



## Deni Greene 7 Oct 1939 – 2 Jun 2012 MEMORIES

by Elizabeth O'Brien, Vice President (Australia), The LEAD Group Inc, December 2024

It is with great sadness that I recently learned that Deni Greene passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012.

I first met the brilliant Deni Greene in early 1993, when she was the main writer of the best government plan for a lead safe Australia that's ever been published by the Government:

Greene, Deni; Berry, Prof Mike; Garrard, Dr Jan (1993) *Reducing Lead Exposure in Australia*, Funded by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) and Dept of Health, Housing, Local Government, & Community Services (DHHLGCS). Published by Commonwealth Dept of Human Services and Health. Not web-published, copies available at 33 libraries including The LEAD Group's library.

Seven years after the above comprehensive strategy was published, IF all of its recommendations had been acted on by state and federal government agencies in Australia, I could have retired, but instead I wrote a scathing SCORECARD - *NHMRC Recommendations for A National Strategy Scorecard: Review of NHMRC Strategy* - of government [in]action in *LEAD Action News vol 7 no 4*, (March 2000) at <https://www.lead.org.au/lanv7n4/L74-19.html> and I'm still working on getting Australian governments to act on lead-safety 24 years later!

In the Editorial for *LEAD Action News vol 16 no 4*, (June 2016) at <https://lead.org.au/lanv16n4/lanv16n4-2.html> I wrote:

This issue of *LEAD Action News* begins with the best Australian article I've ever found on "Effects Of Lead On The Environment". It was put together by the inimitable Deni Greene et al in 1993 and we published a draft version in *LEAD Action News volume 1 number 2* [June 1993], at [www.lead.org.au/lanv1n2/lanv1n2-8.html](http://www.lead.org.au/lanv1n2/lanv1n2-8.html).

The article "Effects Of Lead On The Environment" comes from the books by Greene et al "Reducing Lead Exposure In Australia" published in July 1993 – and still important!

Many concepts of great value in my *LEAD Action News vol 21 no 4 (LANv21n4) - Model National Lead Safety Policy* (Dec 2023) at <https://leadsafeworld.com/lanv21n4-content/> were inspired by Deni Greene's mastery of environmental health policy-writing.

When my friend Roger Green died on 4 Dec 2024, I was amazed to discover that both Roger and Deni Greene had worked on the Franklin River campaign in the 1980s, after Deni moved to Australia in March 1983, from the USA where she had worked for the former Californian Governor, Gray Davis. And one of Roger's eulogists, Vince Mahon (whose eulogy is included in Roger Green's obituary in this issue of *LEAD Action News vol 22 no 4*) by coincidence, was a good friend of Deni Greene who he met while working on the Franklin River campaign.



PHOTO: Deni Greene (white shirt) with Franklin River campaigners 1983, photo URL: <https://theemperors-clothes.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/peter-homan-dave-neilson-deni-greenerudi-liz-1983.jpg> ; link accessible via <https://theemperors-clothes.com/2017/12/08/the-law-of-the-land-and-other-legends-in-their-own-lunchtimes/#more-5091>

There are many wonderful tributes to Deni Greene at:

<https://app.memories.net/memorials/deni-greene-94554> and  
<https://tributes.theage.com.au/obituaries/83330/deni-greene/>