

TURNING WARRINGAH TURQUOISE

Memories of a Grassroots Campaign

Editor Susan Steggall

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Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a Grassroots Campaign

Editor: Susan Steggall

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Editing, Design & Layout: Susan Steggall

EDITOR'S NOTE

On the Monday following the 18 May election, after the final 'Dance at The Spit', there was a groundswell of enthusiasm for keeping the party going with some kind of permanent record of the campaign, from the volunteers' personal perspectives. And so, *Turning Warringah Turquoise* was born – a collection of the experiences of many of Zali's supporters and volunteers. Responses for the project arrived regularly in my inbox: from a few lines to several paragraphs; from the personal to the political, across all ages. Some cast a humorous light over incidents at pre-polling and election-day booths; some describe concerns for the political landscape in contemporary Australia and a determination to see Zali elected.

I have gathered them under chapter headings such as: Encounters; Dressing up & Dancing up a Storm; Generations & Gender; With a Smile; Baking & Running for Victory; Camaraderie & Connectivity; Ethics, and of course, Election Day. I have included photographs where I could. **I thank Kate Zarifeh for providing many of the photographs.** It has not been possible to give them all captions, with names of people and places – so many! However, you all know who you are, where you were on so many memorable occasions and what you achieved.

All stories vividly bring to life those amazing few weeks. I, for one, would do it all over again in spite of the frustration of the weasel posters, the low-life smears against Zali, the physical labour of making corflutes and the long hours (not to mention the sore feet) at pre-polling stations, and the nervous optimism on polling day. But most of all for the extraordinary spirit that grew throughout Zali's campaign and the reaching out to each other, from all corners of our communities. *Susan Steggall*

LIST OF CONTENTS

	Page		Page
A WORD FROM ZALI	1	BAKING & RUNNING FOR VICTORY	35
MEMORIES OF A CAMPAIGN MANAGER <i>Louise Hislop</i>	3	<i>Julie Beagley, Jeanette Hack, Ray & Alison Murray, Frank Paduch</i>	
VOTE TONY OUT: <i>A Powerful Idea</i>	3	CAMARADERIE & CONNECTIVITY	38
A TRIBUTE TO LOWER NORTH SHORE TEAM ZALI <i>Tina Jackson & Kirsty Gold</i>	7	<i>Robyn & Roger Bowie, Davinia Cogan, Joanna Dinning, Amanda Durack, Jillian Gashler, Penny Hackett, Ursula Hogben, Victoria Ko, John Koorey, Margaret Lown, Alan Marel, Lesley McLean, David Mingay, Ann-Charlott Paduch, Caroline Pearce, Guy & Jo Reardon, Robbie Singleton, Chris Smyth, Jack Steggall, Lucy Tildesley, Jill Tunbridge</i>	
ENCOUNTERS <i>Louise Baber, Jennifer Baker, Richard Bédard, Penny Bligh, Stephen Breckenridge, Sara Dowse, Terrence Flower, Graham Millar, Anthony Naake, Margaret Pearl, Ros Tinker, Catherine Willis</i>	11	FIRST-SPEECH BUS TO CANBERRA, 24 JULY 2019	47
DRESSING UP & DANCING UP A STORM <i>Rosie Adams, Toya Adams, Jenny Forster, Simon & Ranya Jankowski, Julia Lipski, Tim Quinn, Catherine Treweek</i>	21	<i>Pamela Cowan</i>	
GENERATIONS & GENDER <i>Jenny Allen, Jan Bos, Cynthia Cochrane, Jane Connor, Annelies Hodge, Chris McGregor Gerard McMahon, Laurie Shears, Geraldine Skinner</i>	24	ETHICS	48
WITH A SMILE <i>Lilian Andrew, Pat Duggan, Adrian Jones, Gordon Moss, Helen Strong, Jody Williams</i>	31	<i>Coleen McKinnon, Rob Irwin</i>	
		ELECTION DAY	50
		<i>Jennifer Farrell, Rob Irwin, Philip Durack, Stephen Moir, Susan Morgan, Luciana Muratori, Helen Wilkins, Pam & Philip Woodman</i>	
		ZALI: VICTORY SPEECH, 18 MAY 2019	55
		ZALI: FIRST SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT, 24 JULY 2019	57
		TIMELINE	63
		<i>Coleen Mackinnon & Louise Hislop</i>	

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

TURNING WARRINGAH TURQUOISE

Memories of a grass-roots campaign

‘The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.’ Coretta Scott King

What a day it was on Saturday 18 May 2019. Warringah resoundingly voted for a new beginning in Australian politics. It was a win for moderates with a heart. No matter your postcode, background, gender, sexuality or political view, I will strive to improve your way of life and deliver results. I will honour the pledge I made to you, to represent your views, your concerns and your needs. It has been so incredibly humbling for me to know I have the support of so many people. When people asked me the highlight of this campaign, I responded that it's your support, your willingness to give your time and efforts to making change. We have proven that when communities want change they can make it happen. This election campaign saw people in Warringah, many who had never participated in a campaign before, form an amazing team and community. I want this to continue. We are stronger by being together and supporting one another. Over the coming weeks we will be transitioning out of campaign mode to setting up a local member's office. As part of that we will be forming plans for community engagement and will keep you informed about how we would like to work together on issues important to us all. I want to again acknowledge how much your support has meant to me and to the success of this campaign. I look forward to working for you as the new Member for Warringah.

Best Wishes, **Zali Steggall**



Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

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A FEW THINGS THAT STAND OUT IN THE MEMORY OF LOUISE HISLOP (CO-CAMPAIGN MANAGER)

- Meeting Zali for the first time at my home after months of searching for a candidate and realising she was the real deal and that we could/would win the election.
- Being with Zali at Queenscliff Surf Club in a private room before her SkyNews debate with Tony Abbott. We could hear the ruckus outside. There was an air of tension in the room. We were all a little nervous. Not much chatter at all. Just waiting. Zali was calm, as always. When we walked up the stairs and into the room, Zali was given an incredibly warm welcome by the audience. It was a sign the afternoon was going to go well – and go well it did! Zali was amazing! It was exhilarating.
- Having the privilege of leading the campaign team was a huge honour. What a remarkable and talented group of people. I really enjoyed going into the office every day to work with that crew. What we achieved together was awesome.
- Seeing the women of Warringah in particular engage in their democracy like never before, many of them leading their communities. Seeing the connections made and the smiles on people's faces as they took part in this positive movement, was very rewarding. I loved how both sides of The Spit really connected too.
- That surreal moment when I went on stage with Zali on election night as she gave her victory speech. I remember looking out into the exuberant crowd and holding my breath as she thanked Tony Abbott and hoping people would remember the three Ps – in

particular, the 'Positive' P. Sure enough, after a second's silence (which seemed like an eternity), people clapped. To me, that was the success of the whole campaign. Knowing we had run a campaign with a positive spirit and that even on election night, when our volunteers were exhausted, exhilarated and many may have had one or two drinks, they still remembered their positivity.

- Bopping away on the wall at The Spit at 7am in the morning with Zali corflute in hand next to one of my oldest friends, Peter Connolly (with whom I share a pride in our love of grungie, independent music), to Patrick Fernandez' 1978 disco smash hit *Born to Be Alive*. I still don't believe that happened!

VOTE TONY OUT: A Powerful Idea

The Vote Tony Out campaign was started by Manly local, Mark Kelly, back in March 2017. It began as a closed Facebook Group called 'Let's not re-elect Tony Abbott'. Mark invited a few friends who invited a few friends and by September 2018 the numbers had swelled to around 2,400 people. Most of these people were living within the bounds of the Warringah electorate. Pretty impressive when you think that the electorate has about 103,000 registered voters.

In October 2018 Mark was invited to a meeting of other groups who had similar ideas about the future of Mr Abbott. The meeting was fantastic; up until this time all parties didn't know the others existed. The 'Let's not re-elect Tony Abbott' Facebook group had the largest number of followers and took the lead on being more visual. Mark's philosophy was to follow the psychology of Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs.' This meant forming a tribe. Every tribe needs a uniform and

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

that's where the Vote Tony Out slogan was formed. From there a three-pronged approach was started. Firstly, a website was created to promote the T-shirts with Time's Up Tony and Vote Tony Out that were printed. Secondly, an Instagram campaign in the same name was started. Finally, a database of people both in Warringah and around Australia was built to help get the message out. Each of these three prongs would grow in popularity over the course of the next seven months, each helping to take the followers one rung at a time up Maslow's pyramid.

The Instagram campaign started with a bang when Mark approached Layne Beachley to be the first post. The idea was that local Warringah people would have their photo taken in a Vote Tony Out T-shirt and provide a paragraph on why it was time for Tony to go. Layne's post was fantastic. The followers of the page started to grow instantly. Followers Number 33 and 34 were Malcolm and Lucy Turnbull. This catapulted Vote Tony Out to the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and other national newspapers for close to five days in a row. From there came TV, radio and other media coverage. By the end of the first week the Instagram campaign has more than 15,000 followers.

T-shirt sales were growing. Mark delivered the first 1,600 T-shirts himself as he wanted to not only see who was buying the shirts but to understand everyone's individual point of view on why they were joining in. It seems everyone had their own very personal reasons for wanting to see the back of Tony Abbott. By the end of the campaign over 6,000 T-shirts would be sold within Warringah and a few thousand around Australia, some even going overseas.

With the database growing, regular communications were being sent out calling people to join the tribe, letting them know how to start

conversations with their friends, colleagues and families. Building the tribe, making sure that tribe was well educated and informed into how to get their points across was a very important part of the process of building momentum. As the Instagram campaign continued to develop so did the press and media coverage's interest in the campaign. Australia had never seen a political campaign run with such fervour as this one. Especially when the campaign did not have a candidate, it ran on the ethos that Tony's time was up, that his views didn't represent the majority of people in Warringah and that he would indeed be voted out at the next election.

Zali featured in the Vote Tony Out campaign on New Year's Day 2019. Prior to her official announcement Mark Kelly was able to use the database he had built to rally the followers behind Zali. An example of this was on 27 January, Zali's official launch press conference. Mark sent around 600 text messages to followers to attend Zali's launch as Vote Tony Out was endorsing Zali. Over 300 people attended that launch to the surprise of the awaiting media. From that moment Warringah knew 'it was on' and Zali was the real deal.

From that day Vote Tony Out's mission was to bring the people who votes Labor, Greens and 'other' over. Zali would naturally be able to pull a lot of the Liberal Party voters over. The combination would be a winner. With the Labor and Greens vote dropping by more than 50% on first preference to Zali, and Zali pulling big numbers from the Liberals. Warringah become independent on 18 May 2019.

In the last weeks of the campaign Vote Tony Out communicated with roughly 30,000 people and served over 2,000,000 targeted ads via a Google Adwords campaign. This was one of the 'biggest' yet 'smallest' political campaigns ever to be run in Australia history.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign



Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign



A TRIBUTE TO LOWER NORTH SHORE TEAM ZALI

Tina Jackson & Kirsty Gold: Area Captains, Lower North Shore Team Zali

November 2018, the Federal Election was not far off. We had our 'Vote Tony Out' T-shirts. The time had come to wear them around the neighbourhood loud and proud, but it was hard to predict the reaction of our fellow Mosmanites. The summer weather was glorious, everyone was headed to the beach, so Balmoral seemed the obvious place to start. Early on a Sunday morning we walked the promenade smiling at people. Some smiled back, others looked wary. The next week the group doubled, the following week it doubled again. More beach goers were returning our smiles and wanting to chat about the message on our T-shirts. The expansion of our embryonic tribe was recorded weekly in a photo posted to Facebook with encouragement for others to join our 'Democracy Walks'. Soon we were a sizeable contingent, emboldened to talk to anyone who showed a flicker of interest. Many of the group had never been politically active before, but this the start of the extraordinary Lower North Shore (LNS) tribe.

As our numbers continued to grow, we realised we were tapping into a deep vein of frustration with our local member. We asked people what their concerns were. His climate change denial, destructiveness both within the Liberal Party and on the national stage, attitudes to women, and leaving the House of Representatives for the marriage equality bill in the face of 75% of his electorate supporting same-sex marriage legislation, all loomed large in their responses. In sum, he did not represent us, and people were ready to call it out. For long-

time Liberal voters it was hard to acknowledge just how out of step their local member was, but the ever increasing LNS tribe of like-minded people were leading the way to change.

The Democracy Walks continued into 2019. Support was building, but people were wanting a more positive message, if not Tony then who? Expectations were exceeded when Zali put up her hand. Here was a candidate we could be proud of and who would truly represent us. When her candidacy was officially announced at a large gathering at North Harbour Reserve on 27 January 2019, the LNS tribe was ready to spread out from the beach to the shopping centres, the bus stops, the ferry wharves, anywhere people gathered, to tell a traditionally conservative suburb Zali represented the future.

We equipped the burgeoning tribe with Zali T-shirts at various volunteer events. A particularly memorable one was held on Sunday 24 March at our unofficial LNS 'office', Balmoral Beach. By this time there were already 170 LNS Zali volunteers, 650 electorate-wide, but we were still overwhelmed by how many volunteers turned up that day. The assembled group, resplendent in turquoise, were captured in the now iconic Rotunda photo. The morning was scorching hot and everyone was squinting into the sun. It didn't matter. The enthusiasm, optimism and hope are writ large. What can't be seen in the photo are the words we were shouting in unison, 'Go Zali!'. It was a key moment, and a glimpse of what was to come. These dedicated, determined and talented people could indeed make history.

The following Thursday morning, LNS volunteers gathered close to sunrise for what would become a highlight of the Zali campaign, our first Spit Hill event. The response from commuters to our large 'Zali' banners was exhilarating, the many toots and thumbs-up,

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

outweighing the negative reactions. But we needed more volunteers to really attract the attention of jaded morning commuters. The word went out, volunteers from the southern side of The Spit joined us and they took the event to new heights. By the end of the campaign it had become a signature Zali campaign event, with huge numbers of Zali volunteers from across the electorate enthusiastically waiving Zali corflutes, festive and upbeat, dancing to pumping music. Fittingly, this is where Zali joined volunteers the morning after the election to show her gratitude to the Warringah electorate.

The Spit event was one of many for our volunteers through our official calendar of events and sign-up system. Each week as the LNS tribe grew, amazing people came forward to suggest and lead innovative ways to spread the word. We will all remember the leaflet handouts at bus stops and ferry wharves early in the morning, Mosman shops and Bridgepoint on Saturdays, the Cremorne Orpheum when popular films were showing, dog parks, playgrounds, cafes, outside Fitness First. There were the walks at Balmoral and Cremorne, bike rides with Zali signs, Easter egg hunts, Zali banner events at Spit Hill and Neutral Bay, and letter writing workshops. LNS Team Zali wore their Zali T-shirts, drank coffee from Zali keep cups, rehydrated from Zali water bottles and stuck bumper stickers on their cars. Zali's volunteers did all this and much, much more. They flooded our neighbourhood with turquoise and never missed an opportunity to spread the word to friends, family, neighbours and colleagues. Conversation by conversation we asked people to join us. Come election night, we would know we had put everything we had into the campaign.

In total LNS volunteers would donate well over 1,500 hours for these organised events, before pre-polling had even started. The additional

hours people gave beyond this are incalculable. Many people put their normal lives on hold to dedicate themselves to the campaign. Behind the scenes people were helping with IT, managing databases, organising public forums and events, holding community gatherings, working in the campaign office, writing letters, posting on social media, raising funds, doing letterbox drops, coming to working bees, delivering and installing Zali corflutes and banners across the LNS and putting up posters in businesses and shops. As well as locals, the LNS team had many out of area volunteers, people who despite not living in the electorate, wanted to give their time and skills to help the cause. Zali officially launched her campaign on 30 March, just a short time later on 16 April, she had reached a milestone 1,000 volunteers, electorate wide.

While taking our collective purpose very seriously, we had a lot of fun turning the LNS turquoise. Gathering regularly at The Oaks and Buena Vista, we exchanged funny stories from the campaign trail and got to know each other. 50-70 volunteers gathered together in Zali T-shirts was also an impressive public display of the strength of this movement for change. Our camaraderie will always be remembered as a hallmark of the campaign. As Election day drew closer, we wore our T-shirts everywhere, so any outing for school pickup, to the shops and the gym, to walk the dog, meant crossing paths with lots of Zali volunteers: happy smiling faces always. When running into volunteers after the election the first comment was often, 'we had so much fun!'

When we wore our Zali T-shirts we were her ambassadors. People who confessed to being shy and very uncomfortable talking to strangers pushed themselves because there was so much at stake. What really stood out was how many people on the LNS cared about

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

positive social and environmental change. Many said for the first time ever, they were proud to live in the electorate. We learnt that, like us, our neighbours did care about the climate crisis and the future we are leaving for our children, they did care about humanitarian issues and social justice. We found kindred spirits and forged long-lasting bonds.

Beyond Zali and her supporters' control, was an ugly side to the campaign. We witnessed an unrelenting fear and smear campaign from the Liberal Party and Advance Australia. 'Vote Steggall, get Shorten... too risky for Warringah' in threatening black and red letters displayed on ominous-looking trucks, in ads, on posters, on T-shirts. There were photoshopped images of Zali, signage saying Zali was funded by GetUp; that she had a dark secret – on it went. New to political campaigning, it was a shock to most volunteers that there are no laws against lying in politics. It is a credit to the LNS volunteers that their positivity never wavered despite the continued provocation. Armed with Zali's Myth Busters, they patiently and politely countered the falsehoods. In the end, the more lies dished up, the more determined was Zali's LNS team. Integrity and truth would win the day.

On 29 April pre-polling opened, so began three gruelling weeks starting with the early morning skirmish to get Zali signs up in key places and finishing late into the evening with the pack up. Very few volunteers had ever handed out at a poll booth before. As always, LNS Team Zali rose to the occasion. At first shaken by some of the poor behaviour, they remained positive and polite. In the last few weeks it had been hard to keep up with the number of people volunteering. As the big day grew closer, people from everywhere wanted to help. To celebrate how far we had come and kick off

Election Week, on 11 May Zali volunteers from across the electorate gathered once again at Middle Harbour Reserve. We had beaten all records with over 1,400 volunteers, more than 400 from the LNS. The excitement was palpable, we were ready for Election Day. We could do this.

On Election Day 18 May, we asked every LNS volunteer who could, to help. Preparing for Election day was often drama-filled and those who worked through the night to set up for the day will have lots of stories to tell, but the mood on Election Day was cheerful and festive. For the most part it was a positive day in the spirit of democracy. We had explained to voters why we needed change, what Zali could achieve, and how their collective voice needed to be heard, 'Vote 1 Zali'. It was now up to Warringah.

Warringah resoundingly voted for the future – an 18.3% swing in Zali's favour with 11 out of the 18 biggest swings coming from LNS booths. By the time many of the LNS tribe had arrived at the Novatel, we already knew Zali had won. Jubilation, elation, relief – there were so many emotions flowing that night as we celebrated Zali's historic victory. After the event, for many just a mention of election night was enough to elicit goosebumps. A once in a lifetime experience.

Many factors came together for Zali to be elected, not the least of which was Zali herself, a truly star candidate. But the role of her volunteers, the grassroots movement that rose up to meet the huge challenge of a removing a 25-year incumbent, cannot be overestimated. People power in action.

Driven by the need for urgent action on climate change, strong support for mental health, fair treatment for everyone, honest and positive politics and more women in Parliament, along the way we

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

had so much fun, connected with kindred spirits and made many friends. Importantly, we raised the bar. When they went low, we went high, maintaining our positivity throughout the campaign. Heartfelt thanks to the extraordinary LNS tribe. Your passion, dedication and commitment to change made this possible. Though our collective effort, together, we made history.



ENCOUNTERS

Louise Baber

I wasn't actually in volunteer mode when this happened but it's a funny story...

One sunny workday morning, I was rushing down to Mosman Bay Wharf, late as usual, struggling to find my Opal card at the last minute, fishing around in my cluttered bag. To my right, a nice young man in orange lycra, advertising a new gym ('Orangetherapy?') thrust a mandarin and a leaflet into my hands. Nice idea but not really helpful when I still couldn't find my Opal card. More rummaging around. Then I caught a glimpse to my left of some other young men dressed in blue T-shirts with yellow writing and noticed that they said, 'Vote Tony'. Without pausing for breath, I yelled out 'You must be joking, not in a million years! Not if he was the last man on earth!' Then, who should step out of the shadows but.... Tony Abbott!

'Here I am,' he said, 'the last man on earth.' I went bright red, burst out laughing and jumped onto the ferry. I will never forgive myself for not being ready with a better come back like, 'but that's the whole point, Tony, not even THEN would I vote for you!' or 'Grab a mandarin and get a job with these guys, you like getting around in lycra, don't you?'

Ah well. Missed opportunities. When Tony came to our booth at St Clement's Church on Election day and stood behind me in 'No Man's Land' for a good forty minutes it was all I could do to stop myself from saying something 'So how does it feel now, being the

last man on earth?' I gave him a big cheesy grin when he drove off, but I don't think he remembered me.

Jennifer Baker: Lucky big red car

Unusually, it had been a less than successful morning at the Military Road Pre-Poll venue. 'Entitled Sue' was Team Abbott Captain and was even more fanatical than her usual self in the battle for territory along the dividing line with the Electoral Commission area. Her pristine white designer sneaker was planted firmly on that line; nothing would move her. I found myself darting from side to side around her to deliver my precious Zali message.

Despite Kirsty and Tina swiftly calling in reinforcements, the day turning into a 70/30 to Team Abbott sort of day – a gritted teeth sort of day – so I was finding it hard to maintain that Team Zali smile. Worse to come: 'Entitled Sue' was relieved by not one, but five, over-enthusiastic Sydney University Young Liberals who had been well grilled by the lady in question and were even more territorial. Full Abbott fervour was on show!

Then: roll of drums: From across the road there was a loud car horn blast. The booming voice of the occupant shouts 'GO ZALI!' I waved at Peter Fitzsimmons and turned around to find *not one* Team Abbott Young Lib in sight. They were running up to the traffic lights to catch a closer look at the smart red Tesla. (Sorry Pete)

I got pole poll position, thank you. Devotion, commitment, priorities all disappeared for a very red car. That's when I knew Zali would breeze it in!

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Richard Bédard

A strict condition of working on the campaign was to keep it polite, clean, positive and respectful. I was late arriving at the pedestrian bridge at the Crown of the Hill. An avid supporter of the incumbent member was nearby, sitting on his bike. He had apparently been making comments to the team to which they, according to their signed agreement, did not respond. I learned later that I was also of the same duty! As Andrew Bland, our Team Leader, explained, any return comments can be manipulated, recorded and used against the campaign, so a flat order not to engage was in place.

The conversation was going well, I thought. The man was obviously intelligent, well-spoken and seemed a decent bloke. He'd had run-ins online with the GetUp site and was angry about that, but I was able to say that Zali, 'truly', did not engage their support and I told him about the strict conditions imposed on volunteers with regard to behaviour. That seemed to settle him somewhat and we were able to discuss a few issues. (I can see Zali HQ shaking their heads after reading that.) To be fair, my career involved a lot of legal battles, so, I innocently engaged the enemy, as they say, blissfully unaware of the non-engagement policy.

Turns out he had a point. He stated that it was illegal to erect our banner and signs on a public structure and that we were breaking the law. We were told to hold the items up and not affix them to the structure. A fine point and the fact that all electioneering material left when we did, supported that stand. But we had used rope to help hold up the banner as it was quite high, and it was not tied to the screen material overhead so as to comply with the no-fix rule.

I commented that it was such a small infraction that it could be excused. We parted not as friends, but we did exchange numbers because we had made a connection. Think of the German and British

soldiers singing Christmas carols near the trenches on Christmas day in the middle of the First World War.

However, he had already called the NSW Police to complain. They arrived later to meet the 'usual suspects' in turquoise shirts. Names and addresses were taken. When I gave mine as Ettalong Beach I got a distinct, 'Nice!', as a response. Seems that slight infringement was not acted upon, to date anyway. But it raises a question.

What is our regard for the Suffragettes who went to jail for women's rights? Yes, they broke the law, but it was a worthy cause and non-violent. In my mind I am happy to put the cause, behind who is now the Honourable Member for Warringah, in that same basket.

Penny Bligh

Like many people who were part of the campaign, I had never been politically active before. But this election was different. Residual anger against Tony for being such a blinkered, out of touch wrecking ball was the major driver for me. I knew many others felt the same. I hoped against hope that some hidden gem would be uncovered who would be capable of harnessing this uniquely opportune groundswell for change. Along came Zali. The more I learned about her the more excited I became. My husband (who was still undecided at the time) and I attended one of her information sessions and I signed up as a volunteer the next day. It is hilarious that I am a banker's wife. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2.5.19)

First experience on the hustings was outside Cremorne Orpheum. I immediately ran into a friend from out of area who couldn't wait to take a picture of me in my Zali T-shirt to send out to our group of friends. She wished she had the opportunity to vote Tony out. She

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

was pretty typical of our moviegoers that night. Lots of enthusiasm but most people lived out of electorate.

Next experience was banner waving at The Spit. All the elements for a really fun morning (sunshine, disco music and lots of excited, happy people) except for the 'Young Liberals' who had turned up before daylight to plaster the area with their very negative posters and then proceeded to push their way directly in front of us all, blocking sightlines to our vehicular audience with their oversized placards. The first time this happened I involuntarily took a few steps backward up the hill, announcing I would take the high ground instead. One of them actually cracked a smile and it was my little victory. The 70s and 80s soundtrack and my spirited dancing unfortunately didn't chase them away. Such negative and aggressive vibes from the Liberal camp can't have helped them. As time went on Zali's insistence on a clean campaign, though risky, was a breath of fresh air in the fetid onslaught that was unleashed from all around.

I didn't expect Zali would win. Some of my closest friends were determined to vote for Tony. He had promised money to the local surf club. His contribution to a Liberal Party victory was going to ensure that the franking credits tax system remained.

On Election day I reported for duty at Mosman High School just as Tony snuck in the back gate. He held himself like a man who had already lost and I actually felt a bit sorry for him. He looked even worse as he left by the front gate forty-five minutes later. The rest is history.

Well done Zali! We think the same way, but you have the balls and ability to enter the political fray and stand up for what you believe in. Unfortunately, we didn't get the hung parliament that would have made things a little easier for your voice to be heard but you go girl!

Stephen Breckenridge

From the moment I heard about Zali Steggall's plan to run against Tony Abbott I was committed to her cause. I couldn't wait to become a volunteer. I didn't want to simply be cheering from the sideline or in my lounge room. This was the most audacious and credible proposal which had been put forward in years.

I had watched John Howard ignore the constituents of Bennelong and listened to his shallow rhetoric for years. If it hadn't been for the Tampa incident, Howard would have been dead in the water years earlier.

What I was witnessing with Abbott was a re-run; he failed to represent me, his electorate or the Australian people at large. He wasn't connected with us-the people and he wasn't taking steps to correct his weaknesses. Abbott had never put a positive or constructive proposal to the Parliament, and I was appalled at his negativity toward efforts by Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard and Malcolm Turnbull to address Climate Change and the environment, no matter how flawed their ideas were.

So, here was a chance to be part of a change for the good; an opportunity to bring about the beginning of a new and constructive way of thinking, across all issues. It wasn't just about climate, it was about the way people interacted, respect and their aspirations for self-improvement and development, to improve relationships, not just for Warringah, but Australians as a whole.

I enjoyed the challenge of meeting and talking with people as they walked to the pre-polling stations and on election day. Looking them in the eye and asking them to consider voting for Zali, change, and our future. By and large, most people who I approached were

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

positive to the suggestion. Overwhelmingly I found young women and mothers were already on the page; they didn't need convincing. Seeing that encouraged me; Zali was making a difference in the rhetoric and atmosphere. There was positivity in the air.

Sure, there were face-to-face and drive-by rude and vulgar anti comments but our commitment not to engage and react was effective in defusing any negativity. As the weeks before the election wore on the concern of the Abbott camp became obvious; more 'blow-in' volunteers, their aggression toward and their lies about Zali and what her volunteers and supporters all stood for made me even more determined.

Interestingly, I regularly have a coffee with a group of retired men, who have had disparate careers and experiences. At least two are rusted on Abbott devotees, three are dyed-in-the-wool Labor tragics and the rest free thinkers. None of those men gave Zali a chance, but they were prepared to discuss and debate the need for change and conceded that Abbott couldn't continue to 'blow the joint up' and wreck Australia. When Zali won they each accepted they were wrong, expressed admiration for Zali, her campaign machine and are looking forward to the next phase.

Sara Dowse

Having proved a failure at letterwriting – paywalls prohibiting online delivery etc – and with Adam Everett's example, I leafleted my immediate Manly area with a personal letter to my neighbours instead. In the week before the election I dropped the letter in letterboxes along Ashburner Street, Darley Road, Victoria Parade and Cliff Street:

Hello. I am your neighbour Sara. After living in Canberra for many years, and then a spell in Canada, I came back to Manly

as a grandmother. There have been changes, some good, some bad (how I miss our cinema!), but I'm still blown away by its beauty. Out on my daily walk I give thanks for the ocean, the harbour, the boats and the ferries. And I love the kids I see. But I worry about their future, and what kind of world we'll be leaving them.

I won't pretend to be anything other than I am. I am definitely on the progressive side of politics. But that doesn't mean I'm not an independent thinker. As a writer and former senior public servant who has served under both sides of politics, I believe it's important to maintain my independence. The challenges we face today are above party politics, and they are serious. I won't be around for long, but my children and all nine of my grandchildren will, as will the kids who brighten my day when I'm out on my walk. That's why I'm asking you to vote for Zali Steggall, a brilliant, fair-minded woman who is determined to act on behalf of the young of Warringah who, unless we change course very quickly, will be paying dearly for our short-sightedness.

That said, Zali has policies to benefit people of all ages, including

- immediate action on climate change
- increased government support for renewables
- no proceeding with Adani coal mine
- no tunnel unless restricted to clean public transport, electric vehicles and air stack filtration.
- no change to franking credits, negative gearing or capital gains regimes
- improved, Australian-owned health services

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

- affordable childcare
- better representation for women in parliament
- humane treatment of asylum seekers

This election is about policies and the willingness to listen. Our current parliamentary representative, whatever his personal qualities, has consistently denied the science on climate change and played politics with the issue. As prime minister he did his best to hobble what might have been a world-class NBN and to create uncertainty for investment in renewables, losing us time as well as economic advantage. He forced a costly, unnecessary postal survey on marriage equality yet abstained from voting according to the result as he had promised. Warringah now has the opportunity to send a sensible, open-minded independent to Canberra, a woman whose views are truly representative of this electorate.

So, if you haven't voted already, please consider putting Steggall '1' on your ballot and voting strategically to ensure her election. It will make a genuine difference to our country and our children and to all of us here in Warringah.

Terrence Flower: Wuthering Heights:

I have many anecdotes from my participation in Zali's campaign. Taking several weeks away from my PhD research to campaign full time, I'll distill my highlights.

I was at Allambie Heights (Wuthering Heights) when Zali declared her candidacy. My initial reaction? The skiing champion will be skiing uphill, but she was always as cool as an ice cube in a vodka/martini shaken not stirred. Regime change beckoned!

While letterboxing I chanced upon yet another lawn with an Abbott corflute on display. A woman called me over. 'Would you bring me a Zali placard tomorrow?' 'Of course.' I dutifully turned up. Cassie's husband had left for an overseas trip, so his placard came down to be replaced by one of Zali's. While the woman and I were installing the placard, a bloke wandered over from across the road to remonstrate. He was seen off, and as he went back to his place, Cassie told me he didn't know it yet, but his wife and daughter had already voted for Steggall.

This gender divide became increasingly apparent. At the shopping strip one fellow pointed out that: 'Vote Steggall get Sweden, electric cars and free skiing lessons paid for by hard working blokes like me.' His companion replied, 'Listen Brett I'm the main earner in this screwed up relationship and I'm not voting for bloody Abbott.' I pointed out that there were six Viking long ships off the coast from Brookvale this morning. The woman burst out laughing; the bloke missed the point!

On election day Zali turned up at Allambie Heights at about 3 pm. I think we all knew she'd won. When Tony Abbott turned up at 5.45 pm, I enquired 'Sir have you voted yet?' He responded, 'Yes I have. Why are you such an ardent Zali canvasser?'

'Sir she's the best candidate,' I replied. At 6 pm as the poll closed Tony Abbott graciously gave an autograph to Terry and a small greeting about democracy on a Zali How-to-Vote card. The fallen Chieftain and I parted with a firm handshake.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Graham Millar

At an early stage in the election I received a telephone call from a chap claiming to be from Liberal Party Headquarters who asked what was the one, big single thing Tony Abbott could do for me. What an opportunity! Of course I said, 'resign!'

Two days before the election, I was doing a handout for Zali at Jamison Square on Warringah Road, Forestville, when who should come round the corner but one Tony Abbott. Whilst I am not known for my immediate re-call of names, I did manage to blurt out: 'Morning Tony, I am Graham Millar.' The poor chap looked unbelievably depressed. And so close to home: his!

But the best story of the campaign for this family was Zali winning on the evening of my wife's sixty-eighth birthday. What a gift that keeps on giving.

Anthony Naake

This was my first time to be involved in a political campaign. Having been a member of the 'Vote Tony Out' group I quickly transferred my attention to become a volunteer for Zali. I was part of the Lower North Shore tribe but, being a complete stranger, I was overwhelmed with kind hospitality from Tina, Kirsty and all the volunteers. There was a real desire for change and everywhere we campaigned we mostly had positive feedback.

My experience on the Mosman pre-polling booth – Aghh! After being briefed by Booth Captain Fiona, I was positioned on my own towards Spit Junction. After half an hour a very obnoxious Team Tony supporter approached me and said, 'I have reason to believe

that you can't be trusted on your own so I am going to come and join you.'

I replied, 'If that's the case then you have to stand at least one metre away from my Zali corflute.' He looked confused. 'What's a corflute?' he asked.

'It's a support material for printing posters on and please keep at least one metre away,' I replied.

'Who says I have to keep one metre away?' he asked.

Okay, time for the bullshit I thought so I said. 'The electoral commission guide to pre-polling booths clearly states that "Political parties of different persuasion must keep at least one metre away from other political parties campaigning nearby".' He reluctantly moved away but still continued to pick arguments with me.

Now here's the sting: Mr Obnoxious Team Tony was warmly greeted by what appeared to be his dear friends Mr and Mrs Tony Voters. After ten minutes of praising their current member Mrs Tony Voter proclaimed, 'OK, let's go and vote.'

When the other two were not watching Mr Tony Voter turned to me and said 'Quick, give me one of your leaflets, we want to vote for Zali!'

Margaret Pearl: A message to Zali

What now? I am looking up to you to take honesty back into politics. They say politics is a dirty game, but I don't think it needs to be dirty; neither do I think it is a game. Every politician is privileged to be elected to parliament. Please show them how it's done. Politics doesn't have to consist solely of middle-aged men behaving so badly

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

that they would be terminated from employment. And yet they continue to remain in parliament. Your campaign has been faultless and clean. I look forward to that continuing in parliament.

You are independent but you are not alone. As a volunteer my work is not over. I think it's just started, and I am happy to continue to assist when I can.

Our environment is sacred: no amount of money can take precedence over the environment. Please do whatever you can to keep that message going.

Ros Tinker: One view from Balmoral

For quite a while I had been getting more and more dismayed and annoyed at Tony Abbott's various responses to things political and commonplace. I had on several occasions written to him about End of Life Choices but had always received pretty bland answers about 'conscience' votes and electricity prices. Then came the plebiscite. Then came the dumping of the then PM with all the back biting and recriminations. Then in November Mr Abbott began warming up for the Federal Elections 2019 and I had definitely made up my mind I would *not* vote for him. At that stage I had *little idea* that hundreds of others were thinking similar things. I had the following letter published in the *Mosman Daily* in December 2018, and the last sentence was a heartfelt plea for somebody to step up and represent us and our views.

Letter of the week: Time to Represent: I note that in pleading his case for re-election (*Mosman Daily*, 13 December) Tony Abbott conveniently avoided mentioning his stance on huge issues such as climate change, marriage equality, coal-fired

power, voluntary-a\medically assisted dying and more. These seem to be at variance with a great number of his constituents in Warringah. How can he claim to represent our thoughts on these matters? Oh for someone who does.

In January a woman (yeah) by the name of Zali Steggall announced that she would step up to the job. I did some initial checking out and reading of papers and so on and then wasted no time lining up to support her.

The months since then have been such fun, hard work and plain exciting. The organisation of her campaign was AMAZING. The support kept growing and growing and growing. Many other groups were moving in the same direction. Zali was indeed coming across as informed, intelligent, calm, determined, respectful... indeed a woman in all ways worthy of our support. The rest is history.

One memorable incident after the Mosman 'Come and meet Zali?'. I was leaving the Art Gallery and asking a woman (about my age) on the way out if she was impressed. Her reply 'I've been impressed with Zali for a long time, I'm Zali's mother'! Whoops! GO ZALI.

Catherine Willis

Initially there were three triggers for my decision to join Zali's campaign.

Firstly, I had just finished reading Michelle Obama's book *Becoming*. She is such an inspiring woman and she encouraged me to 'find my voice'. I realised that she wasn't always a political person but chose to speak up about what was important to her. She encouraged me enormously.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

The next book I read was *Cardinal*, by Louise Mulligan, about George Pell. This book horrified me. The abuse that Pell covered up and also committed affected me intensely. Then when Tony Abbott wrote him a glowing reference I was furious. I thought of staging a sit-in hunger strike outside his office. I was ropable that he could support a convicted paedophile. Abbott was the prime minister of Australia.

The other event was when Gladys won office again and she sincerely thanked all the volunteers in their coloured T-shirts. I thought how great it would be to help someone sincere, clever, female and likeable become my member for parliament.

I've never given money or joined a campaign before and I'm so glad I did. I'd certainly do it again for something I believed in. I was so happy when the votes were counted. I know it'll be hard as an independent, but she'll be there for Warringah. Well done all of team Zali!

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign



Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign



DRESSING UP & DANCING UP A STORM

Rosie Adams: The girl with the Zali earrings (apologies to Johannes Vermeer)

In a box of earrings, which had belonged to an elderly relative I found a pair of aqua/turquoise coloured crystal earrings. They are rather chunky and not what I would ordinarily choose to wear as I am a bit conservative. However, they were a great match for the Zali T-shirt and so they became part of my Zali 'uniform'. I wore them with pride and ease and pleasure whenever I had the T-shirt on.

While the many people I met on the team might not have remembered my name they always remembered my earrings – and then me!

I became 'the girl with the Zali earrings'. I'm not quite sure I can call myself a girl since I am in my late sixties, but they were great fun to wear and I will always associate them with Zali's marvelous, successful and importantly respectful campaign.

Toya Adams: Campaign memories and highlights

I have never been political, and was ashamed of how ignorant and uninvolved I was in politics, and a plan to change this (including understanding the system, and later, entering the Visitors' Gallery during a Parliamentary Session in Parliament House, ACT) was on my list of 'things to do when I retire'. Last year I watched the movie *Suffragettes*, and felt guilty that these women suffered so, some even dying, so I could vote, but I was not honouring their sacrifices by responsibly voting.

The fact that Tony Abbott was my Federal Member dampened my political interest, but after Zali nominated, his presence in Federal Parliament became a driving force as I sensed a realistic opportunity to change politics in Warringah (and Australia) by ousting him. I became involved in Zali's campaign slowly: from attending a town hall meeting, to signing up to volunteer, to handing out cards. As the campaign intensified so did my commitment and range of duties. I attended associated meetings and rallies, read and became somewhat literate in social media, increasing my knowledge of the process and relevant political topics, and strangely, my daily conversation become centred on all things political.

Laurie and I increased our fitness as we cycled from Seaforth to our daily Zali events, in our sprayed turquoise helmets trailing a corflute bracketed onto Laurie's bike with Zali stickers on almost every stationary item we could find. We joined the *Zali Riders* and cycled up and down Military Road and to Balmoral, tooting bike horns and pinging bells, waving to and greeting passers-by, as I loudly played Abba's *Take a Chance on Me* through my bike speaker. I even managed the 'Raglan Rise' (Raglan Street). The memories and highlights I enjoyed most were when, to quote Paul, we 'took the Hill' – dancing the 'Zali Zumba' waving corflutes to 1970s' music, wearing our sprayed turquoise wigs and waving sprayed pom-poms to passing traffic, as each week 6.30 am became a little brisker.

As a woman who loves fashion, I felt it my duty to shop: turquoise shirts for Laurie, and turquoise earrings, boots, tops, scarves, eyeliner for me. My husband even sprayed a raffia straw hat the perfect turquoise.

Laurie and I campaigned together, and it was so much fun meeting interesting like-minded people. This was largely due to the positive,

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

participatory, energised culture, which, inspired by Zali, permeated through my lovely and motivational area captain Ann-Charlott (and others), ensuring we were not ensnared in grubbiness.

The memories and highlights that are life defining are: the pride, satisfaction and stimulation I gained from my entrée into politics; honouring the Suffragettes and all who gave, and give, to help make Australian democracy, and Australia, better. I am proud I was a Zali volunteer and contributed to our nations' democracy. My negative political emotions are replaced by excitement and hope, and I plan to continue involvement.

I am hoping to fulfil my plan to enter the Visitors' Gallery of Parliament House when Zali presents her First Speech.

Jenny Forster: A walking billboard

In the weeks leading up to the 2019 federal election I decided I would be a walking billboard. I received my first 'Vote Tony Out' T-shirt to wear on our inaugural 'Walks for Democracy', first at Balmoral Beach Esplanade then Manly Beach Esplanade early on Sunday mornings. My wardrobe grew to six T-shirts, all different, including the Zali ones after she announced her candidacy. Wearing them daily including in the lift in my apartment building made for some interesting conversations.

When I caught the packed commuter Manly Fast Ferry to Sydney University at least three times a week, I always sat at the front. As the vessel prepared to berth at Circular Quay, I would jump up, hold onto a pole (they probably thought 'Poor old thing') giving the seated passengers nothing to read except my 'Vote 1 Zali' T-shirt.

Seems to have worked. Congratulations Zali!"

Simon and Ranya Jankowski

We were in Japan skiing when we first heard that Zali had nominated herself as an independent candidate.

Immediately we were thrilled. Not only did we have someone who was prepared to listen to the scientists, for example, Tim Flannery, we had an Olympic skier taking on one of the biggest blocks to climate change action in Australia. We had to be part of it. Upon arrival back in Manly, we were negative campaigning with our 'Vote Tony Out' T-shirts, but Susie Morgan soon put an end to that – grabbing and recruiting us as volunteers saying, 'we need the power of positive campaigning'.

While we felt like rebels wearing our 'Vote Tony Out' T-shirt, we were excited to be part of Zali's turquoise army. Zali's beaming face was the first on our street in our apartment window and we became more excited as the campaign continued and we saw Addison Road sprouting more and more Zali posters in front gardens and on houses – almost daily.

We loved wearing our T-shirt's while dancing on the corner at Harris Farm Markets and we also got some hardcore exercise doing letterbox drops, but our main game was pre-polling and polling day. We felt we had a responsibility because our hair was not yet grey, and we had to show younger people that Zali was for us too.

The biggest high of the year came at Zali's post-election party when it was declared that she was winner of the seat. It was also a massive relief, because we felt change was going to happen. We're looking forward to continuing engagement on all the issues we care about with the awesome people we met campaigning and supporting Zali where we can.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

A message to Zali: thank-you for putting your hand up. Thank-you for wanting to represent us.

Julia Lipski

One Saturday morning at Forestville shops, bedecked in my Zali T-shirt, I was a bit early as I needed to go to the post office before handing out leaflets. Full of enthusiasm, I spied a man sitting having breakfast in the coffee shop next to the post office. As I walked past him, I reached over with a leaflet and said, 'Do you know about Zali Steggall, Independent Candidate for Warringah?'

He grinned and I immediately apologised for interrupting his breakfast. He chuckled and said he was on board already and had called the office with his support. We chatted a bit and he said 'You'll have to get her across the line. I'm from Seaforth Bowling Club and I reckon I have a few hundred members who support her too.'

Tim Quinn

Having our community come together with such a positive force is something I expect won't happen too many times in one person's life. Dancing at The Spit, having people approach me on the Corso to chat just because I'm in my Zali T-shirt, chatting to neighbours who say 'Wow, she looks like a good alternative', and being able to look at my kids and know we've made a collective decision for their future.

I'm so proud to have been part of that change and couldn't be happier with our new member. Go Zali!

Catherine Treweek

I was a much better human being when I wore the aqua Zali T-shirt: didn't swear; didn't shout; helped old ladies across the road; didn't jaywalk; smiled and waved at those who gave me the finger; didn't rise to anger; forgave the ignorant; engaged in calm debate with young climate change deniers. My three adult daughters found the personality transformation hilarious and have urged me never to take off your T-shirt!

Best wishes for a spectacularly successful parliamentary career.

GENERATIONS & GENDER

Jenny Allen

My favourite Zali story concerned my ninety-one-year-old mother. She is a staunch liberal but couldn't stand what Tony Abbott was doing to the Liberal Party.

Her birthday celebration was on the same day as a Zali event and I told her I would be unable to make the party. Mum said it didn't matter, just get him out!

Jan Bos

Story 1: While mum was driving around Dee Why trying to find a park, our ten- and five-year-old daughters were pointing out all the Zali confluents. After another one, our five-year-old daughter called from the back of the car: 'I have just seen the chosen one.'

Story 2: I was pre-polling at Darley Road when Tony Abbott appeared. He greeted his supporters standing next to me and I politely shook his hand as well. Then he positioned himself across the road at the Manly Village Public School gates. Groups of Year Five kids were returning on foot from a Project Penguin environmental excursion. When crossing at the pedestrian crossing, they spotted the pre-pollers and started signing: 'Vote Tony Out'. When arriving at the school gate, they suddenly came face to face with Tony and stopped signing – for a second or two – and then continued signing 'Vote Tony Out' while entering the school grounds.

(This was the day when Tony was filmed trying to shake hands with school kids. On the video posted on social media, hardly any child was prepared to shake his hand, although unrecorded he still managed quite a few that day.)

Story 3: While pre-polling outside Warringah, I was standing next to a young Liberal Party supporter who had been dropped off by a taxi and who, unlike his peers in Warringah, was not wearing a 'Team Tony' T-shirt. After half an hour, I started chatting to him and asked him for his views on Tony Abbot; he confided he was happy to see Tony lose.

Cynthia Cochrane

Throughout the campaign I was energised by girls' reactions to Zali's candidature. When we were standing on the side of the road in the morning waving to cars at the Zali banner events, I regularly observed girls in cars, on their way to school, looking so proud and happy at what we were doing. My own daughters, Annabelle (eight) and Scarlett (four), were continually inspired by Zali. 'Zali' was the first word Scarlett read. Annabelle would regularly kiss one of our Zali confluents. Annabelle and Scarlett's excitement in spotting Zali confluents throughout Warringah never waned. Scarlett is still so proud to have travelled around Manly with Zali herself on the WomenVote pink bus. When Rob, Annabelle and Scarlett visited me on election day at the Mosman Central booth, Annabelle observed that Lego needs to bring out a Lego Zali. Scarlett still asks whether, if she eats all her fruit, she will be as strong as Zali.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Jane Connor

My thirteen-year-old daughter, my husband and I all sprang into action on Day One. We were beyond delighted that someone as wonderful as Zali had volunteered to stand against Tony Abbott. I have lived in Warringah pretty much all my life and have felt so saddened by the fact that Liberal was such a safe seat and year after year we have had to put up with the ineffective Federal Parliament Member for Warringah.

I am so worried about our environment and the effects that climate change is having upon us all. I am beyond thrilled that Zali will stand for me and I know that I am not alone.

Annelies Hodge

Zali's campaign brought together four generations of my family: from my 101-year-old grandfather in Mosman (who became Zali's oldest supporter, trending more on Facebook than any of his grandkids even without his own social media account), to my two-year-old daughter (who joined me handing out leaflets and having discussions with people across our electorate).

It started with my move to Balgowlah back in 2018, after twenty years abroad. Excited to be able to exercise my democratic right to vote again, I responded to all the representatives of my electorate telling them about my concerns. This led to Tony Abbott sending me his recent speech on why Australia should exit the Paris Climate Change Agreement. I work in the field of sustainability and was appalled by the misinformation it contained and the dangerous direction he wanted to send our country in. Later in the year, the role he played in dismissing our serving prime minister, and other

information I learned about his position on the rights of women and the LGBTI community, made me decide that I needed to do everything I could to help ensure he wouldn't be re-elected as my representative. That's why I was so excited when Zali Steggall decided to run in the 2019 election. Finally, we had someone who represented the sensible centre, with a position that was economically conservative but socially and environmentally progressive. I felt that if anyone could do it Zali could. However, as an independent, she needed a lot of help from volunteers to get her word out and convince our electorate that there was a better alternative, so I put up my hand.

What a wonderful experience it was. I met so many positive and engaged individuals from all age groups; most of us had never done this before and were excited to give up our time and resources for such an important cause. I spoke to everyone I could – neighbours, strangers, school groups, social groups and my family anywhere – on the street, in parks, fitness centres, schools, at the beach, playgroups, wherever. People were worried by the scare campaign. It was relentless (I received over twenty letter box drops myself from the Liberal Party on top of three phone calls, four SMSs and a door knock), but we succeeded in addressing their concerns. My family joined me in supporting Zali too, participating in gatherings, promoting her events, wearing her branding materials, and writing social media posts. The school run to my son's school was extra fun each day too, as my six-year-old invented a game allocating points for Zali versus Tony and Stop Adani posters. Zali (who received the climate poster votes too) always won. It was a good omen. The turquoise we saw all around our electorate showed that people were engaged and wanted change. We all hoped Zali would make history.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

It was while scrutineering in Seaforth that I realised what a big swing had occurred and when we heard the other polling booth results in a car full of Zali volunteers on the way to the post-election gathering in Manly, we were ecstatic!

We shouted 'go Zali' on the way to the Novotel and people came onto their balconies to cheer and shout it back. It felt like we'd won the World Cup! I was so proud of Warringah, we rose above the fear and voted for positive change. We know Zali will do a great job in representing the people of Warringah and in standing up for critical issues like Climate Change. We wish her much luck.

Chris McGregor

At pre-polling at Brookvale East, a guy swung his huge luxury SUV into the car park (narrow, with only one entry/exit) and drove without any hesitation whatsoever straight into the only disabled car space. When he jumped out, I approached him with an HTV leaflet. 'Are you voting today sir?'

'Yeah but I wouldn't vote for that self-absorbed woman.'

No comment.

I was on the footpath at Brookvale East waving a corflute at traffic when I was approached by a young mother cradling her three-month-old baby – her first. She was apologising for not being able to help in Zali's campaign. She was so distressed about it. I told her of course she couldn't; she had other priorities at this point. She burst into tears explaining how important it was to have someone acting on climate change. In the end we were both in tears over the head of her tiny baby. It seemed quite symbolic of what was at the heart of this campaign.

Then there was the Liberal volunteer at Freshwater Campus. We circled each other all day quite politely but without interacting. (I noticed the women Liberal volunteers were on their feet all shift and very active, whereas the men tended to sit on the brick retaining wall and chat to supporters who came up to them, but that is another story.) At the end of the day, in the dark, she and I were alone for a time, packing up. She turned to me as she left and said hesitantly, 'We are all doing this for our children, aren't we?'

I could only agree. It was a poignant moment.

Gerard McMahon

18 May was one of the great days of my seventy-five years. I gladly spent fifteen hours on my feet. Congratulations to Jack and yourself for rearing such a determined woman. My own daughters, Geri (thirty-six) and Cecily (thirty-four) followed Saturday hour by hour from London.

I have many great memories including watching, whilst scrutineering at St Mary's Church, the stack of ballot papers for Zali grow and grow and realising she would win on primaries. However, my abiding memory will be handing out flyers at Manly Wharf at the entrance to the Barangaroo Ferry 7-8.30 am before pre-polling and then a few days before D-Day. The millennials going to work before pre-polling told me to keep the flyers. They said they *knew* what to do. Then on Tuesday, 14 March I was down there again. This time the incumbent was standing thirty metres away handing out his flyers. The millennial lawyers, accountants, financiers etc, this time walked right past him and told me they had already voted for Zali. Some were high fiving. *They* knew what was going to happen.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Laurie Shears: A Special Journey

I feel as though I am continuing on a journey, the first part of which was pedestrian, walking beside those active in benefitting our communities and country. This changed when Zali put her hand up – willing to use her talents and reputation to benefit those of us fortunate to live in Warringah and Australia. I see this as an opportunity for a civilised, constructive and evidence-based society. Toya and I attended several functions, which gave us the advantage of gauging the thrust of Zali's policies, so we began as volunteers and we were privileged to be at her campaign launch. I noted at that time that one of the few 'statistics' that Zali quoted was the rate of youth suicide on the Northern Beaches. We were devastated just two days later when my thirteen-year-old grandson committed suicide.

Zali wrote an incredibly supportive condolences card to us, reiterating her drive to achieve change in mental health and suicide prevention. I will forever be grateful for her empathy. Despite our continuing grief and bewilderment, we re-commenced volunteering after a few weeks, fully recognising that supporting Zali being elected was date limited.

The support from Ann-Charlott was exemplary. As other volunteers came to know the circumstances, we received nothing but kindness. Genuine community in action. I thank each and every volunteer.

To Sue and Jack, thank you for supporting Zali. To Tim and family, wow!

Finally, Tim spoke several times to me and offered practical avenues for support. Thank you. My journey continues, with increased hope for paths yet to be sighted.

Editor's note: Laurie, thank you for sharing your story with us. It shows great courage. I hope you and your family can continue to walk proudly in our community, forever enriched by the extraordinary wellspring of camaraderie that the 'turquoise army' created.

Geraldine Skinner

Being involved in the Zali campaign was an enlivening and deeply satisfying experience. I intended to keep it very simple – just letter boxing and being part of the crowd but as the weeks went by and the momentum built up my involvement grew.

My favourite activity was helping with corflute installation. I was the navigator for the ever patient and unflappable Alistair and assisted with contacting residents when we needed to consult them: such a diverse group of people but all so friendly, responsive, and grateful for our help. Their enthusiasm was infectious.

Then I found myself spending one never-to-be-forgotten Monday morning in the midst of all the guys assembling the corflutes for the Election day booths. Other than organiser Diana, I was the only woman in sight. I left it to the men to wield the drills and worked as the gopher bringing supplies, stacking the finished product, clearing the rubbish. When it came to photo time, I was chuffed to have a small drill thrust into my hand by Terry so that I 'would look the part'. The photo appeared on the Facebook post, was spotted by eagle eyed friends and gave me brief notoriety amongst them. The fun and the camaraderie showed in the photo and made them all smile.

My least favourite activity, though I knew its importance, was working as booth captain at pre-polling. The contrast between polite

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

and positive Zali supporters and the tactics of the main opponent was palpable. While other parties' supporters were cooperative and respectful, willing to help each other out (for example, with shelter from rain or packing away equipment at day's end) it was necessary with the Liberal group to be constantly vigilant about personal space, placement of signs and posters and playing by the rules as laid down and constantly (at least at Brookvale) reiterated by the AEC officers.

My greatest satisfaction from the campaign was in watching the growing awareness of my extended family, especially my eleven- and ten-year-old grandchildren. They became aware of the issues and alert to the campaign. They cared about the outcome and understood the drive to change the way politics was being done. My grandson was a particular delight, taking to ringing me when he saw what he thought unfair tactics at play. 'Gran you have to get onto this!' he said to me. His indignation was at its height when he saw a Liberal corflute installed adjacent to a Zali one on what he knew was private property.

My daughter and grandchildren joined me on the volunteers walk to North Harbour late in the campaign. It was a joy to see my, at other times reticent and self-effacing grandson, make sure he was in the front row for the photo. An informed and involved voter in the making.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign



Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign



WITH A SMILE

Lilian Andrew

For many years I have tried hard to be part of elections: discussing, door knocking, letterboxing, handing out How-to-Vote cards, writing to politicians, to the newspapers. Whilst I have always wanted to 'Do my bit', it has, essentially, had minimal effect.

Then along came Zali. Never before have I been part of such a positive, well run, thoroughly organised, thought-out and, ultimately, successful campaign. I even wore the T-shirt, a garment I normally eschew, with pride and came to appreciate the benefits of being part of an easily identifiable group.

Whether greeting the schoolchildren on their way to school on mornings at the pre-poll booth, or the busy shoppers, parents and children on their way to/from Saturday sport, the essential politeness of everyone shone through on being greeted with a smile and a 'good morning', even from those who really wanted to slide past without making eye contact. As it was soon realised that Zali's team would offer information and exhortations without pestering, cajoling and scare mongering, the gradual shift was palpable over the campaign.

And it doesn't seem to be ending there, as I have been invited to be part of the next stage and continue with this wonderful, inspiring group of people.

Pat Duggan

I was a Brookvale pre-poll captain.

I loved the campaign – highly organised, and very systematic, with very good communication about tasking. In my view, the campaign was a key factor in Zali's success. It really made the best use of all the volunteers, and there were a lot to keep busy/usefully involved. Louise, Wendy and Co could certainly teach the UN a lot about how to run a complex humanitarian operation! It was a killer op: military style precision mixed with humour and respect.

One funny story while handing out flyers at Manly Village on Election Day. There was a guy wandering around with a sandwich board saying something like 'I flew from Adelaide today to ask you to... Vote Tony out'. I didn't get a photo, but there is definitely one with Mark Kelly on the VTO Facebook. He was on the phone organising a lift late in the day. He asked me what the street names of the corner were, for his driver. I said Darley and Wentworth. He stopped dead, raised his eyebrows and asked 'Zali? Is there a street here called Zali?' I smiled and said 'No... not yet.'

Adrian Jones

One Saturday morning I was handing out leaflets in Balgowlah and was told in no uncertain terms by a quite sour old dear that I was clearly an out-of-area ring-in from GetUp. When I explained I lived around the corner, I was still accused of being a 'bloody socialist'. On asking why she thought this, she told me 'you have a socialist haircut'. Next time I go to the barbers I am going to ask them for socialist on the side but liberal on top!

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Despite Zali posters outside our house, I did love the earnest Tony supporter who knocked on my door and said he ‘was trying to save me’. We joked, shook hands and saw each other again on polling day.

Gordon Moss

I was manning Brookvale pre-polling station and used to position myself at the corner of Cross and Dale Streets, to give me a chance to walk and talk as people approached the booth. A nice young chap walked by, undecided, and was proving difficult to get over the line.

I asked him his profession and he said engineer, to which I said, ‘I’m also an engineer, chemical. What strand are you?’

‘Electrical,’ he replied.

I was at the pre-polling entrance by now and, desperate, I asked, ‘If I can tell you the square root of minus 1, will you vote for Zali?’

He agreed, to which I replied, ‘the letter I’, which is only used in electrical engineering.

‘You got me,’ he said.

He wandered back several minutes later. I asked, ‘All OK?’, to which he replied, ‘Found out I’m in Mackellar.’

Helen Strong

I have fond memories of my time on the campaign trail and, from among them, a few are the fondest and stay in my memory. My first Zali excursion was a walk along Balmoral Beach. It was there, not long into the walk, I received my very first ‘thumbs up’ from a lady walking by. Just the subtlety and the quiet ‘I’m with you there’ look was a wonderful moment.

Another proud moment occurred while at pre-polling in Pitt Street in the city. Two cyclists were riding past, ringing their bicycle bells as loudly as they could, calling out ‘Go Zali, Go Zali’. You would have sworn it was the entire Giro d’Italia group rather than just two cyclists!

On a humorous note: a group of four young men came up to me and said, ‘We are Zali supporters except for our friend here and we are worried about him. He is an Abbott supporter and he needs help. Can you speak to him and help him?’

‘Oh no!’ I said, ‘but I can help him I’d like to give him a Zali Flyer and a How-to-Vote for Zali card and for further info you could show him the website.’

They then started to cross the road and as they left, I said, ‘You look after him now and be kind to him, he really does need help.’

Amid the buzz of the city, which I did enjoy, there were other moments when people showed their support ranging from a knowing smile to actually coming up to us and discussing how much they were behind us and, of course, supportive of Zali.

When in a pensive mood, as I sip tea from my Go Zali mug, these fond memories will return to me.

Jody Williams

I knew when I moved here in 2009 that this was ‘Tony territory’. However, I had a glimpse of hope one night at the Forestville shops when Tony came strutting through the mall clad only in shorts and I heard a lady next to us say derisively, ‘here comes our local member.’ The way she said it made me feel that the ‘member’ she was referring to was anatomical not parliamentary.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Fast forward to 2018 and Tony's disastrous time as prime minister has come and gone, but not his malign influence. I couldn't let things continue without trying to help change the course of history as it was playing out. But what to do?

In July 2018 I attended a GetUp meeting. There I met Louise Hislop and a couple of others who felt that Tony should be the priority. The GetUp organisers had a different focus and thought that as Tony was a backbencher he was relatively harmless. We did not.

Once Zali was onboard as the candidate, I volunteered to help handing out flyers and wear the aqua Zali T-shirts up at Forestville shops. Below are the excerpts from my Facebook posts as the campaign progressed.

3 May: Liberal party supporters really don't like us – I mean reaaaallllly! I've never had so many little old white-haired ladies stick their tongues out at me and give me the finger. Usually while being chauffeured past in a gold Mercedes. We all have a good laugh and waved back.

On the other hand, standing on Pittwater Road watching the traffic flow by, I've been getting toots and waves and lots of thumbs up from my fellow Warringahians(?) on buses and utes heading about their day, a low thunder of revolt is afoot.

18 May: It's 4 am and I'm ready to stand up. We are finally here. Quite a bit of craziness has happened overnight. We were asked not to go out at night because of it, but somebody has had a scuffle with some Liberal volunteer who was 'stabbed' with a corkscrew(?) No doubt the Newscorp media will be screaming blue murder. Zali is favourite now with the odds drifting in her favour. Passions are high, cool heads are needed.

5.45 pm: In the Booth now! Waiting for the count to start.

Watching as the votes were counted was a surreal, out-of-body experience, as vote after vote fluttered down – one for Zali, one for Tony. The piles grew neck and neck, and I finally started to let myself think 'We've got this, he is gone!'

19 May: We won the battle but lost the war.

1 June: I cannot stress enough how much relief I feel as I walk around my neighbourhood: no more Tony Abbott, this is Zali Town!

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign



BAKING & RUNNING FOR VICTORY

Julie Beagley: My Experiences on the Zali Campaign

I did not like Tony's stance on same-sex marriage, or his attempts to wreck the Liberal Party. I had also been hearing rumblings of growing discontent among the people in the electorate of Warringah. What started out as whispers developed into loud choruses of 'Vote Tony Out', or 'Time's Up Tony', or 'Bye-Bye Tony', culminating in the formation of various disparate groups with the aim of getting rid of Tony.

The experts said that it would be impossible to unseat Tony Abbott and I believed them until I saw and heard Zali at the launch in January. Zali struck me as an intelligent, enthusiastic, forward-thinking person who cared about the future of the planet. It was then that I decided to get on board and help make the impossible happen by signing up as a volunteer. I believed that people power would be Abbott's undoing.

I have never been involved in anything like this before and initially wearing the turquoise T-shirt out in public was way outside my comfort zone. However, wear it I did, and the rest is history. This campaign pulled the Warringah community together and the camaraderie among the Zali volunteers was extraordinary. I think people liked being involved in a positive campaign where everyone was cheerful, truthful and polite. Contrast this with the opposition's campaign of negativity and untruths and who could forget those trucks lumbering around the electorate plastered with the negative messages?

What fun I had at numerous events such as: the campaign launch at the Novotel; handing out flyers at Manly Wharf (and getting pounced on one morning by *Captain GetUp* and his side kick *Freddie Foreign Money*); the volunteers' gathering at North Harbour Reserve in early May, and pre-polling to name a few. And what a blast we had, waving corflutes and dancing to Paul Hobkirk's music selection at The Spit.

I reckon I baked close to a thousand Anzac biscuits to hand out to the pre-poll volunteers and also for Election Day. When I was on the early shift for pre-polling I had to get up at 5.30 am to get them baked and cooled. Tony did say the election would be the battle of his life so I thought Anzac biscuits were appropriate. They seemed to go down well and even the Libs thought they were OK once they got over the fact that I was actually offering them some.

The highlight was being at the Novotel on election night and hearing the announcement that Tony had been defeated – and so early in the night. I could not believe how comprehensively he had been beaten. All the hard work had paid off.

I have so many new friends as a result of this campaign and I have a much better appreciation of what's important to the people in this electorate. In general, I think we are caring and compassionate with an eye to the future.

I look forward to going to Canberra to hear Zali's maiden speech.

Jeanette Hack

Whilst I have a several fond memories of the volunteering on Zali's campaign, I have chosen the following as my contribution.

Many residents had letters published in the *Mosman Daily* but I was lucky enough to have the same letter published twice! After

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

participating in one of the Zali campaign letter writing events generously hosted by Ursula, I sent my letter off hopefully to join the local debate. However, I realised I had not provided my full address as required, so I sent it again a week later. My letter was first published on 25 April with the catchy title 'Power of Positivity', and then again a week later on 2 May with the equally catchy title 'Hopeful not Helpless'. Maybe the newspaper staff were still in a holiday mood or loved my positive message.

Here is my letter:

I am excited to finally have a positive candidate to vote for. The toxic politics and personal vendettas on show in the Liberal Party in recent years have been shocking. I have voted Liberal in the past but this time I am placing my trust in Independent Zali Steggall hoping for genuine climate change action as well as responsible economic policies for a forward looking future. I finally feel involved in the democratic process, rather than helpless about my voting choice this election.

Ray & Alison Murray

Standing in Lawrence Street, Freshwater on the East side of Oliver Street at the St Marks' polling station I was encouraging a man to vote for Zali. He indicated he had already done so at the Surf Club but they had no sausages so he was coming to our polling booth to get a sausage.

Frank Paduch: Bally Bolt – 1 Olympian, 2 Franks, an unfortunate incident and The Project

It's the closest I have come to feeling like a bodyguard – running the 'amazing race' with Zali and my name partner, the other Frank. The morning of the 'Bally Bolt', the Balgowlah Heights Primary School fundraising run began with ominous dark clouds and sporadic heavy showers. And all of this very early on a Sunday morning. With the gentlest of encouragements from my wife, one of Zali's area captains, I was dressed in turquoise in no time and had also managed to convince our thirteen-year-old daughter (an ex-Bally student) that it would be great fun to sacrifice her cherished Sunday sleep in.

We were all in from the moment we arrived at the school. The atmosphere was great, music blaring and people mingling. Zali's running team was a diverse mix of all ages – from primary school kids to a volunteer in his sixties. It soon became clear that not many people were up to matching Zali's fitness level so it was the two Franks who kept Zali company on the 5 km run, flanking her on both sides (bodyguard style!) with Frank's daughter Sophie whizzing around and ahead of us.

All was going very smoothly until we hit the 'Vista Hill' when the unthinkable happened. Tony Abbott and his team of (hired?) young men in their twenties flew past us. Tony managed a genial comment along the lines of 'Good on you for doing this', while Zali was ... well, let's just say the Olympian was not pleased.

And to make it worse – add insult to injury – who would have thought that this story would end up on national TV a few days later when *The Project's* Channel 10 Team discussed whether this race was an omen for the campaign. Zali off to a great start but Tony catching

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

her in the end. Really? The one thing in the campaign I have been involved in and it makes the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Of course, two months later we found out that the Bally Bolt was no political oracle after all (sorry, school organisers, no future advertising benefits). To my relief, the Bolt results were absolutely no indication of the election results – quite the reverse. And Balgowlah Heights ended up being one of the polling booths with the highest swings against the incumbent in the whole electorate.

Show us the data

WARRINGAH voters received another letter from the Liberal party this week. This time from the Finance Minister warning of higher rents and lower home values under Labor. Where is the underlying analysis and evidence? Where can I access the data? Don't the Liberal party get that we are an educated, discerning electorate and don't enjoy patronising snail mail? I'm not too busy doing the ironing, guys. Data, please.
Davinia Cogan, Neutral Bay

Manly Daily,
15 May 2019



CAMARADERIE & CONNECTIVITY

Robyn & Roger Bowie

Robyn and I especially enjoyed the grassroots community involvement that the Zali candidature created. It was surprising the number of old friends – in my case, old teaching colleagues – that we met on the hustings. As well, it was the first time in a long while that we felt we were in a position to possibly make a political difference. This was exhilarating made more so as the momentum began to swing Zali's way. It was palpable. We also met 'interesting' people you would not normally meet, for example being challenged in the Bunnings carpark (while wearing the Zali T-shirts) by a climate change denier even before we could get into the store.

Davinia Cogan

Being part of a grassroots movement was liberating and seeing it succeed was a personally transformative experience. The roadside confluence events were so uplifting – hearing all the honks of support and having drivers wind down their windows to cheer us on. It did feel like a David and Goliath contest sometimes, so this really gave us hope. There was even a sense of togetherness with the non-supporters. I was always amused when passengers in a car would have completely different reactions to us: one passenger might give you a thumbs down and another passenger would wave and smile. The beauty of living in a democracy. And of course there was a sweet sense of satisfaction when we won. I thought about some of the

dismissive 'she's-got-no-hope' types that drove by and wondered how they might react to the news on election night!

Joanna Dinning

I am a Zali supporter and I'm not a banker's wife.

People in Warringah are diverse; our area is often referred to as the area where the bush meets the beach. We have a large and varied geographic footprint and we have a large and varied demographic. We have people, yes, with water views, but like the rest of Australia, only a percentage. We have people that live in suburban houses, flats and apartments, renters, and owners, people in public housing and we have the homeless. We have teachers, nurses, council workers, childcare workers, hospitality staff, gardeners, tradespeople, market stall owners, charity workers, artists, retailers, small businesses, large businesses, hospitals, government offices, sole traders. We are elderly, we are young, we are middle-aged, we are able, we are disabled. We are First Australians, immigrants and Australian born... I need not go on. We are it 'all' and yes, a lot of the 'all' here in Warringah support Zali Steggall.

Why do we support her? Our reasons are as diverse as our jobs, where we live, how we live, what we believe, our heritage and who we are. There are so many reasons and I can't and won't speak for any of them, as everyone has their own story. But one thing I do know is that as an independent candidate, Zali Steggall can represent our 'all'. She can ensure that so many issues that have been hijacked by political parties and 'politics' can actually, finally, have another voice, an independent voice, the voice of the 'citizen'. The Latin word for 'politics' comes from the Greek *politikos* 'of citizens,

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

pertaining to public life'. This is Zali Steggall. A citizen pertaining to public life – who can represent us, the citizens.

So many politicians of the now have completely lost the understanding of their role. The great Australian politicians of all parties of the past, the one's that built our country would actually be reeling to see how far politics in this country has stumbled.

And then, a small place in Australia, Warringah, with all of our differences, our 'all', can actually make a difference – to help change the attitude, help change the dialogue, to help make Australia the place it should be.

Amanda Durack

I shudder to think how much time I spent over the years moaning into my latte about Tony Abbott. Challenging him seemed a hopeless task. A blue ribbon seat. Such a huge majority. It would need an extraordinary person – both brave and brainy. And then came Zali.

So, more FedUp than GetUp, I put down the latte and eagerly signed up to help. What followed were ten weeks of great optimism, some setbacks and a heady mix of exhilaration and exhaustion. I met many wonderful motivated and motivating people, old friends and new. Never before involved in politics, I felt this campaign was important on so many levels and it soon absorbed much of my waking day.

Morning One of wearing my Zali turquoise T-shirt and before leaving the house for a walk with my fellow turquoise-clad friend Diana, I do a quick check: turquoise T-shirt – kinda fits and not looking too bad, huge smile – coming along nicely, and can of WD40 – for any rusted on Abbott supporters I might encounter.

Five paces from the front gate, and a large gold Merc appears in the road ahead and brakes sharply to a halt next to us. The window slides down to reveal an elderly red-faced man.

'Here we go,' I warn. I brace myself for a torrent of pro Tony vitriol.

But then 'Where can I make a donation to Zali Steggall?' this now-gorgeous man asks me.

Two weeks later, I meet up with Zali and Susie Morgan and other vollies to go to a Marlins rugby match in my turquoise shirt. Before the game, I grab a quick lunch at a nearby café where four young guys behind the counter ask, 'Do you think she can do it?'

To which I reply, 'I really hope so. But what do *you* think?'

One replies, 'Nah, Tony'll get back in. Not that I like him, but a lot of people will still vote for him. But good luck!'

Weeks pass: corflute waving at total strangers, handouts, letterbox drops, pre-poll manning and a letter in the *Mosman Daily* which makes me feel like I have won the Pulitzer.

And finally, the Big Day arrives and with it a joyous victory. Leaving my polling booth after our count, I am so happy that I shout-sing in the car with the music loud like a teenager. At the party, latte is exchanged for champagne. Friends embrace. Enormous relief. Together with Zali we had climbed the mountain, we had achieved what a few short months earlier had seemed unimaginable. We had endured an intense campaign and shown everyone, including our children, just what can be achieved when seemingly powerless individuals come together to effect change for good.

Stepping out of the Novotel at the end of the evening, a young man runs up and hugs me saying 'It's you. I know you. You came into the café.'

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

And then I remember. He had been the person who served me before the rugby. ‘You did it! Thank you so much! She did it for young people like me. She did it!’

Jillian Gashler

Looking back at this very special and historic period of my life one word comes to the fore – KINDNESS. Being a somewhat older member of Team Zali, Tina and Kylie always took care of me. Bright and cheerful responding to any of my many questions always with a smile. Zali came and went never failing once to thank us all for our time!

Dianne – team campaign at Mosman High School on polling day – ran around ensuring we volunteers had water, sunscreen, constantly checking we were not tired. It was a privilege to be part of Team Zali. Young women leaders with so much heart and amazing organisational skills.

Not least of all I discovered more about my local community – Mosman – in these few short weeks than anytime during the previous twenty years of living here. Team Zali – long may it continue.

Penny Hackett

I had been horrified by the toxic presence of Tony Abbott in parliament for some time. It was obvious that his agenda was detrimental to the community generally and to his own party. He was motivated by personal animosity to Malcolm Turnbull rather than the best interests of the electorate he represented and the country as a whole.

I’m not in the Warringah electorate but felt it was my ‘civic duty’ to participate in the campaign to unseat him and I am very pleased to have played some small part in removing his cancerous influence on our democracy. The key to this was finding the perfect independent candidate and when Zali expressed an interest I was confident that she was exactly the right person. I am absolutely delighted with the election results and hope that this grassroots model will be adopted in other electorates to unseat other MPs who are so destructive to the functioning of our parliamentary system.

I was incredibly impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of the volunteers who came from across the political divide (young and old, from the right, the left and the centre), united in their desire for a change in the political process. There was a real sense of positivity and excitement about the whole campaign and, as a booth captain in Tony’s heartland at Forrester Public School, I was delighted to work with my team of energised and determined volunteers. They approached Zali’s opponents with an attitude of relentless niceness which really personified the essence of Zali’s positive and optimistic campaign.

Everyone involved should be very proud of this wonderful achievement.

Ursula Hogben

I read in the local paper that Zali had stepped up as a candidate. I put down the paper, picked up my laptop and signed-up to support this strong uniting candidate. What a joy to volunteer side by side with like-minded-people! We walked, wrote letters, championed the cause online and handed out hundreds of flyers and How-to-Votes.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

My favorite event was our Balmoral Easter Egg Hunt and Games, I'll do that again next year.

My favorite memories are all the people in Warringah who stopped to say thank-you to Zali and her team for doing this - we want positive change in Warringah.

Victoria Ko

I grew up in Wentworth and moved to Warringah twenty years ago and in all my voting life I have never experienced anything like this. Prior to this campaign there was always a feeling that I could never make a real difference and my vote didn't really count. The outcome was a forgone conclusion.

This campaign has changed fundamentally my view of what can be achieved with individuals who are committed to a cause. We really did make a huge change. It was so an incredible feeling.

The best part was meeting so many new people who all felt the same way.

John Koorey: My Zali Badge

I was honoured to receive my Zali Badge and wore it with pride. I soon discovered that just the wearing of the badge generated so many reactions wherever one went.

Total strangers would give me the thumbs up sign along with a bit of a smile as we passed. Total strangers would tell me how much they disliked Tony Abbott. It was amazing how many people out there did not like that man.

When I met many long-term friends who had known me and my family for many years, many of them rusted-on Liberal supporters, the Zali Badge became invisible. I didn't have to guess who they were voting for and I am sure they were not aware that they had given themselves away.

The greatest joy of all for me was to hear from so many strangers that they had always voted conservative and this time they would be voting Zali.

I am a social person and do love a chat. Wearing my Zali Badge brought me so many magical moments and encounters. I wonder if Zali was aware of how many strangers her badge brought together.

Margaret Lown

The word that springs to mind is CONNECTIVITY.

A chance meeting with a fellow Warringah Bushwalking Club member when I attended my first meeting of the Manly/Pittwater/Warringah Historical Society. 'I'm donating to the Zali Steggall cause to try and remove Tony from office,' said a fellow attendee. 'I have been invited to attend a meeting at North Curl Curl Surf Club to hear Zali talk and I can bring a friend. Would you like to come?'

And so, the door was opened. Louise Hislop was there – another connection via the Friends of Dee Why Lagoon and Curl Curl Lagoon. A quick chat to Louise and I was signed up as a volunteer.

What a wonderfully colourful connected path it's been with four of the bushwalking group involved. So, connectivity has its rewards: Zali won!

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Alan Marel

My wife Frances and I were returning from the school climate change rally in Sydney, which we attended in solidarity for the children who had taken time off school – our own children, and all future generations. We were travelling back on the B-line bus, sitting near the back in the four-seater: two seats facing forward and two backwards. I was wearing a ‘Time’s up Tony’ T-shirt and my wife a ‘Go Zali’ one.

We were discussing what a negative influence Tony Abbott had been on enacting any energy policy and climate change action, and how reassuring it had been to see the younger generation not only showing that they understood climate change better than our politicians, but that they were prepared to fight to effect that change.

Fellow travellers, unknown to us, started to speak to us, agreeing that Tony needed to go. Several said that they had always previously voted Liberal, but could no longer support Tony, but didn’t want to vote Labor. We pointed out that Zali was a sound, honest alternative, who would listen to the Warringah constituents and had promised to advocate for climate change action. Even better, she was obviously a woman, bright (a barrister), and represented a vote for the future rather than the past. People leaving the bus at Mosman, Balgowlah and Warringah Mall all said that they agreed with us and would support Zali. An elderly woman smiled at me as she was departing and said softly ‘I agree with you completely and I’ll be voting for Zali too’.

It was heartening to know that we were not alone, and that in this former Liberal stronghold of Warringah, after more than a twenty-year wait, people-powered change was not only possible but likely.

Lesley McLean

Having lived in the Manly area for over forty years and being passionate about our local environment and the global issues of our time, I was overjoyed to work on Zali’s campaign. It represented a new vision into the future after years of feeling disappointed and underwhelmed by our elected member.

The campaign was such an incredible buzz as it allowed people from all over the electorate to connect. It was inspiring to mix with like minds of different ages. I also loved the positive messages and the professionalism of the campaign.

Seeing people turn up at The Spit to shake their signs was a highlight. I could tell that for some, it was the first time they had been involved in something like this. One lady told me that she knew she would miss the community feeling after it was over, but that she had started to dance again. The chance to connect with others and the feeling that I was doing something towards change is hugely rewarding. Thank you Zali for stepping forward. Congratulations on a great win and best wishes for a successful time as our member.

David Mingay

I came to the campaign as a member of the Liberal Party living outside the electorate in Lane Cove. I wanted serious change in the Party and helping Trent Zimmerman in North Sydney wasn’t going to do it. The Party needed to rid itself of a weeping sore that had to be cut out, without anaesthetic, painfully, at the election. My best course of action was to help in Warringah, and then I met members of Zali’s campaign and was very impressed with their professionalism. Recognisable as almost a military operation with a

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

carefully structured hierarchy it was increasingly impressive as I got to know it better over the month I was involved.

Many lessons were learned by me, a novice at politics, about who voted and when, and particularly the age groups that cared enough to do it. I am so pleased that Zali got up and I'm really keen to see how much leverage the parties will allow her in Canberra. But above all I am thrilled that I was able to find a place to affect change in a democratic way.

Ann-Charlott Paduch

A limit of 500 words for something as out-of-the-ordinary as Zali's campaign... it seems more impossible than beating Tony Abbott. What a ride it has been! I had no idea what I was in for when Louise asked me if I wanted to be one of Zali's area captains. I joined because of my passion for climate action and a more positive and future-focused representation in parliament. It was to be my first ever political campaign and it's all I lived and breathed for three months. The many wonderful Team Balgowlah volunteers were with me – either literally or in my head – 24/7. I got excited each morning looking at my inbox to see what stories and requests had come in overnight: there was undercover agent Toby who never participated in an official event but kept finding new homes for corflutes and talking to his neighbours, friends and even strangers on his commute; Annelies who rallied her 101-year-old grandfather as well as young school mums; retired senior journalist Diane with spot-on observations on Zali's media appearances.

I loved going to flyer events at bus stops and local shops, connecting with my new volunteer friends just as much as the wider community,

hearing about their concerns from mental health to transport (the tunnel – definitely yes and absolutely no!), the Northern Beaches Hospital, aged care, disability services, the environment, climate change, treatment of refugees, support for businesses... the list goes on. It made me feel much more part of our community. I loved living here before but now can't really imagine going anywhere else.

The volunteers were kindred spirits and we formed close bonds. Toya and Laurie were a delight every time I saw them – injecting light-heartedness and humour with their amazing outfits, bikes, turquoise wigs and Toya's bold earrings. Once I saw them deeply engrossed in a friendly conversation with a man. I walked over and said, 'You must be old friends.' Toya laughed 'No, my dear, this is Tony's former campaign manager.' Or Lesley and Roger, both with twice as much energy and passion as many people half their age. I did worry for Lesley's safety at times as she danced enthusiastically near bus stops and on the Spit Bridge. Nobody could say 'no' to Roger, the master of diplomacy, when he rang to see if you could spare an extra hour or two.

Then there was Paul's transformation from 'Oh, I don't do flyer handouts, that's not my thing' to not only becoming Master of the Spit Bridge but also the smoothest talker at pre-polling and booth captain on Zali's home turf, North Balgowlah. He even had to pull me into line when I lost my head and chased 'The Chicken' at The Spit (but that is another story). Or Emma and Jo, whom I had loosely known before the campaign. We ended up talking almost daily – a never ending supply of Zali matters to be discussed. My friends Susan, Sam and Sonya who joined to keep me company but were – just like me – blown away by the drive and positivity of the campaign and became fully invested in its success.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

There are so many more volunteers I'd like to thank, including my fellow area captains and Wendy, our 'handler'. A wonderful team to be part of without egos and power play, just a desire to get the job done and do it with a smile. To create (and be) the change we want to see, as cheesy as this sounds.

All of this was, of course, only possibly because Warringah had found its perfect candidate in Zali who carries the values of the majority of the electorate and does so with the determination and strength needed not only locally but also in Canberra. We can't wait to see what Zali will do next and we are here to support her every step of the way.

Caroline Pearce: The conviction of belonging

'After all, what are any of us after but the conviction of belonging?'

Wallace Stegner

I have lived in Manly now for more than fifteen years, moving here to be with my Northern Beaches surfy boyfriend, and staying as we got married, bought a house and acquired a couple of cats. And yet I never really felt that I belonged.

Yes, Manly is an incredibly beautiful place. Yes, the sun, the sand, the sea all add to the feeling of paradise. There is no better commute than taking the slow ferry across to the city, occasionally spying dolphins and even whales on the way. There are the magnificent views of North Head and the tranquillity of Manly Dam. Cosy coffee shops, cheerful cafes and gourmet restaurants can be found on every corner. Life is so pleasant and easy here.

But when it all comes down to it, it's the people that make a place. While I've made some friends here, I never felt that Manly was welcoming to someone like me.

If you play sport, if you love the surf, if you go running at dawn – then Manly is for you. If you have young children you bond with friends at mothers' groups, if you go to playdates and hang out at playgrounds – then Manly is for you.

But if your love is books and philosophy and culture and ideas, then Manly is a harsh hostess. With Tony Abbott as the entrenched local member, it was clear that my politics jarred with most people around me.

That was until 'Vote Tony Out', 'Voices of Warringah' and Zali came along. Suddenly I could be there, campaigning amongst hundreds of like-minded people. Total strangers smiled and waved. We handed out leaflets; we met for letter writing sessions; we danced with banners; we cheered and laughed and high-fived other turquoise-clad volunteers; we spotted Zali sign after Zali sign – massive banners overlooking Fairy Bower, dogs wearing Zali coats.

At some point I realised that no longer was I in the minority: that most people here felt as I did. I made new friends. I discovered, to my surprise, that old friends and acquaintances were involved in the campaign and so I bonded closer with them.

On the day itself, nerves turned to joy and relief as the results poured in.

And now, I find that I am forever bumping into these new friends on the streets, in shops, at restaurants. I walk along the beaches and smile at my fellow locals. Now I know that I belong. Now Manly finally feels like my home.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Guy & Jo Reardon

My memories of the campaign will always be of the gatherings – happy smiling chatting excitement of change. But it was the first time I met Zali at the Balgowlah Heights Primary School Bolt fun run in torrential rain that I felt Zali and Frank's true grit and determination to win!

Robbie Singleton

I've lived happily in Mosman for thirty-eight years and driven the Spit Hill countless times. Never once did I think I'd ever be standing on that grassy knoll at 6.30 am, waving a banner, singing along to great music, chanting 'Zali, Zali' and chasing away a man dressed up as a chicken! But what a privilege to meet so many great people committed to making a much-needed change. Thank you Zali and all the volunteers, and everyone who's voted for her.

Chris Smyth

Despite being fascinated by politics and having worked for many years in Parliament House, Canberra, I've never been a member of a political party or campaigned on behalf of a candidate. Taking part in Zali Steggall's 2019 election campaign was a first for me and my family.

I'm what's called a 'swinging voter'. I change my vote from election to election and vote strategically, taking into account a number of factors. However, the biggest factor for me in the 2019 election was Tony Abbott who, I considered, had become 'a prickly in the sock of democracy that needed to be removed'.

At first, I was a little apprehensive about joining Zali's campaign. I baulked at putting a corflute on my front fence lest my young family cop verbal abuse or a wayward egg from a passing vehicle. But I needn't have worried; we only received positive feedback, no egggy missiles.

Our participation began when we joined the regular Sunday morning walks, organised by Zali's local campaign coordinator. It was there we were provided with turquoise T-shirts to wear. Every week more people showed up to join us and we found ourselves looking forward to the regular interaction with our community and our new neighbourhood friends – all of whom we hadn't previously met.

I wore my 'Go Zali' turquoise T-shirts constantly throughout the election campaign and in doing so created opportunities to chat with people and dispel the Coalition's campaign of misinformation. I'll never forget being approached by a woman on Freshwater Beach who asked me politely if 'a vote for Zali was really a vote for Labor'. These face-to-face conversations proved to be the 'secret sauce' in Zali's campaign. The Coalition's dodgy letterbox pamphlets were no match for authentic personal interaction!

From start to finish Zali's election campaign was positive. By comparison, the Coalition's \$1m campaign of fear and negativity reeked of desperation and low-ball tactics. Ironically, this worked against Tony Abbott, only reinforcing his disruptive, combative reputation which the electorate was tired of.

Gradually we started to notice more and more Zali corflutes appearing on front fences in our neighbourhood. Even our kids noticed and created a car game to see who could spot the most 'Zalis' on each journey. We also began to notice the positive community sentiment building. When I was asked by friends why I was

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

campaigning for Zali I had one, standard response: ‘Because I want to be on the right side of history!’

For us, the triumph of Zali’s win was the way the Warringah community mobilised in the one, positive force for change. By comparison, the Abbott campaign relied on paid ‘volunteers’ and people bussed in from across the state. They were strangers in a strange land, lacking the local, Northern Beaches touch of Zali’s team.

In the context of the wider election result, in which the Coalition increased its majority, Zali Steggall’s win in Warringah was an historic victory and one that I will always be proud of having an involvement with. I can’t wait to do it all again.

Jack Steggall

Where do I start? Perhaps the best moment is when Zali rang us in early January to say she may be selected to stand against Abbott in the Federal Election. Sue and I discussed it and when I told Zali we would come and talk to her about it as we did not think it was a good idea putting a huge strain on her family life, her response was ‘if you are coming to try and talk me out of it, don’t come’. Classic Zali.

At first I thought she wouldn’t have a chance of winning but that soon changed on the rollercoaster ride. Well, the rest is history! We got 110% behind her campaign, attending every event possible, meeting some incredible people evoking community spirit and a desire for change. Perhaps for me the best bit was dancing with Paul and the team on the south side of The Spit. The turquoise T-shirt brought forth so many positive responses from passing drivers, as it did from the public in the streets, at bus stops and at Manly Wharf.

The result was no fluke. It was time for change and there was a great candidate with well organised support behind her. The speed with which the result came through after the closing of the polls on Election day was amazing and testimony to the excellently run campaign and massive local support.

Thanks to all the tremendous volunteers: Paul at The Spit, Toya and Laurie everywhere, Susan, Julie, Philip, Lesley, Roger and Lorraine – too many to list. The Team worked tirelessly, led by Anthony and Louise, with Harry, Wendy Monique, Kate, Julie Zuzia, Kirsty, Anna, Rob, Peta Kel and Gus, and the rollcall goes on!

Lucy Tildesley

My story is from when I joined a Sunday morning Curl Curl ‘democracy walk’. I went by myself. It was my first time out and about in a ‘Vote 1 Zali’ T-shirt. I found everyone in the walk really nice and one lady took me under her wing, which I really appreciated.

I loved that I saw a school parent I knew whilst wearing my T-shirt and hoped he would go home and talk about it. I loved when a man who had just done an ocean swim stopped to chat to us, dripping wet.

The lady I mentioned earlier even walked with me all the way back to where I had left my bike, after the walking group dispersed. She said she didn’t want me to feel anxious about being in my T-shirt for the first time, just in case anyone said anything to me. I was blown away by that. What a kind person.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Jill Tunbridge

I was thrilled when Zali Steggall came forward as an Independent candidate for the Federal seat of Warringah. I could finally help to do something that would unseat Tony Abbott from Warringah and the Federal Parliament.

Through Zali's dad Jack I received one of the first Zali aqua T-shirts and wore it daily around Manly while walking my dogs.

My biggest regret was that I was going to be away for Election Day. I did as much volunteering as I could before I left. My planned trip was to Nepal to trek to Everest Base Camp and I felt Zali and I were both in for the climb of our lives.

I took the aqua T-shirt with me and had a photo taken at EBC on 18 May. Zali won the election on the 18 May.



FIRST-SPEECH BUS TO CANBERRA, 24 JULY 2019

Pamela Cowas

I had the good fortune to join a bus load plus more travelling privately of Zali Steggall's volunteers to hear her first speech in Parliament. To say this experience was very rewarding is indeed an understatement. From the early stages of volunteering for Zali's Election to Parliament to the ultimate prize of her election as our Member for Warringah I have been so inspired by this remarkable lady. It is with absolute confidence in her integrity and intelligence that I can say Warringah is in very fine hands.

This strength and dedication to the task ahead was displayed by Zali in her first speech – a remarkable speech which earned her a standing ovation from the floor of Parliament and the over 100 Volunteers there to experience this exciting event.

I know Zali will serve Warringah well and accomplish many triumphs. With best wishes and thanks from one of your many volunteers.

ETHICS

Coleen McKinnon

1) As a board member with Women for Election Australia (WFEA) I am keen to increase the representation of women in Parliament and to replace those men whose anachronistic views are holding women back. Older white men, many of whom hold traditional views, comprise 10% of the population yet hold 70% of parliamentary seats. At the 2016 WFEA conference, I was asked, ‘What is the one thing you will do to help progress women in Australia?’ I responded, ‘As a Warringah constituent and a feminist, I will do everything in my power to ensure that Tony Abbott is replaced by a strong woman in the next federal election.’

2) As the mother of a gay son who witnessed the vitriol and the bigotry that marked the \$120 million Marriage Equality plebiscite, I was further motivated to actively engage in politics when Tony Abbott abstained from the parliamentary vote after his electorate had voted 75% in favour. LGBTQI kids suffer a higher degree of self-harm and suicidal ideation when exposed to homophobic cultures and communities. Tony has contributed to that homophobia over the years (in interviews with media and in Parliament). His inability to separate Church from State and his belief that religious freedoms trump human rights only heightened my resolve and my passion to contribute to the end of his reign.

3) When Zali committed to stand, I informally joined as gender equality policy advisor. Australia has the 3rd highest rate of women working part-time in part due to the most gendered and least

generous parental leave in the OECD and amongst the most expensive childcare, preventing women from fully participating in the labour force. It was a pleasure to help inform policy and to plan and participate in Zali’s Women’s Panel – Connecting and Representing Women – to shine a line on this issue.

Rob Irwin

I chose to join the team as soon as I heard that Zali would be running in Warringah, after learning of her stance on both climate change and coal mining.

Whilst I live in Lane Cove, I work in Brookvale and instantly chose to get onto the team being led by an intelligent representative who was running on many issues that I felt very passionate about. Issues that were being ignored or laughed at by other politicians in the name of money and greed.

A large part of my life has been taken up by a piece of land in the Bylong Valley, called *Tarwyn Park*, which has featured numerous times on ABC’s *Australian Story*. In 1985 I was chosen to do work experience on Tarwyn Park – then, a thoroughbred horse stud in full flight. I became best friends with the owners’ son Stuart Andrews.

Those who watched *Australian Story*, will understand that what Peter and Stuart Andrews’ have built on *Tarwyn Park* is a genuine answer to Australia’s battle with both drought and salinity (Natural Sequence Farming). Instead of supporting and continuing the work on *Tarwyn Park*, successive state and federal governments have chosen to ignore the Andrews country-saving work, and instead allowed for the prospect of this land becoming a coal mine. At this

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

point the mine has not gone ahead, so I live in hope that there is some way of stopping it.

Zali will have my support in any action to help save our beautiful country from both climate change and coal mines. This is only the start of my commitment and I will continue to provide help wherever possible to help Zali find her place, and ultimately triumph over the deniers and greedy self-interested of our society.

18 May was a great day in Australian political history, but also, just the starting date of what I hope to be a change in the direction of focus of our country. Congratulations again Zali, you are doing us proud.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

ELECTION DAY

Jennifer Farrell: Dancing with Dinosaurs

From the moment I saw her, some thirty years ago, in her first interschool's ski race in Perisher Valley I knew she was special – a champion. Such a welcome surprise to discover Zali was an independent candidate for Warringah. How could I resist doing what little I could to make sure we would have a woman with a vision in Federal Parliament?

Such a positive campaign – a wonderful experience, meeting a variety of people at the polling booths with interesting political views and enjoying sausage democracy on Election Day. At North Curl Curl there were cakes, a barbeque, an endless stream of passing netballers, voters and non-voters. To add to the carnival atmosphere there was entertainment all afternoon provided by the 'Save Warringah from the Dinosaur' Troupe. With great enthusiasm they danced and sang to their specially edited songs such as 'Bye, Bye Tony Goodbye'. What endurance the young man in the dinosaur suit demonstrated, sweating in his plastic outfit, rarely taking a break despite the heat and even coping with deflation issues! The show became even more exciting when a group of young boys decided that an opposition troupe was needed, so grabbing a few 'Tony' posters and collecting blue T-shirts they started their dancing and singing too. Both groups tried to outdo each other with their performance.

Then to this accompaniment Dean Harris arrived followed closely by both Zali and Tony to encourage voters. Tony remained deaf to

the dinosaur's pleas as he chatted with his supporters, his twenty-five years of experience demonstrating he would not to be moved.

How sweet the victory. What a team! What a candidate! What an extraordinary MP you will be Zali. Congratulations!

Rob Irwin

I was on the Allambie Heights booth from 7 am until scrutineering was finished (it was a long day, but it was all worth it), when I was able to take a photo that many Australians would be very happy to see – of our ex-prime minister standing alone with nobody talking to him (not even his own supporters), ten minutes before the polls closed. Even then, I have no doubt he knew that he was done for and was hiding away from the media etc, in sleepy old Allambie Heights. I know that we are not going to rub it in, but I am proud of what has been achieved.

I live in Lane Cove (work in Brookvale), but still felt the need to help out. It will not end now, it will continue. I see Zali as an inspiration and a fighter for what people want, something that her opponent neglected for way too long and was only interested in his own agendas.

Philip Durack: A scrutineer's view – Warringah Election Day, 18 May 2019

Election Day had begun for me at 5.30 am. At our booth at Mosman Public School, Zali volunteers – quiet voices and corflutes – were emerging from the dark. There were common, and varied, reasons for our participation in this campaign. With uneasy anticipation it was, however, menial tasks that were the focus of our attention.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

By first light, our booth was transformed. A show of force which, perhaps, might help unseat a former prime minister. This was Abbott heartland: last time around 62% of those coming to this booth had chosen him as Number 1.

Twelve hours later, it was dark and quiet outside again. 1,195 had voted, said the AEC officer as the doors were closed and locked at 6 pm. The result, we thought, might be very close. One Abbott scrutineer aside, what followed under the bright lights of the school hall was efficient, ordered, respectful – and *quick*.

We watched like hawks for invalidity, but, out of the corner of my eye, the result was unfolding. Thoughts fluctuated rapidly. A disordered, dealt pile of primaries for Abbott looked worryingly big. Then, in counterbalance and relief, an AEC hand kept dealing again and *again* to the Steggall pile, as if she were the only candidate.

The Abbott scrutineer pronounced that it looked about 50/50 Abbott/Zali from the dealt piles. No other candidate was in the race – no surprises there. Diligently, the AEC personnel moved ahead.

Now two of them were actually counting Steggall and Abbott primaries on another table – piles of ten built into neat piles of fifty, secured by an elastic band. The final shape was forming. Maths could be roughly attempted: 350, 400, 450 for Steggall. Were there more for her somewhere? But, how many fifties were in that Abbott pile?

More of the AEC staff came to count. The Steggall and Abbott piles were back on the table against their names. Anxiously, I tried an informal count, but the ‘no touching a ballot paper’ rule was a hindrance. Then, ahead of formalities, an AEC counter revealed all: 566 Steggall, 433 Abbott. I knew that in the 2016 election, Abbott’s

primary vote at the booth had been 627. That was a 30% drop in his vote.

Barely containing my excitement, I passed these numbers on to our joint booth captains, Amanda Durack and then to Cynthia Cochrane, adding unwisely, that I thought the election was all over: Zali would win. Fleetinglly, they each betrayed what that meant to them – fighting back a tear or two.

Then, I went outside and rang the figures in to Andy at campaign headquarters. All first signs were that she could do this. It was only 6.30 pm and it was turning into a wonderful birthday for me.

Stephen Moir

On election day I was part of a group at Forestville Public School handing out How-to-Vote leaflets. There were six Zali people on the booth and every one of them was positive, fun and wore a smile. It was not the easiest booth to be on given some of the feedback we were getting. However not once did I see any of the six volunteers stop smiling. It was a fabulous morning and it was invigorating being part of such a positive and well-organised group.

Susan Morgan

Our family were over the moon when Zali announced her candidacy. At first I was a bit shy about wearing the turquoise T-shirt around Manly. But people kept coming up for a chat, and within a week, I never had it off! The few negative moments were countered with Amanda Durack’s fabulous line ‘Oh darling, we’re not GetUp, we’re Fed Up!’, which always got a smile from the most clenched of jaws!

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

Zali's performance at the Sky News' debate was a highlight. I was really anxious about the broadcaster, the venue, the question selection process. But Zali just nailed it and from that moment, the campaign's momentum was unstoppable.

Nothing was too much trouble for Team Manly's wonderful volunteers. Initially I made small talk before I'd ask a volunteer to do something, but quickly realised just about everyone was up for anything and lots of it. Within a day of posting booth captain shifts for pre-polling, I was fielding calls from people wanting more shifts. Amazing volunteers like Lindsay Rowlands, Julie Beagley, Pat Duggan, Philip Woodman, Holly Mathews, Geraldine Skinner, Anne Lanham, Deborah Bailey, Patrick Morrissey, Stan Buckman and Jennifer Bernard did some serious pre-polling hours, which allowed Team Manly's other volunteers to bulk up the flyer and banner events.

At school pick-up on Friday 17 May, my heart sank when I saw the Liberals glad wrapping the school in their negative signage. But positivity and people power won the day. Election Day was exciting, a bit overwhelming, tiring, emotional and ultimately fantastic!

There were climate activists screen printing free T-shirts on the pavement, a guy in a dinosaur suit trailing Tony and the Libs, kids singing the 'Vote Tony Out' song, Tim Flannery autographing Zali's How-to-Vote cards, media, 3,000 voters, grumpy Liberal volunteers and tourists who'd just come for the market. A highlight was when an elderly lady using a walker approached. When offered a Liberal How-to-Vote flyer she said in a loud voice, 'My brain's still functioning you know!' Later when she re-emerged from among the stallholders, everyone (except the Libs!) gave her a huge round of applause.

I just knew Zali had it in the bag. I showered and changed for scrutineering. There was nothing more to worry about, think about or organise, I could start relaxing. I stepped from my Uber and saw Zali's dad Jack and burst into tears, which set Jack off. I held it together for scrutineering, even feeling a bit sorry for Tony's sister, Christine Forster. Initially she challenged many votes, but as Zali's pile climbed twice as high, she grew despondent and left early.

Then a group of middle-aged women ran through Manly Corso screaming out 'Zali's won, Zali's won, Zali's won!' We stopped for a photo outside Tony's office and arrived just in time for Zali's victory speech. Then I started crying all over again!!

Luciana Muratori

My story probably has too many words, but I was born in Brazil. We are very communicative.

This was the first federal election in which I voted in Australia. I only became a citizen about three years ago. I have always been very interested in politics wherever I happen to be living, around the world. The health of our planet is something that causes me great concern. Most times I voted in my life this issue has been at the core of my decision.

The fact that Tony Abbott represented me in Parliament made me very angry, because his views are very different to mine. I believe we don't have very long to stop polluting before some irreversible damage happens. As much as we can do as individuals, we need our leaders to take care of the big policies, such as energy sources, the ban of single use plastics.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

I read about the 'Vote Tony Out' Instagram in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and was happy to see that there were more and more people unhappy about Abbott popping up all over Warringah. I emailed Mark Kelly regularly saying that it was imperative to find the right candidate for Warringah.

After Dr. Phelps' win in Wentworth, I even posted in the Mosman Living community asking if there wasn't any strong local woman out there willing to follow her footsteps and run against Abbott. I remember the post was a huge success, then it went badly with some nasty comments and it got deleted.

One day I received an email from Mark telling us that Zali Steggall was going to run against Abbott and that he backed her 100%. I decided to research a bit and I was very happy with what I read about Zali. I have a very good friend whose daughter attended Queenwood and got her HSC last year. My friend Liza Dwyer knew Zali from Queenwood keynote speeches and other events she attended at the school. Liza said she thought Zali was a very talented woman, very switched on and that she empowered a lot the girls at Queenwood.

I went down to the park in Balgowlah where Zali launched her campaign. The vibe amongst the crowd was great. Zali is just so charismatic, I really liked her. I felt very good about the whole thing, so I decided to volunteer and become part of it.

I have done things I never thought I would, like handing out flyers at Manly Beach and at the markets at the beginning of the campaign. I felt very much out of my comfort zone doing that, but I had other volunteers with me who made me laugh and we did very well. Every time I volunteered, I met the most amazing people, some whom I think might become friends for life.

Zali managed to unite all sorts of nice, cool people. Everything in the campaign has been so much fun, so positive. My favourite thing of all were the early morning sessions at The Spit. I am really missing them.

I ended up even scrutineering at Manly Village School while my husband Karl packed the things with John and Jack. I felt very honoured to be chosen to be a scrutineer. Can you imagine? This was only the third election I'd ever voted in this country – counting a council election and the latest state election. I got to go inside with the officials (and Abbott's sister, Christine Forster). I saw the entire counting process: how it is done. It was so exciting. I must confess I was literally shaking when they locked the door and opened the ballot. So many months of hard work had come to that.

Zali's pile was growing way higher than Abbott's and at one stage Susan Morgan started crying. I became worried, but she said she was crying with happiness. She received results from other places and we knew it was all over. Abbott's sister left and we yelled, 'Zali's won! Abbott is gone' all the way from Manly Village to the Novotel, with a stop for pictures in front of Abbott's office.

I am very happy to have been part of Zali's campaign and to have made a small contribution to her win. She knew she could do it the whole time. What an amazing woman she is.

Helen Wilkins

You would have to have been living under a rock to not be at least somewhat across the bubbling issue of: what are Zali's political affiliations... Really?

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

After the short flurry of having to fend off being a 'liberal stooge', things settled down into the much longer, more widely publicised (and nastier) defense of not being a 'labour stooge'.

And yet, still, on election day, at St Kieran's booth in Manly Vale, someone whom I had once known well, having campaigned together for the successful election of a number of independent local councilors, approached me. I smiled, said hello and passed her a How-to-Vote card. But there's none so blind as those who refuse to see.

Her response: So, you're handing out for the Liberals now!

Philip Woodman (for Pam & Philip)

I was delighted to play a part in supporting Zali and the new look in politics, which Zali has been at pains to promote – respect, discussion and resolution.

At 2:30 pm on the eve of the election I was scoping the Manly Village election booth to see where we might set up our campaign positions when a horde of people in blue arrived and proceed to 'close out' the whole of the fence with corflutes, placed one on top of the other or double height. Mastering my emotional response, I approached the person who appeared to be managing the attack, to inquire where he thought that the other nine candidates might place their promotional material. He was short and to the point: basically, he didn't care but he was not about to relinquish a centimetre of fence space.

With impeccable timing Angus Gemmell appeared. I had not appreciated that Angus was also on site and had secured the prime position of the corner of Wentworth Street and Darley Road with a huge banner. Armed with this situation, his negotiating skills,

imposing stature and a calm, reasoned approach he achieved a small section on the extremities of the fence on both streets.

No blood was spilt, no voices raised, and a calm resolution was achieved. Zali would have approved. May I add that the public view was that the other party displayed the heavy handed, bullyboy approach which is an anathema to so many and so disdained by the Zali Campaign.

As a postscript, on election morning, the same blue people, not satisfied by their Friday night display of ignorant behaviour, proceeded to erect a tent in front of the fence. This to completely obliterate the signage on the very small fence space negotiated for Zali's corflutes the night before. In yet another heroic effort of control on my part, I pointed out how embarrassed their supporters would be by this obvious intimidation. The Zali approach was yet again successful and common sense prevailed.

Now to put an end to members of parliament screaming across the chambers of parliament. Oh, while we are at it perhaps members of parliament might have the good grace to address constituents as adults whilst restricting themselves to facts and to graciously accept the advice of persons more learned than they on given topics. It was a pleasure to be associated with the whole campaign and to have an outcome that endorsed respect for the electorate.

ZALI: VICTORY SPEECH

Thank you everyone one. What a day! It is so humbling, I can't begin to tell you. It started this morning. We had a tour of many booths around Warringah. It has been so uplifting, hearing from all of you who have been out manning the booths in this electorate, nonstop. Tonight Warringah has definitely voted for the future. And you all showed that when communities want change, they make it happen. This is a win for moderates with a heart. We've had over fourteen hundred volunteers, many of you are here tonight. We've had a presence all over Warringah, every street corner, every fun run. We've done some swims, community events, on The Spit waving our flags, we've been there. We have definitely turned Warringah turquoise.

I would like to pay tribute to Tony Abbott who has been a dedicated and long-serving local member. Nobody can doubt his community spirit, his work ethic, and his contribution to this community, and I wish him well.

Warringah, we have a new beginning for our environment. I will be a climate leader for you. I will keep the new government to account and make sure we take action on climate change. I will push for real actions. Our children and generations to come so they can enjoy the environment, our beautiful beaches and our beautiful country, the way we enjoy it. This is also an opportunity for a new beginning in Australian politics – a beginning for honesty and respect in government. We all benefit from the diversity of opinions, but we must all respect one another. And we must treat everyone equally,

no matter what our backgrounds, our gender or sexual preferences. And we will fight against corruption and vested interests in politics. Warringah, I pledge that I will represent your views, your concerns and your needs. I will work collaboratively with all sides of politics so that we can achieve results; so we can focus on the future and a positive discourse for generations to come.

The enthusiasm in this room and the people behind me tell everything about a campaign like this. This is a grassroots campaign. I have been asked frequently what has been the thing that surprised me the most about it. It has been how you have all embraced this campaign. The support I have received: the smiles, the hugs, the thank-yous – I can't begin to say to all of you how much it has meant to me.

Some of our volunteers are still out at booths finishing scrutineering. But first of all, I have to say a big 'thank-you' to my family. My mum and dad who have been out manning so many of the pre-polls. They have been dancing at The Spit. They have been out every day of this campaign so thank you so much. To Tim, we have to be real about what it takes to succeed, and it is a real partnership that makes this happen. He is the best. To my kids, because you can't take on this kind of journey and challenge lightly, and this is something we embark on as a family. It is those discussions you have with your kids that make sure that you are connected to the future you're working for. So thank you to my beautiful kids. I have to say that the proudest role I have is actually being their mother.

To all of you volunteers and the team some of whom are here. I know some of them are still out working hard. Thank you so much. It has been such a huge effort. We have weathered a lot but overall,

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

we have shown what a grassroots movement can do. There is no such thing as a safe seat in Australian politics.



ZALI: FIRST SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT, 24 JULY 2019

I would like to acknowledge the Ngunawal and Ngambri people whose land we meet on today, the elders past, present and emerging. May we work together to promote harmony and learning and let us safeguard this land together for generations to come. I would also like to acknowledge the Gayemagal, the Gamaragal and the Borogegal, the First People of Warringah.

It's an incredible honour to stand before the 46th Parliament as a representative of all of the people of Warringah – only the ninth person to do so, and the first woman. I acknowledge those who came before me: Sir Granville Ryrie, Sir Archdale Parkhill, Sir Percy Spender, Francis Bland, John Cockle, Edward St John, Michael MacKellar and Tony Abbott. All have placed their unique mark on Australia, and I thank them for their service.

No matter where I have travelled in the world, I've always been incredibly proud of being born in Warringah. Warringah stretches across the cosy inlets of Mosman Bay, from the Clifton Gardens to the breakers of Freshwater, Curl Curl and Manly Beach, bushland of Killarney Heights, the cliffs of North Head to the calm waters of Neutral Bay. It spans harbour apartments with city views, cosmopolitan centres and family havens, bustling shopping centres and industrial zones, to unique and serene areas, like the Manly Dam War Memorial Park, from the heights of Seaforth and Allambie to the valleys of Manly Vale and Brookvale – the home of the mighty

Manly Sea Eagles. We are surrounded on all sides by harbour and coastal waters or beautiful sprawling bushland.

The natural beauty of Warringah is intertwined with its rich past and Indigenous history. Its first people were sturdy, pioneering and resourceful. Their way of life required resilience and endurance. They fished from bark canoes in Port Jackson, they gathered fruit on the ridgelines of Killarney Heights and they hunted in the woodlands of Forestville. Their success is evidenced by Warringah's over a thousand Indigenous sites, which include rock carvings, middens, ancient bush trails, campsites and meeting areas.

For over 20,000 years, the Guringai people were custodians of the country. Today, over 1,300 people with Indigenous lineage call Warringah their home. We celebrate their history and culture with the Gai-mariagal Festival, previously known as the Guringai Festival. The festival shines a light on the deep Indigenous knowledge of land—a knowledge that will be so important to a sustainable future in Australia. I hope that this parliament will go beyond the apology, accept the voice of our Indigenous people and find mutual respect, and accelerate the process of healing. There are so many gaps still to close.

Warringah's colonial history is replete with entrepreneurial endeavours that echo through to the present day. Its suburbs have variously been agricultural areas, whaling stations, tourist areas, mining sites, military bases and quite suburban spaces. Many of the suburbs still have founding-era buildings, pavilions, rotundas and depots; and intricate alcoves and sandstone facades. Our predecessors were pioneering and inventive. Many artisans, poets, architects and builders of the original Sydney came from Warringah, and we are grateful for their vision. Today, the electorate has become

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

a hub of professionals in many industries, including hospitality, health services, finance and tourism, and is now blossoming as a hub of renewable energy and tech start-ups – the industries that will be the future of Australia's economy.

Sport has also played a big part in our history, in defining our character and cultural identity. The people of Warringah have always appreciated the outdoors, flocking to sports on the weekend, whether it's playing for the Mosman Whales, the Manly Warringah Sapphires or the Manly Marlins; taking the board for a surf; running around our many fantastic tracks; or showing up to patrol at one of the many surf lifesaving clubs in Warringah, and we have been doing so for over 100 years. Mosman Rugby Club was established in 1893 and is one of the oldest Rugby Union clubs in Australia; and, notably, Manly surf lifesaving club is one of the oldest surf lifesaving clubs in the country.

Sport has played a big part in my life. I started competing in pretty much every sport I could try my hand at from the age of four, from swimming, judo, windsurfing, ice skating and running to skiing. At 13, I watched the 1988 Winter Olympic Games, and I decided that I wanted to compete at a Winter Olympics for Australia. I gave up all other sports for skiing. I didn't worry about whether it was possible or too hard to make the Olympics. I first settled on the conviction that I wanted to strive towards that goal and, once committed to that goal, I set about making it happen. It was a long, hard and often lonely road, with many sacrifices, but ultimately so rewarding, as I took Australia to the peak of alpine skiing and added my small contribution to Australia's proud sporting history. I strongly believe that it is hard work, planning and resilience that brings about success, and urge all young Australians to dream big. I felt a huge sense of

responsibility representing Australia at the Olympic Games, first as a 17-year-old schoolgirl and then, especially, when carrying the Australian flag into the closing ceremony in Nagano in 1988, after winning Australia's first individual medal at the Winter Olympics.

As I sat here on 2 July for the swearing-in of the 46th Parliament, I was struck by the absolute privilege and the responsibility that falls upon us in representing and serving the people of Australia to the best of our ability. While this may be a place of robust debate, it is time for a more respectful approach, and accountability. Trust in Australian politicians is at its lowest in a decade, and we can only reach our potential as a democracy if we believe in our institutions. As in sport, there can only be respect if you're playing by the rules. We impose legal standards on business to protect customers and consumers, but we fail to protect our voters with a legal minimum standard of truth in political advertising. This needs to change. We must also safeguard the freedom of the press and our national broadcaster. Without a free press, we cannot hope to preserve the civil liberties and freedoms past generations fought so hard to protect.

In researching and reading many of this parliament's members' first speeches I was struck by how many grand statements and ideals are first made but then seem to disappear in the polarisation of party partisanship. It's time for more than just words. Governments have a duty to serve and to lead. It's time for fact-based policy and sensible politics. Representing the best interests of all of the people must come above party partisanship and personal interest.

I believe Australia has always punched above its weight and never shied away from a challenge or doing its share. We live in a time where we are facing possibly our biggest challenge to date—to

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

properly appreciate, respect and nurture our environment and evolve to a zero-carbon economy. Our schoolkids are leading the way in pointing out that there is no second planet, no planet B. The government's own report tells us our emissions are still rising, and even our schoolkids know that we're not heading in the right direction.

I've listened to many here talk of their love for their families and their children and of their hopes for the future of their communities. When we and our children are sick, we trust in the doctors and the science to heal them. Many scientists from independent and varied fields of study have come to the conclusion that we must reduce our carbon emissions to have a hope of averting the worst consequences of climate change. Australia, especially in regional areas, is vulnerable to those consequences and will experience higher than average warming, leading to more severe weather events, from droughts and floods to bushfires and hurricanes. This will devastate productivity and way of life, regionally and nationally. When the consequences are felt, especially in the regional areas, all of Australia—including us city dwellers—stands together to help impacted communities, for example with drought relief funding. But, accordingly, the duty to prevent the worst from occurring also falls on everyone and cannot be ignored and dismissed.

We need to ensure a prosperous, clean future for the next generations in all regions of Australia. There needs to be less short-termism and opportunistic policymaking and more long-term planning to futureproof our economy. History does not look kindly on leaders that fail to properly prepare a nation for the challenges ahead. Climate change impacts represent the greatest threat to our national security, our economy, our health and our environment. The

cost of inaction is so great it is unthinkable that a coalition government driven with ideals of reducing national debt would consider burdening future generations with the greatest debt ever.

It is wrong to believe that concerns for our environment and climate are a Left issue. The world has a bipartisan history of acting on global environmental calamities. In the 1980s, a Conservative Thatcher government led the way in banning CFCs in the atmosphere. Thatcher's words to the UN General Assembly in 1989 are appropriate today:

We carry common burdens, face common problems and must respond with common action.

The United Kingdom is continuing to lead the way, recently passing a motion in the House of Commons which recognised the climate change emergency. We can and must respond with the same determination and urgency. Two-thirds of Australians see global warming as a significant and pressing problem. It is time to reflect on this with bipartisanship.

Australian diversity, inventiveness and can-do culture has served us well and will continue to do so. By recognising the industries of the future and investing in emerging clean technologies, we can provide jobs for regional Australia and ensure we are a 21st century clean-energy superpower. We have the most abundant natural resources in the world and the innovation and ingenuity to develop them. This parliament has the opportunity to provide the road map and transition plan to be ambitious and lead the way.

I urge this 46th Parliament to be remembered for developing a comprehensive plan to decarbonise every polluting sector by 2050 and then putting it into action. In this plan, we need to identify the

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

sectors that will be hard to decarbonise—like aviation, shipping, agriculture, and manufacturing—and support the agencies, like the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, by broadening their mandate to invest in these areas. If we can take an incremental view, we can break down the challenges ahead, one step at a time.

I firmly believe that we are all, as individuals, accountable for our decisions and actions. It is time. Our time is precious and limited. Like many people in Warringah and all over Australia, I refuse to be part of the generation that had all of the facts but failed to take meaningful action. It's time to transition our economy and energy production. There's no need to be afraid of change. It is what we've always done: adapt and change.

Australia is built on amazingly brave and resourceful people. My own family history in Australia goes back on my father's side to the Second Fleet and on my mother's side to the early 1830s. These early settlers undertook long, arduous and often dangerous sea journeys, in cramped steerage accommodation on ships with varying degrees of seaworthiness, to a foreign country 13,000 kilometres away. They were leaving everything that was familiar and dear to them in the hope of a better life. Today's refugees are no different, yet we seem to have forgotten our own history and lost our compassion. My mother's family ultimately settled in Maitland and my father's family settled in Cessnock, via Western Australia and Queensland.

My family's relationship with Manly started in the 1920s, when my great-grand-aunts moved there. Seeing his sisters struggle to earn a livelihood, my great-grandfather prioritised his daughters' education, including that of my grandmother Phemie Faith Mallaby. It was important to have a formal university education. There has never

been any question in my family that women are equal, capable and entitled to the same opportunities as men. I never discussed politics with my grandmother, yet she was the honorary treasurer of the Maitland branch of the Liberal Party until the day she died in 2007. I know she was incredibly proud when both my brother Zeke and I represented Australia at the Winter Olympics. I can only imagine how excited she would have been at my election to parliament, notwithstanding my being an Independent and defeating an ex-Liberal Prime Minister.

On my dad's side, my grandfather Jack Steggall was a Wallaby from 1931 to 1933, touring New Zealand and South Africa, before retiring to practise law. With my grandmother Ruby, eight years his senior and a formidable matron of a hospital, they settled in Cessnock, where Jack, also a lawyer, turned to playing and coaching rugby league. I'm incredibly grateful for having had many strong personalities in any family. My parents, John and Sue, have also achieved so much. My mother is an art historian and writer. My father has played rugby for the Norths and then Manly and practised law in Manly for over 30 years. The most important thing I learnt from them was to believe in myself and never be afraid to give something a go. You only regret when you don't try.

But the achievements of past generations will be for nothing if we do not evolve our economy for the future and embrace our diversity. Some are fixated on just preserving the status quo, when we are capable of so much more. As Australians, we need to value and respect all of our people, no matter their background, gender, sexual preferences or religious beliefs. No one group has the right to disrespect or discriminate against another. This must be respected at

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

all costs as this parliament makes decisions for the good of all Australians, irrespective of their faiths and beliefs.

We live in a time of opportunity, with more technology than ever before, but we have serious health challenges and social inequalities. There's still a 14 per cent pay gap between men and women, and women are retiring with 40 per cent less superannuation. Childcare needs to be more affordable to ensure equal participation in the workforce. Family and domestic violence is a major health crisis for women that impacts every area of Australian society, and it needs urgent attention. Nationally and in Warringah, mental health and rising suicide rates require a new approach.

We need to learn from local organisations. They are listening and working within our communities. We can offer more hope and care to our youth and older generations. As a mum of teenagers, I'm acutely aware of their concerns and worries. Our young people are our future, and I look forward to welcoming them to Parliament House and creating opportunities and a better Warringah for them.

I'm proud and humbled by the joy and excitement I have received from so many schoolkids in Warringah. A special shout-out to the El Shanditos and all the youths of Warringah. I encourage you to get involved with politics and the issues that matter to you. It is your future that is at stake.

To my fellow parliamentarians in this the 46th Parliament of Australia: I thank you for your warm welcome and I look forward to working with all of you, on both sides of the aisle, as collectively we strive to make our nation an even better place over the next three years. Let our legacy as the 46th Parliament be that we were brave and ambitious, that we set both our standards and our goals at the highest level. I embrace that challenge and I hope you do too.

Reflecting on my last 11 years at the New South Wales bar, I'm thankful to all my instructing solicitors, colleagues and mentors: Her Honour Dr Melissa Perry QC, Todd Alexis SC, Tim Hale SC, Kate Morgan SC, Justine Beaumont and Greg Johnston, to name but a few who have supported me and taught me so much.

Finally, my thoughts go to the most important people in my life and those without whom none of this is possible: my ultimate partner and support, my husband, Tim, and, better than any gold medal, my children Chloe, Rex, and Remy. I'm also so lucky to have bottomless support from my parents John and Sue, my brother and his family, Malcolm and Shelagh Irving and all my extended family.

I'm deeply grateful to Louise Hislop, Anthony Reed and the most amazing team, who worked tirelessly over the four-month campaign, and a special thank you to the more than 1,400 volunteers who helped make this possible.

If there's one thing this campaign will be remembered for, it is the unbelievable resourcefulness and energy of a team of very talented women led by Kirsty Gold, Anna Josephson, Dof Dickinson, Julie Giannesini and Tina Jackson. Thank you also to Rob Purves, Mark Kelly, Rob Grant, Angus Gemmell and Rickard Garnell for your hard work and support.

The other thing that stood out—and still does if I look around the gallery today—is the passion of the people of Warringah to bring about a new era: moderates with a heart. It is hard to describe the excitement, enthusiasm and energy in Warringah in the last five months. This began as a true grassroots movement driven by passionate locals who care about our future. Over the last three years many diverse groups—grassroots movements—mobilised to start the discussion and really focus on how they wanted to be

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

represented, what contribution they wanted to make to this parliament and what kind of future they wanted for their children and future generations. Voices of Warringah, Think Twice Warringah, the North Shore Environmental Stewards and VTO are just a few. And this can happen all over Australia.

Warringah is a diverse place—one that, like Australia itself, has to accommodate the different needs, beliefs and aspirations of people. Our volunteers believe that striving for political change in Warringah could also offer Australia a more positive future and a defining purpose that goes well beyond traditional political differences. The volunteers, supporters and donors, many of them here today, have been amazing people who have never campaigned before, some with low incomes and some with high incomes, some progressive and some conservative, and from many different walks of life but all united in their vision for a new era in Warringah.

Finally, I'm grateful to the people of Warringah for entrusting me with the responsibility of representing their views and concerns to this parliament. It's truly humbling. We all have a voice and the power to make a difference. My favourite book growing up was Bryce Courtenay's *The Power of One*, and throughout my skiing career and legal career I always remembered:

First with the head and then with the heart ...

As Edward Everett wrote about the power of the individual:

I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything; but still I can do something ...

I believe that, if everyone takes that approach, we can do anything. Thank you.



Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

TIMELINE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO FEDERAL ELECTION ON 18 MAY 2019

Coleen Mackinnon & Louise Hislop

With regard to a Warringah campaign timeline, it is difficult to know where to start. During our democracy walks, we heard many reasons as to why individuals could no longer vote for Tony Abbott. Many could tie it to an actual time, place and event.

Some examples:

- The day Abbott abstained from the Marriage Equality vote in Parliament when 75% of the electorate had voted yes;
- The day he made himself Minister responsible for Women; or the day he said, 'What the women of Australia need to understand as they're doing their ironing'. Or his misogynistic treatment of Julia Gillard when he was Leader of the Opposition;
- His Turnbull-revenge tactics once he lost the leadership, contributing to the disruption of the Liberal Party;
- His inaction on climate change, actually denying its existence, and his contribution to impeding the passing of the National Energy Guarantee;

So when did people in Warringah start to actively engage to remove Tony Abbott? Here are a few key events leading up to confirmation of Zali as candidate:

2016:

- 2016 Election Independent James Mathison gained nationwide media coverage with independent campaign to unseat Tony Abbott. He and the Nick Xenophon Team candidate Marie Rowland contributed to a 9% primary swing against Abbott in 2016.

2017:

- North Shore Environmental Stewards begin work to raise awareness of climate change.
- Voices of Warringah – Louise Hislop begins testing the feasibility of using the Voices of Indi model to actively engage Warringah voters in advance of next federal election.

2018

- A group of Mosman residents concerned about climate change joins with Louise Hislop in forming a group called the Coalition of the Willing. Members of the group meet with other concerned residents and local groups including the North Shore Environmental Stewards, Think Twice Warringah, People of Warringah, Voices of Warringah and Vote Tony Out and form a larger group called the Coalition of Anti-Abbott Groups (COAAG). COAAG holds a number of meetings.
- Voices of Warringah launch their campaign on 6 October with *The Guardian* article:
<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/oct/06/tony-abbott-faces-campaign-using-tactics-that-defeated-mirabella-in-indi>
website and social media. A social media campaign began.

Turning Warringah Turquoise: Memories of a grassroots campaign

- In October the first in a series of kitchen-table conversations were held in private homes, asking people what issues were important to them and how they want to be represented. Booked-out events on themes concerning democracy were held with prominent speakers, for example Jane Caro, Richard Denniss, Tim Dunlop and Father Rod Bower. Voices of Warringah featured on ABC radio's AM on 22 October and gained interest from ABC News who filmed the Jane Caro event.
- A number of organisations start to surface/engage with the community:
 - Vote Tony Out (originally Times Up Tony)
 - Think Twice Warringah
 - Stop Adani
- There was a groundswell of support that created much media interest and the grassroots movement was featured on Channel Nine news, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Australian Financial Review*, news.com.au, *The Guardian* and featured on the front page of the global hardcopy of *The Guardian* on 23 November.
- Democracy Walks start at Balmoral and Manly Beach – volunteers in Vote Tony Out T-shirts canvassed locals on their views re current representative and what mattered to them in terms of electorate issues.
- Zali connects with Mark Kelly – expresses interest in standing. She meets with other interested Warringah citizens.

2019:

- 1 January – Zali Steggall appears on the Vote Tony Out Insta page.
- On Sunday 27 January Zali announces her candidature for the seat of Warringah in the 2019 Federal elections at North Harbour Reserve, in front of a crowd of 300 supporters, already wearing their signature turquoise T-shirts. The campaign is launched with full news media coverage, website, campaign team and graphics with Anthony Reid (from Kerry Phelps' 2018 campaign and Louise Hislop (James Mathison's 2016 campaign, Voices of Warringah) as campaign managers.
- The rest is history!