

SEEDING, FEEDING & LEADING TRANSFORMATIVE GREENS POLITICS



**GREEN INSTITUTE
ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With our strongest ever focus on engaging and working with Greens members and the wider movement, 2022/23 was an exciting and highly successful year for the Green Institute. Despite tiny resources, with only 1½ FTE staff, we delivered a massive program of workshops and webinars, publications and podcasts, conferences and writers' festivals, cultivating deep conversations about democracy, nature, peace, work and change.

- 4 conferences
- 4 publications
- 12 member workshops
- 15 book discussion events
- A new podcast
- Thousands of people engaged

The core focus for the first half of the year was the launch of the book, *Living Democracy: an ecological manifesto for the end of the world as we know it*. The launch events, around the country and online, alongside key figures from the party and the movement, helped engage branches, members, and values-aligned community organisations in the Institute's work and in Greens political ideas.

The second half of the year saw the Institute deliver a series of workshops for Greens members around the country on theory of change and power, feeding into the party's strategic planning process. We also attended and participated in the 5th Global Greens Congress, in Incheon, Korea, and did the preparatory work for our major Green Institute national conference, held in Brisbane in August.



Alongside these major projects, we: published three editions of Green Agenda magazine; continued issue-specific projects on UBI, peace, nature, and democracy; and hosted the start-up podcast, Serious Danger.

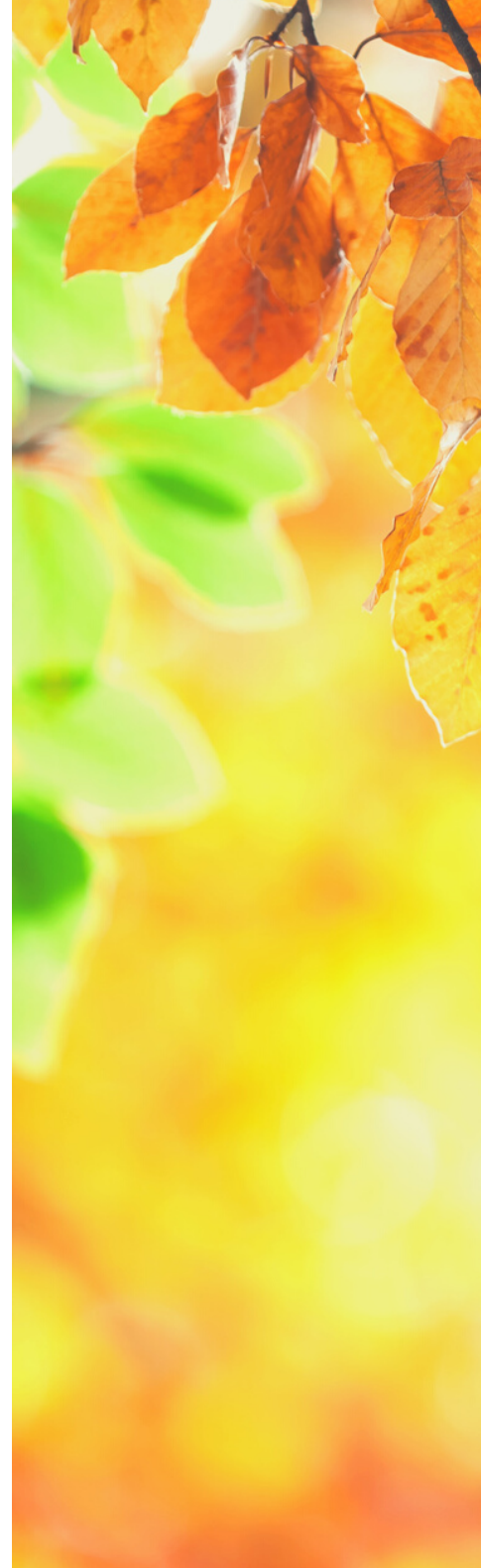
At a two-day strategic retreat with our staff, board and members, we clarified the Institute's vision as "seeding, feeding and leading transformative Greens politics" by "creating the space for strategic conversations about Green politics that can't happen anywhere else but are crucial for our movement's transformative goals."

Crucially, 2022/23 was effectively a break-even year for the Green Institute. We posted a tiny deficit of only \$826 on our still small \$219,000 budget. This is an important turn-around on several years of deficit, investing in our work thanks to a generous bequest.

The Green Institute has become known and respected for the quality and quantity of our work. We thank party members, MPs and other supporters who fund this work, through donations and paid contracts, and look forward to ongoing and deeper collaboration.

Tim Hollo

Tim Hollo
Executive Director

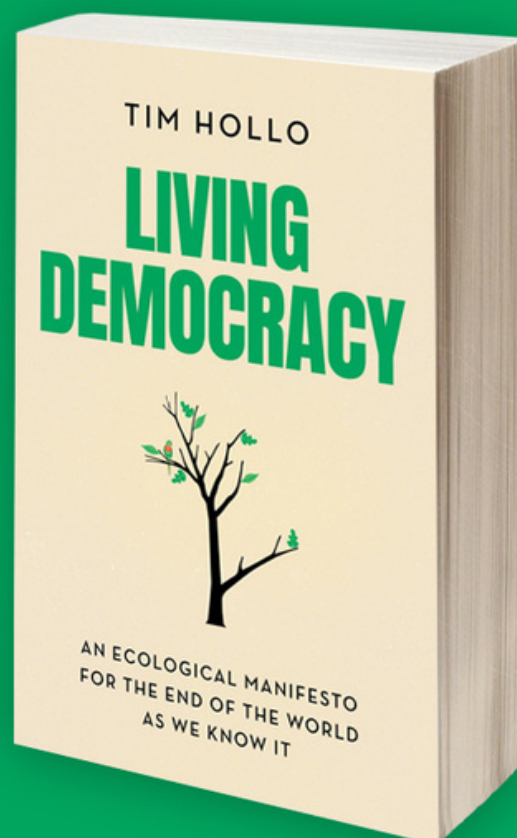


LIVING DEMOCRACY

Tim Hollo's book, *Living Democracy: an ecological manifesto for the end of the world as we know it*, which he spent much of 2021 writing, was formally launched in early August 2022. The book is an exploration of transformative green political ideas for an informed general audience, and has received a positive critical reception and substantial audience, informing and engaging many thousands of people with these ideas.

The book was always intended as a discussion-starter about Greens politics, and the launch events around the country and online which formed the backbone of the Institute's work for several months, did exactly that. The major city launches included Greens MPs (Adam Bandt, Abigail Boyd, Barbara Pocock, Jonathan Sriranganathan, Rebecca Vassarotti, Shane Rattenbury) as well as key people from the movement and academia (Prof Danielle Celermajer, Cat Nadel, Dr Amanda Cahill, Dr Arnagretta Hunter, A/Prof Pete Burdon), and saw deep engagement from branches and members around what we are trying to achieve.

AN ECOLOGICAL
MANIFESTO FOR THE
END OF THE WORLD
AS WE KNOW IT.



NEWSOUTH

Outreach through these launches, media, and online promotion led to a suite of community events, spreading the ideas and engaging people in action. These included Greens branches in the Blue Mountains, Gosford, Blacktown and the Bega Valley, an event with Independent MP Sophie Scamps, and events with the U3A, the South Coast Writers' Centre, and the thriving ecosystem of community groups in Castlemaine. Appearances at the Byron Bay, Canberra, Tathra and Berry Writers' Festivals, and seminars at the Australian National University and Sydney University, further increased the reach.



Media coverage for the book includes an interview with Philip Adams on ABC Radio National's Late Night Live, the broadcast of a Byron Writers' Festival panel on Radio National's Big Ideas, interviews on ABC Radio Canberra and Adelaide and several community radio stations, published reviews in The Canberra Times and GreenLeft Weekly, and many podcasts and webinars including ANU's policy pod, New Economy Network Australia, Regennarration, OurDemocracy, and Building Belonging. Further key promotion of the book and its ideas included a TEDx talk in Canberra, recording the audiobook (to be released), and a major essay based on some of the ideas in the book published in the summer edition of Meanjin, entitled "Welcome to the Interregnum".

NewSouth (UNSW Press) allocated 500 copies (in addition to the first print run of 3000) to the Green Institute at cost price. Both have sold out, and a new run begun. This added a small income stream to the Institute, in addition to spreading the ideas. A generous donor covered the cost of sending free copies to all sitting Greens MPs and values-aligned cross-benchers in the Federal, State and Territory parliaments.



WORKSHOPS

The Green Institute has long provided advice and support to the Australian Greens by creating space for important and difficult conversations that can't happen elsewhere. This has often been on an ad hoc basis. This year, we began to formalise and expand this work.

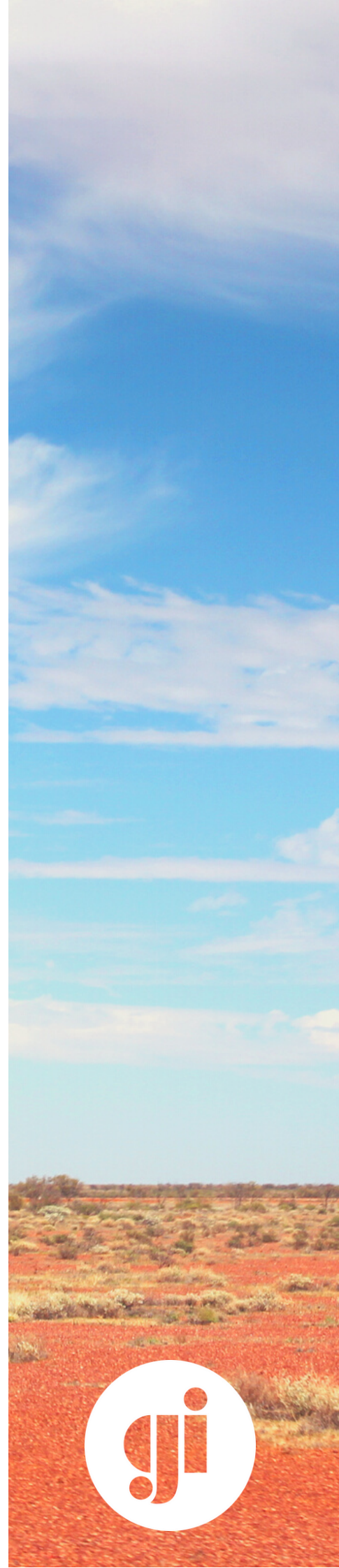
In March, the Institute was contracted by the Australian Greens National Council to run a series of workshops on Theory of Change and Power as part of the party's strategic planning process. The Institute developed an agenda, delivered 11 workshops in person and online, and wrote up a detailed report. Involving some 350 Greens members in every state and territory, including MPs, office bearers and ordinary members, these workshops were an exciting opportunity to delve deep into ideas of how the Greens contribute to social and political change, and how we seek to reshape the exercise of political power.

The workshops were a vital learning experience, for the party, for members, and for the Institute. There is real appetite for this work to be continued and expanded in the coming years. They also provide the building blocks for further education and engagement programs the Institute is looking to develop.



The Institute was also contracted by the ACT Greens in May to develop and deliver a strategic workshop on housing policy and politics, and write up recommendations to the party. This process was vital to resolving tensions, and contributed substantively to policy development.

The Institute has been invited to deliver strategic planning support for branches in the coming year already. This provides a tremendous opportunity to engage and inform the party, and earn income to enable the Institute to sustain itself.



CONFERENCES

Attending, presenting at, and organising academic, advocacy and activist conferences is always central to the Green Institute's work of creating space for generative and strategic conversations about transformative Greens politics. This year was particularly busy on this front, with panels, presentations, and workshops at the Australian Greens National Conference in Brisbane, the Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) national conference in Canberra, the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) global congress in Brisbane, and the CBR360 Circular Economy symposium in Canberra.

A particular focus was the 5th Global Greens Congress, held in Incheon, Korea, in June. The Institute led and participated in three panels, recorded interviews with other participants, and led the formation of a Global Greens Strengthening Democracy Network.

This year saw extensive preparation for our major national conference, *The City Transformed: urban life at the end of the world as we know it*, which we held just into the new financial year. Preparation included development of the theme, in consultation with people across the party, negotiation of a "knowledge partnership" with Griffith University to host on their campus, developing and promoting a call for proposals, and approaching keynote speakers.



Green Institute Conference 2023
Meanjin/Brisbane and online
Friday 18 August & Saturday 19 August
Griffith University, South Bank



THE CITY TRANSFORMED

URBAN LIFE AT THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT



BOOK AT WWW.GREENINSTITUTE.ORG.AU

The Green Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of our Knowledge Partner for this event, Griffith University Climate Action Beacon.

ISSUE-SPECIFIC WORK

This year, in addition to ongoing work on Universal Basic Income, nature, and democracy, the Green Institute responded to AUKUS and the growing threat of war with a small stream of work on peace. Up to this point, this involved a presentation at the IPAN conference and participation in a number of community conversations and campaign events, building on the peace chapter in Living Democracy. The intention is to continue and expand on this work.

Universal Basic Income, which the Institute helped put on the political agenda in Australia over the last 6 years, continued to be a key focus issue. This encompassed substantial participation in the Basic Income Earth Network Global Congress in Brisbane, teaching into the New Economy Network Australia short course, and publication of a Green Agenda edition on the theme The ends of work.

After recent work on legal rights of nature and the potential crime of ecocide, the Green Institute took a particular interest in the government's proposed "Nature Repair Market", writing two submissions opposing the idea, publishing a report explaining why the idea is so problematic, hosting a webinar involving key experts and encouraging and supporting others to write submissions, and doing public advocacy. We are very pleased to have contributed to seeing the bill currently shelved. Additionally, we participated in the CBR360 Circular Economy symposium in Canberra, discussing ecological wisdom and an ecological approach to economics.

Ongoing work on deepening democracy included speaking at rallies for David McBride and other whistleblowers organised by the Alliance Against Political Prosecutions, participating in several Canberra Conversations with the Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy, presenting a guest lecture on environmental political theory at UNSW Canberra, and speaking at Plan C Byron Shire and the Queensland Greens Participatory Democracy Circle.



GREEN AGENDA

Our online magazine, Green Agenda, under its new editor, Dr Carlos Morreo, published three editions, On the ground after the election, The ends of work, and Living towards transformation, featuring the work of 32 contributing writers in 28 pieces.

With a focus on “grounded” writing – thoughtful ideas and critique about green politics from a perspective of action on the ground – Green Agenda is creating space for new writers and experienced ones, established figures in the party and movement and those just starting to make waves, MPs, activists and academics, to contribute to our thinking together.

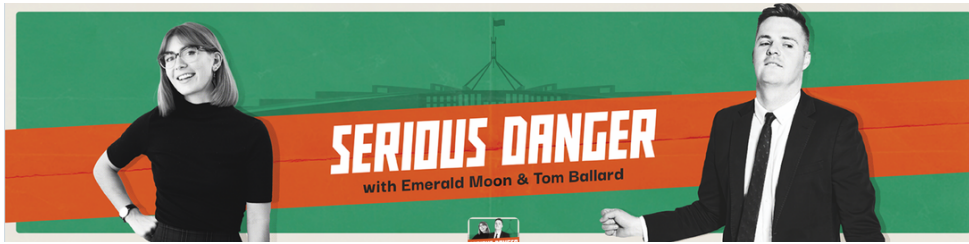
The choice of themes for the editions, including work and political transformation, reflects the strategic decision to bring Green Agenda more directly into coordination with the broader work of the Institute than previously.

In late February 2023, Green Agenda started sending out a regular update, Green Agenda, fortnightly. We've sent ten of these newsletters out so far. As part of the update, currently coming out on Saturdays, we're sharing a selection of Green Agenda articles: 1) an article from our latest issue, 2) an article from our previous issue and 3) and an article from our catalogue or archive. In addition, we also share up to three articles "From our Community and Beyond" relevant to Green Agenda readers, taken from local and international enviro journals and websites and scholar-activist research collectives and projects. Email subscriber numbers have increased from 580 to 820 over the year.

While continuing the above, the big project for the next year will be establishing a writing group project to support research and writing for Green Agenda and nurture a community around the journal.



PODCAST



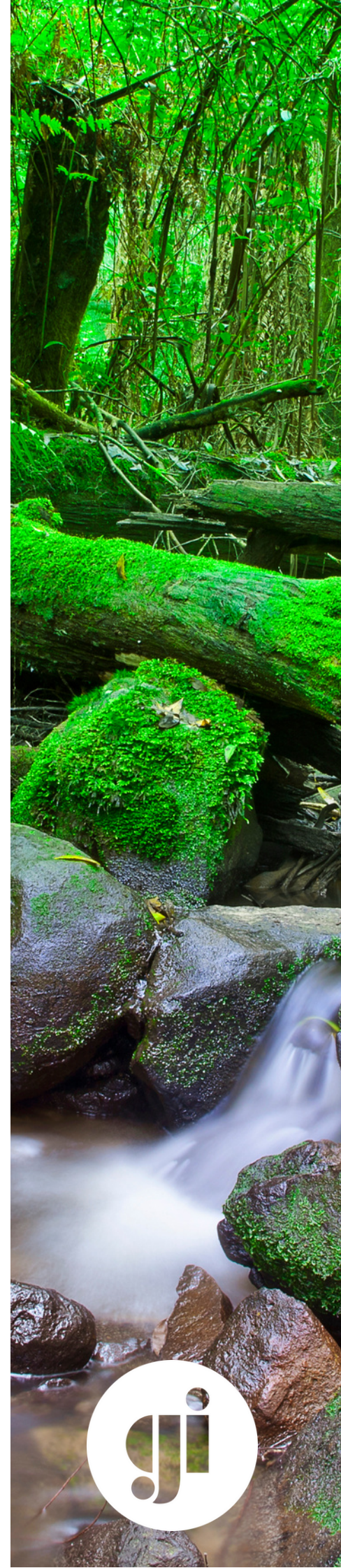
The Green Institute is delighted to be auspicing the new “not an official Greens party podcast”, Serious Danger, hosted by Emerald Moon and Tom Ballard.

The podcast, which brings a humorous take and serious analysis to contemporary politics in Australia, has gained a large audience, over 500 Patreon subscribers, and a 4.9 star rating on Apple podcasts. Interviewees and guest co-hosts include many sitting MPs, candidates, civil society leaders and more.

FINANCES

As noted, this year, the Green Institute effectively broke even, posting a tiny deficit of only \$826 on our still small \$219,000 budget.

This is a solid turnaround, after the previous year’s deficit of \$27,950 (excluding separation from our previous program WELA, which became independent, taking its assets with it), and several years of \$40–\$80,000 deficits, following a deliberate strategy of investing in the Institute’s work thanks to a generous bequest from the late Louise Crossley. The



turnaround is thanks to an increased Grant-in-Aid, hugely increased earned income, and slightly lower wages due to changes in staffing hours.

Over half our income this year (\$125,000) was from an increased Grant-in-Aid from the Commonwealth, due to the increased size of the Australian Greens Party Room. Sadly the boost will not continue, due to the Party Room reducing in size to 15 during the year, reducing our expected Grant-in-Aid back to around \$100,000 in coming years. We also received \$50,000 in donations, \$6,000 in event income, and, importantly, \$35,000 in earned income from delivering workshops and from book sales. A trial fundraising event with Mandy Nolan, alongside her visit to the Adelaide Fringe, raised some useful funds and presents a model to expand on in the future.

Almost all costs (\$180k) were related to staffing – salaries, consultancies, superannuation and leave and workers compensation. The bulk of the remainder covered transport and accommodation for events, including the Global Greens Congress in Korea, as well as various administrative expenses.

We aim to expand both our donor program and our earned-income strategy in the coming years in order to continue to break even and put the Institute on a secure financial footing.

OUR TEAM

Executive Director: Tim Hollo

Communications and Events: Elissa Jenkins

Green Agenda Editor: Carlos Morreo

Board Chair: Rebecca Galdies

Board Treasurer: Michael Honey

Board Directors: Sue Lewis, Julie Lyford, Indra Esguerra, Chris Tucker, Tarek Dale, Tjanara Goreng-Goreng, Hayley Conway (until 1 Jan, 2023)



