

VALUES

respect for
fundamental
human rights

celebration of
cultural and
ethnic diversity

freedom of
individuals to
control their lives

just distribution
of global wealth

respect for
indigenous
people and
protection of
their rights

democratic and
inclusive forms
of governance



Pictured left to right, Len Amadio, Neal Blewett, Patrick Simpson, Paul Keating, Gabrielle Simpson, David Stratton.

Lunch with Paul Keating

On Sunday 3rd November 2002, the New South Wales Chapter of the Don Dunstan Foundation held a very successful "Lunch in the Garden" at Neal Blewett and Robert Brain's home in Leura, in the Blue Mountains.

The guests, seated at tables in the Garden, were served superb food prepared by acclaimed South Australian trained Chef, Phillip Searle of VULCAN'S Restaurant, Blackheath, and MOUNTADAM wine by Adam Wynn of Eden Valley, South Australia.

Host, Neal Blewett who introduced Paul Keating, welcomed guests and eloquently articulated the six fundamentals of the Don Dunstan Foundation that reflected Don Dunstan's vision. Neal went on to introduce Paul Keating, former Treasurer and Prime Minister, who is known for his far-reaching vision of Australia's place in the world.

Paul Keating delivered a stimulating, wide ranging speech which spoke of Don Dunstan as the Premier of South Australia who "bravely broke the mould of conservatism" to lead South Australia to a State exemplifying the values of enlightened liberalism. This created a new set of social norms and values that had influence across Australia.

"At no time in recent political history is a reassertion of liberal values more necessary than now... We do not have to choose between our history and our geography; we need to focus on Asia and the region, and dignity not fear...Australia's security can only be assured in the region, not in timidity and comfort dragging Australia back to old world "standards." We need to work towards a strong economy based on enlightened social liberal values. Paul Keating's speech was greeted with enthusiastic acclaim.

The day was an outstanding success, made possible by the generosity of Paul Keating, Neal Blewett and Robert Brain, Phillip Searle and Barry Ross of Vulcans and their hardworking team, Adam Wynn of Mountadam, and the work of NSW Chapter members, Len Amadio and Gabrielle & Patrick Simpson.

Gabrielle Simpson
NSW Chapter Member



New Trustee - Greg Mackie

Greg Mackie, OAM recently became a Trustee following the retirement of one of our founding trustees Professor Hugh Stretton. Greg brings enormous energy and skill to the Foundation.

He is a member of the Adelaide City Council, the driving force behind the Adelaide Festival of Ideas, the proprietor of a popular city bookshop "Imprints" and involved in many arts organisations. Welcome Greg.

Report from the Chair by Greg Crafter



2002 has been another busy and important year for the Foundation. The process of building an organisation that can carry out the many tasks asked of it whilst consolidating its governance, administration and finances is quite a challenge. It is a challenge however that we willingly accept knowing that around Australia there are so many generous supporters of the Foundation who want to participate in some way to building a fairer and more just nation. Our Director, Professor Sue Richardson regularly reminds us of the great need to "feed the nation's starving social imagination".

The last month has seen considerable work being done by Trustees, Board of management and members as we engage in a thorough review of our structures and relationships, particularly with our major sponsors and benefactors. We wish to secure long term financial support for the work of the Foundation and to achieve this we have been engaged in discussions with our major stakeholders. We aim to build a membership structure and to provide for a more supportive and inclusive role for our valued and active chapters located in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The current Trust Deed does not provide rules for chapters and we wish that to be remedied quickly. Our whole governance structure is cumbersome and costly to administer and if this could be simplified it would be most helpful to us all. A well attended workshop was held in Adelaide on Sunday September 29th to brainstorm ideas for the future and as a result we plan to have a paper available by the end of the year.

Many thanks to all of those people who take an active interest in the work of the Foundation and serve on one of our many committees or help in one way or another. Your involvement is appreciated and is the great strength of our organisation.

FAREWELL HUGH. Hugh Stretton played a major role in ensuring that the Foundation got off to sound start. His wisdom and unflinching energy to build a better world was based on the belief that if good people are more fully informed and confident in debate, much can be achieved. This has inspired us all. During his time as trustee Hugh completed another major book and continued to have a profound influence on so many aspects of Australian life. We wish you well Hugh and thanks for all you have done and continue to do for the Foundation.

It is with great sadness that I record the recent death of Elizabeth Johnston, who with her husband Elliot have been wonderful supporters and encouragers of our work. Elizabeth was active in so many aspects of the South Australian community, in addition to enjoying a long and successful legal career. She will be greatly missed by us all, but her life I am sure will inspire future generations to work as she did to build a fairer, more humane and compassionate society.

On behalf of the Foundation, may I thank all of our supporters for your continued support during 2002, your generosity, and may more of our fellow Australians share the ideals of the Don Dunstan Foundation in 2003.

Special Refugee Forum - 13 October

The Foundation held a special forum to celebrate Refugee Week, with a panel of speakers including Dr Amir al-Obadi, former Iraqi detainee, Dr Anthony Burke, Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Adelaide, and Professor Kay Schaffer, Adjunct Professor, School of Social Sciences, Gender Studies Program at the University of Adelaide.

Carmel O'Loughlin, from the board of management introduced each panel member before they spoke. Dr Anthony Burke, Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Adelaide, began the forum by discussing Australia's policy towards refugees and asylum seekers in a global context.

Professor Kay Schaffer from the department of social inquiry at the University of Adelaide followed. Kay stressed the importance of advancing human rights around the world, especially for women

and children. She showed, by example, how various websites have assisted the human rights campaign. Kay encouraged the audience to use these websites not only to further their knowledge but also to find new avenues for achieving a more just global environment. Amongst the sites were: universalsrights.com and Amnesty International.

Dr Amir al-Obadi, former Iraqi detainee, was the final panel speaker. Amir, who has been granted a Temporary Protection Visa, works with Woomera lawyers and speaks regularly to community groups around Australia.

He told of his long and difficult journey to Australia and then continued by describing the treatment of asylum seekers after their arrival in Australia. Like other refugees on TPV's, Amir's life is in limbo for 3 years with little hope for family reunion and permanent residency.

In the question and comment time that followed, many expressed the desire to change Australia's treatment of refugees & asylum seekers. Several approaches, such as humanising refugees and lobbying politicians were again stressed. A number of petitions were tabled and stories of success were shared. The forum left the participants inspired to continue the challenge to achieve a more just Australia and a more just world.

The afternoon's raffle money was donated to Adelaide's Australian Refugee Association.

For further information on South Australians for Justice Refugees please contact Serafina Maiorano at SAJR on 8226 4111 or info@justiceforrefugees.asn.au.

Vivian Curro
SA Chapter Committee Association.

Premier Mike Rann Luncheon - 18th August - The First 100 Days



South Australian Premier, Mike Rann, was guest speaker at the South Australian Chapter Luncheon on Sunday 18 August.

Often citing Don Dunstan as his inspiration, Mike Rann has promised to make South Australia a leader once again under a reformist agenda, stating, "We will make social inclusion, health and education our main preoccupations and, with the community's input, we will rebuild our State's social and physical infrastructure."

Bronwen Dohnt, the daughter of Don Dunstan, introduced the Premier and emphasised the common qualities of both Don and Mike. These were their ability to get on with people from all walks of life and the strong sense of social justice that underpins their vision for South Australia.

As Mike's speech unfolded, it became clear that this was a government that had been doing a considerable amount of observation, thinking and critical planning whilst waiting for its turn to govern.

Essentially the theme of the first 100 days has been to get the structure and staffing right and to initiate inquiries into critical issues that need to be faced by all South Australians.

Restructuring and re-energising the run down public service has been high on the agenda as has been getting the Social Inclusion Initiative off the ground. A five-day Drug Summit has already been held. Boards have been established and staffed, with people in whom the government believes, to cover the critical areas of Social Inclusion, Science and Innovation, and Economic Development. However foremost in the eyes of the new government are education and health.

The retention rate of 93% in 1992, achieved under Greg Crafter, is now about 56% in State schools with some areas of the state as low as 25%. Also noticed, is the state of Aboriginal health where the Premier noted that "the first Australians are the last Australians on every social index." The Premier has successfully dealt with issues over the viability of Mitsubishi, Virgin Blue's involvement in the upgrade to Adelaide Airport and the Commonwealth threat to establish a nuclear waste dump in South Australia.

Major upgrades for the State's hospitals, an Inter-Generational Review of the health system and a review of the Child Protection laws have been announced. Also, not forgotten, is the environment.

All legislation to do with the River Murray is being pulled together as part of a "comprehensivestep change in terms of the way we regard the environment".

The powers and independence for the Auditor General are planned to be increased, together with stronger codes of conduct for Ministers, etc. A Constitutional Convention is planned for March/April 2003. Building upon the innovative Adelaide Festival of Ideas and Artists in Residence concept, a "Thinkers in Residence" scheme is planned where the government will fund 50% of the cost of bringing people to the State who are leaders in their fields and ordinarily would not be able to come because of cost.

In the last years of his life, Don Dunstan wrote stridently against the prevailing economic fundamentalism that had invaded the country and which is known as neo-liberalism or the Washington Consensus. Let us hope by the end of the first term of the Rann Labor government there will be ample evidence that it has shaken off the administration characteristics of neo-liberal states and that it continues to follow through with the values that were close to the heart of Don Dunstan.

John E. Caldecott
SA Chapter Committee



Julian Disney - Globalisation and Social Justice: Challenges and Opportunities

Professor Julian Disney, AO, delivered the Don Dunstan Foundation Inaugural Lecture on Wednesday 16 October 2002 at the Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne. His address was entitled Globalisation and Social Justice: Challenges and Opportunities. The full text is available on The Centre for Public Policy website at:

www.public-policy.unimelb.edu.au/events/dunstan_lecture.html

Professor Julian Disney will be the 2003 coordinator of the Dunstan Fellows Program. The program will take an innovative approach to developing and advocating public policy to create a fairer Australia for future generations.

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