

What Do We Value?

How we decide who to vote for? Which political party espouses the values we want to see percolate through our society?

In New Zealand, the Greens have strong representation in Parliament. They continue to remind the major parties that a green economy is possible and desirable if we are to consider the viability of future generations.

When Kennedy Graham was elected to the NZ Parliament in 2008 as a Green Party representative he came with a wealth of experience and statesmanship – like qualities.

As a New Zealand diplomat, Graham was involved in the negotiation of the [South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone](#). He worked as Secretary-General of [Parliamentarians for Global Action](#). He has worked at the United Nations, first as a director at the [United Nations University](#) from 1999 to 2004, and later as Senior Consultant in the [Department of Political Affairs](#), from 2005 to 2006. In 2007 he became Adjunct Senior Fellow at the University of Canterbury School of Law, and was a Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington. Graham was also a Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Belgium.

He gave a commanding performance in the delivery of his maiden speech and used within it the 1968 words of Robert F Kennedy.



WHAT DO WE VALUE IN 2006 ?

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The Gross National Product (GNP or GDP) does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. ¶

It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages; the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. ¶

**It measures neither our wit nor our courage; ¶
neither our wisdom nor our learning; ¶**

neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country. ¶

It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. ¶

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- Robert F. Kennedy, 1968 ¶