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Newcomers to stand for Green Party

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A Canterbury University law fellow, a West Coast health bureaucrat and a Kaikoura organic gardener have declared plans to run for Parliament as Green Party candidates.

The Greens became the first to release a party list for the election yesterday, naming the three new South Island faces in its top 12 slots.

West Coast District Health

Board chief executive Kevin Hague, at No. 7, will stand in West Coast-Tasman, while Canterbury law school senior fellow Kennedy Graham, at No. 9, will run in Ilam.

Soil and Health Association spokesman Steffan Browning took the No. 12 spot, and will campaign in Kaikoura.

Graham, a former career diplomat, admitted he faced a tough battle in a safe National seat held by MP Gerry Brownlee.

"I'd like to say I've known of

bigger miracles in history, and I'm sure there are," he said.

The Greens would need to poll about 9 per cent for all 12 hopefuls to be elected.

Graham said he hoped to use his candidacy to have a decent dialogue with Brownlee about some of the National Party's policy U-turns.

"It remains to be seen if it is spin, or National have substantive changes to their policies. They haven't really unveiled a lot. They are playing it so

cautiously they could almost sleepwalk into a victory if they keep on doing that."

Hague, whose achievements include organising New Zealand's first Heroes Parade and Gay and Lesbian Conference, said he would bring considerable organisational skills to the party.

"It adds to the diversity of the Green Party list, I guess, being a gay man but also being a person who goes to work in a business suit," he said.