

THE NATIONALS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Autumn 2008 The Nationals Western Australia PO Box 1395 Perth WA 6872 P 1300 NATS WA (628 792) Fx 1300 858 792

Candidates ready to hit the campaign trail

The Nationals WA have endorsed a strong team of candidates to contest the next State election, in which the party is seeking to gain the balance of power in both Houses of Parliament.

All current sitting Members were re-endorsed and will contest new or altered electorates that resulted from the State Government's one vote one value legislation.

Party leader Brendon Grylls will contest the new electorate of Central Wheatbelt which includes his current seat of Merredin, while deputy leader Terry Waldron will be the candidate for the enlarged seat of Wagin.

Stirling MLA Terry Redman will contest the newly merged south-west seat of Blackwood-Stirling, and Grant Woodhams will stand in Moore following its merger with his current electorate of Greenough.

Young Nationals vice-president Mr Michael Rose, 26, has been endorsed as the party's candidate for Murray-Wellington. Mr Rose is a fifth generation dairy farmer and currently works as the Manager on the family farm.

Small business owner and Boulder resident Suzie Williams will contest the new electorate of Eyre.

Sam Harma, a third year Murdoch University student from Mt Barker, has been endorsed for the electorate of Albany. Mr Harma is currently completing a double major in Mass

Communications (Journalism) and Arts (Politics and International Studies).

The Nationals ticket for the Agricultural Region in the Legislative Council will be headed by current Avon MLA Max Trenorden. He is joined by Moora farmer and businessman Philip Gardiner, who achieved a eight per cent swing to The Nationals when he ran as the party's candidate for O'Connor in last year's federal election.

The Agricultural Region ticket will be rounded out by Nationals' Campaign Director Mia Davies, 29, Gingin farmer and professional fireman Mr Martin Aldridge, 26, and Nationals' State Director Cathryn Wood, 41, a former Telstra Business Woman of the Year finalist and Brookton small business owner.

The Mining and Pastoral ticket will be headed up by State President and current Member for the Agricultural Region, Wendy Duncan. A long-time resident of Esperance, Wendy was born and bred in station country outside of Kalgoorlie and has an in-depth understanding of the region.

The Party continues to seek candidates and is in discussions with a number of potential nominees. Further candidates will be announced in the near future.



Photos (clockwise from top left) Wendy Duncan, Brendon Grylls, Terry Waldron, Max Trenorden, Sam Harma, Michael Rose, Mia Davies, Martin Aldridge, Philip Gardiner, Cathy Wood, Suzie Williams, Terry Redman, Grant Woodhams

FEDERAL MATTERS

WA Nationals say no to merger

Following the Federal election, The Nationals announced a review of the Party at a Federal level, with a view to determining the most effective way to represent its constituency into the future.

The review has revived calls for a merger between The Nationals and the Liberal Party, both at a State and Federal level. The Nationals WA are opposed to the proposition of a merger of the two parties. We have not been in Coalition with the Liberal Party since 2005, when The Nationals WA took the decision to become an independent, stand alone party with the goal of gaining the balance of power in the State Parliament.

We do not believe the best interests of regional people can be served by merging or forming a Coalition with the Liberal Party.

Western Australia needs a political party that represents the interests of people living in the regions – electoral reform has delivered 48 seats into the coastal south west strip between Mindarie and Margaret River and just 11 for the rest of the State.

The Nationals WA have made a submission to the Federal Review outlining the strategy we have adopted in Western Australia and will continue to hold the course as an independent party seeking to gain the balance of power in the State Parliament.

Young Nationals news ... Martin Aldridge, YN State President



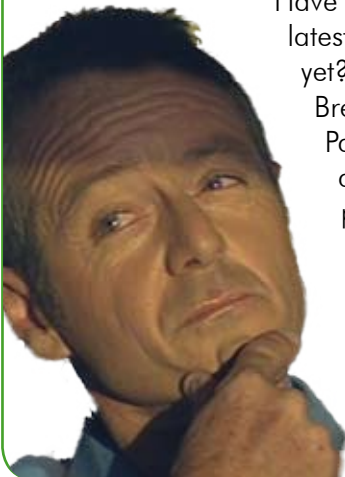
The Young Nationals have a busy year ahead with preparations well under way for the upcoming State Election. Four Young Nationals have been endorsed as candidates including Mia Davies and myself for the

Agricultural Region ticket, Michael Rose for Murray-Wellington and Sam Harma for the electorate of Albany. It's great to see a mix of youth and experience on the candidate list for The Nationals, and a strong team to lead us towards what will be a very important election for all of us.

The Young Nationals are planning a joint fundraiser mid-year with the Metro Branch to assist the party during the election period, so keep an eye out for the date in the next newsletter.

We will be having a general meeting on Saturday 10th May, so if you are a Young Nat or know one please submit motions as soon as possible for inclusion in the agenda. It is our intention at this meeting to create a policy platform for the Young Nationals for the lead up to the polls. If you would like to discuss anything regarding Young Nationals please feel free to call me on 0427 972 028 or send me an email at youngnats@nationalswa.com.

Shorts is back ...



Have you caught The Nationals' latest advertising campaign yet? Keep your eyes peeled for Brendon and our Members of Parliament on GWN and WIN as we start to profile our key policies.

In addition, Shorts and his mates are back on air. If you want to know more about 'Your call Shorts' then visit our website (www.nationalswa.com).

Party history: 2013

Our grand old party will reach her 100th birthday in 2013 and your State Council is preparing to mark the occasion with the launch of a book covering our rich history. We will be seeking funds from the corporate and government sector to assist us in this project - but we'd welcome your help to achieve our goal as well!

Please send donations, photographs, written submissions or anecdotes you would like considered for inclusion to the State Secretariat (see contact details over page).

Wagin and Kalgoorlie: Nationals' style



The Nationals have added a second t-shirt to their field day repertoire with great success at the 2008 Wagin Woolorama and Kalgoorlie Show. In addition to the 'tired of feeling tired' daylight saving design, we now have an 'End the rip off' design to raise awareness of our key policy *Royalties for Regions*. The t-shirts are only available at field days in limited numbers and have become the 'must have' item of the day at each event!



Members and candidates were joined by party members and staff who assisted in the hospitality tent at Wagin Woolorama and manned the stall in Kalgoorlie in sweltering conditions.

We plan to have a strong presence at regional field days and shows as we lead into the election campaign - if you have an event you'd like us to consider attending please let us know.



Distinguished service

Dick Light (second from right and pictured with Brendon Grylls, Anne Light and Wendy Duncan) was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal at the April State Council meeting. Dick has been a dedicated Nationals member for over 40 years and a regular at State Council for 20 years.



DonateWest

Nationals MPs have joined with DonateWest to help raise awareness of the importance of registering for organ donation. Our MPs signed onto the Australian Organ Donor Register and have urged others to do the same.

There are 18,000 people waiting for donor tissues and organs across Australia.

You can visit www.medicare-australia.gov.au for more information.

Upcoming events ...

The Nationals MPs and candidates will be attending the following shows.

April 19	Gingin Show
April 19	Nullabor Muster
May 3 - 4	North West Expo, Broome
May 31	Kalbarri Canoe & Cray Festival

New branch in Coolgardie

A warm welcome to our newest branch, formed in Coolgardie on March 7th, 2008. Wendy Duncan MLC and Grant Woodhams MLA attended the inaugural meeting in Coolgardie. They went on to host The Nationals WA stand at the Kalgoorlie Fair for the weekend. With temperatures soaring into the mid-40's, Wendy and staff spent the day handing out our new Royalties for Regions t-shirts and meeting the locals.

President's Message



I am in my fourth year as your President and we are now preparing for our fourth election in that time. If only I had known what I was getting myself into! It is at times like this that I realise how important it is to have your support and encouragement as we gird ourselves for the next round.

We promised ourselves in 2005 after the last State election that we would prepare early and

campaign early for the next State election. We are doing just that with our television advertisements already going to air, our message already wandering the streets of our country towns on T-shirts, and our pre-selections well under way.

This is a great achievement by your team and I particularly thank Brendon Grylls for his tireless work for the party in its preparation for what will be a watershed election for The Nationals WA.

At the same time we have been taking our message of independence and courage to our Federal colleagues as they contemplate the aftermath of the recent Federal election.

In view of the turmoil on both sides of politics in Western Australia, we cannot discount the possibility of an early election, so we are preparing for the last quarter of this year. It is time for you to consider how you can help us in this preparation. You can write letters to the editor, make a donation, offer to help your local candidate or pay for a billboard or radio ad. Your thoughts on policy or strategy are most welcome and your suggestions for candidates for our target seats or Upper house teams would be appreciated. You can contact me on 0438 782 034. I look forward to hearing from you.

Diamonds for the Metcalfs

Congratulations to John Metcalf and his wife Margaret who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mr Metcalf, a long standing member, is one of the founding fathers of the Dowerin Field Days.

His tireless commitment to The Nationals was formally recognised last year when he received the Distinguished Service Medal at The Nationals' State Conference in Geraldton.

Annual Conference & Convention 2008: Perth

This year's Annual State Conference and Convention will be held on 8 - 9 August 2008 in Perth. We are currently investigating venues and will keep members updated as we progress. Branch officials will shortly be receiving the relevant paper work to start planning their AGM's - once again, it's time start thinking about the motions you'd like to debate at Conference. Branch officials are welcome to contact the State Secretariat for a current list of branch members in their region prior to sending out notices of meeting to ensure everyone can participate.

Contact us ...

All correspondence to:
PO Box 1395
West Perth WA 6872

P: 1300 NATS WA (628 792)
F: 1300 858 792
E: statedirector@nationalswa.com
W: www.nationalswa.com

 Cut along this line and return to PO Box 1395 West Perth WA 6872 or fax to 08 9321 0320 or email statedirector@nationalswa.com.

Have your contact details changed?

Help keep our records up to date - if your contact details have changed please fill in the form below and post or fax it into the State Secretariat. Alternatively, you can always email Cathy Wood, State Director, on statedirector@nationalswa.com.

Name:

Address:

Phone: Fax:

Email: