

The New Institute

Whatever happened to the Australian Republic..... and what happens now?

Tuesday, July 13th, 7pm

The question of the future of the monarchy in Australia, and a possible shift to an Australian Republic has been debated for many years. The evolving perception of Australian identity after the 1988 bicentenary seemed to suggest that it was a matter of 'when' not 'if' Australia would change. Even Prince Charles seemed to suggest that it was time to move on.

But then there was prolonged debate leading up the millenium, the 'Constitutional Convention' and the unsuccessful referendum. While John Howard was Prime Minister there was obviously no change likely. Since then Malcolm Turnbull seems to have moved on from the issue, and has chosen to remain in public life, serving under Tony Abbot, a self-declared monarchist. Meanwhile on the Labor side it has not been a major issue, although the significance of the recent change of Prime Ministers is not clear.

So is the debate really dead, or is it just 'resting'? Is Australia going to remain a monarchy? Will King Charles be our future monarch? And does it matter anyway? - It is not an issue that seems to resonate with Australian youth.

To consider these issues and give an insight into what might happen next, we welcome **John Warhurst, Professor of Political Science at Australian National University**. For many years John has been one of Australia's most respected analysts of the broad processes, influences and movements within Australian politics. Particular interests have included the political influence of organised religion, and the role of lobbyists in Australian politics. But he has also been an active 'player' in the monarchy/republic debate, and has been a senior office-bearer in the **Australian Republican Movement** for many years. As such he brings an insightful perspective to this ongoing debate.

Come along to listen, and to join the discussion!

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

VENUE: South Leagues Club, Llewlyln St. Merewether.

DATE: Tuesday 13th July 2010 **TIME:** 7.00 till 8.30pm

ADMISSION: \$5 or more (See etiquette policy-overleaf)

FURTHER INFORMATION: Angie Di Lorenzo 0422 401129.

Website www.newinstitute.org.au.

About the New Institute....

The New Institute was established in Newcastle in early 2004 as a public policy forum/discussion group loosely modelled on other public policy groups such as the Sydney, Brisbane or Australia Institutes. The Institute is a forum for new ideas, and a venue to encourage people to engage and participate in discussion of public interest issues, and the development of public policy. It is an independent, non-party-political, not-for-profit, incorporated association, open to the general public.

The activities of the institute are guided by a set of core values and principles. *Within these principles, the New Institute will not take a position on any issue, but will value diversity of ideas and broad engagement in debate.* Members of the Institute's Organising Committee have a wide variety of personal opinions and allegiances across the political "spectrum", but are all committed to the above principles and vision for the Institute.

Policy on Etiquette

The success of New Institute forums, particularly those involving public discussions, requires appropriate behaviour by attendees. This includes participating by appropriate, focussed and relevant questions or comments. The enjoyment by all of these events can also be lessened by lack of simple courtesy such as entering and leaving discreetly. Guests who have demonstrated lack of acceptance of these simple matters of etiquette may not be invited to join discussions, may be asked to leave or will not be admitted. This is for the benefit of all.

June Meeting

The June meeting focussed on the development of the 'new media' such as Twitter and Facebook. A broad panel of enthusiasts examined how new media is changing society. The audience learnt that it is much broader than just teenagers interacting socially - the new media is influencing and causing the development of new approaches to marketing, business, politics, broadcasting, and education. It was a fascinating evening that made many of those attending realise that this was much more profound than a passing fad. We thank all those who took part.

Future Program for 2010

An exciting mixture of seminars is planned for the remainder of the year. In August, local Intensive Care Specialist and Ethicist Dr Peter Saul will lead a forum considering 'Dying in the 21st Century'. Note this is not (yet another) simplistic debate about euthanasia, but rather a discussion of the many complexities of the way we deal with the last event of our lives. In September we welcome noted chef and host Stefano Manfredi will discuss 'The Contribution of food and wine to Australian Society. Later in the year we are looking at protecting Whistleblowers, and the independence of public servants.

Interested?

The Institute welcomes support, suggestions or contributions that fit within the framework and principles described above. The Committee would also be interested in assistance with communication & marketing. If you would like to know more, please e-mail fdiloren@bigpond.net.au, or phone Angie Di Lorenzo on 0422 401129.

Management Committee

Martin Babakhan; Felicity Biggins; Robyn Considine; Bernie Curran; Angie Dilorenzo; Ross Kerridge; Peter McNair; John Miner; Roger Pryor; Amanda Shirley (McLean's Bookshop), Krysia Walker