



December 08

# Young Blood

## The AYL Tasmania Newsletter



### Merry Christmas from Young Blood

The December edition of the Australian Young Labor (Tasmania Division) newsletter is packed full of ideas and thoughts from AYL Members - perhaps a result of the Labor-dominated political environment which has many great policy ideas swirling in the air again!

We have a report from October's Young Labor v Young Liberal debates, where AYL Tasmania represented - with one win and one nearly win.

We also have a report from the US, an interview with Jodie Campbell where we learn about her role moonlighting as a Banana in Pjamas and reports from the State Secretary and AYL President.

Young Blood is happy to receive articles from any AYL member but advises that articles are not necessarily representative of AYL policy. As usual, please send any feedback through to the AYL Executive.

- Ben, AYL Tasmania Secretary



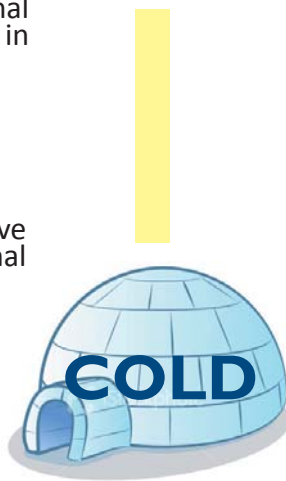
### Young Blood's Guide to Recent Events

**1 Year of Fed Labor Govt**  
Happy anniversary Kev!

**Paid Maternity Leave**  
Back on the national agenda after a decade in the wilderness

**The Howard Years**  
More conservative bias from our national broadcaster

**Christopher Pyne**  
Enough said



**Obama-Biden**  
Yes they did

**Fair Work Bill 2008**  
Restoring balance in the workplace

**Jason Krejza**  
A Tasmanian fairytale

**Young Witchhunt**      **Libs**      **Uni**  
A Senate Committee finds no evidence of a "leftist agenda" on Uni campuses: time for the Young Libs to stop blaming others for their bad marks

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# Jodie Campbell

## Interviewing our newest MP

Twelve months on from wresting the prized seat of Bass from Liberal clutches, Jodie Campbell is working hard in her electorate. Young Blood sat down with Ms Campbell to discover how she's handling life in the Rudd Government.

*What have been your best experiences since becoming a MP?*

Some of the most amazing experiences have involved witnessing and being part of doing what we promised the Australian people we would do. Sitting behind the Prime Minister as he apologised to the Stolen Generations is something I will never forget. Seeing the end of WorkChoices – again, this is why we were voted in and to be part of keeping our end of the bargain with the people of Bass and the workers of Australia was incredible. Beyond that one of the most significant things I had the chance to do because of being an MP was spending a day with the RSPCA inspector. For so many reasons it is something I will not forget.

*What are the downsides?*

Every time you walk out your front door you are on the job. At the end of the day with Bass being a marginal seat you can be sure that anywhere between 45 and 55 percent of the population do not agree with what you are doing and do not think you are doing a good job. That can be hard at times but it is also an invigorating part of being in a marginal seat.



*What are your goals for Bass before the next election?*

I am really excited about seeing all the election commitments rolled out. I am also keen to build a sustainable community. If we look at the North East ... AusIndustry as assessing applications for the North East Innovation and Investment Fund and I want to see these grants used to keep this wonderful region alive and vital.

*Who are your best mates in politics? Why?*

I am fortunate to be surrounded by some really strong women and I think its important when in politics to have people around you outside politics who are honest with you. Here in Tasmania people we are fortunate to have a number of female MPs and senators who are always available to offer support and advice and that is invaluable. In the Federal Parliament there are some really great supporters of Bass and that too is important. Julia Gillard as Deputy Prime Minister has provided me with great advice and inspiration. Anthony Albanese has been an enormous supporter for the community of Bass.

*What advice do you have to Young Labor members who are just starting to become politically active?*

My advice would be to find someone whom you respect and admire and then listen to everything they say and learn everything you can from them. A mentor is so important in this kind of environment. But also get involved. Get active in campaigning and street stalls and learn from the community. If you want to be involved in politics it is vital that you never lose sight of why we do what we do and that is to represent the people. And that is why we are in the Labor party.

*What would be your ideal job in Parliament?*

Arts Minister

## Jodie Campbell: Fast Facts

Full Name	Jodie Louise Campbell
Age	36
Star Sign	Capricorn
Education	UTas - Bachelor of Social Work
Union	LHMU
Fave Band	Midnight Oil and High School Musical
Fave Teams	Launceston Women's Footy Club
Hobbies	Cooking, scuba diving and reading
Keating or Hawke?	Keating
Howard or Costello?	Costello
Nelson or Turnbull?	Nelson
Rudd or Gillard?	That's a bit cheeky...
Hodgman Jr or Snr?	The younger
B1 or B2?	B3 - see my picture!



## Change we believed in

*Tom Middleton*

Only four short years ago, John Howard and George Bush were re-elected for their respective conservative parties, Port Adelaide had won the AFL Grand Final and Steven Hooker was just another young red-haired bloke with big dreams.

By 5 November 2008, life was infinitely better than the dark days of '04. Hooker had taken gold in Beijing, the receding Power were not worth the grass they ran in on but most importantly Australia had Kevin Rudd, and the United States had a bloke called Barack Obama.

The freshman Senator from Illinois began to catch the international eye in February 2007, announcing that he would stand for President. Along the way, he managed to topple the US's biggest political establishments: the Clintons and the religious right. As we all know now the subsequent 20 months have been a meteoric rise to fame for Obama – a period that saw him receive unprecedented worldwide exposure due to inspiring rhetoric, fresh ideas and the potential become the nation's first black Commander-in-Chief.

AYL would like to congratulate the President elect and adds its voice to the chorus of millions around the globe who have faith that this is a turning point in both US and international leadership.

## AYL Tasmania Update

*AYL President - Stuart Benson*

Hello AYL Comrades,

The last couple of months have been a busy for AYL. Since the last edition of Young Blood, many Young Labor members attended the State Labor Party Conference in September. After Prime Minister Rudd's address to the conference, where he noted the importance of AYL, we debated AYL's two motions. AYL motioned for an opt-out policy regarding organ donation and Charter of Rights for Tasmania. The Charter of Rights caused the most debate at the conference but I am happy to report it was passed by a majority of delegates. Congratulations to all AYL members who spoke in favour of the motion which helped see it pass.

I am also happy to report that since those motions were passed there has been some movement on these issues. Since taking over as Attorney General, Lara Giddings has welcomed the renewed debate around a Charter of Rights in Tasmania, which has been supported by Premier Bartlett. While this is now on hold owing to the Federal Human Rights Consultations, Young Labor congratulates Lara and welcomes the renewed debate, which will hopefully lead to a Charter of Rights being established in Tasmania.

Our opt-out policy was amended and also passed. Many Young Labor members at the conference we still supporting an in principal opt-out policy but supported amending the motion to see what affect the recently passed legislation, regarding the establishment of Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority, would make for people needing organ transplants.

Since the State conference we have met with Susan Wallace from Unions Tasmania. Susan talked about a wide range of issues relating to industrial relations, including the need for the Rudd Government to give relief regarding Unfair Dismissal and giving employees a means of appeal if they feel they may have been unreasonably dismissed. She also talked about her anticipation regarding the Forward with Fairness legislation and the powers of the ABCC.

Susan also discussed current paid maternity leave advocacy work, which is a policy that AYL has supported and on 19 October Unions Tas hosted a Paid Maternity Leave forum featuring Sharan Burrows. Young Labor attended the Forum and - along with the Tasmanian Government, many unions and community groups - signed a 'pledge' to advocate for a paid maternity leave system.

Our recent meeting on 6 December saw us make decisions about events we plan to hold. We are now organising the quiz night for late January/early February. I am calling for people to come up with some designs for posters and other recruitment ideas over the holidays so we can conduct a big recruitment drive for Societies Day. Email any of the executive with your ideas. I am happy to report that we have sold most of the AYL shirts but still have some available for sale if you missed out and would like one.

At our last meeting we also passed motions regarding an Office of Youth and VSU. There are articles in this edition of Young Blood detailing why we think they were important in supporting.

I wish all AYL members a merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the next event.



## Goodnight VSU

Matt Nesham

In November this year, Minister for Youth Kate Ellis moved swiftly to bring back rights, services and culture on our University campuses. AYL Tas - along with university unions around the country - have been highly critical of the Howard Government's moves to end compulsory student unionism as it devastated student services and representation at our universities.

Thankfully, the Rudd Government is reversing this dreadful Howard legacy. The following is AYL Tasmania's motion on the issue, passed at the December AYL meeting.

This motion recognises:

- Young Labor's condemnation of the Howard Government's Higher Education (Abolition of Compulsory Upfront Student Union Fees) Act 2005 that destroyed many of the student organisations that supported students and student life.
- Young Labor's support for Federal Labor's plan to keep their election promise and end voluntary student unionism by re-instating a compulsory services and amenities fee.
- Young Labor's support for a cap on the services and amenities fee of \$250.
- Young Labor's belief that a deferrable HELP-style loan, available to all students, to cover this fee will ensure that all students have equitable access to the amenities and services they need and deserve.
- Young Labor's belief that the value of a university education will increase when a wide range of services are available for all local and international students from all backgrounds.
- Young Labor's belief that youth participation in university life is the first step towards developing worth-while citizens and increasing the potential for success in the workplace and beyond.
- Young Labor's belief that university students must have access to independent and democratic student representative bodies.
- Young Labor's support for national benchmarks for the provision of student support services and the creation of representation and advocacy protocols to ensure that all students receive high quality services.
- Young Labor support for optional membership of individual student associations, whilst encouraging all students to join.

Information sourced from: [http://www.capa.edu.au/files/inline-files/VSU\\_response\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://www.capa.edu.au/files/inline-files/VSU_response_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

## Labor's rights agenda

Julien Tempone-Wiltshire

Improvement in the rights of same-sex couples has been an area which has seen very little movement in the past 11 years. Between 1996 and 2007, John Howard actively resisted the recognition of same-sex couples in federal legislation, as well as attempts by individual states and territories to recognise unions of same-sex couples.

November 2007, however, saw the future of this underrepresented minority brightened considerably, with the Federal Labor Government favouring synchronised state and territory registered partnership legislation.

2008 saw a shift in public opinion towards acceptance of same-sex couples, with South Australia, the ACT and Victoria joining Tasmania by passing registered partnership laws. This recognition has meant improvements in same-sex rights regarding Superannuation, Taxation, Insurance, Health Care, Hospital Visitation, Wills, Property Division, and Employment Conditions (such as parenting and bereavement leave).

In May 2008, federal Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, introduced the Family Law Amendment Bill 2008 which will remove inequalities for same-sex couples in 100 areas of the law. Areas to be reformed include health, aged care, veterans' entitlements, workers' compensation, employment and other entitlements. All the changes are to be operational by the middle of 2009; most will begin as soon as legislation is passed.

The registered partnerships, civil unions and civil partnership legislation that have been passed in multiple states this year were created to provide same-sex couples with the legal and social benefits of traditional marriage. The need for change was supported by a 2007 Galaxy poll which showed that 71% of Australians agreed that same-sex partners should have equal legal rights to those of heterosexual couples.

Whilst the recognition and rights of same-sex couples in Australia have gradually been increasing and progressing there is still a high level of inequality and intolerance against homosexuals. However, legislation introduced by both State and Federal Labor governments in 2008, will alter past discriminatory laws in over 100 areas, and has set Australia on a path of ensuring acceptance and equal rights for all individuals regardless of sexuality.

After a decade of the Howard Government's resistance, Labor has answered Australia's demand to treat same-sex couples equally, and to end violation of privacy and equality which are rights guaranteed to every Australian.



## Avoid populism in response to the GFC

*Jesse Murphy*

The world has certainly changed since the election of the Rudd Government last year. Australia elected Kevin Rudd on a centrist platform of economic conservatism. The global financial crisis, however, has seen even the most neoliberal of world leaders striking a disturbing interventionist tone.

The global financial crisis was not a result of 'extreme capitalism' or the 'greed and excess' of Wall Street. We live in a globalised economy where self-interest is the driving force behind growth and prosperity. If we relied upon the altruism of market speculators and banks, society would have collapsed long before this.

The current crisis is the result of excessive and incompetent government intervention in the US housing market and a loose monetary policy from the US Federal Reserve. The large quasi-government agencies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac owned or guaranteed approximately half of US mortgages, crowding the private sector out of the prime market.

Excess liquidity forced the private sector into the subprime market, where Fannie and Freddie eventually followed. Here, they were able to pursue highly leveraged private gains with an implicit guarantee that they were too big for the government to allow them to fall.

Consumers need to have the freedom to embrace new technology because it is only through these new economic

opportunities that the global economy will recover. This is why using the global financial crisis to justify protectionism is even more irresponsible. Economic history is clear that protectionist measures, including tariffs and currency devaluations, exacerbated the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Over the past months, governments around the world have thrown everything they have at the crisis to no avail. Emerging from the G-20 and APEC summits were the promising tentative commitments to pursue trade liberalisation, particularly through the revival of the Doha Round negotiations. For this effort to succeed, the economic necessity of international co-operation will need to trump the populism of economic nationalism.

It is also necessary for the Government to avoid populism whilst attempting to stimulate the economy. The challenge for the Rudd Government is to cut inefficient spending – particularly the wasteful churn of middle-class welfare. The money saved could go into targeted and temporary areas of stimulus, reducing the need for excessive government borrowing and, in time, eliminating the Howard Government's structural deficit.

Furthermore, if the Subprime Crisis has taught us anything, it is that direct government intervention in housing is a risky endeavour. Thankfully, our housing market has not been as distorted as that in the US and we are likely to avoid damaging declines in house prices.

Nevertheless, we must realise that not every social problem has an equal and opposite government programme. Debates concerning the scale of government intervention in the economy are severely dated. In a globalised economy such as ours, it is better to concern ourselves with the design of such interventions in the limited circumstances where they are justified.



## ALP Dinner with Lin

*Claire Bugg*

The Battery Point ALP branch is organising a multi-branch dinner with New Town, West Hobart, Hobart City and Young Labor branches all invited to come along. It will be held on 12 March 2009 at the Parliamentary Dining Room, Parliament House - commencing at 6pm for 6.30pm start.

Guest speakers will be Minister for Human Services, Lin Thorp, and Australian Education Union State President Leanne Wright TBC. There will be a cost of \$30pp for a two-course meal.

For more information contact [claire.bugg@gmail.com](mailto:claire.bugg@gmail.com) or 0429 708 785.



The two Young Labor debating teams - on the left, Jesse Murphy, Kacee Johnstone and Tim Woolley - below, Matt Nesham, Bec White and Claire Bugg.



## Young Labor v Young Liberal debates 2008

*Claire Bugg*

The annual Young Labor vs. Liberal Students debate was held on 2 October 2008 at the Studio Theatre at UTAS. Approximately 30 people attended, including including prominent heckler Senator Catryna Bilyk.

As was the case last year, there was a national and state topic for debate.

The Federal debate featured Kacee Johnstone, Jesse Murphy and Tim Woolley (replacing Stuart Benson at the eleventh hour) courageously debated the national topic - "is Kevin Rudd style over substance?" Unfortunately they were defeated with a lack of coherency amongst the Labor team getting the Liberals over the line.

Young Labor had more luck in the State debate. The State topic was "Are the Liberals fit to govern Tasmania?" This of course was a gift for the dynamic trio of Claire Bugg, Bec White and Matt Nesham, who won easily over the Liberal Students.

Many thanks to Stuart who initially organised the event, Kacee and Bec for their extra help, Senator Catryna Bilyk for her fantastic heckling and her continued support for Young Labor, PloT (in particular outgoing President Ryan Davey) for providing the venue and refreshments, and Michael Cordover from the Debating Union for adjudicating.



**Young Labor members were on hand at State Conference to welcome Prime Minister Rudd to Tasmania in September**

## Labor's youth pledge

Stuart Benson

On 25 September 2008 the Rudd Labor Government launched the Office for Youth after re-establishing the youth portfolio and the first Minister for Youth since the Howard Government scrapped it. On 2 October 2008 the Government also launched the Australian Youth Forum (AYF).

The Rudd Government's launch of an Office of Youth marks a shift in Governments approach to Young Australians. Under the previous Government the Youth portfolio was scrapped and the Howard Government de-funded the national body for youth in 1999. This left no mechanism for dialogue between young people and the Government.

The aim of the Office of Youth is to ensure that there is a specific focus on issues facing young people and is covered across all portfolios. The Office of Youth is situated within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, and the aims is to provide support and advice to other government agencies to help them better engage with young people. Its aim is to identify key issues impacting on the lives of young Australians and play a strategic policy advice role to ensure that they are given the best opportunities now and in the future.

The 2008-09 Budget also provided \$8 million over four years to establish the Australian Youth Forum. The Forum's aim is to give young Australians the opportunity to engage with the Government about issues affecting their lives today and the big issues of the future. Ideas that are raised through the AYF will be assembled and made available on the website and then fed through youth networks. Ideas will also be passed on the Office of Youth and relevant Government agencies that will hopefully go towards policy development.

The AYF is made up of a Steering Committee of eleven young people. The committee consists of young people from different youth groups and the aim of the committee is to provide advice to the minister for strengthening the AFY. The website contains the information of who sits on the committee.

The AYF will incorporate local public forums for young Australians to directly engage in debate and offer their perspectives and ideas; an interactive website with ideas discussion boards and information exchanges; and a funded national peak body for the youth sector - the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC).

As recognised by the Minister, there are 2.7 million Australians aged between 15 and 24 years, representing 13.6 per cent of the population. We believe it is important the young people have a means to lobby for youth issues. We also believe that as there are many challenges facing

## ALP Update

ALP State Secretary - John Dowling

Seasons Greetings to all AYL members and thank you for your support over what was a busy 2008.

A real highlight for the Party throughout 2008 has been the growth and activism of AYL in Tasmania. I encourage all AYL members to become involved in party structures, whether it is through your branch, being a member of a platform committee or becoming involved at a higher organisational level. Our party can only be better off if young people play an active role.

### 2009 STATE CONFERENCE

Due to National Conference being held on the first weekend of August 2009, the Administrative Committee has decided that the 2009 State Conference will be held on either the weekend of 18/19 July or 25/26 July. The location is yet to be determined subject to the availability of conference facilities.

### TASMANIAN REDISTRIBUTION

The Augmented Electoral Commission has announced new boundaries for Tasmania's five state and federal electorates. If any member wishes to discuss these boundaries and what they potentially mean for the ALP, please contact Labor House.

### NEW STATE MINISTER – LISA SINGH

The ALP Tasmanian Branch extends our best wishes and congratulations to Lisa Singh following her appointment as Minister for Workplace Relations, Minister for Corrections and Consumer Protection. Lisa's appointment is well deserved as she has quickly established herself as an effective member of parliament.

### 2009 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION – DERWENT

The State Returning Officer has advised Michael Aird was elected unopposed as the endorsed ALP candidate for the Legislative Council seat of Derwent. AYL members are encouraged to support Michael's campaign and if any member is able to assist please contact Labor House.

young people such as the cost/access to education, housing affordability, mental health and climate change, there needs to be a body like the office of Youth and Youth forums, which will argue for policies, programs and services that meet needs of young Australians.

For more information about the office of Youth visit: [www.deewr.gov.au/officeforyouth](http://www.deewr.gov.au/officeforyouth). For more information about the AFY, visit: [www.youth.gov.au](http://www.youth.gov.au).

Both sites contain good information relevant to youth and contain further information about their aims and about upcoming events.