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# GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF



SEPTEMBER 1997

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## WELCOME HOME!

### *SURFING ACROSS AUSTRALIA*

**(Stop Uranium, Reclaim the Future)**

*"We are not merely protesting. We stand for something positive. It may be named commonsense, appreciation, reverence, healing, sanity, responsibility".* This is how Mallika, a Pilgrims' supporter, sees her vision of a nuclear free future. Mallika is referring to the group of Western Australian activists amongst whom is former Greens Senator Jo Vallentine. Inspired by earlier pilgrimages in America in 1995 and Great Britain in 1996, the group is arriving at Maralinga as you receive this copy of "Green Issue". Their 55 day bus journey of 18,000 km, equivalent to travelling half way round the world, is coming to an end at the site of the worst atomic disaster in the history of Australia.

Among the Pilgrims returning to Perth on Tuesday 30 September are Natalia Dicun and Andrei Krychtop. Their home

is Novozybkov, the most highly nuclear contaminated, still inhabited city anywhere in the world. They have been exchanging stories with Aboriginal and local communities along the route of the Pilgrimage.

Max Stewart, living close to the Angela uranium deposit, has spoken of his personal fears: *"Uranium's got money in it but our lives are in it too... radiation goes on like a watch and around like the moon - it doesn't stop."*

Nine out of ten Aboriginal communities in Australia are affected by the uranium industry. Further afield indigenous people from the Pacific, North America, North Africa, the former USSR and China have had bombs dropped on them. Alan Ned and Billy Westmoreland, elders of the Doomadgee Aboriginal Community north of Mt Isa in the Gulf of Carpentaria, spoke to the Pilgrims about the sacredness of uranium in their culture. It is called *gumingurra*, meaning poison, and their message is that uranium *"shouldn't be touched ... we don't want uranium going from our country destroying other people - their bloodshed will be on our hands"*. Kathy Walden, Mr Ned's sister, echoes Aboriginal communities around Australia when she asks us to help them *"stand up"* to the Prime Minister, to *"look to the future of the children, (to) save their life, please"*.

Earlier this year Senator Dee Margetts attended the Alice Springs Conference organised by the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Uranium Sites. The following Declaration was made: *"The aboriginal experience with uranium mining continues to result in genocide of our community and*

*destruction of our homelands. We share concerns about local, national and international impacts of present and proposed uranium mines."*

**After seven weeks on the road, through towns and deserts, the group is nearly home. Mark the dates of these two coming events and hear for yourselves at first hand the stories of the Pilgrims whose commitment to a nuclear-free future led them to this imaginative venture.**

### DISCLAIMER

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

### DEADLINE : GREEN ISSUE OCTOBER 24th.

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

### WELCOME BACK TO PERTH

Join in the "HAPPY SURF-day"

**Tuesday 30 September  
Kings Park 1 pm**

Gazebo off Fraser Avenue  
Bring Family, Friends and a Peace Picnic  
Enq: Environment Centre  
9225 4103

**Pilgrims' Progress  
A Public Meeting**

*hosted by the Centre for Ethics*

**Wednesday 1 October 7:30pm**

The Chapel, Christ Church  
Grammar, Queenslea Drive,  
Claremont  
Admission \$5  
Funds raise will be donated to the Pilgrim Project

## ***WE'VE MOVED***

Please note the contact details for new office. Also please be aware that the PO Box (394) for your Ballot paper is a dedicated number and should not to be used for any other mail.

**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](mailto:greensWA@argo.net.au)**

## **Curtin Greens Annual General Meeting**

Giz Watson MLC to speak  
7.30pm Thursday  
October 2 1997  
129 Gloster St  
(cnr Coleraine St)  
Shenton Park  
ph 9381 4870

## **REGIONAL COUNCIL DIARY**

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

### **BRAND**

A & B Goodale 9527 4289  
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  
See ad this page  
129 Gloster St Subiaco

### **FORREST & BUNBURY**

Paul Davis 08 97201 376

### **DENMARK**

Paul Llewellyn  
08 98482 015

### **FREMANTLE**

Monique Keel  
9431 7138  
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**

8pm 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of month  
20 Knight St Yokine  
9345 5368

### **STIRLING**

Ivan 9446 3277  
Monday prior to Reps  
phone for details

### **SWAN**

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

**Kalgoorlie Contact:**  
JJ 08 9215 659

### **WORKING GROUPS**

#### **Admin WG**

Carole 9470 9227

#### **Parliamentary WG**

7.30pm 13 October  
339 Oxford Street Leederville  
Catherine 9470 9227/9293 2929

#### **Policy WG**

Karl 9472 1913

#### **Social Justice WG**

Social Justice  
6.30pm October 7  
GWA Office  
Contact: Rob 08 9328 6963  
**Federal Election Campaign WG**  
Federal Election Campaign WG  
5.30pm 8 October 1997  
GWA Office  
439-441 Albany Hwy Victoria Park  
Contact the office

### **CONTACTS**

#### **Economics:**

Brian 9328 7065

#### **Education:**

Andrew 9450 3423

#### **Environment:**

Nick 9361 7782

#### **Peace & Disarmament**

Brenda 9381 4870

### **OFFICE BEARERS**

#### **Co Conveners**

Brenda 08 9381 4870

Robin 08 9221 5931

#### **A/Secretary**

Carole 9361 5335

#### **Treasurer**

Cliff 9478 3741

### **Parliamentarians Offices**

#### **Senator Dee Margetts**

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

#### **Jim Scott MLC**

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

#### **Christine Sharp MLC**

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

#### **Giz Watson MLC**

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

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

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#### **homepage:**

[HTTP://argo.net.au/GreensWA](http://argo.net.au/GreensWA)



# Reclaim the forest!

*Clearfelling and woodchipping old-growth forests must stop NOW.*

## On the Constitutional Convention

*The Greens (WA) can be the point of excitement, interest, controversy and community empowerment. I strongly believe that where constitutional change is concerned, the means are as important as the ends - VIVA DEMOCRACY!*

*Dee Margetts*

### *Thanks to this issues contributors*

Christabel Chamarette, Colin Speed, Carole Perry, Dee Margetts, Catherine Hall, Stewart Jackson

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

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### July to September

Benjamin Toric, Judith Ingle, Karen Harris, Clare O'Leary-Cliff, Claudia Seto-Giacaz, Phil O'Day, Michael Heald, Carole & Carmine Travaglione, Lynn Smithies, Vera Borg, Carrie Sonneborn Colin Allan, Margaret Hawke, Lee Joyce.

## Public action meeting

**Perth Town Hall**

*7:30pm Thursday 2 October 1997*

### **Guest speakers, slides and information booths**

*Your involvement is crucial to the forest campaign.*

For information on how you can help,  
phone (08) 9220 0651; (08) 9220 0652 or (08) 9228 2811

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## Returning Officer Report

### **Amendments to GWA Constitution**

The ballot for Amendments to the GWA Constitution was held with a closing date of August 29. Votes were collected, opened & counted in with the involvement of the two Convenors and Office Coordinator.

At the close of Poll:

162 Votes were received in the affirmative  
9 Votes were received in the negative  
1 Vote was informal

5 Votes arrived subsequent to the close of Poll and were not counted. A constitutional change requires 75% of the valid votes to be effected and that at least 10% of the Members have voted.

I declare that Constitutional Amendments were agreed.

Please note that these Amendments have no force until they have been accepted by the Ministry of Fair Trading. This will be sought in the coming week.

Cliff Holdom  
A/Returning Officer

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# *Peace and Disarmament*

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*By Colin Speed*

It's still not too late for peace and disarmament, though the present prognosis is poor, for there are no indications of the West's willingness to share its wealth with the South. People intent on excluding refugees and migrants protest to defend a relative affluence enjoyed only at the cost of those they would turn away, for we all share the same planet and its resources.

Migrants don't take jobs away from us, they often do the work no-one else will do and pay some thirty times more taxes than they will ever receive in benefits. The answer to economic migration is equitable world development. Populations only stabilise where a secure future is perceived, but security can come about only through a redistribution from rich to poor.

Within the 'new environment' in the world existence has come to be valued according to economic performance, where those without the potential of money find their capacities unused, their needs impoverished and their lives further than ever from being enriched.

For those presently in employment, working ever longer hours for no additional recompense, the line between private life and work has become blurred and the economy takes over the last of the private zone where we provide freely for each other.

In this time of 'globalization', national economic policies are largely diminished by the power of global corporations/transnationals, their

markets and corporate economic agendas. National governments, in joining the West's clubs, have surrendered most of their own power to these forces who are the instruments of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade / World Trade Organisation and the other regional associations.

The new-colonialist global development thrust of globalization spearheaded by the transnationals and their subsidiaries crosses every frontier as these corporations ransack the forests, seas and productive lands of the World, both in the South and in the West, disrupting people's customs, resource base and traditional means of sustenance.

Successive governments here have promoted the 'benefits' of global trade liberalisation, that only benefit the transnational corporations at the expense of all the inhabitants of the planet. We ourselves are now going to pay a high price in unemployment.

## CONCLUSION

We should reject the idea that all matters are reducible to the economic. It is time to adopt alternative solutions that offer people of the world dignity and wellbeing.

All the inhabitants of the world may still enjoy a sufficiency in terms of quality of life if the West learns to control its transnational corporations, while we press ahead instead not for national competition

but for new rules and institutions for Global Cooperation.

Only such a new agenda can support our efforts to achieve a peaceful sharing of the world's resources and a respect for all beings.

Peace and disarmament are the only rational alternatives at the point of decline in total world oil production, on the cusp of inevitability for the Western world's unsustainable rate of consumption of global non-renewable resources and on the brink of consequent fundamental changes to human society.

## **South West Transport Futures Forum**

**Speakers Brian Fleay  
Energy Consultant  
Prof. Peter Newman  
Sustainable Designer  
10am - 4pm  
Friday 26 September  
1997**

**Bridgetown Town Hall**

## **South West Greens Spring Gathering**

**27/28 Sept  
Flaxmill Inn  
Boyup Brook  
contact: Adrian Price:  
08 9765 3073**

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# *Terra nullius then and now*

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By Christabel Chamarette

*Terra nullius then and now:  
Mabo, Native Title, Land Rights  
and Aboriginal Reconciliation in  
the 90s*

The Mabo decision presented Australia with the opportunity to make a new beginning in its relationships with Aboriginal peoples. The historic relationship is described in the legal fiction of “terra nullius” which the decision in Mabo and Others vs State of Queensland accepted to be untrue.

Mabo provided the context for the parliamentary debate. As a participant I came with the expectations that the objective was to redress this historical injustice by Federal Legislation.

I found out very soon that justice was not the primary or motivational objective of the Government’s Native Title legislation. This paper outlines my search to understand the underlying motivation which is still operating on Government, demonstrated most recently in the Liberal Government’s 10 point plan in response to the Wik decision. A plan labelled “ten ways to say no to Aboriginal people” by Clarrie Isaacs. The theft of land is consistent across the colonial history of English speaking people. What made Australia significantly different (before Mabo) was this lie, Terra nullius - a land empty of people.

The importance of honesty was something I learned while working as a Psychologist in the prison system. I long ago learnt, in the context of treating offenders, the

importance of shedding lies as the first step in personal transformation. The behaviour persists so long as the lie provides the justification. I believe the same applies nationally. So long as we as a nation persist in denial we will be unable to offer sufficient to effect real reconciliation. If we are in denial we actually think that something is being stolen from us.

The false perception recurred throughout the debate, that the Mabo Decision and the legislation, had the potential of stealing and disposing those in the mainstream population whose land is derived from the Crown.

In fact - nothing can be further from the truth. Even the decision in Mabo was an extremely conservative outcome, both good news and bad news. For the first time since European invasion the High court conceded what Aboriginal peoples have always known. The decision supported the existence of native title which had as its source traditional connection with the land and declared “that the Meriam people are entitled as against the whole world to possession, occupation, use and enjoyment of the lands of the Murray Islands”. It also rejected the concept of Terra nullius. The good news was a symbolic, moral victory for Aboriginal people.

The bad news was that the Decision accepted and legally legitimised all the prior removal and extinguishment. The High Court found that past extinguishments were valid and not compensable. No

compensation for past theft - although future expropriations would not be valid without compensation. Psychologically Mabo was the beginning of national insight into the need for dialogue, negotiation and restitution. This brings us the point that nations who negotiated treaties were at 400 years ago. The US and New Zealand negotiated because they were militarily weak. The point of consciousness which obtained in the US and New Zealand from the beginning of the history of was not from a moral or rights perspective but because of military imbalance. In South Africa it came more recently. This is a significant point in the national consciousness of any country. It is psychologically healthier, even with all its problems to acknowledge this than to remain in denial.

The major debate in the Australian parliament took place in the Senate and it was here that the differing positions were highlighted. The Labor Government presented itself as a friend of Aboriginal people while attempting to accommodate and give priority to every other existing stakeholder in land - State governments, mining and pastoral industry and fisheries.

My perspective of the only legitimate legislative outcome of the Mabo decision was to discover the indigenous owners of any crown land and to return it to them. Instead we legislated to secure and even extend the existing tenure of all other stakeholders in Crown land who were without freehold title.

The Native Title Act is a misnomer for this legislation which, in my opinion, is an act to entrench security of tenure for all non-native title holders. Because we haven’t fully grasped or owned the first lie in all

its enormity we are embarking on a second. So for me the Native Title Act was actually a 1993 style of Terra nullius. Has there been any progress if you just replace one lie with another? Both are excuses for theft. Similarly the current Bill to amend the Native Title Act is actually a bill to facilitate the upgrading of pastoral leases to freehold equivalent. Again the real agenda is obscured by another lie to justify the actions of Government. While it is in fact the pastoral interests that are powerfully influencing government, the message is that Native Title interests are so powerful that they threaten the economic interests of the country. This view was first put in the Opposition side of the debate on Native Title. Their position not only denied the original theft but said that the legislation was about an attempted theft by Aboriginal people from the rest of Australia.

Both major parties, during the debate on Native Title in 1993, had positions which rely on denial.

On the one hand - the conservative position which is akin to Terra Nullius - that Aboriginal people have no just claims to lands beyond that which they purchase.

The so-called progressive position is maintaining a false perception that Aboriginal people are being granted new rights.

How do we overcome two false perceptions and replace them for a true perception?

The only way in which a thief can acknowledge theft and stop stealing is when s/he can empathise with the person from whom s/he is stealing. In the Restorative Justice Model the real transformation occurs when the victim and offender both listen and hear each other and understand the wrongful act from the other's

viewpoint. Restitution and forgiveness then become possible.

Australia is attempting to conduct a reconciliation process without restitution or reconciliation. While we are avoiding true restitution we cannot gain a true reconciliation.



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## *Youth Allowance*

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### THE YOUTH ALLOWANCE AND INCOME SUPPORT

*By Stewart Jackson*

At the first hint of a new policy initiative on the part of the Liberal Federal Government, there is an almost natural knee-jerk reaction that it must be bad because the liberals thought of it. This certainly is the impression that one might get if you read the hype around the recently announced Youth Allowance. But to judge this initiative simply in the light of it being a Liberal Party initiative would be to do both young people and the Youth Allowance a disservice. Firstly, let me say that I am not a Liberal Party apologist - there have been too many appalling initiatives to come from the Liberal Governments at both State and federal level. However, with the Youth Allowance, there is a real chance to get a good policy outcome from a suspect start. But let us start with what exists now and how it got this way.

Prior to the ALP being elected back in 1983, there was Unemployment Benefits for all who were unemployed. There was also a scheme called TEAS - Tertiary Education Allowance Scheme. These benefits for young people had existed since the days of the Whitlam ALP Government of the early 70's. During the long haul of the Hawke-Keating years, these were transformed into Jobsearch Allowance, Newstart (and

then the Youth Training Allowance) and AUSTUDY, each with increasingly tightened but also increasingly different criteria.

On the ascension of the Liberals to power, they introduced a single unemployment stream, Newstart, and continued to tighten criteria for all social security benefits. However, these benefits continued to also diverge, in terms of eligibility, payability and rates of payments.

Youth Allowance actually makes an attempt to begin a process of simplification, reducing 5 different payments and 13 rates into a single payment with 5 rates of pay. This has been lobbied for by such worthwhile groups as Australian Council Of Social Services, and Welfare Rights. So this is no bad thing. However, every coin has two faces. The downside to this payment is the increased responsibility being placed on families through the Parental Means Test. This makes parents directly responsible for the children - in the case of students up to the age of 25, unless the young person can prove they have been financially independent from their parents for 18 months. Now for students this is nothing new, but this is also introduced for young

unemployed up to the age of 21. This is likely to have an adverse affect for some 45,000 young people.

As well as this change there is also the availability of Rent Assistance for students for the first time in many years. This is actually expected to benefit over 70,000 students. Another silver lining to the cloud of Youth Allowance is rates of pay based on your living circumstances. Where a young person needs to live away from home to find work or to study, they will be paid the away from home rate, and if they are deemed independent then will not be subject to the Parental Means Test. The change in benefit rates is likely to assist some 67,000.

As you can probably see, Youth Allowance is talking big numbers as to who it affects. The total number of people who would fall under Youth Allowance will exceed 550,000 people - making it almost as big as Newstart for unemployed adults.

The key hear is going to be how the Greens, Democrats and ALP handle the Youth Allowance in the Senate. While a number of groups are expressing concern, and perhaps rightly so, to simply vote against what ever comes into the Senate on the basis of the apparent negatives within the program would be throwing away a chance to fundamentally reform income support arrangements within Australia. The opportunity to transfer Commonwealth payments, which for a long time have actually favoured the better off in Australia to actually favouring the less fortunate should not be missed.

If applied correctly, and at the appropriate level, the Parental Means Test will begin to deny those who should not be receiving unemployment benefits or

AUSTUDY because their parents really are able to provide for them very well. This includes a real reform of the poorly managed AUSTUDY Actual Means Test, which relates income to expenditure in the family home, as opposed to taxable income which can be dramatically reduced with the right accountant to give the appearance of poverty where none exists

The Youth Allowance provides a number of opportunities, then, to the Greens, if they can only handle them with the right amount of forethought and intelligent. Knee-jerk reactions and well meaning paternalism will do nothing for either the Greens or the young people they are meant to assist. I would suggest a long hard look at the Youth Allowance to develop a clear view as to how to improve it to be a good piece of social policy, and not to appease our own, however heartfelt, guilt about people less well off.

### **Quinns Rocks ELECTRONICS**

**Miguel Castillo**

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## **International Report**

*By Terry Hall*

### **Beating the Retreat**

The British Tourist Authority decided to drop the Union Jack flag as its logo because it had a "triumphal, colonial feel to it that won't go down well in certain parts of the world." MPs from both sides of the political divide united to castigated the Authority.

British Airways has also removed the flag from its tail fins and replaced it with assorted ethnic logos.

*Reuters 14 August 1997*

### **Gay Representation in Mexico**

Deputy Patria Jimenes is the first openly lesbian candidate to win a seat in the Mexican Congress on a ticket championing gay rights. During the recent elections, gays also threw their support behind left wing opposition candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, winner of the first election for mayor of Mexico City this century. Gays view Cardenas' victory as proof of Mexico's transition to true democracy, giving them the chance to demand social equality as never before.

*CNN 27 July 1997*

### **Minimum Wage Rise in USA**

Almost 7 million Americans will get a raise this month when the minimum wage rises to \$5.15 an hour. Most of the 6.8 million workers affected are women who work in the low-wage service sector, according to a report by the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

*Reuters 2/9/97*

### **Irish Presidential Election**

Ms Adi Roche, founder of the Chernobyl Children's Project and an ICND anti-nuclear campaigner is favourite to win the upcoming election for the Presidency of the Irish Republic. She has the support of the Labour Party, the Irish Greens Party and the Democratic Left. Ms Roche represented Ireland on 'The Great Peace Journey' in Europe.

Profile at: <http://www.aardvark.ie/ccp/adi-roche-profile.html>

## RECYCLE

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

### Electronic Networking

*Green activists are invited to participate in one or more of the Internet email lists. These are electronic 'forums' where you can post news items, announcements, reports and similar items. There are two ways to gain access to these lists.*

1) If you have access to the World-wide Web go to: <http://www.greens.org> click on the phrase 'on-line forums'. This page gives full information and an application form.

2) Send an empty email to : [list-app@greens.org](mailto:list-app@greens.org) and full instructions will be sent to you via email.

## Help Needed !

### *Education*

Dr Christine Sharp MLC and Andrew Thomson are keen to take comments about the Education Act 1997 (Green) and Curriculum Structures 1997, especially the section on Society and the Environment. Public submissions are also invited. Reply to Andrew Thomson Ph/Fax 08 9450 3424

### Re-opening of Nominations

from eligible members for the positions of

### **Secretary of The Greens (WA)**

Term of office: October 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).

For more information call the office.

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS: Friday October 10th 1997, by post or in person.

#### By Post to:

Returning Officer

The Greens (WA)

**PO Box 737**

**Victoria Park**

**WA 6979**

#### In person (5-6pm) to:

The Greens (WA) Office

**Suite 4, 439-441 Albany Highway**

**Victoria Park 6100**

*Authorised by Carole Perry, A/Secretary, The Greens (WA) on behalf of the Representatives Council of the Greens(WA)*

If undelivered please return to:  
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