

Green

THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS magazine

MURRAY DARLING BASIN

TASSIE FOREST PEACE DEAL

THE NZ CAMPAIGN

MEMBER PROFILES

**CELEBRATING
20 YEARS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN
GREENS**



CLAIRE JANSEN HAS JUST HAD HER FIRST BOOK PUBLISHED, PLAYS ROLLER DERBY & SHE IS INVOLVED WITH THE GREENS...

Claire (26 years old) of Hobart works for Tasmanian Greens Minister Cassy O'Connor, volunteers for the Party, is a Greens Party member AND a regular Greens donor.

Claire joined The Greens in 2002 at the age of 16.

"The Greens were a part of how I grew up. But there's also a time when you decide what you think for yourself and why, and that's when I joined. Growing up under John Howard, his policies towards asylum seekers and refusal to apologise to the Stolen Generations, watching Labor get trumped by the forestry industry - the Greens offered a future for society and the environment that no other party did."

Claire's keen interest in The Greens - and the future of the party motivated her to join Tas Greens regular

giving program. "Political parties need money to fund their campaigns. Financial support assists with our capacity to win seats, and when we win enough seats we have the opportunity to implement green policies in government."

More and more supporters and members of The Greens are choosing to join their state regular giving program. Regular gifts enable the party to plan and budget for election campaigns - and manage the day to day running of the party. "I am glad to help - I know that my contributions - along with those of others - help put the party in a stronger position to take on the major parties on important issues of our time like climate change, treatment of asylum seekers and equality for same sex marriages"

If you, like Claire, would like to become a regular donor please fill out and send us the form below.



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The Australian Greens wish to acknowledge that we are on indigenous ground – this land is the spiritual and sacred place of the traditional owners and their ancestors and continues to be a place of significance. Further, we thank them for sharing this land with us and agree to respect their laws and lores.

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CONTENTS

REGULARS

- 4 Editorial
- 6 Letters to the Editor

PARTY NEWS

- 5 Over to Christine
BOB BROWN
- 7 Denticare A campaign to sink your teeth into
MARY HEANEY
- 8 Creating Policy for the New Political Environment
DAVE ABBOTT
- 26 Bob's Last Back Page
BOB BROWN
- 28 Greater than the Sum of Our Parts
CHRISTINE MILNE

FEATURES

- 9 The Murray-Darling Basin Plan: On the Brink of Failure
JONATHAN LA NAUZE
- 12 Response to The Murray-Darling Basin Plan article
SENATOR SARAH HANSON-YOUNG
- 14 War of Words Over Tasmania's 'Forest Peace Deal'
GEOFF LAW
- 16 Observer Tree
MIRANDA GIBSON

GLOBAL NEWS

- 18 A Richer Campaign New Zealand is unleashing new ideas
KYMBERLIE DIMOZANTOS
- 21 Global Dialogue
4th Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
ALEX SURACE

LOCAL ACTION

- 23 Making Change Visible
MARGARET HENDER
- 24 A Cloud of Carbon
Finding the best printer in a lot of hot air
NIGEL QUIRK

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EDITORIAL

CATHERINE GREEN AND NATALIJA BRUNOV INVITE YOU TO MAKE YOURSELF A CUP OF TEA, GRAB A COMFY SEAT AND SOAK UP THE NEW GREEN MAGAZINE WITH US.

When we first laid our eyes on the ad seeking new editors for Green magazine, our hearts jumped! It was a wonderful possibility; looking after a publication that shares information we believe in. Doesn't everyone dream of working on things with real meaning?

And so we have happily thrown our heads and hearts into the publication. We've revisited the design and content to bring you what we think is an engaging, thought-provoking and pleasure-to-read Green magazine.

But this is your magazine, so we would love your feedback. What do you want to read? What is your response to the articles? Would you like to write an article? Let us know.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Australian Greens as a national organisation, we decided to interview people who have been members for 20 years or members who are 20 years old themselves. We had such a great response to this that we are featuring a handful of members each issue this year to share their stories with you. Let us know if you want to be one.

We even baked a special cake to mark the occasion, sharing it with friends (who enjoyed licking the green icing off the beater).

We hope you'll imagine yourself as a part of the birthday of the Australian Greens and celebrate the unified success that the party has had in Australian politics. And it's still growing strong!

Please share this magazine with others. Let's give it lots of traction by reusing, recycling and responding so that your magazine is read as much as possible!

Catherine & Natalija
Seedpod

WE JUST CREATED A FACEBOOK PAGE - LIKE US!
facebook.com/AustralianGreensmagazine



Take one, pass it on...

READ THIS MAGAZINE & THEN GET RID OF IT!

We'd love every single person who receives Green magazine to talk to one other person about one of the articles, and then give them the magazine to read it for themselves.

Imagine if we can get everyone to pass this magazine on to one other person, that's twice as many people reading about The Greens, twice as many people learning about The Greens, and twice as many chances of people joining The Greens.

And if the person you pass Green magazine onto reads this message too, well, then the whole cycle starts again!



OVER TO CHRISTINE

BY **BOB BROWN**, FORMER GREENS PARTY LEADER

As Leader of the Tasmanian Greens, Christine Milne pursued the trio of values ‘clean, green and clever’ for post-industrial Tasmania. With those three words she summed up where the island state’s future fortune lay after the age of dam-building and deforestation.

Honing the message to local business, she called for products for both domestic consumption and export, to be authentic. Label it truthfully. Avoid the artificial. Go for quality. Call a spade a spade.

It’s a word which sums up Christine herself: ‘authentic’. Top quality. And you can safely apply the label to our new Deputy Leader, Adam Bandt, and their whole team.

Christine and I have been friends for nearly three decades. We were both – though separately – arrested during the blockade to save the Franklin River. In the Tasmanian House of Assembly I, and fellow Green MP Gerry Bates, became Christine’s in-house supporters when she led the 1980s campaign to save the Wesley Vale farmlands from a polluting pulp mill.

In the Labor-Green Accord years 1989-92, after Christine astonished pundits and won a seat in the sprawling rural electorate of Lyons, Christine blocked the government’s plan to close 22 mainly rural schools. She stared down Premier Field’s threat to call an election if she did not withdraw a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Education who had broken a promise on funding education. The minister resigned instead.

When I retired from state parliament in 1993, Christine became the first female leader of a parliamentary party in the state’s history. Among gains her Greens notched up while supporting a minority Liberal government were gun control laws, new rainforest national parks, gay law reform and an apology to Tasmania’s stolen generation of Aboriginal people delivered on the floor of parliament.

She entered the Senate, along with Rachel Siewert from Western Australia, in 2004. Seven years later the Gillard government’s historic carbon package, which makes Australia a world leader in tackling climate change by putting the cost burden on polluters, passed through the Senate. It has Christine’s label on it. It is the authentic article and has brought as much world

acclaim as it has Murdoch media condemnation. No Christine, no carbon package.

Tony Abbott says that, if elected next year, he will rescind the package and instead PAY the polluters to reduce pollution, using taxpayers’ money. He’ll have to get past the Milne – Bandt – Di Natale – Siewert – Hanson-Young – Ludlum – Rhiannon – Waters – Wright – (new Tasmanian Senator) team first. A double-dissolution election fought on this issue will lead to more Greens being elected.

Christine’s breakfast table, like the average Tasmanian wedgetail eagle’s nest, has a northeastly aspect and basks in the morning sunlight. She looks out over the blue waters of the Derwent River from suburban Hobart, and has a small, but bountiful, garden with a (despite all the rumours) modest water feature with solar-powered fountain. It is her perfect retreat.

The question is, how much will she see of it? The honest answer is: not enough. So it will be up to all of us to help ensure that she gets some time at home to clip the water herbs as well as the sweet corn and roses in her garden. The Green team, not least Christine, faces a very testing 18 months ahead to the next election.

I advocate the same for Adam Bandt who, besides all the pressure of the lower house crossbench where he sits as the Greens Member for Melbourne, is now the Deputy Leader of the most progressive and dynamic party in the parliament.

So too for the 8 other members of the Greens Party Room, their staff and families. I wish them great success and am committed to helping all I can in the times ahead. I look forward to coffee at The Retro with any of them who is visiting Hobart. I also look forward to a trip to all states to meet all of you who back the Greens to talk not just of past events but the Greens future in Australia and beyond.

And while I reckon I’ll have a morning tea or two in Christine’s sunroom in the coming months, Paul and I also look forward to talking over Green ‘authenticity’ with her beside our own frog pond in southern Tasmania.

One thing we can depend upon: Christine is an outstanding politician taking the lead in creating a cleaner, greener and cleverer Australia for us all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE WELCOME YOUR RESPONSES TO ARTICLES AND IDEAS EXPRESSED IN GREEN MAGAZINE.
PLEASE EMAIL US GREENMAG@GREENS.ORG.AU - WE PUBLISH UP TO 200 WORDS PER LETTER.

THE ECONOMIC MYTH

Well done Hannah, you caught my imagination with your article "Greens and The Economic Myth".

Interestingly, only three days ago, I watched the "Hooked on Growth" movie produced by Growth Busters. The message is that measuring and worshipping GDP has created entirely the wrong outcome for humanity. We've raped the Earth's resources, created obscene wealth for a few and increased poverty for many, consumed our way madly to a changed climate, polluted air, acidified seas and degraded our land. Not bad! Meanwhile in this country we are hell bent on polluting our groundwater and destroying farming in the rush to sell CSG to foreign countries and make foreign companies richer!

It's time that influence is brought to bear in ending this spurious measure of success, GDP. You mentioned Gross National Happiness as an alternative. An excellent idea. As a starter let's get a policy on population growth sorted out. Uncontrolled population growth is causing huge stress on the Earth's resources

and is the underlying reason why continual GDP growth is the norm. It's also making us increasingly unhappy in our daily lives.

David Killeen
South East Queensland

AS WE GROW AND EVOLVE

I read with interest the article by Hannah Parris on the apparent neglect of Green Economics. I agree that as we gain in power we must have a comprehensive Economics Policy that reflects our values and leads us towards the world we want to see and live in.

I agree with the thrust of Hannah's article on the economy, if we are to progress beyond a special interest group and take our rightful place as a major political party this is a conversation we have to have. One would expect us to have a different perspective; we were born after the Age of Steam, our concerns are wider. I would like to float a couple of ideas for dialogue.

I would like to propose that there are 3 economies: environmental,

social and fiscal and that all are important and we need to plan to succeed in all three. I think that the old parties concentrate on the fiscal economy and ignore the other two, to the loss of all of us.

Whilst most media focuses on the Global Fiscal Economy most of us live largely in a Local Fiscal Economy. I find this lack of media perspective odd. We have footy teams at a local, regional, state, national and international levels, nobody says that this is not necessary, that the local does not feed the global; that talents are not honed at all levels. Why is it we forget this when it comes to fiscal economics? In my opinion we should place more emphasis on local and regional fiscal economies. This in turn will strengthen our involvement in the Global Fiscal Economy by creating a larger place for our entrepreneurs and business people to hone their skills.

We Greens are at an interesting stage; we are about to put on a growth spurt and I for one am looking forward to this unique opportunity to forge the future we want.

Robert Maxwell
(via email)

MAJOR SUMNER ADDRESSES THE PUBLIC FORUM IN ADELAIDE. PHOTO: SARAH HANSON-YOUNG'S OFFICE



The Inertia Trap

Climate Change and the Oceans

Packed with information, this film is a rich compendium of scientific insights on the effect of climate change on the world's oceans. There are 9 scientists contributing to the film, including Prof James Hansen, Prof Will Steffen, Prof David Karoly and Dr John Church. Others are also internationally known in their fields of climate science.

The Inertia Trap is 45 mins and the Extras on the DVD provide 88 mins of further information - invaluable for teachers, university or upper high school students. Ask your local library to get a copy as well.

A DVD of a lecture at the Australian Academy of Science on climate change by Prof Will Steffen is also available from Ronin Films.

orders@roninfilms.com.au
www.roninfilms.com.au





DENTICARE

a campaign to sink your teeth into

BY MARY HEANEY

So you've probably heard about the recent win by the Greens in securing a commitment of \$165 million toward dental health as part of the Denticare long term campaign, but what is the campaign all about and importantly, what does it mean for the mouths of Australians?



Di Natale commented that, "This is a solid downpayment on dental health and a great outcome but this is only the start of negotiations with the Government to improve dental health. In a wealthy country like ours going to the dentist should be just as easy as going to a GP, which is why the Greens want

A quick survey of my lounge room revealed some shocking results! 100% of respondents had not been to the dentist in the last TWO YEARS, despite admitting to experiencing pain from various nasties such as wisdom teeth and a missing filling. Though squeamishness was a reason for not going to the dentist, the overwhelming reason for these three otherwise healthy, full-time-working, city dwellers was cost.

to achieve a universal Denticare scheme by bringing dental health into Medicare over 5 years."

And the Greens aren't the only ones to have noticed that Australians aren't flashing their best winning smiles. The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, a not-for profit organisation based in Melbourne, works with some of the people most at risk of experiencing poverty. They have seen first-hand that people without healthy teeth have difficulty eating, talking, finding work, and can become entrenched in poverty and disadvantage.

Though empirically flawed, my two-minute-three-person survey is typical of state of mouths all over Australia, but some lounge room surveys may yield more dire results than others.

To get a real idea of the impact bad dental health can have on people, take a look at the Brotherhood of St Laurence website to read stories of people personally affected. In particular, take the time to watch the devastating story of Joshua whose rotting teeth became so painful that he took a sledge hammer wrapped in a tea towel and knocked out his own front teeth. This is sure to convince you that dental health is more than having nice teeth, its firmly a social justice issue and there is a desperate need for it to be brought under Medicare.

One in three Australians say they can't afford to go to the dentist, or delay going to the dentist because of the cost. But if you're on a low income, live in a regional area or are Aboriginal, then chances are you're putting up with some of the worst dental health.

In response to the \$165 million commitment, Greens' spokesperson for health, Senator Richard

You can find these stories and their recent report, *End the Decay: The cost of poor dental health and what should be done about it* on the Brotherhood of St Laurence website: dental.bsl.org.au

THE GREENS' DENTICARE PLAN

1. Dental treatment covered by Medicare. Phased in over five years, Medicare will cover preventative and restorative dental treatment so that everybody can afford to go to the dentist.
2. Starting with the most needy. Low income earners, kids and teens, pensioners and those with chronic disease will be among the first to access dental treatment under Medicare.
3. Investment in the public system. Injecting much needed funds into the public system to decrease waiting list and revamp school dental programs.
4. Training the dental workforce. To ensure that Australia has enough dental health professionals in the places they need to be, increasing investment in dental training and placement.

This is a campaign that will need a lot of support. Already there has been much activity around Denticare like the National Days of Action in March with Denticare stalls outside Medicare offices around Australia, public meetings, advertising and door knocking. But there is still a lot of work that can be done before the May budget, and the work will continue beyond then for Denticare to become a reality.

SIGN THE PETITION
greensmps.org.au/content/petition/bring-dental-care-medicare

CREATING POLICY

for the new political environment

BY **DAVE ABBOTT**, NATIONAL POLICY OFFICER FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS.

The Australian Greens are adapting to a new political environment with an overhaul of the policy platform. Political power in the Senate and the new Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) bring new opportunities and urgency.

As Senator Christine Milne explains, the PBO will allow all parliamentary parties to have their proposed budget measures officially costed. "The PBO gives the community much more confidence to properly compare the promises made by parties in an election campaign, and where the money will come from."

The Australian Greens campaigned strongly for the PBO and the party is gearing its processes to prepare robust, current and flexible initiatives that can be judged on their merits by the voters.

Greens policy initiatives - what we say we're going to do - are to be framed with the costing exercise in mind. Existing Greens policies are framed as principles (what we believe), goals (what we want) and measures (what we'll do). All 600 measures across the policy platform will be revisited in preparation for the PBO during the review.

POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Australian Greens Policy Coordinating Committee (AGPCC) was established at the 2010 national conference to:

- ensure party members have the opportunity to be engaged in Australian Greens policy processes
- facilitate a party-wide discussion on the policy platform and policy processes
- recommend a policy process
- coordinate policy processes, and
- assess and present policy proposals to national conference.

The AGPCC comprises one representative from each state/territory (and an alternate delegate from each), the Australian Greens policy coordinator and national manager, and two representatives from the federal parliamentary policy team. The policy coordinator Maiy Azize, who convenes the AGPCC, is based in the ACT. National office has appointed a part-time national policy officer, Dave Abbott, based in Hobart, to support the committee during 2012.

NEW POLICY STRUCTURE

During 2011 the AGPCC invested effort in framing a new policy structure that aims to strengthen the aspiration of each policy while allowing for greater flexibility to pursue current opportunities. Committee members consulted via monthly phone link-ups, three face-to-face meetings and a member survey. The policy co-convenors during 2011, Sue Plowright and Karen



Cassidy and all members put in many, many hours of thinking, discussion and debate resulting in national conference last November endorsing the result.

Policies will in future comprise principles, aims and key priorities, with a preamble for each policy grouping setting out a clear overall vision for that part of our platform. Key priorities will be endorsed by national council (via special policy conference) or by national conference. Each policy or policy grouping will then generate policy initiatives - what we actually seek to do - from either the party room or the membership, which will be costed and always current.

MEMBERS ASKED TO COMMENT

Also in 2011, the AGPCC designed a system to ensure maximum member input to the re-framing of policy and ongoing revision of policy content. During 2012, all members will be asked for comment on the re-drafted policies via their state/territory delegates. A formal member consultation plan was endorsed at March national council. Member comments will be incorporated into further revisions, before submission of the 'new' (re-framed) policies for endorsement at national council in July and national conference in November.

THE REVISED POLICY PLATFORM WILL INCLUDE FOUR TO FIVE POLICY SUITES THAT WILL HAVE:

- a brief preamble setting out the vision
- principles and aims
- key priorities
- Current policy initiatives: What the Australian Greens will seek to do will be generated from each policy suite.

With ongoing policy in mind, the Committee has also drafted a template for submission of policy initiatives (what the Australian Greens promise to do) from party room or membership. This ensures a standard format for policy initiative ideas, and an agreed process for member involvement, as part of the consultation each state or territory undertakes.

At the time of writing, policies within the groupings 'peace and non-violence', 'economic justice' and 'ecological sustainability' were in the first stage of re-draft and will be further scrutinised prior to presentation at national council in July. Policies in the groupings of 'social justice' and 'democracy' will be taken to national conference in November. All members are encouraged to be part of this vital creative process.



THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN: ON THE BRINK OF FAILURE

BY **JONATHAN LA NAUZE**, MURRAY-DARLING CAMPAIGNER, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

“The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has produced a draft plan that manipulates science in an attempt to engineer a pre-determined political outcome...”

The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, January, 2012

The decline of Australia’s longest and most heavily utilised river system has been making headlines for decades. So too the succession of politically compromised – and ultimately unsuccessful – attempts to reverse it. Now Australia teeters on the edge of yet another failure with the strife-ridden Murray-Darling Basin Plan. But there is still hope, and the Greens will have a key role to play in 2012 as both a grassroots movement and a parliamentary party if the Plan is to set the river on a sustainable course once and for all.

KNOW THE HISTORY

Spanning four states, one territory and 14% of the Australian landmass, the Murray-Darling Basin is as vast as it is complex. At the heart of its plight is a deceptively simple problem: we take too much water from its 23 rivers, leaving aquatic ecosystems barely able to function. Curtailed flooding limits the opportunity for fish, waterbirds and other aquatic life to breed. Constricted flows prevent the river flushing salt downstream and out to sea. At its mouth, internationally renowned wetlands have become sterile hypersaline ponds and acidifying time-bombs that threaten the drinking water of several million Australians.

Successive river rescue plans have failed to grasp this nettle, due largely to the lobbying power of irrigation’s elite corporate farms and the parochialism of Queensland, New South Wales and Victorian governments. Despite radical reforms and the expenditure of billions of public dollars, basin rivers remain mere conduits for irrigation flows. Floodplain wetlands and river channels themselves receive the scraps after irrigation entitlements are met and in many places this means years or decades between drinks.

Until now. At the height of the millennium drought, John Howard and his Water Minister Malcolm Turnbull stared down the irrigation lobby and upstream states to pass the Water Act 2007. It provides for a scientifically-determined Basin Plan that must reduce water extraction to sustainable levels. Nearly \$10 billion is now allocated to put the plan into action and help regional communities adjust. Critically, a third of that is for buying water from farmers, avoiding the need for compulsory reductions.

Whilst the Plan is taking some time to develop, water buybacks have already made significant inroads into the reduction it will demand. About 1,000 gigalitres (GL) – a quarter of what independent scientists say is needed – has been recovered since 2009. But then in November last year, Minister Burke caved in to sections of the irrigation lobby and announced a slowdown on buybacks in the Southern rivers where irrigation entitlements are most dangerously oversubscribed.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Many ecosystems will take decades to recover from the stress we put them under during the millennium drought. If the next drought arrives before enough water has been bought back, some will tip over the edge. Delaying buybacks makes this more likely. It also makes it harder for many family owned farms, indebted due to the high Australian dollar, the supermarket duopoly and ever-sinking commodity prices, to sell their water at a reasonable price and recoup their losses. As a direct result of the Commonwealth stepping out of the water market, entitlements have reached their lowest price in a decade. Good for big agribusiness wanting to buy-up water, not so good for small irrigators wanting to consolidate or retire.



PARTICIPANTS IN THE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH PETITION FOR THE MURRAY DARLING CAMPAIGN

The buyback announcement was followed within days by the release of a draft Basin Plan so hopelessly compromised it has drawn universal condemnation from environment groups and the highly respected Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. All scientific studies to date indicate irrigation cuts of at least 4,000 GL are needed, yet the Draft Plan proposes only 2,750. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

acknowledges this will deprive key sites of sufficient water, including internationally recognised wetlands like Chowilla in South Australia and Barmah-Millewa straddling the Victorian-New South Wales border. Salinity levels in the Coorong will still reach lethal levels during drought and native fish and migratory waterbirds will miss key breeding opportunities.

KNOW THE FACTS

The Draft Plan flies in the face of the MDBA's previously published science that indicated cuts of up 7,600GL were required. Since then, the irrigation lobby has sharpened its knives, New South Wales and Victoria governments have returned to the warpath, and ex-NSW planning minister Craig Knowles has been installed as the new MDBA Chair. To justify the about-turn, Knowles claims the earlier work didn't account for how modern 'flow constraints' conspire against the delivery of larger flows: environmentally desirable, but simply not possible.

This claim is mischievous and misleading. With \$10 billion and seven years before the Plan comes into force we have ample opportunity to overcome most if not all of these constraints. In some cases the work has already started, such as with the mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands. The Draft Basin Plan deprives them of enough water to maintain wetland vegetation and native fish breeding. The MDBA's excuse is that the Mundarloo Bridge near Gundagai would be washed away if the required flows were delivered. Yet the state government has already begun a feasibility study into raising the bridge to allow for bigger environmental flows.

In Western New South Wales, the Australian Floodplain Association has begun helping farmers draft legal waivers to give government the confidence that environmental flows across their land won't result in a lawsuit. The risk of such lawsuits is another excuse the MDBA has given for limiting environmental flows. In their first month the Floodplain Association had a million acres of floodplain covered. Far from a 'constraint', graziers are bending over backwards to enable environmental flows because it's good for business – land productivity increases after a good flood.

Another flaw in the Draft Plan is the astounding decision to ignore the risk of climate change. The MDBA estimates global warming could deprive Basin rivers of up to 37% of their flow by 2030. To manage this risk we must ensure any reductions in streamflow are shared equitably and sustainably between irrigation and the environment. The Draft Plan does the opposite: it guarantees that the bulk of environmental flows will be eroded before any irrigation entitlement is touched.

And even if we somehow avoid the likely impacts of climate change, a proposed 2,600 GL increase in groundwater extraction could literally undermine the 2,750 GL clawed back from surface water users. Scientific experts, including the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training have condemned this move because too little is known about which aquifers are connected to rivers and wetlands. In America, whole rivers have dried up when the water table beneath them was pumped out.

SO WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The Greens will play an important role in salvaging the Basin Plan and associated water buybacks. Submissions on the Draft Plan will have closed by the time this article goes to print, but several points of intervention remain. Firstly, when the final Plan is drafted, state governments are able to demand revisions. With the National Party in control of Water portfolios in NSW and Victoria (and Queensland probably to follow), state Greens MPs will need to hold their governments to account. Victoria and New South Wales are already lobbying for the Draft Plan to be weakened further.

Simultaneously, Federal Greens MPs have a crucial role to play. The final Plan is a disallowable legislative instrument that Water Minister Tony Burke must table in Parliament. Before he does so, he can demand the MDBA make changes and is likely to do so if he believes the Authority's version would be voted down. Tony Abbott's coalition has recently softened their rhetoric, positioning themselves to negotiate. But views diverge wildly between moderate Liberals committed to the reform they began (particularly the South Australian MPs) and hard-line Nationals who want to destroy it. Burke could easily end up having to rely on the crossbenches instead. The Greens must put themselves in a strong negotiating position with both the government and influential independent Tony Windsor if they are to influence the outcome.

TAKE ACTION

Greens members are amongst the most dedicated and active environmentalists in the country. And they are spread throughout every state and federal electorate. The watering-down of the Basin Plan has happened because we as a movement have not matched the campaigning efforts of agribusiness lobbyists. With the Murray-Darling, one of the Gillard government's most significant reforms and a tight federal election looming, pressure in any and every federal electorate will have an impact on the outcome.

Whether it's visiting your local MP, writing to the paper or organising a local event, Greens members can help turn the Basin Plan into the rescue package our darling Murray desperately needs.

Do Something!



LEARN

at our new website: www.ourdarlingmurray.org
It's packed with background info, campaign resources and online actions so you can take part.



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MOMENT WITH A MEMBER

PAUL FITZGERALD, NSW

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

Since 1989

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE GREENS?

It was the combination of a focus on social justice and environmental issues, and the Greens seemed to be the only party questioning the role of economic growth.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER?

I am inspired by a lot of good people; Lee Rhiannon and John Kaye keep me going and Bob Brown of course. The issues are just as relevant now as when I joined and the party is still strong.

HIGHLIGHT / BIGGEST CHANGE YOU'VE SEEN?

Climate change; that it is a mainstream issue now. It's not that long ago that we were considered absurd.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

Social justice issues for me, the question of asylum seekers, Palestine. These issues are all around us. The problems are systemic and we need changes to the systems to be able to fix things. You need to be involved in decision making and have people promoting your argument, and that means being involved in politics.

If you want to make a difference you can't just join the Greens, you need to be active.

I think the biggest thing that stops people is the tedium of meetings. I can remember hearing the political economist Frank Stillwell once say that there are four things you need to bring about positive social change: a critique of the current situation, a vision of how you would like things to be, a strategy for getting there, and organisation. The last of those, organisation, is the hardest. It means that you have to attend meetings, you've got to be bored sometimes, but you have to go through those meetings to get things done.

WHAT HAS YOUR ROLE BEEN IN THE GREENS?

I was the first secretary of the Greens NSW which included organising the venue for the national meeting where the Australian Greens was formed on 29 August, 1992, and I chaired some of that meeting. I was convenor of what later became the Marrickville Greens. I was on Marrickville Council for a term. I have also been convenor of the Canterbury Greens. I wrote a book on the politics behind the expansion of Sydney Airport. I'm not involved at the state level or federal level at the moment. Those levels are crucial, and I'm full of admiration for those who do it.

If you want to make a difference I would also urge people to think about standing for their local council.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SONG AND WHY?

But on the Other Hand, Baby by Hank Crawford. A couple of years ago I started playing the saxophone, my first-ever instrument. Playing like Hank Crawford is what I aspire to in my dreams.



RESPONSE TO THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN: ON THE BRINK OF FAILURE

BY **SARAH HANSON-YOUNG**, GREENS' SPOKESPERSON FOR WATER AND THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN

The Greens are determined to fix the many failures of the Murray Darling Basin Authority's draft plan highlighted by Jonathan La Nauze. As the Greens' spokesperson for water and South Australia, I've campaigned heavily for the river because decades of over-allocation of water entitlements has left the system lacking enough water to sustain itself. There's not enough to protect internationally important wetlands and the wildlife that rely on them, nor feed and water the river red gums.



A PROPER PLAN FOR THE MURRAY, NOT POLITICS

We need a plan that saves the river, not the usual political appeasement for state governments and larger irrigators. The plan today is based on manipulated science and fiddled figures. And it seems federal Labor is intent on diluting the plan to appease the Coalition. While the Greens continue to try and change the plan inside Parliament, Minister Burke appears to be putting the views of upstream irrigators ahead of the river's health. He's meant to

WHAT'S AT RISK?

Residents of my state have always, and will always be first to bear the consequences should the river further deteriorate. Rivers die from the mouth up and with the Murray mouth on Adelaide's door step and a major source of the city's water, there's much at risk. SA's Lower Lakes are the river's lungs. They flush salt and pollutants out to sea to keep the rest of the river healthy. For years the Lakes have struggled to do this because of insufficient environmental flows.

If we are to save the system from collapse we need at least 4,000GL to start restoring the river's health. Even the increased water from the floods has not been enough to restore water quality levels of the Lakes. If the draft plan is implemented as is, it will exacerbate problems of salinity and cause the Murray Mouth to close. The environmental return of 2,750GL is less than what's needed. The increased ground water extractions allowed risk repeating the bad history of pillorying the environment.

PEOPLE DESERVE TO HAVE A SAY IN THE PLAN

At a public forum I hosted in Adelaide in February, Major Sumner, a Ngarrindjeri elder and traditional owner who lives on the Coorong, said his people and others throughout the basin have had no say in the creation of the draft plan. They deserve to tell the Murray Darling Basin Authority of their ancient ties and be part of the solution to help save it.

Adelaide University's David Paton told the forum of his frustration that despite Australians learning about the problems of over extraction in the 1970s, the volume taken since then has soared by about 5,000 GL.

be the Minister *for* the Environment, not *against* it.

The Greens will continue to work hard to fix the plan based on the best-available science. In parliament I asked the government to table legal advice showing the plan complies with the Water Act. It refused. Independent legal and environmental experts say the draft doesn't comply (*see box*). \$9 billion of the public's money is at stake with this draft plan, as well as the billions generated by agriculture and tourism in the basin. Unless a minimum 4,000 GL is returned to the environment, the system's long-term health and its associated industries are in jeopardy. There will be no jobs on a dead river. There's still time to fight for the plan to be improved.

Do Something!

READ

Keep up to date on Murray-Darling news at sarah-hanson-young.greensmps.org.au/campaigns/murray-darling-basin-plan

The Environment Defenders Office (Vic) has recently released its legal analysis of the draft Murray-Darling Basin Plan, which casts doubt on whether the Murray Darling Basin Authority's draft plan meets with the Commonwealth Water Act (2007). To have a look at this report go to: www.edovic.org.au - *The report is on the front page.*



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MOMENT WITH A MEMBER

COLIN HESSE, NSW

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

I first joined in 1990. When I was 17, I was a member of Friends or the Earth. I was looking for the Greens Party, only it didn't exist yet.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE GREENS?

I joined with a group of people interested in the potential of the Greens that we saw in Germany. We were interested in a new type of politics.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER?

I have my ideals... when it comes to the vehicle to achieve those ideals, at a political level, the Greens is that vehicle. The opportunity that the vehicle presents and people that make it up are remarkable. There are those who have been involved in politics for generations, and those who are completely new to politics with a new perspective that can help challenge what gets done.

HIGHLIGHT / BIGGEST CHANGE YOU'VE SEEN?

There are so many highlights, but one example is from when I worked on last year's NSW state campaign and was the organiser for south western NSW. Iain Fyfe was the candidate, a bit older than me, and he's got a young family. There is someone who could live a comfortable life, but he took time out to put the Greens message out to a really strong National Party community. That passion and enthusiasm to challenge the status quo inspires me! It may sound daggy, but the biggest highlight is the people I meet who get up and do the hard work.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

Commitment to consensus politics. That is a fundamental issue for the party and we won't work without that.

At an ecological and social level... I would like to see more done about climate change and social equity, but we won't make changes until we acknowledge we need to operate collectively. And at the moment we aren't doing that well.

WHAT HAS YOUR ROLE BEEN IN THE GREENS?

I am currently privileged to work for NSW as the local government researcher. I respect that opportunity and it brings great responsibility. When you are political professionals, you always have to defer to members. We need to ensure a structure that supports members to set and guide policy. If we don't we betray members and the ideals of the party.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ALBUM AND WHY?

Dust by Neil Murray. Neil's passion for Australia, our environment and for people is deeply moving.

PHOTO: LAUREN MOORE



WAR OF WORDS

OVER TASMANIA'S 'FOREST PEACE DEAL'

BY **GEOFF LAW**, FOREST ACTIVIST FOR 30 YEARS AND CONSULTANT ADVISOR TO SENATOR BOB BROWN

“FORESTRY DEAL HAMMERED” HOBART MERCURY

“CHIPS STILL FLYING OVER FOREST DEAL” MERCURY

“BACKLASH AT FOREST PEACE PACT” AUSTRALIAN

It was August 2011 and a deal between the state and federal governments had been signed that would supposedly end the Tasmanian forests debate once and for all. The headlines screamed the anger of the Tasmanian logging industry and readers could have been forgiven for thinking that the whole of Tasmania had been declared a national park.

But over the coming months, the headlines told a completely different story.

“GUNNS GETS ITS MONEY” HOBART MERCURY

“FORESTS DEAL NOT GOOD ENOUGH, GREEN GROUPS SAY” SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

“BROWN SEES RED OVER FORESTS DEAL DISPUTE” SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Not surprisingly, many people have found this entire process confusing. For months at a time, developments occur behind closed doors, only to be followed by a flurry of news reports in which statements by key players seem impossibly at odds. To make sense of things it's necessary to re-visit major developments that have occurred over the past three years.

From 2007 to 2010, the Tasmanian native-forests logging industry (Australia's biggest) suffered a series of shocks. The corruption of the assessment process for Gunns' pulp mill destroyed the company's public credibility. Meanwhile, the ANZ bank ruled out financing the mill. Woodchip markets collapsed in Japan, causing the closure of huge chip mills in Tasmania. And Gunns' share price plummeted. It seemed that a once all-powerful industry was on its knees.

As a result a new board and managing director were appointed to Gunns and the company undertook to get out of native-forest logging.

However, logging in Tasmania's wilderness areas had not abated. Moves by conservation groups to protect threatened old growth forests as national parks had been stalled for years. With the logging industry in crisis, the time was ripe for talks to occur.

A statement of principles signed by industry, unions, the Wilderness Society, ACF and Environment Tasmania in October 2010 was greeted with great caution by the Greens. The positive moves towards protection of 'high-conservation-value forests' were off-set by clauses recognising industry's contracts for logs from native forests. Former unionist, Bill Kelty was recruited by government to facilitate the negotiation of a more detailed agreement, and the process dragged on. Logging of the Tarkine, the Styx giants, the Weld

It all sounded promising, but, virtually from the word 'go', things went wrong.



Valley and dozens of other iconic places continued, in defiance of an agreed moratorium.

In August 2011, the state and federal governments signed their so-called 'intergovernmental agreement'. A sum of \$276 million would be provided to help re-structure the logging industry and diversify the Tasmanian economy, and allow struggling logging contractors to leave the industry with dignity. Bulldozers and chainsaws were supposedly going to be halted in large tracts of Tasmania's wilderness and old growth forests. Gunns and Forestry Tasmania were to receive \$35 million in taxpayer funds to extinguish their native-forest log contract.

At the core of the intergovernmental agreement was a 'verification process' to be headed by Professor Jonathan West, a former Director of the Wilderness Society and the head of the Tasmanian Innovation Centre. The expert assessment would document the values of forests such as the Styx, Weld and Florentine valleys, the Tarkine wilderness, the Great Western Tiers, Ben Lomond, the Tasman Peninsula, Bruny Island and the North-East Highlands. Many of these places form part of one of the world's great temperate wilderness areas and feature the world's tallest flowering forests, rainforests, intricate cave-systems, glaciated landscapes, ancient Aboriginal heritage, waterfalls, and the habitat of rare and threatened species. Professor West's assessment would also determine whether contracts for hundreds of thousands of tonnes of logs could be met from outside the areas whose conservation-values had been 'verified'.

It all sounded promising, but, virtually from the word 'go', things went wrong.

Tasmania's powerful upper house voted to oppose

THE TAMAR VALLEY PULP MILL

In March 2011, federal environment minister Tony Burke gave the go-ahead to the Tamar Valley pulp mill. He said that conditions applied to the mill would protect the environment. The Greens disagreed. The massive project would still be using chlorine bleaching, resulting in toxic organochlorins being discharged into Bass Strait. Fugitive emissions of rotten-egg-gas odour would still pollute the Tamar valley. The mill's colossal appetite for logs, despite company claims, would still destroy native forests in Tasmania.

With a proposed annual consumption of 4.5 million tonnes of logs, the mill would be the biggest in the southern hemisphere. The project created national headlines in 2007 when the company withdrew from the formal, independent, integrated assessment process because the mill had been judged 'critically non-compliant'. The then Lennon government legislated to facilitate a much easier way forward for the mill. Experts in planning, law, business and the pulp industry slammed the new process for being piecemeal, biased, hasty, and based on the wrong environmental guidelines.

Today, the project remains tainted by the corruption of its assessment process and engenders strong local opposition. No reassurances by the proponent concerning the mill's impacts on forests, the atmosphere, nearby farms and vineyards, and the marine waters can be taken seriously. Although earthworks have occurred on site, construction of the pulp mill's \$2 billion worth of infrastructure has yet to commence. The mill's state government approvals are under challenge in the Supreme Court by the Tasmanian Conservation Trust.

the deal, and instead of protecting nominated sensitive areas, the government allowed nearly fifty logging and roading operations to proceed. The two main beneficiaries of the broken deal were Forestry Tasmania, and a relative newcomer to Tasmania, veneer company Ta Ann. Ta Ann's Malaysian parent company has attracted international condemnation for destruction of rainforests and displacement of indigenous populations and Ta Ann itself was identified by an independent report as the driving force for logging in the areas of high-conservation-value in Tasmania.

And there's the rub. The verification process has reportedly found that meeting Ta Ann's log contracts is impossible. Tasmania's forests have been over-cut and over-committed. Even logging all the unprotected old growth and wilderness areas can't, in the long term, sustainably supply Tasmania's voracious forests industry.

As a result, actions to protect the forests have continued. Making an inspirational personal stand in Tasmania's south-west wilderness is Miranda Gibson, a young teacher who, by the first of March 2012, had spent eleven weeks on a tree platform installed sixty metres up one of the threatened giants.

Inspirational also is Jenny Weber from the Huon Valley Environment Centre. Last year, she challenged Ta Ann's customers in Japan to bust the myth that the company's products were derived from plantations. When a contract was subsequently cancelled, Jenny bravely weathered a torrent of abuse unleashed by industry figureheads, ultra-conservative MPs, and the Tasmanian Premier.

By early March 2012, the forest 'peace talks' were at a standstill. The logging industry said it would boycott the talks while the markets campaign continued. The verification report of Professor West was well overdue. Logging of ancient, wild forests was stepped up. And so far, not a single hectare of threatened forest had been given permanent protection.

Geoff Law has been a forest activist in Tasmania for 30 years. From 1999 to 2008 he was Tasmanian Campaign Manager for the Wilderness Society. He currently works as an advisor to Senator Bob Brown.



OBSERVER TREE

BY MIRANDA GIBSON

I have been sitting up in the top of this tree for over four months now. This giant Eucalyptus that has become my home is estimated to be about four hundred years old, and is situated in the middle of Tasmania's south west forest. Over a month ago logging began in this area of forest that was promised protection in August 2011 by our Prime Minister through the Tasmanian Forest Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). Yet, despite the promise of an "immediate conservation agreement", 430,000 hectares of forest remain unprotected, including this tree, and logging continues.

Forest negotiations are continuing. But talking about protecting the forest loses its meaning if that very forest is being damaged beyond repair right now. It's like going into a shop and breaking something before you buy it, except this something has been evolving for thousands of years.

And so, if the government won't honour its promise, it's up to the community to step in. That is why I've been sitting up here since 14 December, 2011. This tree sit, known as 'Observer Tree', is fully equipped with solar panel, computer, video camera and internet. Through this set up I can document when logging occurs and send live images across the world via the internet. The purpose of the Observer Tree is to expose the ongoing destruction, but also to inspire people to help protect our native forests.

I am updating a blog every day and have received support from people around the world. I am also doing live conversations via Skype at community forums across Australia and hopefully internationally.

The battle for Tasmania's forests has been going on for generations now. It seemed like it would never end until the last tree fell. And then in 2011 the so-called "forest peace talks" brought together industry, workers and greenies. There was hope of finding a new solution that would be sustainable for communities and for the earth, including a transition out of native forest logging.

However, there are some things standing in the way of protecting Tasmania's world class forests. One of those things is the Malaysian company Ta Ann,





which has a contract for 265,000 m3 of wood every year and sells Tasmanian old growth forests disguised under the name 'eco-ply'. Some good news is that UK company International Plywood, which was a major customer of Ta Ann, recently suspended their contract for Tasmanian timber due to the environmental destruction. A large amount of the timber from Ta Ann now ends up in Japan. And this is why I have recently launched the 'Observer Tree' campaign in Japan.

I am committed to this tree-sit as long as it takes to create change for the forests here in Tasmania. I hope my presence up here will spark others to take action and eventually bring this destruction to a halt. I believe that it is possible that these world class, irreplaceable forests will be protected forever.

Please help by getting informed, spreading the word, and taking action.
www.observertree.org

Miranda Gibson is one of Tasmania's most committed front-line forest campaigners. She has been a core member of the grassroots environment group Still Wild Still Threatened for over four years, living high in the trees at Camp Floz, a blockade in the Upper Florentine Valley.



MOMENT WITH A MEMBER

TRISH MORAN, TAS

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

Since we formed the Tasmanian Greens Party back in 1991. Mine was one of the hundred names that we used to officially form the party and get it registered.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE GREENS?

There were already five Green Independents in the Tasmanian parliament and I'd worked to help get them elected. Two of them were Bob Brown and Christine Milne; I had huge respect for them, and for the others – they were real activists. They stood for issues I thought were important, like social justice and the environment.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER?

For the same reasons I joined – I want to see real action on the environment and social justice. Though we have made gains, there is still a huge amount to do and I'm prepared to keep working for and supporting the Greens.

HIGHLIGHT / BIGGEST CHANGE YOU'VE SEEN?

Getting the carbon legislation up. My husband is a scientist working in climate change so I've been aware of this issue for a long time, meanwhile the problem has grown ever more serious. Christine Milne worked hard on the committee until agreement finally appeared on the carbon legislation. It's magnificent. There are other issues that have become more prominent over time too like peak oil and environmental destruction.

I used to be in the ALP, and the difference in feel is phenomenal. We (Greens) actually like one another! Our members are intelligent, committed and able.

In politics, the Greens are our best hope. The more people we have joining, the more likely we are to change the world. With all our faults and failings, I think we're brilliant!

Other highlights were seeing the Tasmanian Greens survive with one elected rep, the redoubtable Peg Putt, after Liberal and Labour reduced the size of our state parliament in 1998 in a failed attempt to get rid of us, and then coming back with four reps in the 2002 election, to the dismay of the Laborials; seeing Bob elected to the senate and then Christine, both by the skin of their teeth the first time, then comfortably the next. Just seeing what the party has achieved: getting balance of power here early in 2010 was amazing, and then came balance of power in the Australian Parliament six months later.

WHAT HAS YOUR ROLE BEEN IN THE GREENS?

I've been an election volunteer, worked in the Green Shop, helped with party fundraising, stood as a candidate. I've been Branch Convenor, Branch Treasurer and State Convenor.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SONG AND WHY?

Stand by Me, because I'm in a small a cappella group and we love singing it. I'm one of the doo wop girls (the other one is a bloke, our tenor) and I really enjoy it!

PHOTO: JANE MARQUIS

NEW ZEALAND

UNLEASHING GOOD IDEAS

BY **KYMBERLIE DIMOZANTOS**, 2011 ASSISTANT CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND **ROLAND SAPSFORD**, NATIONAL CO-CONVENOR, GREEN PARTY OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND



“This delegated approach has enabled us to take a highly innovative and edgy approach to design and marketing, while still maintaining accountability.”

In 2008 and 2011, the Greens campaign in New Zealand has been overseen by a 10 person Campaign Committee (CC for short). This committee develops a campaign strategy and budget for approval by the National Executive. Once these are approved, the CC has a very free hand to shape the campaign, set timeframes and employ staff. This delegated approach has enabled us to take a highly innovative and edgy approach to design and marketing, while still maintaining accountability. Our 2011 campaign HQ was packed with dynamic trans-tasman energy, thanks to National Campaign Manager Megan Salole working with Australian import and Assistant Campaign Manager Kymberlie Dimozantos. Kym has now come back home to work on local government and campaign coordination for the Greens in Victoria!

New Zealand's population would fit nicely into a small city Australians like to call Melbourne. Small population? Sure, but it's a country full of big ideas and innovation. The 2011 Green Party election campaign was no exception.

The New Zealand Greens achieved record results this last election - our vote grew by over 65%! Our number of MPs increased from 9 to 14 and our share of the vote increased over and above our target of 10%, rising from 6.6% to 11.1%. And, in a country without public funding for political parties, we raised over one million dollars to fund our campaign.

A key part of this success was making sure we had a clear purpose, while our messaging was streamlined and tapped into the core economic concerns of voters.

Our platform was 'clean, green prosperity for every New Zealander'. This wasn't a slogan, rather it crisply summarised what we were campaigning on. This platform stamped a green perspective on the economic issues that our research told us looms large for all voters, including green voters!

In copy and speeches this platform often became 'A clean green economy, that works for everyone', putting sustainability and fairness at the heart of our economic message.

Our advertising crystallised this message even further with the ironic phrase 'For a Richer New Zealand' coupled with carefully planned imagery. The combination of words and images spoke to core economic issues, and invited people to think about what makes life truly rich.

Research after our award winning 2008 'Vote for Me' campaign showed that we effectively tapped into voters hearts but that we needed to combine this with key commitments to 'close the deal'. Voters needed an emotional connection and to understand what they get when they tick 'Green' in the polling booth.

This led to us focussing on three priorities that we used as the key issues for the 2011 campaign. These were Rivers, Jobs and Kids. Three was a magic number.

It helped us to penetrate the media, it was easy to focus the efforts of our candidates, and above all it was easy for voters to remember.

THE PRIORITIES WE RAN WITH:

- ▶ **ENVIRONMENT**
Making every **river** clean enough to swim in.
- ▶ **ECONOMY**
Stimulating green **jobs** through business incentives and government leadership.
- ▶ **FAIRNESS**
Bringing 100,000 **children** out of poverty.

These were three carefully costed priorities that could deliver a **genuinely** richer New Zealand for everyone, and substantially transform the economy.

So when we rolled out 'For a Richer New Zealand', we were able to connect with those priorities to show voters exactly how we would make New Zealand 'Richer'. Our candidates felt empowered with clear, positive, and simple language and our target voters responded in record numbers.

THE CAMPAIGN WENT THOUGH THREE STAGES:

1. AWAKING THE TEAMS AND VOTERS: IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR!

We started out with an opening campaign: An opening campaign is designed to 'wake up' branches and engage the public. The opening campaign also helped us see what gaps we had at a local level.

'What are you looking forward to?' was the question we put to the public on our opening campaign leaflet. Across the country, supporters took photographs holding cards stating what they were looking forward to. These were then uploaded to Facebook where people could share their 'looking forward' statement.

2. STATING OUR CASE: CREATING OUR IDENTITY

Following the opening campaign, we focussed on political positioning as an independent and distinct party. Essentially, we took the stance that we would prefer to work with Labour post-election, but did not completely rule out working with National, while recognising the vast policy gulf between us made any formal deal highly unlikely.

We formally launched this position after it was agreed by our national Annual General Meeting in June.

This stance was credible as we had cooperated issue by issue with National on schemes like a major home insulation programme and a national cycleway, while remaining highly critical of other policies like mining in National Parks, which we helped defeat. Our principled, independent stand retained our relevance while reinforcing that our priority was implementing good green ideas rather than politics as usual.

Our core political message: We stand up for our values and we aim to achieve principled, positive change (as summarised by the three priorities) regardless of who is in government.

3. SEALING THE DEAL: EVERYONE ELSE IS WITH US, WHY AREN'T YOU?

Launching our three priorities early was a key decision in a campaign that was broken in the middle by a major sporting event - the Rugby World Cup in September and October. Between June and September we rolled out major launches for Kids, Rivers and Jobs. We followed this up with a national leaflet delivery that introduced the 'Richer New Zealand' slogan and imagery and the three priorities, restated our political positioning and set out our achievements.

Getting clear, simple messaging out early proved a major tactical advantage in the sprint to the election following the end of the Rugby World Cup, little more than a month before polling day! With the core messages already established, we were able to focus on materials and stories that repeated and reinforced our campaign slogan and priorities.

Tactics aside, this campaign was on the pulse of technology. We knew our target voters tend to be younger than other parties and online is where we could best get their attention!

Learning from across the ditch, we adapted the successful Melbourne campaign slogan 'Make History' to help seal the deal on the last day of campaigning,

committing significant budget to a "Make History Tomorrow" message. This combined direct communication through our database, with a heavy emphasis on on-line advertising. We even had the full front webpage banner of the NZ Herald (think Sydney Morning Herald) the day before polling!

Placing the power in people's hands and helping them see that they can be the difference was a huge success of this campaign and our 'Green Machine' helped us achieve a record number of volunteers.

The 'Green Machine' enabled visitors to log on and complete missions such as liking the party's Facebook page, becoming a member, helping hand out leaflets or work on stalls, door-knocking, writing letters to the editor and various other missions that could be updated depending on our needs. Once a mission was complete the visitor would earn stars. Competition was hot!

An online 'Calling Engine' was developed. This project utilised our contact database and enabled members and supporters to call other members and supporters from the comfort of their own home to remind them to vote - voting of course, is not compulsory in New Zealand. Using this tool, our members called over 3000 people!

These are just some of the innovative ideas that made this campaign so successful.

Post-election it was clear that New Zealand would have three more years of a corporate-orientated conservative government. But that Government now faces an expanded Green team which provides a positive alternative voice, and is living up to our commitment to speak up for Rivers, Jobs and Kids. A strong Green voice is challenging the benefit cuts, privatisation and mining agenda, promoting a compassionate economy, and setting out the smart, sane and sustainable alternatives that are the hallmark of Green politics.

The Green wave is growing around the world. We are looking forward to a Greener future not only in New Zealand but in Australia too. 2011 was a great year electorally for Greens in New Zealand. We wish you every success in your elections this year and next, and we look forward to cooperating and sharing more good ideas (and great people) in the future.

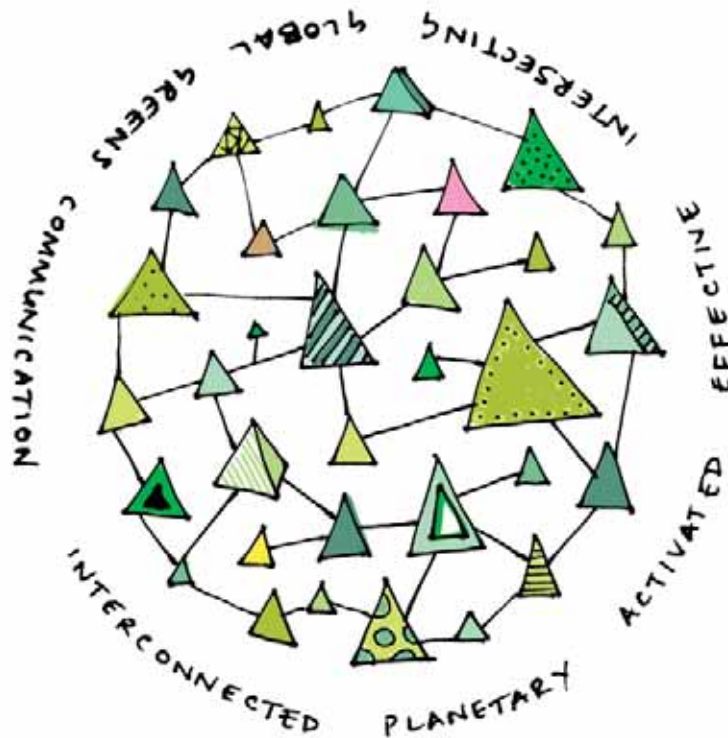
If you have any questions, feel free to email Roland on roland.sapsford@greens.org.nz

Did you know...

3 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT EXPECT ABOUT NZ ELECTIONS

- ▶ Campaigning on polling day is **ILLEGAL**, as is distributing anything that too closely resembles ballot papers. Handing out 'how to vote cards' would be a criminal offence in New Zealand!
- ▶ Under our (Mixed Member Proportional) MMP electoral system, every Party Vote counts the same wherever it is cast and it's the Party Vote that determines how many MPs we get. We spend a lot of time encouraging people to give us their Party Vote rather than vote for our candidates!
- ▶ Voting isn't compulsory, and turnout rises with age, so getting people to vote is a huge issue for a Green Party with predominantly younger voters.





GLOBAL DIALOGUE

ALEX SURACE OFFERS HIS REFLECTIONS AND THOUGHTS AFTER ATTENDING THE 4TH FORUM OF THE UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS HELD IN DOHA, QATAR IN DECEMBER 2011.

I had the wonderful opportunity of being the delegate from the Global Young Greens to attend the 4th Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) hosted in Doha, Qatar in December last year. The Forum brought together 2,500 participants from government, civil society, NGOs, youth, academia and international agencies from more than 130 countries. Hosted a few months after the Arab Spring began blossoming, the Forum explored the role of intercultural dialogue to boost development.

A goal of the event was to promote the voice of youth by bringing over 450 participants together before the commencement of the Forum proper and then encouraging our participation throughout. During the youth event we took on the goal of the Forum and participated in intercultural dialogue to explore development, understanding and cooperation.

It was the first time I had ever been part of a structured dialogue session which promoted listening and sharing of personal narratives. It was a profound experience and planted a seed to reflect on my own green political narrative which brought me to this forum.

As we explored strategies to promote understanding, we began identifying barriers to intercultural dialogue visible in our own lives. A barrier that resonated with me was the influence politicians have over the public discourse relating to refugees in Australia, creating

a sense of fear in the community towards people who have risked their lives to seek asylum. Similar examples were given by other youth who felt their politicians often used fear of other cultures within and between countries for political advantage.

Emerging from this dialogue, I developed a concept for a campaign calling on politicians and decision makers to speak out against the use of fear, intolerance and xenophobia as a political tool.

The campaign concept outlined an opportunity for youth to be part of promoting the values of the UNAOC while continuing to collaborate well after the Forum ended. Although we were unable to finalise details of the campaign in Doha due to time constraints, youth from around the world have continued to develop the concept with assistance from UNAOC staff in New York. The campaign and its theme will also be incorporated into the 5th UNAOC Forum to be hosted in Austria in early 2013. While there is much work to be done; this campaign is shaping up to be an important legacy of the 4th Doha Forum of the UNAOC.

As you can expect, in a forum with over 2,500 participants there were lots of different sessions to attend. One of the more memorable sessions was one where I was invited to participate in a dialogue with around 30 other youth with Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Sachs was interested to speak with youth about issues

that we considered pressing. The conversation began by exploring the Arab Spring and the challenges that lay ahead. It was fascinating to listen to the passionate opinions from youth of the region, many who had been and continue to be involved in the ongoing movement for democracy in their home countries.

Egyptian youth explained that while they had been instrumental in bringing about the change of direction in their country, they felt they were being left behind as the transition towards democracy continued. From their perspective, the main political parties do not have enough young candidates and they feel unrepresented even after risking so much during the Egyptian uprising.

When it came to my turn to share I encouraged youth of the region to critically reflect on the transition to democracy within the backdrop of environmental issues such as climate change and to encourage them to keep these issues on the agenda as they pose a fundamental challenge to humanity. The response was clear, democracy was their priority and that over time they were sure that their capacity would increase and allow them to focus on environmental issues. There seems to be an opportunity for Green parties to be part of the democratic transition in the region, being able to promote democracy with an inherent interest in the environment at the same time.

The experience of Forum also extended beyond the organised events. I was fortunate to share a hotel room with a fellow student from Iran throughout the conference. It was a humbling experience to spend time with a person who sees things so differently and yet in so many ways is looking for the same thing, a peaceful future. As the international community continues to raise the stakes over Iran's nuclear program, it made me realise, more than ever, that there exists a huge potential for building a peaceful future, if we are prepared to take the time to engage in dialogue with one another.

ROLE OF THE GLOBAL GREEN MOVEMENT IN PROMOTING CROSS CULTURAL DIALOGUE

When I reflect on my experience at the Doha Forum I often ask myself: *"What could be a more important role for the Global Green movement than to facilitate a global dialogue between individuals and organisations that support Green principles?"*

The exciting news is that with Green parties in over 80 countries, we have a unique opportunity to foster cross cultural dialogue through our existing Global Green network.

Being part of a multicultural society such as Australia, we are well aware of how enriching multiculturalism can be. While we have experiences and stories that would inspire others from around the world, there are many more stories and perspectives that we have not heard. Let's look for ways to join in and strengthen the global green dialogue.

If this sounds interesting to you, or you have something you would like to share, please get in touch. alex@globalyounggreens.org

Alex Surace lives in Sydney and is on the Global Young Greens Steering Committee.



MOMENT WITH A MEMBER

MEGHAN THOMAS-RICHARDS, ACT

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

Since I was 16, in 2007

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE GREENS?

I just thought that it was the only party that had its own opinion. I wanted the environment protected and rights for refugees and I wanted to do something to help out. I joined because I wanted to volunteer.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER?

When I started volunteering it reaffirmed my thought that the Greens is the party I agree with. Everyone is so passionate and wants to create change.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

Definitely environmental policy, things like stopping coal seam gas and not relying so much on coal fired power stations. Also the issue of off-shore processing of refugees and Australia's refugee policy altogether, especially when there are children involved.

I also think our entire education system, primary to tertiary, needs a big overhaul.

WHAT HAS YOUR ROLE BEEN IN THE GREENS?

I usually help out around election time. I worked for a short time as the volunteer/office coordinator during the lead up to state and federal elections in 2010.

If you are thinking about doing something or changing something that you feel really strongly about, the best way to do it is to try to change government policy. To be part of the Greens is a good way to keep other parties accountable. If you want to do something and get the Greens message out (which I think is the right message) the best way is to join the Greens, and talk to people and remind them there are not just two parties. You don't just have to vote for Liberal or Labor, you can vote for the Greens.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SONG AND WHY?

Yesterday is finished with you by Big Low. Not too sure what they intended the lyrics to mean, but I see it as letting go of the past in order to move on with your life. Which is applicable to letting go of archaic views and whilst acknowledging the past and what we can learn from it, looking to the future is quite important as well.



MAKING CHANGE VISIBLE

BY MARGARET HENDER, COORDINATOR OF ONE PERSON CAN

Is anyone developing strategies for making householders' safe-climate actions visible? Numerous websites educate the public on ways to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, offer challenges, ask for pledges, or provide tools for measuring achievements, but does anyone ask how many householders are already taking the suggested actions? Householder actions are pretty much invisible to anyone outside the immediate family and close friends. Everyone in my entire street might buy Green Power, take three-minute showers, switch off standby power, and do all the other actions typically recommended... or perhaps they do none of these. I have no idea what they do and don't do, and I'm still puzzling over why I assume (in the absence of any information either way) that they don't do much at all.

One explanation might be that cars out and about producing emissions are very visible, while the cars not being used are hidden away in garages. Or that consumers out shopping are much more visible than the people at home avoiding over-consumption and growing their own food.

What we do know is that around 3 million Australians use renewable energy, either rooftop solar or Green Power. On reflection, it also seems likely that many, many more are taking the other steps that help reduce GHG emissions, yet I think the perception that only a small minority are doing anything about climate change persists.

I think this perception, or misconception, matters a great deal. We all know that one person's actions won't achieve a safe climate. How many people are going to make lifestyle changes if they think it won't make a difference? We need to know that many other people are also taking action so that the sense of individual helplessness is replaced by the knowledge that we are acting collectively, and therefore can achieve an enormous amount. A culture shift like this would be impossible to achieve unless everyone's actions are visible. Primarily visible to each other, but also visible

to the politicians we rely on for effective government-level action on climate. The *One Person Can* website asks people to take a 10-minute survey of typical climate-friendly actions householders can and do take. Almost everybody would already be taking some of these actions. And even if their motivation is to save money rather than GHG emissions, the impact is the same. By itself a survey would achieve nothing, so an important part of this project is the public display of the collected results. There are graphs on the *One Person Can* website showing how many people in each region are taking each of the actions in the survey. Other websites, e-newsletters, and social media can link to these graphs, and they can be printed in poster format for display on local noticeboards. It's early days yet, but a number of local councils and MPs are starting to ask local residents to take the survey and will help publicise the results. The next step is to ask companies, sporting associations, academic institutions and schools, professional associations, and any other sort of organisation to invite their members to take the survey. These groups can elect to have their own separate result graphs to foster a sense of group endeavour and achievement.

Do Something!

ANSWER

the survey at www.onepersoncan.org and take the opportunity to make your own safe-climate actions visible! Your actions will achieve so much more if they inspire others to join in.

JOIN

butterfly.org.au to monitor your carbon pollution from electricity use - an initiative of the Green Institute.



A CLOUD OF CARBON

FINDING THE BEST PRINTING IN A LOT OF HOT AIR

BY NIGEL QUIRK

You have a simple annual report to print, yet images of an entire Brazilian rainforest being torn apart while small animals lose their habitat invade your thoughts, and all for your A4 document. Not only that, you start visualising the printing company as something reminiscent of the Industrial Revolution with carcinogenic chemical laden presses powered directly from a coal powered sub-station!

The question is, can you print in a truly sustainable way without being tortured by these images? And, like most things, if you are willing to put a little effort into making the choices educated, the answer is yes.

The first step is to find the appropriate printer for the project. Choose a printer that prints green because it is the only way, not because it's a good marketing ploy. If you do a quick Google search for 'sustainable printing' every printer's website will no doubt try to convince you they are saving an ecosystem somewhere.

“every printer’s website will no doubt try to convince you they are saving an ecosystem somewhere.”

The term “greenwash” was coined way back in 1986 when an American environmentalist blew the whistle on a hotel group's motivation to save money by encouraging guests to use their towels more than once before being washed. Twenty years later we find this behaviour has increased exponentially to include all industries, including printing.

Your printer should be committed to meeting your sustainability requirements at every stage of the job. Components of quality printing service include comprehensive information and advice on sustainable stock selection, appropriate binding, finishing and meeting of agreed deadlines. Publishing is an incredibly difficult endeavor, but if you don't have the right partner in your printer then it will become an exercise in martyrdom.

TRANSPARENCY

Your printer needs to be transparent through the whole process. Always ask if your job will be printed onsite. This will give you your first clue as to whether you are in the right place. Many printers happily take your order, only to outsource the work and therefore outsource the environmental responsibility.

VISIT THE PRINTER

If you want to ensure that your printer is actually interested in the environment, you need to ask the serious questions and visit the premises to see for yourself how jobs are printed.

Ask what environmental accreditation has the printer been awarded? How do they measure their carbon emissions? What recycling programs do they have and how much water do they use?

ENVIRONMENTAL ACCREDITATION

The environmental accreditation of your chosen printer is the first step in actually appraising their environmental commitment. ISO14001 is a system whereby your print company can justifiably claim to be on the starting blocks of sustainable printing.

Some printers will avoid the question of accreditation by talking about the accreditation of the paper they use. This is important, but doesn't address the whole printing process.

SO WHAT ABOUT THE PAPER?

The choice seems obvious when it comes to selecting the paper stock. Recycled right? Well, yes and no. The choice becomes a little more complex when you start to ask questions such as: What is the percentage of recycled content? How do I know it is recycled? Where did the paper come from? How much carbon is used in producing the stock?

Unfortunately there is not enough room in this entire publication to explore all these questions, but there are some essential criteria when choosing



recycled stock. Firstly, make sure it is sourced from 100% post-consumer waste, this is truly recycled. Secondly make sure the paper is certified as either FSC or PEFC. Thirdly, make sure it is chlorine free, and lastly look for a paper that is produced carbon neutral (as opposed to the paper mill buying carbon credits).

If you have a limited budget or have a glossier aesthetic do not discount stock that is not recycled. In fact the carbon usage on average to process recycled stock is more intensive than producing the stock from virgin pulp, so fibre sourced from pulp suppliers who use sustainable forestry techniques can also be a great choice and have less of a carbon footprint than certain recycled stocks. Once again though, insist on FSC or PEFC certification.

Choosing the most environmentally focussed stock is down to the questions you ask, and the first and most important question to consider is the concept of the 'cradle to grave' carbon life of the paper.

'The paper industry plants more than it harvests and today there are 25% more trees in the developed world than in 1900. Paper is biodegradable, renewable and sustainable. Forestry plantations provide clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and carbon storage' goes the marketing blurb from the Paper industry. It is essentially correct, though not quite so simplistic. As we all know, to plant a plantation where there was once a bio-diverse forest is not ideal so we need to make sure we do not obsess about the carbon over all other considerations, but it is generally a good yard stick.

So if you want to print that poster, magazine or catalogue and not be plagued with visions of choking on a cloud of carbon from the destruction you have caused, the responsibility is yours to ask your printer all the right questions.

Nigel Quirk is an Account Manager with Printgraphics Printgreen where his primary role is partnering with clients to get ideas from concept to finished product in both print and electronic publication.

IMAGE: NATALIA BRUNOV'S



MOMENT WITH A MEMBER

JO VALLENTINE, WA

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

Since before it was born! There were people around for a long time before the actual formation, who knew that a new political entity was called for. Here in WA we managed to form The Greens (WA) in 1990, which comprised various groups that had run candidates in previous elections. So, moving towards a shared goal was part of a shared agenda well before 1984, when I was first elected as part of the Nuclear Disarmament Party.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE GREENS?

It was not really a question for me. I was IN, because I was keen that voices other than the mainstream would be heard in State and Federal Parliaments.

The main issue, which has been at my core since 1978, was the nuclear issue – every dastardly aspect of it. Back in formation days, The Greens (WA) certainly had many early advocates from the nuclear disarmament/peace movements. It continues to be the chief point of my activism. However, it's great to take on board all the other issues, to form a complete set of progressive policies based around the four pillars, which we borrowed from the German Greens.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER?

I will always continue to support the Greens, and am proud to be a life member. I am very loyal, and consider that The Greens have grown into a major force to be reckoned with - from being a lone voice in the Senate in 1985, to being there last July when there were ten elected representatives in Canberra. It's been a fabulous journey. I reckon the current crop of Member and Senators are doing an outstanding job.

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

Global warming, which incorporates every other issue facing us as a human species, including the nuclear nightmare. And I am so pleased that The Australian Greens have had such a big impact on getting a price on carbon. Underpinning all that is my concern about the rights of First Nation people, who often have the wisdom to solve the vexed issues of our day, with their long view of the human story.

WHAT HAS YOUR ROLE BEEN IN THE GREENS?

Helping with the formation of the Greens at WA state level, and advocating that the Greens (WA) join the Australian Greens, which took much longer than it should have! Being the first representative in the Senate was a break-through, and I hope helped pave the way for others who've followed. I was rather forthright and got arrested for civil disobedience (or 'holy obedience' as I like to call it) as a Senator!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SONG AND WHY?

How Can I Keep from Singing? speaks to my heart about hanging in there, when the going gets tough!

PHOTO: NATALIA BRUNOV'S

last
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Bob's Back Page



THE EARTH SONG

Claire Dawson has the gift. Her voice lifted the Earth Song from day dream to majesty of performance at the Hobart Town Hall on 23 March. The hall was packed to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the world's first Greens party



meeting (after rowdy scenes, at the height of the furore over the illegal flooding of Lake Pedder National Park in 1972, chair Dick Jones announced, after a count of hands, that the vote for the new party had carried).

We were treated to local, national and global messages of congratulations at the anniversary introduced by Nick McKim and hosted by Christine Milne. I gave the Third Green Oration, on global democracy, and introduced Claire. With Rod Thomson playing the grand Town Hall organ, she was away with "This is our planet, our sunlit garden, safe in our keeping, Earth is our all" to an easy tune I wrote when I was 16. Thanks Claire and Rod. If it is never performed again you did the Earth Song proud! (You can see the Third Greens Oration at www.greenoration.com.au)

PRECIOUS MEDIA

The Finkelstein media inquiry recommendation to set up a News Media Council in the public interest has brought howls of horror, from Murdoch's haters to

ABC commentators who should know better. Everyone else, from our Head of State (remember the referendum?) to the courts, military, churches and, of course, parliament, is subject to inquiry or a public veto. But the Council, which would do no more than require the media to abide by its own Code of Ethics, has been condemned.

Meantime the public, which regards journalists as lower beings than used car salesmen or even MPs according to polls, has gone silent. Everyone's suborned. The Greens will work for the sensible Finkelstein recommendation to become law.

I AGREE WITH TONY ABBOTT

Tony Abbott's welcome support for rehabilitating Lake Pedder came via an opinion piece in *The Australian* (9/1/1995) in which he described the original lake as a "priceless wilderness asset for future generations".

The now Opposition Leader proposed that "a federal government could commission

A FEDERAL Liberal backbencher, Mr Tony Abbott, has openly challenged Coalition policy on the environment by calling for the Federal Government to spend \$20 million on the restoration of Lake Pedder in Tasmania's south-west.

In an article in *The Australian* today, Mr Abbott argues that restoring Lake Pedder — which was flooded for hydro-electricity in 1972 — is "good politics as well as good sense".

In the article, Mr Abbott says the damming of Lake Pedder was an industrial failure, is at odds with Tasmania's "green" image and is no longer necessary as the State has enough hydroaltronic capacity

a definitive cost-benefit study and, given a favourable result, offer to fund the restoration as an important national project". So say all of us.

WILDERNESS CALL

The Wilderness Society's Lyndon Schneider's, writing in *The Australian* (18/2/2012) noted that "the forest war in Tasmania is a war without obvious victors". Search me. I recollect the beautiful Lemonthyme Valley under Cradle Mountain, Lees Paddocks, the Meander Falls region, Upper Weld valley, the Picton upstream of Farmhouse Creek and Wielangta central having been saved from chainsaws due to the huge efforts of forest defenders in the last 25 years. The article says "protesters continue to attempt to stop work in forests they believe have been promised protection by the [Intergovernmental] agreement".

They believe? That promise is in clause 25 of the agreement above the Prime Minister's signature. Then there's the claim the "forest war" has "rewarded and emboldened the warriors and sidelined the peace-makers". Which warriors and what rewards? I hope Miranda Gibson (www.observertree.org), up there in her wild forest tree, doesn't read *The Australian*.

GREEN MAIL

From the mail bag:

"Having never contacted you before — and having never voted Green — I offer you my most sincere gratitude for calling the Murdoch press to account and urge you to continue to do so. In these confused and shallow political times we need patriots, like you Bob, to stand up to that dishonest and self-interested organisation. You have absolutely nothing to fear from Murdoch. Keep shining the light on Rupert and I WILL vote for your mob next time 'round — I promise you Bob."

- Bob



If you'd like
to put more
of your
super here,
put it here.

Our super fund invests in companies that harness wind power and other renewable energy sources. We support investments that are positive for society and the environment, and actively avoid any that do harm. For more information, visit www.australianethical.com.au

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GREATER

THAN THE SUM OF OUR PARTS

A LETTER FROM **SENATOR CHRISTINE MILNE**, AUSTRALIAN GREENS LEADER



In the whirlwind days since Bob Brown announced his retirement and the party room handed me the reins, I've been overwhelmed by the response of our supporters, wishing both Bob and myself well and standing up to be counted as Greens.

It's been a tremendous demonstration that we are, in fact, far greater than the sum of our parts.

When Bob succeeded the trailblazing WA Greens Senators, Jo Vallentine, Christabel Chamarette and Dee Margetts, our party was a small band of dedicated and passionate people with a great vision. Under his leadership and after his 16 years in the Senate, we have grown into Australia's undisputed third political force. We have over 10,000 members, many more active supporters and 1.7 million voters represented by ten Federal MPs, holding balance of power in both houses, advocating for and delivering action to support people and protect the planet for now and for the future.

For 25 years, Bob has been an inspiration to millions of Australians and a great force for good in our country. But he's also been a colleague, a mentor and friend to me and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for everything he has done.

Bob's decision to retire is a moment for reflection and celebration. But it is also a gift to the party and an opportunity to rebuild momentum from the grassroots up.

From now on, without Bob's broad shoulders to do so much of the heavy lifting, all our members and supporters have the chance to take on some of that responsibility in personally advocating for our causes. I look forward as leader to a new era where we all work our hardest together towards our common goal.

This is an opportunity for all of us to think about how each and every one of us can use the positions and networks that we have to advance green thinking, green policies and to promote the Greens as the only party at the beginning of the 21st century which recognises that protecting the environment is essential to feeding, clothing and providing a good quality of life for people everywhere.

It has been fantastic to see a surge in party membership already as people see and seize this opportunity to re-boost our momentum and reinvigorate the party.

I've also been delighted that my priorities as leader; to communicate a more coherent economic narrative about building a society that is ready for the huge challenges of the 21st century driven by accelerating global warming, and about building better relationships with people in country Australia, have resonated so strongly with so many people.

In closing, I want to let you all know that Bob is as happy as I've seen him for many years. He's been touched by the outpouring of affection for him and is absolutely confident that the Greens will continue to go from strength to strength. Let's all make him proud and build on his great legacy.