

Liberal Party of Australia 2002 Annual Report



PROTECTING
SECURING
BUILDING
AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE

President's Report



Hon. Shane L Stone QC
Federal President

Your federal organisation continues to work tirelessly in support of the Howard Government. As I travel across Australia I sense a strong recognition that the Howard Government has a clear agenda for protecting, securing and building Australia's future.

In a time of continuing global uncertainty, the responsible economic management of the Howard Government has enabled Australia to ride out the current international economic downturn while still being able to afford greater measures to increase security for our nation and our borders. We live in uncertain times as evidenced most starkly by the Bali atrocity and our involvement, rightly, in freeing the Iraqi people. The world changed on September 11, 2001 and Australia is not immune from world events.

The Howard Government is a team effort. The 'broad Church' of the Liberal Party is no myth. I want to thank not only the hard working Liberal Members and Senators but also our volunteer unpaid party members who work tirelessly in support of their elected members behind the scenes. They are the lifeblood of our Party. Without the membership there is no Party, the ordinary mums and dads, young and old people alike, culturally diverse and of varying socio economic backgrounds and yet all inspired by a belief in our side of politics.

In 2002 we farewelled a key figure in the last three Federal Liberal victories. Lynton Crosby retired after a decade of professional service to the Party, serving firstly as Queensland State Director, then as Deputy Federal Director to Andrew Robb AO, and later as Federal Director.

Lynton left the Federal Secretariat with a magnificent record of electoral success and with headquarters in the best possible shape in the lead up to the next campaign. On your behalf I want to thank Lynton and Dawn for the part they played in keeping Australia in safe hands.

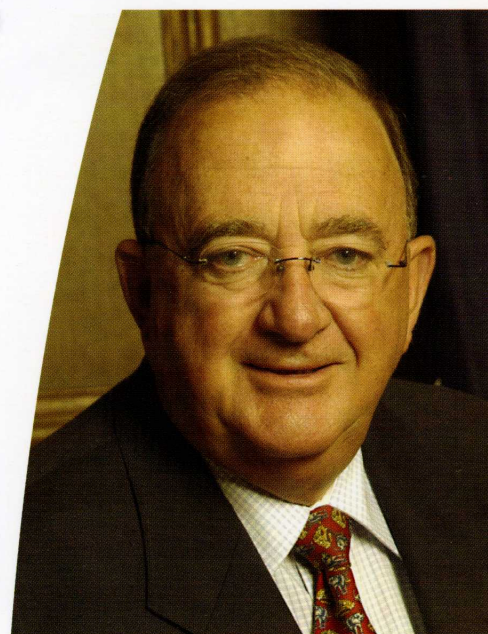
I also welcome Brian Loughnane to the Federal Secretariat. Brian brings a depth of experience from his former positions in both State and Federal Governments over a long period of service and I look forward to working closely with Brian in the time ahead. Welcome also to Peta, who is well known already to many Liberals from her involvement in the Party.

Congratulations to Andrew Robb who was recently awarded an Officer in the Order of Australia (General Division). Andrew continues his tireless work for the Liberal Party through the NSW Division.



"The continued success of the Federal Liberal Party relies on all State Divisions to rejuvenate their ranks and their zeal in the face of recent electoral setbacks."

The ability of the Liberal Party to win government federally relies directly upon the fortunes of the State Divisions. Like the Commonwealth the Federal Liberal Party is very much a creature of the States. All Divisions sit at the table of the Federal Executive – State Presidents and State Directors. Federally we do not act in a vacuum or indeed alone.



Bruce McDonald
Federal Vice President

We rely on the ability of State Divisions to build and maintain an energetic and diverse membership from which they can select quality candidates who reflect the community. Federal candidates are preselected by State Divisions who accept certain responsibilities in the fundraising for those candidates. Our fortunes are intertwined.

We also rely on all State Divisions working hard over the entire life of the State and Federal Parliaments to take the fight up to Labor.

We rely on robust policy debate from which the Federal Government can garner an understanding of the views of the membership.

We rely on the professionalism of the State Divisions to demonstrate to the public and to the business community that we are ready to govern at all levels of government.

And importantly we rely on a first class fundraising effort to counter Labor's advantage from the Trade Union Movement.

The continued success of the Federal Liberal Party relies on all State Divisions to rejuvenate their ranks and their zeal in the face of recent electoral setbacks.

With a finely balanced majority federally we do not have room to allow for candidates chosen on any other basis than merit. We do not have room to allow for sub-standard fundraising or campaign preparations. We do not have room for complacency and laziness. There is absolutely no room for division – take a good hard look at ➔

Wendy Spry
Federal Vice President



President's Report

Labor federally. The Australian people expect us to earn their vote through sheer hard work and commitment to them.

Any Division, Parliamentarian or Candidate who believes that they can cut corners due to a bounce in the opinion polls deludes themselves. Polls reflect the past, not the future. The future is determined by us – our elected members and the party workers.

We have the chance to build another historic victory for the Liberal Party. But, more importantly, we have an obligation to the Australian people to ensure we are re-elected in order to keep Australia in the safe and experienced hands of a Liberal-National Government.

The Liberal Party cannot take a single vote for granted in the upcoming Federal election. We face not only a cash and asset rich Federal Labor Opposition, but also Coast-to-Coast State Labor Governments equally well resourced.

I'd like to pay tribute to former Senators Margaret Reid and John Herron who retired from the Senate last year. Taking their places are Senators Gary Humphries (ACT) and Santo Santoro (Qld). I wish them all the best.

Our State and Territory Parliamentary Parties have also seen some change in their leadership, and I would like to wish Rene Hidding in Tasmania and Brendan Smyth in the ACT all the best in the 'long march' from Opposition to Government. In that task they are joined by John Brogden, Colin Barnett, Rob Kerin, Bob Quinn and Robert Doyle. I would also like to thank former leaders Denis Naphthine, Kerry Chikarovski, Bob Cheek and Gary Humphries for all their hard work. We should never forget those who have gone before as was evidenced by the Federal Outstanding Service Award presented to the Honourable Lindsay Thompson AO CGM in Melbourne this year.

Congratulations to Deirdre Flint on her re election as President of the Women's Division and Grant Muller as President of the Young Liberal Movement. We have farewelled Ian Carson from Victoria – a special thank you to Ian - and welcome Helen Kroger. Chris McDiven (NSW), Gary Kent (ACT), Doug Chipman (Tasmania) and Michael Caltabiano (QLD) have all been re elected – congratulations to you all. Rosemary Craddock (SA) will retire at the next State Council AGM as required under the Division's rules. Thank you Rosemary for your outstanding support and encouragement.



To my fellow Federal Executive members I want to record my profound appreciation to the two Vice Presidents Wendy Spry and Bruce McDonald. Both work tirelessly and unstintingly on your behalf. I am enormously grateful for the continuing wise advice of my predecessor Tony Staley who continues a very active role as Past President. To our Treasurer Malcolm Turnbull a special thank you for the way he has continued the outstanding work of his predecessor Ron Walker. Malcolm's performance has been exceptional both as Treasurer and as Chairman of the Menzies Research Centre where he has been ably assisted by Jason Briant.

To all the staff at the secretariat — John, Colin, Bruce, Carol, Darren, Ashlee, Chris, Rebecca, Justin, Kerrie, Asta, Haylee and Todd and those staff who left during the year - Jacqui, Roxanne, Robyn, Carole, Stuart and Julianne — a very special thank you. The secretariat staff are a fantastic team that work round the clock for us.

Finally to our Prime Minister John Howard and Janette thank you for always reminding us that we are one — the Liberal Party of Australia.

Hon. Shane L. Stone QC
Federal President

International Report



William Hague addressing
a reception for IDU delegates
at Kirribilli House

The Liberal Party continues to value greatly its links with like-minded parties throughout the world through membership of the International Democrat Union and the Asia Pacific Democrat Union.

A highly successful Party Leaders Meeting was held by the International Democrat Union in Washington DC on 10 June. The Liberal Party's delegation was led by the Prime Minister. He was very well received at the meeting and was elected Chairman of the IDU for the next three years. His speech at the delegates' luncheon was one of the highlights of the occasion.

The Party Leaders Meeting heard reports from the more than 35 member parties present, and US Vice President Dick Cheney addressed the opening session. President Bush held a White House dinner for the delegation leaders. The previous Chairman, William Hague, was appointed as Deputy Chairman. Senator Robert Hill was among the Vice Chairmen re-elected.

Australia contributed 2 policy papers, on Reform of the United Nations and on New Approaches to Development Assistance, which were tabled in conjunction with the meeting and were well received.

A meeting of the IDU Executive had been held on 9 June. This was followed by a welcome dinner for delegates which was addressed by Karl Rove, a senior political adviser to the President and an outstanding political strategist.

The Prime Minister's first meeting as Chairman of the IDU Executive was in Mexico City on October 28.

2003 saw the successful holding of International Democrat Union meetings in Australia in early February.

The IDU's annual Young Leaders' Forum was held in Sydney on 2-4 February, the first time it has been held in Australia. This was the best attended Forum yet, with 77 participants from 29 countries. There were numerous speakers from around the world on a range of election campaigning and policy topics. Several Australian speakers were



"The IDU's annual Young Leaders' Forum was held in Sydney on 2-4 February, the first time it has been held in Australia. This was the best attended Forum yet, with 77 participants from 29 countries."

people who have had key roles in successful Liberal election campaigns. The Prime Minister hosted a reception for delegates at Kirribilli House, and Malcolm Turnbull gave a cocktail party at his home.

The IDU Executive then met in Canberra on 5 February, chaired by the Prime Minister. Among the decisions made was the setting up of a permanent Campaign Managers Committee to facilitate the

sharing of campaigning information between member parties. The Prime Minister then hosted a reception at The Lodge. During this reception, he made a special presentation to Joy Mein, in recognition of the years of service she has given as Chairman of the International Women's Democrat Union.

The meetings were highly successful, and overseas delegates expressed great appreciation for Australian hospitality.

The Liberal Party also actively involves itself with the Asia Pacific Democrat Union. A meeting of the Council of the APDU was held in Washington on 11 June, at which reports were received from member parties, including a presentation by Lynton Crosby on the 2001 Australian election campaign. Tony Eggleton was re-elected as Chairman and Bruce Edwards was elected as Executive Secretary.

The APDU next met in Canberra on 6 February 2003. That meeting was briefed by Daniel Calingaert, Asia Director of the International Republican Institute, on the IRI's work in this region. He also held a separate meeting with the Federal Secretariat, and arising from this there may be opportunities in the future for some closer involvement of the Liberal Party with the IRI's programs in Asia.

Hon. Shane L. Stone
Federal President