

2011 | State Labor Conference

Report



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Indigenous welcome for delegates by the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

Introduction

Thank you to all of the Members who attended the NSW Labor Annual State Conference on 9 and 10 July 2011.

The Conference provided a great opportunity for our Party to lay the groundwork for the great task ahead of rebuilding. Delegates from all over NSW voted in favour of recommendations which will seek to rebuild our Party for the future, including:

- The trial of a number of community preselections;
- Simplification of eligibility for preselections, including a provision that those who have been party members for more than 10 years be granted full voting rights;
- The introduction of the NSW Policy Forum which brings together the entire shadow cabinet, trade union leaders and rank-and-file representatives to develop Labor Policies and ideas;
- FECs will elect one Delegate each to Labor's National Conference;
- The introduction of Public Selection Forums to allow Candidates for public office the opportunity to speak directly to the membership;
- Expansion of the successful Central Policy Branch model;
- Expansion of NSW Labor Training Programs as part of the Campaign Insight Training Academy; and
- Stronger resourcing of Country Labor.

Robust and meaningful policy debates were had over the two days including on important issues such as industrial relations reforms, refugees and marriage equality.

A summary of all of the debates at Conference can be found in this post conference report.

With community engagement front and centre in our Party once more, we look forward to working with you as we rebuild our Party.



A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Sam Dastyari'.

Sam Dastyari
General Secretary



A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lee'.

Michael Lee
President

President's Report

Michael Lee, Party President welcomed Delegates to the 2011 State Conference at Sydney Town Hall.



Party President, Michael Lee addressing Conference on Saturday morning.

Michael began by acknowledging the support of the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and the ALP National Office for the support they gave the NSW Branch during the 2010 Federal election campaign.

Michael said that the entire NSW campaign team including Sam Dastyari, Chris Minns and John Graham did an amazing job in holding the electorates of Eden-Monaro, Lindsay, Greenway, Dobell and Robertson.

Michael shared the NSW Branch's appreciation to former Party President, Bernie Riordan, for the contribution he made to this and his other successful federal and state election campaigns.

Michael acknowledged the work of Kristina Keneally for her service as Premier to the people of NSW and her tireless campaign effort for the Australian Labor Party over so many months, as well as the enormous contribution of her predecessors,

Nathan Rees, Morris Iemma and the incomparable Bob Carr.

Michael said that during Labor's time in government, mistakes were made, but no Liberal rewriting of history can hide the achievements, such as every major teaching hospital rebuilt, renovated or massively extended.

He said that while the Party achieved so much, it wasn't enough and that we can only begin to rebuild by facing up to these mistakes and developing new ways to engage with the community.

"Our new state leader, John Robertson, has encouraged us to be bold and the Rules Reform Package you will consider later today does just that," said Michael.

"I strongly believe that NSW Labor must lead this debate. First, because we represent the most populous state, but perhaps more importantly, because the people of NSW have sent us the strongest possible message that they want us to change," he said.

Michael said that one of the enduring strengths of the ALP is its capacity to change.

"Just as Australia has changed, so has our party," he said.

Michael concluded by saying that the Labor Party has the opportunity to harness that capacity to change and renew ourselves as the first step in rebuilding, before once more seeking new ideas, new policies to serve the people of NSW.

Administrative Committee Report

NSW Labor General Secretary Sam Dastyari addressed conference in the Administrative Committee debate to urge delegates to support his proposal for reform to rebuild our Party.

The General Secretary argued that NSW Labor must now consider major reform following the NSW State Election defeat on 26 March. He said that as a Party we must understand that we lost the election because we disconnected from the community.

He said that the proposed reforms would address this problem by creating greater engagement opportunities for both rank-and-file members and allow participation from the wider community. The plan for the Forum will be to gather ideas, propose policies and create a new Party platform to take to the 2015 State Election.

The first of these reforms would be aimed at reconnecting with the community through policy development. This would be done through the NSW Policy Forum, which would include Shadow Ministers, Union Leaders, rank and file members and the wider community. The plan for these Forums would be to gather ideas, propose policies, create a new Party platform, and go to the 2015 elections with these new policies.

The second is a plan for growth in the Party. Having community preselections would encourage Labor supporters to have a proportional level of participation in selecting their community's candidate, provided they are committed to supporting Labor and are prepared to assist the local Labor Campaign.



General Secretary, Sam Dastyari presenting the Administrative Committee Report.

The third reform is to increase member participation. These include giving power back to members, through various rule changes and initiatives, such as being able to join the Party online, direct election of rank and file members to State Policy Forums,

Regional Policy Branches, FECs directly electing their National Conference Delegates and giving members an automatic preselection vote after 10 continuous years of membership.

Address by the Prime Minister of Australia – **Julia Gillard**

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Julia Gillard MP addressed the Conference on Saturday. Discussing the defeat in March, the Prime Minister addressed the achievements of the NSW Labor Government including “the best ever Olympics, great school literacy results, historic environmental achievements like saving the south east forests, the remarkable victory over James Hardie and so much more”.

The Prime Minister spoke of the opportunity that NSW Labor has to learn, to reform, to renew and to rebuild while in Opposition. The issue of reform within the Party was also discussed by the Prime Minister, who referred to the reforms proposed by current NSW General Secretary, Sam Dastyari as “significant reforms deserving of consideration”.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the many achievements of the past Labor governments and the history of being the Party to always reform and make the tough decisions. The history of making tough decisions leading to some of the greatest Labor initiatives such as the Snowy River Scheme, Medicare, Saving the Franklin River, Universal superannuation and Native Title.

The carbon price issue was also discussed by the Prime Minister. Speaking the day before she announced the full carbon package, the Prime Minister noted



Prime Minister Julia Gillard giving her address on Saturday morning.

“Margaret Thatcher and John Howard...accepted the need to act” on the issue of climate change and challenged the Opposition’s stance by stating they “have the temerity to call our carbon price a toxic tax”.

The fighting spirit of the Labor Party was again emphasised by the Prime Minister as she challenged the Opposition, “We’re still here, we’re still ready to fight for our

nation’s future”. As well as touching on the past achievements, the Prime Minister also reiterated the main aims of the party as “we will stick up for the people we have always stuck up for”, even restating Chifley’s historic words “fight for the right, and truth and justice will prevail” as she discussed the need for the Federal Labor Government’s policies in modern day Australia.

Address by NSW Leader of the Opposition – **John Robertson**



NSW Opposition Leader, John Robertson as greets delegates before his address to Conference

NSW Leader of the Opposition, John Robertson addressed the Conference on Saturday morning, with a frank and honest examination of where the party currently stands, and where we must go from here.

He spoke of Labor's achievements over the last 16 years, including:

- a doubled health budget
- upgrading or rebuilding very hospital

- reduced class sizes
- quality education, in which NSW students outperform all other States in numeracy and literacy
- 3000 more police on the streets
- all 17 crime categories are stable or declining.

Despite this, in the last four years, the NSW Labor Government broke too many promises. This hurt the people of NSW, who could no longer put their trust in Labor.

He condemned the "Liberal way", and how the Liberal government is already cutting jobs and preparing for privatisation, breaking promises and hurting workers. Worse still, Barry O'Farrell is shutting down debate to serve his own interests.

The Labor Party, on the other hand, must encourage debate in open forums with members and supporters, must stand up for the rights of NSW working families, and must regain the trust of the people of NSW.

Rules Report

The rules debate on Saturday morning saw the introduction of a series of reforms which seek to ensure our Party engages directly with the community and develop stronger supporters and members.

At the 2011 NSW State Election, many traditional Labor supporters did not vote Labor for the first time in their lives.

Many of our traditional supporters felt that we had become too focused on ourselves and had failed to provide the representation that Labor supporters need, expect and deserve from the governments we form.

The lessons from the recent election are clear – we must reach out to our traditional supporters who, in March, voted Liberal for the first time.

That's why NSW Labor supported recommendations to open up and engage the community when it comes to selecting our candidates.

The conference voted in favour of introducing a trial of community preselections where candidates are selected with the support of a large cross-section of our members and supporters. Voters, who are prepared to identify themselves as Labor supporters, will be able to participate and vote for who they think should be the Labor candidate in their area.

Community preselections will also be used to grow Party membership by identifying Labor supporters, and encouraging them to become Labor members.

Later this year, NSW Labor will be launching our direct voter contact system, which enables members from all over NSW to recruit, organise and campaign locally. Members will be equipped with the skills and support they need to engage with their local communities and grow our Party at a grassroots level.

Ultimately, by becoming more inclusive and by engaging the community, our candidates and our policies will better represent the aspirations and hopes of Labor supporters across NSW.

These reforms will also strengthen opportunities for our rank and file members to make a difference.

In order to strengthen rank and file involvement, we need to make it easier for people to join the Party and provide them with more ways to participate to ensure they remain active.

During the rules debate delegates spoke in favour of allowing people to join the Party online.

Delegates also spoke in favour of expanding our Policy Caucuses and the Central Policy Branch, revitalising Regional Assemblies and establishing the NSW Policy Forum.

In particular, the NSW Policy Forum will promote the discussion of new ideas and lead to the implementation of good Labor policy. The NSW Policy Forum will include the entire Shadow Cabinet, trade union leaders and directly-elected rank and file representatives. This will ensure that our policy discussions are more open and inclusive.

There was strong support at the Conference to allow Electorate Councils to elect delegates to National Conference.

Key reforms are outlined over the next few pages.



Chris Bowen and Neville Wran at the conclusion of the Rules Debate.



Delegates came from all over NSW to listen to the rules debate.

Introducing a trial of community preselections

Opening up our Party will involve shifting our candidate selection process towards a community preselection model, based on a primary model.

Under these changes, the local community will have direct participation in deciding who the Labor candidate will be for their area.

Beginning with some local government elections in NSW next year and five winnable state seats at the 2015 state election, voters who are prepared to identify themselves as Labor supporters will be able to participate and vote for who they think should be the Labor candidate for their area.

Primaries are a logical progression of the principles the founders of our party espoused – that our representatives should be chosen by a large cross-section of our members and supporters.

To vote in a community selection ballot, any person who is not a financial Party member must first sign a declaration stating that they:

- (i) Are a Labor supporter;
- (ii) Will assist the Labor candidate selected in the ballot for which they are registering as a voter; and
- (iii) Are not a member of another political party or one of its affiliated organisations (Country Labor does not constitute another political party).

The introduction of community preselections represents an historic opportunity to identify and recruit Labor supporters in our community. This will ensure that Labor supporters who vote in community preselections are encouraged to continue their involvement by joining the Party.

Community preselections should be just the beginning of a Labor supporter's participation in the Party. They must be used to turn Labor supporters into Labor members.



Assistant General Secretary, Chris Minns argues that the Party needs to reform if we are to grow.

Introducing Public Office Selection Forums

Currently under the Rules, there are no requirements for candidates to present themselves publicly to the membership – a key aspect of being a strong representative.

Public Office Selection Forums will be held where there is a ballot required for public office to enable Party members to meet and ask questions of prospective candidates.

This improves the access our Party members have to those who want to run for public office.

The Public Office Selection Forum will take place at the polling place on the same day that voting takes place, with the Candidates in the selection ballot to address the forum and take questions from rank and file Party members.

All Party members can attend the forum. During the forum, members will be split up into small groups for discussion with each individual candidate.

The NSW Policy Forum

A new body, the NSW Policy Forum, comprising the entire shadow cabinet, trade union leaders and rank-and-file representatives will be charged with open community engagement in developing Labor Policy and ideas.

New ideas are needed for a vibrant Labor Party and these ideas cannot simply come from within. Our policy development process needs to recognise the power of harnessing external ideas.

a) The NSW Policy Forum has the following objectives:

- (i) Facilitate policy debate and development amongst the State Parliamentary Labor Party, Policy Caucuses, Party Units and Affiliates, including making recommendations to the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party;
- (ii) Provide a framework for the partnership between the State Parliamentary Labor Party and the wider labour movement;
- (iii) Provide guidance on the causes and aspirations of the modern Labor movement;
- (iv) Include Party Units, Party members and Affiliates in the debate on the direction of the Party;



Amanda Fazio MLC supporting the Dastyari / Graham amendment.



Paul Howes, National Secretary, Australian Workers Union addresses the Conference.

- (v) Maintain the relevance of the Labor Platform by conducting reviews;
- (vi) Undertake long-term planning for the implementation of Labor policy; and
- (vii) Provide leadership on matters of public concern and interest.

Rank-and-file members of the NSW Policy Forum will be elected through a state-wide ballot. Any financial member of the Party with 12 months financial continuity can nominate.

A new campaigning model

As a broad labour movement, we will always be able to activate more supporters than our conservative opponents. We must take advantage of this.

Later this year, NSW Labor will launch our direct voter contact system, which was trialled during the 2011 Election. This will enable members from all over our State to help on campaigns at the click of a button.

The philosophy is simple: we need to activate more members and connect with more voters more often. By reconnecting

with our base through large scale direct voter contact, we can strengthen our membership and our electoral position.

NSW Labor will roll out a community organising model to empower and equip members and supporters to recruit, organise and campaign locally.

Under this community organising model, Party members will be provided with more resources, training and support, so that they can identify Labor supporters, recruit new members, hold local events, run local campaigns, communicate and engage with voters, and produce and distribute material.

The Administrative Committee will establish an Organising Committee by the end of 2011 to consider developments in community organising and campaigning, and make recommendations about community organising and campaigning initiatives to the Administrative Committee.

The Organising Committee will contain representatives from trade unions, rank and file Party members, the Parliamentary Party and the organisational wing of the Party, appointed according to the principles of proportional representation.



Assistant Secretary, John Graham seconding the amendment which outlined the key reforms.

Expanding our training programs

The Campaign Insight Program is an innovative training initiative which aims to train political activists in campaign management, strategy and tactics.

Campaign Insight provides grassroots activists with the skills, experience, networks and confidence required to have an impact on Labor Party campaigns across the country.

That is why ten years after the Campaign Insight program first began, we will be expanding the program even further to train more members across the state with more tailored one day and weekend long seminars.

In order to expand NSW Labor's campaigning capacity, we need to invest more in our people. NSW Labor will therefore set a target of training 500 activists over the next two years.

THE LAUNCH OF THE CAMPAIGN INSIGHT TRAINING ACADEMY

In 2011, NSW Labor will be launching the new Campaign Insight Training Academy to help train grassroots activists and our next generation of Labor leaders.

Our Campaign Training modules will focus on enhancing the skills of the following groups:

1. Rank and file party members and grassroots activists, with a focus on Country Labor Members
2. Future Candidates
3. Members of Parliament
4. Campaign Directors
5. Councillors
6. Electorate Officers and Political staff
7. Elected officials in Branches and Electorate Councils

CREATING A NETWORK OF LEADERS

This year, NSW Labor will launch the Campaign Insight Network to connect members who have completed our training programs and to help improve their skills as campaign techniques change and evolve.



State Member for Bankstown, Tania Mihailuk MP addressing the conference on the need for rules reform.

Make it easier to join the Party by allowing online applications

We need to make it easier to join the Party. Members of the Australian public can submit tax returns online. Today, so many of our transactions can be made on the Internet. People will now be able to join NSW Labor online, as long as they pay by electronic funds transfer from their own account, or with their own credit card.

Encourage more people to join by reviewing the fee structure

The 2009 NSW Labor Conference resolved to abolish the joining fee in order to encourage more people to join the Party. As our membership continues to decline, it is important to consider the effect, if any, of the Party's membership fee structure on people's decisions regarding whether or not to join and renew.

NSW Labor will therefore review the current fee structure to determine whether membership fees are set at the appropriate rate, taking into account the need to grow our Party, while providing sufficient income to fund its activities.

Local determination of some National Conference delegates

The NSW Labor Annual State Conference resolved to allow Federal Electorate Councils to elect delegates directly to the National Conference (one per FEC). Allowing Federal Electorate Councils to elect some of the National Conference delegation would strengthen rank and file involvement in the Party's processes. The National Principles of Organisation require that State Conference comprise 50% trade union representation, and 50% Party constituency representatives. This principle of 50/50 representation must continue.

Revitalise the Regional Assembly process

In the past, Regional Assemblies have provided a means for Party members to expand Labor's presence in the community by organising across electoral boundaries. Revitalising the Regional Assembly process will help members to rebuild and grow our Party.

Expanding the Central Policy Branch

Most people who join our Party want to participate in policy development and discussion. We must improve our mechanisms for policy development within our Party.

Members need to be given more opportunity to have their say. In Opposition, the need for open discussion amongst Party members is more important than ever. Robust and meaningful policy conversations need to be had at all levels of the Party if we are to move forward with a vision for NSW and Australia.

If an area would like to set up their own Regional Policy Branch, they may now do so by making a request to the Administrative Committee. This will allow members to meet regularly in larger groups with guest speakers on specific policy areas.

A State Electorate Council or State Electorate Councils may request a charter for a Policy Branch in their area, providing the existence of the Branch does not detract from existing branches. Policy Branches will operate in the same way as regular Branches, with members eligible to vote in local selection ballots, but will not send delegates to the Electorate Councils.



Secretary of the FSU, Geoff Derrick supporting the reforms.

Giving Central Policy Branch members more of a say

Members of Central Policy Branch will be able to propose, second, speak to, amend, adjourn, vote on and pass motions for the first time at Central Policy Branch, giving members a greater say on policy. This will encourage more debate within our Party on important policy matters.

Offer more ways to participate through a trial of Online Branches

The nature of political participation is changing. In order to grow our Party, NSW Labor needs to offer people more ways to participate. In particular, NSW Labor needs to expand its online presence to engage with members and supporters online.

Online Policy Branches are one proposal for how NSW Labor might engage with members and supporters online.

In order to focus Online Policy Branches on the task of engaging with members and supporters online, and avoid them becoming another means to undertake branch stacking, it is proposed that members of Online Policy



Delegates voting in favour of the Dastyari/Graham amendment.

Branches not be eligible to vote in local selection ballots. Accordingly, members of Online Policy Branches would need to be permitted to be members of a Branch in their local area at the same time so that their involvement in an Online Policy Branch does not deny them the opportunity to qualify for a vote in a local selection ballot.

Getting a preselection vote will be made easier for long term members of the Party.

NSW Labor members with 10 years service or more will be granted full voting rights in selection ballots for their local candidates for public office, just as Life Members of our Party currently do.

Rewarding long term Party Members

Being a member of our Party involves making a commitment to our organisation and its values and principles. This commitment should be rewarded with a say in rank and file ballots.

At present, many long-term members are disenfranchised by the complicated voter eligibility criteria.

Intervene only in exceptional circumstances

The culture of imposing candidates needs to come to an end. The process of intervention has at times done more harm than good.

That's why NSW Labor is moving down a path towards selection methods where members and supporters have a greater say in who the Labor candidate should be.

Policy Debates

Indigenous People and Reconciliation

The Indigenous People and Reconciliation Policy Caucus Report was presented by Caucus Chair, Warren Mundine and focussed on the need to further support Indigenous people in NSW and to close the gap.

Meryl Dillon, Leanne Atkinson and Robyn Hakelis spoke in further support of the report, speaking about their experiences in their local communities. Delegates spoke about the need to support better education services for indigenous people. This was supported by Veronica Husted.

Dr Andrew McDonald spoke passionately about his resolution, which welcomed the establishment of the National 'Closing the Gap' strategy, which commits all Australian governments to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, and in particular provide a better future for Indigenous children.

Delegates also voted in favour of a motion welcoming the establishment of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples was formally launched on 2 May 2010 following years of work to establish a new national Indigenous representative body.



Warren Mundine, Chair of the Indigenous People and Reconciliation Policy Caucus.

Our Economic Future

The Our Economic Future Policy Caucus Report was debated on Saturday afternoon and was moved by Caucus Chair Kirk McKenzie. He spoke about Labor's work to reduce unemployment.

Leanne Hughes, secretary of the Caucus spoke further in support of the report focussing on the need to be inclusive by encouraging better education and more jobs. Delegates voted to support a motion supporting the Federal Government's policy to encourage competition in the finance industry as well as a motion to congratulate the former NSW Labor Government for their commitment to stimulus during the financial economic crisis.

Delegates voted in favour of a motion to encourage the Federal Government to consult with the Australasian Meat Employees Union regarding the future of the live animal export trade.

Delegates spoke passionately in favour of supporting a motion to reinforce support for the public ownership of State assets in the future. Delegates also supported a resolution to ensure the NSW Labor Policy Forum addresses the increasing levels of inequality in NSW.



Leanne Hughes, from the Our Economic Future Policy Caucus.

Country Labor

The Country Labor policy report was debated on Sunday morning, with a lively and entertaining discussion on a range of issues facing rural and regional NSW, including the rollout of the National Broadband Network, rural health investment and coal seam gas exploration.

Delegate Narelle Rich gave an emotive speech on the need for more resources in rural and regional schools for children with learning difficulties, and the unique challenges faced for these children outside of metropolitan centres.

Delegates voted to support a motion calling on Labor to differentiate itself from the Greens and their inner-city focused policies, a key issue for many country delegates. Delegates also discussed a range of measures to reform Country Labor and the upcoming Country Conference in February.

Finally, Mike Kelly, Member for Eden-Monaro, called on delegates to 'go to war' with him in the campaign to inform the community about the Federal Labor Government's carbon price scheme. This received an overwhelming response from the Conference floor.



Courtney Roche, Country Organiser addresses delegates about Country Conference Reform.

Stronger Democracy and Social Justice

The Stronger Democracy and Social Justice Policy Caucus Report was presented on Sunday afternoon by Caucus Secretary, Bernie Smith.

The debate saw a motion put forward to refer same sex marriage to the National Conference where it will be debated later this year.

Delegates also supported an amendment to support refugees and uphold and honour Labor's commitment to justice and compassion.

Delegate Sam Almaliki, himself a refugee from Iraq, gave an impassioned speech to support people who come to this country seeking refuge in times of war.

URGENCY DEBATE

Funding for community services to meet SACS Equal Pay Case outcomes

Sally McManus, National Secretary of the Australian Services Union moved an urgency motion welcoming the announcement by the Federal Government to fund its share of pay increases that may arise from the ASU's historic Equal Pay Case currently before Fair Work Australia.

The resolution was passed unanimously by the Conference.

Prosperity and Fairness at Work

Mark Lennon, Secretary of Unions NSW and Gerard Dwyer, Secretary of the SDA, moved the Prosperity and Fairness at Work report. Gerard Dwyer reflected on the work by Labor to protect workers in NSW, including the introduction of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* as one of the greatest workplace relations legislation in Australia and overseas and the increase of public holidays under Labor governments.

Delegates supported a motion condemning the NSW Liberal Party and Barry O'Farrell for the introduction of the worst industrial relations in NSW history.

Shadow Industrial Relations Minister, Sophie Cotsis outlined what the legislation means for NSW workers: slashed wages, stripped conditions, no penalty rates, no negotiation, no equal pay, no independent umpire, gagged parliamentary debate, no fairness or wage justice for police, teachers, fire fighters, health workers, child protection workers, corrective service workers and workers in rural and regional NSW.

URGENCY DEBATE

Support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme

John Della Bosca, Campaign Director for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, put forward an urgency motion supporting the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Many speakers rose in support of the motion which calls on the Federal Parliament to join the NSW and Victorian Governments and maintain b-partisan support for the introduction of an NDIS.

The resolution was passed unanimously by the Conference.

Anthony D'Adam and Shane O'Brien from the PSA rose to move a motion to repeal the legislation immediately when Labor is next elected in NSW.

Delegates gave impassioned speeches about the disregard for workplace rights at Marrickville Council with Graeme Kelly the Secretary of the USU arguing for the need to ensure Labor candidates are elected at a Local Government level to protect workers' rights.

Delegates also supported amendments to abolish the ABCC and return fairness at work for construction workers.

Delegates voted in favour of a motion put forward by Natalie Bradbury from the Health Services Union and Sue Lines from United Voice, for better pay for healthcare workers, particularly in the aged care sector.

Delegates also voted in favour of a motion calling on the Federal Government to review the National Rail Safety Regulator project to ensure rail safety laws in NSW aren't watered down in the name of uniformity.

Unions NSW Address

Secretary of Unions NSW, Mark Lennon gave the Unions NSW address on Sunday morning.



Secretary of Unions NSW, Mark Lennon addresses the Conference and urges delegates to fight the O'Farrell Government's extreme workplace laws.

Mark said that the Labor Party should be proud of the significant achievements of Labor during its 16 years in government.

He also noted the importance of the *Industrial Relations Act* – a testament to the genius of the late Jeff Shaw – unique in its simplicity, profound in its impact, the *Workplace Surveillance Act*, the introduction of new *Public Holidays Act* which included Easter Sunday as a public holiday and echoed the words of John Robertson about the importance of the introduction of portable long service leave for cleaners.

Mark also focused on the uncompromising stand the previous government took against the underhand attempts by James Hardie to avoid paying proper compensation to the victims of their asbestos products.

Mark criticised moves by the O'Farrell Government in ripping away public sector workers.

"Peter Costello learnt that lesson, John Howard learnt that lesson and rest assured Barry O'Farrell will learn that lesson as well," he said.

He encouraged all Labor Members to support the campaign to restore the rights a work of public sector employees because it is a fight for all workers.

Mark said that we need political and industrial Labor to work together to ensure we again attain government in NSW.

He finished by saying that "The cause of working people is too important for us to fail".

Watkins Chisholm Report

Former Deputy Premier John Watkins and State Secretary of the QLD Branch of the ALP, Anthony Chisholm presented their review of the NSW Labor State Election on the Sunday morning of Conference. In conducting this review, they have attempted to explain how the loss happened and how we can prevent it ever happening again.

The presentation of the report was followed by an open microphone session where over 50 Members rose to speak in further support of the reforms and their views on how we can rebuild for the future.

The recommendations in the Watkins/Chisholm Report were endorsed by the Conference and are as follows:

1. Considering the scale of the loss suffered at the 2011 election, NSW Labor should give serious consideration to the recommendations of the 2010 National Review Report, as it offers a roadmap for party reform in NSW.
2. That NSW Labor endorse the trial and eventual adoption of Primaries in State preselections.
3. That NSW Labor endorse early preselections prior to the 2015 State Elections.
4. That NSW Labor commence a program of identifying and recruiting appropriate community leaders into the Party so that they can stand as ALP endorsed candidates.
5. That NSW Labor moves to reform the N.40 rule and reduce centralised preselection intervention.
6. That NSW Labor develop detailed candidate vetting mechanisms including those that consider police

checks and detailed financial and behaviour vetting.

7. That the State Parliamentary Labor Party leadership endorses regular ongoing formal and informal education for all caucus Members including ethics education.
8. That the State Parliamentary Labor Party leadership takes steps to develop more collegiate caucus relationships.
9. That NSW Labor take steps to develop a new cooperative model of consultation between the Union leadership, State Parliamentary Labor Party and Head Office through a new accord or the development of the State Policy Forum.
10. That NSW Labor establish a policy development model that involves Party members.
11. That NSW Labor endorse and support the efforts by the Leader of the Opposition to engage the NSW community in a wider policy development process.
12. That NSW Labor continue to implement and expand the 'grassroots voter contact' campaign model first utilised in key seats in the March 2011 election, with its focus on volunteer mobilisation, demographic micro-targeting, and systematic voter contact.
13. That NSW Labor make a greater investment in training, not just for candidates and campaign directors, but also for volunteers and party members.
14. That NSW Labor support and assist with the development of affiliated organisations such as

Subcontinental Friends of Labor, Chinese Friends of Labor, and Rainbow Labor.

15. That consideration be given to NSW Labor forming a permanent campaign phonebank headquarters where volunteers can engage in this successful model of campaigning on a constant basis.
16. That the Leader of the Opposition's team and the Party Office be co-located for the 2015 State Campaign.
17. That the final 72 hour campaign which applied at the 2011 State Election become the template for closing out a campaign in future elections.
18. That campaign and volunteer training used before the 2011 State Election continue to be offered on an ongoing basis, particularly for new Party members.
19. That the NSW Branch builds on its successful campaign model to hold onto the seat of Marrickville against the Greens and use this as a template to defend against the Greens at all levels of Government.

Report of the 2011 State Election Campaign Review

The Hon. John Watkins
Anthony Chisholm



Campaign Insight Presentation



Campaign Insight graduates being presented their certificates by Party President, Michael Lee and coordinator of the course, Kaila Murnain.

Michael Lee, NSW Party President and Kaila Murnain, Organiser (Communications and Training) presented the 2011 Campaign Insight Graduates with their certificates on the Saturday afternoon of Conference.

Twenty four NSW Labor Members completed the 10 Week Intensive Campaign Insight Program.

The participants attended weekly seminars on Wednesday nights over the 10 week period and heard from various guest speakers including senior Party Strategists and State and Federal Party Secretaries (past and present) about campaign strategies and techniques.

The group completed the course with a residential in Terrigal over two

days to test the skills they learnt throughout the program.

Guest speakers including Deborah O'Neill and other Candidates from marginal seats addressed the group on the importance of their role in helping Labor Candidates get elected.

Campaign Insight Graduates 2011

Ben Broyd
Michael Buckland
Lee Corbet
Ronald De La Cuadra
Samantha Dawson
Aaron Duke
James Fox
Llewellyn Gartrell

Jason Hall
Jessica Hooke
Angela Humphries
Anthony Keenan
Virginia Kim
Kylie Kwong
Kathryn Landsberry
Hugh McDermott

Luke McGregor
Callan Nickerson
Chesney O'Donnell
Dom Ofner
Daniel Sharp
Kurt Steel
Melanie Tesoriero
Mitchell Wilson

Life Members Presentation

Congratulations to these new Life Members.

Life Members were this year given their certificates by President of NSW Labor, Michael Lee.

Jim Macken, former Supreme Court Judge, gave the keynote address during the Ceremony on the Sunday of Conference. He received a standing ovation from Conference Delegates.

Jim said that while there are many disadvantages associated with being a Life Member, including that to begin with you are very old, the greatest advantage is the memory

that comes with your age, and in the Labor movement a long memory is indispensable to political survival.

He said that Labor is the Party of the people – “a humanist party, the party of the poor, the marginalised, the refugees, the unemployed, the workers – all of the people who have no-one else to represent them – a party of the people – a true humanist party – and the only one in Australia.”

He said that the new reforms are tentative steps – but steps nonetheless – and we can look

forward to the future now as the Party of the people with some confidence.

He thanked the Trade Union Delegates and reflected on the day he joined a union – the day of his first pay after leaving school – on 26 January 1947 – he has been union ever since.

“Don’t ever forget that the unity of Labor is the hope of the world,” he said. To view Jim Macken’s full speech, visit: www.YouTube.com/user/nswlabor

John Edward Akister
Tony Hynes
Joe Alexander
Geoffrey Irwin
Eliane Ambroisine
Julia Irwin
Gerty Ambroisine
Tom Kelly
Robert Andrews
Maxwell Henry Lines
The Hon. John Aquilina
Neville Lord
Andrew Aristides
David Lowrey
Wal Ashenden
Jim Macken
Robert Benson
Jeff Maybury
Ernest Bradbury
John Edwin McNaughton
Margaret Carey
Jack Miller
William Carey
Kevin Moss
Antonio Catanzariti
Ken Murray
John Childs
Max Reading

Helen Cummings
Eunice Ann Rogan
Robert Downey
Patrick Allan Rogan
Ian Duffey
Donald Rudd
Barry Evans
William James Sabine
Vern Falconer
Lawrence Sherwin
Bevan Patrick Fernor

George Turner
Leigh Ffrench
Heather Ward
Warren Fox
Wayne Ward
A. Ron Greenstein
Joyce Wheatley
Mavis Gunter
Hazel Wilson
David Hamilton
The Rev. Fr. Nicholas Zarvas OAM JP



Jim Macken addressing Conference on behalf of the new Life Members.

The 2011 NSW Labor Conference Fringe Events Program was bigger than ever at this year's Conference and saw a number of guest speakers including senior political figures from Australia and overseas. Over 600 Labor Members, who were not delegates, attended the Fringe Events Program.

SATURDAY

The Dementia Epidemic

Following his retirement from politics, John Watkins became the CEO of Alzheimer's Australia NSW. John outlined the nature of dementia, its extent, what we can do to lessen the risk and what governments should be doing to fight dementia and assist those living with the condition.



The Dementia Epidemic: John Watkins speaking about the prevalence of Dementia in NSW.

The Dark Ages are Back! IR under the NSW Coalition

The O'Farrell Government's attack on the ASU's Equal Pay claim through the dilution of OHS laws and granting the Premier new powers to cut public sector wages and conditions was addressed by the NSW Shadow IR minister, Sophie Cotsis, Unions NSW Secretary Mark Lennon and ASU Secretary Sally McManus.



Delegates from Wollongong enjoying one of the many Fringe Events at the NSW Labor Conference.

Maritime Men are Good at Swearing

This event discussed the actions of the MUA, the largest organisation to support a campaign against violence against women as well as to promote female equality in a male-dominated work environment through the white ribbon campaign.

How Can the Planning System Deliver Housing Affordability

Stephen Albin the Chief Executive Officer of the Urban Development Institute of Australia and Linda Burney, the Deputy Leader of the NSW Opposition and Shadow Minister for Planning discussed how housing in NSW can be made more affordable and the detrimental effects the Coalition Government's policies will have on this important area.



**@Pathetic - is Gen Y Born to lead or fail?:
A Young Labor speaker takes the stage.**

@Pathetic – Is Gen Y Born to lead or fail?

AWU National Secretary Paul Howes, Amanda Fazio MLC, Lynda Voltz MLC and Meredith Burgmann teamed against Young Labor's All stars. The event saw interesting and intelligent points raised from both teams as they passionately debated the ability of Gen Y to lead or fail.

Standing up for What We Believe in

The Progressive Australia forum discussed the state of the progressive movement worldwide. Guest speaker John McTernan, Tony Blair's former Political Secretary and Director of Political operations put forward an intelligent and stimulating discussion on the issue.

A Sustainable Australia

The panel consisting of former NSW Premier Bob Carr, the leader of the Opposition in the Upper house and Shadow Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Luke Foley MLC and Tim Ayres, Assistant Secretary of the AMWU discussed the challenges and ideas for developing policies for a sustainable environmental, economic and socially just future.

The Future of Live Animal Exports

Janelle Saffin, the Federal Member for Page, Former meatworker and human rights lawyer, Grant Courtney and Federal President of the AMIEU and third generation butcher, and Jodie Jankevics the WSPA Campaign Officer, discussed the future of the trade and industry and how it will affect Australia.

Fair Trade – The Trans Pacific partnership Agreement (TPPA)

Dr Patricia Ranald was accompanied by other speakers as she discussed the TPPA, highlighting lessons from the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement, workers' rights and the political process involved in trade agreements.

Campaign Insight

John McTernan, Tony Blair's Director of Political Operations, Deborah O'Neill MP and Ryan Park MP and Damian Ogden formed a seminar panel. They discussed how candidates can maximise strengths and minimise weaknesses to win elections by mobilising grassroots activists. Hosted by Kaila Murnain NSW Organiser (Training and Communications), this event gave attendees an insight into the Campaign Insight training program.

Subcontinent Friends of Labor

The subcontinental Australians' economic contribution to Australia was discussed by Neville Roach AO, business and community leader, Dr S Javed and Nathan Rees MP.

Rebuilding a Mass Political Party

Members were engaged in a discussion about how the party can reconnect with local communities and rebuild the membership and volunteer base. Former Premier Bob Carr initiated the discussion with thoughtful points as he provided an overview of the strategic aims and specific reforms recommended by the 2010 National Campaign review.

The Interactive Campaign for Marriage Equality

Tanya Plibersek and Penny Sharpe launched a new and interactive website aimed at building momentum for marriage equality at December's ALP national Conference. Delegates enjoyed some quiet drinks as they discussed the campaign for marriage equality in 2011.

Conference Drinks

ALP members, supporters and luminaries attended the first official NSW Labor Annual Conference Drinks. Members and parliamentarians had an opportunity to relax and unwind after a day of discussion, debate and fringe events. The event also raised funds and awareness for the work undertaken by Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA.

SUNDAY

Winning as a Progressive

Executive Director of Campaign Action, Damian Ogden and leading US Campaigner Sujata Tejawani were joined by members as they discussed the tools and tactics to elect candidates and build supporter base while possessing progressive values.

Online Toolbox for Branches and Campaigns

Penny Sharpe MLC and Digital Campaign Coordinator Sally Foley provided attendees with the tools they will need to bring their branch and campaign into Web 2.0. The interactive workshop taught members through the use of social networking platforms in campaigning.

Australia's Aid to Burma

Tanya Plibersek MP accompanied by Burmese Activist Manu Paw, APHEDA representative Zoe Bedford and Alistair Gee from Act for Peace as they discussed Burma's humanitarian crisis and Australia's role in assisting.

Palestinian Statehood?

In September, the UN General Assembly will consider recognition of a Palestinian state. The panel consisting of Melissa Parke MP, Member for Fremantle and ex-UNWRA Lawyer, Izzat Abdulhawi, the Palestinian Head of Delegation in Australia and Associate Professor Ben Saul from the University of Sydney discussed the impacts of the decision and the benefits of a Palestinian state.

Ending Mandatory Detention

Writer Ngareta Rossell and RAC spokesperson, refugee and asylum speaker advocate discussed the future of Australia's refugee policies. Chaired by Shane Prince and Linda Scott, this event aimed to create awareness for this cause.

How to Run a Campaign on 10K or Less

Glenn Elliott-Rudder, Sam Parker and Robyn Hakelis from the Wagga Wagga Branch shared their experiences of running an election on a low budget.



Rebuilding a mass political party: Bob Carr shares with delegates how he believes we can rebuild.

Country Delegates Lunch

Country Labor hosted a lunch for country delegates during the Saturday lunch break, and took the opportunity to launch its website. The Hon Dr Mike Kelly MP, Member for Eden-Monaro and Janelle Saffin MP both spoke about what being a Country Labor MP means to them, and what the Federal Government is delivering for rural and regional Australia. Delegates from around NSW enjoyed the opportunity to catch up and share experiences with each other. The Hon Mick Veitch MLC also made a presentation to Mick Lawler to recognise his work for Country Labor over many years.



Delegates from Country Labor had the opportunity to meet other Members from around NSW.



Robert and Jenny Aitchison with the Member for Cessnock, Clayton Barr at the Country Delegates Lunch.



Members of Parliament, past and present, attended the Country Delegates Reception.

Election Results

Paul Scully, NSW Labor Returning Officer presented the results of the Ballot before the close of Conference on the Sunday. The results were as follows (all contested and non contested positions):

PRESIDENT

Michael Lee

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Tara Moriarty, Mark Boyd

GENERAL SECRETARY

Sam Dastyari

STATE ORGANISER

Brendan Cavanagh

ORGANISER COMMUNICATIONS & TRAINING

Kaila Murnain

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mark Lennon
Jan Primrose
Tony Sheldon
Gerard Dwyer
Mal Tulloch
Kirsten Andrews
Sally McManus
Wayne Forno
Grahame Kelly
Prue Guillaume
Sharon Claydon
Barbara Nebart
Anthony D'Adam
Graeme Kelly
Jenny McAllister
Mark Ptolemy
Tim Ayres
Russ Collison
Geoff Derrick
Julie Sibraa
Alex Claassens
Jim Metcher
Kate Washington
Davina Langton
Rita Mallia

AGENDA COMMITTEE

David Bliss
Jan Burnswoods
Jamie Clements
BJ Jafari
Janice Kershaw
Trish Marinozzi
Alex Morrison
Peter Primrose
Janai Tabbernor

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CHAIR

George Houssos

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR

Rose Jackson

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Mark Adler
Maurice Campbell
Sara Howson
Iris Knight
Daniel Kyriacou
Ausseela Thanaphongsakorn
Joe Tripodi
Dom Tubier
Peter Zangari

DISPUTES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Natalie Bradbury

DISPUTES COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR

Jennifer Glass

DISPUTES COMMITTEE

Michael Butterworth
Sam Crosby
Pat Garcia
Jo Haylen
Sabina Husic
Daniel Kicuroski
David McElrea
Amber Setchell
Jay Suvaal

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sabina Husic
Janice Kershaw
Ian McCarthy
Warren Soos
Pam Ward

MACHINERY COMMITTEE PROXY PANEL

Michael Buckland
Darcy Byrne
Tegan Gilchrist
Tom Hollywood
Eloise Howse
Jason Kara
Tamsin Lloyd
Trish Marinozzi
Luke McCaskie
Mark McLeay
Ian McNamara
Lenda Oshalem
Chris Sirokos
Janai Tabbernor
Michael Zelinsky

PLATFORM COMMITTEE CONVENOR

Hon Amanda Fazio MLC

PLATFORM COMMITTEE DEPUTY CONVENOR

Hon Peter Primrose MLC

PLATFORM COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Rob Allen

REVIEW TRIBUNAL

Phillip Boulten
Sarah Conway
Kelli Field
Korena Flanagan
David Harris
Emma Maiden
Greg McLean
David Tierney
Susan Tracey

RULES COMMITTEE

Katie Ford
Hon Peter Primrose MLC
Michael Buckland
Jan Burnswoods
Hon Amanda Fazio MLC
Anthony D'Adam
Wayne Meaney
Rob Allen
Talal Yassine

TRUSTEES

John Birch, Marilyn Dodkin, Ken Murray

NSW LABOR WOMEN'S FORUM CHAIR

Elizabeth Scully

NSW LABOR WOMEN'S FORUM DEPUTY CHAIR

Diane Minnis

NSW LABOR WOMEN'S FORUM SECRETARY

Danielle Bevins

NSW LABOR WOMEN'S FORUM

Anne Bali
Carol Berry
Maria Catanzariti
Mel Gatfield
Prue Guillaume
Elizabeth Larbalestier
Trish Marinozzi
Karen McKeown
Lenda Oshalem
Jelena Samardzic
Amy Smith
Ausseela Thanaphongsakorn

NATIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Anthony Albanese	Russ Collison	Paul Howes	Roger Price
Gerry Ambrosine	Paddy Crumlin	Ed Husic	Jan Primrose
Kirsten Andrews	Sam Dastyari	Rose Jackson	Chris Quilkey
Mark Arbib	Geoff Derrick	Johnno Johnson	Rebecca Reilly
Louise Arnfield	Marilyn Dodkin	Michael Kaine	Scott Rhodes
Tim Ayres	Greg Donnelly	Graeme Kelly	Narelle Rich
Stephen Bali	Charles Donzow	Janice Kershaw	Bernie Riordan
Paul Bastian	Richard Downie	Judith Knight	Michelle Rowland
Derrick Belan	Gerard Dwyer	Michael Lee	Linda Scott
Sharon Bird	Justine Elliot	Mark Lennon	Anthony Sheldon
David Bliss	Pierre Esber	Susan Lines	Julie Sibraa
Phillip Boulten	John Faulkner	Tony Maher	Amy Smith
Chris Bowen	Julia Finn	Rita Mallia	Bernie Smith
Mark Boyd	Verity Firth	Morris May	Craig Smith
Carrine Boyle	Joel Fitzgibbon	Jenny McAllister	Felicity Smithson
Natalie Bradbury	Sue Fletcher	Robert McClelland	Ursula Stephens
David Bradbury	Nadine Flood	Kirk McKenzie	Louise Tarrant
Michael Buckland	Wayne Forno	Greg McLean	David Tierney
Tony Burke	Michael Forshaw	Sally McManus	Robert Tonkli
Linda Burney	Andy Gillespie	Wayne Meaney	Joe Tripodi
Darcy Byrne	John Graham	Jim Metcher	Barry Tubner
Nicole Campbell	Margaret Hains	Tania Milhailuk	Mal Tulloch
Chris Christodoulou	Robyn Hakelis	Chris Minns	Marryn Wagstaff
Alex Claassens	Noreen Hay	Tara Moriarty	Wendy Waller
Jenny Clapham	Tony Hay	Belinda Neal	Chris Warren
Jason Clare	Jo Haylen	Barbara Nebart	Mariusz Werstak
Claydon Sharon	Sonia Hornery	Deborah O'Neill	Michael Williamson

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