



No. 100 – April 2009

*From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council,
the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia*

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

This is the 100th issue of the ACSJC Monthly Briefing!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for receiving this Briefing over the years - for your keen interest in issues of social justice and for your commitment to advocacy and good works for justice, development, and peace.

In April 2000, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council issued the first Monthly Briefing. Prior to that the Council issued 'Network Notes' to its Diocesan Contacts around Australia. It was in 1999 that the Council decided that this newsletter should also be provided to social justice groups and interested individuals beyond this network. And it has evolved since then.

The aim of the Monthly Briefing has always been to provide updates on action for

social justice, notice of coming events, new resources and ideas for action. It aims to encourage information sharing between diocesan and national levels and among broader social justice groups of the Church and society.

I think of the range of issues and momentous world events that have been addressed in these Briefings since April in 2000. The Great Jubilee and the expectation of a new millennium for overcoming violence, the Decade for a Culture of Peace, and the Millennium Development Goals. The 9/11 terrorist attack, the military invasions and undermining of civil and political rights in the so-called 'war on terror'. The 'Tampa' incident and Australia's treatment of asylum seekers under the 'Pacific Solution'. The hard slog for Reconciliation, the NT Intervention and Prime Minister Rudd's National Apology to the Stolen Generations and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The participation of women in the Catholic Church in Australia. The call for ecological conversion. Issues of affluence and poverty and the impact of tax reforms, social security policy and unjust workplace legislation.

These are just some of the issues. They are like signposts that highlight the commitment of individuals and agencies working for justice and for the restoration of the human dignity of those who are most vulnerable or dispossessed in Australia and around the world.

Fundamentally, the ACSJC Monthly Briefing is a resource that seeks to enable people to take up issues of justice.

I am very grateful for all those people and organisations who send information about resources and forthcoming events for inclusion in the Briefing. I would welcome your support in further promoting the Briefing among your networks and institutions.

Let me recall the words of Sandie Cornish, when she issued the first Briefing in April 2000:

“As we enter the 21st century (or not yet, depending on how you count it!) we are getting a bit more techno savvy. Our website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au is quickly taking shape and our old paper, monthly Network Notes to Diocesan Contacts, has morphed into an email bulletin ... Please drop us an email with news of your activities for inclusion in the bulletin. There’s nothing like concrete local action to inspire others!”

People can subscribe to this free Briefing by entering their email details in the box provided on the top left-hand side of the ACSJC’s homepage (refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>)

As we move into Holy Week, the members and staff of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council wish you the joy of Easter, the hope of the risen Lord and a renewed commitment to working with one another for justice.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

EUREKA STREET REFLECTS ON ISSUES OF THE DAY

The Australian Jesuits have made *Eureka Street* a free online publication, at <http://eurekastreet.com.au>. Each weekday, they publish thought-provoking articles on social justice, theology, politics and the arts. *Eureka Street* aims to encourage a reflective and compassionate view of the issues of the day that is inspired by a Catholic moral perspective. There are regular contributions from Frank Brennan SJ and John Warhurst, as well as occasional articles from a wide range of writers including Tim Battin and Brian McCoy SJ. The best way to access the articles is to take a free subscription to the daily or weekly email newsletter. Just send an email to eureka@eurekastreet.com.au with ‘subscribe daily’ or ‘subscribe weekly’ in the subject line.

REFUGEE WEEK GRANTS (NSW)

Refugee Week will take place this year from 14 - 20 June. To encourage community groups and organisations to hold events and functions, the Refugee Council of Australia and the NSW Refugee Week Committee will be offering a limited number of small grants of \$250 and \$500 each - made possible through the generous support of the NSW Community Relations Commission. The grants are designed to enable grass-roots community

participation in events that include refugee communities. Events should reflect this year’s theme, ‘Freedom from Fear’. The aim is to encourage Australians to think about the reasons refugees flee their homes, the fear they might experience at arriving in a new land, and the importance of providing safety and lasting security to people who have lost everything. To find out more or to apply for a grant, please visit <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/refugeeweek.html> and scroll down to ‘Applying for a NSW small grant for your event’.

LAUNCH OF NGO GUIDELINES RE PEOPLE TRAFFICKING

In early March, Catherine Branson QC, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, and Jennifer Burn, Director of the NGO Anti-Slavery Project, launched Guidelines for NGOs assisting victims of people trafficking deal with and recover from the trauma. The practical resource covers key issues including: gaining informed consent from a victim before taking action on their case; protecting the privacy of victims and treating their cases confidentially; the importance of providing culturally appropriate services; and the requirement that service providers must also meet professional/occupational standards and codes of conduct. The Guidelines were

developed by a Working Group, including the religious orders, established at the first meeting of the National Roundtable on People Trafficking in June 2008. They can be accessed at <http://www.ag.gov.au/peopletrafficking>

WEBSITE 'SETTLEMENT SERVICE LOCATOR'.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has released the Settlement Service Locator on the DIAC website. This tool will tangibly improve how individuals can locate services in their area, and assist DIAC settlement service providers to refer clients onto other local services. Web: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/find-help/where-to-help/index.htm>.

PETITION - RECOGNITION FOR EAST TIMOR

The Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission has announced that it will nominate the nation of Timor-Leste for the award of Companion of the Order of Australia (Honorary) in recognition of the unique contribution of the Timorese people to Australian soldiers during World War II. Sister Susan Connelly from the Mary MacKillop Mission says that the Australian veterans who fought on Timor in World War II remember the Timorese people with deep gratitude and that for the last seventy years they have told and retold the stories of the courage and compassion of the Timorese. The petition supporting the nomination of Timor-Leste will be presented to Parliament towards the end of the year. For further information, visit <http://www.mmiets.org.au/news/index.html> or call (02) 9623 2847.

MERCY JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

The Mercy Justice Conference, an initiative of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia, will be held in Queanbeyan NSW (near Canberra) on 6 - 8 November 2009. The Conference will highlight the complex issues of social justice, drawing on research, stories and experiences. It aims to lead those passionate about social justice to further understanding and will offer participants opportunities for a merciful response through action. The outstanding line-up of speakers includes this year's Australian of the Year, Professor Mick Dodson and the 2007 Australian of the Year,

Professor Tim Flannery. Details of Conference, Speaker's Bios and Registration Form can be found at: <http://www.mercy.org.au/mercyinaction/default.cfm?load ref=197>

CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF MARY WARD'S INSTITUTE

From 2009 to 2011 the two worldwide branches of Mary Ward's institute, the Loreto Sisters and Congregation of Jesus, will be celebrating 400 years since Mary Ward set out on her work. They will rejoice in and honour the vision, courage and commitment of their founder and her legacy of sisters and schools on every continent, hundreds of thousands of students past and present, countless volunteers, colleagues and friends across the globe, and social justice and education missions that serve the vulnerable, disadvantaged and voiceless around the world. For further information about the celebrations in Australia and international events please visit the website: http://www.loreto.org.au/about/mary_ward_002.html

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA - 'CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES'

A new advertising campaign challenges Australians to rethink negative stereotypes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Developed as a community service announcement, the Reconciliation Australia campaign is informed by the Australian Reconciliation Barometer—groundbreaking research that explores our attitudes to each other as Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Findings of the research show: there are equally low levels of trust between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians; there is low recognition of Indigenous achievement outside of high profile successes in sport and the arts; and Australians overall rate themselves ahead of Indigenous people in possessing positive qualities like a sense of humour and being welcoming and hard working. The advertising uses real people with headlines that confront stereotypes around substance abuse, unemployment, child care, professional achievement, who is Aboriginal and crime. For more information visit: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au>

AHRC PUBLICATIONS

Three releases from the Australian Human Rights Commission are now online. The first is about the Australian Human Rights Commission's concern with the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Search Powers) Bill 2009 (NSW). The Bill, if enacted, would significantly extend the power of police to conduct covert searches. (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/submissions/2009/20090318_covert_search.html)

The second is a Report to Parliament entitled *Complaints by immigration detainees against the Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Immigration and Citizenship, formerly the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs) and GSL (Australia) Pty Ltd.* (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/legal/HREOCA_reports/hrc_report_40.html)

Third is a discussion paper by National Race Discrimination Commissioner Tom Calma, and immediate past Chair of the Federation of African Communities Council, Abeselom Nega, which aims at identifying the major issues faced by African Australians. (refer: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/africanaus/>)

NEW DVD - JOINING HANDS

Students and staff from Aranmore Catholic College in Perth have been involved in the development of a resource designed to give African students of refugee background a voice in their educational experience in Australia. Produced by the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS), the DVD is entitled *Joining Hands - Connecting African students, their families and WA secondary education*. It will assist schools to meet the specialised education and personal support needs of this group of students and highlights also the great strengths of these young people. For further information about this project and to obtain a copy of the DVD, call ASeTTS on (08) 9227 2700.

AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE PAPERS

The recently released Australia Institute Report *The great superannuation tax concession report*, highlights that current superannuation

tax concessions flow overwhelmingly to those who are well off, with the top five percent of individuals accounting for 37 per cent of concessional contributions.

Another paper, *Increasing the Newstart Allowance*, calls for increases to allowance rates as a necessary part of equitable fiscal stimulus and shows how the well off are set to benefit from foreshadowed tax cuts in July 2009 and July 2010 - with modest cuts going to those on incomes higher than \$34,000 per annum and greater cuts going to those on incomes over \$80,000 per annum.

These 'Web Papers' can be downloaded at: <https://www.tai.org.au/>

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATIONS

A National Human Rights Consultation was announced by the Attorney-General Robert McClelland on Human Rights Day (10 December 2008). The Consultation is seeking the community's views on human rights in Australia. The Committee, headed by Fr Frank Brennan, is running community consultations and seeking views (including written submissions) around the following questions:

1. Which human rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted?
2. Are these human rights currently sufficiently protected and promoted?
3. How could Australia better protect and promote human rights? For further information, visit <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/>

HUMAN RIGHTS HANDBOOK

The Civil Society Unit of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has released a handbook: *Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society*. It is a user-friendly and authoritative publication on United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, explaining how they work and exploring the many important ways that civil society actors including NGOs can contribute to their work. It can be accessed at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/NgoHandbook.aspx>

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website [that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498]: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

SERIES PAPER - 'REFUGEES AND AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE'

David Holdcroft SJ provides readers with a valuable guide to the historical, legal and ethical issues at the heart of Australia's immigration policy as the nation begins to assess the impact of the Rudd Government's approach to refugees and asylum seekers. Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.65 considers how many refugees in dire need are denied asylum status because of strict adherence to legal definitions and explores the way Australia can choose how many people it may reasonably accept as part of its humanitarian program, balancing humanitarian imperatives with its right to assert territorial and cultural sovereignty. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT DISCUSSION SERIES

The ACSJC is launching a new and additional resource for the Social Justice Sunday Statement. This Discussion Guide is based on the current Social Justice Sunday Statement and is designed to be used with the Statement. The Discussion Guide Series can be used for 3 sessions and is suitable for small group discussion in parishes, schools, communities and other organisations or gatherings. The 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement Discussion Guide Series could be used for Lent, or for any time in the Church Year. It can be downloaded from the ACSJC website at <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. Hard copies may be ordered.

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2009

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *Fighting Poverty to Build Peace*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope's message, some

points for reflection and prayer. This is an ideal resource for schools and social justice discussion groups. It can be downloaded in pdf or word formats from the ACSJC homepage: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

ORDER NOW! - 2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2009 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It highlights the theme of young people and justice today. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html

SERIES PAPER - 'A GOD MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS'

In Catholic Social Justice Series No.64, Old Testament scholar Mark O'Brien invites readers to consider the roots of our modern concepts of justice and mercy. The Old Testament's account of justice is often regarded as full of God's anger and vengeance. Fr O'Brien considers the challenges and obligations faced at the time: the challenge to establish a coherent law and theology, the constant threat of violence from neighbouring superpowers, God's covenant with his people, rivals to the covenant, and the prophetic contribution reintegrating justice and mercy into the life of the community. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers and the Social Justice Diary: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2 copies \$1.45; 3-5 copies \$2.45)

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3489 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf



This Month's Notices

1 APRIL. FUNDRAISER: 'YOUTH OFF THE STREETS MORNING TEA' (NSW). Join the Eden Gardens team to hear Father Chris Riley speak of his work with youth. There will also be a performance by the 'Youth Off The Streets Vocal Group', wonderful raffle prizes and a complimentary garden tour. Cost: \$10. 10.00 am, Eden Gardens, corner Lane Cove & Fontenoy Roads, North Ryde. RSVP essential: (02) 9491 9900 or reception@edengardens.com.au. Web: <http://www.edengardens.com.au/pages/what-s-on/event-details.php?idArticle=6365>.

1 APRIL. BOOK LAUNCH: 'VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY: THE POETIC ALTERNATIVE TO CONSUMER CULTURE' (VIC). Samuel Alexander, a sessional lecturer and doctoral student at Melbourne Law School, will discuss the anti-consumerist living strategy, a strategy defined as 'a manner of living that is outwardly simple and inwardly rich, a deliberate choice to live with less in the belief that more life will be returned to us in the process.' No cost. 5:00 - 6:30 pm, Gryphon Gallery, First Floor, Graduate Centre, 1888 Building (bldg 198), University of Melbourne, Parkville, University of Melbourne. Refreshments provided. Contact: (03) 8344 5073 or brionyr@unimelb.edu.au. RSVP: query-environment@unimelb.edu.au. Web: http://www.environment.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/125350/OEP_Enviro_Week.pdf.

1 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'CLOSING THE GAP' (ACT). The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at Australian National University (ANU) presents David Cooper, of Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, speaking on 'Closing the Gap'. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra; a map of the A.D. Hope Building's location is available from the following web page: <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/displaybldg.asp?no=14>. Contact: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/events09.php>.

1 - 13 APRIL. EXHIBITION: 'A WORTHWHILE ENTERPRISE: THE MIGRANT HOSTEL IN SPRINGVALE' (VIC). This exhibition records the history of the hostel and the impact it made on the surrounding community of Springvale, as well as on Victoria's broader multicultural landscape. Stories include those of migrants and refugees who were temporarily housed at the hostel, the workers who provided support and programs, and the community which embraced each wave of newcomers. Cost: \$8, concessions and children free. 10.00 am - 5.00 pm, Melbourne Immigration Museum, Old Customs House, 400 Flinders St, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02 (Victoria only). Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/Worthwhile-Enterprise>.

1 APRIL - SEPTEMBER. EXHIBITION: 'ECHOES OF BLACKTOWN, FIRST CONTACT, HISTORY OF BLACKTOWN'S FIRST PEOPLE - THE DARUG' (NSW). Blacktown City Council and Arts NSW present this exhibition which explores collective stories of the Darug people, the traditional owners of this land, who are intrinsically linked to this place by name, history and cultural significance. 10.00 am - 3.00 pm Tuesday to Saturday, Blacktown Visitors Information and Heritage Centre, Civic Plaza, Flushcombe Road, Blacktown. Contact: 1300 302 858 or visitor@blacktown.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.visitblacktown.com.au>.

1 APRIL. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS: PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DISABILITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ACT). Address by The Hon Bill Shorten MP. The Rudd Government has set up an inquiry into how to increase investment into the chronically under-funded disability sector and has promised to revamp the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement, the national policy and funding framework for services to 220,000 Australians with severe disability. Cost \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am - 1.30 pm, 16 National Circuit, Canberra. To book contact: (02) 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

1 APRIL. SOCIAL POLICY CONNECTIONS EVENT: 'A RESPONSE TO GLOBAL WARMING' (VIC). Speakers are Geoff Lacey, Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne; and Dr Stephen Ames, Anglican priest, Canon at St Paul's Cathedral, Lecturer in the History and Philosophy of Science programme at the University of Melbourne. He is the author of a landmark work on the ecology of the Yarra: 'Still glides the Stream': the Natural History of the Yarra from Heidelberg to Yarra Bend. Stephen Ames will draw out some theological reflections on the implications for how we might adjust to environmental threats. Stephen is one of the founders of Social Policy Connections, and first president of the Yarra Institute for Religion and Social Policy. Cost: donation. 7.30 pm, Study Centre, Yarra Theological Union, 98 Albion Rd., Box Hill. Entry also via 34 Bedford St. Contact: (03) 9890 1077 or admin@socialpolicyconnections.com.au. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/Portals/3/docs/SPCNewsletterMarch09.pdf>.

2 APRIL. NATIONAL 'CLOSE THE GAP' DAY (NATIONAL). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy is 17 years less than for other Australians. 'Close the Gap' Day events are about bringing people together who are concerned about the Indigenous health crisis. You can get involved in National 'Close the Gap' Day in a number of ways: sign and encourage others to sign the 'Close the Gap' pledge, send e-cards; write a letter to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs; and attend 'Close the Gap' Day events. Contact: (02) 8204 3925. Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au>.

2 APRIL. LECTURE: 'THE MISSION HAS A CHURCH - RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL IN TODAY'S WORLD' (NSW). Theological lecture series sponsored by the Australian Mission Network. The speaker is Fr Stephen Bevans SVD, the Professor of Mission and Culture, Catholic Theological College, Chicago, USA, and currently visiting Professor of Theology at Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne. 7.00 - 9.00 pm, Catholic Institute of Sydney, 99 Albert Rd, Strathfield. Cost: donation. Contact: (02) 9868 2666. Web: <http://catholicreligiousaustralia.com/en/47>.

2 APRIL. FORUM: 'MERCY FOUNDATION 'HOUSING WHEN?'' (NSW). The City of Sydney and Mercy Foundation invite you to attend a one day forum with local and international speakers on evidence based actions towards solving homelessness. This will be a practical forum and highlight actions towards great services and outcomes for people who are homeless. Speakers: Mr Philip Mangano, Executive Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; Mr Rokus Loopik, Social Psychiatric Clinician from the Netherlands; Ms Rosanne Haggerty, Founder and President of Common Ground in New York; Dr Sam Tsemberis, Executive Director of Pathways to Housing in New York; Mr Stephen Nash, CEO HomeGround Melbourne; Ms Madge McGuire; Director of Catherine House Adelaide; Ms Sue Cripps, CEO Homelessness NSW; Ms Felicity Reynolds, CEO Mercy Foundation; and Ms Liz Giles, Homelessness Unit Manager, City of Sydney. Cost: \$150. 9.00 am - 5.00 pm, Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9699 8726. Web: http://www.mercyfoundation.com.au/media-centre/view_article.cfm?loadref=8&id=25.

2 APRIL. AMNESTY ANTI-DEATH PENALTY NETWORK MEETING (NSW). More than two-thirds of the world's countries have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice as of 2008. There are still 59 states that practice executions, most of which are carried out in Asia. If you would like to be part of a group who stand up against the death penalty, come along to the first meeting in 2009. 6:30 pm, NSW Action Centre, Level 1/79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale. Contact: nswadpactiongroup@amnesty.org.au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/home/event/20452/>.

2 APRIL. BREAKFAST: 'JUST LEADERSHIP' (VIC). Jesuit Social Services in partnership with the NAB, and in collaboration with the City of Melbourne and Malleson Stephen Jacques, are launching these breakfasts in Melbourne CBD. They aim to engage young professionals to build a network of young leaders for a new world. Frank Brennan SJ and Tim Costello will launch this initiative by leading an insightful and challenging conversation about the critical issues for leadership in a time of change.

7.15 - 8.45 am. Contact: (03) 9427 7388 or david.renouf@jss.org.au to book or for further information.

2 APRIL. TRAINING: 'CROSS-CULTURAL AWARENESS' (NSW). This cross-cultural workshop will discuss how to communicate effectively with people from different cultural backgrounds. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (includes lunch), Redfern Community Centre, 29-53 Hugo Street, Redfern. Contact: (02) 9246 7878 or mithomas@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=69185>.

2 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OR A NEW MODEL? (VIC). Institute of Postcolonial Studies presents this seminar about whether the pressure on business to be more conscious of society is producing a genuine response. Chair: Professor David Kimber, School of Management, Catholic University of Lille, France, and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore. Speakers: Elizabeth Cham, National Director of Philanthropy, Senior Fellow, University of Melbourne; and Geoff Walsh, Director, Public Affairs, BHP Billiton. Cost: Waged \$5, Unwaged: \$3, Members free. 7:30 pm, 78-80 Curzon Street, North Melbourne. Contact: (03) 9329 6381 or postcol@netspace.net.au. Web: <http://www.ipcs.org.au>.

2 - 3 APRIL. CONFERENCE: ACOSS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 'BUILDING A FAIR AUSTRALIA IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES' (NSW).

This major annual event will examine the impact of the economic downturn on fairness in Australia. How will low income and disadvantaged Australians be affected and how should policymakers and the community and welfare sector respond? The Conference will bring together ACOSS members, community sector leaders, academics, non profit organisations and philanthropic organisations with an interest in social justice as well as federal and state government representatives. 8.30 am - 5.00 pm, Australian Technology Park Conference Centre, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9310 6200 or conference@acoss.org.au. Web: <http://users.tpg.com.au/adsl444m/bulletinfinal.htm>.

3 APRIL. WORKSHOP: 'GENDER, RACE AND REPARATIONS' (NSW). The Institute of Criminology, Law School, University of Sydney and the Australian Research Council (ARC) Project 'Legal Responses to Systemic Injuries: Towards a new Paradigm for Compensation' present this workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to analyse some reparations processes overseas, from the point of view of their capacity to respond effectively to the most disadvantaged community members. Participants will include: Professor Anita Bernstein, Brooklyn Law School; Professor Chris Cunneen, UNSW Law School; Beth Goldblatt, Sydney Law School, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; Professor Reg Graycar, Sydney Law School; Dr Ben Mathews, QUT Law School; Professor Julie Stubbs, Sydney Law School; and Jane Wangmann, Sydney Law School/UTS Law School. 12.30 - 4.30 pm, Common Room, New Law Building, Building F10, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: (02) 9351 0239 or R.Miller@usyd.edu.au. Web: <http://www.criminology.law.usyd.edu.au/seminars.htm>.

3 APRIL. DAY OF PRAYER FOR SRI LANKA (NATIONAL). The Edmund Rice Centre would like to draw your attention to an important and urgent human rights issue. The government of Sri Lanka has recently proposed passing an "Anti-Conversion Bill" with the proposed aim of preventing forced conversion of citizens from one religion to another. However, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief has noted that such a law did not seem to be necessary in that country, and may in be used to impact negatively upon the freedoms of religion, expression and association. It could also be used to persecute minority groups. Many other human rights activists have come out with similar concerns. The Catholic Bishops Conference of Sri Lanka has called for a national day of prayer, fasting and abstinence on April 3rd, hoping that such a day would bring peace and reconciliation. Web: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=documents&JAS_DocumentManager_op=viewDocument&JAS_Document_id=148 and http://christianpost.com/Intl/Human_rights/2009/02/u-s-congressmen-press-sri-lanka-to-drop-anti-conversion-bill-08/index.html.

3, 10, 17, 24 APRIL. HARMONY EVENT: 'ABORIGINAL HERITAGE TOUR' (NSW). Join Royal Botanic Garden's Aboriginal Education Officer, Clarence Slockee, for a journey of discovery. Uncover the Royal Botanic Gardens' rich Aboriginal heritage, experience traditional music, dance and artefacts and taste some bush food. Cost: \$25 (discount available for groups of 7 or more), \$13 student/child. 2.00 - 3.00 pm, Moore Room, Royal Botanic Gardens. Contact: (02) 9231 8134 bookings essential. Web: [http://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/welcome to bgt/royal botanic gardens/Whats on?SQ_CALENDAR_VIEW=month&SQ_CALENDAR_DATE=2009-04-01](http://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/welcome%20to%20bgt/royal%20botanic%20gardens/Whats%20on?SQ_CALENDAR_VIEW=month&SQ_CALENDAR_DATE=2009-04-01).

3 APRIL. DISCUSSION: 'TACKLING POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA, UNEMPLOYED, DISABLED, INDIGENOUS, AGED, MENTALLY ILL...' (NSW). Politics in the Pub presents John Falzon, National CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society and Maree O'Halloran, Director, Welfare Rights Centre. Cost: \$5 to become social member of Gaelic Club. 6.00 - 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9358 4834 or tomspond@bigpond.com; (02) 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au; or (02) 9518 5560 or katebarton3@optusnet.com.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

3 - 4 APRIL. CONFERENCE: SOCIAL JUSTICE - 'I'LL FIGHT' (NSW). The Salvation Army presents this conference covering topics including - human trafficking, youth homelessness, mental health, indigenous Australian issues and more. Cost: \$40 full conference, \$30 one day. 8.30 am - 4.30 pm, Salvation Army, 34-38 Smith St, Parramatta. Contact: (02) 9635 7400 or melanie.cotton@ae.salvationarmy.org. Web: <http://www.illfight.salvos.org.au/program.html>.

3 - 4 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'SEEKING THE COMMON GOOD: WHY HUMAN RIGHTS MATTER' (NSW). UnitingJustice Australia and the Centre for Public and Contextual Theology (PaCT) (Charles Sturt University) are holding a conference on the occasion of the National Human Rights Consultation for people interested in the relationship between religion and human rights. Workshops include submission writing, Islam and human rights,

about human rights charters and justice and human rights for Indigenous Australians. Speakers include Rev. Gregor Henderson, President, Uniting Church in Australia; Fr Frank Brennan, Chair, National Consultation Committee; Graeme Innes, Human Rights and Disability Discrimination Commissioner; Assoc. Prof. Dr Clive Pearson, Principal, United Theological College and Associate Director of PaCT. Cost: \$50. 6.30 - 8.30 pm Friday, 9.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturday, Uniting Church Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta. Contact: (02) 8267 4236 or unitingjustice@nat.uca.org.au. Web: http://www.unitingjustice.org.au/images/pdfs/issues/human-rights/resources/humanrightsconference_brochure.pdf.

4 APRIL. IRAQI FESTIVAL DAY (QLD). The Romero Centre and Iraqi community members present the inaugural Iraqi Festival Day. Come to experience food, art, culture, music, dance and hospitality. No cost. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Marymac Hall, 616 Ipswich Rd, Annerley. Contact: (07) 3846 3250. Web: <http://www.ourbrisbane.com/whats-on/events/2024703.iraqi-festival-day>.

5 APRIL. PALM SUNDAY PEACE RALLY: 'DEVELOP AFGHANISTAN. PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE' (NSW). Sydney Justice and Peace Coalition have organised Multi Faith Prayers and a Peace Rally. Speaker is Father Patrick Mullins sj. 2.00 pm Prayers, 2.40 pm Rally, Amphitheatre, Parramatta Town Hall, 182 Church Street Mall, Parramatta. Contact: 0412 803 457; 0411 450 953; 0418 312 301.

5 APRIL. PALM SUNDAY PEACE SERVICE AND MARCH: 'LET'S MAKE PEACE POSSIBLE: END THE WASTE OF WAR' (VIC). A community rally and peace march with a peace focus - not troops - for Afghanistan and Iraq, Peace with Justice for Palestine. Sponsored by the Victorian Council of Churches and the Campaign for International Cooperation and Disarmament. 1.45 pm Ecumenical Christian Service, 2.30 pm Rally & Peace March, meet at State Library of Victoria steps, Swanston St, Melbourne. Contact: 0431 519 577. Web: http://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne_details.php?id=18294.

5 APRIL. REFUGEE BENEFIT CONCERT: 'SINGING THE SPIRIT HOME, CELEBRATING THE SONGS OF ERIC BOGLE' (NSW). Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation and UnitingCare NSW ACT presents this benefit concert for refugees, where world class performers are donating their time. The concert features Eric Bogle & Colcannon, Chris While & Julie Matthews (UK), Martyn Wyndham-Read (UK), John Williamson, Graeme Connors and Judy Small. Cost: \$40, \$140, \$240, \$540. 2.00 pm, York Theatre, Seymour Centre, corner City Rd & Cleveland St, Chippendale. Contact: to book (02) 9351 7940 or <http://www.seymourcentre.com.au> or enquiries (02) 9810 5826. Web: <http://www.asylumseekersfoundation.com>.

5 APRIL. XXIV WORLD YOUTH DAY: 'WE HAVE SET OUR HOPE ON THE LIVING GOD' 1 TIMOTHY 4:10 (VIC). Sale annual diocesan youth gathering, celebrating World Youth Day, will feature a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross through the streets of Sale, Mass at the Cathedral and a free lunch on Palm Sunday. World Youth Day is celebrated locally on Palm Sunday every year with international gatherings occurring every three years. Satrox, Narre Warren parish band, will entertain with live music throughout the afternoon. 'We have set our hope on the living God' (from 1 Tim 4:10) is the theme chosen by Pope Benedict XIV for the 2009 celebrations. Bus pick-up points are at available at Cranbourne, Narre Warren, Pakenham, Warragul, Leongatha, Churchill, Morwell, Traralgon, Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance. Contact: jessd@sale.catholic.org.au or (03) 5126 1063 to book a place on the bus. Web: <http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/agencies/youthministry/palmsunday/>.

7 APRIL. WORLD HEALTH DAY FORUM: 'GLOBAL HEALTH AND GLOBAL CRISES' (VIC). Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct (AMREP) Global Health Forum is an annual event held on World Health Day that aims to bring together students, researchers, practitioners and policy makers from academia, research institutes, government agencies and NGOs, to exchange ideas and discuss relevant current issues pertaining to global health. This Forum is organised by partners of the AMREP Global Health Research

Consortium, which includes Monash University, Burnet Institute, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute and the Alfred Hospital. No Cost. 8.30 am - 5.00 pm, Coppin Hall, 313 Punt Rd, Prahran. Contact: (03) 9903 0140 or desmond.gul@med.monash.edu.au. Web: <http://www.amrep.org.au>.

7 APRIL. PUBLIC SEMINAR: 'TAKING AN EVERYDAY LIFE APPROACH TO A POLICY ANALYSIS OF MOTHERS' EXPERIENCE OF WELFARE TO WORK' (NSW). This paper describes an 'everyday life approach' to policy analysis which was used to investigate mothers' experience of a new welfare system. It follows mothers who, for the first time in Australia, were required to undertake compulsory employment-oriented activity in order to remain eligible for income support. This research approach uncovers the significance of receiving a Centrelink letter and entering the Centrelink office and the preliminaries to a meeting with a personal adviser - elements rarely addressed in policy analysis. Presenter: Dr Megan Blaxland, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW. 12:30 - 1:30 pm, Room 250, Level 2, Robert Webster Building (G14), University of New South Wales. RSVP by 3 April to: sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au or (02) 9385 7817. Web: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/>.

8 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'AN AUSTRALIAN BILL OF RIGHTS? LEARNING FROM THE BRITISH EXPERIENCE' (NSW). This lecture is part of the Sydney Law School Distinguished Speakers Program 2009. The speaker, Conor Gearty is Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights at the London School of Economics. His most recent work focuses on the dilemma that terrorism poses to civil liberties. During the 1990s, Professor Gearty advised Tony Blair on terrorism law, and was also an executive committee member of the British-Irish Association, involved in facilitating informal discussions between the various parties and members of civil society in Northern Ireland. 6.00 - 7.30 pm, Sydney Law School, Building F10, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney (Camperdown Campus). Contact: (02) 9351 0248. RSVP: law.events@usyd.edu.au. Web: <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/scil/events.html>.

8 APRIL. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (NSW). The National Human Rights Consultation Committee will be visiting places throughout regional and remote Australia as well as major towns and cities during the first half of 2009. Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website. 12.00 - 2.00 pm, City Hall, Concert Hall, 290 King Street, Newcastle. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

8 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'CRIME AGAINST AND THE POLICING OF EMERGING COMMUNITIES' (NSW). The Sydney Institute of Criminology, NSW Attorney-General's Department and CHD Partners present this seminar. Some of the questions that will be considered include what challenges are there in policing these communities (such as Sudanese migrants), what challenges do emerging communities face in learning about new legal regimes and what is known about over-representation of victims and perpetrators from emerging communities? Speakers include: Dr Garry Coventry, James Cook University, Queensland; Dr Daren Palmer, Deakin University, Victoria; Mr Ajang Biar, Chairman of the Community of Southern Sudanese & other marginalised areas; Mr Thomas Ater, Sudanese Youth Worker, Migrant Resource Centre, Parramatta; Ms Adol Takpiny, Sudanese Community Liaison Officer, NSW Attorney General's Department; Paul Glinn, Blacktown Local Area Command, NSW Police Force. 1.00 - 4.00 pm, Assembly Hall, Level 3 (entry level) Sydney University Law School, 173-175 Phillip Street, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9351 0239 or R.Miller@usyd.edu.au. Web: <http://www.criminology.law.usyd.edu.au/seminars.htm>.

8 APRIL. SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: 'POSTCOLONIAL JUSTICE - EQUALITY, DIFFERENCE AND INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS' (VIC). Indigenous disadvantage and the legacy of colonialism are inextricable. This relationship shapes both the way Indigenous social injustice is perceived and our ability to move towards justice for Indigenous people. Postcolonial justice is presented as a special case of social justice that highlights

tensions inherent to achieving equality in a diverse society. Speaker Dr Emma Kowal is a National Health and Medical Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Philosophy, Anthropology and Social Inquiry. 1:00 - 2:15 pm, Moot Court Room, Old Quad Building, South-Side (bldg 150), Parkville, University of Melbourne. Contact: (03) 8344 5286 or i.mcdonald@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.socialjustice.unimelb.edu.au>.

8 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'THE BENEFITS OF CARING FOR COUNTRY IN NSW' (ACT). The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at Australian National University (ANU) presents Janet Hunt, Research Fellow CAEPR, speaking on the various ways in which Indigenous people in NSW are attempting to care for their country, and present some initial proposals for research into whether similar social, economic and cultural benefits flow from these activities. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/events09.php>.

9 APRIL. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS: 'DUE INHERITANCE: REVIVING THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING OF FIRST AUSTRALIANS' (ACT). Address by Ted Egan, former Administrator of the Northern Territory and author of 'Due Inheritance'. This book is a cry for help, to take First Australians out of that imposed category of perceived inferiority that has prompted governments to impose on them well-meaning but inevitably flawed policies. Egan has a set of radical proposals to re-invigorate the Aboriginal community through the attainment of economic strength and restored cultural integrity. Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am - 1.30 pm, 16 National Circuit, Canberra. To book contact: (02) 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

9 APRIL. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'CLOSING THE GAP' (VIC). Mr Terry Moran AO, Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, will reflect on the challenges and early successes of CoAG's Indigenous reform

agenda and the Government's Indigenous corporate engagement strategy as a way of ensuring that Indigenous Australians are involved in developing and driving changes at the local and regional levels. 12 noon, State Library of Victoria theatre (Entry 3, La Trobe St - between Swanston and Russell Sts.), Melbourne. For bookings contact: rsvp@reconciliation.org.au or (02) 6273 9200. Web: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/get-involved/closing-the-gap/upcoming-lectures>

10 - 12 APRIL. GATHERING: 'LAKE COWAL EASTER WEEKEND 2009' (NSW). For the past 10 years Wiradjuri Traditional Owners and their supporters have kept their feet rooted firmly in the ground against the world's largest gold mining company, Barrick Gold. To continue this good work they wish to build a strong presence this year at the Lake Cowal Gathering, West Wyalong. All are welcome. Contact: natalie.lowrey@foe.org.au. Web: <http://protestbarrick.net/article.php?id=395>.

12 AND 13 APRIL. UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (UNAA) BRANCH MEETING: BLUE MOUNTAINS BRANCH (NSW). 12 April: Invitation to friends and members to a BBQ luncheon at the home of Kitty Knight. Prominent speaker to be confirmed. Sausages, bread, cordial, salads provided, BYO. 12.00 pm, 60 St Georges Parade, Mt Victoria. Train met at 12.30 pm Mt Victoria.

13 April: Edible Garden Tour and Program Update at the home of Franklin Scarf and the Environment Program of UNNA (NSW) Inc. 12.00 pm, 16 Station Street, Katoomba. Contact: (02) 4782 2625 or 0408 267 195 or office@unaansw.org.au. Web: www.unaansw.org.au.

14 - 15 APRIL. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (VIC). The National Human Rights Consultation Committee will be visiting places throughout regional and remote Australia as well as major towns and cities during the first half of 2009. Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website.
14 April: 10.00 am - 12.00 pm or 2.00 - 4.00

pm or 6.00 - 8.00 pm, The Windsor Hotel, The Grand Ballroom, 111 Spring Street, Melbourne.
15 April: 12.00 - 2.00 pm, The Sphinx Hotel, 2 Thompson Road, North Geelong. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

14 - 16 APRIL. MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (MRCSA) REFUGEE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP (SA). A residential leadership camp organised by the MRCSA at the Nunyara Conference Centre in Belair. 60 young refugees will participate in workshops and activities focusing on their development as leaders and mentors, employment pathways, sporting and recreation needs and cultural expression through the arts. Service agencies, youth organisations and community groups are welcome to nominate young refugees (15-21 years) for the camp which is a free event. Nunyara Conference Centre, 5 Burnell Drive, Belair. Contact: (08) 8217 9510 or admin@mrcsa.com.au. Web: <http://www.mrcsa.com.au/april.html>.

15 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'LAND AS 'THIRD SPACE': TOWARDS AN EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL RE-ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA' (ACT). The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at Australian National University (ANU) presents Jerry Schwab (Fellow, CAEPR) and Bill Fogarty (Research Scholar, CAEPR), speaking on looking for another place or 'space' where learning and social re-engagement among young Indigenous people in remote Australia might be supported. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/events09.php>.

15 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'ISRAEL'S WAR IN GAZA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW' (NSW). This lecture is part of the Sydney Law School Distinguished Speakers Program 2009. The speaker, Professor Yuval Shany is the Hersch Lauterpacht Chair in International Law at the Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has taught in a number of law schools in Israel,

and has been in recent years a research fellow in Harvard and Amsterdam University and a visiting professor at the Georgetown University Law Centre and Michigan Law School. 6.00 - 8.00 pm, Sydney Law School, Building F10, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney (Camperdown Campus). Contact: (02) 9351 0248. RSVP: law.events@usyd.edu.au. Web: <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/scil/events.html>.

15 - 17 APRIL. HARMONY EVENT: 'CHINESE CULTURAL DAYS' (NSW). Presented by a range of Chinese organisations and groups, these events will provide hands-on experience learning Chinese culture and heritage. Run over two days, Chinese Cultural Day will focus on interactive workshops on day one and many colourful Chinese performances on day two. Chinese Cultural Days is being jointly delivered by a group including City of Sydney, Chinese Cultural Friendship of Australia and Chinese Heritage Association of Australia Inc. 10:30 am - 4:00 pm, Chinese Garden of Friendship, Darling Harbour. Contact: (02) 9246 7874. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=69184>.

15 APRIL. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION WORKSHOP (SA). The Australian Government has announced a National Human Rights Consultation, being conducted by an independent committee during 2009. South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) and the Australian Human Rights Commission invite you to a workshop which will provide useful information and practical tools to assist you to participate effectively in the national consultation process. The host will be Catherine Branson QC, President, Australian Human Rights Commission. 10.00 am - 12.00 pm, South Australian Council of Social Service, Marjorie Black House Community Room (enter via Young Street), 47 King William Road, Unley. RSVP: Wednesday 8 April, letstalkaboutrights@humanrights.gov.au or (02) 9284 9699. Web: <http://www.sacoss.org.au/events/index.html>.

15 - 17 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'TEACHING THE ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS: CHRISTIANITY

IN DIALOGUE WITH JUDAISM & ISLAM' (ACT). Relations between Christians, Jews and Muslims are among the most divisive, challenging and important issues in the world today. Despite their often violent differences, each shares a common heritage as the Children of Abraham and the worship of one God. In a time when understanding these three religions has taken on a new and critical urgency, this important conference will equip educators with practical strategies and resources to enable students to explore the similarities, differences and relationships between the Abrahamic faith traditions. Speakers include: Dr Peter Vardy, University of London, Professor Andrew Wright, University of London; Professor Abdullah Saeed, University of Melbourne; Paul Forgasz, Monash University; Rod Pattenden, Wesley College, Victoria; and Shakira Hussein, Australian National University. Cost: \$550. 9.00 am - 6.30 pm Wednesday, 9.00 am - 10.30pm Thursday, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm Friday, Members Dining Room, Old Parliament House, King George Terrace, Parkes. Contact: (08) 9367 8903, 0427 295 691 or dan@dialogueaustralasia.org. Web: <http://www.dialogueaustralasia.org>.

15 - 17 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'CREATIVE COMMUNITIES: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO SOCIAL INCLUSION' (QLD). The Centre for Public Culture and Ideas, Griffith University, with support from the Innovative European Union Centre is hosting a three-day international conference. This conference will feature contributions from academic researchers and practitioners from the Pacific Rim, the European Union, Asia and North America. The conference will provide a forum for the sharing of ideas and knowledge about the value of creativity as a means of engendering social inclusion. Cost: \$450, \$195 concession. 9.00 am - 5.00 pm, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Surfers Paradise. Contact: creativecommunities@griffith.edu.au or (07) 3735 7338. Web: http://www.griffith.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/116328/Creative-Communities-registration-final.pdf.

16 APRIL. INFORMATION SESSION: 'MUSLIM TRADITIONS' (QLD). This information session will enhance understanding and respect of Muslim traditions. Two Muslim community members will provide information about the

traditions and will be available to answer questions. 10.00 am - 12.00 pm (followed by a Halal lunch), Humanities Building Auditorium, 56 South Street, Ipswich. Contact: (07) 3810 6655 or csweeney@ipswich.qld.gov.au. RSVP 10 April. Web: <http://www.barc.org.au/cms/index.php>.

17 APRIL. DISCUSSION: 'THE SCANDAL OF HOMELESSNESS - WHAT MUST BE DONE (NSW). Politics in the Pub presents Ian Webster, Em. Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW, Physician to the Homeless; and Felicity Reynolds, CEO Mercy Foundation, the new permanent housing for homeless project, Common Ground. Cost: \$5 to become social member of Gaelic Club. 6.00 - 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9358 4834 or tomspond@bigpond.com; (02) 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au; or (02) 9518 5560 or katebarton3@optusnet.com.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

17 APRIL. WORKSHOP: 'JESUITS AND JUSTICE' (NSW). This workshop will reflect on the call to justice in Scripture, thinking with the Church, key Jesuit documents on justice, culture and interfaith dialogue and justice in the mission of the Australian Province. The speaker is Sandie Cornish. Cost: Free for anyone involved in the work of the Australian Jesuits; suggested contribution for others wishing to participate \$50. 9.30 am - 4.30 pm, Francis Xavier Parish Centre, 19 Mackenzie Street, Lavender Bay. Contact: (02) 8920 0202 or Loyola@loyola.org.au. Web: <http://www.faithdoingjustice.com.au/docs/JesuitsJusticeFlyer09.pdf>.

17 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'MONITORING AND UNDERSTANDING THE 'WELL-BEING' OF A PERSON WITH DISABILITIES' (NSW). In this seminar Professor Emerson, Professor of Disability and Health Research, Lancaster University, UK, draws on recent work in the UK and Australia reviewing approaches to conceptualizing and measuring the 'well-being' of persons with disabilities. 12:30 - 1:30 pm, Staff Common Room, Level 2, Faculty of Law, Building F8, University of NSW, Union Road, Kensington. Contact: (02) 9385-9908 or dsrc@unsw.edu to book. Web: <http://dsrc.arts.unsw.edu.au/news/seminars.php>.

19 - 24 APRIL. RETREAT: 'NONVIOLENCE IN THE MAINSTREAM: THE DAILY PRACTICE OF PEACE' (WA). This retreat looks at a sustainable practice of peace and nonviolence, within the overall context of the Christ story. The facilitators work intentionally in an experiential way and draw on a wide variety of resources, metaphors and stories. Presenters are Brendan McKeague, Associate Staff Member with the international Pace E Bene Nonviolence Service; George Trippe, who works in private practice offering psychotherapy, counselling, spiritual direction and professional supervision; and Stacie Chappell who lectures and studies at UWA Business School. Cost \$650. 5.00 pm Sunday - 3.00 pm Friday, St Joseph's Retreat, Penola By the Sea, 27 Penguin Rd, Safety Bay. Contact: mckeague@iprimus.com.au; (08) 9275 5966 or georgetrippe@gmail.com; or stacie.chappell@uwa.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anglicansrcwa.org/events/non-violence.pdf>.

19 APRIL. MEMORIAL CEREMONY - APPIN MASSACRE (NSW). This is an annual event to remember the Dharawal people killed in the massacre of 1816. The ceremony involves a short walk. Appropriate footwear, hats and sunscreen recommended. Hosted by the Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group. Supported by the NSW Reconciliation Council, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils, Sydney Catchment Authority and the Aboriginal communities of the Dharawal Lands/Macarthur Region. Sausage sizzle lunch will be provided. 12.00 - 3.30 pm, Cataract Dam picnic area. Contact: (02) 9603 6854, (02) 9605 4540 or (02) 4645 4359.

20 APRIL. EVENING GATHERING: 'THE ECONOMIC CRISIS: UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING IN FAITH' (VIC). Students and Australian Student Christian Movement (ASCM) Friends gather once a month during semester. Each evening includes opening prayers, input and discussion on a key issue, and a shared meal. 6.00 - 8.30 pm, Wesley Uniting Church, old schoolhouse (downstairs in the old building on left of Wesley Church Lonsdale St, Melbourne - near Melbourne Central station). Contact: vicc@ascm.org.au. Web: <http://www.ascm.org.au/vic/news.html>.

20 APRIL. PEACE PRAYER TIME (TAS). 'Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you' [2 Corinthians, 13]. Peace in our

world begins with peace in our hearts. Help create a peaceful world by sharing in a time of prayer that centres us in the God of Peace. The presenter is Anne Kelleher. Cost: donation. 7.00 - 8.30 pm, Emmanuel Spirituality Centre, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah, (the red brick building beyond the church/school car park). Contact: (03) 6228 2391. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

22 APRIL. HARMONY EVENT: 'YOUTH IN HARMONY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION LAUNCH' (NSW). This exhibition showcases artworks by youth from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds participating in the Youth in Harmony Photographic Program. The Program provided a forum for youth to express themselves, promote dialogue on harmony and foster awareness, acceptance and greater inclusion by challenging stereotypes of refugee and asylum seeker youth. 6:30 for 7.00 pm, Pine Street Creative Arts Centre, 64 Pine Street, Chippendale. Contact: (02) 9319 0288 or cssyouth@eccnsw.org.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=68839>.

22 APRIL. NATIONAL FORUM: 'A NEW ERA FOR SOCIAL HOUSING?' (NSW). Catholic Health Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia and St Vincent de Paul Society present this forum for any agencies working in the Health, Aged Care, Community and Welfare sectors. Organisations concerned with housing for people on low incomes, older people, those in insecure housing and the homeless are particularly encouraged to attend. Today's challenges and opportunities are unprecedented. As fall-out from the global financial crisis leaves more people disadvantaged, the Government has made a once-in-a-generation investment in social housing. This forum is an opportunity to hear the latest detail on these developments, network with potential partner organizations, and develop a coordinated response. Cost: \$55. 8.45 am - 4.00 pm, Level 23 Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney. Contact: (02) 6260 5980 or deborahr@cha.org.au, registration closes 17 April 2009. Web: <http://www.cha.org.au>.

24 APRIL. CONCERT: 'DENIS KEVANS ANZAC EVE PEACE CONCERT' (NSW). This event aims to promote Anzac Day as a day of peace. This inaugural concert is in memory of the late Denis Kevans, anti-war 'poet lorikeet' and Timor Leste independence activist, and the millions who have lost their lives in unnecessary wars. All artists are donating their time and talent. All money will go to Leichhardt Council's "Friends of Maliana" projects. Performances by The Fagans, Enda Kenny, Tony Barry, Sonia Bennett etc. Cost: \$25, \$15 concession. 6.00 - 11.00 pm, Leichhardt Town Hall, Norton and Marion Streets, Leichhardt. Contact: (02) 9367 9351 or shanem@lmc.new.gov.au; or (02) 9569 6070 or jefferson.lee@bigpond.com. Web: <http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/>.

24 APRIL. HARMONY EVENT: 'INDONESIAN CULTURAL DAY' (NSW). Bring the whole family to enjoy Indonesian dances, a fashion show and Indonesian puppet performances. 10.30 am - 12:20 pm, Ultimo Community Centre, 40 William Henry Street, Ultimo. Contact: (02) 9246 7878 or mithomas@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn/html/custom/2234-event-details.asp?EventID=69185>.

28 APRIL. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'GOVERNOR ARTHUR'S PROCLAMATION: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE & THE RULE OF LAW' (ACT). Australian National University presents this lecture discussing the legal treatment of Australian Aborigines. Recent legislation, while genuflecting towards the 'rule of law', in fact treats Aboriginal people in ways incompatible with their equality as Australian citizens. The speaker is Professor Desmond Manderson, Canada Research Chair in Law and Discourse, McGill University. No cost. 5.30 - 6.30 pm, Sparke Helmore 1, ANU College of Law, The Australian National University, Fellows Road, Acton. Contact: (02) 6125 3487 or rsvp@law.anu.edu.au (by 21 April). Web: <http://law.anu.edu.au>.

29 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' (ACT). The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at Australian National University (ANU) presents Megan Davis, Director of the

Indigenous Law Centre and Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, speaking on a historical overview of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); explain its most contentious aspects and its legal and political significance for Indigenous Australia. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra; a map of the A.D. Hope Building's location is available from the following web page: <http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/displaybldg.asp?no=14>. Contact: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caep@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caep/events09.php>.

29 APRIL. LECTURE: 'THE MISSION HAS A CHURCH - RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL IN TODAY'S WORLD' (VIC). Theological lecture series sponsored by the Australian Mission Network. The speaker is Fr Stephen Bevans SVD, the Professor of Mission and Culture, Catholic Theological College, Chicago, USA, and currently visiting Professor of Theology at Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne. 7.00 - 9.00 pm, Sacred Heart Church, 322 Bell Street, Preston. Cost: donation. Contact: (02) 9868 2666. Web: <http://catholicreligiousaustralia.com/en/47>.

30 APRIL - 2 MAY. SEMINAR: 'ECOLOGY, COSMOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY' (NSW). The Broken Bay Institute presents this seminar which explores how ecological conversion is central to following Jesus. The presenter, Denis Edwards is a senior lecturer in systematic theology in the School of Theology at Flinders University. He is a founding member of the Advisory Board of Catholic Earthcare Australia. Denis' published works include 'Jesus and the Cosmos', 'Breath of Life: a Theology of the Creator Spirit', 'Made from Stardust: exploring the place of human beings within creation'. Cost \$450. 9.00 am - 4.00 pm, Campbelltown Catholic Club, 20-22 Camden Road, Campbelltown. Contact: (02) 9847 0030 or info@bbi.catholic.edu.au. Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au>.

30 APRIL. LECTURE: 'THE MISSION HAS A CHURCH - RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL IN TODAY'S WORLD' (VIC). Theological lecture series sponsored by the Australian Mission Network. The speaker is Fr Stephen Bevans

SVD, the Professor of Mission and Culture, Catholic Theological College, Chicago, USA, and currently visiting Professor of Theology at Yarra Theological Union, Melbourne. 9.30 am - 12.30 pm, Yarra Theological Union, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill. Cost: donation. Contact: (02) 9868 2666. Web: <http://catholicreligiousaustralia.com/en/47>.

1 MAY. CHOIR PERFORMANCE: 'TWO CULTURES COMMUNICATE THROUGH SONG' (QLD). The visiting Chinese International School Choir from Hong Kong will join with the choirs from All Hallows' School and St Laurence's College for a program that includes commissioned arrangements of Chinese and Australian Folk Songs. No cost. 2.00 - 3.00 pm, Room 23-1, Abel Smith Lecture Theatre, Campbell Road, St Lucia. Contact: (07) 3365 6314 or joanne.hopper@uq.edu.au. Web: <http://www.slccs.uq.edu.au>.

1 - 2 MAY. CONFERENCE: 'WATAC - FUTURING NOW' (NSW). Women and the Australian Church NSW are hosting this conference addressing some of the challenges that are facing us all. Speakers will include Anne Marie Eldick and Ayman Badr, from Young Christian Workers; Susan Flynn, a year 12 student; Bishop Geoffrey Robinson; Larissa Behrendt, Professor of Law, Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous Home of Learning at UTS; Dr Elizabeth Julian BA, M Ed, a Sister of Mercy; and Phil Glendenning, Director of Edmund Rice Centre. Cost: \$150, registration by 15 April. Friday 6.30 pm - 10.30 pm, Saturday 8.30 am - 5.15 pm, Canterbury Park Function Centre, King Street, Canterbury. Contact: (02) 9520 9409 or helen@watac.net. Web: <http://www.watac.net/upcomingevents.php>.

2 - 17 MAY. FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT (NATIONAL). A number of Fairtrade events will be held throughout Australia, visit the website for more details. Web: <http://www.fairtrade.com.au/ftf09>.

3 MAY. WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (NATIONAL). The United Nations General Assembly declared 3 May to be World Press Freedom Day to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty to

respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression enshrined under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Web: http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1530&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

9 MAY. MANLY FAIR TRADE MARKET (NSW). As Manly has recently been accredited as the first Fair Trade community in NSW, second in all of Australia, our markets are a celebration of this amazing achievement promoting Manly's Fair Trade status throughout the community and beyond. A range of Fair Trade vendors are showcased including Alter Eco Pacific, Andino Designs, along with entertainment, kid's activities, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate and much more. The markets are something not to be missed! 9.00 am - 4.00 pm, Manly Wharf Forecourt. Contact: (02) 9976 1658 or volunteering@manly.nsw.gov.au if you are a vendor, performer or volunteer and you would like to participate. Web: <http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Manly-Fair-Trade-Markets.html>.

17 MAY. JUBILEE SUNDAY: DIGGING TO THE ROOTS OF POVERTY (NATIONAL). The first question a gardener asks when a tree looks unhealthy is - what about the roots? Too often

efforts to eradicate poverty focus only on rushing aid to the poor, responding to the visual effects of poverty, but ignoring the deeper underlying problems. If we're serious about eliminating poverty, we must look at its roots. More than one-third of people in our world have to build their lives earning less than US\$2 per day, and wealth is becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few. Growing income disparity is a sign to us that there is something terribly wrong with the way the global financial system is doing business. When poverty becomes so entrenched, we need to dig to find the answers. How can a productive healthy country be built upon a mountain of debt?

See - Learn more about the perpetual cycle of debt trapping millions of poor people today www.jubileeaustralia.org

Judge - Reflect on this situation in the light of scripture and Church social teaching.

Act - Don't wait any longer. Put your faith into action this year. Urge your parish to get involved in Jubilee Sunday. Liturgy Resources are available at www.jubileeaustralia.org (in the near future), or from Anne Lanyon, Columban Mission Institute, (02) 9352 8021 or email annelanyon.cmi@columban.org.au).

News Monitor

Multifaith Earth Hour vigils this weekend

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change organised a series of multi-faith vigils in Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane in support of Earth Hour, while China's Baoding Catholic diocese promoted the event as part of Lenten abstinence.

Multifaith march for Muslim prayer room at RMIT

Socialists, Jews and Christians joined Muslims in a Melbourne city protest march over RMIT student demands for more dedicated Muslim prayer rooms rather than more multifaith facilities.

Men responsible for prostitute abuse: Hickey

Banning brothels in residential areas would be a welcome first step to curbing prostitution but laws need to go further by making it illegal to pay for sex, Perth Archbishop Barry Hickey said.

Vatican UN rep warns against religious intolerance

Holy See permanent observer at the United Nations, Archbishop Silvio Tomasi, expressed concern at the UN Human Rights Commission over increased intolerance against Christians, not only in countries where the religion is a minority, but also a majority.

Napier slams Dalai Lama South Africa visa denial

Durban Cardinal Wilfrid Napier expressed “shock and regret” that the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s exiled spiritual leader and head of its self proclaimed government-in-exile, was denied a visa to attend a peace conference in South Africa.

Washing machine trumps pill for liberation: Vatican

The washing machine had a greater liberating role for women than the contraceptive pill, according to a L’Osservatore Romano commentary on International Women’s Day.

Philippines church condemns anti-mining activist murder

Marbel Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez condemned the killing of an anti-mining environmentalist and human rights advocate working in partnership with his diocese to oppose the development of the giant Tampakan mine.

Caritas slams abortion aid decision

Caritas Australia CEO Jack de Groot endorsed concerns expressed by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd over changes by Foreign Minister Stephen Smith, a Catholic, to the Australian aid program that will allow funding of abortions.

Hickey fears new stolen generation

Perth Archbishop Barry Hickey questioned child welfare policies, saying at risk Aboriginal children are often placed with dysfunctional relatives and warned of a new stolen generation.

100,000 face annihilation: Sri Lankan bishop

Jaffna Bishop Thomas Savundaranayagam warned that more than 100,000 Sri Lankans face “total annihilation” unless an evacuation of Sri Lanka’s north-east war zone begins immediately.

Religious leaders pressure PM on climate change

Over 60 religious leaders including Oceania bishops conference president, Bishop Peter Ingham, wrote to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to express their deep concerns with the Government’s “inadequate” response to climate change.

Hickey’s home a haven but more needed

Perth Archbishop Barry Hickey’s home become a haven for homeless people, many of whom are indigenous, looking for emergency accommodation but much more needs to be done, he believes.

Rwandan ex-priest gets 25 years for genocide role

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda sentenced former Rwandan Catholic priest, Emmanuel Rukundo, to 25 years imprisonment for crimes against humanity relating to the 1994 genocide.

Courtesy CathNews from Church Resources. Click on headlines for details, or to to <http://cathnews.com>



Social Justice Calendar

2 THU

Death of Pope John Paul II, 2005

5 SUN

Passion (Palm) Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week

7 TUE

World Health Day

9 THU

Holy Thursday

10 FRI

Good Friday

120 nations sign treaty banning biological warfare, 1972

Belfast Agreement signed, Northern Ireland, 1998

11 SAT

Holy Saturday

12 SUN

Easter Sunday

In 1990, USA cannery Starkist announced cessation of use of tuna caught in drag nets; number of dolphins killed as a result of tuna fishing has since fallen by 97%

14 TUE

First presidential elections elect Xanana Gusmao as President of East Timor, 2002

Death of Rachel Carson, 1964: author of *Silent Spring* (1962), which alerted the world to the dangers of the use of chemical pesticides

15 WED

Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission Final Report signed, 1991

18 SAT

World Heritage Day

Death of Albert Einstein, 1955

19 SUN

2nd Sunday of Easter

Pope Benedict XVI elected, 2005

22 WED

International Earth Day

23 THU

World Book and Copyright Day

24 FRI

First United Nations Conference opens with 45 nations attending, 1945

25 SAT

ANZAC Day

26 SUN

3rd Sunday of Easter

Bishop Gerardi murdered in Guatemala, 1998

28 TUE

St Peter Chanel, first martyr from Oceania, killed on Futuna in the New Hebrides in 1841

30 THU

International Guide Dogs Day

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