



No. 133 – April 2012

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>

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- From the Secretariat
- Current Issues/Resources
- Latest Publications
- This Month's Notices
- News Monitor
- Social Justice Calendar

FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

It is no secret that strange things happen in politics. One of the stranger things to have happened recently took place late in February.

The Commonwealth Government has been planning new legislation - known as the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill - which would continue the Intervention in the Northern Territory for another ten years. For some months the Senate Committee on Community Affairs has been conducting an inquiry into this proposed legislation. Even though the Senate Committee was still conducting its Inquiry, and had received more than 400 submissions, the legislation went before the House of Representatives, was voted on and was passed on 27 February. The Senate Committee delivered its report a few weeks later on 14 March. The Bill will now be voted on in the Senate.

The Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, Bishop Christopher Saunders, has spoken directly about the lack of consultation and the disempowerment of

Aboriginal people implicit in the legislation. He said, 'At the heart of this travesty is a mentality that believes the opinions of Aboriginal people simply do not matter. Any notion of a right to self determination of their future by Australia's Indigenous people has been overwhelmed by an expediency that promises neither a just outcome nor a fair one.'

'This is a repeat of history that says white people know best', he said. (Refer: http://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2012/201239_1024.shtml)

In the end, the Senate Committee's report did not recommend much change to the Bill or take much account of the strong objections registered in many of the submissions made to the proposed legislation. Indeed, Graeme Mundine, Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Sydney Archdiocese, said: 'It is disappointing that the Committee has comprehensively ignored a wide range of concerns raised by a significant number of submissions and evidence from Northern Territory Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal organisations, human rights groups, welfare groups, churches and others.'

'The overwhelming message from Aboriginal peoples is that they do not want this legislation', Mr Mundine said. (Refer: <http://acmsydney.wordpress.com/2012/03/15/graeme-mundine-committee-report-on-stronger-futures-ignores-concerns>)

The vital issue of self determination, identified by Bishop Saunders, is echoed by almost all those opposed to the Bill. Aboriginal people are not being allowed to take control of their own lives. In particular, representatives of the Church and secular agencies have been deeply troubled by provisions for income management - the restrictions placed on the way social security income can be spent. Among other things, these restrictions mean that people

subject to the requirements can shop only at certain stores that can accept the 'Basics Card'. These restrictions will be extended to apply far more widely than they have up to now.

Apart from disempowering those parents who have shown resource and courage in keeping their families fed and healthy, this system is likely to have other effects. 'It undermines autonomy and self-determination, which are prerequisites for good health and wellbeing', said Vanessa Lee, vice-president of the Public Health Association of Australia, at a hearing of the Senate committee. (Refer: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-03-06/more-opposition-to-stronger-futures-bill/3871408>)

Aboriginal parents may also lose their entitlement to social security income if their children do not attend school regularly (the SEAM provisions). In its submission to the Senate committee, the St Vincent de Paul Society lists a number of other ways in which school attendance by Aboriginal students could be improved. Just a few of them are: involving elders in helping parents to get kids to school and teaching culture and language in schools; football programs, excursions and other incentives to attendance; and specialised training for teachers working in Indigenous communities. (Refer Submission no. 24: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Committees?url=clac_ctte/strong_future_nt_11/submissions.htm)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council has also highlighted productive alternatives. It argues that government policy should be focused on engaging children and providing parents and guardians with a sense of ownership over the educational process rather than punishing non-attendance. Some key suggestions include: more language and culture in schooling; incorporating local elders in teaching programs; excursions and incentives to attendance; and community activities to bring children and parents together.

NATSICC says, 'The Government has a reciprocal obligation to create the conditions

to make this participation possible. Many Church and community sector organisations have raised concerns about the Federal Government's welfare reforms based on the policy of mutual obligation which has often emphasised punitive, sanctions-based requirements.' (Refer Submission no. 366: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Committees?url=clac_ctte/strong_future_nt_11/submissions.htm)

All of these alternatives seem more constructive than a mechanism that punishes both children and parents in some of the most disadvantaged families in Australia.

The legislation has also been denounced by the group 'concerned Australians' in a statement signed by 28 distinguished Australians including former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, Bishop Emeritus Hilton Deakin, Professors Jon Altman and Larissa Behrendt, the Hon. Alastair Nicholson, and representatives of the Sisters of St Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy and the LaSalle Brothers.

Their statement refers to the lack of consultation leading up to the legislation, the 'iniquitous and demeaning nature of income management' and the 'obvious injustice to children in depriving their parents of the means of support for them in order to coerce them to in turn coerce the children to go to school.' It also suggests the legislation could be in breach of both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people. (Refer: <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/media/Stronger-Futures-AN-Statement-and-Supporters-13-3-2012.pdf>)

In all these responses, one theme is constant: Indigenous communities *do* have the capacity to find solutions to their own problems, and the Government is setting itself up to fail if it does not take that fact seriously. In the words of Graeme Mundine: 'Aboriginal peoples have solutions, they have ideas and they know what stronger futures would look like for them ... They do not need legislation that is based on punitive measures and returns us to the days of Protectionism and Assimilation.'

A little more than a year after the Intervention first came into operation in 2007, the then government published an assessment of the initiative. These words from the report are well worth remembering:

‘There is a strong sense of injustice that Aboriginal people and their culture have been seen as exclusively responsible for problems within their communities that have arisen from decades of cumulative neglect by governments in failing to provide the most basic standards of health, housing, education and ancillary services enjoyed by the wider Australian community ...

‘The Intervention diminished its own effectiveness through its failure to engage constructively with the Aboriginal people it was intended to help.’ (Refer: http://www.aterreview.gov.au/docs/report_ater_review/execsumm.htm)

It is tragic that the present government seems set on the same path again.

This strong sense of injustice is perhaps best captured in the words of the Elders and Community of Ramingining, in their submission to the Inquiry:

‘Yol\u culture is like this: when you talk to someone you have to listen to each other,

not taking one side. We respect each other’s dh^wu (message) and we value each other’s sayings and decisions. But we feel that Balanda (Europeans) are not listening. Government doesn’t listen to Yol\u; has no second thought. They hear, they ignore, forget, go back home, write what they think. Our messages are not going into their thinking.

‘The intervention has been here for 5 years and what did it do? We got fences on our houses, but no new houses. Not for Yol\u, only Balanda. No extra jobs. What do those Centrelink and ITEC people do? It costs a huge amount of money to send them here but there are still few jobs.’ (Refer Submission no.29: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Committees?url=clac_ctte/strong_future_nt_11/submissions.htm)

The groups Our Generation and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation are currently running a petition campaign, *Stand For Freedom*, urging Federal Parliament not to pass the Stronger Futures and related legislation and calling for informed and sustained dialogue with Indigenous communities. Further details are provided below.

John Ferguson



Current Issues / Resources

PETITION: ‘STAND FOR FREEDOM’

The Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory are fighting for their freedom. The Stronger Futures legislation proposes to extend key elements of the Northern Territory Emergency Response until 2022. The Intervention has been condemned by the United Nations as racially discriminatory and contrary to international human rights principles. Our Generation and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation are running the campaign ‘Stand for freedom’. You can find out more and sign the petition to request the Government to withdraw

the legislation until 8 May at: <http://www.standforfreedom.org.au>.

NEW BOOK: ‘NT CONSULTATIONS REPORT 2011: BY QUOTATIONS’

The groups ‘concerned Australians’ have released a new report on the consultations that took place in the Northern Territory between June and August 2011, at the request of Government. The stated purpose of Government was to find out what worked and what didn’t work under the Intervention introduced there in 2007. Ten of these

consultations were recorded and quotations from them are contained in this report. This publication is a sequel to the highly regarded books, 'This Is What We Said' (February 2010), and 'Walk with Us' (August 2011). An order form is available at <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/>.

NATSICC ASSEMBLY: 'CULTURALLY ENRICHED THROUGH THE GOSPEL'

The 2012 National Assembly of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council will be held in Melbourne on 1-4 October. The theme of the event is 'Culturally enriched through the Gospel. A strong emphasis has been placed on the incorporation of Catholic faith into the lives of Indigenous people. NATSICC Assemblies occur only once every three years and hold an important place on the Indigenous Catholic Calendar. For further information and to register, visit: http://www.natsicc.org.au/assembly_2012.html

CATHOLIC MEDIA CONFERENCE: 'COMMUNICATING THE WORD'

The Australian Catholic Media Congress 2012 will be held from Monday April 30 to Wednesday May 2 at the Menzies Hotel, Sydney with the theme *Communicating the Word: Timeless messages, new media*. The congress is run by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Australian Catholic Media Council and aims to bring together Catholic media, Christian media, secular media, people working within Church agencies, and anyone with an interest in how we communicate the Gospel message in our society today. To find out more and to register, visit: <http://www.communicatingthewordacmc2012.com>

FAIRTRADE INITIATIVES FOR EASTER

Fairtrade ensures that farmers and workers producing for western markets receive a fair price as well as additional funds to develop their communities and invest in everyday needs like education and healthcare. To find out about Fairtrade chocolate choices available to you this Easter, including 11 different brands, visit: <http://www.fta.org.au/get-involved/campaigns/make-fairtrade-choice-easter>. Also, visit the Fairtrade Coffee Company website to see

the latest Easter offers at: <http://www.fairtradecoffeecompany.com.au>.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S PROJECT COMPASSION 2012

Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Project Compassion 2012 focuses on the marginalised communities in Timor-Leste, the Thai-Burma border, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Peru and Indigenous Australian communities. Please put your compassion into action this Lent by supporting the Project Compassion 2012 appeal: <http://www.caritas.org.au>.

MEDIA STATEMENT: 'AUSTRALIA MUST SUPPORT KONY'S VICTIMS'

The Australian public can have, and is having, a real and lasting impact on victims of Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army, which has terrorised millions of people across four vulnerable African nations. Caritas CEO says, 'Anything that brings attention to the plight of the people who have been harmed by Kony and the LRA is a good thing. But the most important issue right now is that the people of these nations need our support immediately. They need food, they need clean water, they need shelter, they need medical assistance, they need psychological support and they need to be protected from these terrible acts of violence.' Right now Caritas Australia has programs in the Congo where around 30,000 people from 5,000 families are receiving food, clean water, blankets and other basic necessities. In Uganda Caritas is assisting 800 farming households to develop sustainable crops, generate vital incomes and ensure they have access to clean water which dramatically reduces the spread of disease. For further information, visit: <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/newsroom/news-detail?ID=2901c356-719c-401a-bc62-df3c4fbb580f>
<http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/programs/helping-child-soldiers-and-sex-slaves-from-Kony-and-LRA>.

PALMS AUSTRALIA'S ENCOUNTER TIMOR-LESTE

Palms Australia places volunteers to support local people in their development. Palms is

now very pleased to be able to offer a ‘taste’ of this work in a 12-day Encounter in Timor-Leste. Encounter participants witness at very close range the lives of people seeking their own sustainable development and the volunteers who are helping them with it by sharing their skills and abilities. Two Encounters are scheduled for 2012: June 30th and September 22nd. Each trip will include 12 days in Timor, offering insights into eco-tourism, permaculture, development, volunteering and East Timorese culture. For more information on Palms Encounters please contact encounter@palms.org.au, ring (02) 9518 9551 or visit www.palms.org.au.

PETITION: END IMMIGRATION DETENTION OF CHILDREN

Every day around the world, thousands of children fleeing abuse, poverty, human trafficking and war are locked up simply because they do not hold the right documentation. Many of these children are unaccompanied minors. Immigration detention has a devastating effect on the physical, emotional and psychological development of children and must be stopped. **The International Detention Coalition (IDC) is conducting a campaign on this vital matter.** You can support the global campaign to end this damaging practice by signing a petition at <http://endchilddetention.org/>.

A number of organisations are supporting this action. Dr John Falzon, National CEO St Vincent de Paul Society encourages ‘all Australians to sign the global petition against child detention’ (<http://www.vinnies.org.au/files/NAT/MediaReleases/2012/children%20in%20detention%20March.pdf>). Suzette Clark rsc, Catholic Religious Australia Justice Network Coordinator, states: ‘Holding children in detention is unacceptable and clearly in breach of Australia’s responsibilities under the Refugee Convention and the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child’ (<http://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org/index.php/news-a-views/media-releases/2012/400-despite-government-promises-hildren-remain-locked-up>).

HUMAN RIGHTS PHOTO COMPETITION 2012

The 2012 photo competition by the Australian

Human Rights Commission will explore the broad theme of human rights, and they will showcase on their websites a selection of the best photos they receive. There are two categories for entries: under 18, and 18 and over. There will be monthly prizes and overall prizes. Prizes for overall winners are Canon EOS-1100D Digital SLR Camera Single Kits and will be presented at the Human Rights Awards Ceremony in December 2012 in Sydney. View last year’s entries and enter yourself at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/PhotoCompetition2012/index.html>.

NEW PAPER - ‘JUSTICE FOR ALL: GIVING AUSTRALIANS GREATER ACCESS TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM’

The Australia Institute has recently released a research paper that analyses the adequacy of the current legal aid system and makes a number of proposals to address identified shortfalls. Under the present system access to justice is determined as much by someone’s financial position as by their legal needs. If the legal system is to serve everyone rather than a minority of citizens then funding for legal aid must be substantially increased. In the absence of adequate government funding, a complementary funding model could be introduced, based on an income-contingent interest-free loan scheme. Read this paper at <https://www.tai.org.au/index.php?q=node%2F19&pubid=973&act=display>.

ARTICLE - ‘CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND’

In an article in the *The Canberra Times*, Bishop Pat Power has called on Foreign Minister Bob Carr to raise awareness of the plight of Palestinians. ‘The destruction of Palestinian homes, tearing down beautiful olive groves, building a dreadful wall which isolates Palestinians from one another and makes already difficult movement almost impossible, not to mention the barbarism committed against the people of Gaza in recent years are all examples of a major aggressor scorning any effort to find peace based on justice,’ he says. ‘It is my hope that [Senator Carr] will raise the awareness of our federal parliamentarians of the need for greater understanding of the injustices being suffered by the Palestinian people. Dialogue which is so urgently needed

at the political, racial and religious level will never succeed while there is denial of the “facts on the ground”.’ To read the full article, visit:

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/opinion/a-call-for-peace-and-justice-in-the-holy-land-20120326-1vus0.html#ixzz1qMXkanDm>

WEBSITE - AUSTRALIAN PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK

Organisations and individuals from around Australia have formed a broad-based national coalition to advocate for the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and an end to Israel’s military occupation and blockade of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Among the aims of APAN are: to advocate for peace and justice in Palestine/Israel based on UN resolutions and international and humanitarian law; to advocate for an end to Israeli military control and occupation of the Occupied Palestinian

Territory of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza; and to advocate for the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people in a viable and democratic Palestinian state. To find out more about this network and its current initiatives, visit: <http://apan.org.au/>

WEBSITE - SOCIAL SPIRITUALITY

The Social Spirituality website has been developed by Sandie Cornish. It aims to promote spirituality and social ethics, contemplation and action, at the service of a faith that does justice. The expression social spirituality draws attention to a spirituality that sustains and guides action for social transformation rather than focusing narrowly on the self and interpersonal relationships. The website will focus in a special way on the unique encounter with God in the Asia Pacific context. To find out more, visit: <http://social-spirituality.net>.

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 - ‘TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES, WALK ON THE GROUND’

The ACSJC has published a collection of three essays under the title *Take Off Your Shoes, Walk on the Ground: The journey towards reconciliation in Australia* (Catholic Social Justice series paper No. 71). The authors are: Professor Lyn Henderson-Yates of the University of Notre Dame Australia; Fr Brian McCoy SJ, Senior Research Fellow in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health at La Trobe University; and Melissa Brickell, member of several Catholic and ecumenical commissions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Director of Reconciliation Victoria and Chair of the Stolen Generations Victoria Alliance. (\$6.60 a copy plus postage - postage rates listed below)

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2012

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *Educating Young People in Justice and 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/>

SERIES PAPER - ‘READING THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES’

The ACSJC Secretariat has released Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.70, ‘Reading the Signs of the Times: A basic introduction to Catholic social teaching’. This paper provides brief analyses of a number of papal encyclicals on social justice, the context in which the encyclicals were promulgated, some of the key themes of each, and a method for applying the permanent principles of social doctrine to the challenges of today. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

ORDER NOW! - 2012 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2012 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. 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. A great Christmas gift. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2011-2012 - STILL TAKING ORDERS

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2011 - 2012 Social Justice Statement is entitled 'Building Bridges, Not Walls: Prisons and the justice system'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps to Building Bridges, Not Walls.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Community and Student Resources, PowerPoint Presentation - now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Ecumenical resource: 'I Was in Prison and You Visited Me'. Download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/>

SERIES PAPER - 'THE LOVE THAT SURPRISES'

In Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.69, entitled 'The Love that Surprises: Lessons from Timor-Leste', Mark Green describes his experiences working for Caritas Australia in Timor-Leste. His work in remote communities prompted him to think deeply about the concrete reality of Catholic social teaching and our relationships with marginalised communities close to our shores. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1.20; 2 copies \$1.80; 3-5 copies \$3.00)

This Month's Notices

NATIONAL

31 MARCH. EARTH HOUR. Hundreds of millions of people across the globe will switch off the lights of homes and businesses for one hour - Earth Hour, the world's largest public environmental action - acknowledging a commitment to go beyond the hour with actions that benefit the planet in the year ahead. 8.30 pm, your place. Web: <http://www.earthhour.org/>.

QUEENSLAND

UNTIL 26 MAY. EXHIBITION: 'FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW: FIGHTING FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS 1920-1970'. This exhibition tells the largely unknown story of Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists

who fought together for justice and equal rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from 1920 to 1970. It details the achievements and sacrifices of the struggle through personal stories, rarely seen objects and protest material. No cost. 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, Level 4, Queensland Museum, corner Grey and Melbourne Streets, South Bank, Brisbane. Contact: 07 3840 7555. Web: http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/from_little_things_big_things_grow/home

31 MARCH. ANTaR QLD AGM AND LEARNING MORE EVENING WITH UNCLE BOB ANDERSON.

The ANTaR Qld is holding its AGM which includes a very special evening with Uncle Bob Anderson. Last year, Uncle Bob, Quandamooka Elder, began a conversation with the audience about traditional ownership from a personal,

political and cultural perspective, and he will continue this conversation. 6.00 to 9.00 pm, Kurilpa Hall, 174 Boundary Road, West End. Contact: office@antarqld.org.au, RSVP for catering purposes. Web: <http://antarqld.org.au/node/160>.

3 APRIL. FESTIVAL: 'BOOIN GARI - COME THIS WAY'. Indigenous culture and heritage is the focus of the Booin Gari festival. The event will feature a range of guest presentations from local community, artists and performers, including cultural and art workshops, bush tucker tastings, traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander games, dance and didgeridoo workshops. No cost. 10.00 am to 2.00 pm, United Synergies, 12-14 Ernest Street, Tewantin. Contact: 07 5442 4277. Web: http://www.unitedsynergies.com.au/images/stories/USyn_Booin_Gari_Flyer_2012_for_web.pdf.

4 APRIL. ETHNIC COMMUNITIES COUNCIL OF QUEENSLAND (ECCQ) COURSE: 'COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY ACROSS CULTURE'. This workshop provides participants with understanding and skills to communicate more effectively with people from diverse backgrounds. Participants will gain insights into the complexity of the communication process, and that meaningful engagement with others is more than the words we speak. Cost: \$75. ECCQ House, 253 Boundary Street, West End. Contact: 07 3844 9166 or training@eccq.com.au. Web: <http://www.picc.org.au/default.asp?contentID=708>.

5 APRIL. UQ PHD CONFIRMATION SEMINAR: 'THE ROLE OF VICTIMS IN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - GERMANY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA - A COMPARISON'. In 1985 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the United Nations Declaration on basic principles of justice for victims of crime and abuse of power setting out standards for the treatment of victims in the criminal justice system. Speaker: Ms Kerstin Braun, PhD Candidate, TC Beirne School of Law. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Room W341, Forgan Smith Building, St Lucia Campus, University of Queensland. Contact: events@law.uq.edu.au. Web: <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/law-research-seminar-series>.

14 APRIL. FILM DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: 'FANTOME ISLAND'. In 1945, at the age of seven Joe Eggmolesse was diagnosed with leprosy. He was taken from his family under police escort, transported by rail and sea over a thousand kilometres to Fantome Island where he was to be incarcerated for the next ten years. Joe's poignant journey offers a profound and personal insight into one of Australia's hidden histories. Cost: \$10. 4.00 pm, Nambour Civic Theatre, Centenary Square, Currie Street. Contact: 0410 414 123. Web: <http://www.thej.com.au/nambour-arthouse-cinema>.

19 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'PILLS, POWDER, PLONK - HOW TO REDUCE ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG RELATED HARM IN OUR COMMUNITY'. Speakers: Dr Mark Daghish, Director, Addiction Psychiatry, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital; Paul Dillon, author, founder, Drug and Alcohol Research Training Australia; Chris Raine, Founder of 'Hello Sunday Morning', Young Queenslander of the Year 2011; etc. Cost: \$95, concession \$50. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm, Surfair, 923 David Low Way, Marcoola Beach. Contact: 07 5443 2100 or info@focushealth.com.au. Web: <http://www.focushealth.com.au/>.

NEW SOUTH WALES

UNTIL 14 APRIL. INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S EXHIBITION: 'THE BRIGHT THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL'. An exhibition curated as a vibrant and colourful celebration of Australian Indigenous Women. Exhibition hours: 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Tuesday to Saturday, Coe-ee Aboriginal Art Gallery, 31 Lamrock Avenue, Bondi Beach. Contact: 02 9300 9233 or info@coeeart.com.au. Web: http://www.coeeart.com.au/aboriginal_exhibition/109.

30 MARCH. WORLDCHANGERS FAIR TRADE AND ETHICAL MARKET. More than 30 fair trade and ethical traders under one roof. Live music, international food hub, fair trade cafe, children's activities, fair trade tasting kitchen and much more. Cost: free entry. 5.30 to 9.00 pm, Wollongong Church of Christ, 25 O'Briens Road, Figtree. Contact: anne@wgongcoc.org or 0411 801 553. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/745>.

30 MARCH. COMMUNITY FORUM - ABORIGINAL RECOGNITION IN AUSTRALIA'S CONSTITUTION: 'ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR'. The government has received the recommendations of an expert panel on amendments to the Australian Constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Speakers: Mick Gooda, Aboriginal Social Justice Commissioner; Philip Ruddock MP; and a number of Aboriginal people, young people and community leaders. No cost. 4.00 pm, PCYC Performing Arts Centre, Edgeworth David Avenue and Waitara Avenue, Hornsby. Web: <http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/events-1/advance-australia-fair>.

30 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'WEST PAPUA - INDONESIAN VIOLENCE, AUSTRALIAN INDIFFERENCE, WEST PAPUA HOPES'. Speakers: Dr Peter King, Government and International Relations, Sydney University; and Dr Cammi Webb-Gannon, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Sydney University. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, The Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: odl_bradley@pacific.net.au or 02 9692 0005. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

31 MARCH. LIGHTHOUSE. PRAISE AND WORSHIP, EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, FELLOWSHIP AND DINNER. Our guest speaker is talking about The Bread of Life and how sacred every life is. Speaker: Jessica Langrell, Chaplaincy Coordinator, Notre Dame University, Coordinator, Theology on Tap. With a heart for ministry, church and the sanctity of every human life, this is a night not to be missed. This is a beautiful way to come together in fellowship and faith formation, and pray together. 7.00 pm, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 50 Kiora Road, Miranda. Contact: 02 9525 1448 or miranda_pyc@live.com. Web: <http://www.hope1032.com.au/Noticeboard.asp?cid=58&navid=3>.

1 APRIL. NSW RECONCILIATION COUNCIL FILM SCREENING: 'THE TALL MAN'. "The Tall Man explores many themes - the uneasy relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, the legacy of our cruel history, the poverty and problems that beset many remote Aboriginal communities, the unequal application of justice - but at its

heart is a compelling human story in which hasty passion and terrible chance propelled one man to defend his character and his profession and the other to a painful, untimely death." - Jennifer Moran (SMH). No cost, donations gratefully accepted. 7.00 pm, Tranby Aboriginal College, 11-13 Mansfield Street, Glebe. Contact: 02 9562 6355 or info@nswreconciliation.org.au. Register: <http://www.nswreconciliation.org.au/events-1/the-tall-man>.

1 APRIL. WALK FOR FREEDOM. A walk to raise awareness about human trafficking. Sponsorship is encouraged and all proceeds go to the A21 Campaign (working to end human trafficking <http://www.thea21campaign.org/>). Cost: \$10. 2.00 pm, Speers Point to Warners Bay return (10km). Walker can turn around at any point to shorten the walk. Contact: hunterwalk4freedom@gmail.com. Web: http://hunterwalk4freedom.org/file/Walk_4_Freedom.html.

1 APRIL. ECUMENICAL WAY OF THE CROSS. The Way of the Cross is led by Bishop Bill Wright and looks forward to the celebration of Easter. 3.00 pm, Conference Centre Grounds, St Joseph's Church and School, 140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay. Contact: 02 4979 1111. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/2012/Way%20of%20the%20Cross%20flyer%20-%20Feb%202012.pdf>.

2 APRIL. THEOLOGY ON TAP: 'LIVING ON THE EDGE - A RADICAL CALL TO HOPE'. The talk will focus on the inspiring stories of missionaries working in the most difficult circumstances imaginable and the personal call each one of us have to responding to the Gospel in relevant, meaningful and even heroic ways. Speaker: Fr Bernard Makadani Zulu, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Zambia. 6.30 pm, Commercial Hotel, 2 Hassall Street, Parramatta. Web: <http://www.sydneycatholic.org/youth2/index.asp?id=5§ionid=0>.

2 APRIL. SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS PROGRAM: 'SIR LAWRENCE FREEDMAN - THE NEXT STAGE OF THE NUCLEAR AGE: BETTER, WORSE OR MORE OF THE SAME?' Most of the systems

and concepts associated with nuclear strategy and arms control were developed during the first two decades of the nuclear age. In many ways they can be considered a success. No nuclear weapons have been used in anger since 1945. Yet if disaster is to be avoided this success must be sustained in a changing and unstable international system. Speaker: Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies, King's College London. Cost: \$25. 5.30 to 8.00 pm, Sydney Law School, New Law Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0238 or law.events@sydney.edu.au. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/news/distinguished_speakers2012.shtml.

2 APRIL. SDC SEMINAR: 'RE-BUILDING CIVIL SOCIETY IN CONFLICT AFFECTED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES'. Speaker: Major-General Michael (Mike) Smith, former CEO, ActionAid Australia, founding Executive Director, Australian Government's Civil-Military Centre. Mike will draw on his personal experiences in Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, East Timor, and the Palestinian Territories and will discuss how the 3D integrated approach (Defence, Diplomacy and Development) can pick up the pieces and re-build civil society in these harshly affected developing countries. Cost: \$5. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, UTS Broadway campus, 235 Jones Street, Building 10, level 5, Conference Room. Contact: 0417 272 101 or lucy@claypartners.com. Web: <http://sdc.groupsie.com/calendar/event/2012/4/2/324968>.

5 - 8 APRIL. AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL.

This festival will be showcasing a series of African features, documentaries, shorts and animation.

5 April: 6.30 pm, Opening Night Party, 7.00 pm, *Restless City*.

6 April: 7.00 pm, *Democracy in Dakar*.

7 April: 4.00 pm, special African shorts screening.

8 April: Closing night, 7.00 pm, *Kinshasa Symphony*.

Cost each session: \$15. Dendy's Opera Quays, 2 Circular Quay, East Sydney. Contact: info@africanfilmfestival.com.au. Web: <http://africanfilmfestival.com.au/schedule/sydney/>.

9 APRIL. REFUGEE ACTION RALLY VILLAWOOD: 'FREE THE REFUGEES'. Over

4500 asylum seekers remain imprisoned in detention, including over 500 children. Chris Bowen's announcement that 100 detainees a month will be released on bridging visas will not see the detention system dismantled. Since then, just 257 asylum seekers have received them, while a further 1078 have arrived by boat. There are now detention facilities in every Australian state and territory other than the ACT. 1.00 pm, meet at Chester Hill train station. Contact: 0413 003 148, 0438 718 348 or refugeeactionsyd@gmail.com. Web: <http://refugeeaction.org.au/>.

11 APRIL. STOP THE WAR COALITION: Q&A WITH MALALAI JOYA. After 11 years of war, and the US-NATO forces looking for an exit, what can Afghans expect from the talks with the Taliban? What should Australians be pushing our government to do? How can we help ordinary Afghans reconstruct their country? Speaker: Malalai Joya, Afghan human rights activist and outspoken former MP. Chair: Kellie Tranter. Cost: \$8, concession \$5. 6.30 to 9.00 pm, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: 0412 139 968 or 0401 758 871. Web: <http://stopwarcoalition.org/events/qa-with-malalai-joya/>.

18 APRIL. SUTHERLAND SHIRE SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'WHAT IF MEDIA REPORTED IN DEPTH IN A FACTUAL, BALANCED WAY?' Speakers: Julie McCrossin and Fr Tony Doherty. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, Sutherland United Services Club, East Parade, Sutherland. Contact: 02 9520 0617 or 02 9548 2475. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=129:sutherland-shire&catid=8:nsw-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

18 APRIL. INTERNATIONAL TEAMS AUSTRALIA FORUM: END SLAVERY. This forum is an information fair where you can learn more about the various aspects of human trafficking and slavery in Australia and globally. The night includes a panel discussion with people who are involved on the front lines of fighting trafficking in their areas, and some interactive prayer stations where you can pray, reflect, and respond. No cost, donations welcome. 7.30 pm, Baulkham Hills Baptist Church, 39 Sarah Crescent, Baulkham Hills. Contact: 02

9890 2244 or endslaveryau@iteams.org. Web: <http://www.iteams.org.au/who-we-are/what-we-do/end-slavery-team/>.

21 APRIL. PUBLIC FORUM: 'POLITICIANS, PROMISES AND PRISONS'. This forum looks at the progress made over the last year on prison reforms. This is a chance to question the politicians about these important policy issues. Organised by the Community Justice Coalition (CJC) and the International Commission of Jurists, Australia. Speaker: Hon Greg Smith SC MP, Attorney General, Minister for Justice, Liberal Party; Hon David Shoebridge MP, Justice Spokesperson, Greens Party; and Hon Paul Lynch MP, Shadow Attorney General, ALP. Donation at the door: \$10, plus what you can afford. Students free. 9.15 am to 12.00 noon, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Theatre, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Contact: info@communityjusticecoalition.org, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.communityjusticecoalition.org>.

24 APRIL. UNSW SEMINAR: 'HOUSING FIRST IN EUROPE'. The US-based 'Housing First' model for tackling homelessness, which prioritises rapid access to mainstream housing with tailored support, is spreading rapidly across Europe. Speaker: Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. Jointly hosted by Mercy Foundation and City Futures Research Centre. 2.30 to 4.30 pm, Mercy Foundation, The Poche Centre Auditorium, Level 1, 40 Rocklands Road, Wollstonecraft. Contact: m.schwensen@unsw.edu.au, RSVP by 10 April. Web: http://www.be.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/upload/research/centres/cf/seminarsandconferences/cfseminars/Suzanne_Fitzpatrick_24_April_2012.jpg.

24 APRIL. ANZAC WEEK PEACE CONCERT. DENIS KEVANS MEMORIAL. A fundraiser for Agent Orange victims in Vietnam. Presenting: Sonia Bennett; Dennis Aubrey; Trude Aspeling and friends; Dennis Rice; etc. Cost: \$25, concession \$15. 6.00 to 10.30 pm, Gaelic Club, 164 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9569 6070 or info@agentorangejustice.org.au, tickets are limited. Web: <http://www.agentorangejustice.org.au>.

24 APRIL. PIAC TRAINING: 'EFFECTIVE

ADVOCACY SKILLS AND STRATEGIES'. Learn how to be more effective in your advocacy work in this practical course designed for community workers, advocates and campaigners. The interactive workshop format uses small group problem solving, role-play, and case studies. Presenter: Kylie Coventry. Cost: \$240, concession \$120. 10.00 am to 5.30 pm, Sydney CBD. Contact: 02 8898 6503. Register: <http://www.piac.asn.au/training>.

30 APRIL - 2 MAY. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MEDIA CONGRESS: 'COMMUNICATING THE WORD: TIMELESS MESSAGES, NEW MEDIA'. The congress is run by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through the Australian Catholic Media Council and aims to bring together Catholic media, Christian media, secular media, people working within Church agencies, and anyone with an interest in how we communicate the Gospel message in our society today. Speaker: Monsignor Paul Tighe, Pontifical Council for Social Communications; Khoa Do, former Young Australian of the Year and filmmaker; Melinda Tankard Reist, social commentator; etc. Cost: \$655. Menzies Hotel, Sydney. Contact: 02 9923 8729. Web: <http://www.communicatingthewordacmc2012.com/index.php?page=Home>.

1 MAY. CENTRAL COAST SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB: 'BECOMING WHOLE, SEEKING MEANING'. Speakers: Terry Lovat, Professor Emeritus, University of Newcastle. Terry's particular interest is in the ways in which Islam has influenced Western development and in establishing and maintaining positive understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim populations. Peter Hester recently retired following 48 years in NSW primary and secondary education with the Christian Brothers. 7.30 to 9.00 pm, The Grange Hotel, corner Renwick Street and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Contact: 02 4325 3627 or 02 4369 1586. Web: http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=122:central-coast&catid=8:nsw-sip-venues&Itemid=94.

1 MAY - 9 JULY. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'MANUWANGKU, UNDER THE NUCLEAR CLOUD'. An exhibition by renowned photographer Jagath Dheeraseskara which

aims to break down the preconception that area proposed for a nuclear dump is in the middle of nowhere and thus suitable for such a purpose. An Amnesty International Human Rights Innovation Fund Grant project. No cost. Level 2, Customs House, Circular Quay. Contact: 08 9226 2799 or mail@form.net.au. Web: <http://jd.photoshelter.com/page1>.

4 - 6 MAY. SISTERHOOD NATIONAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. Sisterhood is a national Catholic women's movement for women of all ages. The Sisterhood conference seeks to equip and inspire us to live as Catholic women in the 21st century. The annual conference aims to empower women to return to their own parish, community and work-place to make a difference. Speakers: Andrew Mullins, headmaster, author; Sr Mary Rachel OP, Master of Science in Educational Leadership, Vocation Director; Francine Pirola, Director, Marriage Formation, PMRC; etc. Cost: \$195. Collaroy Centre, Homestead Avenue, Collaroy Beach. Contact: info@sisterhood.org.au or 0418 681 437. Register: <http://sisterhood.org.au/>.

5 MAY. SERENDIPITY FAIR TRADE AND ETHICAL COMMUNITY MARKET. Just in time for Mother's Day gift shopping we have an eclectic selection of fair trade goods including fairly traded tea, coffee, coconut and chocolate, craft, skincare, sports equipment and jewellery. Serendipity Fair Trade Shop respects the peace and security of Producers' Communities. No cost for entry. 8.30 am to 3.30 pm, St Stephen's Church Centre, 16 Lockwood Avenue, Belrose. Contact: margiebel@gmail.com or 0402 267 857. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/756>.

6 MAY. PALMS AUSTRALIA INFORMATION SESSION. Palms Australia, a Catholic organisation which has been sending volunteers to developing countries for over 50 years, is holding an information session for next year's placements. People with time to give and skills in education, health, administration, agriculture/farming, trades or other skilled areas are needed. 3.30 pm, The Healing Ministry, Golden Grove, 5 Forbes Street, Newtown. Contact: 02 9518 9551 or sarah@palms.org.au. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/about/events/>.

12 MAY. MANLY COUNCIL FAIR TRADE MARKET. This market has over 35 stalls, free all day entertainment, Kids Tent with free face painting and Mother's Day craft activities. 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Manly Council Forecourt, 1 Belgrave Street, Manly. Contact: carol.layton@manly.nsw.gov.au or 02 9976 1658. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/744>.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2 APRIL. ST JUDE'S SCHOOL TANZANIA FUNDRAISER: WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT. St Jude's now has 1500 students and relies almost entirely on donations from Australia. Cost: \$20 suggested donation, more welcome. 4.30 pm, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference secretariat, 63 Currong Street, Braddon. Contact: 0407 081 256 or media@catholic.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://ecard.schoolofstjude.co.tz/announcements/canberra-wine-and-cheese-night-for-st-jude-school>.

11 APRIL. PALMS AUSTRALIA INFORMATION SESSION. Palms Australia, a Catholic organisation which has been sending volunteers to developing countries for over 50 years, is holding an information session for next year's placements. People with time to give and skills in education, health, administration, agriculture/farming, trades or other skilled areas are needed. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, meeting room nine, Canberra. Contact: 02 9518 9551 or sarah@palms.org.au. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/about/events/>.

11 APRIL. ST THOMAS MORE FORUM: 'DIALOGUE WITH A SECULAR CULTURE'. Bishop of Townsville, Bishop Michael Putney, President of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Cost: \$12, concession \$5. St Thomas More Church, 30 White Crescent, Campbell. Contact: 02 6163 4300. Register: <http://www.stthomasmore.org.au/Forum/upcoming-forums.html>.

19 APRIL: CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY (CES) PUBLIC FORUM: 'WHERE LIES HAPPINESS? RECOVERING COMMUNITY'. The topic is: 'Freedom to lead a life we have reason to value; the social causes of health

and well-being.’ Speaker: Sharon Friel, Professor of Health Equity and ARC Future fellow at ANU College of Medicine, Biology and Environment. Cost: donation of \$5 is invited to cover the cost of room hire. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton (corner of Kings Ave). Contact: 02 6291 4537. Web: <http://www.ces.org.au>.

20 APRIL. AUSTRALIA PALESTINE ADVOCACY NETWORK (APAN) AND AUSTRALIANS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN PALESTINE (AJPP) DINNER TALK: ‘OCCUPIED PALESTINE: FACTS ON THE GROUND’. Speaker: Dr Peter Slezak, Associate Professor in History and Philosophy, University of NSW, is a member of the APAN Executive and a co-founder of Independent Australian Jewish Voices, which offers an alternative Australian Jewish “voice” on the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Dr Slezak recently returned from an extensive visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories organised by APHEDA, the international aid arm of the ACTU. Cost: \$40, concession \$30. 7.00 pm, The Rugby Union Club, 51 Blackall Street, Barton. Contact: 0423 610 849, 0406 376 878 or kevingwenyth@grapevine.com.au, RSVP by 13 April. Web: <http://www.australiansforpalestine.net/60541>.

30 APRIL - 1 MAY. NATIONAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY CONFERENCE: ‘ADVOCATING FOR INCLUSION’. Advocacy strategies for achieving community living, full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities. Speakers: Senator Jan McLucas, Senator for Queensland, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers; Senator Mitch Fifield, Senator for Victoria, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities, Carers and the Voluntary Sector; Senator Rachel Siewert, Senator for Western Australia, Australian Greens; etc. Cost: \$400-600. Canberra Rex Hotel, 150 Northbourne Avenue, Braddon. Contact: 02 6154 1983 or info@dana.org.au, RSVP by 20 April. Web: <http://dana.org.au/presentations/>.

VICTORIA

UNTIL 15 APRIL. HEARTLANDS REFUGEE FINE ART PRIZE 2011’S WINNER’S SOLO

EXHIBITION. Artist Ma Late, winner of the 2011 Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize, will bring her first solo exhibition to Point Nepean National Park. Originally from Burma, Ma Late spent twenty years in a refugee camp in Thailand before arriving in Australia. No cost. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Point Nepean Information Centre, Point Nepean National Park. Contact: info@parks.vic.gov.au or 131 963. Web: http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au/events2012/heartlands_winners.shtml.

31 MARCH. BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT FUNDRAISER: ‘PEACE MATTERS: A JOURNEY OF LIFE, LOVE AND LOSS’. Internationally esteemed singer John Lander presents an evening of sublime music and words to describe richly textured episodes from his life in the Australian Diplomatic Service. He will be accompanied by respected local pianist Matthew Field. Cost: \$60. 6.00 to 7.00 pm, St Joseph’s Church, corner Rouse and Stokes Streets, Port Melbourne. Contact: 03 9690 5430 or registration@thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org. Web: <http://www.thecarmelitecentremelbourne.org>.

8 APRIL. MAGWI DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AUSTRALIA MADAA: VICTORIA LAUNCH. MADAA seeks to enable Sudanese Refugee, family and friends of refugees, community members as well as former refugees and migrants from similar backgrounds to settle in Australia with independence and dignity, and to develop and achieve their aspirations and opportunities in life. MADAA is expanding to other states and Victoria is next place to launch in. This launch will include live music band, live cultural entertainment, free food, opportunities to meet people and network. No cost. 3.00 pm, Paddy O’Donohue Centre, 18-32 Buckley Street, Noble Park. Contact: 0413 084 431 or info@madaa.org.au, RSVP by 18 March. Web: <http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/events/2012/02/madaa-victoria-launch>.

9 APRIL. MELBOURNE SOLIDARITY PROTEST: BROADMEADOWS DETENTION CENTRE. As well as the unrealised promise to release all children by June last year, Broadmeadows Detention Centre was supposed to be converted to a low-security hostel facility for

families but instead has reached new levels of despair. Refugees have been on hunger strike, have sewn their lips, attempted suicide and many refugees recognised as such have not been given visas due to the long and unjustifiable wait for ASIO security checks. 2.00 pm, Hungry Jacks car park, corner Hume Highway and Camp Road, marching to Broadmeadows Detention Centre. Contact: 0404 728 104 or refugeeactioncollectivevic@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.rac-vic.org>.

11 - 15 APRIL. AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL. Screening at the iconic Red Bennies, this festival will be showcasing a series of African features, documentaries, shorts and animation.

11 April: 7.00 pm, *Restless City*.

12 April: 7.00 pm, *Democracy in Dakar*.

13 April: 7.00 pm, *Liberia 77*.

14 April: 12.00 pm, special African shorts screening.

15 April: Closing night, 5.00 pm, *Kinshasa Symphony*, Afrobotics and music session by Blair Stafford.

Cost each session: \$15. Red Bennies, 373 Chapel Street, South Yarra. Contact: info@africanfilmfestival.com.au. Web: <http://africanfilmfestival.com.au/schedule/melbourne/>.

14 APRIL. ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE (ASRC) FUNDRAISER: BELLA UNION BENEFIT CONCERT 'SOMEBODY TO LOVE - A TRIBUTE TO THE SONGS OF QUEEN'. Bella Union are hoping to raise \$7,000 for the ASRC from what will be a fantastic night. Cost: \$38-48. 11.30 pm, Trades Hall, corner of Victoria and Lygon Streets, Carlton South (enter off Lygon Street). Contact: 03 9650 5699. Web: http://www.bellaunion.com.au/program_guide/show_569/.

15 APRIL. ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE CENTRE FUNDRAISER CONCERT: 'THESE MACHINES CUT RAZOR WIRE'. The concert includes line-up of pro-refugee artists and bands including Jeff Lang, The Stetson Family, Bell St Delays, Fraser A Gorman, Uncle Bill, etc. Cost: \$20, children under 12 free. 4.00 pm, The Thornbury Theatre, 859 High Street, Thornbury. Web: <http://thesemachinescutrazorwire.org/>.

17 APRIL. THE LIN ONUS CONVERSATIONS: 'INDIGENOUS RESEARCH - BY US OR ABOUT US. WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?' Presented by The Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts. The Conversations are designed to foster collaboration and creative engagement between Indigenous and migrant peoples. Speakers: Professor Marcia Langton, Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies in the School of Population Health; Professor Barry Conyngham, Dean of the Faculty of VCA and MCM; and moderator Deborah Cheetham, Head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Artistic Director of Short Black Opera Company. No cost. 6.15 to 8.00 pm, Federation Hall, Victorian College of the Arts, Grant Street, Southbank. Contact: 03 9035 9397. Web: <http://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/2129-the-lin-onus-conversations-indigenous-research-by-us-or>

18 APRIL. CONTEMPORARY CULTURES AND SOCIETIES SEMINAR SERIES: 'FORCED TRANSNATIONALISM: FAMILY SEPARATION AND THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANTS'. Children often have no choice in decisions that lead to separation from their families in the context of migration. This seminar draws together a disparate literature on children and migration to compare several forms of separation that result in children's 'forced transnationalism'. Speaker: Associate Professor Helen Lee, La Trobe University. 5.15 to 7.00 pm, Faculty Function Room, Level 5, John Medley Building, Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne. Contact: 03 8344 6564 or eveades@uimelb.edu.au. Web: http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/s/1182/index.aspx?sid=1182&gid=1&pgid=1931&content_id=1329.

19 - 20 APRIL. HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH CONFERENCE. The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) and RMIT University are co-hosting this conference. The event will be an ideal setting for all participants to further their understanding, exchange ideas and develop professional networks. Speakers: Dr Volker Busch-Geertsema, Chair, European Observatory on Homelessness (Germany); and Dr Dennis Culhane, Professor of Social Policy, University of Pennsylvania (USA). Cost: \$545.45. Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Contact: 03 9660 2300 or kristina.conley@ahuri.edu.au. Web: <http://www.cvent.com/events/homelessness-research-conference/event-summary-1e0bf5850d614e6887b05bc21f13bee7.aspx>.

23 APRIL. MAKE POVERTY HISTORY PHOTO EXHIBITION: 'THE ROAD TO 2015'. The world promised in 2000 to halve poverty by 2015, and with only three years left there is still a lot of work to do. Through a collection of compelling pictures and stories from Make Poverty History partners, learn how Australian aid organisations and people in the community are working with overseas neighbours to improve the quality of life for those living in poverty. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, St John's Toorak, 80-86 Clendon Road, Toorak. Contact: admin@makepovertyhistory.com.au. Web: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au/events/75/make-poverty-history-the-road-to-2015-photo-exhibition/>.

24 APRIL. SYMPOSIUM: 'RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD'. This informative and thought-provoking event will bring together some of Australia's leading child rights advocates, academics and organisations. Speakers: The Hon Alastair Nicholson AO RFD QC, Chair of Children's Rights International; Associate Professor John Tobin, University of Melbourne; Associate Professor Paula Gerber, Monash University; etc. Cost: \$75, concession \$35. 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Monash University Law Chambers, 555 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9905 3327. Web: <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/events/2012/symposium-child-rights.html>.

26, 28 APRIL. PALMS AUSTRALIA INFORMATION SESSION. Palms Australia, a Catholic organisation which has been sending volunteers to developing countries for over 50 years, is holding an information session for next year's placements. People with time to give and skills in education, health, administration, agriculture/farming, trades or other skilled areas are needed.

26 April: 5.30 pm, 3rd Floor, Jenny Florence Room, Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

28 April: 10.00 am, St Alipius Parish Hall, 84 Victoria Street, East Ballarat.

Contact: 02 9518 9551 or sarah@palms.org.au. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/about/events/>.

11 - 18 MAY. VICTORIAN FAIR TRADE FESTIVAL: 'EVERY CHOICE MATTERS'. Moral Fairground is holding this festival with exciting events including a corporate morning break, markets, art exhibition, talks and forums, and fun for the kids. No cost. 11.00 am, Federation Square, City Square and NAB Forecourt, Harbour Esplanade, Docklands. Contact: susanna@moralfairground.com.au or 0409943254.

11 May: Fair Trade Markets, 11.00 am to 9.00 pm, Atrium Federation Square.

11 May: Lets Talk - a series of talks and forums that aim to stimulate discussion and dialogue. 10.00 am to 8.00 pm, BMW Edge Federation Square.

11 May: Fairly Arty Exhibition - aims at engaging local university and various disciplines to express 'fair trade' via creative mediums. 11.00 am to 9.00 pm, Urban Garden Amphitheatre, Federation Square.

13 May: Fair Trade Play event will provide an engaging and interactive experience for children in order to learn about fair trade practices and communities. Mums come along to enjoy a fair trade cup of coffee while the kids are out to play. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, City Square.

18 May: The Big Fair Trade Morning Break. 7.00 to 11.00 am, Docklands, NAB Forecourt. Web: <http://moralfairground.com.au/vichighlights.html>.

TASMANIA

UNTIL 27 APRIL. EXHIBITION: CITY PROJECT. The City Project shares the ideas and opinions of Aboriginal children and young people and the place and world they live in. Meenah mienne is auspiced by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Child Care Association. This project is supported by the Launceston City Council and the Tasmanian Community Fund. Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania, Inveresk campus. Contact: Malcom.Bywaters@utas.edu.au. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2012/march/city-project>.

18 APRIL. UTAS PUBLIC LECTURE: 'PEACE BUILDING AND POVERTY REDUCTION: WHAT CAN EDUCATION ACHIEVE?' Speaker: Professor Rupert Maclean AO. The presentation will focus on the work of the United Nations and in particular UNESCO, which is the specialist UN organisation concerned with strengthening and upgrading education and schooling in developing countries, countries in transition and those in a post-conflict situation. 6.00 to 7.30 pm, Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay campus. Contact: UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au or 03 6226 2521. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2012/april/peace-building-and-poverty-reduction-what-can-education-achieve>.

2 MAY. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'REMOVING THE BOUNDARIES: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR SERIES - MEDIATED "RISK" AND "RESPONSIBILITY": MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE POLITICS OF POLICE USE OF DEADLY FORCE'. Speaker: Katrina Clifford School of English, Journalism and European Languages, University of Tasmania. 4.00 to 5.00 pm, Room 555, Humanities Building, Sandy Bay campus. Contact: Katrina.Clifford@utas.edu.au or Danielle.Wood@utas.edu.au. Web: <http://www.events.utas.edu.au/2012/may/removing-the-boundaries-an-interdisciplinary-seminar-series>.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

4 APRIL. CATHERINE HELEN SPENCE COMMEMORATIVE ORATION: 'PROTECTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN: CAN SOUTH AUSTRALIA RISE AGAIN TO THE CHALLENGE?' Over a century ago Catherine Helen Spence and her South Australian contemporaries led the world in improving the wellbeing of vulnerable children. Speaker: Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott, the Foundation Chair of Child Protection and the inaugural Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia. Jointly presented by Catherine Helen Spence Memorial Scholarship Committee and The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre. No cost. 5.30 pm, Allan Scott Auditorium, UniSA City West campus, rear Hawke Building, 50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide. Register: http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2012events/2012CHS_Oration.asp.

7 APRIL. ANTAR SA JUSTICE AND PEACE CANDLELIGHT WALK. This Candle Light Walk seeks to call for a Treaty and Bill of Rights, and to support the Ngarrindjeri and all other Aboriginal people and the Stolen Generations, their families and communities left behind, in their call for peace and justice. Walking around Government House, gather at dusk. Bring a candle. Web: <http://antarsa.auspics.org.au/category/news/2011/12/candlelight-walk-2/#more-197>.

19 APRIL. DIALOGUE: 'PATHS TO A JUST PEACE FOR PALESTINE AND ISRAEL'. The Hawke Centre has combined with the Abraham Institute to present this forum which encourages understanding and positive dialogue about the difficult matter of reconciliation between the Palestinian and Israeli people. Speakers: Mr Izzat Abdulhadi, Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, Ambassador to New Zealand and the Pacific; and Mr Meir Itzhaki, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel to Australia. Moderator: Dr Lynn Arnold AO, CEO, Anglicare SA. No cost. 5.30 pm, Allan Scott Auditorium, UniSA City West campus, rear Hawke Building, 50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2012events/AbrahamInst.asp>.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UNTIL 15 APRIL. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'MANUWANGKU, UNDER THE NUCLEAR CLOUD'. An exhibition by renowned photographer Jagath Dheerasekara which aims to break down the preconception that area proposed for a nuclear dump is in the middle of nowhere and thus suitable for such a purpose. An Amnesty International Human Rights Innovation Fund Grant project. Exhibition Wednesday to Saturday, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, FotoFreo 2012 Open Exhibition Program Perth, Midland Atelier, FORM, Yelverton Drive, Midland. Contact: 08 9226 2799 or mail@form.net.au. Web: <http://jd.photoshelter.com/page1>.

UNTIL 12 MAY. ART EXHIBITION: 'PURNU, TJANPI, CANVAS: ART OF THE NGAANYATJARRA LANDS'. This is an exhibition of the dynamic creativity of the Western Desert's Ngaanyatjarra artists. The exhibition

showcases the humour and playful innovation of the Tjanpi Desert Weavers, the explosive eclecticism of artists in translations of weaving and carving into paint, and the glorious canvases that reflect the completeness of the desert and community life. Tuesday to Saturday, 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway (corner Fairway), Crawley, Perth. Contact: 08 6488 3707 or info@lwgallery.uwa.edu.au. Web: <http://www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au/>.

5 MAY. NORTHAM CONVERGENCE. The Refugee Rights Action Network will be going to the Northam Detention Centre upon its opening in May this year. The new detention location is part of an expansion of detention facilities and all of the abuses that it entails. After 20 years of mandatory human rights abuse and misery for refugees it is time to end this disgraceful refugee policy and replace it with something fit for humanity. Transport by bus will be organised. Cost: \$10-20. 10.00 am, bus leaving from the East Perth Terminal. Contact: 0417 904 329. Web: <http://rran.org/>.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

4 APRIL. FAITH ON TAP: 'CARRYING LIFE'S CROSSES - BEING EASTER PEOPLE'. This is a monthly talk and discussion over a meal for those aged 18-35 years. This month's speaker is Lester Lemke, who has faced his fair share of tragedy. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, Shenanigans, Mitchell Street, Darwin. Web: http://www.darwin.catholic.org.au/youth/news_events.htm.

6 - 9 APRIL. REFUGEE ACTION COLLECTIVE: NATIONAL CONVERGENCE ON DARWIN. There are three detention centres in Darwin with up to 1000 asylum seekers and when the newly opened centre at Wickham Point is complete it will have capacity for 1500 people alone. Chronic levels of self-harm and protest have put the Northern Immigration Detention Centre (NIDC) in a state of perpetual crisis. The convergence this Easter, centred on Darwin, with simultaneous protests at other detention centres around the country, can again focus attention on the reality behind the wire. 20 years of mandatory detention is 20 years too long.

6 April. Good Friday Rally and March: Rally will be followed by a march to DIAC and then a BBQ at Christ Church Cathedral. Speakers: Hade Hussein, Afghan Hazara refugee; Marcus Hampson, Refugee Rights Action Network, WA; June Mills, Larrakia activist and performer. 12.00 to 2.00 pm, Parliament House. Contact: dassan2011@gmail.com. Web: <http://dassan.weebly.com/index.html>. Contact: refugeeactioncollectivevic@gmail.com or 0404 728 104. Web: <http://www.rac-vic.org>.

1 - 3 MAY. NTCOSS CONFERENCE: 'GROWING THE NT FAIRLY - BUILDING STRONGER LINKS'. NTCOSS aims to share information, ideas and practical strategies to assist growing a fair Northern Territory by exploring four key themes: promoting excellence and evidence in practice; exploring intercultural working; building collaboration; and innovation. Cost: \$125-600. Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alice Springs. Contact: admin@ntcoss.org.au or 08 8948 2665. Web: <http://www.ntcoss.org.au/publication/2011/11/ntcoss-conference-2012>.

News Monitor

Priest a star in anti-apartheid play

A former Anglican bishop ordained a Catholic priest was one of the stars of an anti-apartheid musical in South Africa, reported The Catholic Herald.

Catholic body calls for increase in minimum wage

The Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations (ACCER) called on Fair Work Australia to increase the national

minimum wage, claiming that current standards amount to “poverty wages” for low-income working families, reported The Catholic Weekly.

Vinnies urges govt to scrap NT intervention

The head of the St Vincent de Paul charity called for the scrapping of the NT Intervention and launched a scathing attack on the Federal Government over its treatment of Aboriginal people, said an AAP report in The West Australian.

East Timor’s ‘stolen generation’ revealed in book

About 4000 young and vulnerable Timorese children, many of them Catholics, were secretly taken to Indonesia where some of them were forced to work in slave-like conditions while others were educated and grew up with the families of soldiers, reported The Sydney Morning Herald.

Caritas Lebanon scrambles to help surge of Syrian refugees

Church aid workers are scrambling to find housing for hundreds of Syrian refugees who have fled to neighboring Lebanon because of ongoing violence between Syrian forces and armed rebels, reported the Catholic News Service.

Misinformation spread about govt benefits for refugees

The Jesuit Refugee Service was warning Catholics and others to be wary of internet and emails making false assertions about benefits and allowances they claim refugees and illegal immigrants are receiving from the Commonwealth Government, reported The Catholic Weekly.

Australians can help Kony victims, says Caritas

Australians can have, and are having, a real and lasting impact on victims of Joseph Kony and the Lord’s Resistance Army, which

terrorised millions of people across four vulnerable African nations, said Caritas in a statement.

Caritas and Adelaide footy club unite in awareness program

The Port Adelaide Football Club and Caritas are joining forces to raise awareness about those in need through a new program, Caritas Ks, said a report from The Advertiser on AdelaideNow.

Sri Lankan minister accuses Caritas of sowing anarchy

Caritas dismissed allegations from a senior Sri Lankan cabinet minister accusing the Church’s social arm of involvement in a major conspiracy to create anarchy within the country, reported ucanews.

Govt must end child detention: Vinnies

The St Vincent de Paul Society called upon the Government to honour its 2010 promise to end child detention, saying the unequivocal consequence of keeping children in detention was cruelty, the organisation said in a statement.

Justice Commission calls for stronger stand on West Papua

The Catholic Justice and Peace Commission called on the new Foreign Affairs Minister Bob Carr to change the direction of Australia’s approach to conflict in the Indonesian provinces of West Papua, reported The Catholic Leader.

Irish-Australians urged to welcome asylum seekers

Bishop Terry Brady, auxiliary bishop of Sydney, called on Irish Australians to lead the welcome for asylum seekers in Australia, reported The Catholic Weekly.

- for details click or headlines or go to cathnews.com



Social Justice Calendar

- 1 Sun Palm Sunday
- 2 Mon UN World Autism Awareness Day
National 'Close the Gap' Day
2005: Death of Pope John Paul II
- 4 Wed International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- 5 Thu Holy Thursday
- 6 Fri Good Friday
- 7 Sat Holy Saturday
World Health Day
Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwandan Genocide
- 8 Sun Easter Sunday
- 10 Tue 1972: 120 nations sign treaty banning biological warfare
- 11 Wed 1963: Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris*
- 12 Thu International day of Human Space Flight
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 Sat 1964: Death of Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring* (1962), which alerted the
world to the dangers of chemical pesticides
2002: Xanana Gusmao elected first President of Timor-Leste
- 15 Sun Second Sunday of Easter
1991: Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Royal Commission Final Report signed
- 18 Wed World Heritage Day

1955: Death of Albert Einstein
- 19 Thu 2005: Pope Benedict XVI elected
- 22 Sun Third Sunday of Easter
International Earth Day
- 23 Mon World Book & Copyright Day
- 24 Tue 1945: First United Nations Conference opens with 45 nations attending
- 25 Wed ANZAC Day

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$6.60. To order go to http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html, or call 02 8306 3499.