
GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF



JUNE 1998

DEADLINE : GREEN ISSUE

June 20th.

DISCLAIMER

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

Welcome New Members

Barry Richardson
Lois van Geloven
Sharon Davies
Timothy Roberts
Brent Oakely

**REPS COUNCIL
MEETINGS**

change of venue

*East Victoria Park Family &
Community Centre
Cnr Kent/Gloucester Streets
Victoria Park*

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 or 9386 9968

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

Women's Caucus

3rd Sunday of every month 2pm

Contact: Alison Xamon 9444 6827

Federal Election Campaign WG

Contact GWA Office

Parliamentary WG

339 Oxford St Leederville

Contact: Miguel 9305 1045

Social Justice WG

GWA Office

Contact: Rob 08 9328 6963

CONTACTS

Economics:

Brian 9328 7065

Education:

Andrew 9450 3424

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

Federal Election Meetings

Federal Campaign WG

Thursday 11th June 6:30pm

GWA Office

East Metro Campaign WG

Sunday 7th June, 1:30pm

Foothills School Guildford

North Metro Campaign WG

Tuesday 16 June, 7:30pm

contact Brenda for Venue details

93814870

South Metro Campaign WG

Monday 8th June, 7:30pm

Monday 6th, July, 7:30pm

Stephen 9335 4909

Parliamentarians Offices

Senator Dee Margetts

(Carole, Liz & Matt)

4 Salford St Victoria Park 6100

PO Box 739 Vic Park 6979

ph 9470 2688 fax 9470 4098

Toll free: 1800654566

Jim Scott MLC

(Lynn & Mark)

19 Point Street

Fremantle 6160

ph 93361991 fax 9430 4778

jscott@mp.wa.gov.au

Christine Sharp MLC

(Wendy, Margie and Fred)

Brockmans St Balingup 6253

ph 08 9764 1440

fax 08 9764 1426

csharp@mp.wa.gov.au

Giz Watson MLC

(Carole & Robin)

339 Oxford St Leederville 6007

Ph 9201 0582 fax 9201 0583

gwatson@mp.wa.gov.au

Http://www.mp.wa.gov.au/

giz_watson

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

Green Issue goes Collective

Are you interested in being involved in making Green Issue happen every month? Up until now the production of Green Issue has generally been the responsibility of one person using their own equipment at home. Now with the improved facilities at the Greens (WA) head office, it is possible to produce Green Issue as a collective effort one Saturday every month.

Here's the plan.

We meet around 10am, and discuss all the articles and notices received. After agreeing on the article line up, we break up on to the two computers and get every thing typed and ready to put in Green issue. A lovely lunch follows....

After lunch we can then begin Desk Topping the newsletter. Because we have two computers we can divide the work and get the job done in a single afternoon.

Proof reading follows. Any editing is done. And then we retire for a quick coffee at the So Ho and congratulate ourselves on a job well done.

Easy, hey! Want to be involved, call Karl on 94721913

AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN'S STATEMENT ON NATIVE TITLE

The Australian Citizen's Statement on Native Title has been enclosed in Green Issue because it is an important issue as we head into a Federal Election which may focus on native title and race issues. The Queensland Election is already heading down that path with outrageous statements by Premier Borbidge.

This statement is being circulated by Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR), who are hoping to get in excess of 250,000 signatures to the Statement. Your signature would be greatly appreciated. Post or fax the signed statement to the address on the sheet.

GREENS (WA) SUPPORT ABORTION LAW REFORM

By Giz Watson, M.L.C.

In response to the debate in the press regarding the Greens' position on abortion, I felt it was useful to explain some of the thinking behind our position as it has been expressed in parliament, and in the press. I have taken the main running on abortion in my portfolio area of women's issues. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to ring my office.

The Greens (WA) went to the 1996 election with a policy on abortion which clearly spelt out support for a woman's right to access legal, safe and affordable means to terminate a pregnancy and to related support services. Our platform specified that we wanted to see Sections 199, 200 and 201 of the Criminal Code repealed. The Greens (WA) have had a pro-choice policy since our establishment.

As Greens we support the United Nations position on human rights in the area of control of reproduction. The declaration of United Nations International Conference on Human Rights in 1968 stated: "parents have a basic human right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children." The UN's Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 affirmed support for the right of women to control their fertility. At the same time we appreciate that different cultures have different traditions, yet a feature common to all is a tradition relating to the regulation of reproduction and birth control.

Supporting women's right to choose does not mean that the Greens encourage abortion. However, we understand that abortion must be available in a number of circumstances, including where other methods of birth control have failed.

Just as Greens have principles of environmental protection, social justice and nonviolence, we also have strong principles concerning a just, caring and sustainable society where we believe that individuals have the right to participate in decisions which affect them. Access to safe, legal abortions obviously fits with the rights of women, in consultation with their health care professionals, to make decisions which fundamentally affect their health and well-being.

We have a world teetering on the edge of environmental disaster from unrestrained population growth and over consumption. In this global context we believe it is immoral to promote excessive consumption. It is as immoral to restrict people's access to non-judgmental family planning and contraceptive services, backed up, where necessary, by access to free, legal abortion. Greens feel that to ignore this aspect of human population control is unrealistic and irresponsible.

Greens have a commitment to cooperative politics and consensus. We also honour and listen to the diverse views of all members of our community and we therefore value and encourage experiential discourse, particularly within debates such as abortion. We believe that our ethical and non-adversarial approach has made a significant contribution to the new Legislative Council where we have a representation of three members. The Parliament, as a living institution, is going through an innovation exploration of a more interactive type of politics. We recognise that abortion is a complex debate involving a conflict of rights. To the credit of members of parliament of all persuasions, these issues have been addressed in the Legislative Council with depth and sincerity.

Why a Women's Group ?

By Jemma Tyley

The establishment of a Women's Caucus within the Greens has signified a commitment to equity, a recognition of the different ways in which women are oppressed and that the Party is moving in a positive direction towards the new millennium. Unlike other political parties both in Australia and around the globe, the Greens (WA) are showing a real commitment to women and issues pertaining to women, by taking a collective responsibility for irradicating oppressive actions and structures within our own party.

By fostering the greater involvement of women in all aspects of party machinations through the creation of a Women's Caucus, the Greens (WA) will be rejecting a philosophy of liberal feminism and affirming a more positive, collective form of feminism and feminist organising more in line with the spirit of the party. Liberal feminism, which has evolved into the new trend of mainstream (rightwing) DIY (Do It Yourself) feminism, is the ideology which underpins both Labour and Liberal dealings with the 'woman' question and with female members of their own parties. It is impressive, albeit logical, that the Green's (WA) have opted for a more collective based solution to inequity, as opposed to the individualistic, naively privileged and conservative feminist attitude towards women in both society and party politics.

DIY Feminism, or 'power feminism' as it is often called, presents the illusion of being an exciting and empowering ideology. It speaks of individual women empowering themselves to overcome those who stand in their way, to achieve what they want to achieve in this dog eat dog (in this case woman eat woman) environment. It calls for women to climb the corporate or Party ladder, the solution being that with more women in higher places equality will magically emerge. Above all it promotes individualism.

To some DIY feminism may give a semblance of a positive, non threatening form of feminism. However, further examination exposes a multitude of flaws and over simplistic understandings of women and oppression within society. By arguing that the individual woman should be responsible for breaking through the barriers which inhibit their participation, it denies collective and community responsibility for oppression and the perpetuation of patriarchy. It ignores the fact that not all women are the same or have the same capabilities or opportunities. It denies that women are not all socialised equally or in financial situations which give them access to power via knowledge and education. It is an ideology of white middle class women, who are limited to their own experiences, and have devised universal solutions based on these. It also wipes clean the consciences of those who refuse to take

responsibility for making ALL of our world a better, more equitable place to live.

The active promotion of equality and an end to oppression is my reason for being involved with the Greens (WA) By leaving the party structure as is, women's progression will move as rapidly as the rest of society and that is too slow for me. The establishment of women's caucus signifies a COLLECTIVE commitment to improving the way in which our structures and members function. It validates women's knowledge and processes of sharing and learning. It also recognises the importance of women's autonomous organising which will work only to strengthen the Greens (WA), not to weaken the coherent structure of our Party.

No other parliamentary party in Australia does anything substantial for women and equity within their own organisation. I'm glad that ours now is.

Wanted

for

Dee's Election Campaign

One Camper Van

To provide Dee with a mobile campaign base whilst visiting many different venues during the weeks leading up to the election.

If anyone can loan a camper van, even for, say Thursdays and Saturdays, it would be a tremendous asset to Dee's grassroots campaign.

If you can help please contact Alan: ph 08 9470 2688

'I'm all right Jacqueline'

By Sharon Davies

The simplistic and individualistic arguments put forward by Zea-Marie Booth (Why A Women's Group?', *Green Issue*, May, 1998) makes me feel like weeping. Her 'I'm all right Jacqueline' attitude both worries and depresses me.

As one who has worked for over thirty years for peace and social justice, I find her anecdotal rambling's and ascertains that the 'faults of men' are the reason for setting up a women's caucus as both destructive and ill-informed. Historically, women's concerns have always been placed at the bottom of the pile when change is being addressed. Women in the Russian revolution were executed for being 'bourgeois' when trying to voice the needs of women. The argument has always been that once social change is instituted women will benefit. History has not borne this out. All that the Russian and Chinese revolutions guaranteed was that women carried the double and triple burden right along with their sisters in the 'free' world.

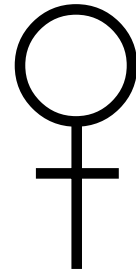
The knee-jerk reaction against women trying to make a space so that they may contribute to the Greens' policy of 'doing things differently' is, to say the least, perplexing. I would have thought that the Greens would welcome with open arms the experience of women's process and also gain a deeper understanding of women's needs. Instead there is a call for women to do it the same way as ever; to continue to work within organisations that are dependent upon hierarchical structure and to eventually become a leader - shades of Margaret Thatcher! No thanks.

Why a Women's Group ?

It is time to recognise that some women's processes do often differ from that of the patriarchy and that the relegation to obscurity by the patriarchy of many of women's processes might be seen as a political act for the furtherance of violence as a determinant of power. The very existence of an active women's caucus 'can allow us to understand patriarchal institutions and ideologies as perverse inversions of more humane social relations' (Carol A. Christy, 1987, p.22).

Many women are uncomfortable with the existing political structures and, as Dale Spender postulates, they either boycott politics or are prevented from participating. Surely if a caucus can succeed in allowing women room to deconstruct the current set up and come forth with positive recommendations to make the party more effective, there should be wholehearted support for such an exercise. I would like to remind everyone of Alice Cook who, in *Greenham Women Everywhere: Dreams, Ideas and Actions from the Women's Peace Movement* (1983, p. 80) stated 'very strongly that having women's actions in my view has got nothing to do with excluding men. It's got to do with - for once, just once - giving women a chance, including women.'

Why the inclusion of women should be seen as a negative thing is something I think many members of the Party had better have a good hard look at.



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It happened in the 1930's

By Mary Jenkins

It happened in Germany in the 1930's and anyone who visited Brazil will understand what I mean.! Some third world countries build roads that lead to nowhere or palaces to hide their biological weapons of war. Some governments build huge architectural monuments to demonstrate their power over the people. While the homeless beg in the streets, crime soars and the gap widens between rich and poor. Such governments would rather impress visitors than provide much needed services for their people.

Will people power in Sydney be able to remove the Bennelong Point Toaster built right in front of the Opera House? Nobody in their right mind would have planned such an eyesore except corrupt officials! Was the community consulted? This immoral power over the people has been demonstrated by dictators throughout history. Now we have our own version in WA. A huge Convention Centre

Why are these large projects built in the first place? The community of WA has not been consulted, what about city planners and job creation experts?

The WA Tourist Commission is hardly qualified to make such a decision when they have a special interest in the project! Most Perth hotels are foreign owned, they cater for the top end market, accommodation is far from full capacity.

Who needs this Convention Centre -the community of WA or Conventions organisers?

Will large conventions become white elephants in the future, only to be used by multinationals?

Is Perth able to compete with Melbourne and Sydney for this small market?

Will Mr & Mrs Average ever be able to afford to visit this Convention Centre?

If part investment is from overseas will profits be sent offshore?

How will the community benefit from this project? (We need more than mere job creation in the construction stage)

Could the money, invested by the people of this state, be spent in an even more creative way to provide more secure sustainable jobs? (Eg a rail service to open up the state to tourist and the community, other untapped potential markets not yet explored in WA.)

Let us look at more creative options that will ultimately benefit the whole community of WA.

The Nazis rushed into huge building projects in the 1930's, there is nothing left today to remember such a dominating force that made so many other mistakes!

Let us not forget!

GREENS CHALLENGED BY INTERNATIONAL COMPANY DONATIONS APPEAL FOR COURT CASE

Japanese owned sand miner Cable Sands WA P/L is to challenge a Supreme Court judgement made in a 1994 ruling which had decided environmental considerations could be taken into account by the mining court while looking at the application to mine beside Lake Jasper in D'entrecasteaux National Park. That 1994 ruling had found that environmental or other public interest considerations could be considered by the Mining Wardens Court when hearing objections to Mining Lease applications.

In this latest attempt to remove the community objectors from the proceedings, Cable Sands has submitted that the Supreme Court should again decide the group's legal access to the Mining Courts proceedings.

Courts have previously agreed that community groups *can* present environmental considerations as to why this sand mine should not go ahead - in the Mining Wardens Court on Friday 6 March 1998 and similar Supreme Court judgement made during 1994 and 1997.. Now Japanese owned Cable Sands is to challenge the 1994 ruling.

- Once again the high environmental value of Lake Jasper and the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands with the associated pristine wetland ecosystem is in danger

- Once again community groups will be facing costs estimated to be in the order of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

- Once again a huge wealthy mining company, foreign owned at that, pits itself against Australians who place long term environmental gain ahead of short term industrial profits.

More details of this beautiful National Park are found in the flier with this newsletter.

Donations needed in Supreme Court challenge!

Please make your tax deductible donation, payable to Denmark Environment Centre Inc.

Our Aim is to win the Supreme Court challenge and your financial assistance is needed.

For further details please contact Geoff Evans: : ph: 08 9848 1644 fax: 08 9848 1248

Denmark Environment Centre Inc.
PO Box 142 Denmark WA 6333

**South Metro Region
Campaign Launch
and Fundraiser
on Saturday 13 June
6.30pm.**

at Marilyn's Place,
10 Juniper Way, Willetton from
Cost: \$15/10/5 (children) includes: 3
course meal & great company. Child
Care available.

RSVP: (essential)
Fremantle: Stephen 9335 4909
Tangney: Nadine 9339 3262 Brand:
Bob 9527 4289

**North Metro Region
Fundraising Dinner
on Saturday
11 July 6.30pm**

***Paella, Sangria & Politics
Spanish Music***

Catherine Goh's, 19 Smoothstone Ct
Joondalup
Veg. paella available.

Admission by ticket only \$20 (limited
crayfish!)

Contact: Brenda 381 4870 Catherine:
GWA office

Greens and Local Government

By Cr. Steve Magyar, Wanneroo Councillor and Greens candidate for Moore.

Many Greens are pleased that the City of Wanneroo is to be split on 01/07/98.

I was elected onto the Council in May 1994, after three campaigns in three years on top of being the Greens candidate in the State and Federal Elections during those years. As the only Green to be elected to the Council of the City of Wanneroo and after serving the community for three and a half years, I was involved in many changes greening Wanneroo some of these being:

1. Huge areas of bushland set aside for preservation of the areas natural biodiversity.
2. The recycling scheme was totally reviewed and \$8.2 million set aside in a waste management reserve account for improving the scheme.
3. Public consultation periods doubled for review of management plans for coastal areas.
4. Standing Orders changed to allow all Councillors full debating rights at all committee meetings thus reducing the power plays for control of the Standing Committees.
5. The Council supporting nuclear disarmament and banning of automatic firearms.

Many other changes occurred and others were being planned when the Minister suspended the Council whilst an inquiry panel investigated the current Council. The inquiry panel found that the Council was well run and recommended that the Council be

reinstated. The Minister, to date has failed to reinstate, contrary to the Local Government Act.

The Minister's reason for failing to reinstate is that the Council will be split on 01/07/98.

I believe that members of the Greens will see how the split of Wanneroo shows that the Local Government Acts needs to be amended to meet Green principles for participatory democracy and open and accountable government.

Superficially, the Local Government Act, under Schedule 2.1 section 5.(1) appears to allow for participatory democracy by stating, "A formal inquiry.... And any hearings,...is to be conducted in a way that makes it as easy as possible for interested parties to participate fully."

However, a few examples will show the short comings of the Act:

1. The people of Wanneroo have been denied a referendum on the split.
2. The people of Wanneroo have not been given enough information, both conceptual and factual, to make an informed decision regard the proposed split.
3. The transparent and hidden costs of the split were no revealed by the Local Government Advisory Board during their public meeting with residents.
4. The Local Government Advisory Board did not delay their public consultation process when the people of Wanneroo requested more information to make any informed comment regarding the proposed split.

In the Board's report to the Minister, "Assessment of the Minister's Proposal to Divide the City of Wanneroo". On page 12, it states, "In addition to the views expressed about the proposal the most common questions and comments from the public were those seeking more information about the proposal and possible implications for residents, The Board could not provide this information and this produced some frustration and further comment that it was difficult to express a view without this information to help inform opinion."

From the Advisory Board's own admissions, it could be argued that the public hearings did not meet the requirements of the Local Government Act, and certainly did not give open and honest accountable government allowing for participatory democracy.

The City has \$23 million in reserve accounts and would have been debt free at the end of 1998. When the split occurs all the reserve accounts will disappear and the City will only have assets and liabilities. Money earmarked for projects will be used to facilitate the split. The Minister concedes the split could cost as much as \$15 million.

As the Commissioners are appointed by the Minister, how the \$23 million will be spent will not be directly accountable to the people of Wanneroo.

Councillors must answer to the electors through the ballot box. Commissioners only answer to the Minister.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

It's time to set a date for your AGM'S and Audit your accounts

According to Section 33.1 of The Greens (WA) Constitution, AGM'S must be held not more than 2 months after the end of the financial year.

Notice of the AGM must be a minimum of 14 days & be sent to all your members. It must include the agenda.

You will also need to call for nominations for your electable positions which must be finalised at the time of the AGM.

In accordance with our Constitution, and legal requirements, all Accounts held by Local Groups, Regional Groups and any Electoral Divisions must be independently Audited and presented to that body's AGM. Copies of Audited Accounts must then be lodged with The Greens (WA) Treasurer, prior to the Party's AGM.

Alternatively, your Accounts can be audited as part of the Audit of The Greens (WA) provided that your Reconciled Annual Statement and all primary records (ie receipts, payment vouchers, cheque butts and bank statements) are lodged with The Greens (WA) Treasurer, at the Office on or before July 31. Sorry, but this is a non-negotiable deadline.

Please ensure the minutes of your AGM are conveyed to the GWA office. Please contact Carole or Cliff if you have any queries.

Carole Perry, Secretary, GWA

Nominations are open to eligible members for the Positions of
**Convenor, Secretary &
Treasurer**

*of the Greens (WA) & Permanent
Representative to the National
Council of the Australian Greens.*

Term of Office: 1998 AGM to 1999
AGM.

CLOSING DATE FOR
NOMINATIONS:

4.45pm, July 3, 1998

By Post:

The Returning Officer
The Greens (WA)
PO Box 737
VICTORIA PARK 6979

In Person:
The Office

The Greens (WA)
Suite 4; 439-441 Albany Hwy,
VICTORIA PARK

The duties of Office-bearers are set out in sections 18-21 of the Constitution. The position of Permanent Rep to National Council is not specified in the constitution.

- Nominees should be aware of The Greens (WA) commitment to affirmative action for women per section 25.
- Nominations should be in writing, showing the full name and address.
- A postal ballot will be conducted if there is more than one nomination for any position.

*Authorised by Carole Perry, Secretary,
The Greens (WA).*

Greens(WA) Special General Meeting

2nd August 1998 2pm -4:30pm
East Victoria Park Family &
Community Centre, Kent
Street, East Victoria Park

Agenda

1. A forum, guided by the results of the enclosed questionnaire.
2. A Special Resolution to "affirm the results of the August 1997 ballot that approved the changes to the Constitution of the Greens (WA)" As the Greens (WA) Inc is bound by the rules of the Associations Incorporations Act we are obliged to submit the results of the Special Resolution on the constitutional changes to the Minister for Fair Trading.

Members would be aware that an affirmation has already been given at a Special General Meeting in November. We have been advised that we missed the deadline and are obliged to reaffirm the amendments.

Afternoon tea will be provided

***RSVP Catherine at the Office
by 30 July***

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