

Party wants a Christian voice in parliament

David Braithwaite



Rise Up Australia Party founder Daniel Nalliah speaking in Sale.

EVEN if the party can't win a seat in the state election, the founder of the Rise Up Australia Party believes it can play a major role in determining who forms government.

Speaking in Sale on Sunday night, Daniel Nalliah promoted his party's aim to "keep Australia Australian".

The party has attracted support and controversy for its stance on multiculturalism and protecting Christian values.

Mr Nalliah, a pastor, said it was time for Christians to take a stand in government.

"Christians are equal citizens as any other citizen in the country," Mr Nalliah told the *Gippsland Times*.

Everyone has a voice, and it should be shared and made known.

"I believe in protecting Australia and keeping Australia Australian for generations to come."

Having been born in Sri Lanka and lived in the Middle East, Mr Nalliah said Australia was a blessed nation because of its Christian values.

"My heart is that if we don't protect our foundations, if the foundations are destroyed the building will collapse," he said.

"Yes, all people are welcome, but people who leave their respective countries come to Australia because they believe they are making a conscious choice to leave their country and come here.

"My call to them is, as an immigrant myself, if you leave your country, learn to leave behind some of the habits and practices that you're used to so that you can come in and integrate with the Australian way of life, and embrace the Australian way of life.

"We stand as a party of 'multi-ethnic, one culture'.

"Your country of birth cannot be changed, but certainly some of your cultural values have to be changed."

The rise of Islam in Australia is a cause of concern for Mr Nalliah.

"There are thousands of very good Muslim people, however, living in the Middle East, I understand now very well that Islam is 'culture,

religion and law'," he said.

"So if you embrace multiculturalism, you've got to embrace Islamic Sharia law — girls given in marriage, four wives for a man — that's all cultural practices of Islam.

"It's counter-productive for a Western democracy, so unless we nip it in the bud instead, it will be a bit too late because we've seen all of Europe is in a mess.

"France has 754 Islamic Sharia zones, where a white person can't walk those streets; Great Britain has 85 Sharia courts.

"It's important that we push towards the direction of 'one culture, many ethnicities'."

Mr Nalliah laughed off comparisons to Pauline Hanson's One Nation party.

"I'm a guy from Sri Lanka, so I'm a black fellow, not a white fellow," he said.

"It's not a racist party, (but we're) simply speaking the truth.

"I think it's important at this hour, that if we don't stand up for our country, we don't want it to be too late to take it back after it's gone.

"It's a party for all people.

"We're not against immigration, we want people to come from all nations — I'm an immigrant myself — but when you come here, simply embrace the way of life here, integrate into our way of life and that will be great for the future."

For the state election on November 29, Rise Up

Australia will field candidates in every marginal Lower House seat and two candidates in all the Upper House regions.

"We might not get Lower House seats; we're hoping for one or two Upper House seats in the parliament," Mr Nalliah said.

"However, we could be very instrumental in bringing the next government into office because it's a neck-and-neck race.

"Our preferences could make a difference."

The Liberal-National coalition is only in government thanks to the support of independent MP Geoff Shaw, a former Liberal.

Mr Nalliah said Rise Up was talking to other parties about preferences.

Rise Up is also currently finalising registration with the Victorian Electoral Commission.

The 2013 federal election, Rise Up's first campaign, resulted in it receiving the eighth most primary votes for the Senate in Victoria out of 39 parties.

Since the election, the Ministry of Multicultural Affairs was abolished, which was one of Rise Up Australia's policies.

Mr Nalliah spoke at Sale City Church, which is not affiliated with any political party but is welcoming local candidates to visit the church and address the congregation about their position on crucial issues in the coming election.

Government rail trail strategy is welcomed locally

THE release of the state government's Victoria Trails Strategy 2014-2024 has been welcomed by the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail management committee.

Rail trail chair Helen Hoppner commended the government on its vision for tracks and trails around Victoria, and in particular the status of "state significant trail-cycling," given to the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail.

"After 20 years volunteering to develop the 67km trail from Traralgon to Stratford, being recognised in the strategy is exciting and will make lobbying for future funds much easier," Mrs Hoppner said.

Mrs Hoppner said the committee of management would lobby for funding to build a bridge across the Thomson River at Cowwarr to ensure the trail was fully connected and users could commute on a safe off-road trail.

"This will be an important factor in attracting both national and international visitors to the region which the strategy addresses, as well as the health benefits to local users," she said.

"The strategy also addresses the need for ongoing maintenance funding which has been one of the issues the (rail trail) committee of management have identified to provide a consistent management regime on the trail which is the expectation of the community.

"We look forward to working with all levels of government and tourism authorities in the future to provide a world class facility in the region."

Commission paves the way for lower power prices

VICTORIA'S Essential Services Commission has moved to enable lower electricity and gas tariffs arising from the removal of the carbon tax.

The Essential Services Commission has decided not to take action against retailers that chose to vary their standing offer prices on gas or electricity within the six monthly regulated period to reflect the end of the carbon price.

Under the Electricity Industry Act 2000 and the Gas Industry Act 2001, energy retailers can only offer a variation of standing offer prices every six months — not more frequently than that.

However commission has indicated it will not take enforcement action if a retailer breaches these legal provisions in an effort to accommodate changes brought about by the removal of the carbon price.

Longford rezoning allows for 33 subdivided lots

Peter Hill

TWO parcels of farmland in Longford will be rezoned to allow subdivision for rural living development.

The land, at 69 Andrews Rd Longford and CA 38 and CA 41 Andrews Rd, was the subject of two amendments, C82 and C83, to the shire's planning scheme accepted by Wellington Shire Council at its July 15 meeting.

Amendment C82 proposes to subdivide 69 Andrews Rd into an undisclosed number of blocks, with a minimum size of 0.6 hectares (6000 square metres).

The proposal attracted eight submissions when advertised, two raising a range of concerns including the appropriateness of the proposed rezoning as rural living zone five when

three adjoining areas were rural living zone one.

Five neighbours raised concerns about increased traffic and the need to contribute to the cost of sealing access roads.

Other concerns included sealing access roads, building and design issues, provision of electrical and telecommunications infrastructure, drainage of the site, concerns of erosion and land slip, bushfire risk and the need for walking and cycling connections to and from the site.

The planning panel appointed to consider the proposal reported it recommended adoption of amendment C82, taking into account the objections to the size of the blocks by including a requirement the overall subdivision of the land must provide for an average lot size of at least 0.6 hectares.

It recommended amendment C83 was justified as consistent with housing strategies appropriate for a rural living zone and that all infrastructure issues could be resolved.

It also reported the planning requirements should include two access points to enable fire truck access to the development.

The subdivision of CA 38 and CA 41 will allow the property developers to subdivide the land into 33 lots.

During council's debate Sale resident Warren Sanders questioned why, given the similarity of the two amendments, council was requiring two access points for one subdivision and not the other.

He also expressed concerns that runoff would affect the land and its associated water courses.

Academics review school

A SIGNIFICANT part of regional Australia's medical workforce of the future will come from Gippsland and north-west Victoria, according to Monash University.

Monash University's School of Rural Health, which is part of the university's faculty of medicine, nursing and health sciences, says it is producing regional medical graduates who are being sought after because of their extensive training and skills.

Many of the students also want to work in rural and regional areas.

The School of Rural Health is currently undergoing a faculty review, and three of the faculty's deputy deans, along with three other review panel members, are undertaking a week-long visit to School of Rural Health sites throughout Victoria, including Sale.

Review panel chair Professor Rob

Pike, who is also the university's Academic Planning deputy dean, said the visits provides an opportunity for the faculty to learn more about the multi-site school.

"The School of Rural Health has the most geographically dispersed school of the university with a footprint stretching from Mildura to Orbost — a factor critical to it reaching its key objective of developing a sustainable rural medical and health workforce," he said.

"We have solid evidence that a high proportion of regionally educated graduates choose rural and regional careers."

School of Rural Health students spend a significant part of their course time on placements in hospitals, general practice clinics and health centres.

They are exposed to areas of medicine including surgical, medical, women's

health, children's health, Indigenous health, aged care and mental health.

School of Rural Health head of school Professor Judi Walker said the various school sites had received excellent feedback from students on the course.

"We welcome support from Monash leadership to further the development of School of Rural Health as part of the university," she said.

"There is also recognition among faculty leaders of the extensive planning which has gone into ensuring the viability of the School of Rural Health into the future and support of the School of Rural Health's critical objectives."

At each of the School of Rural Health sites the deputy deans met with staff, students and external stakeholders.

A number of question and answer sessions were also held.

News to tell?
Email

news@gippslandtimes.com.au

weirs
FLOORING CENTRE
274 York Street, Sale
5144 3654
FLOOR SANDING
PROFESSIONALS

SALE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

cosi

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 22

8pm

Wednesday 23

8pm

Friday 25

8pm

Saturday 26

2pm

Saturday 26

8pm



Recommended 15+ (Strong course language & adult themes)

Venue: Esso BHP Billiton Wellington Entertainment Centre
Tickets: box office Ph: 5143 3200 W: www.ebbwec.com.au

GP1444356