

# SUNDAY Territorian

Sunday, June 19, 2005

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## MASSACRE

Burke loses his seat in Labor landslide



VICTORY: Clare Martin celebrates last night as Millner MLA Matthew Bonson looks on. Picture: SUSAN BOWN

### LIKELY STATE OF PARTIES

| Party | Seats |
|-------|-------|
| ALP   | 18    |
| CLP   | 6     |
| IND   | 1     |

2001 RESULT: ALP 13, CLP 10, IND 2

By PAUL DYER  
Chief Political Reporter

CLARE Martin led Labor to an astonishing victory in the Northern Territory election yesterday.

The ALP will have up to 18 seats and the CLP as few as six in the 25-seat Legislative Assembly.

Opposition Leader Denis Burke lost his seat and his deputy, Richard Lim, is in danger from Alice Springs mayor Fran Kilgariff.

Ms Martin held back tears as she claimed victory at the NT Electoral Commission tally room at 9.08pm.

"I need to pinch myself - I don't think I quite believe it," she said.

"After five days of a flu and a long campaign today, it is an emotional time."

Mr Burke, also tearful, conceded defeat at 8.40pm.

"I'm sorry - I feel responsible," he told supporters at the Darwin Golf Club.

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- FULL RESULTS: EVERY SEAT
- CLARE'S VICTORY SPEECH
- ALICE WRAP
- ALP SWEEPS DARWIN
- YOUR SAY

INSIDE



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SUNDAY SPORT

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MEN no longer have an excuse to leave suckling of their crying children to women, as a new report on fatherhood says the male nipple offers just as much comfort to a fretful infant.

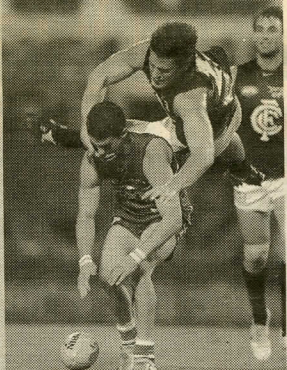
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ALL the action from the Western Bulldogs' 46-point trouncing of Carlton at Marrara in Darwin



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# Party time for Labor faithful

By PAUL DYER

THE Territory's Labor faithful last night swung into party mode in the wake of Chief Minister Clare Martin's landslide election victory.

About 300 people greeted her with thunderous applause when she arrived at the Waratahs Club in Darwin.

Declaring the victory, Ms Martin said securing a second term had come as a shock.

"Four years ago I was surprised that we won," she said.

"And I think surprise is how I feel tonight that we

have actually increased that majority. I want to thank Territorians for their confidence in this Labor Government to give us a mandate for another four years."

Ms Martin also received plenty of applause when she arrived at the tally room last night, where she held a press conference to declare the win.

She said the victory had been based on four years of hard work — and plans for the future.

"I feel very privileged and honoured that Territorians have had trust in this Labor Government and had trust in me as Chief Minister," Ms Martin said.

"I can say with confidence that this Labor Government is returned — at this stage it looks like we have two additional seats, maybe three.

"We will govern for every Territorian — right across this wonderful Territory."

Ms Martin was joined by her partner David Alderman and son Jake in the tally room.

The Chief Minister's daughter, Chloe — who was last night in Halls Creek — also had called to congratulate her triumphant mother.

"It is a great win," Mr Alderman said. "It is just fabulous — I am so proud."

Ms Martin said she also had

spoken to Opposition Leader Denis Burke.

"I offered him my sympathies about losing his seat, which looks like it has happened," she said.

"You wouldn't wish that on anyone — and certainly not on the Opposition Leader."

Ms Martin admitted such a sweeping victory was a big responsibility.

She said her focus would now be on improving health and education.

"What I would like to see over the next four years is us to really deliver — right across the Territory," she said.



## CELEBRATION: Elliot McAdam is surrounded by supporters at Tennant Creek last night Emotional win dedicated to brother

By JASMIN AFIANOS  
in Tennant Creek

Elliot McAdam last night dedicated his comfortable victory in the Tennant Creek-based seat of Barkly to his older brother, who died of cancer just 10 days ago.

He said his campaign had been "emotional".

Mr McAdam defeated CLP candidate Val Dyer with a double-digit swing and celebrated with supporters at the Tennant Creek Bowling Club.

"I'm so grateful to everyone who has demonstrated their faith in me by returning me to parliament with an increased majority," he said.

"I've worked hard this past term because I really care

about the community and want to see Barkly prosper.

"I admit I am overwhelmed by the support I have received from voters ... this gives me incentive to work even harder in the coming term."

Mr McAdam thanked his partner, Barb Shaw, and campaign manager Kent Peak. He paid tribute to Ms Dyer and independent Janeen Bulsey.

## Bonson earns a light beer

THE member for what was the Territory's most marginal seat celebrated his re-election with a few quiet beers last night.

Millner MLA Matthew Bonson said: "Last time I drank water all night — this time I deserved a light beer."

The Labor backbencher won the Darwin seat with an 18.5 per cent swing to him, a far cry from his 82-vote margin of 2001.

"I feel great but I feel very humble — if it wasn't for the people of Millner I would not have got in," he said. "The big issue was the economy."

Mr Bonson, a lawyer, said he now wanted to be sports minister in the government, and attorney-general.

Of the losers, former CLP member-turned Independent Phil Mitchell beat controversial CLP candidate Paul Mossman.

## Martin romps home to victory

FROM: Page 1

Two senior CLP figures, Steve Dunham and Sue Carter, are also in danger of losing their seats.

If Ms Carter loses, Labor will hold every Darwin seat only 10 years after it held none.

Labor achieved a double-digit swing in almost every electorate.

The stampede was held up only in Alice Springs.

The CLP was, in effect, reduced to being a Central Australian party last night.

Jodeen Carney — tipped as the next leader of the party — increased her majority in the seat of Araluen.

And Michael Jones was threatening to regain Braitling for the CLP from Independent Lorraine Braham.

Fay Miller held off a Labor challenge in the once-solid CLP seat of Katherine.

The party seems to have lost up to five seats.

CLP Senator Nigel Scullion said Labor had driven the party into the ground.

"This is a political tsunami," he said.

Solomon MHR Dave Tollner said the CLP had been "decimated".

The Greens did well in the 11 seats the party contested.

Greens leader Ilana Eldridge said it was the best result achieved by a minor party in Territory history.

But the independents were squeezed out in the election.

It is likely that the only independent will be Gerry Wood in the Darwin rural seat of Nelson.

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## Ice coffee celebration

THE Territory's larrikin independent member downed light ice coffees with chook T-shirt-wearing supporters to celebrate victory last night.

Nelson MLA Gerry Wood was re-elected in his rural Darwin electorate with a 27 per cent swing to him, 66 per cent counted.

"I'm relieved and overwhelmed really," he said from the Howard Springs unit of his secretary, Jenny Hillier.

"Perhaps I bring a different approach ... I started politics later in life. People say they don't see me as a politician. I have humour — they want someone who's like a lot of rural people are."

Mr Wood said he would not want to be parliamentary speaker if it meant less time with his constituents.

"My electorate comes first." The former chicken farmer held his seat despite a redistribution that saw 500 Robertson Barracks voters shift to his seat — which had been expected to favour the CLP.

### FAST FACT

THIS is the first election where candidates names were drawn rather than listed alphabetically

## Keith not phased

INTERIOR decorator Keith Phasey was a nose ahead to retain the rural Darwin seat of Goyder for the CLP last night.

With 74 per cent of votes counted, the CLP suffered a 21.3 per cent swing against it.

Only eight days before yesterday's election, police searched the Phasey household in Virginia after the WA coroner ordered an investigation into five cancer patient deaths. His wife Simone is a registered nurse.

Mr Phasey said a "nasty" political trick was responsible for the media arriving at his home one hour after the police search.

"It was vicious — I don't know where it came from," he said.

Mr Phasey did not think publicity about sacked CLP Member Peter Maley running a law firm, while a polmie, hurt his chances.

## WE'RE WATCHING

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Darwin        | 113.6c |
| Katherine     | 110.5c |
| Tennant Creek | 127.2c |
| Alice Springs | 117.9c |
| Cairns        | 103.9c |
| Brisbane      | 102.9c |
| Sydney        | 107.8c |
| Melbourne     | 110.9c |
| Adelaide      | 100.2c |
| Hobart        | 110.3c |
| Perth         | 104.4c |

Average unleaded pump prices yesterday. Compiled from fuel price resources calculated by Shell around Australia.

# Emotional Burke takes the blame



GONE: A crushed Denis Burke concedes last night. Picture: JULIANNE OSBORNE



HUG: Annette Burke is consoled by one of her friends

By SUELLEN HINDE

CLP Leader Denis Burke had tears welling in his eyes as he conceded defeat to 150 party faithful at the Darwin Golf Club at 8.40pm.

He took the blame for the second defeat of his party, saying he was "very disappointed and sorry".

"For the CLP it is a bitterly disappointing result," Mr Burke said.

"It is bitterly disappointing result for me personally. I feel responsible — there is no question of that. And certainly for the decisions I made in this campaign, I accept the fact that they didn't work."

Mr Burke is in grave danger of losing his own seat of Brennan — but he refused to concede defeat last night.

"It is not looking good at the moment," he said.

"But there are something like another 1000 votes to be counted."

"I won't concede yet but it is looking pretty bad."

And as for his leadership: "I am flat out even continuing in my own seat at the moment."

Surrounded by his family, Mr Burke said he felt the CLP ran a good, clean and positive campaign.

"But the campaign was not sufficient to gain the trust of Territorians and for that I can only say I am

very disappointed and I am very sorry," he said. And Mr Burke's wife, Palmerston Mayor Annette Burke burst into tears, hugging her son, Sam, as her husband thanked his family for support.

"This is the second time my family has stood up here and took the brunt of a very tough and hard defeat," Mr Burke said.

"Life goes on, tomorrow is another day and the sun comes up and we will all think about the time ahead and I know I owe everything to the support of my family and they will always be with me."

He thanked everyone who voted for the CLP.

"Thank you for having faith in policies and I am so sorry we couldn't get a better result," he said.

As to why the CLP lost for a second time Mr Burke said that there was a deeper problem.

"There is a deeper issue with the CLP and clearly with me as leader that we have got to review as a party," he said.

"We need to fix ourselves structurally and work hard to win the confidence of Territorians back."

CLP president Paul Bunker said he felt one of the reasons the CLP lost was the poor voter turnout.

## Labor takes Daly easily Decision will take a week

FORMER park ranger Robert Knight was last night elected to Parliament with a massive 30 per cent swing to Labor in Daly.

"The bush seats are really hard to win," Mr Knight said.

"It comes down to personal relationships and taking your time to travel and meet people."

Mr Knight, 38, contested the 2001 election but lost to the CLP's Tim Baldwin. Mr Baldwin opted not to contest the seat this time.

Mr Knight intends to make his political career "a long one".

Daly takes in Adelaide River, Timber Creek, Batchelor, Wadeye and Acacia Hills.

By REBECCA HEWETT

CANDIDATES in the Darwin seat of Drysdale will have to wait up to a week until postal votes are counted to find out who has won.

Labor candidate Chris Natt — who was ahead by less than 1 per

cent last night with 57 per cent of the votes counted — said he was "stunned and humbled" to have fought such a close-run race with the CLP's Stephen Dunham.

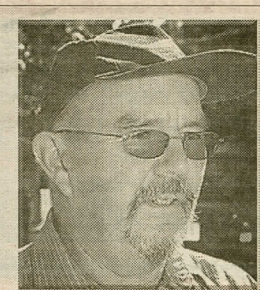
Mr Dunham has held the seat since it was created in 1997 and won 65 per cent of the primary vote in the 2001 election.



'I haven't really been taking that much notice ... I've been too busy'  
— SHERIDAN BARNES, 23, MILLNER



'The way they (party leaders) tried to win was by putting each other down'  
— MAX DITORO, 26, JOHNSTON



'There were no strong issues really. It boiled down to personalities'  
— ROB HALL, 64, KARAMA



## New face in House

ONE of the NT's most familiar faces last night won her seat with more than 76 per cent of the vote after the distribution of preferences.

Barbara McCarthy, who has read the news on ABC TV for seven years, said she was "just so grateful to the electorate" for electing her to the seat of Arnhem.

"I feel incredibly overwhelmed by the faith people have placed in me," she said.

"I'm so gratified that the electorate has chosen me to take over from John Ah Kit.

"It's still quite surreal, I'm still trying to take it all in."

Ms McCarthy gained a 15.2 per cent swing to Labor.

The former journalist won preselection in Arnhem after Sports Minister John Ah Kit announced he was leaving politics for health reasons.

Mr Ah Kit had held the seat since 1995.

The electorate takes in Groote Eylandt, Beswick, Ngukkur and Milngimbi.

## Turning to whisky

By STEPHEN JOHNSON

FORMER Opposition leader Terry Mills downed six scotches last night to deal with the CLP's devastating election loss.

"I don't normally drink but I'm drinking tonight," he said from the Darwin Golf Club at Marrara. "I'm not a teetotaler - I have a scotch occasionally and I've had five or six. I never expected this to happen."

Mr Mills, who held his Palmerston seat of Blain despite an 11 per cent swing against him, said it was too early to say whether he would contest the party leadership.

"I'm saying tomorrow is another day and there's a bit of work to be done before we consider such things," he said. "Lessons have to be learned and applied before I respond."

Mr Mills, who quit the leadership in February, said Labor swamped the CLP's message and the electorate had spoken.

### FAST FACT

TERRITORY electorates have an average of 4478 voters

## Scrymgour belts in

LABOR'S Community Services Minister Marion Scrymgour last night said she was "stunned and humbled" by the size of the swing towards her.

"It was an amazing vote of confidence," Ms Scrymgour said. "Over the four years I've worked really hard, and done the best I could to represent people in my electorate, but this has really floored me."

Ms Scrymgour won almost 75 per cent of the vote in Arafura - after the distribution of preferences - and oversaw a 15 per cent swing to Labor.

Arafura takes in the Tiwi Islands, Maningrida, Jabiru and Milikapiti and covers almost 202,000 sq km.

# Labor rout sweeps CLP out of Darwin

By NIGEL ADLAM

LABOR swept Darwin's northern suburbs yesterday - and picked up an inner-city CLP stronghold as a bonus.

The ALP now holds every Darwin seat. Ten years ago it held none.

The CLP needed to win back at least three marginals - Millner, Sanderson and Johnston - to have any hope of returning to power.

But all three were swept up by the ALP with substantially increased majorities.

One of the biggest shocks of the night was the defeat of CLP leadership aspirant Sue Carter in Port Darwin.

Labor's low-profile candidate Kerry Sacilotto won the seat - which includes the upmarket suburbs of Larrakeyah and Cullen Bay - with a 14.8 per cent swing.

Chief Minister Clare Martin retained Fannie Bay comfortably with an 8 per cent swing.

Her high-profile opponent, Eddie Fry, was

touted as a potential future CLP chief minister.

Business Minister Paul Henderson set the scene for the carnage when he achieved an 8 per cent swing in Wanguri, the first northern suburbs seat won by Labor in a by-election in 1989.

The CLP held high hopes for its Casuarina candidate, Wendy Green.

But Mines Minister Kon Vatskalis achieved a 17.6 per cent swing.

The only sour note for the ALP was a 3.5 per cent fall in the vote in Nightcliff.

Former Health Minister Jane Aagaard held the seat comfortably, but Greens leader Ilana Eldridge won 16 per cent of the vote.



I DO AND I VOTE: Kylie Gallagher stopped in to vote yesterday before getting married. Picture: JULIANNE OSBORNE

## Get me to the polling booth on time, says bride

A TERRITORY bride-to-be made a quick dash to the polling booth as she was chauffeur-driven to her wedding yesterday.

Kylie Gallagher, 34, wore a flowing white bridal gown into the polling booth at Bayview in Darwin about 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

"I wouldn't get to vote very often in a wedding dress so it's part of the excitement and the fun," she said.

"Thank you, Clare Martin, for calling the election on our wedding day."

"We were first and they stole the date from us."

Ms Gallagher put on her wedding gown just half an hour before she went down to vote.

The next stop was a sunset harbour cruise where she tied the knot with James Kernaghan, an executive with the oil and gas company Woodside.

The Woodleigh Gardens, Darwin, couple's children Ben, six, and two-year-old Levi joined them on their wedding boat, which departed from Cullen Bay. As for election issues, Ms Gallagher's mind was focused on her own big day instead of politics.

## Syd basks in 10pc swing

By ROD NEIL in Nhulunbuy

SYD Stirling comfortably won the seat of Nhulunbuy.

He achieved a swing of more than 10 per cent.

The Deputy Chief Minister outpolled CLP candidate Peter Manning more than two to one.

Mr Stirling has been in Parliament for more than 10 years and this is expected to be his last term.

But he refused to confirm that last night.

The Minister said the resounding victory was a tribute to Clare Martin's leadership. "It's a tremendous result for Labor," he said.

"It's an overwhelming vote of confidence."

Former Northern Land Council chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu had threatened to campaign against Mr Stirling over Labor's outlawing of underage brides.

But he made no public comment on the election.



PARTY: Syd and his family at Nhulunbuy last night



# Alice loves the CLP

## Red Centre is the conservative's last bastion

By GREG THOMSON  
in Alice Springs

ALICE Springs was touted as the last bastion of the CLP after the party held its two urban seats and was poised to collect a third last night.

CLP Braintree candidate Michael Jones and the CLP's Araluen MLA Jodeen Carney were the only conservatives out of 25 Territory seats to record swings to the party.

But in a boost for the Alice Springs branch of the ALP, the party claimed the

seat of Macdonnell held for the past two terms by the CLP's John Elferink.

Former ATSIC Commissioner Alison Anderson was confident of winning after achieving a two-party preferred vote of 1046 to Mr Elferink's 411 votes.

She attributed her win to a grassroots campaign.

Ms Anderson said: "I tried to keep a positive message throughout the campaign and that was the difference in the end."

In conceding defeat, Mr Elferink, a former policeman, used a radio interview to appeal to employers.

Mr Elferink told the *Sunday Territorian*: "It looks like I have been wiped off the planet."

Nursing his three-week-old daughter Eleanor, Mr Elferink said: "I've got to say have had a philosophical approach to this."

"I have held a Labor seat for eight years and faced a high-profile candidate who was resourceful."

In urban Alice Springs, CLP vice-president David Forrest said he was pleased the branch had held the line against large swings against the CLP elsewhere in the Territory.

In Braintree, the CLP's Michael Jones was trailing Independent MLA Loraine Braham by just five votes.

CLP party workers were quietly confident postal and pre-polling votes would put Mr Jones ahead.

Mrs Braham said: "All I can say is that I'd rather be five votes in front than five votes behind."

"We'll have to wait a few days and no doubt there will be recount at the end of it."

Mr Jones said it could take a week before an outcome is known.

He attributed his swing to an 18-month campaign.

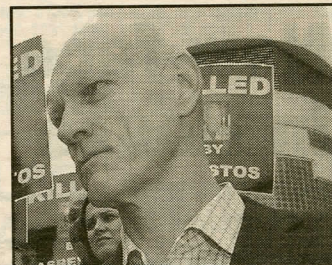
He said: "The Labor Party has neglected this seat for years."

"Whether we win or lose now, I am very proud of the work we have done."

Elsewhere in Alice Springs, Greaterex MLA Richard Lim was leading high-profile Labor candidate and former Alice Springs mayor Fran Kilgariff by just 82 votes.

Mrs Kilgariff said: "I'm not giving up yet, it's still far too close to call."

In Araluen, Ms Carney was leading Labor's John Gaynor 1617 to 1216.



Peter Garrett

## Garrett involved

HIGH-profile ALP member and conservationist Peter Garrett phoned an Alice Springs Greens candidate to convince him to direct his preferences to Labor.

But Greens candidate for Greaterex candidate David Howard Mortimer had already made up his mind.

Mr Garrett phoned Mr Mortimer on Friday afternoon, eight days out from the election. Mr Mortimer said: "I was surprised, but I'd already made the decision."

"Yes, Peter Garrett did call me for the purpose of ... well to see if he could persuade me to direct my preferences to the ALP."

But other factors had already swayed his thinking.

"I think Richard Lim's been there far too long. I have a very long memory. It's no secret that I was a member of the CLP. I happened to be at the meeting of the long knives when they axed Loraine Braham."

### FAST FACT

IN AN NT election first, voters could have their names crossed off an electoral roll if they cast a ballot outside of their electorate.

## Smooth running

AT JUST 25, NT Electoral Commission worker Jason Botten is a veteran of six state and Federal elections.

As NTEC officer-in-charge of the Living Waters Lutheran Primary School booth in the seat of Braintree, his role is to ensure smooth running of the booth.

Mr Botten, a KFC restaurant manager, said he was lured to cyclical electoral work by his father.

"I worked my first election as an 18-year-old in Adelaide as it's something my father has done for years," he said.

"We have six NTEC workers at this booth and our role pretty much is to keep the people under control."

Mr Botten said his team had to co-ordinate Braintree votes as well as absenteeism ballots for other seats.

At 6pm the sealed boxes would be opened and counting began, observed by party scrutineers, he said.

The officers count each ballot before phoning in their results to Darwin.

## Miller survives swing

By ERIC TLOZEK  
in Katherine

THE CLP's Fay Miller is likely to hold the seat of Katherine by a whisker but suffered a massive 12.9 per cent swing against her.

Katherine was once the CLP's safest seat with the party outpolling Labor two to one.

Mrs Miller, 58, won all three of the town's polling booths. She won 52 per cent of the primary vote with 70.9 per cent of votes counted.

"I had some tough competition from Sharon Hillen. She's a very good candidate and has a commitment to Katherine," she said.

Ms Hillen described the result as a "cliffhanger".

Mrs Miller said the devastation of the CLP gave the party a chance to reassess itself.

"I'm in a state of shock," she said. "I'm expecting a caning from the Government."

Key issues were the sighting of the cultural precinct and protection of the Daly River.



SIZZLING: CLP's Fay Miller threw a few snags on the barbie at Rotary Park. Ms Miller won 52 per cent of the vote. Picture: PETER BENNETT

## Poll day good for ducks

VOTERS ran more than just a political gauntlet as the heaviest rain in more than a year fell across Alice Springs yesterday.

At Gillen Primary School, political candidates for the CLP-held seat of Araluen jostled for a prominent place and a dry footing.

About 10mm of rain had fallen by early afternoon yesterday.

Labor candidate John Gaynor said the rain alone was enough cause for celebration.

Greens candidate Alan Tyley, who co-manages Keringke Arts at Santa Teresa, 90km south of Alice, was also in the race for Araluen.

Despite all three candidates being within a metre or so of each other, relations between them were cordial. Ms Carney said election day was always fun, and said: "We've found the Greens campaign workers very easy to deal with but the ALP workers are neither easy nor pleasant to deal with."

## Bullied Lim cries foul

AN ALICE Springs politician will file a police complaint over a claim he was bullied by ALP supporters at a polling booth yesterday.

Greaterex MLA Richard Lim said three ALP workers threatened and intimidated him over placement of election posters at Charles Darwin University campus.

"People who touch electioneering material are breaking the law. I will be reporting to the police," he said.

The dispute erupted after Labor workers allegedly lowered CLP posters on poles. In their place were posters of the ALP's Fran Kilgariff.

When the *Sunday Territorian* questioned a Labor staff member yesterday, he denied any knowledge of the incident and dismissed it as "all in Dr Lim's head".

The CLP politician said he was surrounded as he tried to replace a poster. He said he was frightened.



"I think Labor's the way to go for electricity bills, I have heard. I just had to enrol"

— RICO ABELLANOSA,  
20, JOHNSTON



"It's (the election campaign) been as boring as s-t. It's a whole pack of bloody lies"

— PETER CHILCOTT  
56, MILLNER

### FAST FACTS

- YESTERDAY'S election cost taxpayers \$1 million.
- The NT had 111,954 enrolled voters at this election.
- The Territory Electoral Commission employed 675 people.
- The smallest electorate in the Territory, Karama in Darwin, covers 3.38sq km while the seat of MacDonnell in central Australia covers 333,399sq km.