

# GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF



AUGUST 1997



## RESTORING THE BALANCE

# THE GREENS (WA) ARE ON THE MOVE.....

As from 18 August 1997 The Greens (WA) Office will leave Wickham Street. The office is on the second floor of Pascoe House (over the newsagents). It is a purpose built office and spacious enough for meetings. There is a bus stop (To Perth) directly outside the entrance. Train: Victoria Park Station & walk up Duncan St to Albany Hwy). Parking is good in Duncan St.

As from 18/8/97 our location will be at:

**Suite 4, 339-341 Albany Hwy Victoria Park 6100**

**PO Box (to be confirmed) Victoria Park 6979**

**Phone 9470 9227 Fax 9470 9537**

**E-mail greensWA@argo.net.au**

## REGIONAL COUNCIL DIARY

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

### **BRAND**

S Armstrong 08 952 1101

1<sup>st</sup> Mon of month 7.30pm

Ocean Clipper Inn

Patterson Rd Rockingham

### **CANNING**

A Jones 9398 4193

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of month

### **CURTIN**

B Roy 9381 4870

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of month 7.30

129 Gloster St Subiaco

### **FORREST & BUNBURY**

Paul Davis 08 97201 376

### **DENMARK**

Paul Llewellyn

08 98482 015

### **FREMANTLE**

Dave Coggin

9335 4745

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of month 7.30pm

Glyde In, 42 Glyde St

Fremantle

### **MOORE/COWAN**

M Castillo 9305 1045

1<sup>st</sup> Mon of month 7.30pm

32 Hazel Ave Quinns Rocks

### **PERTH**

K Davies 9371 1001

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of month 7.30pm

15a Longroyd St

Mt Lawley

### **STIRLING**

Ivan 9446 3277

Monday prior to Reps

phone for details

### **SWAN**

L Lodge 9367 9226

1st Thurs of month

7.30pm (upstairs) Carlisle Hotel,

Rutland St Carlisle

**Kalgoorlie Contact:**

JJ 08 9215 659

### WORKING GROUPS

#### **Admin WG**

Kate 9440 3226

#### **Parliamentary WG**

August 13th 7:30pm

Contact :Catherine 9221 4550

or 9293 2929

#### **Policy WG**

Karl 9472 1913

#### **Social Justice WG**

August 5th 6pm

16 Wickham St

Contact Rob 9328 6963

#### **Federal Election Campaign WG**

August 12th 5:30pm

Christian Ctr for Social Action

Canterbury/Albany Hwy

Contact Karl 9472 1913

### CONTACTS

#### **Economics:**

Brian 9328 7065

#### **Education:**

Andrew 9450 3423

#### **Environment:**

Nick 9361 7782

#### **Peace & Disarmament**

Brenda 9381 4870

### OFFICE BEARERS

#### **Co Conveners**

Kayt 9371 1001

Karl 9472 1913

#### **Secretary:**

Kate 9440 3226

#### **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**

(Dave & 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)

339 Oxford St Leederville 6007

Ph 9201 0582 fax 9201 0583

#### **The Greens (WA) Inc Office**

(Catherine) **to August 15**

16 Wickham St East Perth 6004

ph 9221 4550 fax 9221 4515

#### **E-mail:**

GreensWA@argo.net.au

#### **homepage:**

HTTP://argo.net.au/GreensWA

### **Congratulations**

**to the incoming**

**Office Bearers**

**Conveners:**

**Brenda Roy & Robin Chappel**

**Treasurer: Cliff Holdom**



## PEACE

*A definition from one who has thought much about it*

*"Peace is not simply absence of war or conflict. It is the existence of conditions of justice and equality which eradicate the causes of war or conflict. It is the existence of conditions in which the absence of war or conflict is self-sustaining."*

Gerry Adams

### *Thanks to this issues contributors*

Giz Watson, Chrissie Sharp, Carole Perry, Jim Scott, Dee Margetts, Ruth Greble, Terry Hall, Rowena Skinner, Brian Fleay, Catherine Hall, Tim Hall.

This issue was produced by Karl Haynes and Catherine Hall with the assistance of Lesley Fleay.

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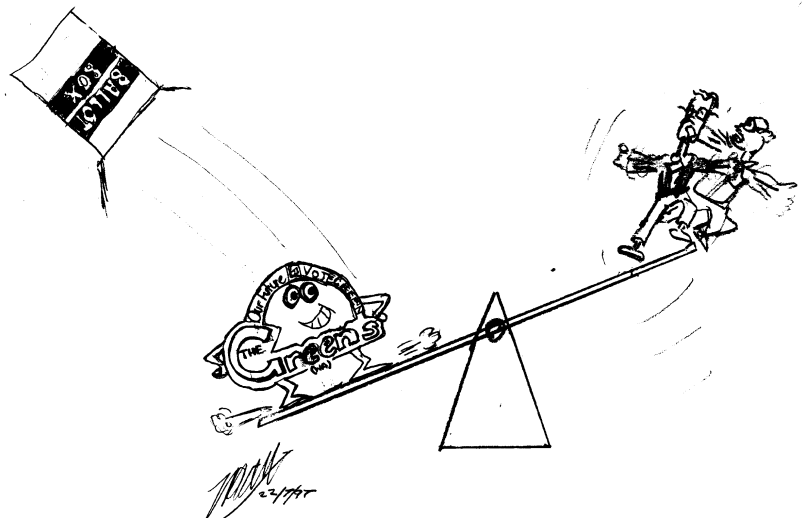
*Terry Hall*

## DISCLAIMER

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

## DEADLINE : GREEN ISSUE AUGUST 25th.

Submissions welcome. Contact  
Catherine 9470 9227  
Karl 9472 1913  
*submissions on disk appreciated*



## *Restoring the balance !*



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# Greens in Parliament

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## Reflections

*Dee Margetts*

I have been in the Senate for over four years now. When I was first elected, a Four Corners team followed me around for over a week to do a "Pooh Bear goes to Canberra" sort of story. It was obvious from the kinds of questions they were asking me initially that they assumed that I was naive and ill-equipped to enter into that particular bear pit.

The program was entitled "Christabel and Dee". As the journalists and producer got to know us better over the week or so they spent with us, their responses to us changed. They were, perhaps, amongst a whole lot of people who originally assumed that, in the balance of power, dealing with issues such as budgets, taxes, tariffs and trade, we would be shown to be inadequate.

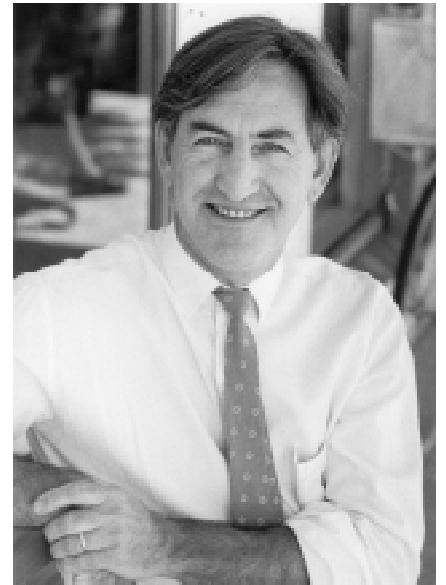
Five budgets later, and we have not gone to water yet. I have an extraordinary staff, in Perth and in Canberra, who are used to working under enormous pressure, to moving deadlines. I am still in touch with both the journalist and the producer who made that original Four Corners program (although neither are working for the program now). Almost all of the hard bitten press gallery, if they take the time to sit and talk through issues and our approach to the political process, take a different attitude to what we do. Since the resignation of Mal Colston from the Labor Party, it is certainly not widely recognised but I have had more success with amendments, getting support for motions, initiating debates and committee references than I ever did in the previous arrangement in the shared balance of power in the Senate.

With less and less media diversity it is not difficult for corporate Australia to arrange to marginalise The Greens - and yet community support is not disappearing. There is a greater challenge than ever before to use our own networks within the community to spread the Green message.

It is very important, at a time when State and Federal Governments are gagging debate on issues of environment and social justice, to empower the community and for the Green network to feel empowered via the political process - at all levels.

Training sessions have been very successful - in "ecotactics" and training in using the parliamentary process at a State and Federal level in a way which is relevant to local groups. Please let me know if your group wants to host a training session - in the leadup to the next Federal election. It is important if we want an even greater coverage of Green State politicians and to be more represented at a local level. Greens need to be out there, visible and providing a voice of commonsense in a world gone mad promoting economic fundamentalism.

My aim in politics is to become redundant - ideally because the ideas of Green politics have become mainstream but, in the interim, because there are so many people who are able to take over the kind of role that I am playing now.



(WA) reviewing legislation, encouraging government scrutiny, and using Parliament to support the environment and community. My principle role in the recent first Parliamentary session was as a negotiator for The Greens (WA) with the Government, ALP and Democrats attempting to clarify committee structures in the Legislative Council.

It proved to be a demanding job dealing with a Government used to getting its way on all occasions, and the ALP and Democrats parties proving to be fickle and sometimes unhappy bedfellows.

Thankfully we overcame the Government's resistance to changes to the Committee system and set up the Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development, chaired by The Greens (WA) Christine Sharp.

The Government has become more communicative and negotiations are underway which are likely to lead to a much more pivotal role for The Greens (WA) both in the running of the House and in scrutinising legislation.

A further change has occurred with many lobby groups realising that The Greens (WA) are now an essential element in the decision making process. While this is very gratifying, it is also very time consuming and can tend to divert us away from our proactive agenda.

There is much to do in the coming months and years, and it will take great work to balance the needs of all the areas of our Parliamentary and constituent work. There are many goals to make, and many already set goals to achieve, such as my private member's Public Disclosures Bill which we hope to have debated in the next Parliamentary session.

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## My changing role in Parliament

*Jim Scott*

The role that I have carried out as a member of the Legislative Council over the last four years has changed considerably with the growth of The Greens (WA) Parliamentary team and sharing the balance of power.

Previously, my major efforts were centred on my electorate where I tried very hard to build on my electoral base through direct involvement with community groups and constituents. My office in Fremantle, with Dave Coggin and later Mark Hingston

keeping me on the rails, was the centre of a lot of subversive activity by community groups from around Perth.

Parliament was mainly used by my office as a useful resource providing us with answers to questions, the ability to access information and people and an occasional opportunity to make public statements.

All that has changed. The new balance in the Legislative Council has placed greater responsibility and emphasis on The Greens

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# Greens in Parliament

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## Sharing my thoughts

Chrissie Sharp

Thanks for the opportunity of sharing my thoughts and recent experiences with you. Having completed the first Session of the new Legislative Council, this is an appropriate moment to pause and take stock.

As you may know, on the final hour of the last day of the Session the new upper house resolved to form a new Standing Committee on **Ecologically Sustainable Development**.

As the first **ESD** meeting it was further resolved that I should chair the committee. So a major milestone has been achieved towards establishing a genuine house of review.

By the time you read this, it will have been announced how the Committee intends to proceed, and we will have begun conducting our first inquiry.

It's a huge honour for me to be directing the work of the Standing Committee, and it might not have happened without the initial work of David McKenzie from the Wilderness Society, and then later, Jim Scott's adroit political manoeuvring, and finally Giz's support through some dark hours.

I am profoundly satisfied to be working with the notion of ESD. It is in the dynamic interchange between the economy and the environment that both our problems and their solutions are located. That is why I devoted my inaugural speech to exploring the notion. If you would like a copy please contact my office.

Looking back on the first Session, I am astounded by how intense Parliament is. The experience of the onlooker in the public gallery is rather dull. Yet, when you are seated downstairs and need to follow the legislative schedule and the politics of the corridors, it is an excruciating experience for the novice. This is most particularly because the action is highly unpredictable. Like chess but with more emotions!

These difficulties are compounded by our lack of resources in Parliament. Unlike the major parties the Democrats and ourselves have no party facilities, so at the moment we must cope with just a telephone each. The National Party, as country Members, receive special secretarial assistance..

So I find myself, as Member for the South-West, being probably the only Member of



Parliament without a computer, fax or assistance in Perth. Fortunately, years of 'making do' on a farm have taught me resilience!

The next milestone we are looking forward to at the Balingup office is the big REFIT. The Department of Premier and Cabinet is taking its time, so we are still using borrowed furniture. (Special Thanks to Elaine Michael for the heater. We might have died of frost bite without it!) We have our fingers crossed that the refurbishment will be completed by the end of August.

So, if you are in the South-West in early Spring, please drop in to see Wendy, Margie, Adrian and myself in our new 'luxury' quarters-to-be.

## We started out on day one

Giz Watson

I know you're going to say: "Well, that's not like you, Giz!", but I've got to say I've been frantically busy. We started out on day one with the Estimates Committees, asking questions at every opportunity, and of course I got to ask questions on fisheries and coastal issues in particular, on health in respect of pesticides, and on transport, discussing road funding.

Then it was on to the real business of sitting days in the Legislative Council. There were questions to ask and bills to read, amendments to put up, and keeping up with it all was a big task for everyone involved.

The negotiations over committees have seen the committees now reflecting the change in numbers in the Upper House. I will be on the Legislation Committee which I believe is an important committee. I put forward an amendment to the Land Administration Act which I hope will result in improvements to the protection of "A" class reserves, and we also sought to ensure Aboriginal and conservation representation on the Pastoral Board. After many discussions with those opposing the Oakajee (Kingstream) project proposed for the coast at Geraldton, I spoke against the State Agreement Act on Oakajee because heavy industry along the coastline is so obviously undesirable and is reflected in strong community opposition in Geraldton.



Last weekend I travelled to Kalgoorlie to look at the gold mining industry there, most particularly Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines and Kaltails, and took the opportunity to meet, over lunch, with The Greens (W.A.) members for the Goldfields area. In June I went to Darwin to join with members of parliament from around Australia at the Parliamentarians for Drug Law Reform meeting. It was useful to get a National perspective on the issues.

But closer to home, last week we held the first meeting of the Parliamentary Working Group in this office. We've had an excellent attendance at both the meetings, and enthusiastic response to the main aims of the group.

Because we're so central, community groups haven't wasted any time in coming in to use the office facilities, with Animal Liberation, Greenteach, MAPW on

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uranium and the Brownies being regular visitors.

Greens members will know of my interest in Gay Law Reform issues, and that the Democrats made a surprise move, which certainly surprised me. I'm over the surprise now, but have to admit I didn't appreciate their intrusion into what I consider was, by-and-large, my stamping ground.

We've had a considerable amount of media coverage in both the daily rag and community newspapers, as well as on the Radio. Had about a half-page spread in the Kalgoorlie Miner on gold royalties, and talked on ABC radio with Peter Kennedy on ammonium nitrate. I've spoken on uranium, fisheries closures and management, and the Reserves Bill. I've had my say on drugs, smoking in the workplace, the numbers game in the new-look House and more. I also spoke on the State of the Environment Report on ABC TV.

I've attended more meetings than I can name, but I was a panel speaker at the CSA Women's Conference which was about ways to combat the Government's agenda of pushing everybody back into the 19th century with the workplace agreements and Mr. Kierath's legislation.

The manager of the Acquired Brain Injury organisation invited Carole and me to look over the facilities, and to discuss issues in respect of the growing number of people in the community with this terrible disability.

We also went along to the morning seminar on heroin addiction, which was a very useful discussion on a very current problem. This led to me being invited onto community television to discuss the proposed ACT heroin trials, which I believe need to be undertaken if we are to beat this scourge.

I am not sitting in Parliament for the next few weeks and hope that I will be able to make a significant hole in the work ahead and in front of me.



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# in Local Government

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## Rewarding, challenging and plain hard work

Rowena Skinner

My time on Vic Park council has so far been rewarding, challenging and plain hard work. While there is so much to say there are two points I would like to make. At the risk of sounding clichéd local council does bring you very close to the people. Your neighbours, the local shopkeeper and the person you meet on the street are all your constituents. I often chat to people on the street or supermarket about council issues. Residents have my home phone number and I receive calls most days including Friday evenings, early mornings even Sundays. It is occasionally inconvenient but reinforces my desire and ability to represent the concerns of the residents. The second point is the balance between addressing everyday issues of footpaths, clean streets, rubbish etc and the greater issues that go beyond traditional council roles like recycling, environmental concerns, indigenous peoples, crime and community services like youth programs, the arts etc. One thing I have learned is people are not receptive to these concepts unless their rubbish is collected and their footpaths are cleaned and maintained. If they can see that their rates are spent on the traditional things they are more likely to accept 'radical green' suggestions for change.

Now I want to talk about the more practical side - what I have achieved on council. One of the first achievements was the establishment of the Waste Management Advisory Committee, of which I am chairperson, made up of 2 councillors and 8 community members. Each resident now has up to 3 crates for collection of plastic, paper, glass, aluminium and steel cans. Our aim is reduce waste to landfill by at least 50% by the year 2000. The participation rate is increasing steadily. However the biggest component of waste is green waste. We are currently looking into providing a regular green waste collection.

As a result of a motion to have a policy to ban circuses with exotic animals using council property, the council is now in the process of making a local law to ban circuses with exotic animals using council property. After the policy was made Circus Royale attempted to take the council to court for lack of consultation. After discussion with our lawyers we found that to be legally binding



we needed to go through the process of creating a local law which incorporates a public consultation phase.

I successfully included in the budget for this financial year an environment officer and with the support of another councillor a community policing officer to examine the issues of crime and safety and implement programs to reduce crime and improve safety. An allocation for a community bus service has also been listed for consideration for next years budget and the administration have prepared a discussion document on providing a community bus service.

While I was unable to convince the council to support energy efficient design as an essential criteria for building approval, I did get support for providing a voluntary energy rating service to all building applicants. The council will be purchasing a special computer software package and training a couple of its staff for this purpose.

After the very successful Pathways to Sustainability Conference in Newcastle which focused on local sustainability and programs such as local agenda 21 I broached the subject of using the Environment Officer position to implement local agenda 21 and I will be moving a motion to this effect as well as our council endorsing the Newcastle declaration and committing Vic Park council to the goal of global sustainability at the local level.

It has not been easy to achieve these changes, a lot of rational argument and persistence was necessary. I must also acknowledge the support from my fellow councillor Cathy Taylor a long term activist in the Green Movement who has also worked hard on many other issues such as maintaining our bushland and using native, local plants.

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# WA's unique forests

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Carole Perry, Swan Greens

Every day our forests are being lost. Clearing for buildings, power lines, dams, quarries, council rubbish tips, mining, especially bauxite and gold, and farm clearing together with the hundreds of kilometres of roads to serve all these developments continue to whittle away the forests. Large areas of forest are infected by dieback, which kills some 800 species of our flora. Most of what little remains of pre-European forest is intensively logged and repeatedly burnt.

When governments are elected we expect them to care for our state. In the case of forests, after life and property, the government agency, CALM, considers the protection from wild fires of pine plantations and karri regrowth, two preferred tree crop species, to be a top priority. Destruction for Bunnings alone produces 680,000 tonnes of chiplogs.

Astute work by Jim and Dee in Parliament, and persistence by the Conservation Council and WA Forest Alliance using Freedom-of-Information, have often been the only way we have been able to obtain any information at all. On 18 April, when Regulations were introduced to remove export controls on hardwood chips, Dee expressed our "outrage .. when the Federal Government handed over our important and precious native forests to the woodchip companies".

## **Karri**

The total area of karri forest left in the world is a mere 200,000 ha. Surprisingly companies which purchase old growth karri (200-500 years old) from CALM are not required to reveal into which markets the timber products will be sold.

To save these beautiful cream and grey barked trees, amongst the tallest in the world, forest campaign groups have proposed a Greater Beedelup National Park. The Minister for the Environment recently met 200 people, visited Giblett and other forest blocks and travelled a section of the Donnelly River Valley - the area of the proposed new national park. She refused to endorse the proposal and said logging in Giblett forest could proceed. Despite the fact that large parts of these forests are listed or interim listed on the National Estate, under the current Forest Management Plan 10,000 ha are in danger of logging.

## **Jarrah**

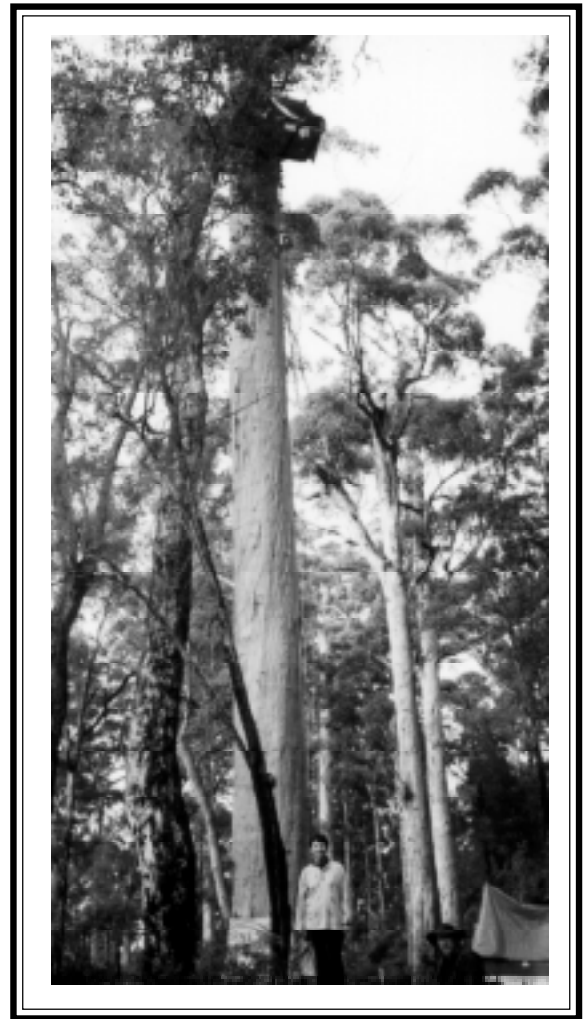
Found nowhere else in the world, what little remains of our jarrah is being subjected to unprecedented levels of exploitation. Royalties are so low that CALM sells 500-year-old jarrah sawlogs for less than 30-year-old plantation pine. Sufficient pine and eucalypt plantations are available to avoid the destruction of our last remaining old growth jarrah, yet CALM continues to sell an average of 500,000 tonnes of jarrah sawlogs each year (about 95% from old growth) for sawn timber used mainly in construction. There is so little concern for our unique jarrah that when Jim Scott asked the Minister for Finance, Max Evans, for the age of the wood sold for charcoal Jim was told "the age of wood sold to Simcoa is not measured and therefore it is not possible to answer the question". Charcoal used in the production of silicon chews up another 86,000 tonnes.

Greens members living in the South West may know the Central Forest Block south of Nannup which is just 1200 ha in size. All of its 800 ha of jarrah/marri forest were virgin old growth. Members and forest friends were horrified last February when roads were bulldozed through the block destroying jarrah and habitat. On 6 March logging and clearfelling began. Chrissie Sharp has said, "We are currently cutting down the jarrah forest at a rate that is 67% above its sustainable yield".

To save what little is left of our ancient jarrah, forest groups are campaigning for another national park of some 30,000 ha - the Wellington Dam National Park. The proposal is supported by shire councils, tourist operators and the local Chamber of Commerce.

## **Forest Mismanagement**

Tree crops are the answer. But CALM is determined to log out the old growth forests as fast as it can. Conservationists and CALM know full well that hollows appear



when a tree is over 150 years old. The old growth is needed for our 51 species of birds and mammals that are dependent upon the hollows. Our old growth forests are too few and must remain. The CALM Act says State Forest is to be managed for recreation, water catchment, conservation and *timber production on a sustained yield basis*. There are 55,000 ha of regrowth karri in our South West mainly handplanted over the past 20 years and CALM has its eye on this too.

In 1995 Bunnings illegally exported woodchips from Giblett; the regulatory authorities took no action. Prolonged efforts by forest groups have been successful in persuading the Netherlands government not to buy karri to line Dutch canals; the Netherlands government had been misled into believing our karri forest is being managed sustainably. The Olympic Committee in Sydney has apparently been told that "plantation jarrah" can be supplied - there is no such thing! CALM may be referring to "rehabilitation jarrah" on minesites which forest friends believe

should not be touched. The National Biodiversity Council, Australia's peak scientific body concerned with the conservation of biological diversity, has expressed extreme concern at threats to our WA forests - they are ignored.

On 29 May the State Minister for the Environment confirmed that 461 ha of jarrah and karri in Giblett forest "within the Southern Forest Region National Estate" will nonetheless be clearfelled before the end of the year. The Minister tells us "forest is fully regenerated after harvest, all natural ecological processes continue (ensuring) habitat reestablishes". Nonsense! The northern half of the Central Forest Block has just been destroyed. Kerr jarrah forest, home of the elusive chuditch, is under immediate threat. Part of Giblett should be safe - it is under a moratorium until 2003 thanks to a legally binding condition imposed on CALM since 1988. Permanent camps (where Dee has stayed) and constantly occupied tree platforms are necessary to protect the rest. The failure of 18 months of expensive litigation to be borne by the forest campaigners, together with generous lawyers and barristers, could see the magnificent and breathtaking Sharpe and Jane forests come crashing down in the New Year. Despite the costs appeals have been lodged.

In the meantime the Legislative Council has established a Standing Committee chaired by Chrissie. We hope the first issue to be addressed will be our forests. The Buy-pass Bunnings Campaign is having great success. Targeted at Bunnings and WA Salvage, over 4000 people have already promised to no longer support the company doing the most damage to our ancient forests. Chrissie is also convening an industry/conservation "Round Table" with a Greens member, Mary Frith, representing the WA Forest Alliance.

CALM has been criticised by an independent review board for its forestry section in the just released draft State of the Environment report. The chiplog supply contract between CALM and Wesfarmers-Bunnings is up for renewal in June 1998 and we say it must not be renewed. Fast-growing tree crops on farmland already cleared can supply all the timber and woodchips we need.

As if our forests aren't suffering enough, on 19 June the Federal Minister announced that the Ministerial Council at the end of July will be looking into the privatisation of Australia's forests! Now is the time before it really is too late.

## Notice to all Members & Supporters

### The 1997 Annual General Meeting of the Greens (WA)



will be held on Saturday August 23rd at 2pm

Venue: Tresellian Community Centre

21 Tyrell Street, Nedlands

Facilitator: Karen Merrin

#### The Agenda

1. The presentation of the Annual Report of the 1996/7 Office Bearers
2. Receive the incoming Office Bearers for 1997/8
3. Receive the Treasurer's Report & Budget for 1997/8
4. Other items of business on notice
5. Pause for Reflection: an opportunity for members to comment & reflect on the general direction of GWA at this point in time.

**Keynote Speakers** : The Greens (WA) **Senator Dee Margetts** will address the meeting after the close of business and **Trish Hill-Keddie** will give a address on the topic of The Stolen Children.

Meet the *new office bearers, refreshments* will be available,

### MEMBERS and SUPPORTERS

*are invited to take the opportunity to get together*

with our Senator and MLCs

Dee, Giz, Jim and Chrissie to

*Workshop Issues and Strategies*

*and to Set Long and Short term Goals for*

*The Greens (WA) and our Parliamentarians*

9.30am -12. 30 23 Aug 1997 Tresellian Community Centre

21 Tyrell Street Nedlands

Please complete registration form if you require **Lunch** and/or **Childminding**

#### REGISTRATION FORM

**Lunch** \$5    **Childminding** free (but *must* register by 19 Aug)

LUNCH No Required

CHILD MINDING Number required AM  PM

NAME .....

ADDRESS.....

.....PHONE.....

Post this form to the office: PO Box 8087 Perth 6849

**Phone:** Catherine 08 9221 4550 **fax** 08 9221 4515 **email** GreensWA @argo.net.au

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# *anti-family planning*

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Ruth Greble

*Current Federal and State governments, while emphasising 'family values' are actually making it more difficult for couples to plan their families.*

Women and young women are especially hard-hit, since government and public attitudes hold them responsible for raising children.

Where other countries are putting money into family planning education (Thailand), cheap contraceptives (New Zealand) and legislating for safe pregnancy termination services (Guyana and Republic of South Africa), Australia is cutting funds at home and overseas to such an extent that the basic knowledge and service structure is badly damaged.

This is very cost-effective service which has been run in Western Australia for less than \$2.5 million per year.

The Federal Health Minister has cut funds to states for family planning and nearly demolished the national body, Family Planning Australia, by funding cuts so that it no longer has an executive director.

Foreign Minister Downer has chopped around \$4 million from overseas aid for family planning education and service funds, which includes some assistance to women for simple, safe abortion.

Over 200,000 women are conservatively estimated by World Health Organisation to die each year - from botched abortions, at least 24 per hour - and the toll on survivors and their families is unknown.

It could happen here. The Queensland Health Minister Mike Horan wants to restrict abortion, the Western Australian Parliament has not looked at decriminalisation for over twenty years until Jim Scott's petition last year to the Upper House - watch this space.

Federally, Parliament allowed Senator Harradine's Therapeutic Goods Act Amendment No.2 to limit the useful RU-486 which can control fertility, among other many medical uses, on the basis that it was used as an abortifacient.

Despite articulate and strong opposition from Dee Margetts and some Democrats, all ALP and Coalition members backed the move.

Abortion has been famed as a conscience vote issue with all major parties in the past.

Harradine's next move is expected to be the elimination of the Medicare rebate for pregnancy termination.

## **CURTIN GREENS**

Next Meeting 7 August 1997

Speaker: **Michael Bennett of the Environmental Defender's Office (EDO)**  
Michael will speak about EDO activities. This is a good chance to get the latest on constraints by Federal Government to EDO operations.

**All Greens Members and Supporters Welcome**

Meeting 7.30 pm Michael will speak at 8pm  
129 Gloster Road (Cnr of Coleraine St - entrance in Coleraine St) Shenton Park.  
Enquiries: Greg Boland 9384 6409

## **JOB VACANCY**

**PARLIAMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE MINISTRY OF PREMIER AND CABINET**

Part time Electorate Officer to Jim Scott MLC The Greens (WA) Member for the South Metropolitan Region

### **Experience/Details**

Experience in research and information gathering, office management and/or secretarial work is essential. Demonstrated interpersonal skills, written and oral communication skills are also essential.

Ability to work under pressure, independently or as part of a team is important. Experience in communicating with community groups and activists an advantage.

### **Duties**

Attend to all constituent enquiries. Liaise with individuals, groups and a range of public and private organisations on behalf of the Member. Prepare briefs and reports, draft correspondence and undertake all secretarial and administrative duties associated with running the Member's office with minimal supervision.

Employment will be in a job share arrangement with another part time electorate officer.

### **General**

Subject to a three month probationary period, the appointment will be for the term of the Member. A Job Description Form, which includes selection criteria is available by ringing (08) 9336 1991.

### **Salary**

Enterprise Bargaining Agreement - \$33,769 (annual) or \$1294 (fortnightly) or Workplace Agreement \$34,251 (annual) or \$1313 (fortnightly) 'pro rata'.

Application to marked "CONFIDENTIAL and addressed to" Jim Scott MLC  
19 Point Street  
Fremantle WA 6160

# Campaigns, Transport and Oil: New Developments

Brian Fleay

## Chartered Institute of Transport

I presented a paper, Transport Beyond Oil, to the Chartered Institute of Transport's (CHIT) National Conference last year. As a consequence their next National Conference to be held in Launceston 4-6 November 1998 has the theme Beyond Oil: Transport and Fuel for the Future. I have been invited to be the theme speaker to open the conference.

The conference format will be a blend of papers and workshops to produce a Statement of Outcomes suitable for a media release. Keynote speakers will follow me from the petroleum and transport industries plus a green spokesperson and futurist.

The Institute will commence publicising the conference in the next few weeks with reference to a paper by myself and Jean Laherrere published by the Institute of Science and Technology Policy at Murdoch University earlier this year. This could lead to media interest and enquires to myself.

## Local Campaigns

Two Discussion Papers that concern energy and oil are on the agenda. One is on the Fremantle Rockingham Industrial Area Strategy (FRIARS), the other imminent on Perth Metropolitan Freight Strategy. I am putting in submissions to both. The public consultation processes for both go into the first half of 1998. A lively campaign is developing around Fremantle along the root of the "highway that does not exist" - from Innaloo to Rockingham and related land use issues.

Local groups will publish a "Daily Gridlock" in August with a further edition possible. The Freight Strategy Discussion Paper is likely to see other campaigns surface. These campaigns need to link with the movement against uranium mining. All the activity raises the possibility that the future of petroleum and its connection with the development strategy of the Court Government could come on to the agenda of the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development some time in the next 12 months or so. There is an important interface with the issue of employment.

## Strategies Beyond Oil

My presentations on future oil supply are weak on alternative social and economic strategies. They tend to have a doom and gloom flavour. Both myself and the Greens need to develop a more hopeful political and economic strategy for the transition to the era "beyond oil". *I can not do this alone.*

# INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Terry Hall

A recent article in the New Scientist has suggested that the decision by the outgoing UK government to refuse radioactive waste disposal company Nirex permission to sink a deep hole near the Sellafield nuclear complex may mark the beginning of the end for Britain's nuclear industry. The lack of disposal facilities for nuclear waste in the UK - the result of sustained public pressure - has seen radioactive waste stockpiles from domestic operations and the reprocessing of foreign fuel increase substantially. Although fuel reprocessing contracts stipulate that waste from the process is to be returned to the country of origin, to date, none has gone back. Given the growing opposition to the movement of nuclear waste in countries such as Germany and Japan, returning the stockpiled waste may prove to be an insurmountable problem. The only logical resolution, according to the New Scientist, is to stop reprocessing both domestic and foreign fuel. This will signal the end of the nuclear industry in the UK. In the meantime, and for the foreseeable future, however, the disposal issue remains.

Source: New Scientist, 10 May 1997, p55.

More than 170 countries met at the **United Nations** in New York in June to discuss how to save the planet from environmental disaster, but critics say Earth Summit is itself a local ecological nightmare. "Far an agency that does nothing but preach, you see very little compliance," said Pranay Gupte, editor the The Earth Times, a newspaper that reports on the environment. The New York Post said the meeting will produce 10 tonnes of garbage a day during the week-long meeting.

Source: Web: Globe & Mail, 25 Jun. 97  
**Mexican Election Result**

The **Green Ecological Party of Mexico** (Partido Verde Ecologista de Mexico) reports that it achieved great success in that country's recent poll. One Senator was elected with 4.25% of the vote (1,100,000 votes); 10 National Deputies (4% of the vote); and 5 Deputies in Mexico City (8.95% of the vote). In addition, 40 municipal seats were won. As more than one million people voted green in Mexico, the PVEM rightly consider this a great achievement for greens in Mexico and the Green Movement worldwide.

Source: e-mail from PVEM, 7 July 1997.

# SURF



Jo Vallentine

The Pilgrimage project to Stop Uranium: Reclaim the Future is a wake-up call to let our government know that the future is not for sale.

The earth itself calls me to undertake this work. The danger of radioactive leftovers, even if there are no accidents with nuclear power, is too great a burden to leave to our children and theirs. We need to interrupt the madness of accumulating more of this poison fire.

Our journey round the country, with two visitors from the Chernobyl affected area of Russia, linking them with Traditional Aboriginal custodians, will be a sacred and political journey, to touch the hearts and minds of Australians. We need your support!

## RECYCLE

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

### NATIVE TITLE

*Email*  
Native Title  
Working Group

A Legal Technical Advisory Group on Native Title is being formed in order to advise Senator Dee Margetts and Senator Bob Brown on amendments to the Native Title Act by late August. If you are interested and on email please contact the group on [margetts@iinet.net.au](mailto:margetts@iinet.net.au) or if you do not have access to email contact Kirsten on 9470 2688

## Re-opening of Nominations

from eligible members for the positions of  
**Secretary of The Greens (WA)**

Term of office: August 1997 to August 1998  
(see section 18 to 21 of The Greens (WA) Constitution)

As no nominations were received by the previous closing date nominations have now re-opened.

The Secretary is the chief administrative officer for The Greens (WA), and is essential to the continued existence of the party.

The Secretary will be ably assisted in the role by the GWA Office Coordinator, other office bearers, and is able to delegate aspects of the role to other appointees.

Members are encouraged to consider nominating for the position, which offers the potential for much innovation and satisfaction, and the opportunity for gaining of a variety of skills.

**CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS:** Friday August 15th 1997,  
by post or in person.

By Post to:  
Returning Officer  
The Greens (WA)  
Post Office Box 8087  
PERTH 6849

In person (5-6pm) to:  
The Greens (WA) Office  
16 Wickham Street,  
EAST PERTH

*Authorised by Kate Boland, Secretary, The Greens (WA)*

If undelivered please return to:  
THE GREENS (WA) PO Box 8087,  
PERTH 6849

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