

Spinifex

Newsletter of the Global Greens 2001 Conference

No 3

Greens: party of the future

THE GLOBAL Greens 2001 Conference commenced today with over 700 participants in the Canberra Convention Centre hearing a strong message of optimism and hope for the world. Almost half of the participants are from overseas.

The conference participants were welcomed to the traditional land of the Ngunnawal people by Matilda House. A musical presentation followed. Then in an example of the global reach of the Greens, delegates from 72 countries briefly introduced themselves (see back page).

Senator Bob Brown, as host of the Conference on behalf of the Australian Greens, told the Conference that the Greens are the party of the future.

"The single, maybe biggest difference between ourselves and the old parties and this is thinking long term ... and above every

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What is Spinifex?

Spinifex is the newsletter of the Global Greens 2001 conference. Editions will be available at each lunch session. Web copies are available at www.global.greens.org.au

Many things thrive in **Spinifex** country. The desert at first glance looks bare and uninhabitable, yet an incredible variety of wildlife live in **Spinifex** country. Amongst others there is the Spinifex pigeon, the Spinifex Hopping mouse, the Spinifex Night Parrot and the Pygmy desert goanna.

The Spinifex pigeon is one of the few birds adapted to living in the arid spinifex grasslands of central and northern Australia and lives there all the time. The Spinifex hopping mouse is the most numerous of all hopping mice. They are nocturnal and shelter during the day in deep burrows. Some think that the Spinifex Night Parrot is almost extinct, landclearing and feral animals may be responsible. The pygmy goanna hide in spinifex bush and then ambush food sources — including other goannas. They are active most of the year.

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

Rio+10 workshop concludes

THE pre-conference Rio+10 workshop finished on Friday afternoon after agreeing to a general statement on the forthcoming Earth Summit in 2002 and a resolution on climate change.

In 1992 the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Rio Earth Summit, set out an global action plan for ecologically sustainable development. Almost ten years later there is general consensus that it has largely failed to meet its goals. It has not provided a framework to halt climate change or loss of biodiversity. The Earth Summit is to be formally reviewed next year in Johannesburg.

Over 250 people participated in the Global Greens Rio+10 workshop which was intended to

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Global Greens gets going
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parliament should be these words: 'In all we are doing here, will people one hundred years from now thank us for it?' This is a revolutionary question — common sense — but it will turn the world of politics on its head."

The conference was also greeted by representatives from the four main regions of the Greens.

- Satoko Watanabe from Japan on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Greens
- Adamou Garba from Niger on behalf of the African Greens

- Jorge Gonzales Torres of Mexico on behalf of the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas; and

- Arnold Cassola from Malta on behalf of the European Federation of Green Parties.

They each brought stories of struggle but also success and their outlook was unanimously optimistic.

The conference will continue over the next three days, with ratification of a Global Greens Charter one of the major items on the agenda.

Rio+10 workshop report
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work out strategies and actions in the lead up to the Earth Summit 2002.

Workshop organiser Sarojjini Krishnapillai said a constant theme was "concern about the dominance of the free trade agenda and that while economic globalisation seems to have been embraced by the world's governments, the globalisation of environmental protection and human rights is coming second place".

She believes that the workshop demonstrated that "there can be a positive face to globalisation" and the call for the environment and social justice to be centre stage next year at the 2002 Earth Summit will only get louder.

Workshop participant and former Greens Member of Parliament in Tasmania Australia Christine Milne said, "We've now reached a point where we stand better organised, better networked, more united than ever before at the beginning of what is the century of the environment".

The conference noted that Earth Summit 2002 "will play a decisive role for the future of the planet" and the process leading up to it will be vital to its success. "Civil society has to be encouraged to participate through broad information and a transparent preparatory process."

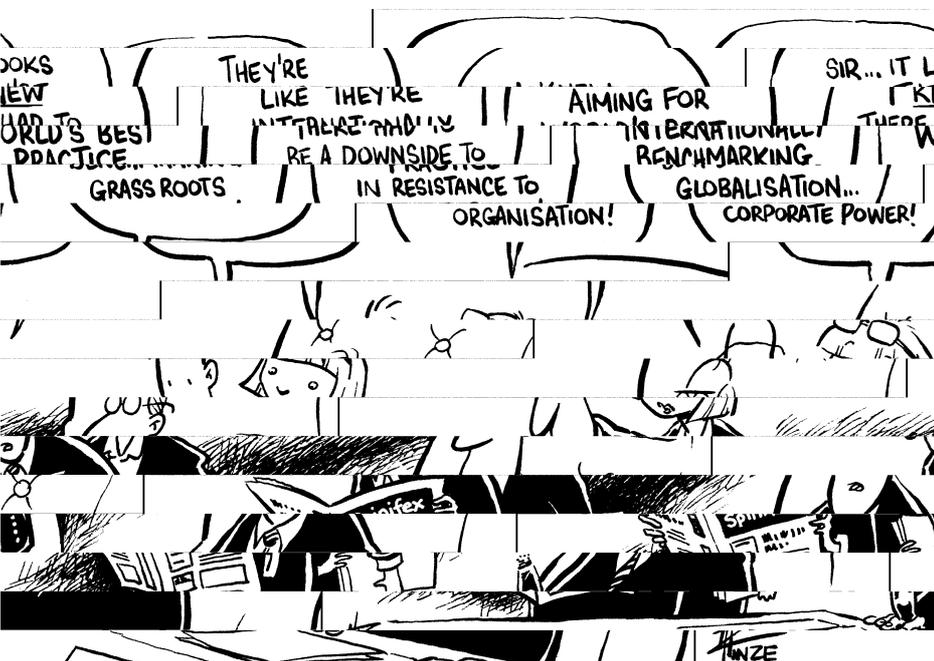
The resolution on climate change notes "the 1997 Kyoto Protocol is an important, if insufficient, first step in the direction of implementing the principle of sustainability in climate policy".

The resolution also calls on Green political parties of the Globe to "ensure that negotiations reflect the urgency of moving from fossil fuel dependency and from the use of nuclear energy to sustainable renewable sources".

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



Conference 2001
14 - 16 April
Canberra Australia



Green Speak

- **Esperanto** — If you speak 3 languages you are trilingual. If you speak 2 languages you are bilingual. If you speak one language you are probably an English speaker. There is an international consensus about the need to protect biodiversity, but not about saving the diversity of the world's languages? Is the 115 year old international language Esperanto the best example of a neutral, easy to learn language? Does it make communication between Greens easier and fairer?
- **Broken English** — a vocal 'poll' taken at the Friday night Green drinks resoundingly found that the most common language used around the world was broken english!

“Now they are starting to see that to change African governance that impacts negatively on the area they have to address policies. And policies are put in place by politicians and therefore people who want to do something good for the environment can not stay away from politics, can not consider politics as just a game”.

Wangari Maathai, Kenya

Media clips

- *Canberra Times* 'Rejecting Kyoto a crime says Greens' 14 April
- *Canberra Times* 'Environmental activist remembers the people' 14 April
- *Sydney Morning Herald* 'World's greens on the march to put new hue on globalisation' 14 April
- *Australian* 'Greens plot tactics to embarrass' 14 April
- ABC News 'Senator urges world governments to tackle greenhouse issue' 13 April

Interview: Satoko Watanabe Rainbow and Greens Japan

Satoko Watanabe is an elected Member of Kagawa Prefectural Assembly and one of four co-representatives of Rainbows and Greens, Japan.



You have 31 from your group, and there's over forty in total from Japan, why have you got so many?

In Japan the name of the group is Rainbow and Greens Japan. Rainbow means diversity - and there are many different people, mainly independent local representatives - and Green means Green. We want to send the message that you have the power to change the situation. So that's why we formed this kind of network, not a party, about two years ago. We don't know whether we should start a party or remain a movement. I think it is a good idea to meet the people from all over the world, people from green movements or green parties. I think it's a very good opportunity to learn from the experiences of these people and we can form the network and hopefully we can get empowered and encouraged and that's why we came here.

What are the main issues in Japan at the moment?

It's how to use our public money. In Japan the ruling party in government spends a lot of money on public construction which damages the natural environment. They built a huge dam in the mouth of the river near the sea and it killed the wetland. That kind of public construction will be beneficial to the construction companies and the construction companies will donate the money to the politicians. Tax money, public money, is spent that way and now we have a huge deficit. We have the big problem like how to take care of elderly people and we need more welfare money but they say no, we don't have any money. So we have to check how the tax money is spent and we have to change the way how to use that tax money. That's a big issue and also the corruption of the politicians. It's one after another, one trouble, problem after another.

“If you don't reduce emissions a lot of people are going to pay the costs. This is very unfortunate because some people in the world take benefit of consuming energy ... and other people in the world, especially in the South - Africa, Asia, Latin America - we're the ones who pay the costs. We're the ones who are more vulnerable to droughts, to floods, to all the extreme weather events that are taking place because of climate change.”

*Ricardo Navarro, El Salvador,
Global Greens Press Conference,
13 April 2001*

The Greens in Africa

There are fourteen participants at the Global Greens from Africa. There are fifteen Green Parties in Africa and four Green Members of Parliament are Ministers. The African Greens grew out of the democracy that resurfaced in Africa in the 1990s. Jean Nke Ndihi, President of the Cameroon Green Party says the signs are there that “the African Greens will mature and their ‘Spring’ will come in the first two decades of the 3rd millenium, if democracy truly comes to the continent”.



Adamou Garba and Ngorongo Makanga

Adamou Garba is the Secretary General of the African Green Party and Ngorongo Makanga is Secretary General of the Liberal Green Party of Kenya. The green political parties in Africa gain momentum from the grassroots movenments in Africa such as the Green Belt Movement. The Green political parties give an extra voice, as Makanga says “The movement is going to continue ... and we’re going to have the political part going on, both of them working together”.

Wangari Maathai



Wangarri Maahtai launched Kenya’s Green Belt Movement in 1977. There are now 5,000 grassroots nurseries throughout Kenya and over 20 million trees have been planted.

Wangarri says, “I’ve led this movement which is a grass roots movement but my mission is to promote green consciousness so that the African people understand the linkages between many of their problems and the environment.”

Greens Housekeeping

- **Almost all organic Conference Dinner:** Great Hall Parliament House 7.00pm
- **Conference finish:** 4pm on Monday 16 April
- **Spinifex is on the web:** Do you have interested friends or colleagues who aren’t here? Let them know that *Spinifex* is on the web. www.global.greens.org.au



Over 70 green parties

Greens Parties represented at the Global Greens 2001 are:

Australian Greens, Die Grunen (Austria), Agalev (Belgium), Ecolo (Belgium), Les Verts (Benin), Movimiento Poder Verde (Bolivia), Bulgarian Greens, Les Verts du Burkina (Burkina Faso), Cameroon Greens, Canadian Greens, Chilean Greens, Colombian Greens, StranaZelenych (Czech Republic), DeGronnes (Denmark), Horizonte Verde (Ecuador), Eesti Rohelised (Estonia), Vihrea Liitto (Finland), LesVerts (France), Guatamalan Greens, Georgia Greens, Bundnis90/ Die Grunen (Germany), Politiki Oikologia (Greece), Partis des Ecologistes Guineens (French Guinea), Zold Alternativa (Hungary), Comhaontas Glas (Ireland), Federazione Dei Verdi (Italy), Dei Greng (Luxembourg), Partis Ecologiste pour L’Integration (Mali), Alternativa Demokratika (Malta), PartidoVerde Ecologiste de Mexico, Mongolian Greens, Moroccan Greens, Green Nepal Party, De Groenen (Netherlands), Verts Pacifique (New Caledonia), The Greens Aotearoa (New Zealand), Miljopartiet de Gronne (Norway), Rassemblement des Verts-Ni’il (Niger), Philippine Greens, Os Verdes (Portugal), St Petersburg Greens (Russia), Strana Zelenych Na Slovensku (Slovakia), South African Greens, Confederation de los Verdes (Spain), Miljopartiet de Gronne (Sweden), Scottish Green Party, Partis African Ecologiste (Senegal), Grune/ Les Verts (Switzerland), Green Party Taiwan, Ukrainian Green Party, Green Party of England and Wales, Association of State Green Parties (USA), Green Party USA, Partido del Sol, (Uruguay)

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