The Greens (WA)

30th Anniversary History Project

[*1990-2020*]

An interview with:

Ms PATSY MOLLOY

16th May 2021 at her home in the Swan Valley

The Greens (WA) acknowledge that First Nations peoples, as the original inhabitants of this country, have a special cultural and spiritual connection with the land and water. We believe that their rights and responsibilities as owners and custodians must be respected.
We hold that First Nations peoples have a right to self-determination and political representation, and must be partners in the development and implementation of public policies, programs and services that affect them.
This interview was recorded on Noongar land and the Greens (WA) acknowledge that these lands were stolen and sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

INTERVIEWER
David Worth, Greens (WA) History Project Working Group.

TRANSCRIBER
Dan Midalia, Greens (WA) volunteer.

NOTES TO READERS
FULL CAPITALS in the text indicate a word or words emphasised by the interviewee.

Square brackets [ ] are used for insertions not in the original recording.

INTERVIEW DISCLAIMER
This is a near verbatim interview, meaning that the transcript follows natural speech patterns. Readers should be aware that how we speak may differ greatly from how we would write and that the evolution of everyday language and speech patterns also provides valuable insight into the culture and history of a place.

INTERVIEWEE RIGHTS AND RESEARCHER ACCESS

INTRODUCTION

Patsy Molloy was a key person in bringing four different groups together to form the Greens (WA) in January 1990. She had earlier returned from overseas travel and helped form Groundswell to provide training in nonviolence as well as skills such as meeting facilitation. These skills were used by Patsy during 1989 at the meetings to discuss forming Greens (WA), as well as the early Representatives Council meetings in 1990-93.

Patsy was also involved in the formation of Desperate Measures Theatre Group in Fremantle and acted in their anti-nuclear and anti-logging 'agit-prop' shows.

Patsy was very active in the River Greens between 1990-94 when she moved to the Swan Valley. She was the Group's Convenor and Secretary during that time and ran for election for the Greens three times. In this period Patsy was also involved in campaigning on 'brown' issues, such as forming the Swan Waste Action Group.

Completing a Bachelor of Social Sciences as a mature age student added to Patsy's skills and she was a manager at the Midland Women's Health Care for over 20 years.

TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY

TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:00] DW: My name's David Worth, and it's Sunday, the 16th May [2021] at 2:30pm at 73 Nolan Ave, Upper Swan, interviewing Patsy Molloy. This is her home. Patsy, thanks very much for allowing me to come out and disturb your peace!

MOLLOY: Oh, not at all. It's a pleasure. It's nice. Thanks for coming.

DW: Can we just start - where were you were born and when?

MOLLOY: Yeah, I was born in Narrogin on the 22nd July 1954, and my Dad was a teacher at Boddington. So that's why my Mum went to Narrogin Hospital to have us.

DW: And was your mother a teacher as well?

MOLLOY: No, she was a nurse.

DW: Right, which in those days, having a job and bringing up a family, would have been a bit unusual?

MOLLOY: Well, when we were in Lake Grace and other places, she didn't actually do paid work. I mean, she had been a nurse prior to marrying my Dad. We lived in Kalamunda from when I was about eight, and she worked at Lesmurdie Hospital, which was a small private hospital.

DW: In some ways, though, she was an unusual role model, I suppose?

MOLLOY: Yeah, I suppose so.

DW: Do you have siblings?

MOLLOY: I've got two sisters, my elder sister, Terri, and my younger sister Mary. Mary and I are only 11 months apart so we sort of hung out together a lot in the bush around Kalamunda.

DW: So, you didn't stay in Boddington very long?

MOLLOY: No, Boddington, and then we were in Lake Grace before. So that must have been for about two years. I think, when they did country practice. Dad was the headmaster of Lake Grace Primary School. Then, by the time we were getting to school age, I think we went to Coogee for a bit, and then Dad had done his country service. He was a veteran of the Second World War so he got a war loan to buy a house in Kalamunda. Then he sort of stuck more to the metro area, Midland Primary School and Redcliffe and so on.

DW: Did you go to school at the Kalamunda Primary School or where your Dad was teaching?

MOLLOY: No, he didn't want us to do that silly thing when you're that young of, in the morning, having to go, 'Good morning, Mr Molloy', and all that stuff. So, we went to Redcliffe for a bit. Then they wanted my eldest sister to go through to leaving. The nearest college was St Brigid's Lesmurdie so she went there. And according to the family, when Mary and I went there - it's quite a nice Spanish design building - Mary and I both said, 'Oh, can we come here too?' And so, we all went there.

DW: But your parents weren't religious?

MOLLOY: Well, my Dad was Catholic. He had an Irish Catholic background. My grandmother, Bridget Fitzgerald, and my Dad's father, Matthew, I think it was Matthew Molloy, met and married over here, but they both came from Ireland originally.

DW: So, you went to St Brigid's College. Did you go all the way through to Year 12?

MOLLOY: Yeah, I did. It was good going to a school like that. It was run by nuns, the Sisters of Mercy. We had role models who were the headmistress and all that sort of thing. So, from when I was about 15 [years-old], I think I did 10 subjects for Junior and missed out on one and then was just streamed into science. Then I went to Uni and did physics, chemistry, maths and biology. So that was quite unusual in those days.

DW: Yeah. And was it an expectation of your parents that their children would go on to university?

MOLLOY: I suppose it was. I think the whole family, you know, was pretty oriented towards education. My aunty who passed away last year was a teacher and Deputy Principal at Newman College. So, yeah, a lot of teachers in the family for sure.

DW: And growing up in Kalamunda in the late '50s, early '60s would have been a lot smaller. Lots, of bush. I would imagine you spent a lot of your time outside?

[00:04:36] **MOLLOY**: Yes, I remember our bush when we moved in. It was a half-acre block or something, and the back was all gumtrees. And when we first moved in, there were wildflowers growing just rampant. My Dad was so nervous about fire, though, that he burnt it off and over the years it just killed all the bush. I mean, the little plants; the trees were still there. We would head out the back and there it was - Kalamunda National Park virtually. And there was the old tip there, and clay pits that Midland Brick used to come and get white clay from. So, we would go out

the whole weekend just about. I remember the rule was to come back before dark and wash off with the hose on the lawn to wash the white clay off.

DW: And now you're living here on the banks of the Swan in a beautiful environment. Has that been important to you, growing up in a beautiful environment like nature?

MOLLOY: I think I've been very blessed. Mum's parents lived here, so they moved here in 1929, and my Uncle Dave took it over and he didn't have any children. So, when he passed away in 1994, he left it to my sister and me, even though my mother was still alive at the time. But she came and lived here. And as she got frailer, I came in and cared for her.

So, when we were growing up at Kalamunda, I remember Mum used to come up here and help pick the currants because Dad was at Midland Primary School, so he'd drive her here in the morning. They'd pick currants all day, you know, in the heat at the end of January and February and he would bring her home afterwards. So, I've had a long association with this place. We used to sit under the vines and help pick.

DW: So those memories are very vivid, too?

MOLLOY: Oh, yeah, yeah. Totally. And Uncle Dave had these little old Ransome tractors. When he passed away, it was sudden, you know. He'd told us he was going to leave it to us. I just remember going to the Ransome and … there weren't keys or anything. You had to actually crank it. So, it was old and I remembered from watching Uncle Dave how to put it in neutral, crank it over, keep your thumb out the way, you know, that sort of thing. We used them actually to work the vineyard when he first passed away.

DW: At Uni, doing a science course, were you thinking about maybe working in the country?

MOLLOY: Oh, I don't think it got as far as that. I went to science and it was a total culture shock to me to be in mixed classes. I'd been at an all-girls' school. The boys from Mazenod [College, Lesmurdie], when we were in the last few years of science, would come over and study because it was cheaper to run two classes together. But I just couldn't understand. They didn't do homework. They mucked around in class and couldn't seem to concentrate and just didn't take it seriously.

So, then I went to Uni. There was me and my friend Ruth, who were the two girls in, I think, about a 200 intake. And years later, I met Elaine Horne from the Statewide Network of Action Groups and she and her friend Stephanie had been in the other science intake in my year. So, there were four girls among 400 boys. We had great equipment like physics experiments where they had air tables and really neat stuff.

But I couldn't really talk to the tutors because they were too embarrassed to actually answer. They were 19 year-olds and we were 17 year-old girls and they would just do stuff for you. They wouldn't actually explain what it was. But I mean, it wasn't terrible. But I then went away for a year to Rottnest actually and worked, and then went up North with my friend and just did bar work. In those days you could get a job, walk into a country town and someone would take you on.

DW: Was this after university?

MOLLOY: After the first year and I think half of next year.

DW: And did you come back and finish [your degree]?

MOLLOY: No, no. I came back and tried to do part-time history and psychology. But by that time I'd realised I wanted to do performing so I joined the University Dramatic Society and basically had far more interest in that and went interstate for the drama festivals.

DW: And your two sisters, you said they went to Uni. Were they interested in science as well?

[00:09:47] **MOLLOY**: My elder sister, who unfortunately, sadly has lost contact with us now, she did a teaching degree and has been a maths and science teacher, I think, most of her career. My younger sister, Mary, also went to Teachers' College, and she still is a primary school teacher in Bunbury.

DW: And did it involve you getting public transport down from Kalamunda or did you board?

MOLLOY: No, I actually stayed with my aunty who lived in Nedlands for a little while. And then the second time I came back, I think I just boarded nearby, walking distance from Uni, just private.

DW: It must have been a big cost impost for your parents having three children at university?

MOLLOY: Oh, I got a college scholarship. I got the Comm. schol. [Commonwealth scholarship] and the others got teaching ones. You had a bond in those days and you'd do three years or two years afterwards to repay your bond. Also, from when I was 15, I worked at Lesmurdie Hospital in the school holidays so I kind of always supported myself. I mean, the Commonwealth scholarship paid the basics, but I supported myself while I went to Uni.

DW: In terms of your interest in the environment, politics generally. Did that develop at university or was that later?

MOLLOY: I look back now and realise the social justice aspect of the Catholic Church starts off with we owe it to the missions, but then a sense of injustice and

also of women's leadership were put into us through our schooling. And then I went to Uni and Father John Hart was the priest who used to have Wednesday masses. I remember once going and I disagreed with something he'd done or how he behaved in the mass and I asked to go and see him afterwards and talk about it with him. And he was so truly respectful and really engaged with the world. He was really trying to say, 'How do we make community, what is community and how do we adequately approach any of these kind of inequities in the world?' It's not just a matter of sitting on our hands and praying.

He got kicked out of the Catholic Church. But I've always got on extremely well. I used to bump into him at Community Aid Abroad [now Oxfam] shows and things like that. We wouldn't see each other for 10 years and then we'd go, oh, here we are on the street again. You know, it was great. He was an inspiration.

DW: You probably would have been a bit too young for the Vietnam War demos and so on. But about the right age for, you know, the [ALP PM] Gough Whitlam being thrown out of power by the Governor General [John Kerr]. Did that inspire you to have an interest in politics?

MOLLOY: I was totally shocked. I just didn't believe that it could be such a blatant misuse of power and authority and lack of consultation. And so, I was incensed by that. But regarding the Vietnam War, the University Dramatic Society, who had John and Phil Thomson in it - identical twins - and they had been involved in a lot of previous Vietnam War activities. Do you remember Andrew Mensaros? He was a [Liberal State] Minister for Fuel and Energy and there was this weird thing where they were going to write very draconian legislation to gaol anyone who interrupted energy supply to industry in WA.

He came to do a talk on campus and they had an outside stage. Phil and John got dressed up and rode in on bikes all black with helmets and had rolled up newspapers. And they saluted him like the Nazi salute and stood on either side of the stage. And when anyone yelled out anything, they went and bashed them up with the newspapers. It was just brilliant because he couldn't stop them or say anything. They were acting like they were on his side.

DW: You mentioned the Desperate Measures Theatre group in Fremantle who did a lot of political plays and skits and school work and so on. Can you tell me how you got involved with them?

MOLLOY: Well, I got involved with them, I think through Micko O'Byrne and Duncan Campbell - do you remember them? They came over with the Popular Theatre Troupe with Albert Hunt as they were invited over for the Festival of Perth. The Popular Theater Troupe was doing a lot of what they used to call 'agit-prop' theatre. They started hanging around in Perth and Fremantle and they started up Desperate Measures because of the frustration with going to peace marches and

the anti-nuclear thing felt really boring. We would walk around, every time and walk around going, 'What do we want?' We wanted to do a different sort of thing.

[00:16:20] So, the Rockettes and the Energy Picnic were the first thing that Desperate Measures got together in Princess May Park in Fremantle. That was Noel, who was a carpenter and built a big slippery slide. And we had the Rockettes. We rehearsed for at least eight weeks before at the Hole in the Wall Theatre and the Rockettes just sang a medley of different songs. The focus was all around nuclear energy and information about the nuclear cycle, because we were against exporting uranium.

DW: And during that process, given the topics you were developing as plays, did you then get to know Jo Vallentine and others?

MOLLOY: Oh, yes. I was involved about 1978 to about 1980-ish in Desperate Measures and about that time also - and previously a little bit as well - Giz [Watson, Greens (WA) MLC North Metro region] and others were focusing on the South West forests. It was the Campaign to Save Native Forests at that time. And they got the idea of doing direct action. It was quite a branching away from the traditional campaign side of native forests and those who didn't support the nonviolent direct action project. But they got the *Monster Manual*[1] over - books from A Movement for a New Society - and just held training workshops.

We had weekend workshops to learn nonviolence training. So Giz and Paul Llewellyn [Greens (WA) MLC South West region] and Alan Tingay, the President of Campaign to Save Native Forests. They all did this and had an occupation. I went down to just watch them go over the fence at Wagerup the first time, and I was so inspired. Alan Tingay standing on a fence post going, 'This is it. If we don't stop them, this is the end of our jarrah forest, basically. It will be ground up and exported'.

And so Desperate Measures wrote the Campaign to Save Native Forests show, which is why I was down there when the first 10 or 11 [people] jumped over the fence. There was Helen, Giz's youngest sister. Anyway, we did the Campaign to Save Native Forests show to entertain the people before they jumped over the fence. So that was the way that I knew them and I can't remember not knowing Jo Vallentine in terms of PND [People for Nuclear Disarmament] and everything.

I mean, she became our Senator and what I used to do in those early days if I ever had a party or anything like that, I would always make sure I left a message for

[1] A guide to creating a new society community by community. It is based on the ideas of the Philadelphia Life Centre, where activists banded together to create a living space that focused on social change. The Movement for a New Society stemmed from this community, and aims to teach new social skills that break the roles and hierarchy of society to reach a new level of equality. See https://www.connexions.org/CxLibrary/CX3557.htm

her. And if she was in WA and if she was free, she might just pop by. But I thought I just want to hold out a bit of a hand of social connection rather than having to come here and be something and do anything.

DW: Were you involved in the campaign itself in 1984 to have her elected?

MOLLOY: I don't know. I think I was overseas. I went to New Zealand and then over to Switzerland and worked for a bit. I think that was '84. I can't remember exactly. And when I came back, I know the 'Take Heart' campaign was on - that was when I came back from India - I was in Woodside Hospital because I remember Jo and Trish [Cowcher] because they had lovely Take Heart tee shirts and they came to visit me.

DW: That must have been the '87 campaign.

MOLLOY: '86. Well, '86 was when my daughter [Clare] was born, January.

DW: And what inspired you then to get involved in that formal way, away from acting? Was that something you did overseas?

[00:19:54] **MOLLOY**: Oh, I see. I think the acting was part of it all, so doing the nonviolence training. I loved facilitation. We formed a little collective called Groundswell that was Cheryl [Lange] and Denis McCarthy and Louise Duxbury and Simon [Neville]. Everyone living down in Fremantle then. Annabelle [Newbury], and she had her babies [Rose and Lily], and we had a few projects like Project Iceberg, which was opposed to the nuclear ships,

DW: And taking action on the [US] ships, which was quite courageous.

MOLLOY: Well, it was really neat because until you do something like that … I always felt with nonviolence, all it did was open a little gap in the presumed direction of everything. It just went, let's take a pause and see whatever else happens. And just opening that possibility meant that different things happened. So, the Project Iceberg had the amazing ideas of things to do. Bill Ethell [founder of Pacific Peacemaker] was involved in this as well. Just going on the ship and hanging signs over the side with those photos of the Trident missiles pointing out the top of it, 'No nuclear ships in WA'. It was very powerful, and because it [the ship] was American territory, the WA Police couldn't come and arrest us, so they would have to get Federal Police.

And of course, it was when they were doing their tourism thing, they didn't want to be seen struggling with Australians, and so it was quite a dilemma. They would ask us politely over and over to please take our signs and we'd say, 'We'll just stay here for another little while', and leave before actually getting arrested. Part of it was learning the dynamics of how the system worked. I mean, Section 54B was around at the time. Do you remember that?

DW: Yes, that was a protest aimed at the change in the *Police Act* that stopped people being able to meet.

MOLLOY: In groups of more than three.

DW: More than three had to get a permit from the Police. So, you were involved in that activity as well?

MOLLOY: Well, yeah. There was a very funny guy, John [Renshaw], who wore a bee costume and got arrested as a bee. But they used to have things in Forrest Place where there were anti-54B protests. I was living in Cottesloe and I knew some shearers who used to come and visit, and they were quite political. They knew what was going on, and one of them got up on the balcony at a 54B rally, above Forrest Place and said, 'This isn't about whether we can stand on a street corner. This is about the control of the media by larger forces. It's trying to actually shut up democracy really'.

Anyway, he was really inspiring. And six detectives came up behind him and he said, 'They had to have a warrant to get on to where I am now'. And he was holding onto the balcony. They were pulling him off and he was saying, 'Have they got a warrant? Ask them if they've got a warrant. They're not allowed to do this. I'm allowed to stay'. And he just got dragged away. And it was like this moment there where 300 people or something and maybe 30 Police, where we turned around. What had been happening before was they would go, 'This is an illegal demonstration under Section 54B' with their megaphone. And so, as soon as they started saying that, everyone will go 'Boring, boring'. So you didn't get to hear what was said.

And as the shearer got dragged away the Police Superintendent said, 'You are illegal'. And it just sort of broke the tension but it was the closest to a feeling for me of insurrection or just the injustice that had just been carried out in front of us. Just totally, really amazing. So there were those rallies and things going on. Then some of the projects of street theatre, before Desperate Measures or kind of sideways to that, were when the ships would come in. Because of 54B, we had to work out ways to do demonstrations that weren't as obvious.

And I remember one where Annabelle Newbury dressed in an apron-type thing with a broom and a scarf round her hair. We were sweeping the Hay Street Mall and saying, 'Don't worry, there's a nuclear ship in Fremantle, but it's all right. [We're sweeping up all the radiation]. There'll be no problem. And if there is, have an anti-radiation tablet', and we were just handing out lollies.

We got to the end of doing this thing and Annabelle was hilarious; [she'd be leaning on a broom chatting to the public]. And we got to the end of Hay Street Mall and this plainclothes guy, came up to me and said, 'Are you aware you're in breach of 54B'. And I said, 'How exactly?' and he went, 'Well, were you there?' I

said, ‘Yes, there’s more than three of us, but we’re not together’. And he kind of went, ‘Well, you can still be arrested. You’ve got signs’. I mean, the signs on the broom said anti-radiation broom. So I said, ‘Everyone put your signs in the bin and meet back at the Environment Centre’. And he was just kind of left there going, ‘Err well’. I said, ‘We haven’t actually breached 54B, so I’ll see you later, sort of thing.

DW: I can remember one of those protests in Forrest Place, I think they were on Saturday morning, 10 or 11 o’clock, and one of the people was dressed as Father Christmas and got arrested. Across the front page of the *Daily News* everyone read, ‘Father Christmas arrested’. And so, it was a very creative way of protesting.

[00:25:57] **MOLLOY**: Yeah, yeah. And it was fun. I mean, I remember when [WA businessman] Alan Bond was going down the tube, and there was a mob who were sort of Fremantle-ites … Mandy Brown and Mandy Smith were part of it … and Ladies in Line Against Communism [LILAC]. And they used to get all mauvey kinds of clothes and meet up. I remember, one of their things was to present a giant cheque for $16.78 to give to Alan Bond because they’d had a cake sale to fundraise for him and his legal costs because he’d done such a great job for Western Australia.

DW: You mentioned you traveled overseas before Jo got elected. Was that for work or just to escape from Australia and learn about the world?

MOLLOY: Yeah, After the Desperate Measures times, I worked for a short time for the public service and then I decided I want to learn how to ski. I thought the easiest place was New Zealand. So, I went to New Zealand and got a job in a steakhouse at Mount Ruapehu and spent the season there and learnt how to ski. I met European people who follow the ski seasons. At the end of that, we were a bit of a gang by that time and Doris said, ‘Why don't you come back to Switzerland?’ And we went the cheap way back through Thailand and on Aeroflot to Zurich, which is her parents’ home. Then I got a job down in Münchenbuchsee near Bern, and just stayed there for eight months or so.

DW: Sounds like an exotic and fabulous life. What brought you back to Perth?

MOLLOY: Well, that was funny because my best friend, who is back in Perth at the time, got pregnant. And as soon as I knew, I just worked out when she was going to have the baby and I told her happily, ‘I’m going home’.

DW: You mentioned that you’re doing these plays. You’re aware of Jo Vallentine and the whole anti-nuclear thing, the proposed nuclear power plant in Perth and so on. What then made you, or encouraged you, to join the Greens, which was a political party, and you’re one of the initial members on 1st January 1990? What encouraged you to go from protesting to joining a political party?

MOLLOY: Well, I think, the protests, the street theatre stuff, had always been connected with activism to me. And then doing Groundswell, we were actively

training people in nonviolence for the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, which wasn't over here, but was doing stuff in the forests and blockades [and activists went from here to Tasmania for those actions]. So, we were part of that network all the time anyway. But then what happened was the Alternative Coalition. There was a Valentine Peace Group, as it was called, and then, there was the Alternative Coalition and there was the [WA] Green Party and the South West Greens.

So, what had happened was some people had started getting together and basically got the name of the Green Party and weren't really talking to anybody else very effectively. And Paul Llewellyn rang me, as part of Groundswell, and said, 'Would you help facilitate the Green Party meetings? Just try and introduce some of this consensus decision-making, participatory democracy type stuff'.

DW: And help more people speak in the meetings?

[00:29:39] **MOLLOY**: Yes. But it was interesting because they did have an office and … who's the guy… Paul Watson from Sea Shepherd[2] was hiding out in Fremantle at the time, and I didn't feel he was a leader who didn't know how to listen. He had an enormous amount of sway because of the Sea Shepherd stories. But I personally found him completely [obnoxious]; he was a bully and a dominator and a blocker and all the worst things to facilitate against, actually. But part of the process was bringing the groups together.

So, I was there trying to facilitate the Green Party into some kind of a process. I was at the meeting that wrote the [Greens (WA)] Charter. We'd all got copies of the [draft] Charter and there were about 60 or 70 people at that meeting, [probably more]. Paul Llewellyn facilitated it for three hours. It was totally focused on, 'If there's a problem, what's the solution?' People came with nitpicky, little things. And he just worked his way through the whole thing and within three hours it was written. It was acceptable.

DW: To all the parties?

MOLLOY: Yeah. All the people present. Based on that, 'Is there something in this you can't live with? If you can live with it, good'. It just flowed in an extraordinary way. It was the most extraordinary piece of facilitation I've ever seen. Just because of the nature of activists, it was the coming together of the activist network. The people who were much more city-dwelling, theorists around what should be in it. Really a mixture of people. The Green Party in those early days did have Aboriginal people coming to its office. It was much more grassroots in some ways.

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[2] A non-profit, marine conservation organization based in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, Washington, in the United States and founded in 1978. The Japanese government, whose whaling industry was a leading target of the organization's efforts, have called Sea Shepherd eco-terrorists for "impeding their research". In 2017 Sea Shepherd Conservation Society indicated it was abandoning pursuit of Japanese whalers. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Shepherd_Conservation_Society

DW: To do that role that you're talking about, it would seem to require quite a bit of confidence in the art of trying to help a group of people, who maybe though a couple didn't like each other, focusing forward?

MOLLOY: I think that's what the facilitation process for me, about nonviolence and the whole process, is about. The times I tended to come a cropper with people was when there were patterns of behavior or beliefs or whatever that seemed really at odds with each other and the other person not actually understanding any other perspective than their own. It's very rare in my experience of trying to run consensus meetings that, even if I can't seem to say something so that somebody understands, other people - especially the people who've been a little quiet or haven't said anything - their insight often can change the dynamic. I loved the processes that were actually about resolving conflict. Like finding out if it was an actual belief system, finding a way to focus on the next strategy. Can we both live with this and how do we do it?

DW: Well, I think it's pretty extraordinary as well in terms of all those groups were running candidates in the March '89 election, and within nine months, they'd formed a new group and come together with a new constitution for Greens (WA). That's a very short time to bring four groups together, including Green Development in the South West.

MOLLOY: Yeah, that's right.

DW: It's extraordinary.

MOLLOY: I think though, it's because in a sense, Western Australia is the most isolated city in the world. Or Perth is. The advantage is of us all knowing each other. We used to do Desperate Measures stuff and [Liberal Premier] Charles Court would come out in the local paper and go, 'It's always the same faces at all these rallies'. And I remember with great joy the one where I had a map of Western Australia and as I ripped off bits, I was giving it away to Alcoa. You know, giving away the jarrah forests and saying, 'Yeah, it's always the same people at the top, you know'. So, yeah, Perth's quite small.

I felt, especially with Groundswell, people like Paul moved down to Denmark, and Louise and Simon too. People were living in different situations but once you've been through a couple of campaigns together, especially around the blockades of the forests. And then there were other networks like the Great Walk Network[3]. So, we all knew each other and the processes that everyone was trying to use such as

[3] The Great Walk was launched with an Aboriginal dance ceremony to "protect the walkers, and attune them to the country through which they would travel." Over the next 26 days, over 1,000 people took part to express their appreciation and concerns for the environment. These expressions were felt to be conveyed by a document called the Great Walk Tree Charter, which was carried to Parliament House where it was presented to the ALP Premier, Peter Dowding. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Walk_Networking Further similar walks have been organised, the latest in 2019. See https://startsomegood.com/greatwalkofpeace

new ways of running meetings, really open and inclusive meetings and examining why people weren't coming if they weren't.

DW: On the other hand, though, you've got the Greens in January 1990. It's only a small group of people - 100, 150, 200. So, if there is a dispute, it could get quite out of hand and people could decide to leave the Party because they don't like what was happening. Did your skills help in those situations?

[00:35:36] **MOLLOY**: By that time, I had my daughter and I was living in Guildford. I was involved more in local activism. I'd set up a group called Swan Waste Action Group, with me and a couple others. It was not very big. And also, at that time, I was the Convenor of the Swan Greens where we just had Regional Group meetings and tried to get people as Reps along to meetings. There was just a lot going on.

Swan Waste Action Group was trying to get filters, scrubbers on the brickworks. The biggest brickworks in the southern hemisphere is Midland Brick, now Boral, and that was a long campaign. And then, they tried to build a brickworks opposite A Trillion Trees, you know, Men of the Trees. So, there were all these things coming up. Rhone Poulenc wanted to move radioactive waste out to Kalgoorlie from Pinjarra [by rail through Midland]. There were lots of these local issues.

Lee Bell and Jane Bremmer moved into Bellevue to a site that had been contaminated by an acidic, oil sludge pit that the Texan Crackenbush family had created from recycled oil. Charlie Court wanted WA to be independent for oil. They had just filled a clay pit with sulphuric acid oil sludge waste - well, I remember Brenda Conochie stood for the Greens out this way one time. I set up little local PR things [and she dressed in a white paper suit with a gas mask to get a photo] in the local paper. Well the thing was, the oil sludge pit was right next to a primary school and if kids had fallen in, they would have dissolved. Like really. There was just no fence around it, you know?

And, you know, Eastern suburbs. I do feel an attachment to Midland. I ran the Midland Women's Health Care, as manager for some time, for 20 years, so I had a lot of connections with people in the welfare sector.

DW: In terms of the Greens, it's got those four pillars - anti-nuclear, ecological sustainability, grassroots participatory democracy and so on. Were you attracted by all of them or was there one particular one that you thought, 'Gee, it's good to be part of this group because they're really keen on participation or something?'

MOLLOY: Well, I think the core values … because you asked to put them in order. I love them all because they all came out of that early Groundswell stuff about why we were together and what we were trying to do. So I've put them as Ecological Sustainability first, and I think that's pretty obvious at the moment. Then I've put number two as Peace, Non-violence and Disarmament. And then number

three is Social and Economic Equity and number four, Grassroots Participatory Democracy.

But the top three depend on the bottom one in some ways. They are all so interconnected. Now I work in supporting people with mental health issues and I remember in the '70s when we were sitting around going, 'What would the world look like if we were ACTUALLY supportive of the most disadvantaged people in our society? What would it look like' I feel some of the things that have leached through, like the fact that we always do a recognition and acknowledgement of country.

Actually, all the stuff that has started to come through in all sorts of other organisations, I feel were kind of spearheaded in lots of ways by the processes which we were trying to use, both as activists and through the Greens, and consistently … to behave in society how we wanted society to behave and not by backing down or giving up. By choosing the hard road, often.

DW: In those early days, it sounds like the Greens didn't have a lot of formal processes, didn't have an office when it first started and so you probably went through that process as they formed their policies and got a bit more formal and so on. Did you think it lost a bit of its grassroots attachment?

[00:41:02] **MOLLOY**: I suppose at that time, trying to manage a Swan Greens group - the Dauths - [Sue Dauth, whose parents were well renowned peace activists and Quakers] lived just up the road for me - we were the people who had been part of the whole PND thing anyway. Because I think we were Swan PND and then we turned into Swan Greens. That was when our kids were small. We used to fold paper cranes at the local library on Hiroshima Day. I was trying to do stuff like 'brown' issues - pollution and stuff which were the hardier, gnarlier, ends in some ways of the whole Green thing - the consequences of what we were producing and what we were doing with it.

I was doing that and trying to do the activism stuff and then doing the meetings so that we actually could have minutes to go back and we could have representatives on Reps Council. It became very administratively top heavy for someone like me. I could do the minutes. I'd make sure they were done and sent in, and that was in the days where we didn't have just instant attachments. I kept minute books and did all that stuff. I didn't get very connected to what Reps Council was doing but I did occasionally go along. I might occasionally help facilitate something. But I felt very much that strategically my energy, what I had of it outside of bringing up a child and working full-time, was best directed to on-the-ground activism. And I love that. I mean, I always have done, you know,

DW: Our records show that you were the Convener of the River Greens from August '93 to '94. And Secretary as well. So, you put a lot into building that group and maintaining it?

MOLLOY: Well, that was also because Bevan and Jenny Carter were across the River and we did do a few really good, cool little actions where we took some waste from the Maylands clay pits, which they were planning to redevelop. The City of Stirling kept saying, 'No, no, they're clean' and we said there's PCBs in there because there was builder's rubble and light fittings from fluoro lights.

Unfortunately, the guy who was in charge of the environmental EPA mob at that time apparently was sick or had had a tragedy in his family. I didn't mean to give him a hard time, but they said, 'No, there's nothing to worry about' at Maylands, so I took some [waste] in and dumped it on his doorstep at nine o'clock on a Monday.

I did do some of those things. That was part of the River Greens. And we stopped them when they were first trying to bring in big trucks. I don't know if they were going to take dirt out or bring dirt in but we actually had a couple of actions there with Astrid Herlihy and a few others. And we stopped the trucks.

DW: You know I've got it in my papers, you did help with Jenny and Bevan Carter during the 1990 Maylands by-election?

MOLLOY: Right, yes. I think I'm always happy to give out How to Votes.

DW: And there is a record too that your daughter, Clare, was active in the Party?

MOLLOY: Oh right. Well, she would come out and give out How to Votes. Absolutely.

DW: In *Green Issue*, there was a mention of her.

[00:44:57] **MOLLOY**: Oh, I must tell her. She'll be stoked. I do know once when she was about 13 [years-old] so it wouldn't be that. She remembers the Maylands action because she was only two or three. I brought someone along to help me look after her. Then the truck suddenly turned up at our gate and everyone else was at the other gate. So, I just had to stand in front of it and the child care person who had her was off to the side but she was pretty distraught. I just said, 'I'm sorry, I'm not going to move' - it was Astrid and I actually ... [the truck] was inching forward and I said to Astrid, 'If we climb on the bull-bar, he won't be able to see us and he won't know if he's running us over'.

So, anyway, we're about to do that and he just gave up. Stopped, [and I insisted that he turn off the truck before we negotiated].

DW: Well thank god he stopped!

MOLLOY: It's one of those moments. There's a lovely book called *In the Tiger's Mouth* [*:An Empowerment Guide for Social Action*] by Katrina Shields. And in that, there's a Buddhist monk, a Thai monk, who says the best place to meditate is in the tiger's mouth. So, I always feel that when you're prepared for an action and

you know it might get particularly difficult, then you draw on larger resources in some way.

DW: So also in the *Green Issue*, we've got you writing an article about smog levels in '93. Brown issues were quite important to you, even then. That, and then in '93, you were also running nonviolence training with three weekend workshops. You were the contact person for that. So, you were very active in spreading the skills?

MOLLOY: Oh, I didn't realise all that stuff was in *Green Issue*. Goodness me. Fancy that. Yes. Yes. We were running training. [That's when we worked out childcare rosters so that I could facilitate.]

DW: And even as late as '99 at the [Annual] Conference you had small group discussions on Green thinking and decision-making principles with Cheryl Lange and Kate Davis.

MOLLOY: Right. Right.

DW: So, you've maintained that interest in bringing people together, running meetings properly.

MOLLOY: Yes. I find that it's about the process of learning how to be part of a community. Like working in groups like the Great Walk Network as well, which has always been very broad and wide and linking people down South. Basil Schur and people, doing really lovely walks, allowing families and kids to be out in the bush. It's a wonderful experience and just being around the campfire and singing and all that stuff has been really important to me.

DW: You also stood as a [Greens (WA)] candidate three times.

MOLLOY: Oh, three times, right.

DW: Well, in '89, before the Greens (WA) was formed, you stood for the WA Greens in the East Metro Region, and then '92 East Metro, but I think you pulled out. And then in '93 in Perth, you stood in the House of Reps [election].

MOLLOY: Yes, my goodness me.

DW: How did you find that experience?

MOLLOY: Oh, it was so fun. Well, I learnt a lot about the Upper House and Lower House and all that. It was the time when we suddenly knew that micro-parties could get elected. There were nine candidates for Perth that year, including Avon Lovell, who'd written the book called *The Mickleberg Stitch*. There was a woman, a very strange woman, for the [Australian] Democrats [Irene Knight]. A couple of independents and of course, Labor and Liberal fighting for it.

And all the candidates came and presented their little thing [at a Maylands shopping centre]. I didn't have anything fancy, flashy. I think we had a Greens sign or something like that. Most of the audience were obviously Labor and Liberals who'd come along to support their candidates. I started talking about general stuff, I don't know. And I ended up just saying something like, 'If we paid women what they were worth for the work that we do'. And all the women just went, yeah [and cheered, and the Labor/Liberal divide disappeared]. It was really interesting that I was doing a bit of a rave about the interconnections with things and the quality of of life stuff. And it was a really interesting how they reacted. I forget what percent of the vote I got that year [5.6%[4]].

DW: Did it ever enter your mind to try and be an MP in the Upper House?

[00:49:59] **MOLLOY**: I think by that time I was working at the Midland Women's Health Care. '97 was when I started working there and I suppose by about 2006, I had a very good Board and they had managed to get land from City of Swan. We got a Lotterywest grant to build a building, which was the biggest single grant that they had given to one organisation. So, it was growing and that took a lot of my time really.

DW: Did you leave the Greens formally?

MOLLOY: No, I think I just drifted off.

DW: I think you rejoined in 2000, maybe. But you obviously still hold the values. You never joined another political party?

MOLLOY: No, no, no. And I hadn't before either. [No other political party has ever attracted me.]

DW: In terms of your experience in the Greens from those early days, you obviously have seen what's happened in the recent elections. A lot more professional social media. How do you reflect upon those changes over the last 30 years?

MOLLOY: Well, I think the Greens have to move like everyone else with social media stuff. And the tools are quite a lot different from what we had. I still think that the experience of people in coming together to work and resolve things is a different experience from an individual relationship to social media that people [now] tend to have. Do you know what I mean? Like the #MeToo movement and Black Lives Matter are amazing things that can get hundreds of people together. I love flash mobbing and all the different uses of that kind of technology. There's

[4] See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_results_for_the_Division_of_Perth#Elections_in_the_1990s

TED talks and stuff, but there's not actual in-depth discussion, except in a few places, between different generations of activists.

I know that June [Lowe] is doing some amazing stuff with Grey and intergenerational LGBTQI+ issues. But there doesn't seem to be a lot of it, in a way, with the Greens. And I think there's always been for me, a clash between the administrative requirements of running a political party in order to remain registered. I was so amazed and kind of in awe of Scott Ludlam when he said, 'I've discovered this [dual-nationality] problem and I have to step down'. He has always been an amazing young man from when he first came over here.

DW: He had such a big win at the previous special election. He actually won a quota, which is the first time I think any Greens Senator has without relying on preferences. So, that was a big change. Along the way when you were very active, '93 and probably even up to '97, '98, there were two referendums [*sic* ballots] for the WA Greens to join the Australian Greens. Do remember how you voted? Yes or no?

MOLLOY: I have a feeling that I might have voted No, actually. I think I was aware, because I had never been involved centrally in the Greens and stuff, I would tend to meet up with Giz and June occasionally and just hear some of the shenanigans and carry-ons. I feel that in terms of West Australian history, there's always been quite a dynamic between the, say, democratic socialists and the hard left of the old-style unions and the acceptance of what I see as real participatory democracy. There are lots of structural inequities that are built into some of those very old-leftie systems.

For me personally, it's been a process of learning how not to feel like you have to be the martyr and the last person standing in the room and totally not eating properly and looking after yourself because you're so stressed with the world and all the important things you're meant to be doing. And so actually trying to get that kind of activist life balance has always been a bit of an issue. But I think it's really important because it affects the quality of your decision-making.

[00:54:42] There were takeovers, from what I hear, over East, of Sydney politics and Melbourne politics, which is to be expected much more. Groups at odds with each other and pretty ugly politicking. I think I probably heard just bits of stories about the outrageous carry-ons. I've never wanted to just be in a political party to just do what other political parties do. I've always felt that the people who were in charge - the people we elected - Scott and Jo and Giz were just brilliant.

There's always been people doing activisms in other little corners, and it was wonderful to meet up with them occasionally. [Bird call interrupts] Hello Noisy. I've got a little New Holland honeyeater that comes to chat.

DW: In terms of the Greens now, in the early 2000s there was another vote and they joined the Australian Greens, and there's a Federal parliamentary party with our two Senators in it. Where do you think the Greens will evolve to next? Will it continue to become a bit more central or will it hang onto its grassroots democracy?

MOLLOY: I'm not sure, I suppose. The challenge, as I see it, is that actually the nature of activism is changing. People see online comments as activism and for me that has never really cracked it. You know, you can have an opinion and lots of people do, and that's wonderful. And you tend to talk to all the same people who agree with you about things. But to me, there's something about having to roll your sleeves up and get on with it. There were times when we had little problems here that I would go to Tim Clifford's office [Greens (WA) MLC East Metro region] and they say, 'Yes, we can help you in this way', [so its GREAT to have local members as a resource].

Or, we've just recently, as part of the Upper Swan Ratepayers, pointed out that there's a bitumen tank plant opposite Ginger's [Roadhouse] right in the middle of Upper Swan. There was this whole process where there were going to be changes to the Metropolitan [Planning] Scheme to allow a bitumen plant. So, we managed to get in in time, and get to the City of Swan, and they then knocked it back, surprisingly. It was going to slide through. And then it went to the Planning Commission and the ratepayers put their arguments and the Planning Commission decided against it. And all nine reasons were the ones that the Upper Swan ratepayers had put.

I mean, we're in a bushfire prone site. It's right next to where Midland Boral has just rehabilitated an area and their stormwater drain was going straight over the fence. It's a bitumen place! They haven't actually sealed it, so there was hydrocarbons. So, that's what I feel like now. I'm a bit more strategic with my time. I'll get in and do what needs to be done fairly well, hopefully. I'm 66 now. I'm kind of still part-working, and I'm trying to replant the river flat.

DW: In terms of the skills you learnt in your days at the Greens and the facilitation of meetings, did that help you with your next major job? You know, the women's health place in Midland, where you were for 20 years?

MOLLOY: Yeah, I think it did. The core principle things have flowed through whatever I've been doing. It has been useful facilitating some groups. I did my Bachelor of Social Science as a mature age student because I wanted something that would give me a qualification for being a facilitator. And, you know, when you do a degree there was so much more. It was a Bachelor of Social Science and it's been specially designed for people working in the non-government sector, so it gave me a lot of really useful skills as well.

DW: What years were those, Patsy?

[00:59:29] **MOLLOY**: I did my Diploma about 1998 and I went through and finished my degree. I got my degree in 2006, but also more recently than that, there was a big wage case for welfare workers about 2018 related to the gender pay-gap case in Queensland. The Australian Services Union was my union, and in Queensland they'd won a case to say that a three-year trained social worker at the end of her career would be on about $50,000 and a three-year trained engineer, because it was a more male dominated field, would end up on a $100,000.

So, they put a big wage case in to the Federal Court, even though the ASU is our WA union and I was one of the witnesses. A New South Wales University person rang me and analysed my position description in terms of what I had to do. At that time, I was caring for my Mum who was at home. I was working full-time. I was on about $50,000.

So, the Federal Court decided we should have an increase in wages from between 19% and 40%, depending on where you were over a period of eight years, because they couldn't just shock the whole system, and that it wasn't allowed to be eroded by the CPI [Consumer Price Index]. There had to be substantive changes. So, I feel, in terms of equity that even though it's not necessarily through the Greens, but those core principles have still guided my behaviour in the world in lots of ways.

DW: Were there any achievements during your time with the Greens that you're really proud of? You've talked post-Greens, with the bitumen plant and the wage case. Was there anything during the Greens that you're really proud of achieving?

MOLLOY: Well, it's a funny sort of thing. I suppose it's the camaraderie and the sense of community, certainly with the Carters. We really did feel like we were in the Eastern suburbs trying to do brown issues and green issues, and whatever came up. 1999: that was the year we saved the Guildford sugar gums. You know, the sugar gums? Coming across Guildford Bridge from Bassendean there's those big trees [in Stirling Square]. Well, it must have been 1999, early in the year I think, and the City of Swan had a public meeting to talk about why they had to take out the Sugar Gums. We met at the railway station, went down and just took over the City of Swan [consultation meeting].

I went to Christine Hughes [then President of the Guildford Association] and said to her in the hall to 'go and grab the mike'. And she said, 'What?' And I said, 'Go on'. And she went, 'No, I can't do that'. So, I just went up and the guy was there and he said, 'Hello'. And I said, 'Could I have a word, please?' And he said, 'Yes' and moved away [from the mike. So I just stepped up and proposed motions that they preserve the trees]. And I said, 'This is ridiculous. We're here because we don't want trees to go'.

So, they [City of Swan] had to do three different reports and then six months later came out to say they were going to take 10 trees out. This was at the Wednesday

Council meeting and they were going to start with cherry pickers on [the next] Monday.

So, we had a rally at the railway station and then letterboxed people and we had a sort of camp. By Saturday, we'd organised 200 people's names into a telephone tree. And we rang them on Saturday afternoon and said, 'On Sunday at four o'clock we're going to be putting up tents under the trees, come and join us if you want'. I remember going there at four o'clock and nothing was happening. I thought, 'Oh well, that's a fizzog'.

But by five o'clock, there were tents popping up all the way along. We held them off for two weeks and negotiated. That was right next to my house. Christine would come [every evening at 5pm up a ladder] and say what has been going on with the Council and what was going on with the reports and I would do the [camp] housekeeping or if we needed more firewood for the barbie or whatever. The Guildford pub used to bring us over coffee and lemonade. And Alfred's Kitchen gave free soup to all of us.

DW: Any free burgers from Alfred's [Kitchen]?

[01:04:37] **MOLLOY**: No, free soup. And we kept it going. And David Bellamy [English environmental campaigner] came at the end. He just happened to be in town. And also, Liz Davenport[5]. We were trying to put out lots of feelers to people. I came back from work on Thursday afternoon and someone ran over and said, 'There's a man that wants to see you'. And I thought, 'Oh God, they're bringing the cherry-pickers in'. I ran across and David Bellamy was standing by the fire and I was like, 'Oh my God!' So, we just walked down, talked about the trees, and he came on Friday night when we had a big dinner. The [nearby] Garden Centre had donated prizes for the best dressed table. We had a dinner and David Bellamy came and gave the most amazing speech.

We were getting people to toot if they wanted to keep the trees and he said, 'Australia's a land of songlines[6] and you've created a song line to save the trees'. So, the City of Swan ended up backing down, building a bench actually, to celebrate the agreement with the Guildford residents. Then, on the following Saturday afternoon, I took my daughter to netball. No, at seven o'clock [in the morning] they came and said, 'They'd notified everyone in Guildford about how they were going to trim the trees'. They said, 'If anyone walks under a tree, they'd

[5] Western Australian fashion designer and long-term campaigner for conservation of Australian old-growth forest. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liz_Davenport

[6] One of the paths across the land (or sometimes the sky) within the belief system of Australia's First Nations people, which mark the route followed by localised "creator-beings" during the Dreaming (also called a dreaming track). The paths of the songlines are recorded in traditional song cycles, stories, dance, and art, and are often the basis of ceremonies. They are a vital part of Aboriginal culture, connecting people to their land. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Songline

stop work immediately'. I took my daughter to netball at about 2pm, came back at about 3:30pm, and they had effectively pruned all of the trees so they were now safe and didn't need removal.

DW: So, the idea of them taking them out was a safety issue?

MOLLOY: That's what they were saying but the trouble was after we camped under them, they put up signs saying, 'You're at risk if you're standing under a tree'. And, of course, the lawyers and everyone in Guildford came along, read it and said, 'They've just admitted liability if anything happens to us, you know?,

DW: Extraordinary story. I think, from your early days, like even with Desperate Measures, and I think all these activities, 54B, you have to have a certain confidence that you can achieve change and just go for it. It's not a matter of sitting back and saying, 'Well, I won't take the microphone because I'm a bit afraid'. You've just got to get the confidence to get in there and do it.

MOLLOY: I think that's what I learnt from facilitation, through the nonviolence training and through having successful actions, because we did stuff against the sand mining in Lake Jasper in front of the Japanese embassy. It's about having the strength or the belief. Feeling that you're operating out of the core values and the bigger picture is that if nobody stops it, it will go ahead. The sense that media and our society in general has, is that we're too little to make any change. We're too powerless to act against power and that there's an enormous kind of attractiveness to the cause and to individuals about speaking truth to power.

And I think that's something that you notice now in the Australian of the Year. We've started to recognise that ordinary people can be really quite knowledgeable about things and that, as Greta Thunberg says, 'When are we going to let the kids off the hook and we're going to stand up and be adults in the world?' I feel like if, once given the opportunity in nonviolence to actually go, 'No, you have a right to be here and your values are around preserving the planet and looking after other people along the way'.

They're fundamental values common to all sorts of religious philosophies and cultures and everything. So, if you stand in your power and stand in your truth, it's not scary, actually. It's really quite a liberating process. It is facing down your demons in some ways and having to speak carefully and on behalf of maybe parts of the Earth and the creatures here that can't speak for themselves.

When we were trying to save the trees, the guy came from *The Echo* and he said, 'Hug the tree'. And I said, 'No, I'm not going to hug that'. He said, 'Hug the tree, I've got to get a photo. Come on. I've got 10 minutes'. I said, 'I'm not hugging the tree'. It ended up I stood with my back to the tree and had my arms around it. But there was no way I was going to do that diminution or disrespect for whatever you're trying to do. But I think also part of the process of facilitation was to learn to

keep my junk in my own basket at the door and not actually take it to whatever was going on.

[01:10:24] I remember very early on in the PND newsletter, there was a wonderful little cartoon. It was a whole group of people at a rally and at the back, there's a little bloke with a little sign saying, 'I hate my father'. And I thought it so epitomised the environmental movement. People coming there because they were angry and upset and frustrated and wanting to find something new and a different way to be creative and all that. It was a real mixture of very different personalities and individuals. And so, I can really appreciate it. I mean, people like Giz who stayed in and battled through and have done that amount of conflict resolution.

DW: And she's still doing it this week.

MOLLOY: Yeah. Yeah. [She's brilliant.]

DW: So we've covered a lot of ground. Lovely to hear the stories. Is there anything I've missed and you would like to add before we finish up?

MOLLOY: No, I don't think so. I've looked at my list that I wrote, because I thought that was the best way of answering these questions. And I did write a couple of things, which was my first response to, 'What does the Green Party do or can do that other activist organisations cannot?' I've put, 'Be diverse, connect to First Nations and learn deeply about common humanity and the preciousness of this particular bit of the universe'.

And for 'If and how the Greens Party impedes other forms of activism', I said, 'Works with and complements activism. The difficulties may be internal politics and administration procedures'. And the largest challenge, in my reflections, is to be a calm and attentive listener to every issue of injustice and present truth to power to an often hostile, media and government.

DW: I was wondering about that in terms of you facilitating, say, a Reps meeting or a general meeting where you felt the need to jump in and put your own views about them?

MOLLOY: I think for many years I learnt how not to do that. And I think when I worked at Midland Women's, it actually taught me to take a little bit back of that kind of leadership. That was a different kind of requirement. I was there to listen to and facilitate women's voices, but also to present what issues they had at larger forums. I used to work on mental health agencies, forums and domestic violence committees and it was a different kind of thing. I learnt a lot about how to present issues without inflaming the situation, but to speak accurately about what was happening for people.

I think what's often missing is that people don't get the chance to explain themselves. You know, when Rosie Batty won the Australian of the Year [2015],

when I saw her accepting that, I just felt so nyorn. That's a Noongar word for when your heart has compassion or empathy. I thought she was still in her grief and trauma and very vulnerable, and I thought it was a lot to put on her shoulders.

DW: So, she's handled herself amazingly well since in terms of all the women's issues in the Federal Government. She's an extraordinary woman.

MOLLOY: Oh, I totally agree. I felt that it was more like she'd been thrust into this awful situation by the media expectations, and it was because she walked straight out the day after her son died and had a media interview, which was pretty amazing. I think that the process of doing nonviolent activism in Western Australia with such an extraordinary group of people; what an honour to work with people like Jo and Scott [Ludlam] and Giz and June [Lowe] and all these people, being part of the Green thing.

I think what happened after that time, more recently, my involvement was more through Pride. The Greens always had a really good float in Pride. June does an amazing job with costumes and all that sort of thing. So that has been my connection, I suppose, more recently, after I turned 50 and identified more as non-binary or lesbian. You know, it's got very complicated in terms of definition since then.

DW: Well, thank you, Patsy, for giving up your Sunday afternoon. It's been really fabulous talking with you.

MOLLOY: Oh, thank you.

DW: And hearing those stories and your memory's fantastic with all those details. That's really great.

[01:15:19] **MOLLOY**: Oh, good. Well, it's a pleasure. We can look for some pictures and maybe you can take some of those. Thanks a lot, David. And no worries.

END OF TRANSCRIPT