

Liberal Party campaigner Scott Harrison a former neo-Nazi

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Scott Harrison pictured campaigning for federal Liberal MP Sarah Henderson.

A Liberal Party activist working on the party's campaign in key marginal seats is a former neo-Nazi who claimed in 2010 that the Port Arthur massacre was a Jewish conspiracy.

Scott Harrison has been vice-president of the Deakin University Liberal Club, and has been working on the campaign of Liberal candidate Tony McManus in Lara. He has also briefly assisted the party's Bellarine candidate, Ron Nelson.

Mr Harrison is a former prominent member of the white supremacist group Church of Creativity. The church was founded in the United States in 1973 by neo-Nazis and has several members in Australia, including criminals.

When contacted by Fairfax Media, Mr Harrison acknowledged his six-year involvement in the neo-Nazi movement but said it had ceased in 2010 and that he now repudiated his former beliefs.

"My close associates in the Liberal Party know of that history," he said, while also stating that others in the Liberals "wouldn't be aware of it to a high degree."

Mr Harrison has been a leading member of the Young Liberals organisation in Geelong.

"I completely distance myself from my past ideology. I now realise how insane it was. I now believe in racial equality and gay marriage," he said.

Liberal state director Damien Mantach said on Wednesday that the Liberal Party was unaware of Mr Harrison's previous affiliations.

Asked about Mr Harrison's past, Mr Mantach said it was "unacceptable and does not reflect the views of the Liberal Party. He has now resigned from the party, effective immediately."

A 2009 photo of Mr Harrison shows him posing with a Nazi salute in front of a swastika, while articles he wrote in 2010 include vicious anti-semitic material.

Photos from the last few months depict him with the Premier Denis Napthine and campaigning or at political fund-raisers for Mr Nelson and Geelong Liberal candidate Paula Konteji. Last year, photos show him campaigning for federal Liberal MP Sarah Henderson.

In one recent photo that Mr Harrison posted on his Twitter account, he is pictured next to Mr Nelson under the caption "excited to be campaigning for @ron4bellarine today in Leopold."

On his LinkedIn page, Mr Harrison describes one of his key roles as recruiting new party members and establishing a "sustainable and growing Liberal Club at the Geelong campuses."

Mr Harrison also said he had a criminal record for "alcohol related offences" but would not give more details

In 2010, when Mr Harrison was 19, he was appointed a "reverend" in the self-styled Church of Creativity.

In the group's magazine, he pledged to "use the legal rights afforded to me as a minister of religion to the best interests of the white race, including striving to have my Church of Creativity granted tax exemption as a religion."

"I have been working to create and build a Primary Group within Geelong and expand our followers in this region. I have the support of other racials in this area."

"It is also my goal to eventually have the funds to and ability to once again print out Holy Books so that they may be distributed widely to the millions and millions of White people that have not yet found our complete creed or program."

In a series of articles he wrote in the group's magazine in 2010, Mr Harrison said that the Port Arthur plot was organised by Jews.

"The gun control that resulted from the Port Arthur massacre was not an urgent action to stop frequent firearms offences but rather a sinister plan ... to disarm and pacify the White Australian public."

"It should be a key objective of Creators to awaken the White race to the realities of the Port Arthur massacre and the need for White people to remain armed and dangerous in the eyes of our racial enemies."

In another article he explains how the group is committed to "a Racial Holy War" involving a "relentless fight for survival that the White race will either emerge from victorious, or will lose and become another extinct species in the rubbish bin of history."

This is not the first time the Liberal Party has been hit by scandal this year.

Two candidates stood down in August following allegations of sexist and racist comments on social media. The candidate for the marginal seat of Bendigo West Jack Lyons stood down after sexist and racist comments on Facebook were revealed.

He followed upper house candidate Aaron Lane who quit after homophobic comments he made on twitter were unearthed in August.

At the time Premier Denis Napthine said "There is no place in my team or in the Coalition team for this sort of behaviour and these sorts of comments."

Fairfax Media also reported in August that Young Liberals at Melbourne University had posted racist, crude and misogynist comments on social media, describing women as "sluts", Muslims as "degenerates" and saying all feminists are ugly.

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A spokesman for Premier Napthine said on Wednesday the issue was a matter for the state director who had issued a statement.

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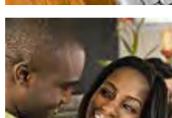
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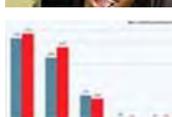
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