



GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREENS (WA)

Vol 22 No 4 - August 2013

This is a make-or-break election

Just two hours of your time every week until the federal election on September 7 may save Australia from political devastation.

The Greens face an uphill battle in this election. We might be the only party with real and independently costed policies; we might be the only party that cares for vulnerable Australians and asylum seekers; we might be the only party standing up to preserve our precious places ... but this is exactly why the forces of the media and mining magnates are out to stop us.

If Scott Ludlam loses his Senate seat, it is very likely that Tony Abbott will control the whole Parliament (getting more likely every day since the return of PM Rudd). Abbott has promised to introduce legislation to destroy our environment, and impoverish our public education and health sectors. He refuses to fund metropolitan public transport, and will reverse our work towards a clean energy economy.

Scott's seat is much more vulnerable than many of us think (see the article on page 13). And we can't bank on preferences from Labor, because they are moving towards the Liberals.

The only thing we have on our side besides the best policies and the future, is person-power. Just two hours of your time once a week can be turned to good use. You don't have to organise, plan or think about the election outside that time. Email Katrina Bercov at outreachcoordinator@wa.greens.org.au, or ring 9221 8333 or 0425 327 454,



Candidate training weekend 13-15 July: Scott Ludlam with his team of candidates, campaign managers and workers. Jane Hammond

'We covered a huge amount. For me the strongest part of the weekend was the team building throughout and around the formal workshops. Thanks to Katrina [Bercov, Outreach Co-ordinator] and her team, and to all the presenters, candidates, campaigners and staff who made the event so rich.' – Scott Ludlam, sartorial senatorial candidate

'For me it was one of the most inspiring Greens events I have been to for a long time. Thanks to the candidates for your willingness to stand, and the campaign team for your support of our candidates and our plans to change the world, one election at a time.' – Trish Cowcher, Federal Election Campaign Committee Convenor

saying which two hours you can give (eg, weekends, afternoons, evenings) and we will find something for you to do, alongside the wonderful squad of volunteers and paid staff who are already giving 80-hour weeks, 15-hour weekends, long evenings after work and childcare.

If every Green pledged two hours we would be an army, with more than 2000 hours every week devoted to the campaign. Now that *would* make a difference! ▲

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW

The Greens (WA) 2013 AGM

1pm Saturday 26 October

The Palms Community
Centre

cnr Nicholson & Rokeby rds,
Subiaco

Details on page 7

Valé Mike Beilby

Alison Xamon remembers.

See page 14



VOTE Greens 1 on September 7

On the campaign trail

Green Issue co-editor **Chilla Bulbeck** stepped out in her childhood fantasy job of 'investigative reporter' and sallied forth to 8 Cantonment Street, Fremantle. Her mission: a peek inside Scott's campaign bunker.

We all know what a genuinely engaging, productive and brilliant Senator Scott is, and we've seen the great work coming out of Scott's office. But have you ever wondered where it comes from, and who's there making the wheels turn?

The premises are a converted gasworks heritage building, consisting of five office spaces: a reception area where a volunteer works, next to a meeting area, with four large tables and which doubles as printing room, design space, dining room and sometimes storage depot.

Up the hallway, first on the left is the shared office of Chantal (Chan) Caruso, policy adviser and Giovanni Torre, media officer. First on the right is Scott's office, with its own graphics suite tucked in the corner next to the guest chairs, where Scott can sometimes be found working late into the night on his presentations or a second volunteer

Inside the campaign to re-elect Senator Scott Ludlam



Trish Cowcher preparing for Scott's trip to Albany, Denmark, Bridgetown and Donnelly River, before returning to Perth for a forum at Curtin University and an appearance on the 'The grass is always greener' comedy night.
Chilla Bulbeck

works on some days. Further up the hall is Rachel (Ray) Pemberton, campaign officer on the right and Trish Cowcher, office manager, in a space she shares with Felicity (Flick) Ruby, policy adviser, to the left. Another team member, Eloise Dortch, the second media officer, was not in when I visited.

At the back of the building is what Chantal calls the 'hall of shame/hall of glory' – aka the toilet, where loathsome lies and humorous ideas are pasted up. A recent example is Tony Abbott's claim that roads are 'good for the environment and good for mental health' and will cut pollution because traffic will move faster!

Felicity was my first port of call, and she explained how the team works. Felicity is usually in Canberra ensuring the team maximises the Greens profile by pulling various levers in committees and the Senate, such as reviewing draft legislation, calling for submissions, and preparing questions with and without notice.

Felicity suggested that we should think of Scott as the lead singer, supported

by his band of instrumentalists whose job is to produce the sweetest song. There is considerable fluidity in the roles, with people pitching in to support each other as necessary. Trish Cowcher, as office manager, could perhaps be called the conductor, and describes her role as "being on the lookout for campaign activities and events to get Scott out there, looking for opportunities, working with local groups and stakeholders that we have worked with in the past, trying to get Scott on a platform somewhere." Trish also manages the diary and logistics in Scott's day and week.

The 'teamsters' meet every day at 9 o'clock "to whiteboard (there's a new verb) the day." Unless Trish has sent them home, some of the staff will still be in the office at 9pm. Scott guiltily tells me that he has received emails from Chantal after 1am. A weekly meeting between the three campaign bunkers – Rachel Siewert's, Scott's and the Hay Street team – has also been instituted, bringing together the overall team of around 15 paid staff. >>

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Next deadline: Fri Oct 4

On the campaign trail

◀◀ This means, for example, ensuring that whenever Scott leaves the office – whether to address an open air meeting of anti-fracking protesters in Fremantle or to fly to Broome – he has everything he needs by way of publicity materials and other props, information about the people he is meeting, and travel and accommodation booked. Trish sometimes goes along as an 'extra pair of hands' – taking photos, talking and liaising with event organisers, Greens members and others who come along, and also making sure Scott leaves one engagement in time to get to the next one.

Challenges

Giovanni describes his greatest challenge as achieving 'cut through' beyond the mainstream media which so consistently misrepresents us. "You've just got to have the heart on our side and the boots on the ground getting out there leafleting and talking to people," he says. Social media is another path to cut through, a tool that "Scott uses quite well – his greatest strength in social media is his genuineness in what he's saying." But Scott is also now recognised as a 'good talent' by editors, producers and chiefs of staff in both the public and corporate media.

The media officers are, as Giovanni puts it, responsible for distilling complicated and complex solutions to difficult problems into short, appealing messages. As he says, "we don't have a ten million dollar war chest like the Liberal Party. But we do have the best policies and the best people." Giovanni focuses on telling the media "This is why the public needs to know, this is why it's important, this is why it's a good story." Unlike the old parties, "We are meticulous: if you can fudge to make something more sensational, you don't do it. You keep it accurate to the letter. You get it right."

Giovanni also describes the policy advisers working for Greens parliamentarians as 'public intellectuals'. Even though Chantal and Felicity do not have a public profile, they have

shaped public debate concerning 'Nukes, Spooks and Parliament', as Flick describes her portfolios: housing, sustainable cities, infrastructure and heritage (Chan's).

Rachel Pemberton, working with the team, is responsible for devising the campaign that will engage the community. In 2007 Rachel, Scott and the team developed a plan and a campaign for light rail. The campaign included community consultations, media work, questions in estimates and in Parliament. Eventually, as Chantal says, "it became so popular and attractive that the State government had to announce it, and the federal government is putting the money towards it." Chantal recalls an example of this with relish. "It was extremely exciting in the budget lockup. I thought that I was actually hallucinating because usually it's 'Oh my god, what have they cut? Oh my god, X has been cut again, what are they doing to Y?' But then we had this figure of \$500 million over ten years for Perth public transport – that would fund light rail to a quarter of Perth's suburbs and a spur to the airport."

Due to the Greens we now have a Parliamentary Budget Office and every initiative is independently costed. Greens policy advisers across the nation are shifting from the 'what' of policy definition to the 'how' they can be implemented. Flick describes this as "giving life to the policies."

Each policy adviser is responsible for working up between ten and 20 initiatives in their portfolio areas. To see the policy initiatives already released go to http://greens.org.au/initiatives?field_policy_category_tid=All

Providing substance

As Giovanni puts it, Chantal is "cranking out all the substance on the housing policy, which is huge." He explains that Australia has 105,000 homeless people. Because of the lack of affordable housing, job seekers are forced to the edges of suburbia where public transport is skeletal and jobs are few. Educational and training opportunities are also limited. This



Giovanni Torre and Chantal Caruso kid around for the camera. Chilla Bulbeck

constellation of factors locks in disadvantage and entrenches poverty. The initiative describes how "we can make a change to that and what the lack of funding through government has been and then how we would fix that."

Chantal says, "As a policy adviser it's a challenge but it's fun, because we get the ideas and offer the solutions and then we get to see the whole team swinging into action to make the idea land. The idea would never work if it's just on paper – you could be the best policy officer in the world, but to get a change you need to get people really engaged with it, inspired by it."

Chantal concludes her discussion with me. "The beautiful Ruth, who volunteers here, says 'We are the best kept secret. We are everywhere'. When times are rough, and it's all so dark, and you think we're not in the media and we're not getting the message through, and all this stuff's going backwards, well actually we *are* still everywhere and we will have our day."

We don't want to be a secret any longer! And we want our day now!

(Note: *Trish Cowcher's work as Convenor of the Federal Election Campaign Committee is voluntary and distinct from her paid work for Scott. As she ostensibly works only four days a week for Scott, Trish has "lots of time" for FECC – her words!*) ▲

On the campaign trail

Green Issue co-editors **Chris Johansen** and **Chilla Bulbeck** report on a handful of the (almost innumerable) events at which Scott has spoken over the past two months.

Turning Point 2013, Rigby's Atrium, Perth, 12 June

This was a gathering of the WA Greens featuring Bob Brown, over here to support the re-election of Scott. The event was jovially compered by Rachel Siewert in front of a crowd of 360 Greens supporters. Bob emphasised that for the Greens to retain that balance of power in the Senate, and prevent the conservative side of politics gaining control, it is necessary that both Scott, and Sarah Hanson-Young in South Australia be returned. Bob's rallying cry was followed by a rousing oration from Scott (you can watch the video at <http://scott-ludlam.greensmps.org.au/turningpoint>).

Scott set the scene by describing his early exploits as a “graphic designer ratbag” powered by uranium (actually, the abhorrence of it). He then got into the issue of “petrol sniffing” which taught him how to convince conservative forces to deal with pressing problems even when the Greens do not hold the balance of power in the Senate. He warned that losing that balance of power would see an unravelling of many Greens’ achievements over the past three years. Of particular note was progress towards clean energy, about which Scott asserted that “the ship was beginning to turn from its trajectory towards an iceberg” (notwithstanding the fact that icebergs tend to melt more quickly these days!). Nevertheless Scott revealed his particular passion for stepping up action on climate change by rapidly switching to renewable energy, as evidenced by Energy 2029. He exhorted the audience to devote “unreasonable amounts of time” and spend “surprisingly generous amounts of money” to ensure his re-election and thus retain the Greens’ balance of power

Scott Ludlam: here, there and everywhere



GetUp hosted ‘some of the biggest names in smaller parties’ on 14 June, in the State Library auditorium. Scott shared the stage with (l-r) Sam Wainwright (Socialist Alliance), Brendan Molloy (Pirate Party), Greg Barns (Wikileaks Party) and Fiona Patten (Sex Party). When Scott said, “Wouldn’t Parliament be amazing if we had debates there of the sort we are having tonight?” the audience clapped like mad.

Chilla Bulbeck

in the Senate. He requested supporters to “go local, go personal, go large, and go with determination.” *Chris Johansen*

Screening of 'No Fire Zone', 30 June

Scott applauded the power of director Callum Macrae's eye-opening film which relentlessly exposes the targeted attacks on Tamil civilians after being enticed into so-called 'No Fire Zones'. Hospitals were shelled and doctors who spoke out were imprisoned for months until they recanted. Following this massacre, and despite its avowed Buddhism, the government is becoming more dictatorial, terminating the independent judiciary and terrorising the Muslim minority. The film is of relevance to our treatment of asylum seekers. Tamil refugees being sent back to Sri Lanka because Foreign Affairs Minister Bob Carr claims that there is no evidence that since 2010 returnees are “being discriminated against or arrested, let alone tortured.” *Chilla Bulbeck*

Make Poverty History, Church of Christ, Subiaco, 2 July organised by Oxfam and Micah Challenge

On the stage were Dr Helen Szoke, CEO of Oxfam, Louise Pratt, the newly

appointed minister for International Development, Julie Bishop, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, and our own Scott Ludlam, the only politician speaking outside his portfolio. The audience of around 350 people ranged from enthusiastic shining-faced youth to ageing Fabian socialists, from a range of ethnicities, from both sexes – and more women than men.

At the conclusion of the Q&A, Lesley Letham turned to me and said, “I think we know who won that.” Next day, Laura Dales emailed me that Scott was “such a well-spoken, intelligent and compassionate bloke.” Lesley and Laura are Greens members, but I – also a Greens member – concur. Poor Louise Pratt had to shilly-shally around the failure of the Labor government to spend overseas aid on aid to people living overseas – eg, by spending \$375m on processing and supporting asylum seekers in Australia – and the government yet again delaying its commitment to put .05% of gross national income into the aid budget, at a time when the UK has hit the UN's desired .07% even while in recession. Julie Bishop, in the punitive and negative discourse we have come to expect from the Coalition, suggested that trade not aid was the answer. Her other preferred solutions were 'sustainable economic



On the campaign trail

« development', such as microfinance for women's businesses, and increasing the defence budget. She pointed out that countries to which we give aid have fighter planes and suchlike. So?

Scott proposed that Australia was wasting millions on fuel subsidies for polluters, inappropriate military hardware, and running very expensive detention centres, when we could assist Indonesia in processing asylum seekers in the UN camps in that country. The number of people on the move when climate change creates water stress, failed states and so on will dwarf anything we are seeing today. Yet neither old party is committing itself to a preventive campaign.

(Note: Scott reported that when the 100 young people from the Micah Challenge crew (members of a global campaign of Christians speaking out against poverty and injustice) came to Parliament it was "a breath of fresh air." And so was Scott, according to the audience!) Chilla Bulbeck

WA 2.0 Launch, Perth Town Hall, 11 July

MC Tony Serve, broadcaster and journalist formerly with 6PR, hosted the event in which Scott Ludlam invited us to reboot, reset, rethink: the future we want to have, and can have.

The invited audience included partners who had worked with Scott and his team on aspects of Scott's 2029 Vision: from the renewable energy sector, the Property Council of Australia (Transforming Perth), Sustainable Energy Association, Sustainable Energy Now (Energy 2029), the conservation sector, the cycling fraternity (contributing to the Greens' Bike Vision) and so on. Scott teased us with some awful statistics and beautiful ideas.

Some awful statistics:

- 1.2 million people die early in China every year due to coal dust
- We have priced a whole generation out of housing, both to purchase and increasingly to rent



Photo: 'MakePovertyHistory': Flanked by Louise Pratt (l) and Julie Bishop, Scott wins the audience's favour. Chilla Bulbeck

- Exponential economic growth is unsustainable. For example we have been doubling iron ore production every 25 years. Scott believes that the next doubling won't happen, either for worse – we become the first "species that puts itself into the fossil record by its own hand" – or for better.

Some beautiful ideas:

- Medium density affordable housing (5-8 storeys) on disused land along transport corridors reduces traffic congestion, saves our heritage buildings, suburban bushland and agricultural land from inappropriate property developments, while producing vibrant community hubs which increase our quality of daily life. The housing can be constructed with prefabricated modular materials derived from sustainable forest industry products.
- The clean energy economy makes us healthier due to less pollution. It means sustainable skilled manufacturing jobs developing and installing our renewable energy technology. This requires strong secondary and tertiary education sectors to train workers for this high technology economy.

TINA (There Is No Alternative) should be the manifesto of the Greens. Or, rather, the alternative offered by the old parties is our extinction. We must speak past the oppositional media to communicate The Greens' positive and pragmatic vision. Chilla Bulbeck

'Better things to do: A forum on renewable energy', Victoria Hall, Fremantle, 17 July

This breakfast forum was planned as an alternative event to the concurrent annual meeting of the nuclear industry (in the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle). In previous years the anti-nuclear gang had staged demos outside the hotel but this year, for a more positive alternative, renewable energy alternatives to nuclear energy were showcased. Speakers highlighted renewable energy developments around Fremantle, such as innovations in 'carbon neutral' Fremantle, Carnegie Wave Energy, and the wind farm planned for Rous Head.

Scott was the final speaker. He seems to be a "morning person" as his oratory was really running hot. He presented evidence of the nuclear industry being well and truly on the back foot and showing all the signs of being a sunset industry: readily apparent from their own publication, *World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2013*. But he urged continued vigilance and further work to keep the industry on its decay curve, if not to shorten its half-life. He then briefly outlined Energy 2029, the plan to convert WA completely to renewable energy by 2029, a plan formulated by Sustainable Energy Now and commissioned by the Greens (WA). Scott highlighted that the cost of this conversion was little different from proceeding with business-as-usual reliance on fossil fuels, even when the negative environmental effects of >>

On the campaign trail

◀◀ the latter are ignored. The forum ended with a brief Q&A, and the participants happily wended their way – presumably happier than the participants of the concurrent nuclear industry annual conference.

Chris Johansen

Transforming Perth, Curtin University, 26 July

Scott was invited to present a seminar to ‘Curtin Corner’ on the joint report of the WA Greens, Property Council and Australian Urban Design Research Centre: *Transforming Perth - Regenerating Transport Corridors as a Network of High Street Precincts*. Rather than going into the nuts and bolts of how this may be done – it is all in the report – Scott concentrated on an overview of why something like this is necessary.

Scott illustrated the point that the planet's, and Perth's, resources are finite. This should be intuitively obvious to all, but most economies proceed as if resources are infinite. He asserted that Perth is well into ‘the age of limits’ (eg, fresh water) and that the historical paradigm of a ‘once-through economy’ needs to urgently transform to a ‘closed-loop economy’. He pointed out that the never-ending expansion of ‘4x2-type suburbia’ up and down the coastal plain is exacerbating problems already apparent – housing costs, environmental damage, income disparity, social discord, commuting time, fuel costs etc. Thus the need for increasing urban density along ‘activity corridors’ serviced by efficient public transport.

Scott's favourite slide showed greater building density along the routes of Perth's original tram tracks, a footprint from the car-sparse past. This provided the clue concerning how to increase population along major corridors in an environmentally, socially, economically and aesthetically favourable manner. The audience, of particularly high population density for such Curtin Corners, warmly applauded the presentation. It appears that not only



L-r, Scott, Werzel, and 'Kevin Rudd' tickled the audience's funnybone.

Felicity Ruby

can Scott's morning presentations run hot but he can maintain that heat into the evening. Chris Johansen

'The laughs are always greener', NIB Stadium, 26 July

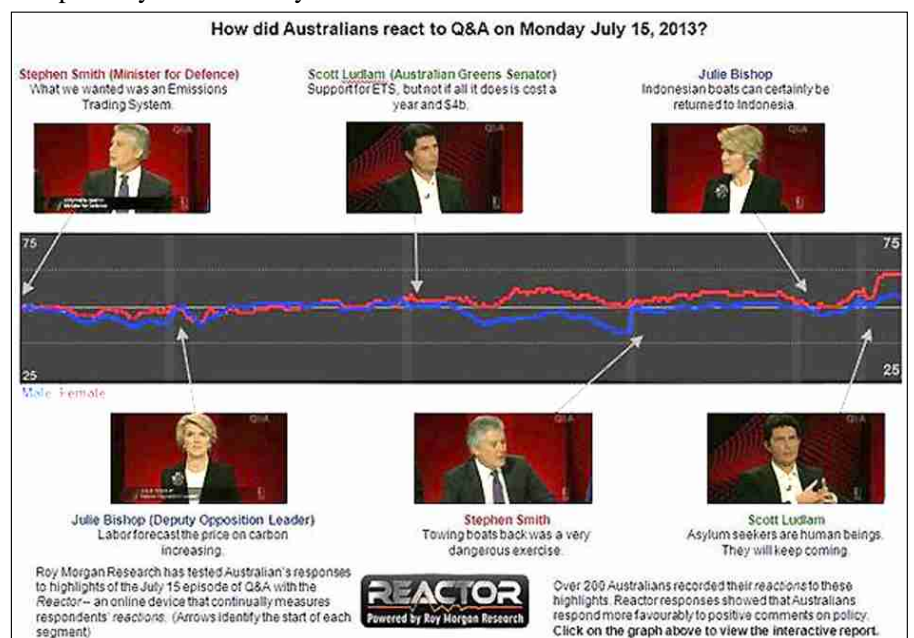
Scott braved the stage with comedians Werzel (MC) and 'Kevin Rudd', brilliantly impersonated by Alex Manfrin. The show opened with Sami Shah, Pakistan's first standup comedian, and concluded with Claire Hooper. But the biased crowd of 400 loved Scott best, even when it was revealed that Scott Ludlam is a New Zealander (gasp!) and possibly came here by boat.

Congratulations to Katrina Bercov, Outreach Coordinator, for a brilliant effort as usual, adding around \$14,500 to our campaign coffers.

And the highlight perhaps of the past two months –

“Q&A”, UWA, 15 July

The audience was 687,000 on ABC1 and 86,000 on News 24. Related to this event, 3000 people were reached by social media, with very positive Twitter reactions. The diagram shows the positive audience response when Scott made the point, in relation to asylum seekers, that “we are talking about humans, here.” ▲



Harrison Engstrom downloaded this graphic to show positive reactions to Scott on Q&A.

On the campaign trail



Top: Harrison Engstrom. Private collection
Above: Harrison's idea of digital campaigning.

Digital campaigning and the story of The Greens

Harrison Engstrom, the first ever digital campaigner appointed by The Greens (WA), describes his vision: what he wants you to do so that Greens Go Viral!

Digital campaigning is incredibly important in this election. It's our first election in which social media will play a vital role in how information is spread and how quickly it can move. We will be using Facebook and Twitter throughout this election campaign to pick up the slack where traditional media has failed us. We will band together by sharing, writing about and getting others to know about the Greens.

I was originally asked to write about the success of our digital campaign, but it won't be a success until we've won. It's a daily battle in which we fight against everything: YouTube videos of cats or old women yelling over fences; pictures of dogs with their head at a cute 45-degree angle; Hashmobs from

Bieber fans; people complaining about the colour of the royal baby in comments sections; and so on. We live in a fractured media landscape: one in which we continue to look for things to amuse us online. The one thing that breaks through is a story we can share.

The story of the Greens in Western Australia is one we will tell on a daily basis online. It's in our Facebook posts, it's in our tweets and in the articles we read. Positive or negative, we will find a way to show how the Greens are standing up for what matters.

So, how do we show others our passion? By adding to that story and arming yourself with facts. We share in that story to say we stand with Scott Ludlam and the Greens on the issues that matter. Whether you post a photo of you on Facebook holding a sign that says "I support Scott Ludlam" or make a short video for utube explaining why you vote Green or simply email a few friends about what Scott's been doing, it all adds to the story we tell and share. Tweet, talk, snap and share your story which is part of our Greens story. ▲

The Greens (WA) 2013 AGM

1pm Saturday 26 October, at The Palms Community Centre, cnr Nicholson & Rokeby rds, Subiaco

Readily accessible by public transport to West Leederville or Leederville train stations

PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING YOURSELF OR A FRIEND (or an enemy – only kidding) TO BE AN OFFICEBEARER. THIS IS A REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR RELATIVELY NEW GREENS MEMBERS TO SEE OUR PARTY FROM THE INSIDE AND HELP SHAPE ITS DIRECTION.

We would love a hotly contested election for every position.

Nominations are invited for officebearers and the WA national delegate to the Australian Greens. Positions vacant: Co-convenors (2), Secretary, Treasurer, National Delegate. Nominations must be in writing (by email or post) and received by The Greens (WA) office **by COB Monday 21 October 2013**. Email office@wa.greens.org.au • PO Box 3022 Perth 6832

Nominations are open for up to four (4) members of the Administration Working Group (AWG). Regional Group Permanent and alternating Representatives past and present are particularly asked to apply and to encourage new members in their Regional Group to nominate. Nominations by email to office@wa.greens.org.au **by Monday 21 October 2013**.

Nominations are open for three members of the Quick Decision Making Group (QDMG). Regional groups are invited to nominate members to office@wa.greens.org.au **by Monday 21 October**.

Members will be approved by the Reps Council on 14 September 2013.

All Working Groups are requested to confirm their mandate and their appointed Coordinator as per s37 of the constitution. This should be done at the Reps Council on 14 September. Confirmations can be sent to secretary@wa.greens.org.au or office@wa.greens.org.au

Be part of the change you want to see.

On the campaign trail

We have a candidate in every electorate, showing how mainstream The Greens really are: GMO-food opposition farmer **Ian James** in Durack, architect **Gerard Siero** in Swan, as well as those you will meet below.

Sarah Nielsen-Harvey: Pearce

This is technically the second time Sarah has run – she was number two on the Agricultural Region ticket in this year's State election, with Andy Huntley – but her first time running a campaign from beginning to end.

As a young political junkie – what sort of 14-year-old had an election party, and shed a tear when Kerry O'Brien retired from the 7.30 Report? – Sarah is an aspiring politician. After being roped into the State election she wondered why on earth she was waiting until after university to campaign. There was no reasonable answer to that question, so she put her hand up. Sarah's driving issues are climate change, health, and education. They are what drew Sarah to the Greens, and are her true passions.

Sarah has been campaigning to make personal connections with people, whether through face-to-face meetings or social media. Attending local events is very important, such as the Midland Markets or the York tree-planting day, as it helps stimulate conversation and make those personal connections. Social



Sarah Nielsen-Harvey.

Felicity Ruby

Green me up, Scottie!

Introducing some of Scott's Lower House team



With Christine Milne and Scott Ludlam are Lower House candidates (l-r) Peter Langlands (Hasluck), Adam Duncan (Greens WA Co-convenor, not a candidate), Sarah Nielsen-Harvey (Pearce), Louahna Lloyd (Moore), Ian James (Durack), Jonathan Hallett (Perth), Judith Cullity (Curtin), Tim Clifford (Stirling).
Felicity Ruby

media has been great to help reach out. This is how Sarah first met one York farmer, the two later meeting to discuss local issues.

Pearce is quite a diverse electorate, which includes outer suburbs and agricultural areas. The cost of living issue has been expressed frequently in varying forms, including fresh food, rising cost of electricity and water, rent, parking and public transport. Regarding food in particular, our food security is vital, and whether that is threatened by climate change, genetically modified foods or, in the north of Pearce, the threat of fracking it needs to be addressed. The same York farmer agreed that we need to be focusing on our local farmers and their produce.

Peter Langlands: Hasluck

Back in January I felt I needed to get more involved in the State election, and ended up helping with booth coordination for Robin Chapple's campaign. Trying to fill booths across half the state was an eye-opener! After the election result the next day, the hours on the bus coming back from Kalgoorlie

were heart-breaking. Such a terrible result for the future of our State. It was then that I knew I had to do something more for the federal election. Being a candidate was the last thing on my mind, but during the State campaign I was inspired by two friends who put their hands up to be candidates, Jordan Steele-john and Dominique Lieb. Not only was it inspiring but it shifted my thinking: if my friends could do it I could do it, and people my age could be candidates. So when I saw the email inviting nominations for Hasluck, I thought this was my chance to contribute to getting Scott re-elected.

So far it has been a steep learning curve, but the campaign has been going well. My joint launch with the candidate for Pearce, Sarah Nielsen-Harvey, filled the venue with more than 50 people. We'd already had some good coverage in the local papers, especially on the Greens' work to increase Newstart and single parent payments. We've also started doorknocking Green leaning areas, which has been easier than I thought and people's responses have been encouraging. >>>

On the campaign trail



Peter at the anti-Monsanto Rally on May 25.
Irma Lachmund

While doorknocking, the strongest response has been that many people are sick of both the old parties, they've had enough of cynical point scoring and lack of action. Many of the issues they raise are local issues, like traffic speed and volume, the Guildford Hotel, aircraft noise, solar panels, etc. But it's been great to connect with people and relate the wonderful reports that Scott has done on cycling, sustainable transport and renewable energy to these local impacts. People have been very responsive to the view that we need Scott and The Greens as an independent voice in the Senate, for checks and balance.

Since I became more active with The Greens at the start of this year I've got to know so many great people. The federal campaign team – staff, candidates and volunteers – are amazing, and it's awesome to be a part of it!

Gordon Tayler: Forrest

I am a musician, music teacher, orchestral composer and conductor in the Southwest of WA. I am relatively new to Greens politics. However, I have been on the fringe of 'green' ideas, practices and lifestyle choices for many years, including such interests as biodynamic gardening. I have been a class teacher in a Rudolf Steiner Waldorf

school; I was a member of an alternative lifestyle community for 13 years which explored conservation and ecologically sound lifestyle practices.

In April this year I attended the Southwest Greens planning weekend at Donnelly River: it was such a valuable initiation into Greens politics, and especially to hear WA Senator Scott Ludlam speak. He was such a breath of fresh air: an intelligent young man, informed, articulate, ethical, and with realistic, practical plans for creating timely and lasting change within the political process. The Candidates Training weekend was a steep learning curve, but very inspiring.



Gordon Tayler. Jane Hammond

My main motivation in standing as a Lower House candidate is to support the re-election of Scott Ludlam to the Senate. We so desperately need people like Scott in positions of political influence, to raise the standards of informed debate, to serve as role models to politically disengaged youth, and to meet our growing demands for more action – not just on climate change, but on all aspects of achieving a fair, sustainable and prosperous Australia.

My election campaign will mainly be to inform the ever increasing number of voters who now have a "green" edge to their thinking, that they can have an each way bet on election day. By giving Scott Ludlam their primary vote in the Upper House (even if they feel the need to vote for the old parties in the Lower

House) they can help to keep a Green presence in the Senate. I have been amazed at how few people really understand the Upper and Lower House distinction, and the surprise they express when it dawns on them that they can follow this "each way bet" idea.

My other focus for this election and beyond centres around The Greens' push towards 100% renewables, especially in relation to the Collie/Muja power station. The inevitable demise of coal-fired power stations (currently a Forrest talking point with the State government's failed \$280 million refurbishment), combined with the rapid advancement of solar technology, means that renewables will soon approach grid parity with the old coal-fired power stations. If the cost of replacing all these – each has a life of about 25 years – is roughly the same as achieving 100% renewable power generation for all Australia, plus a guarantee of more jobs within renewables, why wouldn't you do it?

The Collie region has the potential to become a shining light in the quest for a more sustainable clean, green future, mainly because its grid network is all there. Could Collie and the Southwest become a kind of flagship transition zone for WA and Australia? Scott's Energy 2029 vision for the region is a great backdrop for this push (see www.greenswa.net.au/sites/default/files/pdfs/GREENS_EnergyReport_Web.pdf)

At present my campaign is around media coverage, public forums, street campaigning (busking and talking to the public), social media via Facebook, with door-knocking to commence soon. It seems to me the current mood of the electorate is one of lack of interest in the old parties and their "policy on the run" point-scoring manoeuvres. There is a real possibility of a Greens resurgence – many more now see The Greens as holding the high moral ground on most issues. As people become generally more educated and informed through the internet, the right thing to do, now and for the future, becomes a more significant factor in their political decisions on election day. >>>

On the campaign trail

<< Diane Evers: O'Connor



Diane Evers. Private collection

I will give voters an alternative to the negative politics of the other parties. Greens policy is an example of a caring society, where people are considered part of the environment, and the entire system is addressed to lead us toward a sustainable future.

I'll begin with the acknowledgement that Australia depends on its rural areas and regional centres. We are the production houses of the country. Agriculture and mining make up the majority of our exports, and these are derived from rural areas. Long-term support for these industries must include appropriate access to services for the communities in which they operate.

In return for the production coming out of O'Connor we deserve affordable housing, safe transport on our roads through the proper maintenance and development of rail for freight transport, reliable communications networks, appropriate controls on all development, and strong support for clean industries and energy production.

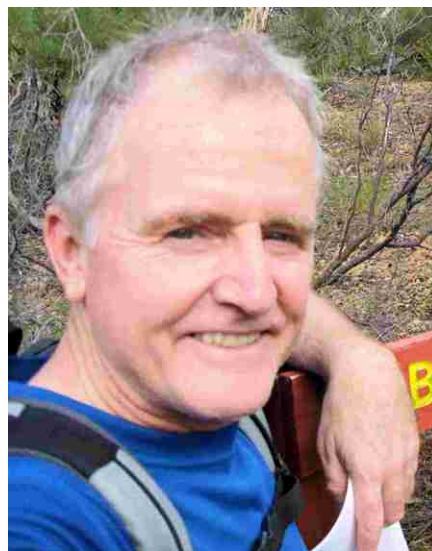
Residents of O'Connor also have the right to expect good quality, local medical care through our Medicare system, and high quality local education options within the public system. People should not have to travel or move to Perth to access social services that are the right of every Australian.

Greens policy is focused on people and our environment. We understand that people need a strong economy to support the living standard we would all like to enjoy. But even a strong economy does not of itself guarantee fair or even adequate services for all people, and this is where Australia is failing. By focusing on the economy, many people are forgotten and many environmental aspects ignored.

Keep the Greens in the position of having the balance of power and show that you care for something greater than the economy.

Peter Best: Tangney

Caring for people and defending our natural spaces are important to me. I am passionate about our local communities and clubs. I have been a cricket and football coach, spent four years as local councillor, and am a frequent charity volunteer. Protection for our environment and care for our humanity are my key values. I live to be of service to others.



Peter Best. Private collection

Tangney residents have the second highest median weekly income in WA (Curtin is number one and Moore number three). Tangney ranks first in the number of Chinese-speaking residents, and second for the proportion of professionals. Unemployment is generally low but growing as mining activity declines. Only 35% of full-time employed people are female. Many people move to the area for its education

benefits, especially related to Willetton and Rossmoyne high schools, a large number of faith-based schools, and Murdoch University.

The eastern end of Tangney is very new and is built over wetlands and low-lying areas. Many households carry high mortgages. The area is popular with evangelical churchgoers and home to a large cohort of Sikh and Hindu people. Provision of social and sporting facilities has not kept up with the population boom in this area. New schools appear frequently. Decent public transport is a distant dream.

The slightly older areas around Willetton and Leeming were developed in about 1980, and the second generation of residents is now keeping the schools busy. Many addresses here have registered businesses. Football and cricket are especially popular. Traffic is a growing issue. This is a very language-diverse area. Several Chinese churches call this area their home. Human and environmental issues in this area include aged care, education, transport, disability care, Roe 8, aircraft noise, air quality, including the Waste Recovery Centre, and the health of the Canning River. Unemployment and homelessness are a slightly surprising concern here.

Melville and Booragoon represent the wealthier part of the electorate, especially between Garden City and the Canning and Swan Rivers. This is an area of professionals and business owners. Chinese and other Asian investors own quite a number of houses here. Open space is something people care about, even if they don't actually use it. Residents are worried about crime, property values and change. Aged care and health facilities are important.

We live in a unique and beautiful country. We come from many places and bring our languages and cultures. I want to ensure that future generations enjoy a safe, healthy life here as much as we do. Balancing the environment, our community and economy are important for me. We'll need knowledge, care and hard work to preserve what we value. Will you help too? >>

On the campaign trail



Jordon Steele-john: Fremantle



Jordon Steele-john. Rocio Martin

I've been an active member of The Greens (WA) for more than two years, in which time I've done my best to dive into every aspect of our party. As well as being my Regional Group representative and membership officer, I've participated in working groups like National Working Group, Policy Working Group and the Australian Young Greens. I was the candidate for Warnbro in the state election, attended all ECC and SMECC meetings, organised seven local stalls and full booth coverage in Warnbro.

Beyond The Greens, I'm a board member of People With a Disability WA as well as the Disability Access Reference Group and the Let's Talk community engagement network. I'm also a member of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition and the Rockingham Youth Advisory Council. In addition, I'm taking part in this year's YMCA Youth Parliament and working with the Commissioner for Children and Youth to create a survey of young people who journey with disability in WA. After working alongside Senator Siewert and Senator Ludlam and their amazing office teams, I succeeded in launching the Access All Areas phone app for people with a disability.

I believe that our society and our governments are failing to properly

facilitate young people becoming members of our community and that, with the right support and if they are approached from a place of integrity and respect, young people are an energetic, intelligent and connected force for change.

I believe people with a disability and older Australians deserve to be treated with respect, that their voices must be heard in our community, and that our society and government must cast aside the notion that we are charities. We are not. We are equal citizens who simply require some facilitation to attain freedom and will gift this country with a new wealth of knowledge and wisdom.

I believe that the Greens are the only political party which recognises the fundamental truth that the environment, the economy and our society are intrinsically linked. Having the courage of our convictions is the cornerstone of the leadership we must show in years to come. I believe that while the seeds of racism, sexism and homophobia exist in Australia, it is not too late to seize these weeds by the roots and remove them. Most of all, I believe that Australia is a fundamentally good country, a land whose people and future are worth fighting for and which, with the right leadership, can become one of the great nations of the world.

Fremantle is an embodiment of what it is to be Green – it stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community embraces the future and preserves the past. Some of the issues particularly relevant to Fremantle in this election are the need to take meaningful action on climate change, kickstart the transition to a clean economy, stop Labor's cuts to tertiary education, help single parents out of poverty, create more affordable housing, promote light rail, and protect people's online privacy. Refugee policy changes by Labor have gained renewed notoriety, and thousands of people across the country have raised their voices in opposition to this morally repugnant and economically idiotic policy.

I will use all opportunities presented to me until the date of the election to spread the campaign message, and

work with the Young Greens to mobilise as many young people as possible. Due to the physical challenges I face in doorknocking I will concentrate on holding stalls at shopping centres, markets and supermarkets. However, Fremantle is a big electorate and I desperately need more volunteers to get on board with the campaign.

We are close to what I believe is the most important election in a generation, so it is critical that we Greens hold the line – the future of our nation is at stake.

Dawn Jecks: Brand

Dawn was unable to do a specific write-up for this issue as, "being a single mother with a demanding full-time job, I have to spend every spare minute I have on convincing the electorate to vote for me in the Lower House and Scott in the Senate." Dawn's background, beliefs and actions are comprehensively covered in her web page www.dawnjecks.com, the Greens candidate page <http://candidates.greens.org.au/Brand> and her Facebook page, Dawn Jecks Greens candidate for Brand – please go there and 'like' it. Dawn has been highly visible as a regular Greens candidate in State and federal elections – particularly in her campaigning to save Point Peron, for climate action, and against uranium mining. She disseminates the Greens message with statements such as: "With the challenges that lie before us we need politicians with a different way of thinking" and "with smart government policies in place we can have both a strong economy and protect our environment for future generations."

Louahna Lloyd: Moore

When observing politics from a distance, I've felt like a proper whinger. The Greens just don't get the depth of media coverage that the old parties get. But by getting involved in this election I now have a more positive outlook. I've enjoyed meeting people in my local area and collaborating with other Greens. I can see that there are many creative, inspiring people who are hard at work every day and motivated by values similar to my own.



On the campaign trail

◀◀ Growing up in outer Sydney I loved school, climbing trees, swimming, Yum Cha and horses. We moved to Samoa when I was a teen and I cried as we left for the airport, driving for the last time down the long gravel driveway of our farm. But my parents said it would be good, and the warmth of the welcome we received in Samoa made it easier for me to see it that way, too.

I've encountered many new environments over the years, and yet as an adult looking at events around the world and the circumstances refugees face, I see that I will never know the painful trauma, suffering and uncertainty experienced by so many as they move to new places.

I'm most interested in transforming the barriers of social difference, and removing the barriers that people journeying with disability encounter in everyday life. I'm also passionate about listening to the stories of our elders. As individuals we cannot respect each other or celebrate our rich diversity if we ignore our common humanity. Apart from the beautiful humanity that links us all, the thing we have in common is our planet and the shared responsibility for everything we do on it.

The old parties don't align with my values but The Greens do – that is why I've been a supporter and member for years, and decided to stand. I'm a first-time candidate but I've been inspired by Senator Scott Ludlam, and I'm learning a lot from our Regional Group of energised, experienced campaigners.

To identify key issues we listen to people in our neighbourhoods and speak with local community organisations. We door-knock and hold stalls, and have been working closely with Senator Rachel Siewart's office to arrange an information session about proposed changes to Newstart and the Single Parents Pensions. I meet a lot of people who are finding it hard to make ends meet. The cost of living in Perth is rapidly increasing, and I'd say the people I've met are keener than ever for politicians to listen to them. ▲



Canning candidate **Damon Pages-Oliver** (far right) works with programs for young people, including the Ignite Basketball program. He enjoyed meeting Co-ordinator **Be Westbrook** (next to Rachel Siewert) and two staff, Amy and Casie of Peel Youth Services, a holistic service for young people (young mothers, a men's shed, vegetable garden etc).
Chilla Bulbeck

Let's see Greens banners and posters far and wide!



This banner, hosted by Katarina Walker in Nedlands, has attracted much attention. Election banners, plus A3 and A2 posters will be available soon. If you live on a busy street corner, or in a regional hub – anywhere, really – and would consider hosting a banner, or putting up a poster in a prominent spot, please contact Nina Jurak, electionday@wa.greens.org.au.

Katarina Walker

On the campaign trail

Where we stand on numbers

Chris Johansen, Green Issue co-editor, explains where we might get the 202,000 votes we need to get Scott re-elected.

To ensure that Scott Ludlum is re-elected we need to at least replicate the Green vote of the 2010 federal election, as summarised below. To get a full quota for Scott a final allocation of 14.3% of the Senate vote is needed. This must be achieved in the face of an apparent conservative tsunami in WA, as manifested at the March State election. However, the recent increase in Rudd-inspired ALP fortunes should mean more senate votes for the “left”. Whether additional ALP votes, beyond two ALP quotas, would indeed flow to The Greens remains conjectural. The ALP itself seems to have moved well to the “right” in its bid to capture the middle ground. Perhaps many marginal ALP voters will feel they may have more in common with the Liberals, and cast their preferences accordingly. Table 1 indicates what is necessary in each electorate to at least maintain, and hopefully improve upon, the 2010 result.

The dream of The Greens winning a House of Reps seat in WA in this election remains that – a dream. The overriding, achievable objective of this campaign is to maximise the Senate vote to return Scott. The bottom row of the table reveals that many Liberal and some ALP voters wanted “two bob each way” – ie, are prepared to vote differently for the Senate, perhaps in recognition of its role as a house of review and that no one party should simultaneously control both houses. The higher Green vote for the Senate than House of Reps in most electorates reflects this cross-over, but in the coming election we need to better target our message towards votes in the Senate.

Table: 2010 Federal election: First preference votes for the Greens in the Senate and House of Representatives; first preference votes for the three other largest

Electorate	Greens		ALP HR (%)	Lib HR (%)	Nat HR (%)	Total HR votes
	Sen (%)	HR (%)				
Brand	14.2	14.7	40.8 ¹	9.4	- ²	82,332
Canning	11.6	8.3	40.4	46.2	-	83,916
Cowan	12.2	12.5	32.5	50.1	-	84,374
Curtin	17.9	17.7	19.3	61.1	-	84,298
Durack	9.7	9.3	24.0	45.1	17.7	75,676
Forrest	13.0	13.5	28.2	49.0	6.0	84,444
Fremantle	18.8	17.7	38.9	38.6	-	87,060
Hasluck	13.2	12.8	37.5	42.0	-	87,423
Moore	13.6	13.6	26.4	54.2	-	85,937
O'Connor	10.0	8.9	17.1	38.4	28.9	86,216
Pearce	14.3	13.2	29.5	49.9	2.5	83,403
Perth	17.6	16.2	40.2	38.7	-	84,594
Stirling	14.2	12.9	31.9	49.9	-	84,866
Swan	15.5	11.8	35.3	46.5	-	83,528
Tangney	13.1	13.5	25.8	55.7	-	86,901
All WA	14.0	13.1	31.2 (29.7) ³	47.0 (43.0)	3.6 (3.4)	1,264,968

¹ Bold indicates party winning seat. ² Not contested. ³ Values in parentheses are first preference Senate votes.

Asylum seekers are people

Andrea Callaghan is a long-time Fremantle-Tangney Regional Group member who assisted Leonie Lundy with the Refugee Welcome Fiesta.

Could it get any worse? The Rudd Labor government's announcement to process and settle asylum seekers on Manus Island, PNG is draconian. Especially given what many of these people seeking safety have been through. Almost every sound bite from the two old parties on this issue is laden with untruths – in an effort to win votes. Demonising some of the most vulnerable people in the world is horrendous politicking.

I firmly believe that true ethical leadership on the issue such as that offered by then Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser in the 1970s and 1980s would win over another 30% of the voters – my guess is that 20% at present recognise it is a complex human rights issue, not one of border control. Australians are not inherently against “boat people” but have been fed too many racist lies, too much negative propaganda, with the purpose of dehumanising these vulnerable people. Greens politicians have been very vocal on the injustice of both offshore processing and the new PNG “deal”. I am so pleased that the Greens stand strong in the face of the mistruths and simplification of this issue. I support the Greens' policy that offers refugees a safe, legal and humane alternative to the dangerous boat trips they choose to make, given their limited options, even while knowing they may die at sea.

Through my work and personal life I know many refugees. The Tamil people from Sri Lanka I work with all have trauma and torture issues. They are resilient, courageous, kind, grateful and generous people. They have witnessed so much death and lived as a persecuted minority in their own country for their entire lives. Someone once said, “In Sri Lanka we are treated like the indigenous people in Australia were treated

► next page

Asylum seekers are people from previous page

100 years ago” – a very poignant comparison. I have heard about their lives, their beatings, their witnessing of husband or other family members killed, their imprisonment in internment camps years before the end of the civil war, and their daily humiliation, violation and abuse in the army-run camps that still exist, four years after the end of the civil war. I've heard their stories of being 'in hiding' while hunted by authorities, and of their perilous journeys to make it to Australia, only to be re-imprisoned, adding further to their trauma; and then the long, long, long wait for a visa outcome. The Hazaras, Iranians, Palestinians, and Iraqis have similar stories of persecution for their beliefs, religion, ethnicity, gender etc.

These obviously courageous people, many of whom are escaping from unimaginable horrors, cannot feel safe until they have their visa outcome. This protracted process often extends to four years from when they left their home country. Waiting means still not feeling safe, not being able to put down roots, not being able to work, having many rules imposed upon their movements and lives, and not being able to see family members for many years. Added to the mental anguish of living on bridging visas or in the Community Detention Program is imprisonment on a remote island in the middle of nowhere, perhaps indefinitely.

The numbers of people arriving here are actually small, in contrast to media reports of an “invasion” and refugee movements elsewhere in the world. The UNHCR Global Trends Report 2010 shows that Australia took one refugee per 1000 population and ranked 69th in the world for per capita refugee intake. The 2012 UNHCR figures for absolute refugee intake show that Australia took nearly 30,000 refugees and ranked 49th in the world.

Offshore processing and the PNG “deal” breaches our international obligations under the UN Convention on Refugees. As a signatory we are not supposed to deter refugees, and we are

➤ page 19

Valé Mike Beilby

Mike Beilby, life member, died at home on the July 31. He was suffering from COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder) and Parkinson's disease. He died peacefully and with dignity with his wife, Margo, by his side. Mike had been a member of the Greens since its inception. He became actively involved in the late nineties, including Canning Regional Group's permanent rep to Reps Council, many election campaigns for the federal seat of Canning and in state campaigns in the East Metro region. Alison Xamon, Greens Member for East Metropolitan until May 2013 writes of a life of service.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Greens (WA) Honorary Life Member and party stalwart Mike Beilby. Mike, along with his wife Margo, was given the rare honour of life membership only a couple of years ago, in recognition of his exceptional voluntary contribution to the party.

Mike was also known for his activism outside the party – notably his support for forest campaigns, where his caravan was a regular feature of the blockades.

He was particularly active with The Greens (WA). A long-time member of the Canning Regional Group he could always be relied on to turn up to meetings, ring the membership every month and ensure the ongoing and

smooth running of the group. He was also active in numerous State and federal campaigns, spending hours driving candidates around the Canning and the East Metro electorates, ensuring booths were staffed, always being available to help with functions and busy-bees, and attending meeting after meeting.

But it was his regular voluntary work in the Greens office for which he was best known, a familiar voice on the end of the phone as he diligently turned up for work every week for years, ensuring an invaluable contribution to running the office. In the last couple of years he turned his energies to assisting as a weekly volunteer in my electorate office, where he and Margo quickly became an invaluable part of the team.

Although Margo for years occupied many of the official roles in the party, Mike remained her steady sidekick, assisting her, always by her side, coming with her to meetings around the state, and always offering to help.

Mike had been unwell for many years but became noticeably worse in the last year. It speaks volumes of the man that when he finally decided to go he did so in his own way, and at the time of his choosing. Although we know that he will be very much missed we can celebrate a life well lived and well loved. Our thoughts are with Margo, and his sons, Gary and Craig. ▲



A stalwart pair: Mike and Margo Beilby.

Private collection



Politypage

Rachel Siewert

Australian Greens Senator for WA

Since Parliament finished at the end of June we've been non-stop campaigning in one way or another. I've been to all corners of the country talking to people about some of the significant issues they're facing and the Greens' policies to deliver a stronger, fairer society. It's been great to visit the Kimberley and WA's Southwest, NSW and Canberra in recent weeks, and to enjoy the company of Christine Milne and Larissa Waters on their trips to WA to help Scott get re-elected.

Everywhere I go people tell me they're sick of the old parties and their hard-line, unfair policies. Of course nothing highlights this more clearly than the race to the bottom on asylum seekers. In contrast I'm proud to be able to speak about the Greens' strong achievements in Parliament and the policies and initiatives we're launching to better care for people and the environment.

In Canberra I spoke at the Council of the Ageing (COTA) Policy Forum, which was a really good opportunity to discuss some great Australian Greens policies to improve aged care, including some important amendments as the Living Longer, Living Better aged care reforms passed through Parliament. One of those was a homelessness supplement that provides extra support for homeless people in aged care. I spoke about our plan to help older jobseekers into work. Increasingly we're seeing people who are out of work and in their forties and fifties really struggle to re-enter the workforce. Under the Australian Greens plan, older jobseekers will receive more immediate and intensive support and access to re-training programs. There will also be specialist services for people

with a partial disability or low educational achievements, and more flexibility for people providing care.

This initiative is another component of our campaign to help people living on payments like Newstart, and we remain the only party committed to increasing this payment by \$50 per week.

The inadequacy of the current payment has been a hot topic during the past few weeks, as I've participated in single-parent forums in Perth, regional WA and Tweed Heads in NSW. At a forum we hosted in Bunbury we heard about many of the problems in these areas. It was also great to hear good news about programs that are working, including a project set up by young people in Bunbury called Helping Hands which helps disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the region.

The Kimberley is one of my favourite places in Australia, and it was great to be up there with Scott and Queensland Greens senator Larissa Waters. Larissa came with us to talk about shale gas exploration and mining, as plans are afoot to use fracking to extract shale gas from the Canning Basin. We discussed this and other important issues for the region during a public meeting with such a good turnout that people were sitting on the floor.

At a time when we're seeing so much negativity and cruelty from the old parties, it is more important than ever that we keep working hard to let people know that the Greens are offering a better alternative. Our election campaign is building up to be vibrant and energetic, and I look forward to seeing you all on the campaign trail. ▲



Rachel meets another Rachel during her day in Mandurah, 30 July.

Chilla Bulbeck



Politypage

Scott Ludlam

Australian Greens Senator for WA

The events of recent weeks have been a sharp but timely reminder of the importance of supporting the Australian Greens, particularly in Western Australia, where the Coalition could take control of the Senate.

Kevin Rudd's live refugee trade to Papua New Guinea represents the almost complete abandonment of the Refugee Convention, and Labor's surrender to the worst anti-refugee sentiment in the country. The concerns Labor rightly expressed in Opposition about the Howard government's tactics, including the use of Nauru and other harsh punitive measures have evaporated, sacrificed for perceived electoral advantage.

The Coalition responded in kind by taking an already irrational position off the planet. Its "Operation Sovereign Borders" election stunt extends the poisonous use of expressions such as "invasion" into the full-blown militarisation of a civilian humanitarian issue. Worse, the Coalition has vowed to reduce Australia's overall refugee intake to 13,750 a year – a petty, vindictive and xenophobic move that has nothing to do with stopping boat arrivals and is likely to increase the desperation of refugees to reach Australia by any means possible.

Both major parties have broken through the ruthlessness barrier on refugees, and The Greens are the only sensible voice left standing. On July 27 thousands of Australians rallied for the rights of refugees. Greens Leader Christine Milne joined me and several hundred people taking a stand for decency and human rights in Perth (see photo page 19).

Kevin Rudd also committed to slash funding for clean energy and other environmental programs, promising a premature switch from a fixed price on carbon to an emissions trading scheme. This will cost the public billions of dollars that would have been raised by the big polluters to fund a clean energy, low pollution future. Abbott will take those cuts and go further.

In another example of bipartisanship gone wrong, Labor and the Coalition are in lock-step on cutting hundreds of millions of dollars from Australia's universities. This will force universities to cut corners, cut staff and raise fees.

On the positive side of the ledger, The Greens have launched an initiative to transform social housing in Australia and help 225,000 families, couples and singles off the social housing waiting list.

Christine Milne joined me in Perth to

launch *A Stronger Social Housing Sector*, our plan that will see 12,200 new homes built every year – including fast, inexpensive and energy efficient modular housing using the world's best modular construction technology. The Greens' 'Safe As Houses' program proposes housing supply bonds which unlock private investment with a secure investment opportunity in social housing.

Senator Milne also joined me and agriculture spokesperson Rachel Siewert to launch The Greens' plan to increase farmer and consumer power by helping farmers bypass the big retail chains and sell directly to the public. While Abbott and Rudd are rolling in the gutter on refugees, The Greens are standing up for what's right and delivering new ideas for a better Australia. Your support for The Greens in this election is more important than ever. ▲



Scott and Rachel in Broome with Larissa Waters, Greens Senator for Queensland. Ogy Simic



Poli page

Lynn MacLaren

MLC, South Metro

To compensate for our scaled-down presence in State Parliament I've temporarily engaged a US Democrats-trained electorate officer and three parliamentary interns. EO Rachael Fagan will move on to pursue her PhD in Ireland when local journo Nadine Walker joins our team this month.

Working with Greens across Australia we released our plan for new safe passing distance laws to protect cyclists. At long last, one of our efforts earned a mention in *The West Australian*. This initiative, spearheaded by the Amy Gillett Foundation, has been enthusiastically supported by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance in WA, and we are working to bring other groups along for the ride.

Following the tabling in June of my *Climate Change Readiness Coastal Planning and Protection Bill* our efforts to gain public support intensified. I participated in the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility Conference in Sydney, gaining more insight into the current challenge of communicating climate change adaptation to policymakers and the general public. With many in local government and planning already looking for guidance, our Bill makes a significant contribution to the growing debate on adapting to climate change.

I was invited to attend a workshop in Busselton on building Community Awareness of Coastal Adaptation to Climate Change, but was surprisingly uninvited by local council staff. Evidently our work, along with climate change, has been creating waves. I'm already in touch with Busselton locals to follow up on this.

A new plan to manage our forests, which would see a doubling of the area available for logging, was

unconditionally approved by the EPA. We led a debate in the Council, calling for recognition and support for a published statement to end native forest logging by dozens of scientists. I have met with conservation advocates, attended a World Environment Day forum on forests, and appealed the EPA decision. We want to see a wood production plan that completes the transition from native forests to existing plantations.

In July I spoke at rallies against Breed-Specific Legislation and Live Exports, was among the large crowds at the NAIDOC Week opening, and attended the Refugee Welcome Fiesta and Walk Together in Fremantle and subsequent protests in the Perth CBD.

Homophobia in thinly-veiled academic disguise raised its ugly head in Fremantle, following a protest outside a public lecture featuring high profile anti-gay Catholic, Professor John Finis. *The Fremantle Herald* covered the disconcerting event and published my

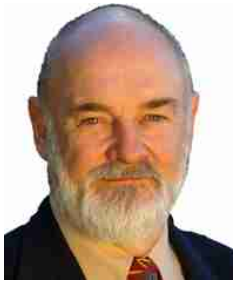
critique as a "Thinking Allowed" guest editorial.

There is more progress on marriage equality in Australia, with the ACT declaring reform, and a NSW cross-party Parliamentary committee finding that states can pass same-sex marriage laws. I've touched base with local advocates, including Brian Grieg from Australian Marriage Equality, looking at the detail and direction of same-sex marriage legislation in WA. My Bill is ready to go, and I am actively seeking cross-party support. I also sponsored a fundraiser screening of the beautiful film "Cloudburst" for the GLBTI Retirement Association.

Youth Parliament made good use of Parliament House during the winter break, demonstrating that young people have a keen grasp of current issues, and can turn their minds and debating skills to better law-making. I sat in the Big Chair presiding over a debate on their *Sustainable Urban Growth Bill*. ▲



Lynn at NAIDOC week opening, with Karla Hart (right) and Della Rae Morrison.
Charley Caruso



Politypage Robin Chapple

MLC, Mining & Pastoral Region

By the time you read this Parliament will have returned for the Budget sessions, having been in recess over the winter break. I can only hope that the shenanigans of the last sitting of the Legislative Council won't be repeated. Commonsense, and any reference to occupational health and safety concerns were thrown out the window, as the government and opposition engaged in childish tit-for-tat antics, resulting in a marathon 24-hour non-stop workday for Upper House members. Needless to say, as I stumbled into the harsh morning light I was relishing the opportunity for a much-needed break in my hometown of Derby, attending to the backlog of household maintenance.

Prior to the break Parliament spent much of its time on the formal Address-in-Reply debate – the government being so poorly organised that there was precious little in the way of substantive legislation to consider. The Address-in-Reply generally occurs once every four years, as it is the elected members' response to the Governor's speech on behalf of the government, delivered at the ceremonial opening of each Parliament after an election.

As Standing Orders tend to be relaxed on these occasions, it is a good opportunity for backbenchers to have their voice heard on matters of concern, as they range over a wide variety of issues. My contribution covered:

- The Greens' magnificent showing in the Kimberley poll
- this State's tragic suicide rate
- the recently opened Birriliburu Indigenous Protected Area
- the dangers of uranium mining given the government's disastrous decision to allow Toro to mine yellowcake at Wiluna

- the government's slack record on delivering its commitments
- climate change
- energy policy.

Unfortunately a host of other things had to be put on hold, as my time ran out. Luckily, the upcoming budget reply debate should allow me to delve into these other issues.

Despite the farcical end to Parliament, along the way I did get The Greens' voice heard on numerous matters of importance, including promoting a motion on protection of Western Australia's Southwest forests, and vigorously attacking the government's cosy deal with the proponents of fracking for gas in the Canning Basin.

While in the Kimberley I was able to show Greens Senator for Queensland, Larissa Waters, around Broome, along with Senators Scott Ludlam and Rachel Siewert. Packed into their visit was a public forum to discuss the threat of industrialisation, giving the visitors an opportunity to meet members of the community, as well as a flyover of shale-

gas wells, a new threat to the local environment.

I was also involved in Friends of Australian Rock Art fifth Burrup Heritage Tour, helping to guide a diverse group of 50 people through a very special area along the Pilbara coast. Sharing my knowledge on the Burrup Peninsula's history and Aboriginal rock art is when I am happiest, as it tells the story of ancient Aboriginal occupation over the past 30,000 years and brings alive this unique and fascinating precinct. We scaled the hillsides with care, witnessing the changing face of rock, depending on the angle of the sun, presence of shade, or viewing position. We came across an archaic face carving that I had never seen before. (Archaic faces are believed to have been produced more than 25,000 years ago, making them possibly the oldest and most unique material remaining on the Burrup.)

After my break it was straight back to work, with our busy little office preparing for next week in Parliament and getting Scott re-elected. ▲



The Burrup tour group, and inset, archaic face carving.

Glen Slee / Robin Chapple

*Asylum seekers are people
from page 14*

not supposed to discriminate on the basis of their method of arrival here, as per Article 31, p29h. Whilst we are a signatory to the convention, and treat the asylum seekers this way, it is like inviting someone to dinner and then slamming the door in their face when they arrive. Furthermore, it is repugnant that Australia, one of the wealthiest countries in our region, farms out our responsibilities, for what could be called a bribe, to one of the poorest countries in our region. PNG has its own problems to address, and as their people were not consulted, it is likely the refugees will not receive a warm welcome there. ▲



Scott and Christine Milne at Perth's Refugee rally on July 27.

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CONTACTS

Regional Groups	Contact	Phone	Meeting		
Brand	Dawn	0424 598 656	Thursday before 2nd Sat of month, 7pm.		
Canning	Stephen	0433 950 707	1st Monday of month, 7pm, 101 Challis Rd, Armadale.		
Curtin	Jane	jane.ralls@westnet.com.au	1st Thursday of month, 7pm Earthwise, 315 Bagot Rd, Subiaco.		
Fremantle/Tangney	Tom	9414 8717	Thurs before Saturday Reps, 7pm, Fremantle Town Hall Reception Room.		
Moore/Cowan	Phil	0424 068 141	1st Wed of month, 7.30pm, Cmty Ctr, 5 Trappers Dr Woodvale (behind library).		
Pearce/Hasluck	Toni	0439 979 869	1st Mon of month, 7.30pm High Wycombe Community Ctr, Newburn Rd.		
Perth	Chris	0410 146 569	1st Tuesday of month (exc Jan), 6.30pm, Bayswater Drill Hall.		
South West	Hsien	0466 488 699	Meet at least three-monthly, at various SW venues.		
Stirling	Wendy 9243 1642 til 9 Sep, then Tom 0408 093 279		1st Thursday of month, 7.30pm, Env Ctre, Groat St North Beach.		
Swan	Anthony	anthonyblond@gmail.com	1st Wednesday of month, 6pm. Ring office for venue.		
Working Groups	Convenor	Contact			
Admin	Adam & Chris	convenors@wa.greens.org.au			
Policy	Anthony	anthonyblond@gmail.com			
National Wkg Group	Leonie	leonielundy@westnet.com.au			
Election	Trish Cowcher	trishcowcher@hotmail.com			
Greens Refugee Action	Anita	alumbus@yahoo.com			
Parliamentarians	Member	Phone	Fax	Office	Staff
Senator	Rachel Siewert	9228 3277	9228 4055	1/151 Brisbane St, Northbridge	Chris, Jess, Rose, Ogy
Senator	Scott Ludlam	9335 7477	9335 7499	8 Cantonment St, Fremantle	Trish, Felicity, Rachel, Giovanni, Chantal
Mining & Pastoral MLC	Robin Chapple	9486 8255	9486 8355	41 Havelock St, West Perth	David, Betty, Maria
South Metro MLC	Lynn MacLaren	9430 7233	9430 7207	7/142 South Terrace, Fremantle	Sue, Dinny, Shane
Officebearers	Name	Phone	Email		
Co-convenors	Adam Duncan	c/- office	convenors@wa.greens.org.au	<i>Officebearers are contactable during business hours via office staff, who will take and pass on messages, or advise if the officebearer is away and whether there is a more appropriate person to handle a query.</i>	
	Chris Dickinson	c/- office	convenors@wa.greens.org.au		
Secretary	Chilla Bulbeck	c/- office	secretary@wa.greens.org.au		
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