

Spinifex

Newsletter of the Global Greens 2001 Conference

No 1

Conference themes

Global Greens 2001 will have three main themes:

Global Greens —
Getting to know each other, ratifying the Charter, discussing future communication and co-ordination.

Practical Green politics —
More than 70 countries have Green parties or movements; many have representatives elected at local, state or national level; some are in government. What have we learnt about doing Green politics? — inside and outside parliament.

Global issues —
For example, climate change, corporate globalisation and trade, genetic engineering, the nuclear industry.

Global Greens Charter takes shape

A KEY outcome of the Global Greens Conference will be ratification of the new Global Greens Charter. "One of the most exciting and important outcomes of Global Greens 2001 will be the ratification of the Global Greens Charter", said Margaret Blakers, Conference Convenor. "We have been working on the charter for years, and this is the place where we will finally have the discussion required to adopt it as the guiding principles for future Green organisation."

Green parties around the world were asked to comment on an early draft last year and a new draft was circulated in November last year.

The purpose of the Charter is to state the values and principles that Green parties and political movements hold in common. "It is not intended to

continued page 2



Conference 2001
14 - 16 April
Canberra Australia

More information:

Ph. +61 2 6247 6305

Fax. +61 2 6247 6455

www.global.greens.org.au

conference2001@global.greens.org.au

or at the Canberra Convention Centre
31 Constitution Ave, Canberra

Wed 11 April 1pm-6pm

Thurs 12-Sat 14 7.30am-6pm

Sun 15 & Mon 16 7.30am-5pm

What is Spinifex?

Spinifex is the newsletter of the Global Greens 2001 conference. This one pre-conference newsletter will be followed by a daily 12.45pm edition during the conference. We will include as many languages as available space and translations allow. Contributions are welcome on the themes of the conference.

Spinifex is an Australian grass that grows on very poor and sandy soils in desert regions and on the coast. It burns very easily, creating a lot of heat, due partly to a resinous waxy coating on its leaves. Aborigines used the resin for assembling things. Spinifex has evolved to survive in Australia's harsh climate. Its leaves are hard and sharp and start out flat, but if the plant is stressed the leaves fold and become almost cylindrical. This reduces the surface area, slowing the rate of heating and water loss. Spinifex roots spread deep and wide, to collect both ground water and surface water. There are hundreds of small seeds around the base of the clump, waiting for the rain, and a chance to germinate.

The **Spinifex** team will be based in the media area or call 0419 266 110.

Why Global Greens 2001?

In the twenty-first century, politics is global as well as local. How else can we protect the Earth from the ravages of climate change and exploitation; counter the corporate push for unfettered market supremacy; defend human rights; and reduce the gap between rich and poor.

The Greens are now a major progressive political force, working for change at a global level as well as locally and nationally. Greens from different countries first got together informally at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. Today there are over 70 diverse and independent Greens parties and groups around the world, some in government. There are federations in Europe, the Americas and Africa, and the brand new Asia Pacific Greens Network formed in April 2000. Creating the Global Greens Network is next!

Linking up with like-minded people globally will give the Greens a strong base for action through information-sharing, working on joint campaigns and co-ordinating in international forums, like the negotiating sessions for the Climate Change Convention.

Global Greens 2001 is a truly international get-together. An invitation went around the world for the Global Greens 2001 Conference in Canberra, Australia. Those invited are: members of a Green party or political movement supporters of a Green party or political movement committed to working for ecological justice, social justice, democracy and nonviolence. All participants will be able to attend the plenary sessions and take part in workshops and events before, during and after the conference. Green parties and political movements have been invited to nominate delegates who will represent them during the formal plenary sessions.

Already there are over 600 participants registered from at least sixty countries. It's guaranteed to be lively and inspiring. Above all it will be the place to find friends and support. Where else will you meet people who can tell you how to set up a Green party, where to find the resources, how to run a campaign, how to fight victimisation and oppression, and above all how to stay optimistic. Don't miss it!

Margaret Blakers, Conference Convenor

Global Greens Charter

continued from page 1

represent everything that every individual party or group believes in, but rather a set of core beliefs and ideals" said Ms Blakers. She hopes that it will be a document that stands the test of time, and be a statement that existing and newly forming parties can draw upon to decide whether they too are Green.

The Charter builds on earlier Greens' statements including at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Millennium Declaration made at Oaxaca in 1999 and the Accord between the Green Parties of the Americas and the Ecologist Parties of Africa.

The draft Charter has been prepared by Louise Crossley, of the Australian Greens based upon these key documents.

There will be a plenary and workshop on the Charter on the first day of the conference which will introduce the Charter and expose key areas of debate. A process will be developed and conference organisers hope that the Charter will be ratified by the end of the Conference. A copy of the Charter will be in each participant's conference kit.

Decisions on the Charter will be made by representatives of existing Green parties and organisations, not by all participants.

"The members of the SA Greens who will be going to the Global Greens 2001 conference look forward to the sharing of experiences, of the inspirational stories as well as the frustrations and disappointments, with other green activists from Australia and around the globe."

*South Australian Branch of
The Australian Greens*

Greens Housekeeping

- **Venue:** Canberra Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Ave
- **Registration Times:** The desk will be open at the Convention Centre on —
Wednesday, 11 April 1- 6pm
Thursday, 12 April to Saturday 14 April 7.30am - 6pm
Sunday, 15 April to Monday, April 15 7.30am - 5pm
- **Register early:** Please register as soon as you can to help us and you avoid queues.
- **Welcome Drinks:** 5.45pm -7pm on Friday 13 April Macquarie Hotel, 18 National Circuit, Barton.
- **Reminder — Register early:** Queues are frustrating for all of us! So please register early
- **Conference start:** 9am Saturday 14 April. Plenary commencing at 9.30am
- **Conference finish:** 4pm on Monday 16 April

“This Global Greens gathering is the positive face of globalisation - forging personal and political links that will enable six billion people on Earth to live well and together in the 21st century. We are welcoming Greens from around the world to a lively, inspiring and ground-breaking meeting.”

*Greens Senator Bob Brown,
Global Green Conference Host*



Pre-conference Events

Global Young Greens Sydney 7-9 April

The first gathering of young Green activists from around the world. Over 15 countries will be represented and the program includes nearly 30 Australian speakers.

Ph. + 61 2 9519 0877

Fax. + 61 2 9519 2177

Email. gyg@nsw.greens.org.au

Alliances and coalitions Sydney 10 April 2001

Speakers will examine the politics of alliances drawing on the experience of the campaign against corporate globalisation; Reclaim The Streets and Critical Mass movements; and picket-line cooperation between unionists and young activists on everything from job safety to green bans.

All welcome. Free admission

For more information:

Ph (02) 9519 0877

Rio+10 Workshop Canberra 12-13 April

In 1992, many people held high hopes that the Rio Earth Summit would mark a turning point for the environment and sustainability.

Ten years later it hasn't achieved its objectives. This Workshop will analyse what has happened and plan for the review of the Earth Summit due to take place in 2002.

The Workshop is jointly organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation (Germany), Friends of the Earth Australia and the Green Institute (Australia). Sarojini Krishnapillai is the Coordinator.

The Workshop will have over 100 international participants from all continents and regions, plus a similar number of observers.

Contact: c/- GPO Box 1108

Canberra City, ACT 2601

riocanberra10@effect.net.au

Ph. +61 2 6247 6305

“I am very glad to send this letter in name of all members of Mongolian Green Party and wish you greens success in implementing our common goal to build the ecological wisdom in our world.

Our party supports the aim of the world's greeners to become a united political force with the purpose of eradicating the crisis, which appeared between the natural environment and society, by joint actions.”

*Mr. D.Basandorj, Chairman of
Mongolian Green Party*

Organising the Global Green conference

THE Global Greens 2001 conference has involved large efforts by a number of people. It has been organised by the Australian Greens with Greens Senator Bob Brown as the host.

The Conference Convener, Margaret Blakers, has worked with Stu Cook plus a large contingent of volunteers in Canberra to raise funds, arrange the venue, assist participants to attend, develop an agenda and the many other things that go with organising an international conference.

An International Reference Group has guided the process, overseeing the development of the Charter and the conference program, as well as monitoring the progress of the Conference organisation. The Group has met by phone link up and it will continue to have a role during the Conference. It will recommend some structures for assisting the smooth running of the gathering including perhaps a Resolutions Group and a Standing Order Group.

The Group was structured to include three members from each of the regions:

- **Europe** Catherine Greze (Les Verts, France), Juan Behrend (Belgium), Arnold Cassola (EFGP)
- **Americas** Annie Goeke (ASGP, USA), Natalia Escudero (Mexico), Jorge Melo Viana (Brazil)
- **Africa** Adamou Garba (Niger), Matilda Banga (Sierra Leone)
- **Asia Pacific** Christine Milne (Australian Greens), Cheng-Yan Kao (Green Party Taiwan), Olzod Bum-Yalagch (Mongolia).

There has also been an Australian Steering Group consisting of:

- **Queensland** Desiree Mahoney
- **New South Wales** Kate Walsh
- **Victoria** Cheryl Clark
- **Tasmania** Peter Jones
- **South Australia** Michael Pritchard
- **ACT** Gosta Lynga
- **Western Australia** Stewart Jackson.

Contact details are available at: www.global.greens.org.au.

Share your travel story

Many participants getting to the Global Greens Conference will have made an impressive journey. If you know of or had an interesting, long or difficult journey, please share it with us. These efforts are a testament to the resilience of Green ideals and the tenacity of Greens and Green supporters.



The crowd

At the Global Greens Conference you will be mixing with about 600-700 others, with representation from at least 60 countries.

Overseas green speakers include:

- Dominique Voynet, Environment Minister of France
- Pekka Haavisto, Finland
- Jorge Gonzales Torres, Mexico
- Ingrid Betancourt, Colombia
- Wangari Maathai, Kenya
- Adamou Garba, African Federation of Green Parties
- Jean Nke Ndih, Cameroon
- Satoko Watanabe MP, Japan
- Jeanette Fitzsimons, Aotearoa-New Zealand
- Alex Gonzales, Peru
- Rick Anex, New Calendonía
- D. Basendorj, Mongolia
- Myong-Jae Cha, South Korea

Australian participants include all Green members of Parliament, many green local government members, plus many green party members.

Environmental / social justice activists are attending as well.



Spinifex is designed and produced by Consensus Productions (PO Box 45, O'Connor, ACT 2602, Australia) for the Global Greens 2001 Conference. All material is copyright © Global Greens 2001. Permission to reprint is easily given. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Global or Australian Greens.