

Spinifex

Newsletter of the Global Greens 2001 Conference

No 2

Young Greens take on the globe



Striding to the Young Greens Conference

From left to right:
Senator Bob Brown (56),
Kerry Nettle (26),
Kryl Tomlyak (24),
Ana Carolina Di Motta (19),
Nandor Tanczos MP (30).

CONFERENCE
COMMENCES 9AM
SATURDAY (NOT
9.30am as advertised)

What is Spinifex?

Spinifex is the newsletter of the Global Greens 2001 conference. Editions will be available at the beginning of each lunch session.

The **Spinifex** people are the Aboriginal owners of the beautiful red sand dune country in southern Western Australia. In November 2000 the Spinifex people were granted formal recognition to 55,000 square kilometres of this land under Australia's Native Title Act. Eighty-five per cent of this was granted as exclusive ownership, the remainder to be shared with the State Department of Conservation and Land Management. To document their claim they painted 'Wati Tjuku' a representation of their spinifex country.

The Global Greens 2001 Conference poster which features the painting states: "*For Green parties care for the land and recognition of Indigenous land rights are fundamental. The succes of the Spinifex people in claiming their country and the joy and vibrancy of the paintings made in the process symbolise our aspirations as we gather to create an international network at the Global Greens 2001 Conference.*"

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

GLOBAL YOUNG Greens launched a new international alliance following their first ever international meeting in Sydney on 7-8 April. Over 400 young Greens and supporters gathered to discuss solutions to international problems and how to support their common goals.

The participants ranged in age from 15 upward, with people from many parts of the world in attendance.

The meeting was one of several events prior to the Global Greens 2001 Conference in Canberra 13-16 April. One of the organisers and the Greens lead New South Wales candidate for the Senate in the federal election to be

held later in 2001 is Kerry Nettle, 26, of Sydney. "It was really inspirational just to have so many young Greens together" she said.

"Greens are the party of the future. Young people are the future. It was great to see so many strong young people as part of the Greens."

Australian Senator Bob Brown praised the meeting participants noting that "the overall message of the conference was overwhelmingly optimistic despite the confronting themes discussed: violence, poverty, ecological destruction, and youth cynicism with politics".

The meeting covered a wide range of issues and a variety of workshops

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CONFERENCE PROCEDURES

The International Reference Group has developed some procedures for the Conference.

The discussion of the Charter will follow a process that will be circulated shortly.

A Resolutions Group will process resolutions other than those dealt with by the International Reference Group. The Group will be convened by Jef Leestmans and Federations/Networks will have one nominated member on the group.

The International Reference Group will deal with the Charter, the Oaxaca Resolution and a climate change resolution from the Rio+10 meeting.

Draft plenary procedures will be further refined today. The main points are:

- In the plenary sessions each country is entitled to three delegates who have speaking rights
- Each Federation/Network is responsible for accreditation and voting rights of its own members
- We will attempt to reach consensus on all decisions
- Each party recognised by the relevant Federation/Network is entitled to three votes (indicated by cards - green for support, red to oppose and white to abstain).

Young Greens
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were held. Resolutions included:

- opposing corporate globalisation and working for ecologically sustainable alternatives
- opposing genetic engineering and supporting sustainable organic alternatives
- condemning the United States Government for failing to reduce greenhouse emissions
- calling for the eradication of the nuclear industry around the globe
- supporting the people of Western Sahara.

Thirty year old Nandor Tanczos, Member of Parliament in New Zealand, said the meeting was absolutely amazing. "It was really inspiring to be with so many young people who were so creative and so full of energy, even though some of them are working under very difficult conditions."

"I really enjoyed the discussion around the relationship between indigenous peoples and Greens. It was good to see what is already happening and what we can do to improve our act", he said.

The Global Young Greens conference was an opportunity for young people to network. It also resolved to establish a Global Young Green network to maintain contacts between Greens who were at the conference and with Green organisations around the world.

The new network will be modelled on successful NGOs like Amnesty International and will be run by young volunteers.

The Young Greens will be part of the Global Greens 2001 Conference through the participation of many young people in the conference. In addition a workshop on the Young Greens will be held at the Conference on Sunday 15 April. Representatives from the Young Greens will also be part of the final plenary session of the Conference.

Further information on the Young Greens network will be available on the Global Greens website.



Global Greens on the web
www.global.greens.org.au

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

There are four workshop times: one on Saturday, two on Sunday, and one on Monday. At each of these times we can have nine concurrent workshops. The foyer can also be used for small meetings.

So far only half the workshop spaces have been allocated so that people, especially from the South, who have not had a chance to propose a workshop, can do so.

How have the current workshops been chosen?

The organisers have tried to cater for the interests you named when registering for the conference.

Other workshops cover the core agenda of the conference such as the "Green Charter" and "Working together".

How can I propose a workshop?

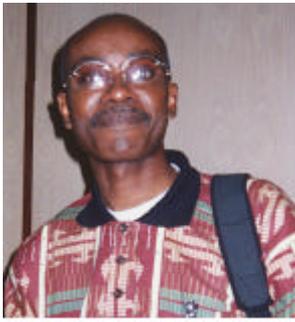
Fill in the blue form from your Registration Kit (or at the Registration Desk) and place on the Workshop Noticeboard in the foyer near the Registration Desk. **This must be done by the end of lunchtime on Saturday.**

New workshops

The organisers will allocate times and rooms for the most popular workshops.

For workshop proposals not allocated rooms, the proposal will return to the Workshop Noticeboard and **YOU** will need to allocate a time to meet others interested in your topic and specify a place to meet.

We hope this process will cater for most of the people most of the time.



Interview: Nnimmo Bassey Director Environmental Rights Action Nigeria

Nnimmo Bassey is an architect, writer, poet and an environmental / human rights activist. He is the co-founder and Director of Environmental Rights Action / Friends of the Earth Nigeria.

You're not a member of a Green party but you still see value in coming to this conference?

The Greens are not any different from any other environmentalist who cares about the environment. We believe that the environment is our life. We have to preserve the environment so that we can develop and grow in it.

I know that the Green Party stands for the best in life for everyone: freedom, protection of the environment.

The Greens are a formidable force that we can cooperate with and we can learn and draw inspiration from.

What are the issues in Africa at the moment?

The issues are of survival really. People are looking for the basics of life. We have a problem — the extractive industries, the transnational corporations, especially the oil companies and the mining companies. We have deforestation and of course economic practices forced on countries by the IMF and World Bank. The whole of Africa is still run on the basis that are not beneficial for people.

What do you hope to get from the conference?

It is going to be a great opportunity for networking. People are coming from all over the the world. We are going to hear different perspectives and maybe get different ideas on how to tackle issues. I'm certainly going to be very enriched by all the views I'm going to get.

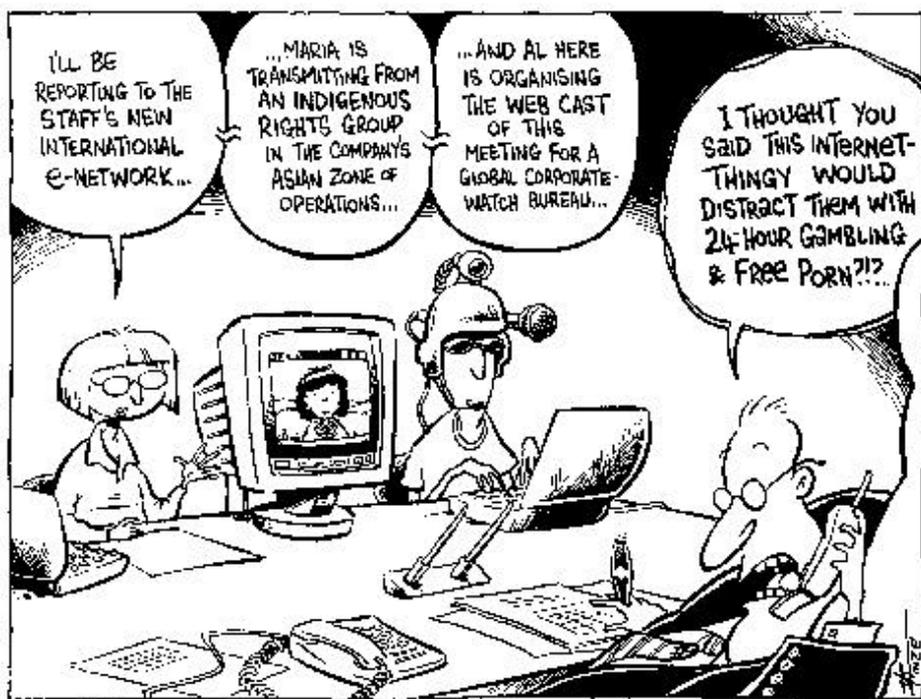
Green Piece

● **Bone Marrow Registry**

A Green party member from Victoria tried to organise the Red Cross to set up a bone marrow testing at the Conference. Of the 150 000 Australians currently on the Bone Marrow register, some 95% are of a northern-European, or Caucasian, background. Asian, African, South American, Middle Eastern and indigenous people are needed. The testing didn't happen but maybe you could still think about it.

● **Walk Through Time** — in its full-scale version this is a mile-long illustrated walk depicting the five-billion year history of life on Earth. There will be a scaled down version in the Convention Centre organised by John Seed and the Rainforest Information Centre.

● **Organic food** — the availability of organic food in Australia was tested by organisers of the Conference dinner. They tried to make the whole dinner organic but found that it wasn't so simple. It was impossible to find organic honeydew or pineapple and organic beer had to be imported.



"With Greens parties in coalition Governments across Europe and the Greens on the rise around the world we are the emerging alternative to economic rationalism.

We want the power of charting the future to be in elected parliaments, not the WTO and large transnational corporations. ... global warming, the growing gap between rich and poor and enhancing democracy are high on our agenda."

Senator Brown, launch of the Global Greens Press Conference, 11 April 2001

“It’s time for environmental movements to come together and reaffirm their strong stand on climate negotiations”

*Patrina Dunaru, Director Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Fiji
Press Conference 12 April*

“If Australia is determined to side with the dinosaurs then we really do have a problem”

*Marian Coyne European Federation of Greens Parties,
Press Conference 11 April
(on climate change.)*

Alliances — workshop

The alliances workshop held in Sydney on 10 April was attended by about 25 people. Discussion focussed around the issues of the Greens working in alliances with social movements, community groups, and labour and student organisations. The meeting considered:

- When do alliances work?
- When do alliances not work?
- Why bother?

If you want any further information on the workshop, contact Kerry Nettle on 0402 366 166.

Media clips

- *Canberra Times* ‘Organisers dig deep to cater for glut of green visitors heading our way’ 10 April
- *Canberra Times* ‘Greenhouse gas levels an embarrassment’ 12 April
- ABC Radio National Breakfast Bob Brown interview 12 April



Greens Housekeeping

- **Photocopying:** ‘Aussie Print’ will do copying for the conference. Take your copying to 20 Allara Street (2 minutes from conference) 10am-1pm each day. **Costs apply.**
- **Spinifex on the web:** Do you have interested friends or colleagues who aren’t here? Let them know that *Spinifex* can be e-mailed and will soon be on the web.

The crowd — update!

A total of 725 people had registered as at the end of Thursday.

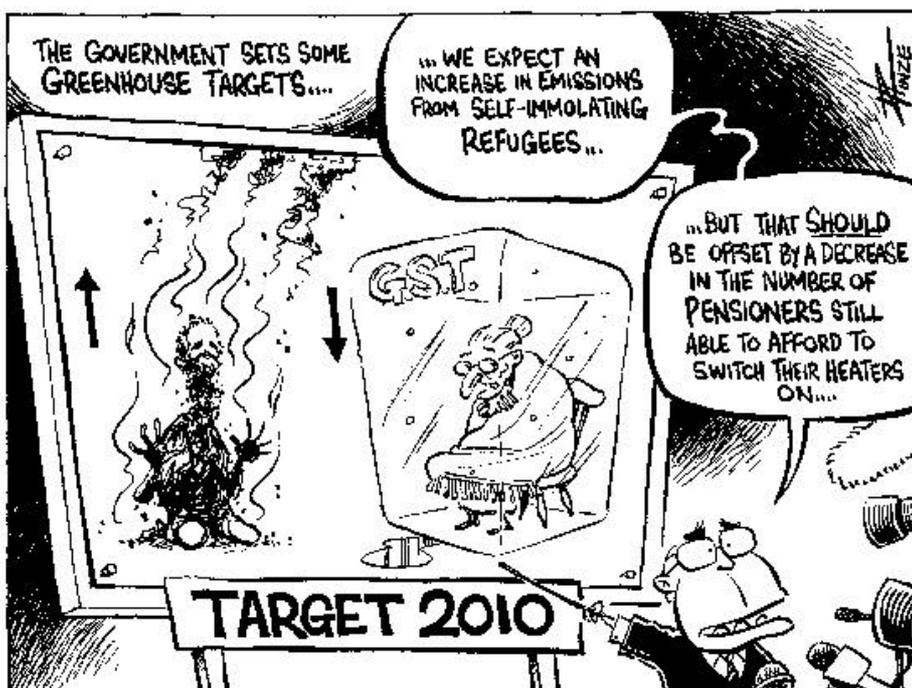
This includes:

- 14 from Africa
- 54 from the Americas
- 93 from Asia
- 408 from Australia
- 89 from Europe
- 65 from the Pacific

Also in attendance are 64 current and former elected Green representatives in national, regional and local spheres from Australia, Belgium, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden, the Netherlands, Ukraine and the United States of America.

The European representatives include a number of MPs in the European Parliament.

Every current elected Australian Green in the national or State and Territory sphere is at the Conference.



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