
GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF



APRIL 1998

Salinity Forum

By Andrew Thomson

In her address at the Salt Forum at the CSIRO on February 3rd, Dr Christine Sharp attacked the Salinity Action Plan for its lack of community consultation. Very few community members had received government grants. She said that it had been a disastrous start.

Christine stated that legislation was needed to compel the obstinate farmers to also tackle the salinity problem and not just leave it to the progressive farmers.

Dr Richard George (Agriculture WA) who spoke at the forum, claimed at the Blackwood Conference (October 10th, 1997) that 15% of the south west will become saline and could go as high as 35 % if prompt action is not taken.

Jim Scott MLC, Lynn McLaren, and Brian Fleay also attended the Salt Forum.

Well Being Team

The March Representatives Council of the Greens(WA), agreed to establish a "Well being team", to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to the officer bearers of the Greens(WA). This decision came from a growing concern that officer bearers of the Greens are provided little ongoing support or appreciation.

If you are interested in forming the "Well being team", ring Catherine at the office for details

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE CUTS TO THE ABC?

PROTEST STRONGLY WE DESERVE BETTER

Cancelled:

1 prime time radio shift in every capital city, 7 am National TV News First Edition, "Review", Radio Australia, Saturday National, "Week in Film", Food Program, "Click on" "Box Seat", Sunday Afternoon studio presentations

Budgets reduced:

ABC News, "Four Corners", "Lateline", "Foreign Correspondent", "Landline", "Australian Story", "Defining Moments", Local drama (production cut back a *further* \$800,000), Radio Arts, Independent Australian TV docos and drama (for 2nd year), + ABC "local radio" after 7 pm comes from Sydney, + loss of talented staff in huge sackings and redundancies

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to all who
Splashed out for The Greens
and to the people who helped on the day.
Please collect and return
all sponsorship money before April 30

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of The Greens (WA).

DEADLINE : GREEN ISSUE APRIL 20th.

Submissions welcome. Contact

Karl 9472 1913

submissions on disk appreciated

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Douglas Riseley
Hugh Charlesworth
David Dyer
Keith Schekkerman
Craig Chappelle
Juanita K Miller
Danuta Valleau
Evelyn McDonald

**Our ABC staff and us
deserve better**

FEDERAL ELECTION PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT

2 WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS DRAFT NO.1
SAT/SUN 25-26 APRIL and SAT/SUN 2-3 MAY

Christian Centre for Social Action
879 Albany Highway, East Vic Park
(Corner Canterbury Terrace)
10.00 am till whenever



REGIONAL COUNCIL DIARY

Where to find us: Contacts, Meetings, Venues, Times etc

BRAND

A & B Goodale 9527 4289
1st Mon of month 7.30pm
Ocean Clipper Inn
Patterson Rd Rockingham

CANNING

Margo 9397 6209
1st Tuesday of month, 7.30pm
50 Valley View Rd Roleystone

CURTIN

Phil 041 904 2795
25 Waroonga Rd Nedlands

FORREST & BUNBURY

Paul Davis 08 97201 376

DENMARK

Paul Llewellyn
08 98482 015

FREMANTLE

Monique Keel
9431 7138
1st Thurs of month 7.30pm
Glyde In, 42 Glyde St
Fremantle

MOORE/COWAN

M Castillo 9305 1045
1st Mon of month 7.30pm
32 Hazel Ave Quinns Rocks

PERTH

Kayt 9345 5368
1st Thurs of month 7.30pm
9 Milton St, Mt Hawthorn

STIRLING

Monday prior to Reps
phone GWA Office for details

SWAN

L Lodge 9367 9226
1st Thurs of month GWA Office 439-
441 Albany Highway Victoria Park

WORKING GROUPS

Admin WG

Carole 9470 9227

Federal Election Campaign WG

Greens Office 6pm
Wednesday, 15th April
GWA Office

Parliamentary WG

339 Oxford Street Leederville
GWA Office

Social Justice WG

GWA Office
Contact: Rob 08 9328 6963

CONTACTS

Policy:

Karl 9472 1913

Economics:

Brian 9328 7065

Education:

Andrew 9450 3423

Environment:

Nick 9361 7782

Peace & Disarmament

Brenda 9381 4870

OFFICE BEARERS

Co Convenors

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Robin 08 9221 5931

Secretary

Carole 9361 5335

Treasurer

Cliff 9478 3741

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Notes from the South West

By Dr Christine Sharp

Reforming Forest Management

When Dee and I recently visited Hilliger State Forest near Nannup, we were confronted by about 25 irate mill workers. This provided a real opportunity for an impromptu forum, I explained to the gathering that the evidence clearly documents that current logging levels are not sustainable. Sooner or later the industry must face this. And the longer it takes to do this the greater the "opportunity costs" involved. Paul Llewellyn did the facilitation job of his life. I think the interaction gave Nannup workers real cause to ponder. At any rate the gathering ended cordially. Thanks to all concerned.

Through chairing the Legislative Council ESD Committee in its inquiry into forest management, the Greens (WA) are in the position to show the lead on this issue. I am working hard to persuade parliamentary colleagues that not only can this issue be resolved, but that resolution is of upmost urgency for the ecological sustainability of the forests. The ESD forests inquiry should report about late April.

Dr Patrick Moore "Exposed"

Many of you would have seen a paper being distributed by the forest industry written by Dr Patrick Moore. In the paper Dr Moore attacks the environmental movement for its stand on opposing clear felling and claims that the environmental movement has no understanding of the forest. Dr Moore claims to be a founding member of Greenpeace and was President of Greenpeace Canada for a number of years. He WAS head of Greenpeace Canada during the early 1980's but left the position because of internal disagreements. He then formed a consultant company called Green Spirit. He is a full time paid director for the British Columbia Forest Alliance, a group which was created and funded by the Canadian timber industry. This organisation has a history of quoting the Green Movement out of context and making it sound as if it supports his view point. The fact of the matter is that many

scientists have spoken out against clear felling because of its destructive impact on forest health. Bernie Master and Patrick Moore are the only two "environmentalists" I know who support clear felling as good for the forest.

First Victory for Jasper

The decision by the Warden's Court that environmental concerns would be considered by the court in examining the proposal by Cable Sands' to mine near Lake Jasper was a victory for the environment and the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. I am pressing for testing of acid sulfate soils as well. The ERMP for this project is expected to be out for public comment to the EPA by mid-year.

The Education Bill is Important for All Western Australians

One of the most important bills to come before Parliament since my election is the new Education Bill to replace the 1928 Education Act. After reviewing the bill, I will be seeking amendments including a new statement of education principles and working processes based on social equity. The currently proposed bill is elitist, punitive, and does little to support the educational process. In fact it tends to marginalise those children who are having difficulties within the educational process. In fact it tends to marginalise those children further although schools represent the one major socialising agency available to many students. I am inviting Labour and Democrats MLC's to cooperate with me to substantially revise the bill. Penny Muecke, a Green supporter from Nannup, has been assisting me by examining the bill clause by clause.

Penny and I have also organised a submission to the Select Committee on Crime Prevention. This links education with crime prevention and suggests that every dollar spent on education saves five dollars on crime costs.

Social Equity at Shotts and Buckingham

Residents at Shotts and Buckingham are not getting a fair deal in this mining affected area. Currently they are subjected to noise and dust without recourse to a relocation plan which would allow them to be adequately compensated for the damage they are suffering. This may well be in breach of the condition set under the Environmental Protection Act.

It is an example of small communities being pushed around by big companies I have met with mine management and raised the issue with the Minister for the Environment. I have urged her to visit the communities and hear first hand the story of these people. I have every hope that this issue can be resolved through negotiation to the satisfaction of the residents.

The Bridgetown Bypass, an Example for Us All

What do you do when the community feels that heavy traffic is affecting the business viability and safety of the main street? What do you do if the chosen alternative disrupts a stream which potentially could be the focal point of the town's development? What if a proposed bypass to solve this problem negatively affects the business and lifestyle of many of the town residents? These are the issues facing Bridgetown. They are similar to issues facing other towns in my electorate as they come to grips with a transport system heavily dependant on increasingly larger trucks rather than trains. Following the highly successful transport conference I organises in September, I have been working with a committee of concerned citizens to persuade Main Roads to rethink its chosen alternative of Geegelup Brook.

At my request the Minister for Transport visited Bridgetown and heard the views of concerned citizens. As a result a facilitator has been appointed to enable a decision on the bypass to be made by the Minister. This provides the opportunity for the community to re-examine the decision to locate the bypass along the Geegelup Brook and to develop a better solution to the heavy haulage problems facing the town.

A Plan For Rural Revival

By Jim Scott

The office of Jim Scott is working on a range of important initiatives including preparing four disallowance motions dealing with proposed planning changes in the southern corridor effecting Cockburn Sound. A disallowance on a regulation which proposes steep increases in court costs. Private Members Bills on Whistleblowing and Animal Welfare and numerous other important issues.

None of these issues are causing as much excitement as the work I am doing in putting together the first stages of a plan to rescue rural Australia. It is hoped that the plan will provide the basis of our rural platform for the next Federal Election.

The first draft will be going out to interested and expert members and supporters for their input and a series of rural workshops organised in cooperation with supportive rural organisations and individuals.

A brief description of the plan follows.

The Greens(WA) rural revival plan is designed to be controlled at the regional level by regional communities and to encourage the participation of farmers and townspeople in sustainable cooperative ventures.

The first step will be to set up regional cooperative revival groups to implement the following programs.

The identification of suitable areas and plant varieties for commercial tree cropping and the setting up of processing plants and by-product industries.

The allocation of funding for tree crops and the establishment of oil extraction plants.

Funding of the protection and research of remnant vegetation.

The setting up of bio-mass generation plants and the organisation of cooperative funding.

The setting up of rural education systems to train young people in required skills such as - bio-technology- energy applications - marketing - tree growing technologies - plant use research.

The identification of markets for 'clean cruelty free meats' and the setting and establishment of specialist abattoirs and processing plants.

The establishment of bio-tech industries using meat by-products, the establishment of hydrogen producing plants and the development of hydrogen powered farm machinery.

Alternative agricultural research stations to develop and teach tree farming, organic farming techniques, permaculture and farm chemical alternatives.

Rural funding organisation to fill the role abandoned by the state development bank (the R&I) but aimed at funding sustainable agriculture and related regional industries, and youth development.

Youth development programs providing - education programs - youth facilities - socialisation - enterprise assistance - the identification of youth issues through a youth council.

The integration of farm and non farm enterprises.

Establishment of Revival Plan

The plan should be passed through a series of rural workshops to further refine the plan and to ensure it suits the needs of different regional areas.

The workshops would be best held with the sponsorship of existing rural organisations such as the Oil Mallee Association - the CWA - Landcare groups- local government- progress groups.

Funding the Plan

The position taken by the Australian Government at the Kyoto conference on global warming will require significant additional tree planting to offset the sharp increase in industrial CO2.

The Greens (WA) propose that interest free loans are made available to:

Plant maintain and harvest tree crops; Establish oil extraction and by-product plants; Establish bio-mass generation plants.; Establish further related industries as required; Educate and re-skill rural youth Taxpayers will not be required to pay for industries right to pollute.

Interest on the revival loans will be paid by those industries which benefit by degrading air quality and will be based on their CO2 outputs

Autumn Sitzings of Parliament

Thursday, 5th March, proposed official opening

Week 1	Tuesday 10 March	-	Thursday 12 March
Week 2	Tuesday 17 March	-	Thursday 19 March
	RECESS 1 WEEK		
Week 3	Tuesday 31 March	-	Thursday 2 April
Week 4	Tuesday 7 April	-	Thursday 9 April
	RECESS 2 WEEKS		
Week 5	Tuesday 28 April	-	Thursday 30 April
Week 6	Tuesday 5 May	-	Thursday 7 May
	RECESS 1 WEEK		
Week 7	Tuesday 19 May	-	Thursday 21 May
Week 8	Tuesday 26 May	-	Thursday 28 May
	RECESS 1 WEEK		
Week 9	Tuesday 9 June	-	Thursday 11 June
Week 10	Tuesday 16 June	-	Thursday 18 June
Week 11	Tuesday 23 June	-	Thursday 25 June
	RECESS 6 WEEKS		

What's been going on in our office: Giz Watson MLC

This list is indicative of the issues we're working on, its not comprehensive or in any order of priority.

Giz took time off to go south to visit her parents at Torbay near Albany and couldn't resist the temptation to work. She was inundated with media interviews, news releases in respect of dead seabirds which had been caught up in oily waste from ships.

On Monday February 15, 1998, Giz leaves with the Native Title Select Committee for the Kimberley for a week of talks with Aboriginal groups and pastoralists.

As a member of the Legislation Committee, Giz has had ongoing discussions on the Bill to revamp the constitution and on the Equal Opportunity Act (Sexuality) Amendment Bill.

Lunch with the Wanneroo Commissioners this week to discuss post Wanneroo Inc. matters.

The proposed new port at Jervois Bay. Giz and Jims offices are working together on this issue. This is, of course, a matter close to Giz's heart because it deals with Government ignorance about the catastrophic effects the loss of seagrass will have on the area, as well as the loss of access by the community to this part of the coast.

A major submission on the Consultative Environmental Review for the proposed for the Derby Tidal Power station involved a great deal of research on the part of both Giz, Robin and a number of volunteers. Copies of the submission are available from the office.

Mining safety and health related issues have come to the fore because of the escalation in numbers of mine deaths in recent months. Senior partner John Gordon of Slater & Gordon has asked for an appointment to speak with Giz on workers' compensation matters as he is aware of her concerns in this area.

In early January Giz and Robin travelled to Kalgoorlie to speak with miners, Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines' management, local members of State Parliament as well as Greens members about mine safety, gold royalties, tailings dams and sandalwood management.

The office encourages community groups in their droves to make use of our facilities (which are particularly accommodating), and it seems we are never alone, but that's how we like it!

We have volunteers on work experience just about every day, learning administrative tasks and doing research. Generally these enthusiastic helpers emanate out of applications for the research position, and we have offered this chance to those who demonstrated generally exceptional talent in one way or another, but who perhaps lacked relevant or practical work experience. In particular, these volunteers are working with Carol examining issues such as juvenile justice, women's prisons, and the abortion row.

We are also looking at ways of tackling youth alienation and the graffiti issue.

STOP PRESS

Aboriginal Land Rights - Where does the Dispossession stop?

*The greatest misunderstanding about the current native title debate is that Senate amendments to the Government's Native Title Amendment Bill **achieve** something for Aboriginal and Islander people. In fact, all the Senate amendments do is slightly lessen a **tremendous loss** in indigenous rights. The Aboriginal and Islander people of Australia have a sovereignty they have never relinquished and native title which existed long before European invasion.*

In the High Court's *Mabo* judgement these rights were partially recognised.

In the *Native Title Act 1993* these rights were largely taken away.

The *Native Title Amendment Bill 1997* brings this dispossession close to completion.

In December 1997, Senator Brian Harradine worked with the Government to allow around 80% of the *Native Title Amendment Bill 1997* to pass. This included:

- • validation of tens of thousands of mining tenements which potentially breach the *Native Title Act 1993*;
- • extinguishment of native title on 1000's of non-freehold leases and tenures where it may have still existed;
- • upgrade of pastoral leases to full primary production, quarrying or forestry status (and therefore achieve de facto extinguishment of native title) without the right to negotiate;
- • establishment of Indigenous Land Use Agreements which can occur without proper scrutiny and safeguards;
- • allowing acts which involve the management or regulation of water to displace native title rights (such as fishing) without the right-to-negotiate;
- • allowing acts on reservations (e.g National Parks) to remove native title rights without the right-to-negotiate;
- • allowing acts in offshore places to displace native title rights (such as fishing) without the right-to-negotiate;
- • approving gold, tin, opal and gem mining without the right-to-negotiate;
- • excluding the right-to-negotiate on native title land which lies in Australia's enormous intertidal zone;
- • ensuring strict rules of evidence in Federal Court proceedings;
- • significantly increase the threshold test for making and registering native title claims - including the exclusion of overlapping claims;
- • striking-out claims which do not adhere to onerous and expensive evidentiary requirements;
- • automatically re-assessing all native title claims made since June 1996, and allowing State Governments to have *any claim ever made* re-assessed, using the increased threshold test;
- • forcing every Aboriginal representative body to go through a process of re-registration and adhere to accountability procedures stricter than any Government Department.
- • restricting access rights for Aboriginal traditional owners
- • diminishing the independence of the President of the National Native Title Tribunal against the express wishes of Aboriginal people
- • allowing a variety of Government activities to override traditional hunting and fishing rights

The debate on the Native Title Amendment Bill already represents a tremendous loss. Any further "compromise" is not only politically unacceptable - it is downright immoral.

The Greens say: Enough is Enough. Reject further compromise. Reject the Bill!

The Women's Caucus

By Alison Xamon

In February of this year a gathering was held by Greens women members to discuss women's involvement, representation and vision within the Greens (WA). From this meeting a number of issues and concerns were identified as needing future attention. It became apparent then that some kind of formal group for women needed to be established (or re-established) within the party to assist in this process.

Why a Women's Group?

The Greens (WA) Constitution allows for the formation of Special Interest Groups "for purposes of affirmative action on behalf of disadvantaged sectors of the community". It should be obvious that within a patriarchal society women are systematically disadvantaged and hence the appropriateness of a separate women's group within the Greens. Although it would seem that within a Greens vision such a group should be unnecessary it is important to remember that both the Greens as a party and the individuals within that party are surrounded and shaped by patriarchal thinking and it would be false to assume that the Greens would or could be immune to this. Some type of women's autonomous organising then becomes not only necessary but inevitable.

Why only women?

It is interesting that while most men within the Greens recognise the necessity for a women's group it is less understood why it is also necessary that such groups are open only to women. The question is asked "Why can't sympathetic men be involved if after all we're all after the same things?" The answer to this question is threefold.

Probably the first point to make is that the group dynamics of a women only group is significantly different to a group where men (or even one man) is present. It is well documented that men have a tendency to dominate discussion both in terms of how often they speak and in leading the agenda. Having a women's only group serves to even out this power dynamic. Women are less

likely to feel intimidated or threatened and hence are more likely to feel free to speak without fear of judgement. Rather than men choosing to take this observation as an attack it is more useful for a man to accept that this is the way in which men have been taught to behave by a patriarchal culture which rewards aggressive displays of oneupmanship (although this in itself does not excuse such behaviour). Unfortunately it is also very often the case that it is those men who believe that they are the greatest feminists of all, who often have the most to learn. There is nothing feminist or helpful about telling a woman that she has got it all wrong, that she is not oppressed, that it is all in her mind and that can't-she-see-that-he-is-different-from-all-other-men. It is precisely this type of behaviour which illustrates the necessity for a women's only group.

There is also a very real risk that women will feel the need to censor themselves if men are present (even sympathetic men who may agree not to speak). If women feel uncomfortable identifying and elaborating on points of concern (ie sexual harassment) then it defeats both the effectiveness and the purpose of a Women's Caucus. It is vital that women have the freedom to raise issues without the risk of being inadvertently silenced.

Thirdly it is an issue of respect. If women feel the need to organise without the presence of men then it is important that this is respected. Men are raised with the belief that it is their inherent right to be everywhere. If men then insist on being present at a women's only caucus not only is it extremely disrespectful but it is failing to acknowledge men's inherent privilege within a patriarchal culture. Effectively all space is men's space and women should never be denied the opportunity to reclaim such a small space for themselves.

Lastly, surely it should be obvious that if men are present it ceases to be a women's group and becomes a mere discussion group about women.

Why a Women's Caucus?

At the second meeting of the women's group it was decided that the group would refer to itself as the Women's

Caucus. The word caucus is defined as "a private meeting of members of a political party to discuss policy and decide on a course of action" (World Book Encyclopaedia.) The word as used by the Women's Caucus is intended to represent a statement of commitment to ensuring that women's voices and concerns are heard within the party while lending an air of legitimacy within the party structures to women's autonomous organising.. Terms such as Special Interest Group or Women's Working Group are insufficient in encapsulating the scope and vision in which women envision their own autonomous organising. Although some may read negative connotations with a word like caucus, for the women involved such a term conveys a level of validity necessary to having women's issues recognised.

It is important to recognise that a women's caucus is not about women attempting to become more powerful than men (to think that would be paranoid silliness) but about women attempting to gain some semblance of equality with men. Ultimately if we have a party where women members feel empowered, heard and valued the Greens can only win. That, surely is what the Green vision should be all about.

At the State Conference a Women's Caucus was held to specifically address the issue of how the Caucus can maintain contact with women outside of the metropolitan area who are obviously unable to attend regular meetings. It was decided that minutes of the meetings could be sent by either e-mail or snail mail. If you are interested in being kept informed please phone Alison on 08 9444 6827 or e-mail at a.xamon@student.murdoch.edu.au.

The next Women's Caucus meeting will be held on Sunday 19 April 2.00-5.00pm at Lot 11, Lance St Mt Helena. For directions contact Sharon on 9295 3265.

Women's Caucus contacts:

Alison Xamon-08 9444 6827

Monique Keel-08 9431 7138

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HOUSE OF
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Federal Election Campaign Committee**

NOMINATIONS are called for the
preselection of candidates from persons
committed to the principles of The
Greens (WA) for the following House of
Representative seats.

**Brand
O'Connor
Cowan
Fremantle**

Written nominations should show the
full name and address of the person
nominating. Please include a 200 word
profile with the nomination.

**CLOSING DATE FOR
NOMINATIONS**

5.00pm 24th April 1998

ADDRESS FOR NOMINATIONS

PO Box 737, Victoria Park. 6979

For further information please
contact the Returning Officer,
Carole Perry, on 9470 9227

**ELECTION NOTICE
FEDERAL ELECTION 98/99
SENATE**

Federal Election Campaign Committee

NOMINATIONS are called for candidate
preselection from persons committed to
the principles of The Greens (WA) for

*the 3rd and 4th position on The
Greens(WA) Senate Ticket.*

Written nominations should show the
full name and address of the person
nominating. Please include a 200 word
profile with the nomination.

**CLOSING DATE FOR
NOMINATIONS**

5.00pm 24th April 1998

ADDRESS FOR NOMINATIONS

PO Box 737, Victoria Park. 6979

For further information please
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