
GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF



MAY 1998

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT

NEXT
GREENS (WA)
GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 21 JUNE 1998

Urban Bushland Council

By Andrew Thomson

The entire Green "Cabinet" attended the fifth birthday of the Urban Bushland Council which arranged a display and forum on Tuesday April 7 during the dinner break for the politicians. Over 40 people were there to see the 14 displays including Moore River set up by Jo Vallentine. Dr Judy Edwards, shadow Minister for the Environment and Planning, and Norm Kelly were also on the five member panel.

Jim Scott said increasing population was the greatest threat to urban bushland and Dr Christine Sharp said that some of the decisions by the Minister for Planning, favouring development, may be challenged by the Environment Committee chaired by her. The decision to develop the Creary Wetlands at Mandurah had shocked conservationists as this is a world class reserve accepted by the Ramsar convention. Unfortunately Giz Watson, who is an active member of the Friends of Bold Park, had to leave early because she was in the middle of a speech in Parliament.

DISCLAIMER

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

DEADLINE : GREEN ISSUE

May 20th.

Submissions welcome. Contact

Karl 9472 1913

submissions on disk appreciated

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

L. Ingle
J. Miller-Warke
J. Lever
J. Laverack
W. Macleod
S. Emery
D. Regan
G. Allet
T. Davidson

Len Howard

On Thursday 16 April 1998 veteran wetlands campaigner, Green's member, candidate and friend Len Howard passed away. In the preceding fortnight he rang from Fremantle hospital about things that needed to be done to save samphire marshes and people he couldn't get in touch with. He didn't let on.

Len discovered the conservation significance of what we now know as the Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar wetland system long before its values were recognised. He campaigned for more than 20 years with the Peel Preservation Group to protect the estuary and lakes from the ever growing threat of urban encroachment, canal developments, pollution and general neglect.

Although in the last few years Len claimed that "the world was moving too fast" and "It was time to go to pasture", he never did. During the period he agreed to be drafted as a Green's candidate at the age of 80, won a landmark FOI case against the Federal Government and some environmental consultants, and relentlessly pursued the rescue of a productive marshland area from a canal development. The spectacle of a persistent, octogenarian, pensioner driving powerful developers, dubious consultants, self-serving councillors, journalists and government minister's to distraction was truly inspirational. The Peel-Yalgorup region is the most important waterbird habitat area in Western Australia. It is April and the sandpipers from north-east Asia have fattened on Len's precious Creery mud-flats. They have taken flight in purposeful flocks to cross the world and find breeding grounds on the tundra. Perhaps Len's gone with them this time.

Nick Dunlop

FEDERAL ELECTION PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT

2 WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS DRAFT NO.1

Saturday 2 May

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

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

Monday 4th May 7:40pm
339 Oxford St Leederville
Contact: Miguel 9305 1045

Social Justice WG

GWA Office
Contact: Rob 08 9328 6963

CONTACTS

Policy:

Karl 9472 1913

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

Parliamentarians Offices

Senator Dee Margetts

(Carole, Liz & Matt)
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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 and Fred)
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

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GreensWA@argo.net.au

homepage:

HTTP://argo.net.au/GreensWA

Federal Election Meetings

Platform Development

Sunday 10 May, 9am
GWA Office

Federal Campaign WG

Thursday 30 April, 6pm
Thursday 14 May, 6pm
Thursday 28 May, 6pm
GWA Office

East Metro Campaign WG

Sunday 10th May, 11am
GWA Office

North Metro Campaign WG

Tuesday 19 May, 7:30pm
70 Napier Street Cottesloe
Tuesday 16 June, 7:30pm
contact Brenda for Venue details
93814870

FAMILY SUPPORT APPEAL

To support the families of Workers sacked from Patricks Stevedores

To support the appeal with a
donation

Make a donation directly to:
Trade Union Industrial Campaign
Fund

Commonwealth Bank Account No
063 262 1015 4358

Please send confirmation of the
amount of your donation:
ACTU, Level 6, 393 Swanston
Street, Melbourne 3000

or

Make out a cheque to the
Trade Union Industrial Campaign
Fund

Post to: ACTU, Level 6, 393
Swanston Street, Melbourne 3000

Every \$250 raised supports one
family for one week.

In Response

Dear Editor,

As you and I know, there are a relatively small number of GWA members currently attending a relatively large number of meetings many of which are dealing with the federal election.

I would like to share a timely observation about these meetings with the wider membership. I have noticed, since the founding of the Women's Caucus a number of occasions in which women (who are always outnumbered in meetings by men) have broken the social mould and spontaneously called the boys on their meeting behaviour. Just small instances, like picking people up on speaking out of turn and interrupting. These instances don't seem like much on their own, but cumulatively they speak to me about a renewed commitment to proper respectful consensus decision making and good creative group process.

Both of which are essential in the pursuit of participatory democracy and all our other goals.

Kayt Davies

Dear Editor,

Having read the article about the need for a women's caucus, let me say that all the reasons given are invalid within the Greens and do not warrant the formation of such a group.

Having attended many meetings and AGMs over the years, I believe that woman facilitators and convenors have outnumbered men by far.

To say that men dominate and do all the speaking during meetings is also untrue in my experience.

Being a modest, timid but happy

zombie by choice, my voice gets out-decibelled all the time by impolite people with loud mouths, both men and women.

So this matter is just the result of bad facilitating.

Finally let me point out that, thankfully, three out of four senators are women, seven out of ten senator advisers are women.

So what more do you want.

Bill Franssen

Dunsborough

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Miguel Castillo

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Why a Women's Group ?

By Zea-Marie Booth

Under the heading "Why a women's Group," Ms Xamon quotes that The Greens (WA) Constitution allows for the formation of Special interest Groups "for purposes of affirmative action on behalf of disadvantaged sectors of the Community."

I'm sure that statement wasn't meant to be a vehicle for man-bashing and I'm afraid that's what this article does under the guise of equality.

It is not obvious to all women that we are systematically disadvantaged enough to warrant such a backward step as the formation of a women's group that excludes men or even, condescendingly, includes them.

I say backward because in my experience women's groups, in a very short space of time, can take on the very symptoms that Ms Xamon relegates to men.

However, as one of ten councillors on a country shire for two years, I have to agree that I experienced every uncomfortable situation she raised but not simply because I was a woman.

Issues of conflict to do with Integrity and honesty are compounded by people of both sexes, whatever their reasons.

In fact, I decided to go on council partly because of the treatment I had seen the sole woman on council being subjected to and felt she needed support.

I soon learned that she was capable of even worse invective than the men and often lost her points because of the very belligerence and narrow-mindedness documented in Ms Xamon's letter.

The most valuable learning experience from council was that if I did my homework properly on an issue about which I felt strongly and bothered to perfect my skills of debating and presentation I had as good a chance as anybody, male or female, of having my point accepted.

Believe me, if you think there's satisfaction in achieving your objective in a group solely made up of your own sex., there is nothing more satisfying, as a lone female minority voice, than convincing a majority, of men to, accept your argument on a controversial issue.

Two years on a different board with the same ratio continued this valuable learning process and I can honestly say I have found the majority of men far more tolerant and receptive than the women.

I cannot disagree with Ms Xamon that some men's behaviour can be exactly as she describes but I would point out that there will always be somebody who will try to dominate a discussion and use tactics tantamount to intimidation to hold the floor. This behaviour., however., is not reserved primarily for men.

If such skullduggery works It is usually because the chairperson is not doing his/her job properly. If one takes the trouble to familiarise oneself with meeting rules and one's rights in such a situation a person who behaves in an aggressive or dominant manner will soon withdraw.

In my experience of meetings, lectures, discussion groups, talks, whatever, the reason some meetings

end up as slanging matches is because they are not conducted properly and people do not present their arguments succinctly and without bias so that the point of view is objective and acceptable.

It is emotional subjectivity that immediately destroys any rational discussion.

If a woman is intimidated by the kind of verbal tricks people use to put another person down she should go away and put as much effort into learning how to counteract those trick, as she would into gaining a PhD in Conflict Resolution.

I would recommend the reading of books like "People Skills" or "Verbal Self Defence" and membership of a Rostrum or Toastmasters' Club where one can learn the art of producing a convincing argument to people of either sex.

To use men's faults, as 'some women' interpret them, is not justification for setting up a women's group at a time when we're trying to get men's groups to open themselves up to women's membership.

The sexes will never learn to truly understand and appreciate each other until they constantly work together on issues, putting any personal affronts or bias to one side and concentrating on perfecting their skills of negotiation.

Never let it be said that women don't have as many personality faults as men.

Women would better serve the furtherance of equality by making sure, when they enter any sort of verbal arena that their skills are worthy of acceptance solely because they are of the highest standard.

When our children go to school we want good teachers, regardless of gender.

If we have to have a 'boss' in the

Why a Women's Group ?

workplace we want one who is fair and unbiased and we won't necessarily find that from a person of the same sex.

In the sporting field, the one who trains to perfection wins but it's the personal satisfaction that is the highest honour.

There are many reasons why there are usually more men in positions of authority and they're not always the product of a patriarchal society.

Having men accept the fact that they may like to stay home and bring up the children half the time has still a long way to go but I admire intensely the men and women who are attempting to come to some ratification of this important issue and not complaining about being hard done by.

One day, we may very well have a woman running the country but I would be worried if she gained that position based on the support of a women's group simply because men appear to have been always supported by men's groups, I would also be worried if a woman tried to run the country with a women-only Parliament.

Equality is not about "women attempting to gain some semblance of equality with men" as though men have, set the standard and women, in some way, have to climb up to it.

As Ms Xamon points out one of the major issues is respect but you don't gain respect by reacting in such a negative way to the male species.

Far better to build up respect for yourself and the ability to conduct yourself with dignity and confidence not dominance or subservience In the male presence.

That will bring respect from everybody, not just men. It will also brings more respect to the Greens as a party, that is fair to all.

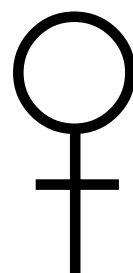
By Margo Beilby

When I heard about a women's group in the Greens I was surprised and disturbed that such a group should be needed within a party like the Greens. I was unable to attend the first meeting but in the period before the second meeting I talked to different people and looked and listened during meetings. At the second meeting of the women's group I voiced my concerns and during the following discussion was convinced that a Women's Caucus is called for. It became apparent to me that just because I may or may not have experienced discrimination myself doesn't mean that there aren't some people who do.

One of the most important ideals of the Greens is that of equality and at first glance it would seem that we have achieved gender equality within the party. But have we? Three of our four politicians are women. There are women involved in all levels of the party administration. But are women really equally represented and do they have an equal voice in the party? I look around at meetings and see an unequal gender balance. I notice that most of the talking is done by the men and that the people who go on and on tend to be men. Women are under represented in the list of candidates. Are meetings set at times that suit women as well as men? Is childminding always considered? (I'm as guilty as anyone here. In Denmark I suggested a meeting at a time when several of the women had to attend to small children.)

Another important aspect of Green politics is consensus decision making. This is a very difficult concept for all of us. Our society is based on power, hierarchies and majorities enforcing their wills on minorities. It is very hard for us to let go of this and to develop the techniques of allowing an equal time and respect for everyone's views, of really listening to other peoples ideas and of trying to find a common ground. Again I have observed a certain amount of macho eye-balling between men at meetings. Women tend to be a bit better at listening and consensus decision making. If the women members of the Greens are not fairly represented, or worse, not consulted or listened to then the party as a whole loses.

The aim of the Women's Caucus is not to meet in secret and whinge about men and the unfairness of life. One of its aims is to look at ways in which women can be involved more in the party and ways by which the dynamics of decision making in the Party can be improved. The Women's Caucus is committed to identifying problems and working towards change.



LOANS NEEDED FOR OUR ELECTION CAMPAIGN

While the election could be held as late as June 1999, it will almost certainly occur between July and October this year. The smart money is for a double dissolution in July.

The good news is that substantial funds are available for the Greens (WA) to fight this election. The bad news is that we can't obtain these funds until 3-4 weeks after the election.

The AEC will forward approximately \$1.60 for every first preference vote in the Senate, and in each Lower House Seat provided that we get 4% or better of those primary votes. Despite losing the Senate seat last Federal Election we bettered the 4% target in the Senate and in 12 of the 14 Lower House seats and received \$165,000. Recent polls have given us every confidence that our voter base is at least as high as it was then.

We have maintained certain financial reserves towards this election, and the bulk of our expenditures will be spent on account which we can cover after receiving AEC funds. But our Cash Flow projection has shown that we will need \$40,000 in loans to cover expenses for the central and regional campaigns. This is in addition to \$10,000 dollars that have to be raised through donations and fundraising.

We desperately need people to:-

1. Loan, or make a commitment to loan within 7 days of an election being called, substantial funds to The Greens.
2. Take significant initiatives in fundraising.
3. Make substantial donations.
4. Join Greenscheme.

Greenscheme has got off to a great start, by the way, with 19 people (or couples) contributing \$249 per fortnight to the Greens through a Direct Debit from their bank account. For as little as \$5 per fortnight, it is a painless way to give a small amount regularly. But we need rather more people joining in if it is to reach its potential.

People interested in any of the above should contact Catherine at the Office on 9470-9227 or myself on 9478-3741. By the end of April we will have an information sheet with details of the GWA financial position, financial arrangements for the campaign and information on making a loan which will be sent to people interested in making a loan.

While we are far better positioned in terms of finances, campaign organisation and (in my judgement) politically than in 1996, we cannot take this election for granted. And we still have a lot of ground to cover if our infrastructure, platform and finances are to be in order for a tough campaign.

As Treasurer, I am not shy to ask people to help financially, but am not able to ask you personally. I can only hope you consult your own conscience! Your assistance is enormously appreciated, and I am sure you share our confidence that our cause is a worthy one, now more than ever.

Cliff Holdom
Treasurer, Greens (WA)

The Autumn Meeting of the South West Greens

Weekend 2nd/3rd May (People are welcome to arrive Friday evening)
Origin Centre, Balingup
Accommodation \$10-15 per person per night - all meals share meals.
Confirm - Paul Llewellyn (08) 9848-2015 or Kate Davis (08) 9720-1376 (e-mail fortytwo@highway1.com.au)

Main Issues

Federal Election , Australian Greens , Bridgetown/Greenbushes, Friends of the Forest legal action, Evaluation of State Conference

Exiled East Timor leader invited to Northern Ireland

By David Shanks, The Australian

Mr Jose Ramos Horta, the East Timorese expatriate leader, has accepted an invitation from Mr Gerry Adams to attend Sinn Féin Ardfeis. Mr Ramos Horta, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former foreign minister of a briefly independent East Timor, said yesterday he intended to salute the "humility and courage" of all parties to the Northern Ireland Agreement.

Mr Horta, in a reference to the so far intractable 22-year-old East Timor problem, said: "Such a historical event shows it is possible to solve deeply rooted and extremely complex issues by way of negotiations.

"I hope the wisdom displayed in Northern Ireland inspires the resolution of seemingly stalemate conflicts."

This message has, however, been rejected in Indonesia, where the Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Alatas, has already said East Timor is "a different case" from that of Northern Ireland.

On the Waterfront

taken from a CPSU/CSA circular

On Tuesday April 7, Patrick Stevedoring sacked its entire unionised workforce- 1400 workers around Australia, 112 workers in Fremantle.

This move was supported and welcomed by Federal Industrial Relations Minister Peter Reith and Prime Minister John Howard.

John Howard said that the action was

a defining moment in Australian Industrial Relations history with redundancy packages for sacked workers to be funded by loans from the Federal Government.

On Thursday April 9, the Federal Court froze for seven days the sackings. In direct contravention of this injunction Patrick Stevedoring continued to use non-union labour to unload ships at Fremantle dock.

Workers were denied entry and locked out simply because they belong to a Union.

Security guards with dogs were brought in to prevent workers from reclaiming their jobs.

Around the clock protest vigils are taking place at the wharfs all over the country including Fremantle.

On Friday April 17 in an early morning raid, Police broke up a peaceful union protest outside the Patrick stevedore terminal in Fremantle and protesters moved on to land nearby.

On Monday April 29, international union supports starts to flood in from the USA, Britain, Japan and South Africa.

On Tuesday April 21 the sacked wharfies won a critical victory when the Federal Court ordered their reinstatement. Justice Tony North said there was arguable evidence that Patrick had breached the Federal Workplace Relations Act and employment contracts. He said that there is an arguable case that Patrick owners and employers have engaged in an unlawful conspiracy. Patricks has now taken up the issue with the High Court.

There has never been a more blatant attack on our Freedom of Association- the right of ordinary Australian workers to join together in support of each other. The workers hired to replace the MUA members have just one qualification - they have agreed not to become a member of a union.

If the mass sackings on the waterfront go unchallenged, the implications for all workers will be clear-if you're in a union, your job is at risk!

TANGNEY & FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The first Tangney Greens meeting for 1998 will be held on Sunday 3 May, 2 - 4.30pm at 1 Ross Court, Spearwood (Mary Jenkin's home).

This will be an opportunity for members and supporters to meet the Greens nominee for Tangney, John White, and discuss strategies and priority issues for the coming federal election campaign.

PROPOSED AGENDA

- 2pm Welcome and Agenda Check
- 2.10 Introductions
- 2.30 Ask the Candidate - question time
- 2.40 Possible timelines for potential election dates
- 2.55 Stretch
- 3.00 Priority Campaign Issues for Tangney - brainstorm, prioritize
- 3.40 Quick Break
- 3.50 Campaign Strategies incl. Greens (WA) Federal Election Budget
Further Fundraising Options (if time, otherwise next meeting)
- 4.30 Refreshments

Put this date in your diary and come along if you can on May 3.

If you can't make it please feel free to ring Mary Jenkins 9418 2117, John White 9382 1919 or Nadine Laphorne 9339 3262 with any campaign or fundraising ideas, offers of help or donations.

Mary, Nadine and The Greens WA can also be contacted via email: mjenkins@carmen.murdoch.edu.au, laphorn@carmen.murdoch.edu.au, GreensWA@argo.net.au

Well Being Team

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

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



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

Print Post approved
PP 602669/00208

National Sorry Day 26th May 1998

Sorry Day is the day when all Australians can come together to remember the past and present suffering of the stolen generations - all the Indigenous Australian children forcibly removed from their families over a period of 150 years into the early 1970s.

Sorry Day is a day of commemoration of pain and injustice, and it is also a day of joy and hope as we celebrate our unity in the commitment to journey together into the future.

Please get involved. We need your help to get information out to the public, sell badges, help with planning, everything!. To get involved or for more information about Sorry Day contact Phil at the Community Aid Abroad office on 9381 3144 or Trish Cowcher on 9336 2394

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