



Janet Cavanaugh
Greens Candidate for Clarence

m. 0429 479 968 ; clarence@nsw.greens.org.au
www.nsw.greens.org.au/clarence

16 March 2011

***Remnants of Gondwana* now in Casino Library**

Greens candidate for Clarence, Janet Cavanaugh has called for greater State government funding to local government so that libraries can carry out their important role in the community.

She made this call after donating a new book to the Richmond – Upper Clarence Regional Library. The donated book is 'Remnants of Gondwana', a guide to the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area, which was co-edited by Ms Cavanaugh.

"This world heritage area includes several national parks close to Casino and Kyogle, including Border Ranges National Park and little known treasures on the Richmond and Koorah Ranges, such as Mallanganee, Richmond Range and Tooloom National Parks.

"I believe 'Remnants of Gondwana' is an important reference book for the local community to learn about these parks' global significance and outstanding values," she said.

Janet Cavanaugh was the executive officer of the world heritage area for close to 10 years.

"During this time, I was working with senior officials in the NSW, Queensland and Commonwealth governments and became very familiar with how things were done in each jurisdiction. It was invaluable experience in learning about the operations of government," she said.

"Towards the end of my time in this job, I started working with the chairs of the two advisory committees to produce a guidebook for the world heritage area. 'Remnants of Gondwana' was published last year and I was glad to donate a copy to ensure it was included in the library's collection.

"The central role of libraries is recognised by The Greens, both as centres of community interaction, and as keepers of our intellectual and cultural heritage.

"Libraries are now diversifying in the services they deliver. A significant increase in funding is required for this, particularly in regional areas where libraries face particular challenges.

"Instead, the State Government is cutting allocations for libraries, and targeting rural and remote libraries in these cuts.

"I was concerned to learn of the declining trend in State Government funding for the Richmond – Upper Clarence Regional Library over the years.

"While local government has the core responsibility for libraries, the state government has a major role to support their operations. However the NSW State Government currently contributes less than 10% of library funds across the state – less than any other state.

"The Greens are committed to improving the funding for libraries so that they can be lively, vibrant and well-resourced places that not only service the community but enrich it, and open to everyone irrespective of age, cultural background, or financial or physical difficulties."

ENDS

Contact: Janet Cavanaugh – 0429 479 968

Background:

In October 2010, it was revealed that state government funding for the Richmond – Upper Clarence Regional Library had been cut by close to \$500 (a cut of \$388 to Richmond Valley Council and \$88 to Kyogle Council), despite a 1.1% increase in population and rising costs. This was a cut of almost 5% in real terms (see 'Library left on the shelf' RREE 27Oct10 p.1).

media release