1. VALE JOAN KIRNER

Joan Kirner was born on 20 June 1938 in the Melbourne suburb of Essendon. She studied to become a teacher at university and later became President of the Victorian Federation of State School Parents’ Clubs.

Joan joined the Australian Labor Party in 1978 and was elected to the Upper House of the Victorian Parliament in 1982. She became the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Land in 1985. In this role, Joan introduced the first Australian legislation which gave legal protection to rare species and was instrumental in the formation of the first ever Landcare groups.

Joan was elected the Legislative Assembly in 1988 and subsequently became the Minister for Education. In this role, Joan introduced a new system of high school assessment – the Victorian Certificate of Education.

Joan became the Deputy Premier of Victoria in 1988 and in 1990 she became the first female Premier of Victoria following John Cain’s resignation. The Labor Government was defeated at the 1992 Election and Joan retired from Parliament in 1994.

She remained active in public affairs. Joan led the formation of EMILY’s List in Australia and was a leading figure in the introduction of the Party’s Affirmative Action rules at the 1994 National Conference. She has mentored many women Members of Parliament and candidates.

Joan’s career in politics and her subsequent work has been recognised over the years. In 2001 she was awarded the Centenary Medal. In 2012 she was named a Companion of the Order of Australia for “eminent service to the Parliament of Victoria and to the community through conservation initiatives, contributions to gender equality, the development of education and training programs and the pursuit of civil rights and social inclusion.”

Joan was diagnosed with cancer in 2013 and sadly passed away on 1 June 2015.
2. **VALE MAURIE LYNCH**

Maurice Lynch known to many as Maurie joined the ALP while working as a young builders labourer in Sydney on the 1950s.

The BLF was then noted as a conservative Union which relied on the arbitration system for improvements to wages and conditions. For labourers these were few and far between.

Maurie became involved in the BLF reform movement which eventually saw Jack Mundey because Secretary of the NSW Branch of the BLF and a period of workplace activism resulted in many improvements to wages for labourers in the building industry.

Maurie stood out at the time as a loyal ALP member in a communist dominated Union. It is a tribute to his character and standing within the union that he won an elected position in the union even though he wasn't part of the dominant group. After the BLF was amalgamated into the BWIU, Maurie moved to the Central Coast to organise the growing local building industry. He built a home at Killarney Vale for himself and wife Nanette.

After retiring from full time union activities Maurie was central to the development of The Entrance/ Bateau Bay Branch of the ALP where he was President. During his presidency, The Entrance Bateau Bay Branch grew to be one of the target and most vibrant branches in the area.

Maurie was also closely involved with the reformation of Central Coast Trades & Labour Council at a time when Central Coast Union affairs tended to be run out of Newcastle or Sydney.

After many years of service Maurie retired from full time branch work to care for his wife.

Maurie is survived by his wife Nanette.

3. **VALE JACK CAMBOURN**

Jack Cambourn passed away on 19 June 2015.

Jack was a stalwart of working class struggle. He was born in Balmain in 1928 and led the FEDFA for many years.

As Secretary of the NSW Branch of the FEDFA he was an early leader of the 1970s Green Banks Movement, which crucially saved so much Sydney heritage.

As National Secretary of the FEDFA his vision unified the membership and enabled the formation of the CFMEU.
4. OMBUDSMAN AND DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN

The role of the Party Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsman is to provide an informal way for Party members to have grievances heard and mediate disputes between Party members. Both positions are currently vacant. Therefore, expressions of interest are called for the following positions:

Ombudsman
Deputy Ombudsman

Amended Rule D.16 governs eligibility for these positions:

(a) To be eligible for election and to remain in office as Ombudsman or Deputy Ombudsman, a person must:

(i) Be a financial Party member;
(ii) Not hold a position on the Internal Appeals Tribunal, Review Tribunal, Administrative Committee, Finance Committee, Rules Committee, Platform Committee or Conference Policy and Agenda Committee;
(iii) Not hold public office;
(iv) Not be actively seeking election or appointment to public office; and
(v) Be of good fame and character.

Expressions of interest are called as follows:

Expressions of interest open: Monday, 6 July 2015
Expressions of interest close: 12 noon, Friday 25 July 2015

Expressions of interest should be sent to the NSW Labor General Secretary at the ALP (NSW Branch) Office, Level 9, 377 – 383 Sussex St, Sydney

5. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 47th National Conference of the Australian Labor Party will be held from 24 to 26 July 2015 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria.

Labor’s National Conference is the Party’s highest decision-making forum and Australia’s largest political gathering.

The Conference has always played an important role in defining the future direction of our Party and our nation. Discussions are already underway to draft the updated National Platform that will be debated by delegates in Melbourne.

NSW Labor will be strongly represented at the Conference by 109 Delegates.

For the first time in the Party’s history, 48 Delegates have been elected to represent their FEC’s.
6. APPOINTMENT OF PROXIES TO NATIONAL CONFERENCE

NSW Labor will be strongly represented at the 47th National Conference by 54 Proxy Delegates.

The list of Proxy Delegates is attached.

7. 2015 NSW LABOR STATE CONFERENCE

The 2015 NSW Labor State Conference will be held at the Sydney Town Hall on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October 2015.

Timetable for Agenda Items

The following timetable will apply for agenda items from all Party Units and Affiliated Unions:

- Rule Changes and Policy Platform Changes to be considered at Annual Conference must be received by the Party Office by 12noon Friday 31 July 2015.

- All other Annual Conference agenda items must also be received by the Party Office by 12noon Friday 7 August 2015.

Submission of policy

NSW Labor has launched a new website to allow Branch, SEC and FEC Secretaries as well as Affiliated Unions to submit policy motions online.

Secretaries can submit motions via: members.nswlabor.org.au.

Policy Committees

The Policy Committees will finalise their report by Friday 28 August 2015.

Life Membership Nominations

The last date for submission of nominations for Life Membership is 12 noon Friday 31 July 2015.

Please refer to attached Nomination for Life Membership Form & Questionnaire.

Fringe Events

Expressions of interest are now open for interested groups to hold a Fringe Event at the Conference. Please find attached the form to register your interest.
8. LABOR ACTION COMMITTEES

The Labor Action Committees held a combined meeting and briefing session with Assistant General Secretary Kaila Murnain on Wednesday 27th May. The meeting was held at NSW Parliament and allowed the groups to share upcoming event information and ideas. Ms Murnain thanked all the Labor Action Committees for their hard work in the recent State Election, highlighting the LACs strong work in the field and working the phones. Ms Murnain also encouraged each of the groups to start organising their events for the Fringe program at the upcoming NSW Labor State Conference.

Chinese Friends of Labor held a leadership/training session for young Chinese volunteers at NSW Parliament on 29-30 June. Patron Ernest Wong was the driving force behind the event which attracted nearly 200 young Chinese volunteers to the theatrette where they undertook workshops to assist them in being better rounded individuals and to assist them in their future job search.

Italian Friends of Labor held their annual Republic Day Dinner on Thursday 11th June at Smithfield RSL, attracting a crowd of over 100 attendees. As well as honouring active community members, the occasion doubled as an opportunity to congratulate former Legislative Council President and active Italian Friends of Labor member the Hon Amanda Fazio MLC on her retirement and acknowledge her contribution to both the NSW Labor Party and the NSW Parliament.

Hellenic Caucus held a dinner function on Friday 19th June at the Ilion Club in Bexley. A lively crowd was treated to a Greek feast as well as traditional music. Newly elected Rockdale MP and active Hellenic Caucus member Steve Kamper thanked the crowd for their support during the recent State election campaign. Newly elected MLC Courtney Houssos and Sophie Cotsis MLC also addressed the crowd and thanked them for their continuing hard work. Congratulations to George Houssos and the Hellenic Caucus for such a successful event.

Labor for Innovation were the guest speakers at Central Policy Branch on Monday 29th June. Convenors Rebekah Campbell and Ed Husic MP showcased their experience regarding start-ups and innovation to the Central Policy Branch audience.

Sub-Continent Friends of Labor continue their preparations towards their annual dinner function on Friday 7th August with Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten.
9. PARTY UNIT ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURNS 2014-2015

Secretaries of all Party Units will be sent an Annual Financial Return form to complete with the June Political Briefing.

All Secretaries are requested to complete this form and return it to the Party Office with a copy of all bank statements and donation receipts by no later than 20 July 2015.

As Party Unit bank accounts are sub-accounts of the Party, all income and expenditure must be disclosed to the NSW Electoral Commission.

Penalties apply if a Party Unit does not provide the required information.

10. BRANCH MATTERS

a) Correspondence was received from Narelle Rich requesting permission to hold a formation meeting to set up a Branch in the Warnervale area on Monday 31 August 2015 at 7pm at the Warnervale Community Centre. Permission was granted and Acting Country Organiser Jay Suvaal will attend the formation meeting as the representative of the General Secretary.

b) A successful formation meeting was held on Sunday 17 May 2015 by members wishing to form the Glenwood Branch. A resolution was carried at the formation meeting that the Branch be called the Glenwood Branch. 26 people signed the application for a Branch Charter and 7 people applied to join the Party. The formation of the Branch is supported by the Riverstone SEC. The Charter was issued.

c) Correspondence was received from Colin Hempstead advising that the Corowa Branch is defunct. Acting Country Organiser Jay Suvaal will contact the Branch concerning their branch boundaries and financial accounts.

d) Correspondence was received from Jack Boyd, Secretary, Cronulla SEC, advising that the Cronulla SEC has approved the proposed merger of the Cronulla-Woolooware and Caringbah Branches. The merger was approved and State Organiser David Latham was appointed to conduct the Annual General Meeting of the newly formed Branch in accordance with Rule G.15(c).

e) A request has been received from George Turner, Secretary of Tweed SEC, to establish a Local Government Committee for the Tweed Shire. Permission was granted and Acting Country Organiser Jay Suvaal will contact the Tweed SEC to organise the formation meeting.
8. RULE I.7

a) Correspondence was received from Ned Barsi, Secretary of the Dee Why Branch, advising that Scott Rhodes has requested permission to sign the Branch Attendance Book away from the branch due to physical disability.

b) Correspondence was received from Carmel Atkinson, Secretary of the Tweed Heads Branch, advising that Dru Wagstaff has requested permission to sign the Branch Attendance Book away from the branch due to hospitalisation following a car accident.

c) Correspondence was received from Belinda Neal, Secretary of the Woy Woy Branch, advising that Craig Munnings has requested to sign the Branch Attendance Book away from the branch due to work commitments.

d) Correspondence was received from David Keegan, President of the Taree Branch, requesting permission for William Rojo to sign the Branch Attendance Book away from the Branch due to illness.

Permission was granted and if no objections are raised within 21 days everything will be considered to be in order.

9. 2015 WRAN LECTURE

The 5th Wran Lecture will be presented by NSW Labor Leader Luke Foley and hosted by Troy Bramston on Tuesday 7 July 2015.

The details are as follows:

When: 6:30 - 9pm, Tuesday 7 July 2015
Where: Parliamentary Theatrette
NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney

To RSVP, please contact NSW Labor on (02) 9207 2000.

Please note: This is a free and open event.

10. CENTRAL POLICY BRANCH

The June meeting of the Central Policy Branch was hosted by Labor for Innovation. The branch heard from the Hon. Ed Husic and Rebekah Campbell about Labor’s renewed focus on encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting start-ups. The branch was attended by 41 members.

This month the Central Policy Branch will focus on ways to improve our democracy through electoral reform and lowering the voting age to 16. The
branch will hear from the Hon Jodi McKay MP and Professor George Williams.

The details of this month’s Central Policy Branch meeting are:

Date: 20th July 2015
Time: 6:00pm for 6:30pm
Place: Trades Hall, Auditorium, 377 Sussex Street

11. NSW LABOR TRAINING UPDATE

Branch Officials Training Day

The NSW Party Office will be holding a Branch Officials Training Day on Saturday 11 July 2015 at the Trades Hall in Sydney.

Officials from local branches, SECs and FECs have been invited to take part in the day which will focus on:

- The new online motion and membership portal
- What the Party’s rules mean for local branches
- Grassroots community organising
- The new fundraising model – more donors, more options, more often
- Recruiting young members
- Engaging local union activists
- Supporting women’s participation

10 Week Intensive Campaign Insight course

Our 10 week Campaign Insight Course commenced on Tuesday 9 June. To date, the course has covered the political environment, personal story, the principles of campaigning, strategy and message, and volunteer mobilisation.

General Secretary Jamie Clements, Assistant General Secretary Kaila Murnain and the Director of Grassroots and Co Chris Gambian have presented.

The course will culminate in a two day weekend residential on 29 and 30 August.

Local FEC One Day Training Days

The Party Office will be holding one day campaign training sessions with Federal Electorate Councils across the State in the lead up to the next Federal Election.
The courses focus on the importance of personal story, low cost campaigning and direct voter contact.

A successful one day seminar hosted by State Organiser David Latham and Executive Officer Dominic Ofner with guest speaker, Assistant General Secretary Kaila Murnain was held in conjunction with the North Sydney FEC on Saturday 20 June.

Thanks to Dom Ofner for all his hard work.

12. BRANCH OFFICIAL GUIDES: MORE INTERESTING BRANCH MEETINGS AND BRANCH RECRUITMENT GUIDES

The Party Office has updated the More Interesting Branch Meetings Guide and Branch Recruitment Guide.

The guides contain useful information for Branch Officials about how to recruit and retain new activists to the Party.

At the Branch Officials Training Day on 11 July, a workshop will be held to successful ways of growing local membership. Following on from this, Branch Officials will be encouraged to develop a “Branch Recruitment Strategy” with assistance from the Organisers at the Party Office.

These ‘Branch Recruitment Strategies’ will focus on moving Labor supporters up the ladder of engagement by:

- Identifying and targeting potential members;
- Setting goals for new members and activity;
- Developing a local training plan;
- Holding interesting and engaging events;
- Engaging with Local Union Community Councils; and
- Adopting a grassroots fundraising model.
13. MCKELL AWARDS AND DINNER 2015

The 2015 McKell Awards will be presented at the McKell Dinner on Friday 21 August 2015 at The Eight Restaurant, Market City, Haymarket.

McKell Awards are presented on a yearly basis to up to 10 Party Members who have performed meritorious service. Further information is available from Patty Barrett on (02) 9207 2000 or Patty@nswlabor.org.au.

A copy of the nomination form is attached.

Nominations are now open for the McKell Awards; applications close 12 noon on Friday 17 July.