potential new members have the chance to flood the party with new energy, ideas and influence the future of South Australian politics. If you do get people indicate they will join, point them to the Join the Democrats page <http://secure.democrats.org.au/join/> Joining members through the internet is the quickest way to get new members on the membership database.

We urge all members to make an effort and encourage any new recruits to also recruit. If we do this, we will accelerate our membership growth and meet the target.

We thank you for your support in this endeavour. Let's get out there and show that we are back for good.

Max Baumann

M: 0430 092 202

max.baumann@sa.democrats.org.au

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

NATIONAL WEBSITE LOGIN

As a member of the Australian Democrats you can log onto the members area of the National website www.democrats.org.au to have access to special information.



We've been working hard to fix up some of the technical glitches of this area of the website, so you can give it a go again and participate in FORUM discussions.

Go to the main page of the National website www.democrats.org.au and enter your membership Number and password and click Login.

On the right side of the screen you can choose from several options:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Members' Forums | 4) Members Chat |
| 2) Change Password | 5) Documents |
| 3) Change Subscription | 6) e-Democrats |

Change Subscription

This is where you manage the topics in which you are interested in receiving from the Party.

Don't know your Membership Number?

It is written on the address label to this newsletter! It is the seven-digit number ending in either A, B or C, and not including the leading M: Your membership expiry date is also shown on the label.

Don't know your Password?

At the main website page, click on Forgot your Password? On the page you will go to, are a number of options that should suit most situations.

The Party relies on the cheaper option that electronic communication provides.

Do we have your email Address?

If you have an email address and have not been receiving emails from the Party lately, please let your Divisional President know your email address or email membership@democrats.org.au with your preferred email address.

Tim Law

www.sangrea.net/.../political-cartoons.html



Birds of a feather get lost together

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY COORDINATOR

My name is Geordie Guy and I'm the new National Technology Policy Coordinator for the Australian Democrats. For a living I design computer systems for organisations. I have done quite a bit of work as a board member of Electronic Frontiers Australia and I've worked in technology for about 10 years. In what spare time I have, I play computer games, cook and pursue an interest in aviation.

I'm really looking forward to getting involved in this new role. I think technology policy is a field that all Australian political parties have struggled with for quite some time. Because the landscape around it has changed so drastically in the last few years, it's a great opportunity to direct some policy that will see the Australian Democrats as real leaders in some new areas.

Particularly within technology policy, I'm looking forward to developing policy that will enforce some of the original Democrats' stance against censorship. There's a lot of work to be done in the areas of digital literacy and safety and some opportunities in things like online copyright and the protection that some businesses have against persecution for what their customers might get up to. (This is referred to in other countries as "Safe Harbour" laws). The first steps are taking place now, with the identification of where these policy areas sit within existing Democrats policy and core values. The next step will be developing these and other "talking points" into a comprehensive policy. A policy that will really resonate with both those who feel that online Australia has been ignored or even attacked by other parties and the government, as well as people who just need support with where online Australia meets our offline lives.



It's going to be hard work, but I think it's going to be highly rewarding. The Australian Democrats have by far the best foundations on which to build this, with a history of

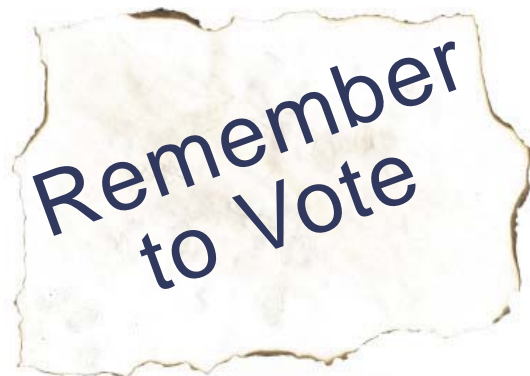
striving for freedom of expression and information; equal access to the developments that improve our lives and the best commitment to true democratic process.

Geordie Guy

M: 0415 797 142 geordie.guy@democrats.org.au

Expressions of interest are invited from members who would like to become involved in specific areas of policy.

Email your expressions of interest to policy@democrats.org.au



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

NOMINATION FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Julia Melland

In my nomination statement for Deputy National President last year, I said we needed to do the hard work of “consolidating & building a strong, functional, grass roots party that takes the whims of Australian politics in its stride”. I am happy to say that is exactly what we are doing.

When I became Acting National President in April we were commencing our rebuild campaign. It has been a very busy time with momentum growing all the time.



This is no quick-fix, no ‘flash in the pan, hope it works’ strategy. We have engaged consultants to work with us up to the next Federal Election, at which we will get Australian

Democrats elected. We are strategically building the foundations and framework for a relevant, sustainable, accessible and democratic party for the 21st Century.

Only four months into the rebuild we are already witnessing:

- sustained growth in new memberships
- increased renewing and returning members
- increased member engagement
- an increase in office bearers in National and Divisional executives
- Big Australian Democrat Get-Together events held in every State and Territory

- increased donations and volunteers
- the recommencement of policy work with increased access for members and faster development using online tools
- effective use of social networking and other spaces on the internet
- comprehensive planning for a state-of-the-art website to support all the activities of a participatory, democratic party.

Communications within the party were still our weak point for much of the year, particularly with members who are not on the internet (many of you may be learning of our progress as you read this). This has improved in recent months and will improve further as we increase our resources, especially for paper communications.

Many members have naturally been interested in getting on with policy and campaigning, so I am also pleased that we have completed the groundwork to enable the policy and campaign groups to form and deal with the issues.

Recently senior political commentators have been acknowledging that there is a role in Australian politics that only the Australian Democrats can fill. This is very significant, since before that we were largely considered to no longer exist.

I have fully supported the direction set this year and I have taken the baton handed to me in April with vigor. With a new cohesion within National Executive that supports our common goals, I believe we are on the path to sustainable grassroots engagement that will invigorate our contribution to Australian politics and empower Australian voters.

I believe I am well suited to lead this period of rebuilding our party. It represents a stimulating and eminently worthwhile culmination of my life’s work, (in financial management, business

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management, not-for-profit community organisation governance,) with my passion for democracy and with my many years experience in all levels of Australian Democrats administration and campaigning. I feel very privileged and am having fun too. Please support my continued leadership by voting for me as National President of the Australian Democrats.

M: 0431 357 585 julia.melland@democrats.org.au

NOMINATIONS FOR DEPUTY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Casey Daniel Balk

Dear Members,

Thank you for your continued – or new – membership and thank you for electing me as Deputy National President last year. As this party turns the corner, experiencing double-digit growth in membership over recent months, I ask for your vote again.

While we've begun the exciting yet considerable process of rebuilding this party, we do not underestimate the challenge we have ahead of us. However, we all share a belief in this party and a confidence in our viability.

It is this belief, reinforced by your membership that proves that the founding ideals and principles of the Australian Democrats are timeless, transcending short-term electoral cycles.

Last year, I commented that turning this party around would not be done in one parliamentary term. I said that "to rebuild a sustainable organisation it will take a medium-term commitment of at least 5 years." Twelve months on, I am confident that we are back on the road, and 2013 is within sight.

I'm proud to have served at all levels of the party, currently including NSW State Organiser and DNP since 2007.



My skills are in communication, people management, and bringing people together. I ask for your #1 Vote for DNP.

I trust that you will join us in this next phase of Australian Democrats history. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

M: 0411 047 987 casey_daniel_balk@yahoo.com.au

Fred Carter

"I have been a member of the Australian Democrats for more than 20 years holding in turn the positions of Branch Treasurer, Branch Convener, AD Vic Convener of Ballots and Victorian AD State Secretary 2002-2006.

For the last three years I have been involved in efforts to build AD bridges with various republican and environment groups with mixed success".

M: 0416 015 580

Greg Croke

I have been a member of the Democrats since 1993. I joined after living through the Greiner years in New South Wales opened my eyes to the evils of economic rationalism, and the Democrats were the obvious party to join to fight that ideology, as it dominates the thinking of both major parties.

I moved to Adelaide in 1998. I have been the candidate for the state seat of Elder in 2002 and 2006, as well as a member of the SA Division Executive since 2006. Recently I have been working on finding a way to express our 23 Objectives in a shorter, punchier form. I have come up with a document that consists of a preamble and five objectives that I have grouped under three headings, Equity, Humanity and Sustainability.

Australian politics needs the Democrats more than ever. No other party has yet shown the capacity to be what the Democrats have been to Australian politics since 1977, and I believe no other party ever could.

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NATIONAL EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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I speak of our role of saving governments from themselves; perusing legislation to weed out the dangerous aspects; and functioning as the conscience of governments.

We need to find ways to market ourselves to voters in such a way that we overcome the media mantra that we are dead. Essentially that means making our voice heard, never letting any suggestion that we are dead go unrefuted. I have found myself doing precisely this more than once.

greg.croke@yahoo.com.au

David Scott Cain

The Australian Democrats have recently enjoyed a surge of membership growth that has begun to make

the party a serious contender, once again, for the next series of Federal and State elections.

It matters

Make a start

VOTE NOW

while you
are thinking
about it

We were founded on the principles of Democracy, a fair go to all and equality in representation.

For this reason I firmly believe the National Executive needs representation from a variety of Australian states and

backgrounds in order to truly meet the goals set out for us by our constitution.

The need for unity, determination and consistency amongst us has never been greater. Make no mistake, the media, the two major political parties and the Australian Greens do not want to see a phoenix arise from the Australian Democrats and will do what they can to try and make sure we do not emerge in electoral triumph.

In an effort to support the hard work already undertaken by the Federal Executive, I, along with the Victorian branch have also been working to raise

our profile and get the word out about what it is we, as Democrats, proudly and passionately believe in.

Every single one of us is capable of making the odd mistake as we climb back up the mountain that is political survival. We must accept that. But in so doing we must also learn from those mistakes, ensure our public face is that of unity, strength and determination.

Together – each and every one of us - I firmly believe can change the political face of... *exceeded word count*
scott@cdroo.com

Mayo Materazzo

As an N.E. Deputy President for 2008-09 I wish continue into the next term to assist the Party's rebuilding plans and offer my support to President Julia Melland and COIP to continue for its success.

My 9 years of political experience and Party history is the value I bring to this role, including professional experience of over 15 years as Consultant in personal and organizational Development.

I joined the Party in 2000 to see it through the challenging times including last year by opposing the ill founded CCC Merger that otherwise would have resulted in the dissolution of the Party. This is a unique political Party (1) for its 32 years outstanding achievements in maintaining democracy and (2) for its "democratic" 'Participatory' membership process making it the "Peoples Party", worth safeguarding.

As active senior member I have held numerous roles since 2000 as follows: 2008- 2001 NSW S.E.A.President; Vice President; Secretary; Policy Co-coordinator. • 2007 Federal Candidate for Sydney; State & Federal Campaigns.

In a time of new beginnings for the Party with the enormous task of rebuilding, the decision by NatEx to incorporate the generous offer by Advisory

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consultants “Candidate On-Line and Impact Politics (COIP) for their specialist political advice and processes, has been the best avenue in consolidating foundations for the Party’s future success today.

COIP’s belief in the Aust. Democrats viability has been backed by a primary strategy plan which includes the Membership building and Engagement; Website Reconstruction; Fundraising; Policy development process. Offering opportunities to slowly... *exceeded word count*

Ph: 02 9371 2065

Mayo.Materazzo@nsw.democrats.org.au

Evan Wastell

Hi, my name is Evan Wastell, and I am contesting the position of Deputy National President on the National Executive.

I am contesting this position because I am passionate about the Democrats and I would like to take an active role in guiding our party through the road to recovery. The Democrats have accomplished so much in our proud history, and I know that we still have so much to offer the Australian electorate. I believe that with a lot of hard work Australian voters will regain their confidence and trust in our party, and elect Democrat candidates in future elections.

This road is not going to be easy, but I am prepared to take on the challenges this position will entail. I will continue and build on the rebuilding work underway, and empower and support the membership to become an active and contributing force in this process.

I will work to re-establish our relevance in the Australian community through grassroots initiatives

to increase community awareness and engagement. I believe that many voters no longer vote for us because they do not see a reason to. We need to rebuild our image as a balanced progressive party that cuts through the political spin to deliver real results beneficial to all Australians. I am committed to rebuilding our image in the Australian community.

If you share my passion and determination to rebuild our party please vote for me as Deputy National President in the National Executive elections.

M: 0432 893 568 evan.wastell@gmail.com

Jim Page

My name is Dr Jim Page, and I am an Australian educationist. I’ve taught extensively in Australia and internationally, at both secondary and university level, although I am currently involved mostly in writing and research.

My political history is that I was a member of the Australia Party (forerunner to the Democrats), a member of the Nuclear Disarmament Party, and then a member of the Australian Democrats since about 1992.

I am a supporter of the current membership rebuilding campaign and also a supporter of Julia Melland as National President.

M: 0418.293629 jim.page@democrats.org.au



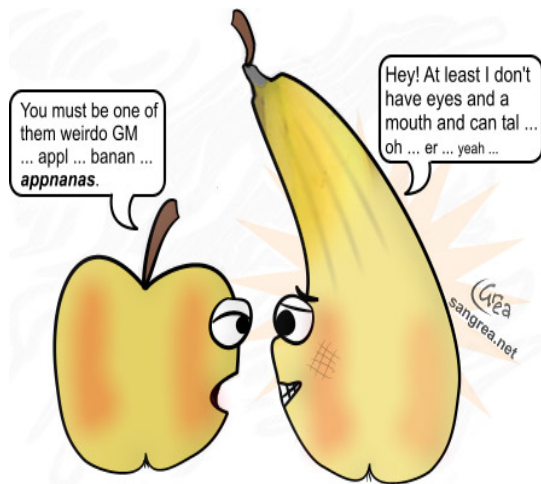
You can help design
the party leadership

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR VOTE BY
Wednesday 9 September 2009



■ Please note: Letters may be edited for expression and length. Maximum 400 words.

Letters to the Editor



www.sangrea.net/.../political-cartoons.html

DOWN SHIFTING WITH JOHN HOWARD

I recently attended lectures by Al Gore and John Howard.

The Al Gore lecture was far more inspiring. But Democrat readers are mostly familiar with his *take action now* to mitigate the downside of climate change message. So I will concentrate on the lessons John Howard was giving to political parties out of power, liked the Democrats.

He made several good points:

- . the focus of media interest has changed from foreign affairs to economics,
- . most politicians underestimate the importance of talk back radio, particularly at the popular end,
- . the domination of the media by the print mode (newspapers) has been overtaken by digital media (logs, facebook, email), and
- . politicians must be prepared to engage the media when things are not going well just as often as when things are going well.

Fred Carter, Victoria

GM CROPS / FOOD

Whether or not the Australian Democrats are able at this time to become involved in the debate on Genetically Modified crops / food. I think it is important that members know the seriousness of this issue.

We, in Australia, are throwing away a fantastic opportunity to be one of the few places in the world which are GM free. Tasmania has recognised the long term value of this.

In Europe the tide is turning as consumers realise the amount of animals which are fed GM stockfeed. It is becoming a problem to satisfy demand for non GM feed. I understand demand in the Middle East is liable to rise as Saudi Arabia, a major power player in the region, is supporting GM free food.

Reasons to be concerned:

GM food is virtually untested, unlabelled and unmonitored. This in itself should send alarm bells ringing. Why would the biotech companies be so fearful of testing and labelling of their food?

FSANZ accepts the data of the corporation marketing the GM crop as evidence of safety.

The few independent studies done with rats / mice have shown serious adverse effects from eating GM food including the last study, by the Austrian government, of increasing sterility and smaller offspring over successive generations.

Monsanto, the huge corporation with an infamous record of bribing, pollution etc is the key player in biotechnology with 674 patents and has bought up over 50 seed companies in the past decades, including the biggest in the world.

If members are unaware of these insidious developments, I suggest they browse the internet or read Jeffery Smith's books.

Sally Wylie, Margaret River, WA

WORLD COMMUNITY GRID — TECHNOLOGY SOLVING PROBLEMS

I invite you to join me in utilising your computer's idle processing time to tackle projects for the benefit of humanity.

The next time you step away from your desk for a quick latte at your local coffee bar, your computer can get to work...doing calculations for AIDS research.

Or genome comparisons for drug development. Or sample analyses for better cancer treatments. In fact, your computer can do the calculations while you're actually using it for something else.

It's possible when you volunteer your PC or laptop's unused time to World Community Grid (WCG) created by IBM. Grid computing joins together thousands of individual computers, establishing a large system with massive computational power equal to a supercomputer. Because the work is split into countless tiny pieces and done simultaneously, research time shrinks from decades to months.

So why not donate something you don't need, use or even think about — your idle computer time — and help make the world a better place?

World Community Grid's mission is to create the world's largest public computing grid to tackle projects that benefit humanity.

Our work has developed the technical infrastructure that serves as the grid's foundation for scientific research. Our success depends upon individuals collectively contributing their unused computer time to change the world for the better.

So while your computer would otherwise be idle, it can download chunks of data and processing rules and pass the results back to the research lab.

World Community Grid is making technology available only to public and not-for-profit organisations to use in humanitarian research that might otherwise not be completed due to the high



cost of the computer infrastructure required in the absence of a public grid. As part of our commitment to advancing human welfare, all results will be in the public domain and made public to the global research community.

A list of research projects below

- Active Research
- Beta Testing
- Help Cure Muscular Dystrophy - Phase 2
- Influenza Antiviral Drug Search
- Help Fight Childhood Cancer
- The Clean Energy Project
- Nutritious Rice for the World
- Help Conquer Cancer
- Discovering Dengue Drugs – Together
- Human Proteome Folding - Phase 2
- FightAIDS@Home

Join me today <http://wcg.sdis.com.au> or
[http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/
team/viewSearchTeams.do](http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/team/viewSearchTeams.do)

Matteo Vinci, Qld

*This letter (article) first appeared in
www.newdemocrats.org.au*

**Be part of the world's largest
public computing grid to tackle
projects that benefit humanity.**

**When idle, your computer can
download chunks of data and
processing rules and pass the
results back to the research lab.**

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

NOMINATIONS FOR YAD'S PRESIDENT

Casey Daniel Balk

Dear YADs,

We as Democrats are different. We as Young Australian Democrats are leaders. I am nominating to engage young people in the advancement of participatory democracy, and thereby advance the Australian Democrats.



I have served at all levels within the party, including Deputy National President (DNP) since 2007. Having the good fortune of first standing as a candidate at the 2001 Federal Election, I have vividly experienced the way this party can 'Change Politics', and am conscious of the positive

impact the Democrats can achieve again.

Engaging an aware and connected Gen Y is something that we are capable of. Utilising this opportunity, to connect with this generation, will only be done if we have confidence in ourselves.

Being tomorrow's leaders is not good enough. We must continue to be the leaders of today – taking on responsibility as equal partners – the way we've always done.

My skills are in communication, people management, and bringing people together. When others may see diversity as a challenge, I see it as constructive contribution.

I am asking for your support as YADs President and your #1 Vote to re-elect me as DNP too. If successful

with both nominations, my YADs Deputy would cast that vote on National Executive.

I request your support for each nomination so we can represent young people's views in a forthright way, continuing the contribution all young people make to this party and our nation.

Please feel free to contact me anytime. Casey.

M: 0411 047 987 casey_daniel_balk@yahoo.com.au

Sandy Biar

As the recently appointed incumbent Young Democrats National President I know just how much work it will take to get the party back on track. I believe that the key ingredient to any revival is members; to organise, spread the word and stand up for what this party can do. Having a vibrant membership base will bring new ideas, networks and most importantly credibility.

I will ensure the number of young people involved in the party doubles over the next 12 months. It will be critical for Young Democrats to establish self-sustaining teams on campus, in the community and in likeminded advocacy groups. It's time the party regains its pride and is visible. The Young Democrats have a unique opportunity to get likeminded young people together and have fun while putting in the hard yards to make this country a place we're proud of.

There's a gaping hole in Aussie politics for young people who don't like heavy handed government interference but want to see better outcomes for the disadvantaged, the environment and our nation's development. As the youth of the party we can do what we do best – provide different perspectives, challenge the world around us and remake it in our image. As people who've grown up on new and social

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media, surrounded by multimedia and entertainment mediums we can all actively contribute to building the party; bringing it into the 21st Century like no



other Australian political party has. We're a skilled bunch – let's use our talents together. I would relish the opportunity to make this happen with your help.

M: 0423 170 159 sandy.biar@sa.democrats.org.au

GENERAL SECRETARY / DEPUTY PRESIDENT – Joel Einstein

My name is Joel Einstein and I'm an 18-year-old year 12 student from Sydney. I am a co-leader of the youth activist group YAGID (Youth Against Genocide In Dafur), my school's (Moriah College) social action leader, a former leader of the Jewish youth group Bnei Akiva and the current leader and founder of the movement to start an Australian National Youth Parliament.

As well as these I am an active public speaker who has won many competitions and who also coaches it, I was selected to attend the State Constitutional Convention with 100 students from NSW and from there the National Constitutional Convention in Canberra with 30 youth leaders from around the country, I attended the Future Leaders conference in UNSW, was asked to join the NSW youth parliament and have been invited to (next year) attend the World Youth Congress with Youth Leaders from all over the globe.

I truly believe in the ideology of the Democrats and truly think that Australia needs them back. I will be attending the University of Sydney next year and look forward to getting involved heavily in the Politics. I aim to get the democrats back into the spot light through involving them in the front line of the difference making and through this reminding

Australia why they need a party that doesn't play the political game.

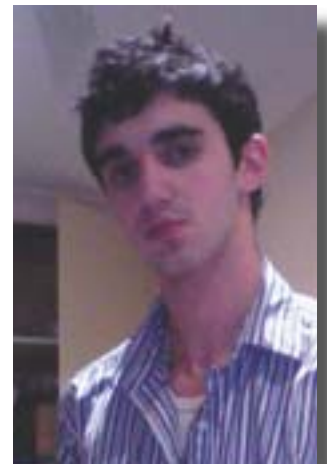
There are large groups of Activists whose ideals lie most closely with that of the Democrats and who really only need to be convinced that their support of the Democrats will make a difference and I see these activists as an untapped resource. I have a large political network and truly think I can make a difference in the party.

That is why I wish to be the General Secretary of the YADs.

joeleinstein@hotmail.com

EDUCATION OFFICER (DoCs LIAISON – Evan Wastell

I believe that Young Democrats have an important role to play in rebuilding our party. We are a great source of ideas, energy and passion. However one of our most important roles is attracting new young members, and providing them with encouragement and support to become active in the party. One of



the best areas to recruit passionate young people is on our University campuses. As Education Officer, I will work to establish functioning YAD's groups on University campuses and support them in recruiting new members.

During my studies at University I have held a number of positions in the Students Association, which included the Education Officer. I am passionate in advocating and campaigning on education issues and I am keen to develop YAD's education campaigns and encourage and support YAD's members and groups in taking them to their campuses. I believe that community campaigns, such as education campaigns on University campuses, are an important

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YOUNG AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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way to reconnect with the community. If you believe that YAD's have an important role to play in rebuilding our party, through recruiting new and passionate young members and running campaigns, which engage with the community and raise the Democrats public profile, then please vote for Evan Wastell as Education Officer in the YADS elections.

M: 0432 893 568 evan.wastell@gmail.com

Luke Griffiths

My name is Luke Griffiths. I live in Newcastle, NSW and I am currently studying Combined Law (majoring in International Affairs and Politics) at the University of Newcastle.



Despite only being 21 years of age, I'm a long time supporter of the Australian Democrats' ideals and I believe we have a real opportunity now to make a difference. I feel I would serve the Young Democrats

well with my experience in University campaigning.

I have established an on campus Democrats group, with friends, and we focus on celebrating youth diversity. Recently, we have been concentrating on youth safety in the context of Newcastle nightlife as well as collaborating with other local groups, such as Rainbow Visions, in an effort to show that the Democrats are getting involved in the community.

I would like to bring this successful experience to other Universities around Australia and I believe that working together, with my colleagues in the YADs executive, we can achieve great things. I do

not pretend to have the secret to making a successful Party, but I do believe we can learn from our past and keep on trying. There are still many opportunities for us to explore and the youth of Australia is a great place to start – as they are our party's future.

M: 0402 756 842

Luke.Griffiths@studentmail.newcastle.edu.au

FINANCE & ACTIVITIES OFFICER — Luke Griffiths

See statement (*to the left*) at Education Officer.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE NEW SOUTH WALES — Andrew Coleman

Young people around Australia are becoming increasingly alienated from the political process.

We live in a political system where major parties stifle all forms of internal opposition, and minor parties are increasingly becoming more and more extreme in an effort to position themselves within a political niche.

It is our duty as Young Australian Democrats to provide a home for all those whose wish to see an Australia whose political system represents real people, listens to real concerns, and acts in the best interests of all Australian's by seeking to find the middle ground.

We have the opportunity to reclaim the middle ground of Australian politics and to re-enfranchise those young Australian's who see politics as the preserve of the major political parties.

In my role on the YADS National Executive I will strive to further the cause of independent, moderate,

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representation so that all young Australian's will know that they too can be involved in a political organisation that respects their beliefs and values their input. We have a chance to change Australian politics, and if endorsed I would be proud to be at the forefront of that change.

Yours Truly, Andrew Coleman.

M: 0412 610 161 colemanorus@hotmail.com

STATE REPRESENTATIVE QUEENSLAND — Kelvin Andersen



My name is Kelvin Andersen. I am nominating for the Queensland representative for the Young Australian Democrats.

I was born and raised on the Gold Coast and now reside in Brisbane. I am currently studying a Bachelor of Community Development. I have held many positions prior to returning to university study, including administration in the education sector in Australia, working as an English teacher in Japan, as a camp counsellor in Virginia, USA and an all-rounder in a Hostel in the Canadian Rockies.

I believe The Young Australian Democrats will have an important role to play as politics in Australia slowly transitions from the current generation to ours. This holds great opportunity for YADS to provide young Australians with hope of government and the political process to be done much more fairly and progressively in the future.

I see the Queensland YADS representative role as a great opportunity to inspire the younger generations in Queensland to become more involved in political processes. If elected, I will be aiming to increase numbers within the Queensland YADS, build networks among members and hold regular events to create a social spirit. I will work with other state representatives to ensure there is a national cohesion in aims and objectives.

I believe the ability to participate in government is undervalued by young people and most of society and we have the opportunity to change that as YADS.

M: 0416 475 132 kelvin.andersen@gmail.com

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Candidates errors and omissions.

No editor corrections.

Max words - President 500, Other positions 350.

YADs BALLOT Voting Instructions

BALLOT PAPER (see page 22)

Members are entitled to vote only once for each position. Two ballot papers are provided for double membership. Single members should not complete both slips. Only one ballot paper for each member will be counted.

Under sections 14.2.1 and section 4.1.13 of the National Constitution, all financial members, who have been members for at least six months, and members whose membership is unfinancial for no more than three months, are eligible and encouraged to vote in this ballot.

Please read supporting statements, then:

■ for *President* and *Education Officer*, as there is more than one candidate, place a number *1* next to the candidate of your choice. If you wish to vote for the other candidate place a number *2* next to their name.

■ for *all other positions*, there is only one candidate, please circle *yes* or *no* to indicate your support.

Place the ballot paper ONLY in an envelope with your name, address and signature on the back. If you wish, you may, place that envelope inside another.

If you received a paper copy of this journal and damage or spoil your ballot paper, additional papers can be obtained from the National Office by phoning (08) 8371 1441.

Voting closes on 9th September 2009 at 10pm CST. Only ballots postmarked before that time will be accepted.

Post the envelope to:

**The National Returning Officer
PO Box 2019
SOUTH PLYMPTON SA 5038**

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS EXECUTIVE STATEMENTS

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE SOUTH AUSTRALIA — John Francis

My name is John Francis. I grew up in the South East of South Australia, and currently study a Bachelor of Arts through Flinders University. I am an active member with a passion for getting things done, and more importantly, done right the first time.



In recent months, I have been organising the Young Australian Democrats social gatherings, and I also organised an event for the Big Australian Democrats Get Together. I am currently working with other YADs members to create a Flinders University Democrats club and trying to recruit new members to help the South Australian Democrats.

Some may wonder how I will maintain this position whilst I am overseas for the next 10 months. The answer to this is that I already utilise my resources which also allow me to contact many people and organise event quickly and efficiently, without having to be in any proximity to them, and I will continue to do this overseas. The majority of my organisation in fact is completed via the computer and internet. Also, as long as there is no other candidate for this position with the desire to do their best and put in overtime to do so, I will be here to strive to do my best despite the distance.

john.francis1988@gmail.com



STATE REPRESENTATIVE VICTORIA — Chris Quirk

Dear members,

I wish to nominate for the position of Victorian Representative for the Young Australian Democrats.



To give you a brief introduction to myself I am a 23 year old university student majoring in Media & Communications and Politics and work in business administration/customer service on a part time basis. While I've only been a member of the party for a short amount of time, I have a strong belief in the potential of the party.

It is of my belief that for the party to be successful in its rebuilding project there needs to be a focus on youth issues and participation. For this to occur there needs to be a strong, relevant youth wing of the party in the form of the YAD's. While inactive at the moment, I hope to be able to provide a starting point for the rebuilding of the YADs in Victoria so it can once again play a vital role within the party.

What I lack in experience I will more than make up in effort in providing a crucial communication link between the younger members of the Victorian division and the Victorian Divisional Council. It is my hope that over time the Victorian YADs can develop into a strong group. For this to occur we will need everyone participating and heading in the right direction. I would like to see the Victorian YAD's concentrate on issues concerning Victorian youth such as education, a fair workplace, public transport and the environment (just to name a few).

Thank you for your consideration,
Chris Quirk.

M: 0408 102 097 chris._quirk@lycos.com

VACANT NATIONAL ROLES

National Campaign Director
Campaign Committee Members
Convenor, Appeals Committee

Convenor, Finance & Administration Committee

Finance & Administration Committee Members

Convenor, Membership Committee

Fundraising Officer

** IT Liaison Coordinator

** Membership Officer

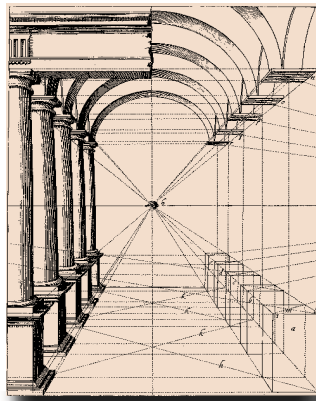
Policy Coordinator

** *soon to be vacant, traineeship provided*

National Clubs Secretary – this role involves maintaining a database of all of the clubs created, assisting with maintaining their email lists and details of contact people, and helping people find a club suitable for them.

National Events Officer – as per constitution – this role involves preparing and organising events for the party at a national level including the national conference and fundraising events.

National Events Coordinator – this role involves keeping an accurate calendar of all events happening at all levels of the Australian Democrats and ensuring they are posted on the website and on facebook.



National Fundraising Officer – as per constitution – this role involves the management and oversight of fundraising activity.

National Media Liaison – this role involves monitoring

the media, establishing relationships with media outlets, preparing and maintaining a media contact database and acting as a contact point for general enquiries about the party or to direct journalists to the appropriate spokesperson.

National Policy Working Group Secretary – this role involves maintaining a database of all of the policy working groups created, assisting with maintaining their email lists and keeping contact details for policy stream coordinators, helping people find a working group that deals with a particular issue, and assisting the National Policy Coordinator to perform their role where possible.

National Volunteer Coordinator – This role involves keeping a database of those who have volunteered their services, liaising with Divisional volunteer coordinators and ensuring appropriate tasks are assigned to appropriate volunteers.

If you are interested in any of these National vacancies please contact the National Secretary, Brian Dickson on 0448 992 209 or secretary@democrats.org.au

DIVISIONAL ROLES

In addition to these roles at a national level, each Division needs a small group of people who fill the leadership functions. They are roles such as President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer and Events Organiser plus other willing helpers.

Please contact your local division to ask if there are any opportunities within your division.

PRE-SELECTION

Many Divisions are commencing pre-selection for the next Federal Election.

If you are interested in being considered for these special positions, please contact your local Division.

YADS BALLOT PAPER – 2009

First Member

Yads President (number)

Casey Daniel Balk

Sandy Biar

Gen Secretary / Deputy President

Joel Einstein YES / NO

Education Officer (number)

Luke Griffiths

Evan Wastell

Finance & Activities Officer

Luke Griffiths YES / NO

State Representatives

NEW SOUTH WALES

Andrew Coleman YES / NO

QUEENSLAND

Kelvin Andersen YES / NO

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

John Francis YES / NO

VICTORIA

Chris Quirk YES / NO

Second Member

Yads President (number)

Casey Daniel Balk

Sandy Biar

Gen Secretary / Deputy President

Joel Einstein YES / NO

Education Officer (number)

Luke Griffiths

Evan Wastell

Finance & Activities Officer

Luke Griffiths YES / NO

State Representatives

NEW SOUTH WALES

Andrew Coleman YES / NO

QUEENSLAND

Kelvin Andersen YES / NO

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

John Francis YES / NO

VICTORIA

Chris Quirk YES / NO

(To vote you must be 30 years or younger.

To vote for a State Representative you must be a member of that State)



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BALLOT – YOUR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Members are entitled to vote only once for National President and the National Deputy Presidents. Two ballot papers are provided for double membership. Single members should not complete both slips. Only one ballot paper for each member will be counted.

Under sections 14.2.1 and section 4.1.13 of the National Constitution, all financial members, who have been members for at least six months, and members whose membership is unfinancial for no more than three months, are eligible and encouraged to vote in this ballot.

Please read the supporting statements and then:

– for the *National President*, as there is only one candidate, please circle *yes* or *no* to indicate your support.

– for the *Deputy National Presidents*, as there are seven candidates for five Deputy's, place a number *1* next to the first candidate of your choice. Continue to vote for other candidates by placing a number in order of preference next to these candidates starting from *2*. You may number as many or as few candidates as you wish.

– Place the ballot paper ONLY in an envelope with your name, address and signature on the back. If you wish, you may place that envelope inside another.

If you received a paper copy of this journal and damage or spoil your ballot paper, additional papers can be obtained from the National Office by phoning (08) 8371 1441.

Voting closes on **9th September 2009** at **10pm CST**. Only ballots postmarked before that time will be accepted.

Post the envelope to:

**The National
Returning Officer,
PO Box 2019,
SOUTH PLYMPTON
SA 5038**

BALLOT PAPER – 2009

Second Member

National President

Julia Melland YES / NO

Dep. Nat. Presidents

Casey Daniel Balk

Fred Carter

Greg Croke

David Scott Kane

Mayo Materazzo

James Page

Evan Wastell

BALLOT PAPER – 2009

First Member

National President

Julia Melland YES / NO

Dep. Nat. Presidents

Casey Daniel Balk

Fred Carter

Greg Croke

David Scott Kane

Mayo Materazzo

James Page

Evan Wastell



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

VOTING MEMBERS

Acting National President

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julia.melland@

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Mb: 0431 357 585

Senior Deputy President

(Dr) Jim Page

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Ph: 0418 293 629

Deputy President

Casey Balk

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Deputy President

Mayo Materazzo

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democrats.org.au

Mb: 0414 228 326

Deputy President (2)

Vacant

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sa.democrats.org.au

Mb: 0423 170 159

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Vacant

Ballots Administrator

Vacant

Convenor, Finance &

Administration Committee

Vacant

Convenor, Membership Committee

Vacant

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Ph: 08 8297 6441

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*Office Bearers are voluntary
and are not always available
to handle queries immediately.*

*Opinions expressed in articles
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necessarily reflect the views of
the Australian Democrats.*