

COUNTRY LABOR DIALOGUE

CONNECTING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES – MAY 2017

Bill Shorten visits Nowra, fights for healthcare

The Federal Opposition Leader held a town hall meeting in Nowra in April, as part of his national listening tour of regional areas.



Bill Shorten and Fiona Phillips with Country Labor supporters in Nowra.

Speaking to a crowd of over 300, Bill spoke on issues such as jobs, education, and healthcare before taking questions from the floor.

He said that roads are critical to the region, and that he would recommend the ideas of locals to his infrastructure team for their consideration.

Bill Shorten also lashed the government's abolition of the 457 visa allowing foreign workers, saying it was a cosmetic gesture.

One of the issues raised with Bill was the cancellation of ongoing funding for

Nina Cheyne, the Shoalhaven's only dedicated Parkinson's nurse.

Bill Shorten wrote a letter in defence of Ms Cheyne's position to the Minister for Health, calling the removal of funding for the position "a terrible act of cruelty, to save a very meagre sum."

Fiona Phillips was preselected unopposed for Gilmore in March this year, meaning she will be campaigning for Gilmore for the next two years.

Gilmore is held by the Liberal Party on a margin of 0.73%.

Jay Suvaal writes...

It's been a busy month for Country Labor.

Country campaigns like Bryce Wilson in Monaro and Fiona Phillips in Gilmore have hit the ground running – a long time away from the finish line. And even now they're achieving incredible things with their campaigns. Fiona Phillips should be congratulated on turning out 300 interested locals to a Town Hall with Bill Shorten.

Many of you have been travelling long distances this month to meet up with your State Electorate Councils and Federal Electorate Councils – and I've been out visiting as many as I can. Like I say to the branches I visit, regional policy is important this conference – there's still time to submit yours to NSW Labor Conference.

I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

Please contact me on jay@nswlabor.org.au or **1800 503 035** if there is anything I can help you with.

Jay Suvaal
COUNTRY ORGANISER



Country Labor on the trail



Bega New Members Lunch with Jay Suvaal and Pat Garcia.



Jay Suvaal with the Clarence SEC.



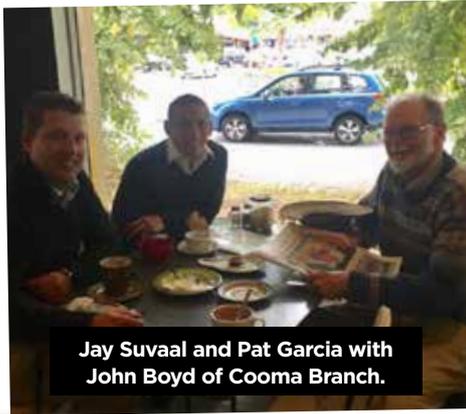
Bryce Wilson with Prue Car MP at Cooma TAFE.



Pat Garcia with the Upper Hunter SEC.



Party President Mark Lennon with Meryl Swanson MP and Kate Washington MP with the Paterson FEC.



Jay Suvaal and Pat Garcia with John Boyd of Cooma Branch.



Senator Sam Dastyari in Nowra with ALP Life Members Shirley Haslem and Meg Thomas.



Kaila Murnain and Jay Suvaal with the Wollondilly Branch.



Michael Daley MP, Kate Washington MP, Mick Veitch MLC, Peter Primrose MLC, and Jay Suvaal with Country Labor at the Muswellbrook Workers Club.



Pat Garcia and Jay Suvaal with the Queanbeyan Branch.

Berejiklian and the Nationals

FAIL TAFE

Shadow Minister for Skills Prue Car visited Quirindi this month to protest the NSW Government's program of setting up "Connected Learning Centres" in regional centres.



Prue Car MP and Mick Veitch MLC at Quirindi TAFE.

Supposedly a centre for "e-learning" and "next generation teaching", Prue Car described the centre as a "glorified internet cafe" and a "shopfront" that is detrimental to skills.

The overall fear is that the establishment of the Connected Learning Centre is the first step towards closing the existing TAFE in Quirindi and selling the land.

“My concern is that everywhere government has opened a shopfront, they have shut the TAFE,” **Prue Car said.** “When you close a TAFE in a rural or regional town, that’s government giving up on the town.”

Duty MLC for Upper Hunter Mick Veitch, also visiting the town, said that students deserve face-to-face education.

Decentralisation by Turnbull an empty promise

In next week's Federal Budget, there will be two tests to determine whether the Turnbull Government's decentralisation policy is anything more than a cruel hoax for regional communities:

- Will they put a halt on regional job cuts in Commonwealth Government services; and,
- Will they put the money in the budget to fund it?

Labor's Joel Fitzgibbon has been instrumental in highlighting the amount wasted on the relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, where \$60 million has been spent, only to see half the staff resign.

But this money on moving Canberra jobs to the regions is doubly wasted if the Turnbull Government doesn't stop cutting jobs in other departments.

Its track record on public sector jobs shows that it has cut nearly 18,000 jobs across the Department of Human Services, Australian Tax Office and CSIRO, many of which are based in regional Australia.

This includes 200 ATO staff sacked in Townsville. Further, there have been almost 150 jobs lost in various regional ATO offices, including towns such as Cairns, Grafton, Port Macquarie and Launceston.



Joel Fitzgibbon MP has been fighting the relocation of APVMA.

If the Coalition is committed to regional jobs, it could start by putting back the jobs in regional Australia that have been cut in the last couple of years.

Coming Events

▶ **27 MAY**

**DAME MARY
GILMORE DINNER**

Bomaderry
Bowling Club
.....

▶ **2 JUNE**

**STATE
CONFERENCE**

Rules deadline
.....

▶ **8 JUNE**

**STATE
CONFERENCE**

Agenda items
deadline
.....

▶ **29-30 JULY**

**STATE
CONFERENCE**

Sydney Town Hall

I N V I T A T I O N

Dame Mary Gilmore Dinner

6.30pm Saturday

27 May 2017

Bomaderry Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Ged Kearney PRESIDENT, ACTU

Fiona Phillips LABOR CANDIDATE FOR GILMORE

HOST: Senator Jenny McAllister

TICKETS: \$90 waged. \$75 unwaged.

**THE DAME MARY GILMORE ORATION AND DINNER
IS A MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE NEXT FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN FOR GILMORE.**

PLEASE BOOK VIA

www.trybooking.com/PMGA

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL GWENLPRICE@GMAIL.COM

To see all upcoming
Country Labor events visit
countrylabor.com.au/events

If you have an event you
would like to promote
to other Country Labor
members please email it
to jay@nswlabor.org.au

CONFERENCE FRINGE  **NSW LABOR
fringe**

**There is still plenty of time to get expressions
of interest in for a Fringe event at NSW Labor Conference.**

Organising a fringe event is a great way to raise attention towards regional
issues at the biggest event on the Labor calendar.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE 1 JUNE 2017

Visit www.nswlabor.org.au/fringe_eoi to let us know your idea.

Do you have a story or a photo for Country Labor Dialogue?

Email your story and photos to jay@nswlabor.org.au