

Meet the Australian Who Stood up to Bush -- April 3-6

Posted by

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Greens: It feels good to be Green when you get to relate to--and associate with--people like Green Party Senator Bob Brown of Australia. Senator Bob Brown is known worldwide for giving a voice to millions when he booed George Bush in the Australian Parliament, prior to the invasion of Iraq. Senator Brown is visiting BC in early April, to support Green Party candidates at these public events...

Sunday April 3 - NORTH VANCOUVER

2PM - Presentation House, 333 Chesterfield Ave.

Monday April 4 - VICTORIA

7PM - University of Victoria - David Strong Building room C112

9PM - Reception - University Faculty Club - tickets \$10

(for tickets and info call Steve @ 250-216-5903)

Tuesday April 5 - POWELL RIVER

7PM - Evergreen Theatre, 5001 Joyce Ave.

Wednesday April 6 - VANCOUVER

7:30 PM - Kitsilano Secondary School, 2550 West 10th Ave.

(between Trafalgar and Larch)

Named by the BBC as the **WORLD'S MOST INSPIRING POLITICIAN**, Senator Bob Brown will speak on environmental and political issues, including human rights, the STV vote and Iraq.

A medical doctor by training, Bob Brown led major environmental campaigns in Tasmania and in 1983 was elected to the state's House of Assembly. In 1996, he became the first openly gay politician elected to the Australian Senate. The unofficial leader of the Australian Greens, Senator Brown was re-elected in 2002 for a second term. In the recent national elections, the Green Party doubled its Senate seats, from two to four. Both the Tasmania State House and the Australian Senate use the single-transferrable vote system, so Senator Brown will be speaking from his knowledge and personal experience of STV.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS WIDELY AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

To help promote your local event, contact alade@telus.net for a ready-to-print handbill or poster (pdf format).

Yours truly,

Ariel Lade

Organizer, Senator Bob Brown Tour

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250-380-1050

For media enquiries, please contact Don Toffaletto at media@greenparty.bc.ca

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THE BOO HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

When President Bush visited Australia on 23 October 2003, left-wing members of the Labour Party decided to present him with a letter setting out their opposition to the Iraq war, but not to disrupt his speech. With a fine example of global thinking and local action, Green Senators Bob Brown and Kerry Nettle took their opposition to the point of interjection--and booed Bush--during his address to a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. During Bush's speech Brown and Nettle wore signs referring to David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib, two Australian citizens currently being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, following their apprehension by United States forces in either (this is disputed) Afghanistan or Pakistan. After the speech, however, Brown shook Bush's hand.

Bush accepted the interjections with good humour, but the Speaker of the House, Neil Andrew, formally "named" Brown and Nettle and they were suspended from the Parliament for 24 hours which prevented them from being present for -- and making similar interjections during -- a similar address from Chinese President Hu Jintao the next day.

You can read more about Senator Brown's background at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Brown

BOB BROWN'S BIO

Bob Brown was born in Oberon, New South Wales, and moved to Tasmania in the 1970s. He worked for many years as a medical practitioner, and was a founding member and director of the Wilderness Society. From 1983 to 1993 he held a seat in Tasmania's House of Assembly and in 1996 was elected to the Australian Senate. He has won many awards for his work, including the 1987 United Nations Environment Program Global 500 Award, and the 1990 Goldman Environmental Prize. In 1996 BBC Wildlife named him the World's Most Inspiring Politician.

Check Out Bob's Latest Book:

Bob Brown, MEMO FOR A SANER WORLD (Australia: Penguin, April 2004)

Available at: www.penguin.com.au

Book Description:

Over the years, Bob Brown has been assaulted, jailed, vilified and shot at for his stance on the environment and human rights. This is his account of the defining moments in that life of activism, from the famous Franklin River blockade to his parliamentary protest against George Bush - a few minutes that gave voice to what people around the world felt but had no way of saying.

By turns inspiring, compassionate and outraged, this personal story of being green makes the key issues easily understood. If you're someone who avoids reading about the world because

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you think it's too depressing, here's the good news: it's worse if you don't know. While some of the facts Bob presents are less than cheerful, his message is powerfully hopeful.

With Bob Brown and the Greens set to become even more influential in Australian life, Memo for a Saner World is an essential record of what he stands for.

LINKS

Senator Bob's website:

<http://www.bobbrown.org.au>

Senator Bob's CV:

http://www.bobbrown.org.au/assets/200_Senator_Bob_Brown.pdf

The history of the Greens in Australia and Tasmania:

<http://tas.greens.org.au/about>

Green Party of Canada:

www.greenparty.ca

Green Party of BC:

www.greenparty.bc.ca