



## In Victoria

# The Process So Far

The "Time to Act" process is moving from strength to strength in Victoria. Many people have returned the response form and some have become actively involved in different aspects of the process.

Different interest groups are meeting regularly and planning their input to the Launching Conference in July. The Various Commission groups have begun drafting policy documents for discussion in all the regional centres.

The 2 July General Meeting will discuss our attitude to various proposals on the agenda, voting procedures and other aspects of the Launching Conference. It is important that a large and representative group comes to this meeting so that our views reflect what people in Victoria want.

So far there hasn't been an enormous amount of real activity around specific issues, but this is understandable given the stage of the process. Following the Launching Conference there should at least be an agreed basis from which to start working around key issues.

One important part of the conference will be workshops to

process, as well as seeking to involve new people in building a new party.

We need to go to the Conference in Sydney to represent the views of Victorian participants. Arrangements have been made to provide cheaper air and rail travel, so please give serious thought to going up there at the end of July.

A brochure about the Conference is now ready and will be available at the General Meeting.

### VICTORIAN OFFICE

The New Left Party Group (Victoria) now has an office telephone number. The organiser, Katherine Goonan, can be reached at the following number during office hours on (03) 662 1333 and after hours on (03) 807 4318.

### GENERAL MEETING

The Sydney conference is fast approaching and there are a number of issues that need to be discussed. The conference organisers have asked us to consider and report back on the draft agenda and on voting procedures and there are many people who are requesting further discussion on what sort of party we want.

For those who have been unable to attend meetings and forums over the past few months there will be a session an hour before the main meeting where there will be a number of people involved in the process from the beginning and who can give an overview and answer questions. This should allow you to catch up quickly and be able to contribute fully to the main meeting.

Those needing child care please call Katherine by Friday June 30.

The General Meeting is set for July 2, 2 pm at the AMWU, 174 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

#### TRANSPORT TO SYDNEY

A number of cheap rail tickets and airfares (24 seats on each mode) have been arranged. The rail tickets at the group economy rate are \$120 return, with further discounts for students, pensioners and children.

We have booked seats to Sydney on the morning train Friday July 28 and to Melbourne on the overnight train on Sunday July 30.

The cheapest airfares available are through East/West at \$198 return. (This worked out at \$16 dollars more expensive than a economy return in a sleeper on the train). The only times we could get out of them are 3.15 pm on Friday July 28. And 9.15 am on Monday July 30. Again there is a discount for children.

Katherine needs to know if and how people are intending to travel to Sydney in order to confirm and pay for bookings very, very soon. So have a good think and come to a decision and tell Katherine.

If anybody is travelling to Sydney by car and wants someone to share the driving and petrol costs then could you give Katherine a call and she will put you in touch with someone

#### COMMISSIONS

The Victorian environment commission has met twice so far. A good thing really because nobody else has. Any new members who are interested in contributing to the following Victorian Commissions, (these develop policy and then pass on their information to the National Commission in the same area):

- \* Foreign Policy
- \* Culture
- \* Environmentally Sustainable Society
- \* Economic and Industry Development
- \* Party Structures
- \* National Comet / Communications
- \* Social Justice
- \* Aboriginal Self Determination

then please give Katherine a call and she will put you in touch with the convenor of the relevant commission.

Victoria has the responsibility of developing the National Policies on:

- \* Trade Unions
- \* Multiculturalism
- \* Party Strategies

If you have something to contribute to any of these commission then Katherine will be happy to put you on to the convenor.

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#### ASSUAGE YOUR CONSCIENCE FOR AS LITTLE AS \$5 A WEEK

If you are already up to your armpits in work and extra-curricular activity, then the New Left Party Group (Vic) offers you the opportunity to maintain a very effective de facto involvement by sponsoring the Victorian organiser.

Rest peacefully each night secure in the knowledge that your contribution that day meant: -The accounts were balanced - meetings were organised - Publicity was arranged - Signatories were kept informed - Co-ordinating work was being done - A thousand and one fiddley jobs were under control.

If you take up this offer it in no way prevents you from directly contributing to party activity. Yet sponsoring adds that je ne sais quoi that really no politically minded person should be without.

But don't take our word for it, just read what some satisfied sponsors have to say: "Talk about money well spent. All the things I meant to do and don't really have time for are done by the organiser", Carmel Shute.

"I get a lot done during a hectic working day, but somehow there never seems enough time to cover all that needs to be done on the New Left Process, that's where the organiser has proved to be a real boon", Rob Durbridge.