

TROOPS OUT, HOWARD OUT, VOTE SOCIALIST!

Medicare not warfare



TOM FLANAGAN

for Page

▶ **HEALTH CARE** Everyone in the community should have the right to free health care from well staffed and resourced hospitals and clinics. No fees, no gap, no but!

▶ **EDUCATION** at all levels should be free. Government run primary and secondary schools should be well resourced, class sizes reduced (twenty is plenty) and teachers well paid. Abolish HECS and provide a livable student allowance and decent pay for higher education workers.

▶ **WELFARE** If countries like Sweden, Norway and Denmark can afford social security payments above the poverty line, there's no reason why Australia can't.

▶ **TERRORISM** The atrocities of the war on Iraq and the so-called war on terror only serve to create more terrorists. A policy of aid not exploitation for the third world is the only way to create real global security.

▶ **REFUGEES** People do not leave their home countries without good reasons. Refugees should be welcomed with assistance not detention.

Where will the money come from? The Socialist Alliance Manifesto 2004 identifies how to raise \$80 billion. Examples include restoring Company Tax to its 1988 level of 49% (currently 30%) to raise \$15–20 billion, and increasing the income tax rate for those on \$100,000 and above to a mild Northern European rate of 60% to raise \$15–19 billion.

For our 2004 election Manifesto go to

www.socialist-alliance.org/resources/manifesto_web.pdf

Socialist Alliance

Northern Rivers branch ☎ 6622 2862

email northernrivers@socialist-alliance.org

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Tom is a spokesperson for Lismore's No War on Iraq group and a member of the North Lismore Progress Association. An environment and social justice activist since the Franklin River campaign, Tom was arrested in 1981 for obstructing bulldozers on Mount Nardi in what is now Nightcap National Park. In the 1980s, as General Secretary of the Flinders University Students Association, he was part of the national campaign to defend free education and against the introduction of HECS. In the 1990s Tom campaigned for gay law reform with the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group.

An active trade unionist, Tom was a workplace delegate for four years with the Community and Public Sector Union. He now works as a proofreader, and as a part-time recruiter for the National Tertiary Education Union. He believes that a successful strategy to protect the environment must also protect jobs and living standards and allow for democratic control over the big corporations. Tom puts it this way, "the profit motive dictates that corporations get the maximum work out of their workforce for the minimum pay, and use the cheapest production processes, regardless of environmental impact. The Socialist Alliance puts people and the environment ahead of corporate profits, and argues that where bosses won't cooperate with worker-friendly and environment-friendly policies, then production should be placed under the control of the workers and the broader community."

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