

The Greens (WA) Annual Report 2011-2012



The 4 Pillars

SOCIAL JUSTICE

A fair, equitable and humane society is based implicitly on equal justice for all.

PARTICIPATION

An open system, that allows meaningful participation by the whole community, is the basis of true democracy.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Our economic and environmental management must be founded on sustainable practices to guarantee a viable future for our children.

PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

Nonviolent methods of conflict resolution, with a focus on nuclear disarmament, are essential as we work towards a world at peace.



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The Greens (WA) 2012 Annual Report

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Farewell to Bob Brown from WA

Co-Convenors Report

Chris Dickinson and Kim Dravnieks



Looking back over the time since the last AGM, it has certainly been an eventful year.

2011/12 was supposed to be our relaxing year!

This is our second published Annual Report. It gives us a chance to reflect on just a few of the year's highlights, where we can pause for a moment before moving into the high gear of election preparedness.

Our first dues must go to our four state and two federal parliamentarians, who have all worked exhaustively to bring a voice of reason, intelligence and compassion to debates, media questions and conversations with the public and the party.

We can't do justice to the work done by these fabulous six in just a few lines. They have seen first-hand some great highs with the progress of the carbon price, Denticare, marine parks, NDIS, light rail in WA at last, and a stop to coal mining prospects in Margaret River to name a very few.

There have been lows too: the treatment of refugees, proposed expansion of uranium mining and fracking increasingly threatening our water supplies.

We have heard Rachel recount heart-rending stories of forced adoptions and watched her spend a week living on the equivalent of the Newstart Allowance.



We have listened to Scott's stories of a Japan devastated by the nuclear fallout and watched him battle against draconian cyber laws. We have seen Giz defending our human rights in the face of CHOGM mania, Alison plead for just industrial manslaughter laws and help for mental health, Lynn highlight the damage to food security because of GMOs and Robin work with the custodians of this land, striving for its protection for future generations.

Our four state MPs are all standing for re-election at the March 9 poll. They have increased their enthusiasm, energy and drive - if that is at all possible - to put The Greens and our policies at the forefront of people's minds. They will need every ounce (gram!) of help from members and supporters in this endeavour. Scott Ludlam will also be campaigning for his senate seat in the forthcoming federal election making it a double-whammy election campaign.

As our party grows stronger, we are attacked more fervently: the road ahead will not be easy.

Fortunately we have members from all walks of life willing to go the extra mile (kilometre!) to ensure we have well thought out policies; we have communications and IT systems; we are networking, training, activating, discussing; we are internally strong and externally outspoken for what is right.

You will read further in this report of the work done by all the various working groups and regional groups.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who has helped the Greens this

Policy WG members doing their magic!
B - Justin, Mark, Chantal, Cam, Scott, Dinny, James
M - Anthony, Adrian, Jo, Chilla, Brian
F - Margo, Lynn, Jordan, Peter

Party Development Manager (PDM)

Adrian Glamorgan

Why vote Green? The announcement in early September that the Government of Western Australia plans to spend a billion dollars on a light rail system from Mirrabooka down through Perth might be one good example of Greens' steady and quiet influence. For many years Greens MPs Senator Scott Ludlam and Lynn MacLaren MLC have supported long-time individual academic, professional and advocacy champions of light rail and declared Greens support for their work in public meetings and gatherings of decision-makers. The work wasn't a fad, or a rush for votes. It is persistence in those fluorescent-lit public meetings on windy rainy nights, the carefully prepared powerpoints, taking the opportunity brought by chance conversations, the meetings with councillors and enthusiasts, where the economic costs are defined and explained and spoken for out of identifiable funds.

There are spectacular moments, of course, like the success of the Greens' Denticare policy announced this year. There is also the price on carbon pollution, making available billions of dollars for renewable energy research and development. These are the things that are achieved when The Greens are in the balance of power in a state or federal setting, being able to stay principled whilst intensely practical about the steps that are needed, willing to cooperate on many levels.

Greens members take their responsibilities further than most voters, who mostly don't worry much about politics in between elections. People who take the responsibilities of office, such as co-convenors Kim Dravnieks and Chris Dickinson, Treasurer Jess McColl, Secretary Adam Duncan and my current line manager and Election Campaign Convenor, Paul Davis – deserve special thanks. They have made, and make, a formidable contribution. Brought together, they – you – are a key to the success of The Greens (WA) electorally, even though so much of the work seems distant from the excitement of ballots being counted on election night!

(continued on page 11)

Editors' Last Word

Chilla Bulbeck & Kim Dravnieks

Back by popular acclaim! – or at least we like to think so. The inaugural annual report of The Greens (WA) was released at the 2011 State Conference and warmly received. As we indicated then, we would like to institute this annual record and recognition of our hard-working members, of our achievements, and of the path we see ahead.

As editors, we apologise to the contributors whose reports we had to prune to fit into our limited space and thank all the photographers (*Robin Chapple, Pippa Tandy, Giovanni Torre, Simone Pesson, Roel Loopers, Shane Guthrie, James Mumme, Wendy Robyn, Paul Lane, Irma Lachmund, and others unnamed*) and encourage you to keep snapping ready for next year.

It is clear reading through the many reports gathered for this edition that there is so much happening in the party and we have many dedicated members supporting the Greens and doing so much.

The Working Groups have a clear purpose and are totally focused. The Regional Groups are thoughtfully improving their strategies for engaging members and the public. They are getting out and about, running forums, engaging in activism, supporting our MPs, letter-writing on important issues to newspapers, and preparing for the upcoming elections.

We read the insistent refrain from all the groups – 'more volunteers are needed to share the load!' If you would like to be more involved, this annual report is a smorgasbord of delicious activities and tempting goals. We need all hands on deck: so please contact any group who takes your fancy!

The Greens (WA) is a porous organization. We welcome new people with open arms and enthusiastically find niches for them. There is room for everyone and we need new blood to bring our grasp closer to our reach.

We encourage you to grab a cuppa and enjoy the spring sunshine while having a read of this report and really get to know *YOUR* party.

How we work: Brain, Heart and Organs – An Anatomical View!

(For a more conventional detail of the Party structure, see *The Greens (WA) Constitution*)

The *brain* or management body of Greens (WA) is the Representatives Council (Reps). The 'lobes' of the brain are the ten Regional Groups, largely organized according to federal election boundaries.

New members join The Greens (WA) via their local Regional Group (RG). All members have voting rights at RG meetings, although – in keeping with Greens philosophy – consensus is always the aim.

Each RG has two members on Reps: a Permanent Rep (who serves all year) and a Rotating Rep (ideally a different member each month to share Party decision-making).

Office Bearers are elected for one-year terms at the AGM. Up to four additional members are appointed by Reps to form the Administration Working Group (AWG) who undertakes the day-to-day management of the Party. In this respect, AWG is somewhat like the *heart*, keeping the *blood* (activities) flowing to keep the body of the Party functioning, but deferring significant decision-making to the brain.

To press the biological analogy perhaps too far, Working Groups, set up with the authority of Reps, have distinct

functions, as do the various *organs* of the body. Working Groups report back to Reps on their activities and seek approval for initiatives outside their mandate.

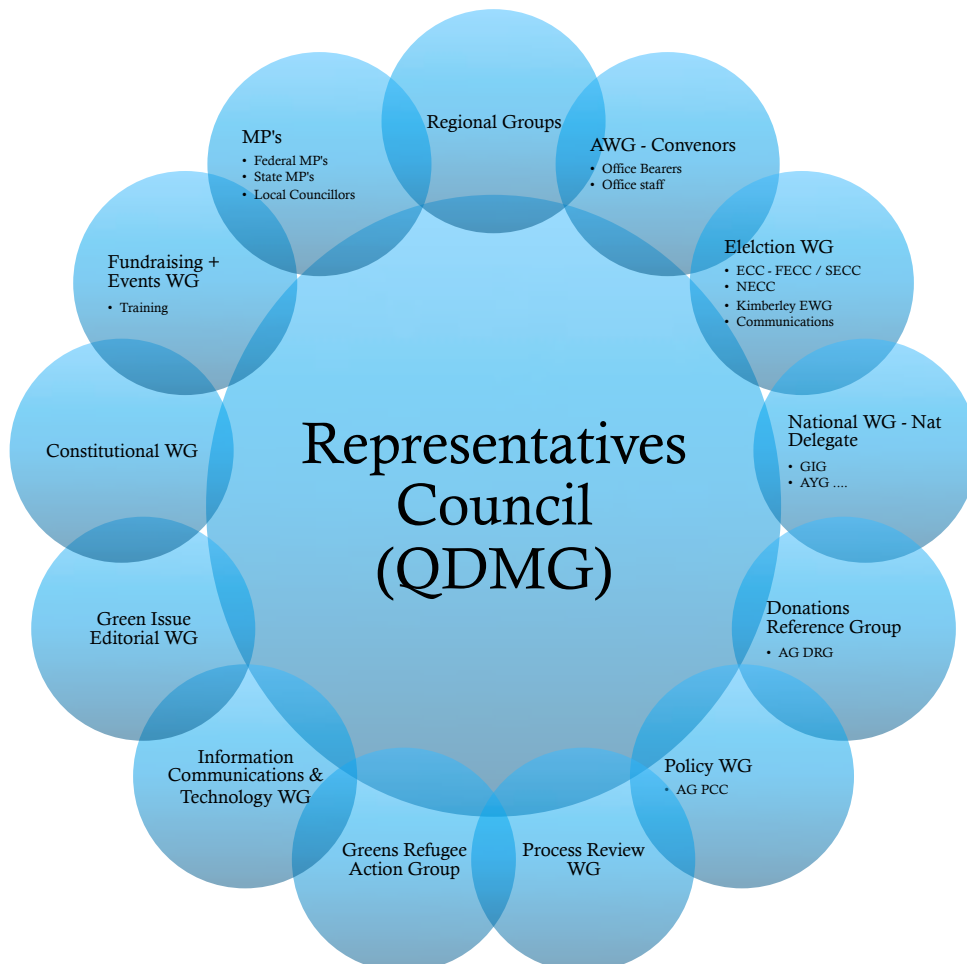
Regional and Working Groups submit proposals to Reps who work to achieve consensus on the proposals. The state and federal politicians and the office-bearers are also members of Reps. Every member of the Party has the right to attend Reps meetings.

Consensus decision-making by a large group meeting only once a month is not always swift and timely. To overcome this problem, Reps appoints three members and the Office Bearers to the Quick Decision Making Group (QDMG). All members are eligible to nominate for QDMG, though members who are Permanent Representatives and have a good knowledge of Party determinations are ideal.

The blood of the Party is built on countless hours of unpaid commitment from more than 100 active volunteers, along with critical support at election times or for specialist tasks from thousands of members and supporters.

All this to build a peaceful, sustainable and socially just world for ourselves and those to come.

The Greens (WA) Structure Map - 2012



New Greens members are hit with a daunting alphabet soup of acronyms when they join.

Even long standing members are perplexed with new acronyms that pop up continuously.

To help you through this minefield here is a quick guide.

Alphabet Soup – Your Guide to Greens Acronyms

GWA	The Greens (WA) Inc.	Election Related Groups and Committees <i>(Some groups exist only for elections periods)</i>
AG	Australian Greens – the confederation of all states and territory Green parties	ECC Election CC - representative group for joint election campaigns (as we have currently)
RG	Regional Groups	ECWG Election Communications WG or ‘Comms’ WG – manages election messaging content
Reps	The Representatives Council – GWA decision making body, representative of each Regional Group	ERWG Electorate Research WG – researches messaging that fits key targets
QDMG	Quick Decision Making Group – 7 members charged with making urgent decisions between Reps meetings	FECC Federal Election CC - representative group for federal elections
		KEWG Kimberley Election WG – coordinating election for state seat of the Kimberley
GWA Working Groups, Special Interest Groups and Committees:		SECC State Election Campaign Committee - representative group for state elections
AWG	Administration Working Group – managers Reps/Party business, staff and the office	(E)PWG Preferences WG – negotiates between Regional Groups and other parties (Constitutionally a closed group)
CWG	Constitution WG – reviews constitutional changes	
DRG	Donations Reference Group – ensure we keep to our Donations Policy – there is also a AG DRG	
EWG	Election WG – non representative skills group that meets between elections	
FEWG	Fundraising and Events WG – runs state events and trainings	
GIEWG	Green Issue Editorial Working Group – produces the official GWA newsletter 6 times a year	
GRAG	Greens Refugee Action Group – special interest group advocating positive action for refugees	
ICTWG	Information and Communications Technology WG – manages GWA database, web and online technologies	
NWG	National WG – liaises with the Australian Greens and state and territory Greens parties – members may belong directly to an AG working groups or be delegates of WA to an AG group where they report directly to NWG. See below for some of these groups.	
Process WG	reviews GWA internal policies and processes	
PWG	Policy WG – reviews all state and national policies	
		Australian Greens Working Groups and Committees <i>(a sample only – there are many more)</i>
		AGCG Australian Greens Coordinating Group – AG administration group
		AGPCC Australian Greens Policy Co-ordinating Committee
		AYG Australian Young Greens – national youth group (under 30’s)
		CCWG National Continuous Campaigning WG – organises ongoing Australia wide campaigns
		GIG Global Issues Group – national ‘issues and communications’ with global Green organizations
		NECC National Election CC – national representative group (of states and territories) for federal elections
		NFWG National Fundraising WG – organises ongoing Australia wide fundraising campaigns
		Other acronyms used:
		PLU Phone Link Up – for conference phone calls
		OB Office Bearers – Convenors, Secretary, Treasurer

Working Groups are always keen to have new members, particularly if you have skills in an associated field.

Please contact the office to get into contact with a group – *don’t wait to be asked – you are needed!*

Working Group Reports

Administration Working Group (AWG)

Kim Dravnieks and Chris Dickinson

One of the major undertakings in 2011-12 has been the process of settling in Adrian's role as the new Party Development Manager. As was expected, the role has evolved somewhat since it was first filled, as the Party finds the best way to utilise this new capacity.

We like to add our thanks to those of Adrian's for the work done by all our staff and office volunteers and the special dedication they give to the Greens. Many others have also helped when the need has arisen and we thank each of them.

In October David Letham, our membership Secretary, and Adrian organised a Membership Officers meeting to look at ways of addressing lapsing membership, database issues and clarifying the membership process.

The ongoing work has resulted in a marked improvement in our ability to track membership, identify issues and retain members. We are indebted to David for all his outstanding work and give our grateful thanks.

WA welcomed the federation of Australian Green parties to Fremantle in November for the 2011 National Greens Conference. The event was an outstanding success with organisation of a high calibre by Leonie Lundy enabling significant plenary and workshop discussions inside the town hall and plenty of public engagement outside.

Also in November Adrian and Treasurer, Jess McColl, attended the Green Institute's training in Melbourne on 'Insider lessons from the Scottish National Party', which gave insights into the lessons learned during that election, especially regarding the use of social media.

Dorothy Tekwei, leader of the Papua New Guinea Greens, gave her grateful thanks for the financial assistance Greens (WA) members provided to establish their office before the election. Without this urgently needed support they would have been deregistered and thus unable to stand in the elections and represent the many PNG nationals, particular women, who supported them.

Green volunteers took part in various university O-day's to raise awareness of the Greens. The stalls were effective, with over 200 people signed onto the Greens-on-campus e-lists.

April brought the news of the retirement of Senator Bob Brown from the parliament, and from the leadership of the party. The Co-Convenors sent a message on behalf of the Greens (WA) thanking Bob for all his work for the party over the decades, and congratulating Senator Christine Milne on taking on the leadership.

Bob Brown visited Western Australia in June as the first part of his 'farewell tour'. A huge amount of work went into preparing for his farewell event and we wish to express our gratitude to the organising team and all the many volunteers who helped on the night to make it so successful.



While not completely unexpected, these events were historic changes for the Greens and everyone was happy and relieved to see the transition go smoothly. Few political careers can have ended with as much warmth and goodwill as Bob's did, and we look forward to his continuing presence in our national debate.

The Administration WG team worked solidly throughout the year supporting the Reps Council to govern the party, ensuring processes and procedures met the party needs and expectations, keeping abreast of our financial capabilities and giving support to staff, working groups, regional groups and members.

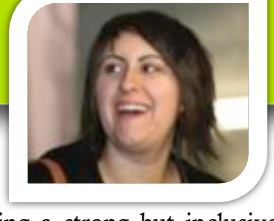
Our thanks to Adrian in his new role and to the team for their enormous support:

- Jess McColl - Treasurer
- Adam Duncan - Secretary
- David Letham - Membership Secretary
- Paul Davis – Line management & Election preparedness
- Diana MacTiernan – Party development
- Connor Moran – Business initiatives

It has been a pleasure working with you.



Policy Working Group (PWG) Cameron Poustie and Jo Somerville



Ten second version...

This year presented us with a great opportunity: reviewing our State policies and participating in a review of Federal policies, at the same time. What a chance at seamless coordination across the different platforms!

This year also presented us with a significant threat: reviewing our State policies and participating in a review of Federal policies, at the same time. What a lot of work!

'Full' version...

Finishing off the Federal processes

Before commencing the policy content review, we spent a fair amount of the second half of 2010-11 going 'back to basics' on what it is our ratified policy is designed to achieve. That 'process review' continued until the November National Conference, which most readers will know was in Fremantle in 2011. Cam spent most of the time that weekend in tricky breakout group discussions about hypothetical ways in which the suggested process would run badly. By contrast, Cam advocated the WA position: the risks of our suggested new approach were minimal and manageable.

The substantive Federal review

After the National Conference, and the traditional summer downtime, we started off the substantive review of the Federal policy platform with just six 'sample' policies, essentially to road-test the new process. While ostensibly a real review of those particular policies, we were also looking at a limited number of topics in order to expose and deal with any issues before embarking on the larger review of our policy platform's content. The process was fine from WA's perspective, and we came to the Canberra National Council ready to negotiate about those policies, only to discover a lot of states had not been able to run their consultative processes in time. Lesson learned: people needed to pull their fingers out, lest we make impossible our job of ratifying all Federal policies by November 2012.

The failure to ratify six policies in March meant that fully 25 policies were up for discussion in the lead-up to the July National Council. WA had two face to face meetings to discuss the policies, and Cam accepted various email submissions about policies of interest to various members (note for new members: any member of the Greens may participate in this way). Not surprisingly, given the sheer number of topics, there were some that we did not closely consider in face to face meetings, and some of those also did not attract email submissions. In any case, the team of Giz Watson, Alison Xamon, Anthony Blond and Cam, with assistance from Diane Evers, went along to Adelaide in early July with more than enough to say!

The substantive State review

After having a few tries at designing a strong but inclusive process for the State review, we cracked the code early in 2012, just as we accepted Jo Somerville as the Co-Convenor of the group. Jo took responsibility for coordinating the State Policy Review process. The process is now well under way with almost half of the policies heading towards the final stage of review. We are seriously under the pump to get policies done and dusted before the State election, and are trying to move quickly through the final stages.

In February 2012 a PWG meeting decided to establish sub-groups of PWG to guide the policies through the review, with membership open to any Greens member with experience in the area of the policies they would be reviewing. Steps in the review process included:

1. Redrafting by sub-group
2. PWG Feedback
3. Second redrafting by sub-group
4. Stakeholder consultation [conducted by State MPs]
5. Third redrafting by sub-group
6. Back to PWG (due to time constraints, it is proposed to abandon the second PWG review)
7. On to ECC

By September, the following policies were with the state politicians, who are responsible for conducting stakeholder consultation: Sustainable Economy; Mining; Native Forests and Woodlands; Plantations and Farm Forestry; Sustainable Agriculture; Sustainable Regions; Illicit and Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse; Justice; Seniors (Older Australians); Alcohol and Tobacco Control; Climate Change; Energy; Housing; Animals; Biodiversity; Genetic Modification; Marine and Coastal; Wetlands; Water Resources; Water Utilities; Youth; Gender Identity; Women; Sexuality; Children.

Despite the hard work of sub-group convenors, some policies drew little involvement from the wider membership of PWG and, as such, have not been revised. They are: Community Services; Cultural Diversity; Physical Activity; Air Pollution; Privatisation and Public Participation. Those policies will be reviewed in a truncated process.

Anthony Blond replaced Cam as Co-convenor to lighten Cam's load as he is now a lead candidate. As the election is fast approaching it is really important to have finalised policies for our candidates to run with and the convenors will propose to PWG that a second consultation with PWG is omitted. Given this, with a little bit of luck the review will be wrapped up in October!

Party Development Manager (*continued from page 5*)

Adrian Glamorgan

We are lucky to have the constancy of our paid Office Coordinator, Rowena Skinner, who has been a 'keeper of the knowledge' on so many matters to do with the office, as well as the meticulous work of Jenny Sullivan assisting with accounts, our contractor-bookkeeper Donna Matthews who checks and scrutinises every month. But again, paid staff and contractors can only do so much. The Greens (WA) is essentially a volunteer organisation. Our staff and volunteers increased this year. Jenny Sullivan moved into a paid role to assist Adrian and Rowena Skinner with accounting. Due to the work of our Membership Secretary, David Letham, there has been a marked improvement in our ability to track membership, identify issues and retain members. Some of David's work has entailed negotiating with the Australian Greens on bedding down the database and election management systems. Thanks also go to office volunteer regulars, Jay Birnbrauer and Bernard Mahon helping with membership also, and Jennifer Pittard for consistent work with Green Announce and office support.

My own position of Party Development Manager was created last year and I commenced work on 1 September 2011. According to my job description, 'The role of the Party Development Manager is to provide executive level support to The Greens (WA) and take carriage of the development and implementation of strategies to build the capacity of the Party...'

Much of the Party Development Manager's work involves dovetailing in with the efforts of individual members, volunteers and working groups. Over the last year I have focused my energies on building goodwill, unity and efficiencies in the office, as well as networking with regional groups and working groups, spotting opportunities for people with similar skills or responsibilities in the party to get together, and networking beyond. This culminated in the 'Environmental Audit Report' to the party in July. With so much at stake in the wider world, it's important that The Greens travel together and that our various campaigns and office holders are able to link up strongly internally, to mutual advantage, and maximum effectiveness.

The Greens (WA) is offering a vision to make a different future than the one the old parties have in mind. Ours is a future being sketched out by slow slog, occasional spectacular successes, hard calls, and electoral successes. But it seems to me a future worth cooperating and toiling for, a future we sometimes glimpse in the present in the way we work together, mapping out what could be, when no other party dares to. Thank you for your support of The Greens (WA)!

Green Issue Editorial Working Group (GIEWG)

Green Issue is the official newsletter of The Greens (WA). It comes out six times a year, with special supplementary issues from time to time. Where the weekly e-newsletter Green Announce alerts members to upcoming events of interest, *Green Issue* is our newsletter of record. It is not an 'ordinary' magazine but rather the collective voice of Greens (WA). We strive for a balance between being inclusive - representing the range of our members' views - and maintaining the quality of the magazine so our readers will enjoy it.

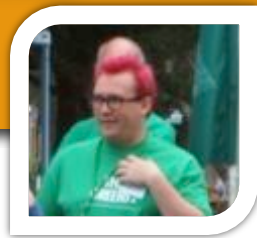


Historically *Green Issue* contained reports from our MPs, reports about recent events, ideas and opinions from members.

In 2012, the editors introduced themed issues, which have been well received. The first issue tackled the vexed issue of medium density living; followed by the also vexed - and tragic - issue of asylum seekers. Then the still vexed issue of gender and sexuality; finally the comparative clarity of Greens economic policy.

Information Communications Technology Working Group (ICTWG)

Grahame Bowland



What was known as the Communications Working Group is now ICTWG, operating under a new mandate. In 2012 we have focussed on election preparedness – ensuring that the ICT infrastructure of the party is ready for the coming elections.

In June ICTWG's convenor Sol Hanna passed on the role to Grahame Bowland. Sol has been a huge, long-term contributor to ICT within the party and notably spearheaded the new website project. We send Sol our thanks for his efforts.

A huge effort has been made by David Letham (Membership Secretary) to clean up our database of members and supporters. David has also worked to ensure that our election management system is ready.

This system will assist campaigns in staffing polling booths and assigning areas to leafletters. David ran several well-attended and productive training sessions on these systems. We aim to make it easier to find and coordinate volunteers during the election period, while also ensuring that information is preserved ready for future campaigns.

The Greens (WA) website is looking more lively than ever thanks to the efforts of the volunteer web coordinator, Jennifer Pittard. Events are now put online at the same time that they are announced in Green Announce. Be sure to check the site to see what's on.

Websites for the state election campaign are starting to come online. We have worked with the Election Campaign Committee to get these sites up and running, and an overarching page for the election will soon be up.

Social media is an important way to connect with our supporters and the public. We now have an active Facebook page – facebook.com/GreensWA – and Twitter account – @ThGreensWA. Grahame Bowland ran a training session on the use of Twitter, and provided one-on-one training as needed. Rob Phillips initiated a still ongoing discussion of the use of social media within our Regional Groups.

We have examined the use of online video conferencing, primarily to allow members in remote regions to attend meetings. Several technologies were trialled and we have settled on a solution. Meetings in the Perth office have been attended by members from the Kimberley, and we are working to make online attendance of meetings a routine occurrence.

Of course, there have been a lot of other odd jobs. ICTWG has also spent time making sure the phones work (literally), and chasing gremlins in office IT systems. None of this would have been possible without our wonderful volunteers.

We would be remiss not to take this opportunity to seek new volunteers. We are a small and energetic group, meeting monthly during the election campaign. If you have IT skills and want to get involved, come along to a meeting. To find out when the next meeting is on contact Grahame through the office.

GIEWG (cont.)

Most articles were solicited: largely through the editors' personal networks or on the basis of members active in formulating relevant policies. We even got the pollies into the swing of things, some of them writing about the issue's theme for the sex and gender issue. And special mention of Giz's decision to open her poli page to other voices, on this occasion Nina Jurack, who wrote about human trafficking.

Readers have responded to our themed issues with enthusiasm, although we want readers to write letters to the editor along these (or any other) lines! Copies of themed issues are appropriate to distribute at Greens information stalls and booths.

Green Issue continues to burst at the seams with more contributions than can be contained within the 15 pages allowance. We have expanded to a 19 page allowance, and are still forced into draconian edits for every issue, for which we apologise to our long-suffering contributors.

We say goodbye to our fourth editor, Rob Salter, who is returning to Melbourne. The editors thank Rob for his enthusiastic editorial work and written contributions to *Green Issue*.

The newsletter has grown in stature under his watch. If you would like to try your hand at editing some articles or an issue or guiding *Green Issue* in other ways, contact the editors.

What we are lacking:

- An ongoing conversation with our wide readership, e.g. via letters to the editor
- Submitted articles from the full diversity of our membership
- More members for our editorial team

So: keep the copy coming or we can't keep the magazine coming.

Election Working Group (EWG)

Paul Davis



Ten second version...

Vote Green in the upper and lower houses. In most regions, you will help elect a Legislative Councillor. In lower house seats, even if you don't elect a Green, you are telling the other parties what policies you want and electing the 'least worst alternative'.

'Full' version...

The EWG has transmogrified from the selected group of people who were planning for the upcoming elections, into an Election Campaign Committee (ECC), which is a representative group of people actually running the overall election campaign, or in this case, the election campaigns.

That is, this ECC is a SECC (State Election Campaign Committee) and a FECC (Federal Election Campaign Committee) combined, as we have a known date for the state election: the 9th of March 2013, and a federal election anytime, but mostly likely in the back half of 2013.

The ideal mantra is 'two elections, one campaign', with the hope of a state election campaign achieving excellent results, running seamlessly into a federal election campaign building on the earlier work, and thereby achieving even more brilliant results.

Our aim at the very least is in the state upper house to hold our three state Metropolitan seats - Alison Xamon, Cam Poustie (to replace Giz Watson), Lynn MacLaren - and our Mining and Pastoral seat - Robin Chapple - and re-take 'our' seat in the South West (Giz Watson is running here).

Federally we plan to retain the seat in the senate that is up for election - Scott Ludlam.

We also hope to run an effective campaign in the Agricultural region - Andrew Huntley - and to grow our vote in lower house seats, so that 'Greens in the lower house' will be a much more solid possibility in the future.

The elections of 2013 will be very important for us, for the Greens nationally, and for Australia. It would be wonderful if we could regain the balance of power in the State upper house: it is crucial that green ideas and processes are accepted by the next state government.

Federally, the government we have supported has done some wonderful things (carbon pricing, NBN) and some dreadful things (off shore processing, continued intervention in the NT). No matter which of the old parties wins the vitriolic battle that the next federal election will be, it is critical that the Greens retain balance of power in the senate.

However, coordinating five separate upper house campaigns and one senate campaign, with different pressures, electorates, resources and members, is a formidable challenge.

Our regional groups are working well together in upper house campaign committees, and these UHCCs will be doing the brunt of the work in the state campaign. Between now and March, what you should be doing (please) is contacting your candidate or UHCC, and offering to help. After March, the ECC will become a FECC, and the senate team will need your help.

We need fund raising, leafleting, fund raising, event organising, fund raising, graphic design, fund raising, letters to the editor, fund raising, phone calls to the radio, fund raising, electoral research and analysis, fund raising, messaging, fund raising, voting booth coordinates, fund raising, IT skills, fund raising, face-book liking, fund raising, tweeting, fund raising, poster sticking, fund raising, web-page design, fund raising, and, last but not least, fund raising.

So, what have you planned for the next 14 months? Methinks, there's quite a lot for you to do ...

Read on for a lively theoretically grounded account of the behaviour of ECC and its groups:



Rachel Siewert and Alison Xamon

And for those who remember and enjoyed the EWG section in the last annual report, I wish to extemporise on the relevance of chaos theory to election campaigning.

One example is the effect of 'strange attractors' about which observations circle in an apparently structured manner, but are in fact non-deterministic and unpredictable.

They can switch to a completely different pattern almost instantly, such as a hurricane developing from a breeze because a butterfly flapped its wings.

The data tracking polling intentions driven by specific events or policies seems to conform well to such chaotic behaviour.

Election Working Group (EWG)

(continued)

A politician saying something which goes viral seems much like a butterfly flap – of itself, almost inconceivably unimportant, but actually having an incomprehensibly huge impact.

A branch of chaos theory known as Bistromathics (Adams D, 1982) explains why the bill for a group meal in a restaurant is never equal to the sum of the individual contributions to pay for the meals.

It would seem to me that we could usefully employ a related branch, Agendebra, which can explain the circumstances which conspire to occasionally create the situation whereby everyone's understanding of which items should be on the agenda for a meeting is different to everyone else's, and to the published agenda.

This, in its extreme form, can result in the publication of additional alternate agendas. A thorough understanding of Agendebra would cast light on the 'agenda event horizon', which occurs when all the available time for the meeting is engaged in deciding what is on the agenda.

The more extreme 'critical agendisation' occurs when all available time for any activity whatsoever is consumed in negotiating an agenda for one meeting.

Once agendisation becomes critical, no useful work of any sort can be done until after the meeting. If this occurs, postponing the meeting or referring any agenda items to the next meeting, could be catastrophic.

Unfortunately, the Election Research Group is spending all its time analysing data and providing useful information to inform our election strategy, and I doubt they will have time to progress the study of Agendebra in the near future.

Note: Most readers will know this, but some may not. The Greens (WA) are consistently successful in the upper house, or Legislative Council, because the chamber is made up of members elected by six multi-member regions.



The five lead upper house candidates chosen in April are (from left to right): Robin Chapple (Mining and Pastoral), Alison Xamon (East Metropolitan), Giz Watson (presently North Metropolitan, standing for the South West), Lynn MacLaren (South Metropolitan) and Cameron Poustie (standing for North Metropolitan). (Photo: Robin Chapple). In August, the sixth lead candidate, Andrew Huntley was chosen for Agricultural Region.

The lead Greens (WA) candidate only needs one-sixth of the votes (+1) to be assured of a seat.

With preferences from other candidates, we usually win a seat in at least three regions – six would be magic!

By contrast the lower house is much less 'representative': the minor parties hold far fewer seats than they receive primary votes.

Thus, based on our primary vote, the Greens (WA) should have around 10 per cent of the representatives in the Legislative Assembly, but most of the time we have none.

In order to win a lower house seat, a candidate must usually receive the highest percentage of primary votes.

Sometimes the winning candidate comes a reasonably close second and 'wins on preferences', on the flow of second and lower order preferences redistributed from candidates who are eliminated in order of receiving the lowest number of primary votes.



National Working Group (NWG)

Christine Cunningham



The National Working Group (NWG) got into its work with a bang last November when we hosted the Australia Greens' National Conference at the Fremantle Town Hall. It was a marvellous three days of politicking, networking and entertaining.

Some of the highlights included opening the Conference to the media on the Saturday morning, Rachel Siewert chairing an inspiring plenary workshop on Aged Care and the passing of a proposal which set in place a yearlong review of the party's federal policy platform.

Special recognition and thanks must go to Leonie Lundy and her team of volunteers for their excellent organisation and execution of the event.

The NWG meets on a monthly basis. Throughout the year we have managed to conduct quorate meetings with a dedicated but small group of members regularly engaging in national business.

The NWG oversees the work of WA members on Australian Green (AG) working groups. These working groups include the Global Issues Group (GIG), Policy, Governance, Sexuality, Constitutional Review, Young Greens and several more.

We would love to see more WA members become actively involved in the NWG and consider representing the state in AG working groups.

March National Council was held in Canberra. As the meeting was also a Special Policy Conference a great deal of hard work was conducted on the federal policy review – particularly by our very own Cameron Poustie.

At this Council, in a presentation on the AG campaign for Denticare, we learned it began as a Day of Action and culminated in the late August joint announcement by the Health Minister and Senator Richard Di Natale of an almost \$5 billion Denticare funding initiative.

Another highlight of the weekend was the election of Albany member Diane Evers to the deputy treasurer role on the Australian Green Coordination Group (AGCG).

As the year progressed, there were many developments in the Continuous Campaign Working Group (CCWG). When the Election Working Group became ECC, CCWG moved from under NWG's wing to ECC.

This Australian Greens Working Group was charged

with conducting four fundraising activities annually on campaigns of national significance. There has been some contention over whether the CCWG should also conduct extra fundraising activities in special election circumstances, as was done in the heat of the Melbourne bi-election.

The lessons learned will hopefully ensure that going forward each campaign is well planned and explicitly budgeted.

The most recent CCWG fundraiser focused on the horrible gas-hub plan at James Price Point. The 'Too Precious to Lose' campaign coincided with a visit to the Kimberley by recently retired Dr Bob Brown on the Sea Shepherd and raised thousands of dollars for a 'Too Precious to Lose' campaign.

The July National Council/Policy Conference took place in Adelaide and was a very intense three days focused largely on consensus negotiations for the finalisation of three federal policy streams: economics, peace and non-violence and ecological sustainability.

Our small but committed delegation worked extremely hard to get through a mammoth amount of policy detail, achieving ratification of 23 policies by the end of the weekend. Other highlights of the Council included the endorsement of a proposal acknowledging the AG's long standing positions of providing safer pathways for asylum seekers and refugees through increased humanitarian intake and a plenary presentation from the Global Issues Group on their recent attendance at the Global Greens Conference in Dakar.

The NWG met again in August to plan for the next AG Conference that will be held in Sydney in November. At that meeting we gratefully endorsed Anthony Blond's new role as our new policy delegate. We also discussed succession planning as I step down from convenorship of the NWG after three years in the role. This also means I will no longer be WA's lead delegate to National Councils and Conferences. I hope that a keen member who has the time and energy to commit to the role will put their hand up at the Annual General Meeting. Whoever does chose to take on the job I am certain they will enjoy it as much as I have and that, like me, they will be inspired and enthused by the amazing work that so many of our Green members engage in at the national level.

Australian Greens Conference Fremantle November 2011





Jess McColl; Emma Jack; Katrina Bercov; Kate Davis; Chilla Bulbeck; Mark Siford; Jan Davis & Jordan Steele-John; Heath Adams, Simone Pesson, Laurie Capill; Cam Poustie, Rach Siewert, Chris Twomey; Giz, June, Katrina, Chilla, Kim

Fundraising and Events Working Group (FEWG) Chilla Bulbeck

FEWG organised the **State Conference** held in Jarrahdale in September 2011. The venue was challenging for people with a disability and a little chilly. Nonetheless, this ‘sunshine on the solar panel of the party’, as one delegate described the conference, was very well-received.

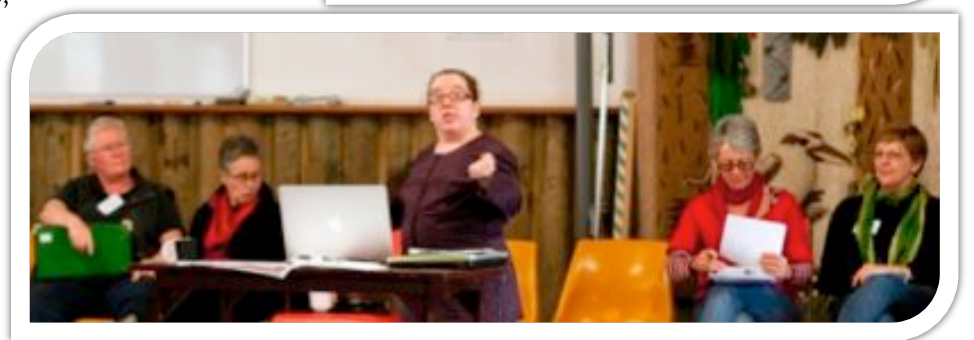
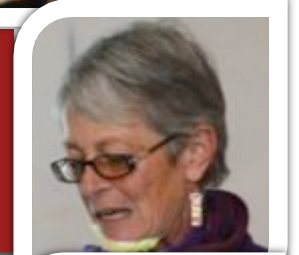
Reviewers recalled what they liked best at the conference as being: all of the content and all of the conversations; learning, listening and being heard; everything; so many! Program!!! Venue!! Food!!; intellectual ferment, wit and laughter; discussion of real issues.

Each morning we were offered an embarrassment of wake-up riches and the program was intertwined with fun and entertainment throughout the days. Saturday morning opened with the traditional and much-enjoyed ‘Pollie panel’ firmly and funnily facilitated by Hsien Harper who proposed the format: each politician choose one or two of their portfolio areas and discuss the impact of the carbon price on those areas. The overall message was sadly sobering. As Scott Ludlam said, ‘We are seeing displays of catastrophic ignorance from the major parties in their refusal to switch to renewables. When the house is burning down, I’m happy to be out the front’.

The most popular events at the conference were the ‘Delights and devastation’ tour of the Jarrahdale forest. The workshops which attracted the most members dealt with policy or party matters. This included our ‘Selling Greens policies’ stream and issues of party organization and direction, such as ‘Leadership’ (Giz Watson, Kate Davis, Christine Cunningham); ‘Deals and the balance of power’ (Giz Watson), ‘Relating to the Australian Greens’ (Rachel Siewert and Christine Cunningham), ‘Global Greens’ (Hsien Harper) and ‘Structural Shakeup’ (Kate Davis and Scott Ryan).

Thanks to the conference organising team and all the helpers.

The year’s major fund-raiser was the Quiz night in August. The South Perth Community Hall was filled to capacity with tables of enthusiastic Greens members, family and friends. We secured many fabulous prizes – eco-retreat holidays, theatre and movie passes, pampering products, etc etc. One quiz night junkie reported that it was the ‘best ever!’



Training Program

Katrina Bercov



2011 saw the launch of the Greens WA Training Program, designed to help the Party with capacity building, knowledge and skill sharing and with the goal

of retaining our new members and re-engaging older ones.

The program continued in 2012, with a range of workshops and seminars, for both Greens (WA) members and our wider activist networks.

Activist Campaign Tools consisted of three by three day non-party-political courses to teach practical skills to the wider community. Each course was heavily subsidised for paying participants and also provided two scholarship places for people otherwise unable to attend.

The sold-out courses raised funds for the Party and received great feedback from our participants, making them an excellent community outreach opportunity. The topics were:

Campaign Skills in January and February with the theme 'Translate passion into action!' The course covered campaign planning, marketing and media, politics and lobbying, events, activism tactics and people skills.

Community Skills in March and April with the theme 'Build your organisation!' The course covered volunteer recruitment and management, fundraising secrets, increase membership, Web 2.0 and Cyber-activism, networking and partnerships.

Speaking Skills in May and June with the theme 'Compelling Communications', covering speaking confidence, speech structure and content, vocal skills, body language, persuasive psychology, dynamic debating and impromptu speaking.

The 2012 Greens Education Workshops focused on a range of internal workshops, developing Party knowledge and facilitating skill sharing. These were:

Meet the Greens in March, a re-branded version of our popular and long-running 'Greens 101' workshops, designed to provide curious community members with accurate information about our Party and to challenge a few stereotypes. This one was particularly tailored towards students and attracted about 35 people. *[Editor's note: many an activist Greens member is hooked into the Greens through these excellent eye-opening courses]*

Creating Peace in February and March, attracting 20 people, was a three part experiential workshop on Peace in Action.

Calling Candidates in March, attracting 14 potential candidates. With the State election approaching, this workshop discussed what it means to stand in an election. A follow-up candidates training weekend will be held in October.

Law for Activists in April, attracting nearly 40 people from a variety of activist causes and community organisations. The half-day seminar was presented by solicitors Cameron Poustie and Kate Davis.

Training in the Greens is likely to continue to evolve with Party needs. While the coming year may be more focused on election planning than general capacity building, training has a key role to play in supporting our team for the challenges ahead

FEWG (continued)

(Continued next page)

Bob Brown commenced his national farewell tour in Perth on 8 June where 400 Greens members and supporters were there to say 'goodbye' ... and 'hello' to Bob the writer, thinker, campaigner, bush walker (but isn't that what he's been doing all along?). Indeed, since his farewell Bob has campaigned in the Kimberley against the gas hub, an issue Bob believes will provoke a national campaign that will save the Kimberley for posterity.

Scott Ludlam recounted his first meeting with Bob, in 2003 at the World Economic Forum in Melbourne. Bob was mingling with the young protesters, giving them legitimacy at our first large national stand against the detrimental power of global corporations. Inspired, Scott went on to become a hard-working (and fast-learning) senator.

Bob in his turn told us of the United Tasmania Group that became the United Tasmania Party and paid tribute to the role models who inspired him to join this group, and him going on to found the Greens in Australia and globally.

Each of us in the audience was possibly thinking of our own path to the Greens: who inspired us to join. It occurred to me that the Greens were like a relay race, passing the baton from hand to hand. But then I realised we are a marathon or a street march. Those with the 'baton' pass it on but they stay in the race,

Process Review Working Group (PRWG) Scott Ryan



2011-12 saw the development of some important processes that, if implemented, should help to keep the party healthy and functional through troubled times.

The current Grievance Procedure, adopted in 2003, offered rather too little guidance on how a member's grievance should be treated, leaving plenty of room for interpretation and disagreement.

Based on feedback from earlier investigations, the process has now been thoroughly overhauled and offers more comprehensive advice to help investigate a wider range of issues – minor to major – at the appropriate level. The process (re-badged as by-laws for procedural consistency) was circulated to regional groups for discussion at September Reps. Special thanks to Adam and Kim for providing the necessary momentum (well-timed pokes and prods as required) to bring the proposal to completion.

The Constitution gives Representatives Council the power to censure, suspend or expel a member for actions detrimental to the interests of The Greens.

The Constitution also outlines the lengthy process through which any of these steps may be achieved. Taken to logical extremes (as good examples often are), one of our members or MPs could say some very odd things on the front page of the West one day, and the party could take anything up to two months to officially censure the rogue member – by which time the media world may have moved on.

It is proposed that the Constitution retain the power for the party to act, but the mechanism is moved to a new set of by-laws where each action can be treated appropriately. This should allow the party to respond to incidents at the right level in the right timeframe. A proposal for a minor constitutional amendment to be discussed at the AGM was circulated for September Reps. If successful the new by-laws will be circulated for discussion in the following month.

In other process-related news, a new set of pre-selection by-laws were developed by the Election Working Group. These were effectively field tested during the pre-selection contests for the lead candidates in the 2013 state and federal elections.

The pre-selections were conducted successfully with no critical flaws. However we have collected several ideas for improvement that will be integrated into a future update.

In the course of all of this, the Constitution has been tested time and again. Although it has served as a strong foundation for many other processes, it is approaching time for a comprehensive review and several areas for improvement have been highlighted.

This will be a major focus for the next year and we expect to work closely with the Constitution Working Group.

Greens Refugee Action Group (GRAG)

Leonie Lundy

GRAG was reformed in September 2011 as a Special Interest Group, with Phil Chilton appointed the Convenor.

The group has sought to: promote The Greens Refugee Policy as a viable framework for a rational, just and humanitarian response to refugee issues; raise awareness of refugee issues, both within The Greens and the community, and to; disseminate information related to refugees, including refuting the misinformation and distortions canvassed by the major parties, and certain media outlets and personalities.

Total membership at June 2012 was 19. Although few face to face meetings have been held, there have been over 350 posts on the e-list. The forum has enabled information sharing, constant updates on issues (including detention centre conditions, statistics, deportations and security clearance concerns), and notices of community actions.

GRAG members contributed to the special April Green Issue on Refugee Issues. We also supported the Refugee Day Rally and March organised by Refugee Rights Action Network WA (RRANWA) in the CBD in June and the Refugee Welcome Fiesta in Fremantle at the close of 2012 Refugee Week, organised by the Fremantle Greens, which incorporated the Walk Together through Fremantle.

The event was also supported by City of Fremantle, Amnesty International, Anglican Social Responsibilities Commission, ASeTTs (Assisting Torture and Trauma Survivors), CASE for Refugees, Coalition for Asylum Seekers Refugees and Detainees (CARAD), Fremantle Multicultural Centre, Kulcha, Oxfam, Refugee Rights Action Network (RRAN), Project SafeCom and Uniting Church Social Justice Board.

It's been a challenging year for refugee issues in Australia, and for the Greens (WA) in our advocacy for Human Rights. The battle is far from over. So: GRAG membership is open to all Greens members. Please contact the new convenor, Anita Lumbus via the office.

REGIONAL GROUP REPORTS

Brand Regional Group

James Mumme

Co-convenors: Dawn Jecks & James Mumme
Secretary: Lee Groome
Treasurer: Fiona Metcalf
Membership Officer: Jordan Steele-John
Treasurer: Fiona Metcalf

Brand has had an active year on several fronts and is gearing up to ensure Lynn MacLaren retains her seat in the forthcoming State election and that Scott Ludlam continues as our Senator.

We have approved candidates for the seats of Kwinana and Warnbro and have a solid expression of interest in Rockingham. Although membership has not climbed above 46, we have been quorate every meeting and attendances are growing with some new and involved members, Jordon Steele-John and Iwan (ee-von) Boskamp who are bringing exciting energy and ideas.

Our focuses have been on preserving Point Peron from the proposed inland canal-estate marina and, more recently, supporting the Tier 3 rail system, and refugees.

Co-convenor Dawn Jecks has set up a letter writing network: six members have had letters printed in the West, the Sunday Times and the two local papers. Dawn has maintained a regular presence in both local papers to ensure that the Greens policy agenda and achievements get the recognition they deserve. Several members regularly attend Rockingham Council Meetings to ask questions about accountability in several areas.

The Cape Peron scale model has been displayed at various venues - local festivals, shopping centers, Murdoch University Open Days, the Climate Change Forum, Bob Brown's visit to Murdoch University, Curtin Greens and CUSP's Coastal Planning Seminar. The Hands Off Point Peron petition now has over 7,000 signatures and will be presented to State Parliament at an appropriate time. Twelve local Greens attended the Prime Minister's community cabinet in Rockingham in early September where the indefatigable Dawn Jecks was able to question the PM.

Brand is preparing a Public Transport Campaign with a petition, surveys, banners (designed by Judy Blyth) and a media blitz. The aim is to focus attention of voters living in the southern corridor on rail, trams and buses as a solution to the unsustainability of building more lanes on freeways



Dawn Jecks – Hands Of Point Peron Campaign. Sunny Miller 6.30am Rockingham Railway Station - Public Rail Campaign. Photos: James Mumme.

and more carparks at stations, while also preventing the carbon production all that building and driving entails. We are also hoping to link up with Giz and support her campaign in Mandurah. This fits well with our public transport campaign.

Convenor: Owen Davies
Secretary: Leece Johnson
Permanent Rep: Mike Beilby
Membership Officer: Judith Curtis
Treasurer: Margo Beilby

Canning Regional Group

Stephen Simons

The Canning Regional Group continues to meet monthly and most meetings are quorate. We occasionally have visiting speakers, the highlight of the year being Alison Xamon speaking about the Perth Hills Bill. We hired a hall in Roleystone and publicised the event widely. Many people from the area attended Alison's very informative talk, which prompted lots of questions and discussion.

We conducted a survey of our members to find out their areas of interest and how to make our

meetings more interesting. Adrian Glamorgan attended the meeting where we discussed the survey results, coming up with new ideas for our group.

An idea that we have implemented is nominating group members to facilitate discussions on policy areas that interest them. We have had well-received discussions on affordable housing, health care and education.

We are very happy to have pre-selected Damon Pages-Oliver ('Olly') for Armadale in next year's state election. He has worked very hard with the youth in the

area and also has a strong conservation background. We are now on the lookout for someone to stand for Darling Range.



Margo Beilby

Curtin Regional Group

Chilla Bulbeck – David Letham

Convenors: Robin France

Secretary: Cam Pidgeon

Permanent Representative: Jo Somerville

Membership Officer: Judy Blyth (new), Ruth Greble (records)

Treasurer: Mark Siford



Early in 2011, the Curtin Regional Group established a Membership Engagement Group (MEG) to involve those Curtin members who did not attend Regional Group meetings. Behrooz Eslam organised two social events: a barbecue at Matilda Bay and a Sculptures by the Sea picnic, which included a guided tour by Frauke Chambers. MEG undertook a survey of the Curtin membership to identify their concerns and areas of potential involvement. A report to a well-attended special meeting in February developed a set of strategies for increasing membership engagement that were trialed during the year. (Incidentally the meeting also raised over \$500 to support the attendance of delegates from developing nations at the Global Greens Congress in Senegal).

We trialed guest speakers as follows: Margaret Owen on Carnaby's cockatoos; Cameron Poustie on Greens influence on state legislative

Processes; Irma Lachmund on the Global Greens Congress; Adam Duncan on 'A chef's perspective on GM' and James Mumme on the proposed Mangles Bay Marina.

Judy Blyth valiantly attempted to implement a New Member Mentoring Scheme with mixed results. Judy Blyth and Chilla Bulbeck followed up lapsed members and achieved an 80% promise to renew and some pledges to join Greenscheme.

Following Anthony Blond's organisation of the O-Day stall and Katrina Bercov's 'Meet the Greens' session at UWA, Chilla Bulbeck and Anthony Blond supported the reinvigoration of the UWA Greens, with an active membership of five people.

Judy Blyth took over organising Breakfast at Barnett's every Friday morning outside Premier Barnett's electoral office. Although not badged as a Greens event, many attendees are Curtin members who express our support for environmental issues such as Save the black cockatoos, a container deposit scheme and ban uranium mining etc. We have a following of motorists – who signal approval by tooting – and a webpage.

Judy Blyth co-ordinates Get REAL, a letters to the editor writing campaign. She leads the way in successful publication although Cameron Poustie is challenging her for the crown.



With the election of Cameron Poustie as the lead candidate for North Metro in February, Curtin Greens swung into campaigning for Cam mode. Dinny Laurence co-ordinated the extremely successful Greens Mythbusters public forum at which Cameron Poustie, Scott Ludlam and Giz Watson busted myths about the Greens. Coverage in the *Voice*, *Post* and 'Inside Cover' of the *West* and Cam's Facebook activity enticed a number of new faces and vigorous debate, particularly concerning Greens' economic policy.

Curtin Greens thank our hard-working out-going co-ordination team for all their work.



Breakfast at Barnett's Campaign: Top - Judy Blyth, Bottom left - Greg Boland, Middle - Beverage Deposit Campaign Girls, Right - Roe & bear, Chilla Bulbeck, Judy Blyth

Convenors: Rob Delves & Tom Wall
 Secretary: Heath Adams
 Permanent Representative: Leonie Lundy
 Membership Officers: Jan Currie, Jacinta Mayhew
 (Fremantle) and Peter Best (Tangney)
 Treasurer: Tim Gamage
 Newsletter Editors: Rob Delves and Chris Johansen
 Events: Simone Pesson

Fremantle / Tangney Regional Group

Heath Adams



In contrast to last year, we had much less reform within the party this year. We made the most of this opportunity by giving our meetings more focus on green issues and made space for guest speakers. Tammy Solonec delivered an excellent presentation on justice reinvestment, our doctor members Brett Montgomery and Catherine Moore discussed health issues, and local Fremantle Councillor Andrew Sullivan and Mayor Brad Pettitt talked about Amendment 49 (rezoning parts of Fremantle for higher density redevelopment).



We took up Rob Delves' excellent suggestion that we choose an issue for every meeting, and circulate Greens policy in relation to it. Guest speakers were also sought for such discussions. We dedicate a minimum of 20 minutes to this discussion each meeting. This appears to be having a positive effect with a greater variety of and steady increase in the numbers of people attending meetings.

It is great to see our skills capacity increasing in our regional group. In amongst this we hosted, thanks to the hard work of some members, the Greens National Conference and, during Refugee Week, another 'Welcome to Australia' Fiesta. It has been a busy year.

It was great to see other members taking the opportunity to facilitate meetings. In particular, I'd like to thank Jacinta Mayhew and, more recently, Tim Gamage for facilitating meetings this year. We also had some fantastic new members in our regional group taking on key roles within the party, such as Norman Stomski as Convenor of the South Metro Election Campaign Committee (SMECC). I have done both of these jobs (facilitating regional group meetings and convening campaign committees) and they're no easy tasks.

The next twelve months will be hugely important for the regional group. We have two elections next year, three if you count local council elections. This will stretch our capacity, so we need to be active.

Those of us who are already actively working in roles need to encourage others to take on some extra responsibility. The South Metro Election Campaign Committee has set some challenging goals for our performance in the state election next March and we will need all hands on deck to achieve them. Let's continue to be the party of progress and continue our high achievements, demonstrating that we are a genuine, rational choice for a better



Fremantle Festival – BL – Kim Dravnieks, TL – Jacinta Mayhew, CT – Peter Best, Tim Gamage, TR – Lynn MacLaren, Heath Adams, BR - Rob Delves

Kimberley Election Working Group (KEWG)

Pat Lowe

Campaign Convenor: Carmel Leahy
Secretary: Carmel Leahy
Campaign Manager: Chris Mayer
Editor: Pat Lowe

Kimberley Election Working Group is not yet a Regional Group but numbers are on the rise. The past twelve months have been exciting and productive, thanks to the efforts of a small but dedicated team who set a challenging timeline of actions and have met fortnightly to meet their targets.

We gained more than the 20 members required to form a regional group, produced a vision statement, hosted visits from former Senator Bob Brown, Senator Rachel Siewert and our own Robin Chapple, and welcomed our new Federal Greens leader, Christine Milne.

Perhaps most importantly, we have a candidate! After some quick-stepping by several other possibles, we selected long-term Broome resident, business owner and former Shire Councillor, Chris Maher.

Chris has entered the campaign running, already showing keen commitment to the task and capacity to work hard. He is planning to visit other towns and communities in the Kimberley to introduce himself and explain our policies.

Other parties are fielding strong candidates too, but given the unprecedented environmental and social assaults we are facing in the Kimberley, we think Chris could just pull it off.



Bob Brown and Chris Maher



Launch of Kimberley Vision statement: Alison Southern, Rachel Siewert, Bob Brown, Mark Jones, Carmel Leahy, Don Bacon, Louise Beames, candidate Chris Maher, Kevin Smith, Julie Melbourne, Richard Agar (?), Pat Lowe, Howard Pedersen, Kandy Curran, Lesley Baxter, Jane Lawton, Kerry Marvell.

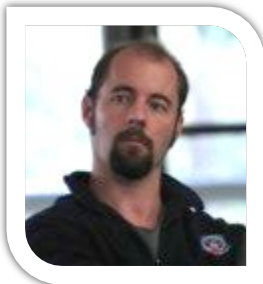
Pearce / Hasluck

Editor's notes from minutes

Convenor: Toni Warden
Secretary: vacant
Permanent Rep: Luke Edmonds
Membership Officer: Helen Coleman
Treasurer: vacant

During 2011, Pearce-Hasluck struggled to form a quorum at its monthly meetings, in some part due to the wide geographical distance that this group covers. This is a widespread problem, as the guest speaker to one meeting, Adrian Glamorgan the Party Development Manager, confirmed.

As some members reported that the meetings were 'dry' and they would prefer social engagements, a small Pearce-Hasluck team discussed alternatives.



They reflected on Curtin RG's experience with a 'membership engagement group'. Proposals included keynote speakers, the presence of MPs at meetings, a nice supper before meetings, quarterly new member welcomes and social events after meetings.

Helen Coleman, the membership officer, suggested holding meetings in different venues, convenient for clusters of members. She proposed a fairly informal membership building event in May to which Alison Xamon would be invited to serve a cluster of members living around Parkerville. A similar event was proposed for the Kalamunda/Piesse Brook cluster.

In other initiatives, Helen tried to contact lapsed members but without luck and Pearce-Hasluck subscribed to the Darlington Review with a view to contributing positive pieces about the Greens.

Members expressed an interest in organising continuous campaigning. Towards the end of the year and into 2012 more meetings were quorate suggesting these strategies paid off.

Moore / Cowan Regional Group

Convenor: Rob Phillips
Secretary: Ben Hermann
Permanent Representative: Mark Cooper
Membership Officer: Philippe Bossert
Treasurer: Diana MacTiernan



The year started with the Public Transport Meeting in Edgewater where a full hall listened to Senator Scott Ludlum, MLCs Giz Watson and Lynn McLaren and environmental scientist Peter Newman voice their concerns over the State Public Transport Plan. Recent announcements by the State Government have justified the Greens (WA)'s strong input.

The main activities for the Moore-Cowan Regional Group have been letter writing campaigns around contemporary topics. In October we wrote our views on climate change: five of our six letters were published in The West or the local Joondalup/Wanneroo Times. In February we voiced our concerns on the justice system and how alternative investments could have better outcomes: we had four letters published.

In April, local activists from WanCrew gave us an update on their campaign to protect the area from increasing industrialization. This will have a detrimental effect on the Gngangara Mound, which supplies 60% of Perth's water. This was our first attempt to liaise with a community group.



In May a passionate Alison Xamon presented the dangers and inaction by regulators in relation to Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking). Our advertising in the community newspaper and our first attempt to promote the event via social media was a great success. Many people attended, including people not known to Greens members. In July, following the introduction of the price on carbon, we were again busy writing letters to reinforce the merits of taxing polluters.

The continuing challenge for the Moo-Cows remains achieving higher attendance and engagement by the broader membership. We are hoping that the upcoming election(s) will foster greater engagement. Our core group is very active within Greens (WA) contributing to working groups and actively engaged in the North Metro Election Campaign Committee.

Also encouraging is the relatively young age of a majority of the core group, a great indication that the Greens are the party of the future. Several strong candidates from our group have put up their hand for the state election lower house seats and have been endorsed. We are looking forward to successful election campaigns in 2013 with continued success for the party that cares.



*Rob Phillips, Luke Edmonds (left), Senator Rachel Siewert, Chris Twomey
Photos: Robin Chapple – Greens 2011 State Conference*

Perth Regional Group

Chris Dickenson

Convenor: Chris Dickinson
Secretary: Graham Bowland
Permanent Rep: David Bromfield
Membership Officer: Pippa Tandy

It is typical of any volunteer based organisation that most of the activity tends to be done by a small group of active members. However, in order to function as a successful political party, the Greens must be able to call on significant numbers of volunteers at certain times, most obviously during election campaigns. To make this possible, we must allow members to choose their own level of involvement, while maximising the numbers for those crucial events.

The last year has seen the Perth Regional Group take some active steps towards both gaining and retaining members. We have striven to keep members engaged firstly by improving our means of introducing them to the group – we now allow more of an interactive ‘getting to know you’ session, rather than merely putting new people on the spot to tell us about themselves.

Getting to know you has to work both ways if it is to be effective! We also tend to ask new members what they would like to do for the Greens and what they hope to get out of their membership, to ensure that we guide them towards the right areas. Generally, new members are quite surprised to find out how flat the structure of the Greens is, with ordinary members having a great deal of say in party decision making if they wish to.

The other way we have striven to engage members is by our ongoing efforts to have each meeting end with a topic of discussion. These can be anything a member suggests (with proposals agreed on a meeting in advance). This year we have been happy to include elaborate presentations by East Metro MLC Alison Xamon on the fracking issue and North Metro candidate

Cameron Poustie on the emerging potential of electric cars. In addition to provoking lively debate, these presentations also allowed the candidates an opportunity to hone their presentations and answer any criticisms that arise!

Finally, we also held the first of what we hope to make a semi-regular event, the Perth RG Barbecue. Organised by Grahame Bowland, this was a great success, members turning up with their partners, children and even pets to mix in a more relaxed setting than a party meeting! The barbecue was held at Hyde Park, and all enjoyed the good food and company. The venue was beautiful, convenient and came with built in BBQs and playgrounds for the children. A marvellous example of public space and amenity local residents should treasure.

However, the major effort made by the Perth RG members this year has been our involvement in Alison Xamon’s East Metro campaign in the upcoming WA State Election. Many of our more active members have chosen to take part, and some of the normally less active ones also.

At the end of the day, political parties are about getting people elected, and the scent of a campaign gets people fired up like nothing else! We think we have built up a very strong team (with the welcome assistance of other East Metro RG members, of course!) and have made a great start. The challenge now is to maintain the momentum right up to the date of the election.



*Simone Pesson, Christine Cunningham, David Bromfield, Pippa Tandy
Photo: Robin Chapple – Greens 2011 State Conference*



*Alison Xamon and Bob Brown
Photo: Giovanni Torre – Bob Brown Farewell*

South West Regional Group

Michael Baldock

Convenor: Michael Baldock, Chrissy Sharp
Secretary: Hsien Harper, Karen McKeough
Permanent Rep: Michael Baldock
Membership Officer: Hsien Harper
Treasurer: Peter Eckersley

With a State election set for March 2013 and a desire to regain South West Upper house representation, 2011-12 has seen renewed focus for the South West Regional Group.

We have held quarterly meetings, starting with the AGM in Bridgetown in November 2011. The February meeting in Denmark was conducted in conjunction with the Centre for Sustainable Living's Sustainable Living Expo. Out of the Australind meeting in May came a successful consensus decision making seminar held at the Bunbury Rowing Club at the start of August. At the August Margaret River meeting we were fortunate to have the presence of Senator Scott Ludlam. The Friday night meal and meet the candidates' opportunity attracted over 60 members and supporters.

We have increased our focus on building our membership base. Our new Membership Officer, Hsien Harper, supports six local membership officers. A members' welcome package has been developed and we now contact and survey lapsed members. Our membership has increased from 138 members in November 2011 to 158 in August 2012.

Prior to the Australind meeting, one of our most valued and active members Rae McPherson announced that she would be moving interstate. This required replacements in a number of positions, resulting in the welcome news that former Greens MLC for the South West Chrissy Sharp would take on a Co-convenors role.

The main storey of the year however has been the selection of our lead South West Upper House candidate. We were fortunate to have two excellent candidates in former South West Greens MLC Paul Llewellyn and long term North Metropolitan MLC Giz Watson contesting the position.

Meet the nominees sessions were held in Bridgetown, Busselton,



Albany and Denmark.



This was a challenging period as both nominees are highly respected by local members. Paul and Giz are to be commended for the manner in which they conducted themselves during this process. Giz was successful in the ballot and all appreciated Paul's graciousness following the result.

With the lead candidate selected, calling for nominees for the support non-lead upper house and all eight lower house candidates was undertaken in March. Hsien Harper has been selected as the #2 UH candidate for the South West, Diane Evers the lower house candidate for Albany, Nerilee Boshhammer for Warren Blackwood and Michael Baldock for Vasse.

The early pre-selection of candidates to the southern lower house seats of the South West Region has allowed candidates to launch their campaigns, conduct local greens events, develop their local support and start building the campaign to elect Giz. June Lowe has the role of Giz's Campaign Co-ordinator and they have been touring the region extensively.



Michael Baldock (Greens candidate for Vasse), Margaret River members Lyn Serventy and Alistair Spong, Giz Watson, Nerilee Boshhammer (Greens candidate for Warren Blackwood) and June Lowe. Photo by: Paul Lane

Stirling Regional Group

Wendy Robyn

Convenor: Wendy Robyn
Secretary: Wendy Robyn
Permanent Rep:
Membership Officer: Kelly Curran
Treasurer: Chris Martin

Stirling Greens continued to meet in the Henderson Environment Centre in North Beach throughout 2011-12, a suitable (if occasionally chilly) venue.

Our meetings are almost always quorate - sometimes only just. We've had between 6 and 12 people at our meetings this year, giving us about 10 to 20% membership representation. Over the year around 24 members attended at least one meeting - 40% of the total membership.

Stirling completed a successful trial of meeting attendance by skype. We have not had a repeat of this, but have established that it can be achieved if there is a need. Sadly this year Stirling was unable to secure a Permanent Rep, so we were represented by a series of Acting Permanent Reps over the year.

During the year our Party Development Manager, Adrian Glamorgan, who led an interesting discussion on our involvement and experiences with the Greens (WA) visited us. Giz Watson also paid us a visit, giving us an update on recent issues and signaling her intention not to run in North Metro next time around.

Later in the year we were pleased to learn that an esteemed Stirling member, Cam Poustie had been endorsed as lead candidate in North Metro to take Giz's place.

A third guest was planned, as we had hoped to have Alison Xamon speak to us on the topic of fracking, but unfortunately this didn't quite come off!

A highlight of the year was a very successful regional dinner. The decision to hold a dinner was prompted by the announcement in February by Jan Knight and Peter Wilmot (two of Stirling's stalwarts) that they would be 'retiring from active service' in the Greens due to health and other reasons.

Knowing that Jan and Pete would be much missed, and in appreciation of their contributions over many years, a farewell party was in order! As the guests of honour themselves were quick to point out, there have been others who have also made fantastic contributions to Stirling over the years who perhaps did not get a dinner in their honour.



Irma Lachmund speaking as Jan Knight, Giz Watson and others listen. Pete Wilmot speaking at the Regional Dinner. Giz helping out at the Stirling Dinner - even when a guest of honour she ends up with a cloth in her hand! Photos: Wendy Robyn

However, that was not a good enough reason to stop the party! In fact we also needed to celebrate and thank Giz for her work in North Metro, also drawing to a close.

The evening was a rare chance for members old and new to get together for purely social reasons, and we had the pleasure of seeing some faces that aren't often seen at regular meetings. Credit for the success of the event must go largely to Katrina Bercov who did the lion's share of the planning and catering.

A round up of Stirling's other activities for the year includes:

- attending a swap meet to sell native plants and promote the Greens - but being told we couldn't promote a political party
- distributing Denticare flyers, bike black spot cards and other Greens flyers
- confirming that Stirling's efforts in 1999 and 2003 to have our city council declare Stirling a nuclear free zone are documented in Greens (WA) records
- Finding new homes for hard copy archives of The Greens (WA) activities kept by Jan Knight
- Kelly Curran accepting roles as our 'Adopt-a-campus' contact and NMECC rep.
- Financial contributions to Global Greens and PNG Greens.

Swan Regional Group

Anthony Blond

Membership demographics: The Swan Regional Group is made up of a diverse range of people, with varying degrees of involvement and a mix of opinions. We have small business owners, students, retirees, parents, teachers; people from all walks of life. We have found that a small group of people come to all meetings, with others coming only when there is a particular topic of interest to be discussed.

Meeting times: Halfway through the year we changed our meeting times from Sunday to Wednesday. This decision was based on the results of an online survey, members designating their preferred day and time (out of a selection that didn't clash with existing events). Although the new time did not suit everyone, since the change we have had a more consistent attendance. Along with the new meeting time came a new meeting venue. A big thank you goes out to Connor Moran for providing it. It is now in a more central location, closer to the many attractions of Victoria Park.

Belmont campaign: The Greens election campaign for the State seat of Belmont is underway. The seat so far has three candidates. Deputy Mayor of the City of Belmont and long time member of the Swan Greens, Steve Wolff, will be the Greens candidate.

The former Mayor of the City of Belmont, Glenys Godfrey, is standing as the Liberal candidate, while Cassie Rowe will be standing as the Labor candidate (Eric Ripper is retiring).

The Southern Gazette has already published a media release advertising Steve Wolff as the Greens candidate for Belmont. Steve is currently organising the distribution of 12,000 of his candidate flyers, and will shortly begin door-knocking.

Communication strategies: Most of Swan's communication is done via an email list, with additional comments and apologies sent to the list as a whole rather than to specific coordinators. We have found that meeting attendance can be maximised by calling people and confirming that they can make it; emails can only convey so much information compared to phone calls where a sense of excitement can be shared.

Recently we have started using Google-docs forms to organise RSVPs and have people nominate their interest in particular agenda items in advance.

Members can thus easily let the Convenor know of projected numbers, along with other useful information



Convenor: Anthony Blond
Secretary: Chris Swain
Permanent Representative: Jess McColl
Membership Officer: Connor Moran



Anthony Blond, Chilla Bulbeck – May Day March Fremantle

to help run the meetings. Additionally, it makes the process of sending apologies simpler, and does not flood the email list with responses.

Future direction: Swan's AGM is coming up soon, and we will be holding it at a restaurant to make things more interesting. The upcoming election has excited people with several expressions of interest in coordinating positions. The next year is going to be politically charged: as the energy builds up I can see a

our 20 year public transport plan?



 take that perth!

Committees and Portfolios of The Greens (WA) Members of Parliament

Senator Rachel Siewert

rachel-siewert.greensmps.org.au

Australian Greens Parliamentary Whip
Deputy Chair, Rural Affairs and Transport
Committee Member, Community Affairs
Committee; Legal and Constitutional
Affairs Legislation Committee; Scrutiny
of Bills Standing Committee; Selection of
Bills Standing Committee

Portfolios: Family, Community and Disability,
Fisheries and Marine, Ageing, Indigenous
Affairs and Indigenous Health, Agriculture, The
Kimberley and Northern Australia, Natural
Resource Management

Robin Chapple MLC

Member for Mining and Pastoral Region

robinchapple.com

Portfolios: Aboriginal Issues, Climate Change,
Energy, Local Government, Mines and
Petroleum, Native Title, Nuclear [including
uranium], Pastoral Issues, Ports, Racing and
Gaming, Regional Sustainability, State
Development and Industry, Waste
Management

Giz Watson MLC

Member for North Metropolitan Region

giz-watson.net

Chair, Standing Committee on Estimates and
Financial Operations

Portfolios: **South West Region**, Agriculture
including GMO crops, Biodiversity,
Citizenship and
Multiculturalism,
Emergency Services,
Environment, Finance &
Economics, Fisheries,
Forests, Health, Justice
[criminal law, courts],
Marine, Police, Prisons,
Sport and Recreation

Senator Scott Ludlam

scott-ludlam.greensmps.org.au

Portfolios: Broadband, Communications and the
Digital Economy; Housing; Nuclear;
Infrastructure, Heritage & Sustainable Cities;
Assisting Defence Materiel; Assisting on
Resources & Energy.

Joint Committee on the National Broadband
Network; Senate Standing Committee on Foreign
Affairs, Defence and Trade; Joint Standing
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade;
Joint Select Committee on Cyber-safety; Joint
Standing Committee on Treaties; Committee on
Privileges

Lynn MacLaren MLC

Member for South Metropolitan Region

lynnmaclaren.org.au

Standing Committee on Environment and Public
Affairs, Commonwealth Parliamentary
Association Executive Committee

Portfolios: **Agricultural Region**, Animals,
Commerce, Culture and the Arts, Food and
GMOs, Heritage, Housing, Planning, Poverty,
Science and Innovation, Seniors, Sexuality,
Small Business, Social Inclusion, Tourism,
Transport

Alison Xamon MLC

Member for East Metropolitan Region

alisonxamon.org.au

Standing Committee on Legislation

Portfolios: Children and Youth, Community
Services, Consumer Protection,
Disability Issues, Education,
Electoral Affairs, Industrial
Relations and Employment,
Mental Health, Public Service,
Training and Workforce
Development, Urban Bushland,
Veterans Affairs, Volunteering,
Water, Women



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