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Greens mourn loss of Charlie Pahlman

The ACT Greens, like many in the Canberra community, mourn the death of party member and candidate for Molonglo at the 2004 ACT election, Charlie Pahlman. Charlie died on January 19th while holidaying with his family in Samoa.

“We are still trying to come to terms with the death of Charlie. He was one of the most vital people I have ever met,” said Greens MLA Deb Foskey.

“All the Greens candidates enjoyed working together and developed a strong friendship. As candidates in the same electorate, Charlie and I worked cooperatively together, rather than competitively. It was a joy to work with him.

“In our election campaign, Charlie took on the challenge of ACT’s water supply – his passion for water extended from, in earlier years, working with Thai villagers trying to stop the damming of the Mekong River to, opposing the building of another dam in the ACT water catchment.

“Since the election, Charlie had taken on the role of working on global issues for the ACT Greens, as his passion for justice extended to the poor everywhere. When I first met him, Charlie worked as Campaigns Director for Community Aid Abroad, but in recent years, he was the highly respected Deputy Director of the ACT Council for Social Services. We looked forward to consulting with him on many of his on-going projects.

“Charlie saw the potential for making the ACT a model for the world; we thought about adopting his words as a campaign slogan: if not here, where?

“Charlie is well loved and highly respected in the ACT community. Our deepest sympathy goes to family who have suffered the deepest loss. But we know that Charlie had many friends and co-workers and clients who will sorely miss his ‘How are you going?’ No-one else said it like he did and he always really wanted to know.

“Canberra has lost one of its fiercest advocates for social justice and the Greens have lost a valuable member,” said Dr Foskey.

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