



# GREEN ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREENS (WA)

Vol 18 No 4 - August 2009

## Life membership proposed for Jo Vallentine

**Margo Beilby**

*Outgoing co-convenor*

The first of January 2010 will be the 20th anniversary of The Greens WA. One particularly suitable commemoration of this event could be to honour our first Greens senator, Jo Vallentine.

In 1985 Jo and Peter Garrett stood as Senate candidates for the Nuclear Disarmament Party in their respective states. Jo was elected for WA but Peter just missed out in NSW. Concerned about the party's directions, Jo later resigned from the NDP and held her Senate seat as an Independent. She built up the Vallentine Peace Group, which worked and campaigned for her. She was re-elected as an Independent in 1987.

During her time in Parliament Jo continued her grassroots activism, marching on the Joint Facilities Pine Gap base near Alice Springs, where she was arrested. She also joined a march to the US Clark airbase in the Philippines in 1989.

When the three WA Green parties – the WA Greens, the Alternative Alliance and Green Development – looked at combining, the Vallentine Peace Group joined



them to form The Greens (WA). This meant that the fledgling party already had a Senator when it formed in January 1990. Jo was re-elected as a Greens (WA) Senator in 1990.

Her efforts took a toll on her health. In 1992 she said, "I think it is time to hand the position over ... it is time for someone to have a go with fresh energy". Seven years in Parliament were enough: she stepped down and, after a ballot of all party members was replaced by Christobel Chamarette.

After passing on her Senate seat Jo took time to recuperate. She remained a member of the party

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**A gag but definitely not a joke – Jo, after being arrested last month for "talking to" US sailors from warships visiting Fremantle.**

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*DISCLAIMER: the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of The Greens (WA) Inc.*

**Next deadline: 1 October**



Rachel Siewert  
Senator

Scott Ludlam  
Senator

Giz Watson  
MLC

Alison Xamon  
MLC

Lynn MacLaren  
MLC

Robin Chapple  
MLC

Adele Carles  
MLA

**Your federal and state Greens WA representatives**

*Pollie Page*

## Senator Rachel Siewert

Australian Greens Senator for WA



As we gear up for the start of the Spring Parliamentary sittings (which will include the probable defeat of the CPRS and the next steps in the Utegate saga) it is useful to take stock of all we achieved over a rather busy winter.

One of the recent highlights was our 'whistle-stop' tour of the south coast and Southwest – a hectic seven days taking in the Fitzgerald biosphere, Albany, Denmark, Margaret River, Busselton and Bunbury, and dragging in community groups and organisations from much further afield.

We covered a huge range of issues, shone a light on some important community campaigns and concerns, and set the ball rolling on a number of important green initiatives that will keep our team busy in the lead up to the next federal election.

A visit to the Fitzgerald River National Park strengthened my resolve to do all I can to protect this unique and precious area from a range of threats, including a proposed road through pristine areas; a lack of federal resources and planning to counter the insidious spread of *Phytophthora* dieback (both here and elsewhere in WA, and across the nation); and the serious decline of the Western ground parrot, which will soon face extinction if nothing is done.

I also visited the burnt-out wreck of Twertup Cottage – a historic piece of our heritage used by the Friends of the Fitzgerald River National Park as part of their education and outreach efforts. Twertup was very badly damaged in a storm and a following wildfire caused by lightning strikes in early 2008. Please get in touch with my office if you're interested in learning more about how you can help the rebuilding effort.

Another tragic victim of fire was the Denmark Environment Centre, which has acted as a hub and focal point of community action for decades. This fire, which appears to have been caused by accident, gutted most of the building, including GreenSkills' office, and destroyed many precious records. While a terrible blow, GreenSkills and the volunteers are resilient and working to rebuild. If you would like to contribute to rebuilding the Denmark Environment Centre, go to my website and scroll down to my blog at <http://rachel-siewert.greensmps.org.au> for details.

While in the Southwest I also took the opportunity of raising some important issues in my Health and Aging portfolio, including the looming shortage of residential aged-care beds in the region, reflecting a nationwide problem resulting from inadequate funding-per-bed by the federal government.

I also met a group of mothers and midwives in Busselton to hear their views about proposed federal health amendments that will make home births illegal as of mid-next year.

It is clear that we need to amend the legislation to ensure that women have the right to choose low-risk births at home, with a registered midwife in attendance. As it stands, the legislation will effectively make it illegal for a qualified midwife to attend a homebirth in Australia, and imposes heavy financial penalties for the midwife. I intend to move amendments to the Bill when it comes to the Senate in the coming weeks.

Another highlight of the trip was the opportunity to attend the inaugural meeting of the Noongar Health Council – an exciting initiative that brings together the Aboriginal medical services throughout the Nyoongar nation of the Southwest to form a united body.

We also had a very interesting meeting with the South-West Aboriginal Medical Service in Bunbury, on a range of issues including the need to ensure that adequate resources and support

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*Pollie Page*

## Scott Ludlam

Australian Greens Senator for WA



It's been an up and down month – a wonderful week in Dharamsala, the home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama; a fortnight of highly unproductive illness; and a week stirring up the nuclear debate across the Goldfields, with world-famous paediatrician and anti-nuclear campaigner Dr Helen Caldicott.

In early July I joined a cross-party delegation of six MPs which spent a couple of days in Delhi and then flew to Himachal Pradesh in the foothills of the Himalayas. We had an exhausting but incredibly rewarding six days learning about the situation in Tibet and within the global exile community, from the Dalai Lama and Prime Minister to school headmasters, non-government organisations, activists and recently-arrived refugees. The delegation has a renewed determination to keep the Tibet situation on the agenda in Australia.

On returning home I lost nearly two weeks to an unnamed but nasty illness, so apologies to anyone who found me sketchy or unavailable during that time. It was great to be back on my feet

in time for Dr Helen Caldicott's visit to WA, organised jointly with Robin Chapple's office and the Anti-Nuclear Alliance of WA (ANAWA). Helen's provocative and unambiguous presentations went down well in Kalgoorlie and Leonora, and we took the opportunity for a brief tour of the Yeelirrie uranium project in the north-east Goldfields.

With decisions on uranium mining taking place in Perth and Canberra, and boardrooms in Beijing and Canada, it was a relief to get on the road and meet with local people who are grappling with the consequences. Not everyone is opposed, either: the industry is doing a superb job of climate change greenwashing and the State and federal governments are pushing ahead as rapidly as possible to establish projects, before the community can come to grips with the substantial and irreversible costs.

We are moving ahead with our proposal for a greater Perth light rail network, with a well attended and fired-up meeting of local government folk, transport academics, advocates and

planners, to craft a way forward. Please give the office a call if you're interested in helping in the next phase of this project, where we go public in a major way and get the campaign rolling.

As I write this I'm back in Canberra, after a visit inside the Pine Gap spy base outside Alice Springs – a rare chance for a glimpse of what goes on inside this secretive facility. It was also great to catch up with campaigners in Alice Springs working on a range of issues. Parliament is returning in a few days to resume after the winter break, and a packed schedule, kicking off with the long awaited and highly controversial Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme. Other bills to watch include changes to freedom of information legislation (some good, some crazy) and a bill to entrench a regressive uranium royalties scheme in the NT.

Lastly, big thanks to Canberra-based media officer Robert Simms, who is returning to Adelaide – you'll be missed, Robear. ▲



*Pollie Page*

## Giz Watson

MLC, North Metro Region



Parliament has been in recess for the past four weeks, which has given me the opportunity to catch up on a lot of work in my office. With the new Greens members taking up their portfolios I have been transporting boxes of files and documents to their offices. It feels great to know the workload will be shared, and the incoming Members can start to become operational in each of their areas. I have taken about a week off during the break, including a few days in the southwest to start my additional responsibility of adopting the region while it doesn't have an elected representative. It was good to spend some time with both former southwest Members Paul Llewellyn and Chrissy Sharp, discussing key issues and strategies for winning back the electorate for the Greens in 2013.

The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations has also been busy over the non-sitting period, with three full days of budget estimates hearings. I have been fortunate to retain the chair of this committee (despite stiff competition from the ALP!) which is beginning to find its capacity to cross-examine all departments on their finances, operations and policy. I am confident that the committee, with

the majority being held by the two ALP members and me, will play a very strategic role in bringing the government to account.

Apparently, being a quiet news week, a number of our hearings produced stories for the media; including one about a huge black hole appearing in the health budget if the government proceeds with its election promise to maintain Royal Perth hospital as a tertiary hospital and build the new Fiona Stanley hospital.

Meanwhile, back at my electorate office, after a bit of to-ing and fro-ing I have decided to re-advertise the position of electorate officer in my office for a full-time employee, and hope to have this position filled very shortly. Sadly, Adie Wilmot has decided to move on to other opportunities, including university studies. I wish her all the best and thank her for her great contribution to the team.

On the all-important issue of Parliamentary party status, now that we have five Members – we are still in negotiations with the Premier. I hope that he will respond positively to our request for five additional staff, and that I can announce a positive outcome shortly. Watch this space!

I have also been closely involved in a number of anti-uranium mining initiatives in the past few

weeks, including hosting internationally renowned speaker Dr Helen Caldicott to a breakfast at Parliament House, for MPs from all parties, church groups, unions and others. It was a very successful presentation from Dr Caldicott on the medical dangers of the nuclear industry, and it was well attended – including one member from the Liberal party.

In collaboration with the Conservation Council of WA I have conducted two public workshops for people wanting to be more effective in their lobbying of politicians, for urgent action on climate change. The sessions have been well attended and productive, and I'm more than happy to do more.

Parliament recommences on 11 August, and we can anticipate the new balance of power being exercised like a blunt instrument by the Liberal/National coalition, with debate on so-called 'hoon' legislation, mandatory sentencing for people who assault police officers, reinstating first-past-the-post voting in local government elections ... and more horrors to follow! ▲

*Pollie Page*

## Alison Xamon

MLC, East Metro Region



Since my last report to Green Issue things have continued to speed along at a cracking pace. The past month has seen a break from Parliamentary sittings, which has enabled me to throw myself into a cycle of meetings, at both the local level in East Metro and with key stakeholders relating to my portfolios. This has easily taken up the majority of my time – as is the seemingly endless round of formal events and functions which I am attending.

In terms of responding to government legislation I am currently dealing with the *Busselton Water Board (Supply of Water to Dunsborough) Bill 2009*, the *Child Exploitation Material and Classification Legislation Amendment Bill 2009*, the *Professional Standards Bill Amendment Bill 2009* and the *Electoral and Constitution Amendment Bill 2009*.

Proactively, I am driving the introduction of the *Perth Hills Planning Bill* and looking at ways to incorporate the *Water Services Licensing (Water Conservation Target) Amendment Bill 2008* into the current government review into water.

Budget Estimates proved to be useful, and I had the opportunity to quiz the Public Transport

Authority and the Department of Commerce in detail about their budgetary decisions. This led to quite a bit of media. I should also add, as it has been some time since my last written report, that I also used the one-day Estimates hearings back in June to ask questions of Main Roads, Child Protection, and Education and Training.

I have been asking many questions in Parliament, the breadth of which reflects the diversity of issues constantly streaming across my desk. For the full rundown of questions asked I would encourage you to visit the Parliamentary website, where they are documented in full for each of us. But to give a flavour, I have been asking questions about East Metro-specific issues across the electorate, from the Red Hill quarry, to the proposal to relog the Jarrahdale forests, to the future of the SVNC Lord Street land; and portfolio-specific questions covering issues as diverse as pay equity, public transport safety, bore licensing regimes, mandatory reporting, the DET complaints unit, waste disposal, rail freight and even the Hairdressing Board! These questions are sometimes in response to constituent groups, and at other times to draw attention

to a specific issue which I am pursuing.

My office is also working to raise awareness on a series of issues which are not necessarily legislatively driven (at this stage). The threat to our forests of thinning in the name of increased water runoff; worker safety; East Metro transport; and Green jobs are all being worked on. The broader intersections around child protection, domestic violence, mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and poverty are also a key preoccupation for this office.

We are formulating the Greens response to the interim Gngangara Sustainability Strategy. We are also keeping running briefs and responses on many specific East Metro issues in relation to planning – particular in the hills.

The lease has finally been signed on my new office, and I am hopeful that the fitout and the move will be completed by the time of my next report. My staff and I are certainly looking forward to it, and as it is on the train line it should prove very accessible to anyone coming to volunteer or visit. ▲

*Polli Page*

## Lynn McLaren

MLC, South Metro

I am extremely fortunate to have been joined in the South Metropolitan Greens office by team members Chantal Caruso, Kerrie-Ann Garlick, Sue Hall and Dr Amanda Harris. As you will see from this article our activities are spread across a range of portfolios.

In Parliament, Commerce is introducing new legislation for co-operatives. We support the legislation because it may work to encourage more businesses to take up this model, but we note the glaring omission of housing co-ops in the consultation phase. The *First Home Owners Grant Bill* provides a good opportunity to note the inflationary impact of this policy, and the government's failure to ensure a healthy supply of affordable housing. We will support the funding, because it does assist people to establish a secure home. I will also be debating a motion about inadequate funding for the non-profit sector, something I know only too well through my work at the WA Council of Social Service. I've supported community groups and submitted a petition calling for funding to complete the Cockburn Deep Sewerage project. I continue to question the Minister about plans for Rottnest Island.

Our team is encouraging people to make submissions to the consultation on the Barnett

government's new planning strategy, *Directions 2031* – go to our website at [www.lynnmaclaren.org.au](http://www.lynnmaclaren.org.au) for ideas and information.

### For your diary

I'll be giving a one-day workshop on Lobbying for Climate Change on Saturday 15 August, from 10am till 4pm, at the Wesley Church in Market Street, Fremantle. Come along to practice your skills, for tips on identifying who to lobby, getting your message through to the right decisionmakers, and to build your networks.

We are also organising a GMO-Free Food talk-feast in Fremantle for early October. We plan to provide a soapbox for concerned people, including farmers, organic growers and local farmers' markets, who will be joined by chefs, the slow food movement, and traditional Aboriginal foodies. I convened a meeting with Giz, Rachel and local campaigners to develop a strategy for the coming months. We are working alongside the GeneEthics national alliance, including Greenpeace's new local office in Fremantle. With GM crops now being trialled in WA, your support for the GM-free campaign is critical. Is your local council or organisation GM-free yet?

I have done television interviews about the retail trading hours extension, and the opening of a new gas turbine in Kwinana. We



made the front page of the local Community paper, calling for more fishing no-take zones, and have appeared in the *Fremantle Herald* announcing our arrival at 29 Adelaide Street. The Herald has also quoted me in stories about the Roe Highway extension through the Beeliar wetlands potentially threatening communities up to and including Clontarf Hill.

Check out our website for my speeches at the Same-Sex Relationship Recognition forum, at the opening of YACWA's homeless youth art exhibition, to the City of Swan employees about a Greens perspective on planning and consultation, and at the Belmont Small Business awards.

I also enjoyed talking about Greening Local Government at Greg Boland's Cottesloe forum, and saving the Beeliar wetlands to a packed Luna cinema. The Save Beeliar Wetlands campaign is ramping up toward a rally in the Spring. I've been helping at the organising level and by commissioning an information kit for lobbying and education. Chantal and volunteer Luke Stange are pulling together recent research and visions.

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*Pollie Page*

## Robin Chapple

MLC, Mining & Pastoral Region



At time of print Robin is down with a nasty case of perforated eardrums, the product of intensive travel in the world's second-largest electorate\*.

Robin and Helen went to Port Hedland and South Hedland at the beginning of August – their first trip together out in the electorate. The main purpose was to find out firsthand what's going on in the towns, and the ways Robin and the Greens might be able to help.

Lack of affordable housing came up time and time again, as did the question of whether Royalties for Regions funding is really going where it's needed. Hedland people clearly have great hopes for their towns, and made some wonderful suggestions about how those goals can be achieved. Robin's unbeatable knowledge of the town and its history – including Indigenous and Native Title – was invaluable in understanding the background to lots of the issues still around today.

It was quite a social trip too: Robin and Helen attended a ball at the Port Hedland Football Club to celebrate 40 years of football in the Pilbara, and the Hedland Cup races (from which they returned \$6 ahead and with an invite to the Liberal races tent!) Their next trip in the electorate will be to Broome, and they can't wait.

The preceding week saw Robin and Tim join forces with Scott, Rachel and ANAWA to storm the Goldfields, in the company of renowned anti-nuclear campaigner Helen Caldicott. Helen's terrifying lectures on the consequences of uranium mining and transportation proved more than a match for the nuke-spruiking opposition, as any reader of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* can attest.

With Robin stuck in Kalgoorlie after developing flu of the non-porcine variety it was left to Scott, Rachel and Tim fly the flag in Leonora, where Scott and Helen's community meeting once again went down a treat. Speaking of treats, we're still trying to figure out who stole all the snacks we'd laid on for the community – we have our suspicions, and the perps will feel the wrath of *Inside Cover* when discovered.

Post-Leonora, the intrepid team gritted their collective molars, boarded a BHP bus and took the BHP tour of the BHP Yeelirrie uranium site (did we mention, courtesy of BHP?). This is the largest known potential source of yellowcake ore in WA. In 2000 Robin and his mate (now known as Senator Scott Ludlam) had done a 'tour' of their own, and found highly radioactive ore lying untended on the surface as a result of previous mining activity.

An embarrassed decade later, BHP BHP was showing off its rehabilitation of Yeelirrie to the Senator, who was duly impressed by the reburial and revegetation efforts, yet struck by the irony of The Big Australian's stated intention to strip-mine the lot of it, rehabilitated bush and all.

Alas Yeelirrie is but one of dozens of sites awaiting approval for uranium mining, and without a massive effort on all fronts Kalgoorlie looks set to become a radioactive transport hub. Thanks to the decrepit state of the public sector's approvals processes we have some time in which to build a campaign that will span parliamentary politics, NGOs, activist organisations and communities, urban and regional.

Also on the horizon is Robin's Parliamentary motion to save the Burrup from further exploitation, the introduction of our *Voluntary Euthanasia Bill* and yes, further flying around in small aircraft, once the Honourable eardrums recover. We wish them and their owner all the best!

Office-warming soon! Watch this space.

*\*The world's largest electorate – Qaasuitsup, in northwestern Greenland (pop 17,867) – is shrinking due to global warming, as large sections of it are permafrost. ▲*

*Pollie Page*

## Adele Carles

MLA, Fremantle



On 6 June I was sworn in and gave my inaugural speech. It was wonderful to have the support of so many Fremantle people in the gallery, and my family members and fellow Greens MPs in the Chamber with me – it was very special. Afterwards we took over the bar at Parliament House, and the bar staff were struggling to find enough champagne glasses for all of us – such celebrations are unusual in that bar!

On 16 June the government's mandatory sentencing laws were passed in the Lower House, meaning that anyone causing bodily harm to a police officer will automatically go to prison. There are many problems with mandatory sentencing – the most glaring being that all of the research shows that it does not reduce crime. The impacts of this legislation will be grave – there will be no incentives for guilty pleas (which save time in our courts), and there is no room for judicial discretion and individual circumstances to be considered. Our already stretched court and prison resources will be pushed to the limit.

Aboriginal people, including children, who are already massively overrepresented in our prisons, will bear the brunt of this legislation. Innocent people or people who should be dealt with by way of a fine may also end up in prison under this legislation. I was the only MP who opposed this Draconian law – interestingly many Labor MPs went to great lengths to say why they didn't like it, but ultimately had to toe the party line and vote for it, to maintain a 'tough on crime' image.

There has been a lot going on in Fremantle, too. I was on the panel for the recent Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute Coastal Symposium in Fremantle, where rising sea levels was the hot topic. I spoke about the need for climate-change legislation, including a ban on housing over the seabed, and mandating appropriate coastal setbacks.

Lead shipments through Fremantle is the looming drama for my constituents. Two weeks ago a large freight train derailed within ten metres of residences at South Beach, reigniting the debate about transporting lead carbonate in the

suburbs. All of my letters to the Environment Minister about this pressing issue remain unanswered.

This week a worker provided me with alarming evidence about dangerous and ongoing chemical spills at the Port of Fremantle, again raising issues of public health and safety.

I attended the Greens National Council in Adelaide and loved meeting Greens from all over the state. There was a lot of national interest in our Fremantle campaign, and invitations to speak at Greens events on the east coast.

Last month I spoke at the national Climate Emergency Rally and attended the moving rally in tribute to Aboriginal Elder Mr Ward, whose horrific death is a timely reminder of the systemic racism that permeates our state.

I am settling into my Fremantle office and looking forward to my new, fabulous staff being on board in the coming weeks. Please pop in and say hi when you're in the area. ▲



## Jo Vallentine

from page 1



**Peace off!** 1986. Jo tells the US Navy aircraft carrier Carl Vinson to take its nuclear capability elsewhere.

and has continued to campaign for anti-nuclear and peace issues. She has been arrested several times for her actions and protests at rallies on these issues.

By 1994 she had helped found the Alternatives to Violence Project, which focused on sharing non-violence skills with people in prisons. She also travelled with the 1997 Peace Pilgrimage, and was involved in the Jabiluka campaign, where she was again arrested. She then successfully campaigned to keep the estuary on the south side of Moore River free from urban development. Jo continues to oppose the Iraq war, the use of depleted uranium in Iraq (and its possible use by the US at Lancelin) and expansion of nuclear power and weapons.

In a historical survey of the state in November 2006, *The West Australian* named Jo one of the state's 100 most influential people of all time. She is also one of several of women recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. The Australian government's intentions to further mine uranium, and possibly build 25 nuclear

power stations around Australia's cities has also caused Jo to step up her role as a spokesperson for the Anti-Nuclear movement.

A proposal to confer on Jo honorary life membership was passed at April's Reps Council. However, this plaudit can be conferred only by an AGM.

Clause 7.4 of the constitution states: *An Annual General Meeting may confer honorary life membership on any person who has made an outstanding contribution to the achieving the vision and principles of The Greens (WA). Honorary Life Members shall have all the rights of Members.*

Jo has certainly made an outstanding contribution to achieving our vision and principles, and it is time we honoured her appropriately. This year's AGM, as our 20th anniversary approaches, is a good time.

The proposal to be put to the 2009 AGM on 29 August is 'that Honorary Life Membership be conferred on Jo Vallentine'. ▲

## Rachel Siewert

from page 2

are provided to deal with youth suicides, racism, and community conflict in Narrogin and other areas of the Southwest. I will continue my federal advocacy to support the important work being done to tackle this issue.

Meanwhile Aboriginal health issues have also received some important attention at the national level, with the NHHRC review report recommending the formation a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Authority – something which the

Greens strongly support. Our work with Aboriginal communities, organisations and legal advocates in the Northern Territory seems to have played an important part in the unfolding exposure of the inappropriate and inept manner in which the Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has handled the NT intervention, the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act, the provision of housing, and compulsory acquisition of Alice Springs town camps.

The whole top-down, one-size-fits-all approach seems to be unravelling, and I would not be at

all surprised to see a big increase in the Aboriginal green vote.

I'm now chair of the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee and we are currently carrying out an inquiry into gene patents. This inquiry is raising very important issues and highlighted the fact that some genes in Australia have been patented, for example the breast cancer genes BRAC 1 and 2. If you are interested please have a look at the submissions and Hansard on the Senate website.

It appears likely that the alcopops legislation will pass during the

►next page

## Greening local government

**Greg Boland** *Curtin member*

The first-ever Greens (WA) seminar on “Greening Local Government” was held on Sunday 12 July, at the Cottesloe Civic Centre, hosted and organised by the Curtin Greens. It attracted 30 participants from the metropolitan area and the Southwest.

The seminar was presented for those interested in running for local government and instigating change at the local government level. The Greens philosophies of grass-roots campaigning and participatory democracy are particularly well-suited to the Greens (WA) having an active role in this sphere of government.

Able facilitated by Margaret Rasa the seminar was a great opportunity to share ideas, experiences and networking, and seven current local government councillors attended, to advise on issues and State and national networks.

Senator Scott Ludlam, who has national portfolio responsibility for local government, has been busy energising councillors locally and nationally. Scott was due to open proceedings but was laid low following his recent trip to India. His staffer Felicity Hill ably filled in at the last minute, and gave the audience an introduction to the national perspective.

Deputising for MLC Robin Chapple, who has State portfolio responsibility for local government but had electorate duties saving the Burrup, MLC Lynn MacLaren spoke about the relationship between local and State governments. Lynn is

particularly interested in promoting greater involvement by women in local government.

Councillor Brad Pettit (City of Fremantle) spoke about the great possibilities for introducing sustainability principles and actions at the local government level. Cr Libby Eustance (Town of Mosman Park) presented the many environmental initiatives that can be progressed to “green your local council”, and Cr Greg Boland (Town of Cottesloe) took the audience through some of the technical aspects of elections and campaigns. Media aspects and campaigning were covered by experienced journalist Sian Gard.

The seminar then broke into small group workshops led by former Cottesloe deputy mayor Marion Ewing, to brainstorm and process campaign ideas for the coming elections. A tour of the Cottesloe council chambers, led by Cr Jay Birnbrauer, followed.

Feedback from those attending was very positive, and a similar event may be run to coincide with future local government elections.

This year local government elections are on 17 October, but postal voting can be done with many councils now. Nominations to stand for councils open on 3 September and closes on 10 September.

If you would like more information about the seminar, or the Greens and local government please contact Cr Greg Boland on 0438 265 252, or [gregboland1@bigpond.com](mailto:gregboland1@bigpond.com) Greg is the local government rep to the Greens (WA) Representatives Council. ▲

**Rachel Siewert**

*from previous page*

next sitting with Coalition support, meaning that our \$50million package of complementary measures—including a substitution fund for sponsorship, mandatory warning messages and labels, a national phone hotline and community initiatives—will be delivered. There are a number of other health bills we will be dealing with, such as the private health insurance rebate, the Extended Medicare Safety Net and the TGA amendments. There are details on all these on my website and the Senate website.

The next sitting will be interesting, to say the least! ▲

**Lynn McLaren**

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In Party business I facilitated a workshop on leadership, and continue to be involved in the Election and National Working Groups, and the Fremantle Greens. I also attended the National Council Meeting in Adelaide and met with Mark Parnell, South Australian Green MLC.

Our office team participated in a South Metro issues brainstorm to feed into our strategic plan. We are really looking forward to finally settling into our new office, though precisely when is still unknown. ▲

### Last chance to have your say on GMOs

Public submissions into the review of the *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003* close on 14 August

[www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=132211&](http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=132211&)

# Notice of Greens (WA) AGM

## Saturday 29th August, 1.30pm

Function Room  
Aqualife Centre, 42 Somerset St, East Victoria Park

### Business includes:

- choosing office bearers for the coming year, and
- a proposal to confer Honorary Life Membership on Jo Vallentine (see front page article for details)

*Please note: nominations for co-convenors and national delegate close on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>*

**A quorum of 30 members is required to conduct any business**

Aqualife is 500m from the Oats St train station and bus transport. There is ample onsite parking  
The function room is on the 1st floor, stairs & lift to the right from the main entrance

### CONTACTS

Regional Groups	Contact	Phone	Meeting
Brand	Rebecca	95819084	Friday night before 1st Sat of month, 7pm
Canning	Denise	9496 0376	Last Mon of month, 7pm, 101 Challis Rd, Armadale
Curtin	Mario	9386 7447	Last Tues of month, Earthwise Centre, Bagot Rd, Subiaco
Freo/Tangney	Val	9337 5380	Last Thurs of month, 7pm, Meeting Pl, 245 South Tce, Sth Fremantle
Moore/Cowan	Hannes	9305 0736	Contact Convenor
Pearce/Hasluck	Toni	9293 4968	Last Mon of month, 7.30pm, St Cuthbert's, Darlington
Perth	Hsien	9272 2437	Last Tue of month, 6.30pm, Autumn Centre, 55 9th Ave Maylands
South West	Peter	9791 5621	Meets quarterly - contact Peter
Stirling	Rosalie	9203 9626	Last Thurs of month, 7.30pm, Innaloo Sportsmen's Club, Innaloo
Swan	c/- office	9221 8333	Last Sunday of month, 5.30pm, 12 Kent St Victoria Park

Working Groups	Convenor	Phone	Meeting
Admin	Margo	9397 6209	Contact Co-convenors
Policy	Margo	"	Contact office
National Wkg Group	Kate	—	ktdavis@westnet.com.au

Parliamentarians	Member	Phone	Fax	Office	Staff
Senator	Rachel Siewert	9228 3277	9228 4055	1/151 Brisbane St Northbridge	Bridget, Chris, Dee, Donna, Tim
Senator	Scott Ludlam	9335 7477	9335 7499	8 Cantonment St Fremantle	Trish, Felicity, Rachel
North Metro MLC	Giz Watson	9201 0582	9201 0583	339 Oxford St, Leederville	Adie, Tonia, Irma
Mining & Pastoral MLC	Robin Chapple	9226 470	9226 4734	7 Harvest Tce, W Perth (temp)	Tim, Annemarie, Helen
East Metro MLC	Alison Xamon	9275 7474	9275 7574	9/2A Progress Dr, Morley (temp)	Kirsten, Toni, Jocasta, Steven
South Metro MLC	Lynn MacLaren	9430 7233	9430 7207	29 Adelaide St, Fremantle (temp)	Sue, Kerrie-Ann, Amanda, Chantal
Fremantle MLA	Adele Carles	9336 7000	9430 4564	Shp 1 Queensgate Ctr, William St, Fremantle	- Helen

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	Dee O'Neill	—	
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*Please direct any changes or additions to the Greens (WA) office.*