

The Border Mail

INSIDE TODAY



Local

A LACK of crisis services, and poor access to them, were Albury's biggest mental health hurdles a meeting was told.

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National

A POLICE officer and father of six shot dead was a brave, tremendous bloke.

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WINNING NUMBERS

Powerball Draw 824

43 38 37 39 42 27

Div 1: \$6,000,000.00 Div 2: \$24,880.05 Div 3: \$6502.45
Div 4: \$147.10 Div 5: \$59.10 Div 6: \$28.95 Div 7: \$16.60

Lucky Keno 1963

2 5 12 13 17 23 26 33 34 35
38 39 40 44 54 65 67 71 73 74

Intralot Lucky Lines Draw 1341

1 10 15 20 22 27 33 36

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SAVE LIVES.
TALK THE
TOLL DOWN.

THIS YEAR

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LAST YEAR

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● Bob Carr and Julia Gillard were all smiles announcing his appointment as foreign minister. Picture: FAIRFAX

PM wins battle to appoint Carr

BY MICHELLE GRATTAN

PRIME Minister Julia Gillard has pulled out a sensational reshuffle trump card and added lustre to her government by recruiting former New South Wales premier Bob Carr as Australia's foreign minister.

Ms Gillard belatedly ignored the claims of Defence Minister Stephen Smith — who in 2010 had to step out of the foreign ministry to accommodate Kevin Rudd — to secure a big Labor name and send the public a message that she makes the decisions.

After Mr Carr was told on Tuesday he could not have the job because Mr Smith wanted it, Ms Gillard did an about-turn and offered it to him late on Thursday morning.

A delighted Mr Carr told their news conference: "When the distinctive voice of Prime Minister Gillard rouses you from your slumber and



● Kevin Rudd

says: 'will you be foreign minister of Australia?' I couldn't have found it in me to have said no — she asked me to serve my country".

The recruitment of Mr Carr, 64, means Ms Gillard ends this tumultuous week — which began with her resounding win over Mr Rudd — on a high note, despite the fiasco of the aborted earlier discussions with Mr Carr.

But Ms Gillard got a

backhander from Robert McClelland, a Rudd backer and the only minister she has dumped in her modest reshuffle.

Suggesting he had been the victim of retribution, Mr McClelland said Ms Gillard had indicated that a factor in her decision was that she thought he had gone further than other Rudd supporters in his statements during the leadership battle.

Mr McClelland said he had backed Mr Rudd as a matter of principle, "knowing full well this could be the consequence".

He intended to contest the election and had not given up on his ministerial ambitions.

Ms Gillard insisted her ministerial decisions "are about merit".

An obviously disappointed Mr Smith, who had been widely expected to get foreign affairs as late as early yesterday said: "There are no entitlements in public life. I

don't have an entitlement to be disappointed".

The allocation of portfolios was "entirely a matter for the Prime Minister," he said.

Ms Gillard said Mr Smith had a lot of work ahead of him in Defence.

Mr Carr's appointment immediately won praise from the man he replaces, with Mr Rudd saying he was "an excellent choice as foreign minister".

Throughout the 20 years he had known him, "he has demonstrated a strong continuing interest in international affairs".

Mr Carr, NSW premier from 1995 to 2005, takes the vacancy created by the departure of NSW right powerbroker Mark Arbib and would be up for election at the next poll.

He said he would seek another term. "I think I'm a natural senator," he quipped.

More reports — page 25
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O'Connor rewarded with a seat in cabinet

BY MICHELLE GRATTAN

IN a reshuffle that is modest overall, Human Services Minister Brendan O'Connor, from Victoria, a confidant of Ms Gillard, goes into cabinet as Minister for Small Business, Housing and Homelessness.

Victorian Kim Carr, demoted from cabinet in December, has clung on in the outer ministry but moves from Manufacturing to Human Services.

Manufacturing, one of the hottest areas politically, will be represented just by Industry Minister Greg Combet, although he will have a minister to assist him.

Car industry union chief Ian Jones attacked Senator Carr's demotion as "a major loss".

"Vindictive, spiteful ministerial demotions are not a good sign that (Ms Gillard) has understood the lessons of recent times or appreciated what needs to be done," Mr Jones said yesterday.

Ms Gillard has contained her changes partly by expanding the responsibilities of existing ministers.

Trade Minister Craig Emerson's portfolio had Competitiveness added and Attorney-General Nicola Roxon will take on Emergency Management as well.

Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare will add Defence Materiel.

Two new faces come into the ministry.

Kate Lundy, from the ACT, becomes Minister for Sport and Multicultural Affairs, and David Bradbury, from NSW, becomes Assistant Treasurer.

There are also two new parliamentary secretaries — Bernie Ripoll and Sharon Bird — and Jacinta Collins, from Victoria, becomes manager of government business in the Senate.

Ms Gillard said she had wanted "the strongest possible team".

Keeping wolves away

THE choice of Bob Carr as foreign minister is a bold statement of Prime Minister Julia Gillard's intent to vanquish the prowling wolves within her own ranks.

Carr has the experience and expertise from public and private life to take on the position of foreign minister.

But in the bigger picture, whether he is qualified for the portfolio is beside the point.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the ALP leadership circus is far from finished.

Last week's leadership ballot was more a party referendum on Kevin Rudd than a clear statement about the identity of the party's preferred leader.

Should Gillard's public



OPINION
DR BEN HABIB

popularity remain toxic, we could expect another leadership challenge later in the year.

Names including Bill Shorten, Stephen Smith and Simon Crean have been mentioned.

With Rudd out of the way, Gillard needed to make some bold moves in order to assert her authority and strengthen her position as leader.

Returning foreign affairs to Stephen Smith would have been unwise for Gillard, given his prominence in the leadership speculation.

Many people will be asking why Smith was not reinstated as foreign minister after he stepped aside to accommodate the defeated Kevin Rudd in 2010.

Gillard would be foolish to give him such a high-profile platform from which to make his pitch as an alternative prime minister.

The forces within the ALP arrayed against Gillard are yet to reveal themselves.

But make no mistake, Gillard is boldly staking her claim to retain the top job and slay those wolves baying at the door.

Dr Ben Habib is a lecturer in politics and international relations at La Trobe University, Albury-Wodonga campus

weekend pulse

INSIDE THE LIFE OF
A RODEO FAMILY
PULSE STARTS PAGE 37

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