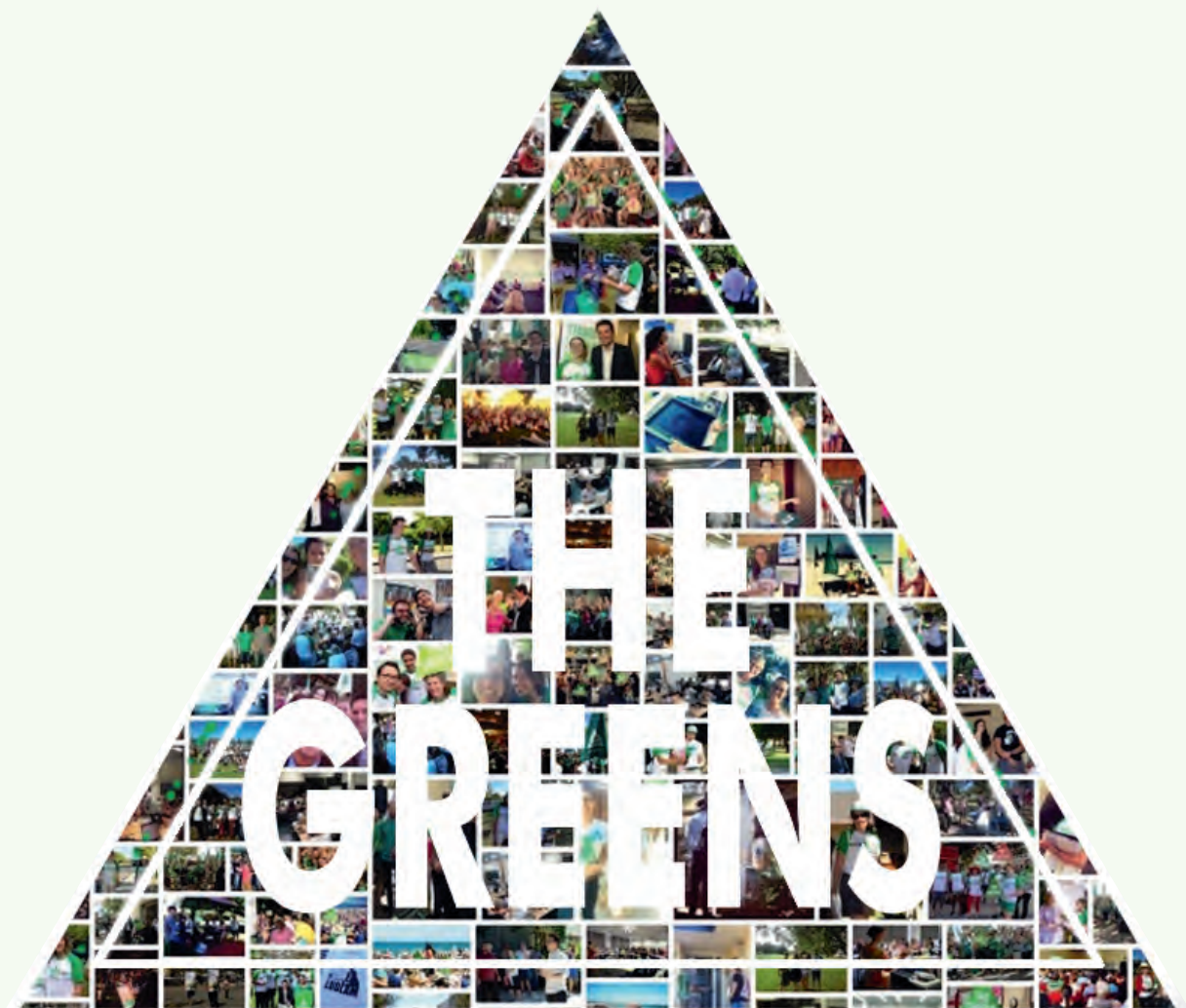


# The Greens (WA) Annual Report 2014-2015



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Report edited & compiled by Patrick Hyslop

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*Top: Giz Watson and Jo Vallentine  
Middle: Scott Ludlam, Vanessa Rauland &  
Rachel Siewert  
Bottom: How time flies in The Greens (WA)!*

# Co-convenors Report (Grahame Bowland & Giz Watson)

It's been a huge privilege co-convening the party this past year. The role of co-convenors is, roughly put, to facilitate the development and well being of the party and the furtherance of our objectives – from the promotion of our principles and the four pillars, through to achieving electoral success and representation at all levels of government.

The strength of the Greens has always been its active membership, grassroots participation in decision making, and the agency given to members to make proposals and drive campaigns. In celebration of that, here is a quick snapshot of the work done this year by our Representatives Council, building upon the efforts of every group, especially our working groups.

Together, we:

- passed a Voluntary Euthanasia Policy after a thorough discussion of this sensitive and complex issue
- created a Membership Engagement Working Group, which started strongly with two successful events welcoming new members
- engaged with a major revision of the Greens (WA) Constitution, which we hope will be adopted at the 2015 Annual General Meeting
- drafted a new Media Bylaw, clarifying who can speak for the Party, and opening things up so we can make better use of social media
- embraced the changes to the structure of the Australian Greens, and helped shape the rapidly developing National Council
- put together phonebanking in support of our comrades in Victoria and New South Wales, and ran our first ever international phonebank in support of a Green party overseas
- defined an ethical investment framework for the Greens (WA) Future Fund

- created a Culturally Diverse Working Group, recognising the diversity of our membership and engaging with members from all backgrounds
- adopted a long overdue Access and Equity Policy, setting down rules requiring that all Greens meetings and events be accessible to people with disabilities, and giving guidance on how to deliver upon that
- assisted the new West Kimberley Local Group to get up and running
- passed a party budget, and an election budget
- passed a new Small Business Policy, after a huge amount of work by members from many different backgrounds
- assisted the Election Campaign Committee to run two terrific by-election campaigns, in Vasse and Canning
- constructively engaged in the redistributions of state and federal electorate boundaries
- ran a number of training and skill sharing workshops
- held numerous stalls at university Open Days and other community events
- we celebrated thirty years since the election of former Senator Jo Vallentine, Senator Rachel Siewert's ten years in the senate, hosted Greens parliamentary leader Senator Richard Di Natale and we cryptopartied like it was 1984!





None of the above would have been possible without the people who jump in and make the party a vibrant and effective organisation. Much of the work listed above isn't glamorous, but all of it builds the party as we move towards the coming federal election, when we will seek to re-elect Senator Rachel Siewert.

The Greens (WA) is one state party in the confederation of parties which make up the Australian Greens. The 2014 WA senate by-election created a unique moment and brought talented campaigners and organisers to WA. That campaign threw people from all around the country together in a few cramped rooms, and delivered an outstanding result.

The bonds of friendship forged during the campaign have rolled on, and can be seen in the ever increasing cooperation between all bodies of the Australian Greens. Providing assistance to our fellow Greens is the new normal and I am sure that when the 2017 state election comes around we will have significant assistance from Greens 'over east'.

Our new, more national and cohesive outlook, is aided by the new constitution of the Australian Greens, and particularly the new National Council. National decision making is now quicker, more responsive and more transparent. WA has had terrific representation on the council by Jess McColl and Adam Duncan, and we should also acknowledge the representatives from other states and the party room who have made the body such a success.

At the conclusion of this year the party is on a solid financial footing, with its assets soundly and ethically invested. The credit for that goes to Mark Siford, the party treasurer. Our sincere thanks to Mark.

Patrick Hyslop has done an outstanding job as party secretary. Making sure our decisions are well recorded and that everything is on the agenda isn't glamorous but it is vital. Thanks Patrick.

While much of the work of the party is done by volunteers, the party couldn't function at all without its dedicated staff. To everyone in the office, and in particular to our office manager, Rowena Skinner, and David Letham, state membership secretary – thank you.

Some of the most visible work of the Greens occurs in the parliament. The West Australian public have been given outstanding representation in those places by Senator Rachel Siewert, Lynn MacLaren MLC, Senator Scott Ludlam, and Robin Chapple MLC. If you have ever been in an MP's office on a sitting day you'll know the high pressure environment the MPs and their staff face too often. Somehow they still find the time to work with the party on policy and provide support in a multitude of other ways. Our thanks to our MPs and their staff.

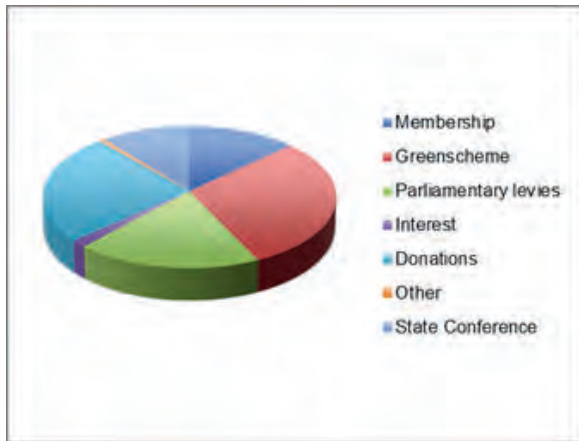
The 2015 Greens (WA) State Conference was a fantastic round up for the year, and perhaps marked the beginning of the effort to re-elect Senator Rachel Siewert. With the ever growing membership of the party, our continual innovation in the conduct of our campaigns, and our inexorably increasing energy it's certain that 2016 will be a year to behold.

**Office Manager, Rowena Skinner would like to offer her sincere thanks to all those who volunteered their time in The Greens (WA) office this year, particularly; David Letham, Margo Beilby, Jean Le Quesne, Bernard Mahon, Jay Birnbrauer, Steve Yuen and Kim Wakely.**

# Treasurer's Report (Mark Siford)

After the tumultuous FY2014 (the Senate by-election) the theme for fiscal 2015 year was quiet consolidation. Significant fiscal events included: the resolution of the Court of the Disputed Returns case; a Greenscheme drive; strengthening membership retention and engagement; office investment; the introduction of the GWA Future Fund; divestment of bank accounts; the Vasse by-election and; increasing co-ordination with the Australian Greens. Excluding the effect of by-elections operating revenues increased from \$183k to \$276k.

FY15 GWA Revenue Analysis

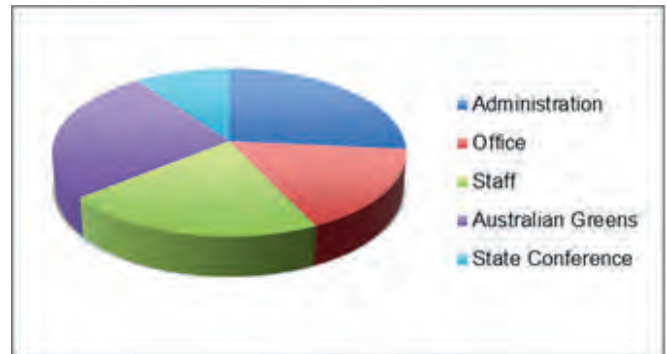


However, expenses also grew from \$192k to \$309k in FY15. Additional expenses were attributable to investing for the future: new photocopier; IT; and legal expenses for setup of the GWA Future Fund. Other increased costs were due to campaigning and membership engagement: printing bundles of membership handbooks; the State Conference; phonebanking; increased investment in stalls; new member functions; and higher contributions to the Australian Greens.

From an operating perspective the organisation has been stabilised after the loss of two State MPs affected contributions from parliamentary levies. Combined with a stronger balance sheet the organisation is financially ready for the challenges of fighting two elections in under 12 months.

The key focus in FY16 is on preparing the organisation for the upcoming campaigns. To that end the following areas are being examined: physical premises; accounting & database systems; servers & IT support and; phonebanking equipment. Where appropriate further investments will be made.

FY15 GWA Expense Breakdown



Once again I acknowledge the invaluable support of our evergreen Office Manager Rowena Skinner, Jenny Sullivan's meticulous accounts, the hardworking members of the Administration Working Group, the revitalized Donor Relations Group, and all the volunteers in GWA's office who keep the lights on. I also take this opportunity to publicly recognize all members and supporters who have contributed time and money during the last two years. Thank you.

Balance Sheet (end of June 2015)	
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash & Term Deposits	\$705,512
GWA Future Fund	\$136,745
Regional Groups Reserve	\$38,018
Developing Parties Reserve	\$3,733
Equipment & Furniture	\$10,410
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$877,387</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
GST Liability	\$213
PAYG Tax	\$1,333
Staff Liabilities	\$17,747
Court of Disputed Returns (estimate)	\$60,000
AG Levy	\$64,859
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$144,152</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$733,235</b>

# GWA Future Fund Inaugural Report

Phillipe Bossert, Frank Gardiner, Mark Siford, Rowena Skinner

We are proud to present the inaugural report for the Greens WA Future Fund. It has been a busy and productive fiscal 2015 in getting the GWA Future Fund up and running. Directors' efforts were mostly focused on administration and, establishing solid processes that will stand the Fund in good stead in the years to come.

## Background

The GWA Future Fund was launched in early 2015 with the following objectives:

1. Facilitate gifts and bequests from GWA supporters
2. Provide a recurrent revenue stream to GWA
3. In the long term possibly enable GWA to purchase its own Headquarters
4. Ensure the ongoing financial viability of the organisation i.e. in exceptional circumstances act a safeguard to keep GWA financially afloat

The GWA Future Fund finished fiscal 2015 (to 30 June 2015) year with a balance of \$138,491. This was made up of donations of \$137,785 (including the former GWA administration reserve of \$60,000), interest income and some small gains in investments. The Fund will make a small distribution to the Greens (WA) in early FY16.

## Ethical Investment Guidelines

The Directors make investment decisions according to a set of living (constantly updated) ethical investment guidelines (frequently updated) that have been created by GWA.

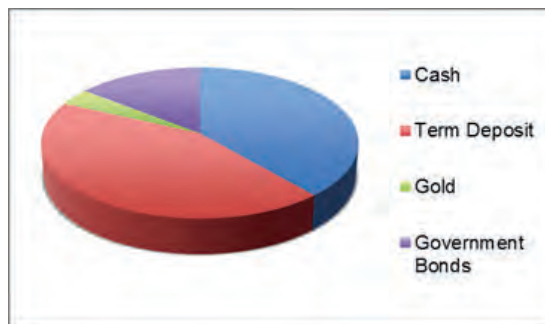
## Transformative Investments

One investment option that the Directors have discussed extensively is are transformative investments i.e. those that may facilitate the development of enable a better, greener, economy. Unfortunately many of these potential investments do not offer: liquidity; market valuations; or sufficient returns commensurate for the risk involved. However, the Directors will continue to search for such investments and would welcome suggestions from members and supporters.

## Investment Allocation

Research studies show that long-term asset allocation of a fund is the key driver of returns.

Tactical asset allocation, sector and stock selection play secondary, but nonetheless important roles. Asset allocation focuses on is about carefully balancing the risks and potential returns of each asset class, thereby ultimately maximising the fund's return over the long term.



The GWA Future Fund allocation has a target allocation of 40%

Equities, 25% cash, 25% bonds, 5% property and 5% alternative assets. Additionally, there is consideration has been given to currency exposure, with AUD exposure targeted at 50%. Note it is possible that, for short periods, the investment allocation into any asset class may exceed the minimum or maximum limits of a band. The Fund is aiming for long-term returns of 5% p.a. in real terms.

Naturally the Fund's current allocation reflects its embryonic status, of the fund as well as the decision to put \$60,000 (the old Administration Reserve) into a Term Deposit. As the GWA Future Fund matures and more investments are made the allocation should move towards the targets.

## Expenses

The GWA Future Fund has minimal expenses. To date these include: audit fees, bank fees, regulatory charges, and brokerage costs.

## Directors

The GWA Future Fund currently has four Directors who volunteer their time and expertise. The Directors met three times before the close of fiscal 2015 and conducted other business via electronic communication.

## Donors

We thank all supporters and members who have donated to the GWA Future Fund, especially those Founding Members of the Fund.

# Secretary's Report (Patrick Hyslop)

“Administration” isn’t the sexiest word in the English language, at least not for me. However my year as State Secretary has taught me what I always suspected: It is very important.

Given the somewhat mundane nature of administration I thought I would write instead about a couple of observations I’ve made in my short time as Secretary. One of the most notable things about The Greens is its grassroots structure where virtually any member can be involved at virtually any level of the party, should they have the desire to. Despite what other parties may say, the Greens are the only truly grassroots party with significant parliamentary representation and this is something which we should all be immensely proud of.

However relying mainly on unpaid volunteers does of course mean that there is some difficulty in making roles desirable while also not placing too much control in the hands of any one person, or group of people. It’s a fine balancing act and my time this year only reinforced that The Greens generally perform this better than any other party. How we continue to maintain this balance as time goes on and the party continues to grow is a question which we must continue to grapple with. I have in mind the roles of (Co)convenor and Treasurer here, where fairly specific skills are required and the time commitment is also quite significant.

With WA Greens helping out our interstate colleagues in Victoria, NSW, Queensland as well as running our own Canning and Vasse by-elections, I have somewhat missed being in the thick of campaigning. That said, it was partly a relief to participate in campaigns in a more ad-hoc manner than I have previously. This brings me to another question which we should all bear in mind given the mainly

voluntary nature of our party functions: How do we make sure we have enough volunteers to keep the party administration functioning smoothly while also becoming a more responsive and effective campaigning force?

I support the move to continuous campaigning but we should always be careful to ensure we have enough people with enough energy to fill positions at the regional and state level. I have noticed a couple regional groups with larger memberships struggle to fill office bearer positions. Admittedly I am relatively new to the Greens and I imagine this may not be a particularly uncommon occurrence. Additionally a good argument could be made that those who volunteer for campaigning aren't necessarily the same people who volunteer for administrative roles. Nonetheless we should be careful we don't try and do everything all at once i.e. creating campaigns without achievable objectives.

I’d like to finish by thanking my fellow members of the administration working group; Grahame Bowland, Giz Watson, Mark Siford, Chilla Bulbeck, Rowena Skinner, Katrina House, Maria Niermann and Jordon Steele-John, as well as the countless other volunteers and all the members of the party. Together we will ensure The Greens (WA) will continue to be the dynamic force for progressive politics that it has been this year.



# Canning Report

by Margo Beilby

2015 has been a very significant year for Canning. Canning is the smallest regional group with a membership hovering around 30 – 40. After months of evening meetings of two or three members it was decided to try the Loomio software system that seemed to be working for Pearce-Hasluck. Of the present 40 members, 29 have joined up for Loomio and the software has been remarkably successful in approving proposals and applicants to the group. To retain a social element to the group it has quarterly weekend daytime meetings to discuss issues and for members to get to know each other.

The biggest issue for the regional group was the Canning by-election after the death of sitting member, Don Randall, in July. The group had a frantic search for a candidate and was lucky enough to attract Vanessa Rauland, a lecturer and research coordinator at Curtin University who is passionate about building better cities, renewable energy and higher education.

Staffing the three weeks of pre-polling in Mandurah and Armadale plus the 45 election day polling booths from Roleystone to Preston Beach was made easier by volunteers from outside the electorate and resulted in every booth being staffed all day, something that has never happened before in Canning.

In spite of the efforts of so many people the results were not what we had hoped for. Our primary vote was down 1.5% from the last election. This was probably partly caused by the swing to Labor and partly by the number of small parties such as the Pirates, Animal Justice and Sustainable Population. It will be interesting to see the distribution of preferences.

Another important issue facing Canning is the federal redistribution. The new, sixteenth federal electorate of Burt takes most of the present Canning regional group boundaries centred on Armadale. Canning will be centred on Mandurah but goes north to Carmel and south to Preston

Beach and includes the shires of Wandering and Boddington. The regional group boundaries of the new Burt RG and the new Canning RG will need to be sorted out by Reps fairly quickly.

We do live in interesting times!

## Brand Report

by Jordon Steele-John

2015 has been another fantastic year for the Brand Greens Regional Group! Our members have continued to campaign strongly on local issues such as the planned canal development at Point Peron and the proposed Rockingham/Kwinana waste incinerator, making a significant contribution to the high profile nature of both issues in the community.

In addition to this, we played an active role in the recent local government campaign for the Rockingham Council ward of Baldivis. Together with members from across the state, we knocked on over 400 doors, made over 800 calls and held 8 community stalls (among many other activities!). Although we were ultimately unsuccessful on election night, the campaign allowed us to gather invaluable information regarding the key issues in the area, make strong links within the community and up skill many of our members.

Another sizable achievement this year has been the successful integration of a social aspect into our monthly meetings, with members meeting for drinks and dinner at a local bar before continuing on to the meeting venue (turns out that consensus decision making is a lot easier on a full stomach!). We have also made a commitment to transition much of our decision and discussion functions onto the Lommio online decision making platform and are looking forward to far less admin heavy meetings.

All in all, Brand finishes 2015 with firm foundations upon which to build our campaigns for the coming elections.



# Forrest-O'Connor Report

by Michael Baldock

With local groups created in Busselton/ Dunsborough, Margaret River and the South Coast, this has been a year of consolidation of recent changes to the setup of the Forrest O'Connor RG and another solid election results to back up the WA Senate By-election.

The 2014-15 year started with our fourth election in 18 months following the resignation of Troy Buswell from the seat of Vasse. With less than thirty days between issue of writs and election day on the 18th of October 2014 a short, intense election campaign was soon underway. Doing what the Greens do best, dedicated volunteers from across the state made their way to Busselton to put into place their grass roots campaigning skills.

Over 700 phone calls were made from our Perth-based phone banking team and our 30 doorknockers knocked on 2200 doors during the course of the campaign. Christine Milne joined the campaign trail with Scott, Rachel and Lynn all involved in campaigning events and with Robin down on election day, all our WA pollies were part of the action.

The Greens managed a record 17.96% vote for Vasse and established itself as the predominant progressive party in the electorate. Candidate Michael Baldock was well supported with Giz Watson as campaign manager, Chill Bulbeck as doorknocking coordinator, Gráinne O'Donovan in control of social media, Steve Yuen running the phone banking, Patrick Hyslop in control of booth rostering and Sarah Quinton and Chris Redmond assisting with Media plus the many door knockers, phone bankers and election day helpers.

Our local groups were all active during the year.

Our 2014 AGM and annual meeting was hosted by the South Coast Greens local group



and held at camp Quaranup, a 20km drive from Albany. Naomi Godden gave a presentation on community activism and Keith Bradbury spoke on the progress of Gondwana Link. In February a Global Divestment day information session was held in Albany and the South Coast Greens continue to meet regularly.

In November, the greater Bunbury Greens Local Group was established becoming our fourth local group with a formation committee of Rae McPherson (Convenor), Marilyn Palmer, Joan Jenkins, Karen McDavitt and Peter Eckersley.

The Margaret River Greens were active with climate action rallies and campaigning to stop logging of Mowen Forrest and clearing of bushland at Riverslea. The Group continue to be active promoting renewable energy options in the area. The Busselton Dunsborough Greens continued to meet monthly with a By-election being the focus in 2014.

For the Forrest O'Connor Regional Group, our membership increased from 170 to 193 and our online meetings have moved across to the Loomio online meeting platform. One year on, local groups have been successful in increasing the opportunity for Greens member interaction and the promise of more activity in 2015-16.

# Fremantle-Tangney Report

by Rob Delves

Fremantle-Tangney's major initiative this year has been to embrace the Rethink the Link (opposition to Roe 8) campaign. Kim Dravnieks, Matt Grimbly and Robyn Williams took the lead in organising a wide range of activities, including door-knocking, stalls and community forums, with dozens of members participating and thousands now members of this campaign.

Tenille Fricker, Heath Adams and Rob Delves were the convenors and shared meeting facilitation between themselves and other members, so that as many people as possible have gained experience in facilitation. Heath Adams introduced the process of using Loomio to seek pre-meeting consensus on Reps Proposals – this allowed wider participation and avoided lengthy meeting time devoted to matters that many members didn't understand or have much interest in. However, the RG usually did spend some meeting time discussing at least one proposal. Fremantle-Tangney also continued the 2014 initiative of a major policy or other topic of interest as the major theme of each meeting. Rethink the Link and Local Government were two important examples of this in 2015.

Ted Griffin and his membership team were kept (very pleasantly) busy with a large number of membership applications each month. They have continued to refine their welcome and approval process. Our membership continues to grow and several new members have become active participants bringing refreshing ideas. Although the membership team have succeeded in persuading more members to join Greenscheme, the number of lapsed memberships every month remains a problem.

As Permanent Rep, Gráinne O'Donovan (a relatively new member) was thrown into the turmoil of facilitating consensus on the AG Constitution changes. She did an outstanding job – along with being a prominent and enthusiastic participant in the Rethink the Link campaign. The convenors would like to thank Gráinne for her contribution.

Chris Johansen and Rob Delves continued to edit the monthly Newsletter, which is much appreciated by members. It combines (at the local level) the role of Green Announce and Green Issue. Sylvia Watson, a new member, joined the editorial team and wrote with flair about many things, especially films seen and public meetings attended



Fremantle-Tangney would like to do much more to improve its consensus-seeking processes, engage more of its members in its activities,

communicate our Greens policies more actively in the community and find ways to work more closely with its members on local councils. We are probably not the only Regional Group with a similar quartet of wishes!



# Pearce-Hasluck Report

by Sarah Nielsen-Harvey



We finished last year with a 'Do The Math' movie night, and had guest speaker Jaime Yallup Farrant join us from 350.org. Climate Change is obviously a big issue and it is so important that we do everything we can. Divestment is just one starting point and it was fantastic to see members and supporters join us in watching Bill McKibben's documentary.

This year we have seen many new and enthusiastic members join! One of our new members even jumped straight into being ECC Rep, and another ran for Local Council in Kalamunda. Despite the distance for some, we have seen many members attend new member events and this year's State Conference. It is exciting to see new members getting involved on a larger level than Regional Group meetings – and a thank you goes out to the Membership Engagement Working Group for getting New Member events up and running.

Pearce-Hasluck would also just like to acknowledge (read: take some of the credit for) the Greens WA wide usage of Loomio. Due to our geography we sometimes struggle with quorum and were the first Regional Group to use Loomio. What a revolutionary change it has made to engagement with proposals and membership in general! With Loomio, new member events, and an upcoming Federal Election – we are looking forward to growing Pearce-Hasluck and getting Senator Rachel Siewert back for another term!

# Swan Report

by Elliot Thompson

What a busy year for Swan Greens!

Swan members have been instrumental in forming a Culturally Diverse Working Group (CDWG) and the Greens Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Group. The CDWG has met a number of times and are organising some events in the near future – stay tuned to Green Announce for more information.

We have also begun to use the online consensus decision making tool, Loomio which allows a lot of discussion to occur before our meetings. Our new meeting venue at the Victoria Park Bowls club is the perfect spot for us to meet! Using Loomio and our regular venue has led to a rise in members attending the meetings, meaning quorum is achieved; often before meeting times start!

Swan has had an excellent local government candidate in Christine Cunningham, running for mayor of the City of Canning and councillor in the newly created Beeloo ward. Christine has campaigned hard and had some tough competition with 11 candidates for the top job.

Our members also contributed greatly to the Canning by-election in the way of volunteers. Great to see some cross pollination between regional groups, lending a hand when needed. Great camaraderie from all involved, personal thanks to you all.

At our AGM in September, we elected a great new team of office bearers and membership officers. Thanks to all outgoing bearers.

It would be great if any Swan members who haven't attended a meeting – or haven't attended for a while - would like to come down on the first Wednesday of the month; our next meeting is on Wednesday 4 November, 6pm at the Victoria Park Bowls Club, 18 Kent St, Victoria Park.

# Perth Report

by Tim Clifford

The Perth regional group went from strength to strength this year. Our regional group not only grew its membership, we also made a point of actively encouraging our fellow members to take on roles across the party. Perth's office bearers, members, supporters and volunteers gave freely of their time and the regional group benefitted in so many different ways.

One of the highlights of the year was the Canning by-election. The by-election was the third in two years and many members volunteered to help our fantastic candidate Vanessa Rauland. It was great to see Perth members volunteering their time in the GWA office during the campaign and on election day. Our members gained many new skills and experiences throughout the campaign, which will only add to the party's field campaigning capacity.

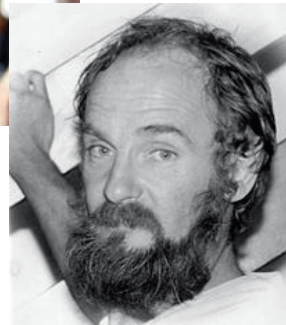
The Perth regional group is looking forward to helping Senator Rachel Siewert retain her senate spot at the 2016 federal election. We understand this will be an enormous challenge, but we are ready.

I would like to give a shout out to some people who played key roles within the Regional Group. Patrick Hyslop was our Election Campaign Committee (ECC) rep, Helen Ensikat took on the role of Secretary, Daithí Ó'Gliasáin was our membership officer, Grant Boxer played an active role organising stalls for different events and Natasha Keppert made sure we had some social events to enjoy as well. Annabel Meddings and Grahame Hansen recently took on the vital roles as the new young greens co-convenors. They all did amazing work, our thanks to them!

Perth RG extends a special thanks to the co-convenors Giz Watson and Grahame Bowland for

working tirelessly to keep the party going throughout the year. And finally to our extraordinary members, who contribute so much

of their time toward making this party the incredible grassroots movement it is today.



## Robin Chapple MLC

2015 has been a full-on year.

The Barnett government came out swinging in its approach to 'policy reform' for Aboriginal people in WA and these issues have been much of my office' primary focus. Changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act would see the government capitalise on recommendations from a 2009 Industry Working Group to 'streamline' approvals processes, effectively diminishing already weak protections for Aboriginal heritage. Meanwhile, the future of many remote Aboriginal communities is still up in the air despite the government retreating with its use of language from 'closures' to 'reform of service provision'. These issues present many challenges and a new era in the way that we treat Aboriginal Australians that has many, including myself, worried that we might in fact be going backwards. Working closely with my federal colleagues in the Senate has seen collaboration on both fronts as we work towards the launch of our 'Home is Heritage' campaign early next year.



Energy is another big issue area for my office and we have been chipping away at a campaign to expose the government's outrageous devotion to the fossil fuel industry, particularly with regards to the ancient and utterly unnecessary Muja coal-fired power stations and deluded attempts to kick-start the fracking industry despite the very real lessons that can be learned from the East Coast and American experience.



During private member's business this year I have moved that the Legislative Council address the 23 recommendations outlined in an Amnesty International report on Indigenous Children, reconsider proper reparation of stolen wages to Aboriginal people despite political desire from both major parties to consign it to history, and a bill to amend the Mining Act 1978 and address community concerns about its capacity to override local or regional planning schemes.

Whilst these issues have been the biggest focus this year I remain dedicated to representing my constituents throughout the vast region that is my electorate. This year has seen a Greens forum in Broome, an opportunity to speak at the Yule River Bush Meeting, attendance at the Walkatjurra Walkabout against uranium and an upcoming trip to the Goldfields to visit remote Aboriginal communities and others in the Western Desert who could be potentially affected by proposed uranium mining, amongst many other issues.

## Lynn MacLaren MLC

We ended 2014 on a high, judged by the ABC as most effective political party in the state for our work campaigning against Premier Barnett's plan to kill sharks off popular beaches. Towards year's end constitutional law expert Prof. George Williams joined me at a Murdoch Law School forum to argue the case for WA same-sex marriage. It was hard-earned recognition for my

private members bill and followed strong support from a range of cycling groups for our WA version of Metre Matters laws, the Safe Distances for Cyclists Bill.

In the tradition of Greens leading the way, I initiated the first multi-party 'Pride at Parliament' event.

Early in 2015 I challenged proposed laws for the 'intention' to prevent lawful activity. Working with a formidable alliance of human rights lawyers and civil society groups, I've marshalled debate within and outside Parliament, speaking at rallies and workshops, including hosting a well-received Democracy and Your Rights to Speak Out forum.

We've launched investigations into the approval to disturb archaeological Aboriginal heritage sites at Bibra Lake (Roe 8 project area) and the missing business case for the Perth Freight Link project.

In continuing to campaign for stronger protection of threatened species and their habitats, we helped to trigger an environmental assessment of a Wheatbelt landfill proposal threatening numbats.

Along with responding to 27 bills, and a dozen motions, I called for a strategic approach to the impacts of climate change on human health. Among hundreds of questions we exposed Forest



Products Commission losses and humiliating cuts to the Department of Parks and Wildlife. I outlined more cuts and unjustifiable spending in my budget reply speech.

All of this could not be achieved without the creative talent and discerning research of staffers Eloise Dortch, Caroline Perks and Wanjiku Gichuki and former staffers Shane Guthrie and Nadine Walker.

# Senator Rachel Siewert

2015 has been a whirlwind year punctuated by highs and lows on a journey to making a caring and sustainable Australia we can all be proud of.

Once again the Government was intent on saving measures that hurt the most vulnerable the hardest. Despite a change in leadership, the Government is still set on keeping people under 25 off income support for five weeks at a time. The healthy welfare card is going full steam ahead, despite the evidence that shows income management doesn't work and the Halls Creek Aboriginal advisory committee rejecting the measure. This shows that the



Government's punitive, top down approach isn't what communities need or want and the Australian Greens will continue to oppose it. We will focus on measures that invest in people and focus on ensuring their wellbeing and better life outcomes.

I have been working hard on a number of committee inquiries such as the social services grants inquiry and out of home care inquiry – both of which have highlighted a number of significant issues and highlight once again the value of inquiries and the various important ways we can engage with the Parliament.

Constitutional Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has gained momentum thanks to campaigners, stakeholders, politicians, leaders and the community. It is up to the new Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, to not let the country down when it comes to achieving changes to the Constitution with proper Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation (there were huge instances of poor consultation under the Abbott Government). Any changes must be substantive and supported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is disappointing that despite a new, supposedly more progressive leader, it seems Tony Abbott's unfair policies remain. We must not let meaningful Constitutional Recognition fall off the agenda.

I will be closely following this issue (amongst others) leading into 2016.

My staff, interns, volunteers and I are revving up to the next election in 2016 and pushing out on the issues we all care about more than ever.



# Reflections of a Candidate

by Vanessa Rauland

Running as a Candidate in last months Canning by-election was an incredible experience: an incredibly terrifying but incredibly wonderful and eye-opening experience!

The idea of being a candidate was a not something I had previously contemplated. I am a university lecturer/academic and entrepreneur by background. Politics seemed so far out of my realm of knowledge and expertise and hence why I, and probably most other candidates, found it so daunting! But the experience is something I definitely won't forget and has opened up a world of new opportunities!



I was extremely fortunate to have a lot of amazing people around me who provided an enormous amount of support and encouragement during the whirlwind campaign. I was awestruck at the amount of interest and support from people all over the country! And particularly, by the amount of volunteers willing to help out. Incredible!

Being such a quick campaign, there wasn't much time to prepare or organise myself, which was quite a challenge. The first week was naturally the hardest as we had to quickly identify the the issues I was going to be campaigning on. Solar and renewables seemed an obvious one with my background and the enormous solar uptake by householders in the electorate. However, in retrospect, we found it hard to break through to the people (in this very liberal seat!) on this topic.

Overall, it was an unbelievable experience. I felt completely out of my depth (which is a great thing!) and grew and learnt so much from it. I think the most empowering aspect was having the opportunity to stand up publicly for things I am

passionate about. I am extremely grateful for having been given the opportunity to run as a candidate for The Greens. I would highly encourage other people who may be contemplating it, to take the plunge and run as a candidate!

## Young Greens

by Sarah Nielsen-Harvey

This last year has been truly wonderful in the WA Young Greens. We have had Young

Greens at what I would consider to be at least 90% of rallies and other actions – especially in areas such as Refugees and Higher Education. We have also really concentrated on monthly casual drinks events, where our friendships are not only being formed but cemented. These

casual evenings are engaging, fun and a great opportunity to meet Young Greens (especially; and not to exclude what Robin Chapple likes to call the “geriatric Greens”). By opening it up to non-members, it allows young people to make those formative connections to members and to see how awesome we all are.

This was Jordon's and my last year as Co-Convenors, and it has been an absolute blast! We would like to thank everyone who has helped us along the way, and we are so proud to hand over to two amazing new members! So without further ado we would like to introduce Annabel Meddings and Graham Hansen as the new Co-Co's. Annabel joined in May this year and jumped straight into the Young Greens, represented WA at the Australian Young Greens National Conference in September and is interning at Senator Rachel Siewert's office. Graham also joined this year, because he knew that our vision is the only one which is caring and creative, and works at WACOSS. Their first non-Regional Group event was the Celebration of Senator Rachel Siewert's 10 years in the Senate – we got them hook, line and sinker, and with Rachel's incredible work why wouldn't we be!

# Election Campaign Committee by Tim Clifford & Membership Engagement Working Group by Katrina House

Election campaigns are a unique experience where the Greens come together to offer the public a positive alternative vision of Australia. It takes a huge amount of resources and expertise drawn from the party's membership to run a successful campaign. We are fortunate to have a passionate membership and supporter base who contribute so much to make every Green campaign a successful one.

Another year, another by-election....

The Reps Committee of Greens (WA) authorises the formation of Election Campaign Committees (ECC) to organise the running of elections. Election Campaign Committees are made up of representatives from each Regional Group, some of the candidates and election staff plus an enormous amount of expertise from our members, supporters and the general public.

Throughout the year the ECC oversaw all aspects of campaigning within the Greens (WA). From planning for the upcoming federal/state elections, assisting some candidates in the Local Government elections and working with the Canning regional group in organising the Canning by-election, ECC was there to offer its support.

It's hard to believe the Canning by-election was the third by-election for the Greens (WA) in two years. The by-election was a huge logistical challenge for the party, ECC worked with the Canning regional group to make it a rewarding experience. Many thanks to our fantastic candidate, Vanessa Rauland.

Though the by-election came as a surprise, ECC successfully coordinated with the Canning regional group. ECC oversaw all aspects of the campaign, including budgeting, messaging, media, legal responsibilities with the Australian Election Commission, public outreach, including door knocking and phone banking, supporting our candidate, training volunteers, fundraising and more.

We would like to personally thank all current and former members of ECC. As volunteers they gave up their time and shared with us their expertise and skills. Also, a big thank you to our Canning candidate Vanessa Rauland who made the enormous commitment to represent our party. We could have not done it without you.

We are looking forward to the challenge of the upcoming federal and state elections.



2015 saw the formation of a new working group with the specific aim of running events for newly joined members. The Member Engagement Working Group mandate was proposed by Grahame Bowland and approved in early 2015 and I was nominated to be Convenor.

MEWG has run two events in 2015; the first at Spacecubed in April and the second at the Shenton Park Community Centre in August. Both were attended by 30-40 new members and all four GWA politicians - the closer of each event being a frank and sometimes revealing Pollie Q&A.

Working Group Speed Dating is my personal highlight. The room buzzed as ten WG convenors spruiked their particular GWA passions to new members and fielded multiple questions before it was time to move on. Despite being noisy and chaotic, we received a lot of excellent feedback from both existing and new members alike, and many new sign ups to the WG's, getting people volunteering and INVOLVED!

An open session at the State Conference provided many new ideas - and MEWG members too - so we plan to put these into place for at least three new member events in 2016.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the MEWG members for their ideas, enthusiasm and excellent organisational skills. Special thanks to Natasha Annan, Grahame Bowland, David Letham and Rhianna Pezzaniti for their personal support and encouragement.



# Donor Relations

## by Kim Dravnieks

The Donor Relations Working Group has been so fortunate to have Chilla Bulbeck as the driving force behind much of the work done in the last year as well as Trish Cowcher. My sincere thanks and gratitude to both and all the team. The DRWG welcomed new members and supporters Sebastian Tudor and Peta Kalaitzis, and Ni Hamilton joined us briefly. We held several events, thanking our major donors and encouraging new ones to join.

In September and October 2014 Chilla Bulbeck and Caitriona Scully organised a

Greenscheme sign-up drive involving 15 volunteer phone callers. This increased our Greenscheme income by over 10% with 60 additional members and supporters joining our regular giving program.

I produced a brochure on all the ways to support the Greens (WA) including remembering us in your will, acknowledging the Greens' centrality to the future of your new-born baby with a birth gift, and just straight out giving because saving the planet is important every day!

Our major initiative this financial year was establishing the Future Fund under Treasurer Mark Siford's steady hand. The Greens WA Future Fund was launched in November 2014 at the celebration of Jo Vallentine's 30th anniversary since commencing her parliamentary career. The fund now stands at \$135,000 so our dream of one day owning our own premises is not unrealistic!

Looking forward, the Directors are keen to access sustainable investments in the new green economy whilst minimizing risk and generating a sufficient return to advance GWA. Longer term we are enthused by the prospect of owning a headquarters or building, which would significantly enhance the organisation's ability to promote the Greens' positive vision for our state and nation.



We take this opportunity to thank all of our generous founding donors and supporters, and look forward to updating you on GWA Future Fund's progress.

You can donate to The Greens (WA) Future Fund still or the 2015 federal election fund right now. Go to [wa.greens.org.au](http://wa.greens.org.au) and click on [donate](#).

# Information & Communications Tech

## by Pete Congdon

2015 has been used by ICT WG (and the national ICT groups) to take a breather and work on the systems in a more civilised fashion, notwithstanding support for the Canning By-Election and Local Government campaigns. Some of the big breakthroughs for the year, in no particular order, included:

- \* significant increase in ICT cooperation, including a national Geeks & Campaigners meet up
- \* appointment of a national System Liaison Coordinator (SLC) to bridge the gaps between the campaigners and "techies"
- \* rebuild of main WA website
- \* the upgrade to Civi 4.6 - with automated A/B testing of outbound emails
- \* the release of ROCKET for campaign organising
- \* improvements to gVIRS - especially the integration of an autodialler
- \* the redesign of the website themes, including a prototype redesign of WA2.0
- \* set up of a Greens Wordpress account for themed microsites
- \* the use of Docker to increase developer efficiency.

The ramp up for the upcoming campaigns is going to involve a significant push to improve the functionality available in our core systems, while making them easy to use and beautiful.

ICT WG is always on the lookout for new members, especially less technically-minded people who would be interested in working on training and testing.

# Green Issue

by Chris Johansen

Green Issue is the official newsletter of The Greens (WA) and is published every two months. It aims to provide articles representing the range of our members' views, including reports from our parliamentarians, reports on previous notable events for GWA and alerts to upcoming events. Contributing editors over the previous year have been Chilla Bulbeck, Rob Delves, Chris Johansen and Julie Scanlon, more recently joined by David Buswell, Sanna Peden and Sarah George. Design and layout is accomplished by Craig Chappelle.

We try to assign a theme to each issue and invite contributions around that theme. This year, we have covered the themes of "affordable housing", "intergenerational equity", "climate change" and "Australia in the world". We explored early Greens (WA) history by relating the exploits of Jo Vallentine. Notable events covered included the by-elections of Vasse in September 2014 and of Canning a year later. The October 2015 issue was largely devoted to the notable event of the 2015 State Conference.

Into the future, we look forward to contributions to Green Issue particularly on the upcoming Paris Climate Conference and the 2016 federal election. We still feel, however, that we are lacking adequate state-wide coverage in matters such as agriculture, mining, indigenous affairs, remote communities, forests etc. We solicit contributions accordingly. We also realise the need to upgrade the presentation of our newsletter for online distribution and we are considering possibilities for that.

We would also like more feedback from readers. Some articles raise issues that would be controversial even among Greens members, for which it would be instructive to have an ongoing conversation. We thus

encourage "letters to the editor" and rejoinder or follow-up articles on particular topics.



## National Working Group

by Adam Duncan

NWG has worked extremely hard this year to face the challenges presented by the increased cycle of National Council meetings. NWG has also had the increased responsibility of recommending positions directly to the Quick Decision Making Group as the cycles of regional group meetings and national council meetings has yet to be aligned. Members of NWG are to be commended for their diligence and hard work.

WA has continued to contribute strongly at the federal level, not just through working groups and our members being office bearers, but also through our tradition of engendering consensus during occasional difficult discussions.

We have had several new members of NWG take on national roles this year as well as the new roles of State Member and deputy join the group. The State member has assumed the responsibilities for National Council of both the National delegate and the NECC representative and reports of activity may be found in the minutes of the WA Representative's Council and National Council.

I would like to thank all members of NWG for their commitment this year and also to invite any member interested to join the group to do so.