



THE GOOD OIL ON THE GREENS



30TH ANNIVERSARY



PETRA KELLY 1947-1992, FOUNDER OF THE GERMAN GREENS:

“For the Greens, parliamentary work should be of benefit to our many supporters at grass-roots level; it must never be undertaken for its own sake.”



Photographs and posters – we acknowledge all contributions. Unfortunately in most cases we don't know who the photographers and poster designers are.

Authorised and printed by Senator Lee Rhiannon, 72 Campbell St, Surry Hills NSW 2010.



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FIRST POLICY DOCUMENT PRODUCED BY THE GREENS IN AUSTRALIA



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FOREWORD

The Greens – how we began

It's not possible to talk of the founding of the Greens 30 years ago without mentioning Tony Harris (1948-2013). As well as taking the initiative to launch the Greens, Tony is responsible for some of the key things about the Greens that we still value so much.

Tony's story is fairly typical. As a student in Canberra and a country boy from Orange, he was radicalised in the 1960s and joined the Labor party during the heyday of the Whitlam years. However, by the early 1980s he was convinced that Labor was exhausted as a serious vehicle for change. As early as 1982 he was talking of the need for a Green Party in Australia along the lines of the German Greens.

There were differences between the two countries but there were telling parallels too. Both countries had large anti-nuclear movements, a growing ecological awareness and a body of '60s and '70s radicals searching for a way beyond capitalism and bureaucratic socialism. When a bunch of his friends were expelled from the Labor party in 1984, it was no longer possible to argue with Tony and we agreed to help him call a public meeting in Glebe Town Hall in August 1984 with the aim of forming the Greens. This was the formation of the first Greens Party in Australia.

That initial meeting certainly drew a heterogeneous crowd – as 'More Good Oil' points out. On Tony's suggestion, we adopted the four founding principles of the German Greens - ecological sustainability, grassroots democracy, social justice and equality, and non-violence. Tony's other key contribution was to insist on a flat, federated structure based on maximum power in the hands of members in local groups. This may appear unexceptional now, and it is certainly something we are proud of about the Greens today, but in the 1980s other proponents of a Green party in Australia were advocating a top-down, centralised structure.

Tony became aware as the 1980s unfolded of other groups and individuals around the country who were keen to contribute to the Greens in Australia. He didn't believe anyone or any group should dominate the Greens and as the national registered officer he welcomed an expanding body of adherents.

Almost certainly Australia would have got a Green Party without Tony Harris, but the one we have owes a great deal to him and his conception of what that party should be like.

Hall Greenland

Greens NSW Convenor

July 2014

MORE GOOD OIL (1984)

FIRST POLICY DOCUMENT PRODUCED BY THE GREENS IN AUSTRALIA

MORE GOOD OIL

Draft election platform of THE GREENS in Sydney

October 15, 1984

THE GREENS in Sydney come from many backgrounds. Environmental and resident activists. Nuclear disarmers. Dissidents from the Labor Party who have witnessed betrayals by both wings of that party. Feminists. Anarchists. Those inspired by the German Greens. Socialists of various kinds.

THE GREENS have come together because they believe that over the last twenty years a new force has emerged which has already chalked up significant successes and which is beyond the bipartisan consensus of the major parties.

What is distinctive and unifying about this new force in Sydney is the emphasis on encouraging people's self-confidence in their right to have their say, their right to democratically determine matters - whether they are large or small - which affect their lives.

THE GREENS in Sydney are committed to this approach. This, and our goals, mark us off from the old existing parties.

Locked into supporting one power bloc against the other, these parties are unable to take steps out of the vicious and ultimately exterminating cycle of the nuclear arms race. Committed to the current economic system, they find it difficult to check and reverse its continuing destruction of the natural basis of life on this planet. Working hand-in-hand with the Establishment, they are inhibited from moving

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towards a more equal and socially just society. Interested in power for themselves, their party and faction, they cannot work for a system where all power is in the hands of the people.

We have decided to run a candidate in the seat of Sydney and to support the NDP in the Senate poll to emphasise the urgency of our politics and to present the alternative to the old, dying politics.

The policies we advocate are ...

1. A nuclear free, peaceful and sharing world

The steps Australia should take are: a ban on the visits of nuclear ships, support to the anti-nuclear initiatives of New Zealand, the removal of the US bases, withdrawal from ANZUS, and an end to the ripping out and export of uranium.

These steps should be co-ordinated by a ministry of peace which would work towards an expanding nuclear-free zone, and switch 'defence' and military funds to Third World aid projects and to research into non-nuclear renewable sources of energy.

2. Grassroots democracy

Our policy of grassroots democracy means the development of decentralised and direct democracy.

If members of society are to have genuine freedom and self-determination then units of government must be small and democratic decisions of these units must be paramount.

THE GREENS political practice will be to encourage the emergence of such a society. While we will seek to create awareness and acceptance of our program by campaigning and publicity, our over-riding objective is to assist in building people's self-confidence in their right to have a say, their right to determine the conditions of life.

In line with this, changes we support now are: the creation of rights for people to initiate referenda on local, regional and national issues, and for the recall of representatives; open decision-making at all levels of government; and full power over the local environment for local Councils.

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3. Social freedom and equality

THE GREENS stand for peoples need to control their own lives. Social freedom and equality cannot be conceived without an end to all forms of discrimination and oppression, in particular the breakdown of patriarchy which has as its result the sustained oppression of half the world's population.

THE GREENS stand for internationalism, and freedom of cultural expression that includes full participation in all aspects of community life.

THE GREENS oppose all forms of racism, militarism, and the wasteful exploitation of resources by the advanced industrialist countries.

THE GREENS stand for a social system which exists in harmony with the environment rather than using it as a resource to be plundered.

This means:

- For women, the right to reproductive freedom and an unrestricted right to economic independence, as part of a process of breaking down hierarchical structures and beginning to re-order values by eliminating the division between the public and private domains.
- For Aborigines, cultural and social self-determination in accordance with the aspirations of Aboriginal communities for full land rights, cultural renewal, compensation and inviolable protection for sacred sites.
- For children, the right to participate in society, the right to universal free education and play facilities, and freedom from physical and emotional abuse.
- For non-English speaking migrants, full and equal access to language learning, education, jobs and the media.
- For homosexuals, an end to discrimination against men and women homosexuals in all areas e.g. employment and housing.
- For unions, the right of labour to organise to defend particular needs, and the repeal of all anti-union legislation.
- The right to freedom of political association and expression including the elimination of all restrictions on association, the abolition of the secret police apparatus and an end to all forms of surveillance, the disbanding of ASIO, ASIS and police special branches, and guaranteed access to the media.
- Support for self-determination of all oppressed nations, including an end to occupation of East Timor, West Papua,

Afghanistan, and the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Central America - the people of all nations have the right to choose a government and social system according to their needs and desires and free from outside interference.

4. A livable city

Right now in Sydney, this means a complete freeze on commercial developments in the Central Business District, abandonment of urban expressway plans, and no second airports and runways.

It means the switching of funds committed to these anti-environment and anti-social projects to environment enhancing and socially useful projects like public housing and the proper treatment and recycling of Sydney's sewage and industrial waste.

It means also the inclusion of all present and future unused harbourside land in the Sydney Harbour National Park.

5. A sustainable and just economy, working in harmony with our natural environment

This part of our platform is undergoing continuing discussion and elaboration. On this we agree

Immediate action to safeguard all wilderness areas, starting with the Daintree region, is called for.

Agricultural subsidies should emphasise reforestation programs, protection of water resources, promotion of natural fertilisers, ecological research, and the setting up of experimental eco-systems.

Continuing government support for greater income inequality must be ended and a guaranteed minimum income for all - above the poverty level at least - introduced.

The introduction of new technology must be democratically decided upon, not damaging either to the environment or human health, lead to reduced working time, and be accompanied by the right to continuing education.

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THE GREENS meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 8 pm at Glebe Town Hall.

Supporters and interested people are welcome.

GREENS PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY



1971

World's first Green Ban established by Builders Labourers Federation with support of community groups to save Kellys Bush urban bushland at Hunters Hill in Sydney.



1977

Petra Kelly, a German political activist visits Australia, meets Jack Munday, Green Ban leader. On returning home the emerging left party she is helping to establish takes the name 'Greens' (Grünen). Petra said she was inspired by the Green Bans.

1979

Greens win seat in Swiss election. First time Greens take a seat in any parliament.

Protesters save Terania Creek rainforest in northern NSW from logging.



1980

Founding Congress of German Greens (Die Grünen) adopts the four principles of ecological sustainability, grassroots democracy, social justice and non-violence that have been adopted by Greens parties in Australia and around the world.

1983

Bob Brown elected to Tasmanian parliament as an independent.

1984

First Greens Party formed in Australia in Sydney. Daphne Gollan was the preselected Greens candidate and won 5.5% of the vote in the federal election. (The ballot paper did not list Daphne as a Greens candidate as the party was not registered).

Franklin Dam stopped after long dramatic public campaign.

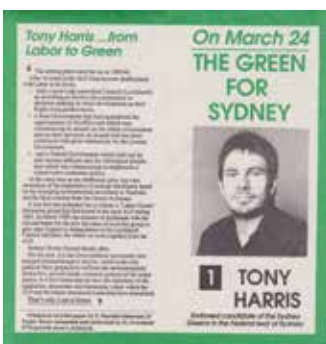
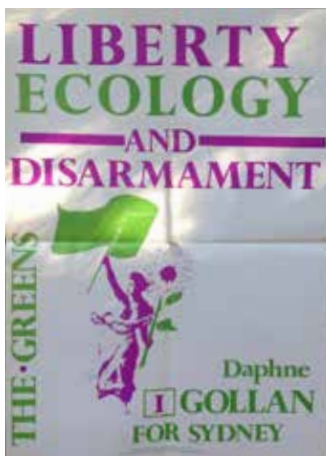


1985

The Greens registered with the Australian Electoral Commission. This is the first Greens party registered in Australia.

1987

NSW Senate election. For the first time Greens in Australia are on a ballot paper – Ian Cohen the lead candidate. Greens preferences help elect Rob Wood from the Nuclear Disarmament Party.





1990

At the federal election Jo Vallentine elected as a Greens WA Senator. First time a Greens party member is elected to a parliament in Australia.

1991

Local Greens groups in NSW formalised into Greens NSW.

Greens first win in a local government election with John Sutton elected to Newcastle City Council and Bruce Welch to Marrickville.



1992

Australian Greens formed by NSW, Tasmanian and Queensland Greens at a meeting in Sydney. South Australia and Victoria joined shortly after.

2002

Greens win first House of Representatives seat. Michael Organ became the MP for Cunningham on the NSW south coast in a by-election.

2003

WA Greens join the Australian Greens.

2004

Jan Barham elected as the first popularly elected Greens Mayor in Australia. She was Mayor of Byron Bay for two terms.



2008

Greens win a majority on Leichhardt Council.

2010

In the federal election the Greens vote and representation increase significantly with a campaign focussed on action on climate change and rights for refugees. Adam Bandt elected to the seat of Melbourne. Adam is the first Greens MP elected to the House of Representatives in a general election.



2011

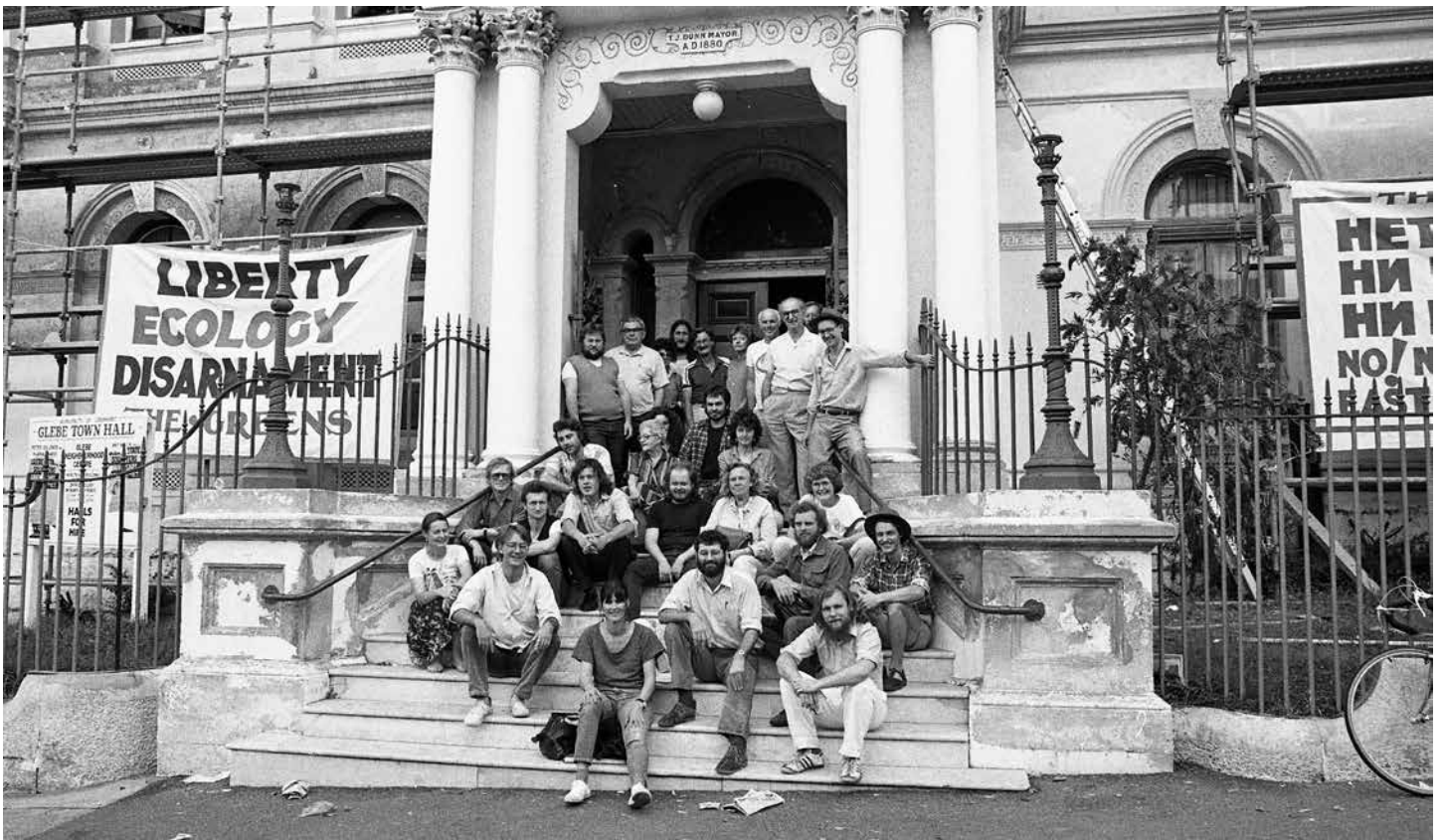
Jamie Parker first Greens MP elected to a single member electorate, Balmain, in a state general election.



2013

Mehreen Faruqi, Greens NSW MP, becomes first Muslim woman in any Australian parliament for any party.





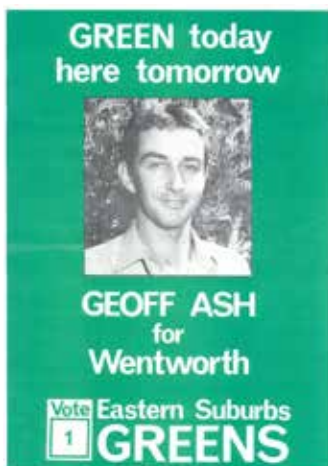
▲ August 1984 – founding meeting of a new Australian political party, the Greens.



▲ First Greens Councillors elected – [far left] John Sutton on Newcastle Council and [far right] Bruce Welch on Marrickville Council with Greens Mayors Fiona Byrne [Marrickville] and Murray Matson [Randwick].



▲ The famous interjection when the then US President George Bush addressed the federal parliament. Senators Bob Brown and Kerry Nettle called for Australian citizens in Guantanamo Bay to be returned. Greens MP Michael Organ is in front of Bob.



▲ Australian Greens leader Christine Milne and deputy leader Adam Bandt launch the party's no cuts to higher education campaign.

