

GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF



JANUARY 1997

1998 STATE CONFERENCE

SAT 21 AND SUN 22 MARCH, 1998

"THE COVE" DENMARK

Where the forests meet the ocean

ON THE AGENDA

Aboriginal Land Rights, Tax

Regional Transport, The Republic, Recreation and Fun

Hosted by the South West Greens

Contact: Perth Greens - 08 9470 9227

Denmark Greens - 0898261015

**** RELAXED AND POWERFUL ****

Greens Women's Get-Together

A meeting will be held for women Green's members to discuss women's involvement, representation, vision and participation in the Greens.

When: Sunday 22 February, 11.00am-5.00pm

Where: Tresillian Centre, 21 Tyrell St Nedlands

Price: \$5/person.

A light lunch is included and free childcare is available

For more details or to book childcare please contact either:

Alison 9444 6827, Brenda 9381 4870

DISCLAIMER

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

DEADLINE : GREEN ISSUE February 20th.

Submissions welcome. Contact
Catherine 9470 9227

Karl 9472 1913

submissions on disk appreciated

New Members

14/6/97 - 10/12/97

Benjamin Toric, Judith Ingle, Karen Harris, Clare O'Leary-Cliff, Claudio Seto-Giacaz, Phil O'Day, Michael Heald, Vera Borg, Carrie Sonneborn, Carol Travaglione, Carmine Travaglione, Lynne Smithies, Colin Allan, Margaret Hawke, Lee Joyce, Hugh Chevis, Bruno G. Illari, Caroline Fleay, Margie Bourke, Mark Brown, Ian Dehmler, Bowen Summerton, Rebecca Winter Ivanoff, David J. Watson, Murray Niel Clarke, Matt Fagan

Federal Election Platform Development

Platform for the next federal election is being prepared at this very moment. The first draft is due in mid February, and the second draft due in late March. All going well we hope to have the platform ready for local group approval at the April Representatives Council meeting.

The platform drafts will be available from the Greens office, contact Catherine at the office if you need material posted out to you. The platform group have established areas of platform development. Each area has a coordinator that can be contacted through the Greens office. The main areas are:

- Greens in Parliament
- Indigenous issues and Wik
- Republic and the Australian Constitution
- ClimateChange/Kyoto Conference
- Land clearing and salinity
- WA environment
- Jabiluka / Uranium mining
- Oceans
- Multicultural issues
- Education
- Youth / Youth Allowance
- Childcare
- Health/ aged care
- Economic globalization
- Employment
- Small Business
- Environment Economics
- Energy and Transport
- Industrial Relations
- East Timor
- Gay and Lesbian issues
- Rural and Regional issues

For info on next meeting call Matt Fagin at Dee's office 94702688

THE GREENS (W.A.) STATE CONFERENCE, DENMARK, 21-22 MARCH 1998

RECYCLE

Our Parliamentarians' offices need a continuous supply of A4 white paper used on one side.

Perth Greens

The Perth Greens invite you to their next meeting where Lee Bell from the Bellevue Action Group will be discussing the Bellevue toxic waste dump and possible Greens involvement.

The meeting will be held on Thursday 5th of February at 7.30pm at 9 Milton Street, Mt Hawthorn.

For more details contact: Alison 9444 6827

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

A Jones 9398 4193
1st Thursday of month

CURTIN

B Roy 9381 4870
See ad this page
129 Gloster St Subiaco
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

Kayte 9345 5368
7:30pm 12th February
9 Milton St, Mt Hawthorn

STIRLING

Ivan 9446 3277
Monday prior to Reps
phone for details

SWAN

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

Kalgoorlie Contact:

JJ 08 9215 659

WORKING GROUPS

Admin WG

Carole 9470 9227
Federal Election Campaign WG
Greens Office 6pm
every Wednesday
Karl 94721913

Parliamentary WG

339 Oxford Street Leederville
Miguel 93051045

Social Justice WG

GWA Office
Contact: Rob 08 9328 6963

Federal Election Campaign WG

Federal Election Campaign WG
6:30 7th January
GWA Office
439-441 Albany Hwy Victoria Park
Contact the office

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

Brenda 08 9381 4870
Robin 08 9221 5931

Secretary

Carole 9361 5335

Treasurer

Cliff 9478 3741

Parliamentarians Offices

Senator Dee Margetts

(Carole)
4 Salford St Victoria Park 6100
PO Box 739 Vic Park 6979
ph 9470 2688 fax 9470 4098

Jim Scott MLC

(Lynn & Mark)
19 Point Street
Fremantle 6160
ph 93361991 fax 9430 4778

Christine Sharp MLC

(Wendy, Margie & Adrian)
Brockmans St Balingup 6253
ph 08 9764 1440
fax 08 9764 1426

Giz Watson MLC

(Carole & Robin)
339 Oxford St Leederville 6007
Ph 9201 0582 fax 9201 0583

The Greens (WA) Inc Office

(Catherine)
Suite 4, 439-441 Albany Highway
Victoria Park 6100
PO Box 737
Victoria Park WA 6979
Phone 08 9470 9227
Fax 08 9470 9537

E-mail:

GreensWA@argo.net.au

homepage:

HTTP://argo.net.au/GreensWA

Think Global - Act Global

By Jan Jermalinski (J.J.)

The collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 marks the victory of capitalism in the Cold War. Whatever one's views on the conflict between capitalism and communism in the 20th century, the objective reality is that the beginning of the 21st century will see the immediate supremacy of global capitalism.

There already exists an international division of production and consumption for many goods and services. A good's components are produced in one country, put together in another country and consumed in a dozen other countries.

The pollution produced in one country affects many other countries. Our environmental and social problems are transnational and increasingly cannot be solved within the borders of a nation state.

The early slogan of the Greens "Think Global - Act Local" is inadequate to our needs in the 21st century. Some problems can be solved locally. But many problems will have to be solved regionally, nationally and internationally. Global solidarity becomes ever more important as we become integrated in a global economy.

We are already witnessing the signs of the withering away of the nation state. In places like Europe, the process is more marked. The expansion of the EEC and NATO providing the framework for a super multinational state. At the same time as the nation state is withering away, regions are asserting greater authority and independence.

Italy (the demand for greater autonomy for the northern part of the country) and Great Britain (separate parliament for Scotland and Wales) are two such

examples. In a global economy, similar pressures will affect the Australian nation state.

This poses challenges for us as a Party in a whole number of areas. Here are some examples.

1. If the nation state in the 21st century is withering away, then why should we join a national party? Why not keep our regional independence ? In a fluid and turbulent economic, social and political environment, a smaller and more compact vessel may have a greater possibility of survival than a huge oil tanker which can more easily break up at sea.
2. If environmental and social problems will increasingly require global solutions, should we not become a global political party forming alliances not only with the Australian Greens, but with other Greens parties in the world and alliances with other social and national liberation movements out side of Australia?
3. How do we define ecological sustainability? Do we define it solely in terms of with the borders of the Australian nation state? Could this be seen by poorer countries as an attempt by Australia to keep its wealth to itself and not share it with anyone else?

How does the ecological sustainability picture look if we addressed it as sustainable with a South-East Asian context and Australia being part of that? Would that mean Australia increasing its population intake and exporting more of its resources so that the South-East Asian region as a whole is sustainable?

But is even this still an elitist option if we are part of a one world economy?

Could the ecological sustainability of a super south East Asian multinational State (Which includes Australia) be done at the expense of poorer regions of the world such as Africa (which is our Indian Ocean neighbour)? Should ecological sustainability be seen as part of a one world economy instead of separate regions and nation states?

These are questions which need addressing. Failure to address them in a global context can result in us advocating elitist self-preservation policies for the benefit of only Australia and stuff everyone else. The price of doing this will mean us being like Pauline Hanson with a somewhat more humane and green face and maintaining an expensive military force to protect our "Australian ecological sustainability".

But then, maybe this is a good idea. If so we should immediately open negotiations with Graeme Campbell and merge the Greens (WA) with his Australia First Party.

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Youth Culture & Censorship

by Elena Jefferies (E.J.)

GIBBER magazine began as the idea of one woman, Fleur Ginnane, who had been wondering for a long time what could be done for disadvantaged youth in Perth. Fleur had an idea of a magazine done by young people for young people and began collecting the art and writings of street kids.

The Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts was the first group to give major support. with a rent free office. Christabel Chamarette helped with the bulk mailout of the magazine, and gave GIBBER much needed political support. Lotteries Commission provided the computer (in 1994) which is still used now and Australia Council and Arts WA provided the initial funding. The publication is registered and has been released roughly every two months since it began.

GIBBER provides a creative space for marginalised, disadvantaged and street present youth to express their ideas in a valid, print media form. We run workshops anywhere young people hang out, in youth centres, service centres, crisis care housing, and through agencies who support the project. The magazine is published and distributed back to the target group of young people.

The GIBBER project has had it's financial ups and downs, we've received funding support but also have operated on raised funds and without pay, as a volunteer organisation from time to time. There is a concrete support community of young people who participate on the board and do volunteer work when it needs to be done. We gather information and support from our sponsoring organisations. Our relationship with government departments and government policy has changed over the life time of the project which is mainly what I talked about at the 1997 DARE Conference.

The DARE conference is the first Community Cultural Development conference in Australia for 13 years, and no doubt will be the last for at least the next 10.

I am one of the key note speakers on the first panel at the conference which will be covering censorship. There are three speakers on this panel: Stefo Natwu from Essentials Theatre in Melbourne and Terry O'Gorman, President of the Australian Council for Civil Liberties. I will also be speaking on the "work for and by young people" panel, chaired by the JJJ Arts Representative Sarah McDonald and will include 'Grafton Arts' from Cairns and Tony Le Ngyen from Melbourne. I have done networking with Grafton Arts recently and can identify some points of difference between GIBBER and other non-mainstream arts projects:

We Challenge and disagree with the agenda of any industry based youth arts programs. We have found that the art and writing of the GIBBER target group had been repeatedly treated insensitively and as a commodity by the Juvenile Justice Department, Barking Gecho, and other nameless groups who we decided not to work with. We believe that a community itself knows what it needs and wants, and that often there is simply a lack of access to the necessary structures for that community to formulate and communicate their message.

Government consultation is increasingly a white wash scam for spending less money on youth services while corporate tax is at an all time low and the price of simple things such as food and rent keep on going up. If anyone thinks young people don't know what is going on then they too are the result of the government propaganda machine of mass media and conservative powers. Young people more

than know what is going on because they are feeling the effects every day of homelessness, poverty, lack of education a and lack of access to services.

The kind of censorship that is more covert is that which comes from our own funding bodies and supporting organisations. Censorship of certain kinds of work are a result of lack of understanding of our target group and why the project is like it is. Many groups spanning from our state arts funding body ArtsWA to the ArtRage fringe arts festival, place lengthy and sometime ill informed demands on the project in order for us to maintain their support. When Christabel lost her seat we approached the new Democrats Senator to try and get his support. His response was that GIBBER is too 'controversial' to support. We are told again and again not to print 'ills' (illegal graffiti pieces), people are happy with 'pictures' but not 'words' when it comes to aerosol art, our target group can't be 'trusted' and our business plan had been unsatisfactory for ArtsWA for the past 2 years because we don't show a profit.

The nature of the project is open, accessible to young people, not afraid of printing what young people write, and as a result receives all the criticism and flak that is often generally aimed at young people. We become the target for societies mistrust and blame towards young people. Instead of being seen as an outlet and something positive, GIBBER becomes the embodiment of what groups in society are afraid of in young people. GIBBER is an official body of fully and partially qualified arts workers and has defence and support mechanisms which see us through attacks. We have a strong network of supporting organisations, young people and professionals on our board, who see us through thick and thin. The community who work with at risk youth in WA all know the importance of GIBBER magazine's continuing publishing and we receive countless letters, phone calls and comments of support.

The Covert Family

by Mary Jenkins

During times of industrial expansion and war women are a useful resource for employers. Politicians appeal to women to leave their sinks and join the workplace because "their country needs them." However, when it becomes politically inconvenient for women to work, because of high unemployment, women are forced to return to the sink. To justify this policy the government blames married women in the workplace for high unemployment. Facilities that were provided to keep women in the workplace in boom times have now become a drain on the country's economy. They call this a time of recession. Women are once again called upon to help out. But this time there is a reversal of policy, women are no longer needed. To help balance the budget the politicians' solution is essential for women to take over welfare services as unpaid workers. The savings will be tremendous and women are expected to do this for the sake of the family and community at large(sic). An alternative means of saving from spending on defence, sport, prison population, advertising and government propaganda exercises like consultancy fees which are all largely men's occupational games, are not even considered. The spending on these unproductive areas cannot be justified against the everyday needs of the community, yet such expenditure is never questioned. Why? Because there are not enough women in the decision making process to control unnecessary waste in the economy.

This is where we are at today in Australia. The cut backs in public services is presented as an economic necessity. The political campaign to promote the family is nothing but a covert policy to undermine the welfare state which was set up to keep women in the workplace to help the county out in boom time. Today women are made to feel unemployment is their fault so they should get out of the workplace. Expensive social services will not longer be needed if women care

for their children and elderly folk while men run the country, balance the books and create employment (sic). Childcare, care of the elderly and education are the first to go, there are few voters in these areas. Once again women would have done their duty if they answer the government's call to help the nation in this time of economic recession. Why must women always be the ones to make sacrifices. Is this ideology of women's self sacrifice embedded in Christianity? Is this why so many women are leave the Church.

The shift back to a Victorian concept of family threatens the sovereignty and rights of women as free citizens. It is a covert attack on the rights of women to be paid for the work they do. The work women have always done in the private sector as carers and community volunteers as well as their work in the traditional workplace. Most women in the paid workplace work a double shift running the home as well.

This present government focus on family, is linked to the media image of a community living in fear of rising juvenile crime, drug taking, youth suicide and growing dependency on the welfare state. The blame is placed largely on the breakdown of the family. By claiming things would improve if women stayed at home and looked after the children and elderly folk, instead of neglecting their family duties, the solution rests with women. Fathers are not under the same pressure to take responsibility for these social problems, for them it is business as usual.

The policy of closing down special schools, integrating disabled children into the school system and sending psychiatric patients out into the community with little support, has added further pressure on families and community. On the surface these policies looked acceptable but who shoulders the burden? In the past women fought for facilities to ease their burden of care, now there is a danger that all positive advances in

special care needs will be lost. A media publicity campaign exposing the negative aspects of some corrupted institutions have justified the government closing down many excellent care facilities as well as the ones that needed to be closed down. This saved the government millions of dollars and also causes a great deal of community stress.

White middle class males,(WASPS) who make up the government and bureaucracy, accustomed to power, are now expressing their fear of the results of the feminist surge since the sixties.

Women's refuges were established to empower women who suffered domestic violence. Many women became empowered through educational opportunities in the seventies and eighties. They picked up the pieces, reassessed their situations in the light of feminism, asserted themselves and become successful in the workplace. Now refuges and education opportunities are being closed off to women. Lack of funding, and increased fees in childcare and education make it impossible for single mothers.

The breakdown of marriage and traditional family life is blamed on working women. Men who decide to trade in a wife for a new model just like his car often walk away from his first family and expect to start afresh. What can a woman do in such circumstances today? The law still favours men in divorce. A concept of responsible adulthood must be developed and taught to boys. To enable them to grow up to be responsible fathers who will share home duties as an accepted part of their life..

The Women's Liberation Movement empowered women to become political, to claim rights within the traditional family concept that historically excluded them as real citizens a 100 years ago. The twentieth century began well for women when they gained suffrage. Women don't want to start the twenty first century fighting the same battles.

While we remember all the gains women made in the last 100 years we must never forget how easily rights can be removed if women are not vigilant. Women should consider it an honour to be a feminist today. I am!

This article appeared in thinking allowed in the Fremantle Herald Vol 8 no. 28 Saturday July 12 1997. The WEL WA Broadsheet and National Inkwell Nov 1997

Greens and local community fundraising initiative

Federal Election Campaign Working Group Diary

Meeting

6pm Every Wednesday
Greens Office

Workshops

Campaign Development
9:30am 21st February
CCSA Cnr Canterbury/ Albany
Hwy Victoria Park



Handmade clay numbats are available for sale and have been made as part of a joint fundraiser between the Zoo Numbat Breeding program, the Foothills Alternative School and the Perth Greens. These numbats are attractively gift-boxed and would make an excellent gift. They are available from Waldecks(who make no profit from this venture) for \$35 each. Proceeds go towards increasing the Numbat Breeding Program ant the Perth Zoo with the intention of eventually releasing the numbats into the wild, particularly around the Shark Bay peninsula. the Foothills School in Guildford is a alternative, independent, non-government secondary school which strives to offer quality education regardless of socio-economic background and the Perth Greens. For more information contact Kayt 9345 5368, Alison 9444 6827 or Penny 9296 4232

Applications are invited for the position of Electorate Officer in the office of Senator Dee Margetts Senator for Western Australia - The Greens (WA)

The role is challenging and requires a broad range of skills that cover both parliamentary and constituent work. Desirable qualities include:

Good networking skills, particularly with community-based groups and Ministerial offices; Ability to prepare speeches and questions under pressure; Ability to analyse legislation and prepare drafting instructions for amendments; The flexibility and skills to adapt to a wide range of issues including, but not limited to providing a green approach to economics and finance, trade, overseas development and defence budget issues.

The ability to work unsupervised in a small team and determine priorities on a day to day basis is essential.

Above average communication skills, computer and word processing ability , including use of the internet, are also desirable.

The position is based in Perth but travel to Canberra and around Western Australia will be required.

Salary range \$35,485 to \$37,341

Please send details of employment history, with names of referees to Senator Dee Margetts - PO Box 739, Victoria Park WA 6979

Deadline for applications: Friday 30th January 1998

If undelivered please return to:
THE GREENS (WA) PO BOX 737
VICTORIA PARK 6979

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