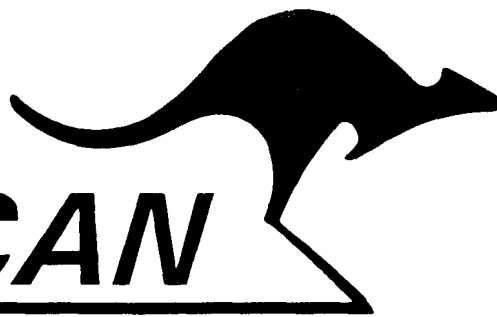


THE REPUBLICAN



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THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

"NIL INTEMPTATUM RELINQUEMUS"
"we will not abandon that which we attempt"



OUT OF THE WILDERNESS

EDITORIAL

In politics, the term "out of the wilderness" usually means a coming of age or a mature coming into one's own. More especially, it means "we've served our time out of the picture - now we want to get into the picture!"

On the 11th January 1992 the REPUBLICAN PARTY OF AUSTRALIA will be 10 years old. It has essentially been a decade "in the wilderness" since inception.

We are close to making our way onto the Australian Political Stage.

We will have arrived at the proverbial "first base" in our pursuit of parliamentary representation when just a few more score Australian citizens join the party.

We have applied to the Australian Electoral Commission once before - in late 1987 - for party registration. But the RSL thwarted our application and just perhaps our approach was not quite thorough enough to merit the accreditation in the Bicentenary Year (1988) and we paid a heavy price:

The party went into decline - our precious membership of 517 halved in the 3 years to June this year (1991). However, since the ALP's apparatchiks John Dawkins & Chris Schacht moved at the Hobart Centenary Conference of their party to "bring Republicanism forward", as it were, and Tom Keneally with 99 other very prominent Australian supporters launched ARM - both events within a fortnight - numerous people have discovered us! The enquiries we've had in the past 5 months has, frankly, overwhelmed us. We have translated a large number of enquirers into party members and we are at a point where we may be able to apply for registration before the end of the year! A heartening aspect of all this is the exponential growth of women members.

Those who have stuck with us through these near 10 years and also those who join us up until the near-future time when we are registered will be receiving a genuine collector's item - which is our way of expressing appreciation - a Foundation Member's Certificate.

There's history - Australian Political History, not to put too fine an emphasis on it - in the making with this achievement in the offing.

The Federal Party of Australia (a Queensland-based outfit) is currently having their application for registration being processed in Canberra. Provisionally, we're next in the queue.

We still don't have a member in Tasmania but we have resuscitated our South Australian operation and we have a series of Australia-wide aggregate members meetings arranged for the pre-Christmas period as follows:

*SYDNEY - Sunday 17 November - 1pm - Board Room, Markets Club, 1st Floor, Markets Plaza Building, Flemington Markets Complex, 2129 (on the Parramatta Road side - right next door to the Flemington Hotel/Motel)

*CANBERRA - Thursday 21 November - 7.15pm - Board Room, National Press Club, 1st Floor, 16 National Circuit, Barton, 2600 (this meeting is combined with dinner @ \$25 per person)

BRISBANE - Thursday, 28 November - 7.15pm - Home of Stanley Stokes, 57 Spring Street, West End, 4101

*ADELAIDE - Thursday, 28 November - 8.15pm - Tavern of McMahon's Nitespot, 10 Park Terrace, Salisbury, 5108

*PERTH - Saturday, 30 November - 1pm - The Ozone Bar, corner James & Lake Streets, Northbridge, 6003

*MELBOURNE - Tuesday, 3 December - 7pm - Home of Paul & Willy Dahan, 95 Raglan Street, South Melbourne, 3205

The "I" means that the National Convenor of the RPA - Peter Consandine - will be in attendance.

So it is a case of "out of the wilderness" and "into the clearing". As Bob Ellicott's article herein reveals: "Only a new political party, free of the shackles of rational economics & effete management, can save Australia now". We are not actually new (being nearly 10 years old) but because we have been "in the wilderness" all this while we, largely as "unknowns", have the opportunity within our grasp to pick up where John Singleton's Workers Party & Katharine West's Community Party left off. Make no mistake - we can be the New Political Party of the 90's and for the 90's.

We probably will be able to reflect upon the first 10 years "in the wilderness" as being necessary. And maybe, if the said Republic of Australia is inevitable - the new (to most of the rest of Australia) REPUBLICAN PARTY OF AUSTRALIA will be synonymously inevitable.