

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR PEACE

Peace News July 2011



Welcome to the winter update from Psychologists for Peace.

Once again we have reason for heavy hearts as more Australian soldiers add their

numbers to the death toll in Afghanistan. Our government continues its commitment to supplying troops to Afghanistan as a solution to the conflict there. At the same time our Prime Minister has recently reinforced Australia's agreement to let U.S. Troops come to Australia for training and further enmesh the U.S. Military with the Australian Defence Force.

With increasing international agreement that the violence in Afghanistan can only be resolved through a comprehensive political solution, we call on the Australian government to promote non-violent resolutions to this conflict. That includes encouraging mediation and negotiations among *all* parties, seeking social and economic justice outcomes to help resolve the conflicts there, and withdrawing our troops from Afghanistan.

Best wishes,
Kim Stewart for Psychologists for Peace



Photo: All deserving peace women – nominees at the WILPF Women's Peace Award in Brisbane, April 2011

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1. PFP News

PFP Peace Art Award seeks student entries

'PEACE IN OUR WORLD' BIENNIAL PEACE ART AWARD 2011

for Secondary School Students

We live in a world of competing information with regard to the things that concern us, large and small. When it comes to the big picture items such as World Peace, it is appropriate that the various professions that devote themselves to the well-being of people, do what they can to contribute to the debate in a constructive manner.

Psychologists for Peace (WA branch) is doing just this. The group is inviting secondary school students to think about the issue of 'Peace in our World', and to express their thoughts through their artwork. The award is run every second year by Psychologists for Peace (WA) and is open to Year 10 to 12 students across Australia. An award of \$500 (First Prize) is being offered to the student judged to best express this year's topic in a 2-D artwork.

The exhibition of participating artworks will be shown at YMCA HQ Gallery in Leederville, in August this year and, as in previous years, promises to be an enjoyable and thought-provoking experience for all participants and those who attend.

Right now, Psychologists for Peace (WA) are calling for students who wish to participate in the art exhibition. Registration forms can be obtained through their school art teachers, on the APS website..... or by contacting the organizing committee directly.

Manita 0419 043 768.

Further information can be obtained from the PFP blog;

– <http://psychs-for-peace.blogspot.com/2011/03/2011-peace-art-award.html>

Psychologists for Peace was identified at the annual meeting of the interest group conveners as the longest running interest group of the Australian Psychological Society. PFP was founded in 1984 (along with *Women in Psychology*, with whom we share this title).



Congratulations to all the current committee members and other long-time supporters of PFP who have kept the torch burning for over 25 years!

2. Recent Publications & Resources

2011 Global Peace Index

Produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace, The Global Peace Index assesses progress towards peace in 153 countries. They note an overall decline in peacefulness since this time last

year, “The fall in peacefulness in this year’s Index is strongly tied to conflict between citizens and their governments rather than conflicts with other nations.”

These are the key findings for 2011: (from the GPI website) “The world is less peaceful for the third straight year due to an increased threat of terrorist attacks in 29 nations and a greater likelihood of violent demonstrations in 33 countries; Arab Spring unrest heralds the biggest ever change in rankings, with Libya falling 83 spots; Iceland bounces back from economic woes to top ranking; Somalia displaces Iraq as world’s least peaceful nation; Violence is costing the global economy more than \$8.12 trillion in 2010; US peacefulness shows minimal change.”

“While the overall level of peacefulness was down, this year’s data did show increased peacefulness in some areas – most notably levels of military expenditure as a % of GDP and relations between neighbouring states.”

Read the full report here: <http://www.visionofhumanity.org/info-center/global-peace-index-2011/>

Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies Network

“The main goal is to study the dynamics of humiliation, the antecedents and consequences of humiliating behaviours, and interventions that can help break the cycle of humiliation and restore human dignity. This may be steps to better understanding and also for changing actions and practices that are humiliating and conflict generating. As practitioners the group affiliated to the Studies attempt to bring incidents of humiliation in national and international affairs to the attention of people across the globe, to create public awareness of the destructive effects of such humiliation, and to promote alternative approaches that generate human dignity and respect.”

<http://www.humiliationstudies.org/index.php>

Conflict and Communication online

Conflict and Communication online, Vol. 10 / No. 1, has appeared and can be downloaded from the internet address www.cco.regener-online.de Articles include: Florette Cohen: *The Modern Anti-Semitism Israel Model: An empirical relationship between modern anti-Semitism and opposition to Israel*; Johannes Kopf-Beck: *Human rights orientation and modern anti-Semitism*; Lynda S. Brown: *It is not just about you: A dialogic approach to forgiveness*; Roy Krøvel: *A symbiotic relationship: Norwegian diplomacy and Norwegian journalism on war and peace in Guatemala*

3. Calls for papers & Conferences

Australian Psychological Society 46th Annual Conference, October 4-8 2011, Canberra

<http://www.apsconference.com.au>



12th European Congress of Psychology 4-8 July, 2011, Istanbul, Turkey

Over the years, the European Congress of Psychology has been a major forum for psychologists to catch up on all theoretical and methodological advances in psychology.

<http://www.ecp2011.org/>

The Changing Face of War, Nov 12-20, 2011, ONLINE CONFERENCE*

The Second of Wiley-Blackwell Exchanges Online Conference Series, topics include: Theory and

Philosophy of War: Is war essential for humanity?; War in Cultural Context: Styles of warfare: The West and the Rest; From Home Front to Front Line: What can military historians learn from social and cultural historians, and vice versa?; Evolution of Warfare: Are we witnessing 'new' kinds and locations of war in the 21st century?; Peacemaking, Reconstruction and Nation-Building: How are wars absorbed and resolved, both physically and mentally?

Registration is FREE <http://dmmsclick.wiley.com/click.asp?p=9506606&m=43119&u=1030120>

Call for Proposals: 2012 PSYCHOLOGY BEYOND BORDERS MISSION AWARDS

From Psychology Beyond Borders (PBB) press release:

“PBB is seeking proposals for projects that support our mission. PBB is an international non-profit organisation focusing on the psychosocial impacts of terror attacks, armed conflicts, and natural disasters. PBB is seeking to fund research and service-oriented projects that support work in this area, with a particular focus on work that addresses issues of how the psychosocial impact of disasters and mass traumas are affected by repetitive and chronic exposure to traumatic events, economic loss and empowerment, preparedness and resilience programs, and prevention.”

“Projects of \$5,000 - \$15,000 (USD) will be funded with expected project duration of one year, beginning May 2012. Application submission period is August 1 to September 30.”

For details go their website <http://www.psychologybeyondborders.org> or contact awards@pbbmail.org.

Call for Book Proposals: Springer Series in Transitional Justice

From the Series editor: “This book series will be published by Springer in the next couple of years. The purpose of the series is to address current and significant transitional justice issues and develop scholarly inquiry which would provide academics, students, activists and policy makers analysis and insight into the ever-evolving transitional justice processes and mechanisms. “

If you are interested in contributing a book to this series, please send a tentative title and brief description of the book, intended audiences and a short bio of the author (or editor if you decide to publish and edited volume) to the series editor, Olivera Simic” o.simic@griffith.edu.au

Conflict Trends 2011/3: Call for articles and book reviews

From the editor: “The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) is presently soliciting contributions for the third *Conflict Trends* Issue of 2011 (CT 2011, Issue 3). This will be a Special Issue of *Conflict Trends* focusing on the Nexus between Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding. We welcome submissions of articles that aim to enhance this discussion on the nexus between Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding in Africa. Articles must be 2 500-3 000 words in length; book reviews must be 1 500 words. The deadline for submission of fully completed articles is 18 July 2011. Should you wish to submit an article or book review for publication consideration in this Issue please refer to the Guidelines for Contributors (available on the ACCORD website www.accord.org.za). Articles must be submitted to The Managing Editor, Venashri Pillay, at venashri@accord.org.za

Call for Papers: “Humanitarianism and Responsibility” A Special Issue of The Journal of Human Rights- Deadline: Sept 1

<http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topics/call-for-papers-5>

4. In the news

Noam Chomsky wins the Sydney Peace Prize

Left thinker, linguist, social scientist, political commentator and social justice activist Noam Chomsky has won the 2011 Sydney Peace Prize. In his comments, he criticised the Australian government’s continuing leadership role among the U.S. Allies in the region. He said he believes that allied involvement in Afghanistan is making the world a more dangerous place, especially for British and Americans. Chomsky will visit Australia in November to accept his prize.

Sydney Peace Prize website: <http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/>

Germany to phase out nuclear power

In the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, a global rethink of nuclear power has urged Germany to close its 17 nuclear power plants by 2022. Switzerland, which has five nuclear plants, is also considering its position this week. Meanwhile frequent protests are occurring in Japan against nuclear power, calling for the remaining nuclear plants there to be shut down. Radiation is reportedly still leaking from the Fukushima plant where retired pensioners have offered to sacrifice their lives in order to make it safe. Radioactive iodine has been found in food, water and mothers’ breast milk as far afield as Tokyo, urging many to question the reporting of the government and plant owner Tepco on the extent of the problem. A UN investigation has found that Japan underestimated the risk associated with Tsunami.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the Fukushima “changed everything in Germany”, where the pacifism borne of WW2 combines with distrust of the risk industrialised nuclear power and weapons pose.

New York Times article on German phase out of nukes here:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/31/world/europe/31germany.html?_r=1

UN calls for more tolerance and social inclusion for migrants and refugees

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called on the world “to deepen its commitment to the common values of social inclusion, acceptance and understanding”, saying that the movement of people is an global trend at the the International Conference on the Inter-Ethnic City in Rome on June 1. He emphasised that global economic problems should not be allowed to excuse racism.

He said in a press release that “In such a climate, there is a tendency to blame the ‘other’ or to see the ‘other’ as draining the local economy.”

“Indeed, in every corner of the world, migration is often the subject of shrill debate – a wedge to provoke social tensions, drive political extremes, fan the flames of discrimination and hatred,” said Mr. Ban.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38570&Cr=cultural+diversity&Cr1=>

Labor Government to retain mandatory detention and offshore processing

Meanwhile protests have been heating up in Australia as refugee advocates oppose the Australian government's new Pacific Solution, making arrangements for offshore processing of refugees in Malaysia and PNG. The Australian government has thousands of people fleeing persecution in mandatory detention centres, over 1000 of them children despite Labor's pledge to fast track the release of all children in detention.

Mandatory detention and the "Malaysian solution" has been roundly condemned by the UN High Commissioner, Navi Pillay, on a recent visit to Australia. She told the ABC, "I urge the leaders of all Australia's political parties to take a principled and courageous stand to break the ingrained political habit of demonising asylum seekers...During my visit to immigration detention centres in Darwin, I saw the grim despondency of asylum seekers waiting for months and in some cases well over a year to be released. These people, who arrive with such relief and hope after experiencing trauma in their home countries, should not be treated in this way."

Read the ABC transcript here: <http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2011/s3226895.htm>

Rape being used as a weapon of war in Libya

Hundreds of women in refugee camps have come forward claiming Gaddafi's forces are raping them.

Psychologist Dr. Seham Sergewa told journalists, "They are using rape not just to hurt women but to terrorize entire families and communities ... The women I spoke to say they believed they were raped because their husbands and brothers were fighting Qaddafi. I think it is also to put shame on the tribes or the villages, to scare people into fleeing, and to say: 'We have raped your women.'"

<http://jezebel.com/5806863/hundreds-of-women-report-rape-by-gadhafis-forces>



Peace activists in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland arrested opposing Talisman Saber US-Aust war games

Talisman Saber 2011 is the biggest military exercise in the world outside the field of war. It takes place in Hawaii, Guam and many locations in Australia, particularly the environmentally sensitive Shoalwater Bay region in Queensland. Peace advocates have protested the war games

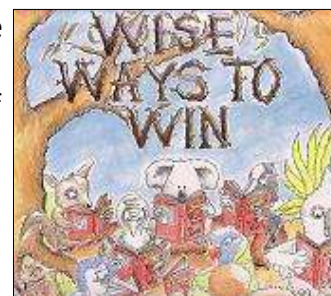
and the US alliance in Adelaide (at the Defence Industry Expo), Melbourne, Swan Island military Base, Rockhampton, Brisbane and Yeppoon. Ten people blockading Swan Island base were arrested but subsequently discharged by the court. Peace advocates were banned from attending a military open day in Rockhampton and ejected from a military/lord mayoral ball in Rocky. Controversial peace activist Bryan Law of Cairns Peace by Peace, described as "high profile and relentless" by Rockhampton media, was arrested pre-emptive to commencement of the games after he notified the defence minister that he intended to damage military aircraft at Rockhampton airport. He was charged with threatening to damage aircraft under the Commonwealth Aviation Act. Earlier this month the Rockhampton Bulletin ran a poll to ask readers if they had "had enough of Bryan Law". The poll came out in favour of Law's actions.

The protests continue at Rockhampton until July 30. See their Facebook page for the latest news:
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/115709255120251>

7. PFP Merchandise



Psychologists for Peace have available a range of colourful and helpful posters for peace advocates and educators. They target a range of age groups.



We have the PFP children's book *Wise Ways to Win* and educational posters themed on issues including bullying, dealing with anger, how to say sorry, peaceful families and conflict resolution, all brightly illustrated and easy to understand.

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/educational/>

8. Events and activities

Agent Orange Justice

A new advocacy group was launched in Sydney this month to help win justice for the more than three million people affected by the use of Agent Orange defoliant in the Vietnam War 40 years ago. The chemical residue continues to cause birth defects and cancers, and more than five million hectares of once forested lands is despoiled by toxins and has not recovered. Speakers at their inaugural meeting included Jack Munday; Lee Rhiannon; Mike Karadjis; and the new Vietnamese Consul General, Mai Phuoc Dzung. For more information visit their website here:

<http://agentorangejustice.org.au/media.html#010611>

Sign on to Ban Live Export

Getup have launched a popular petition campaign to see the live export industry not only halted, but stopped permanently after Australians were shocked by graphic footage of animal suffering in Indonesian abattoirs. Sign here: <http://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/animals/live-export/ban-live-export>



Peace convergence actions against the Talisman Saber US-Australian war games

Peaceful protest against the world's biggest war games is continuing until July 30 in Rockhampton and Yeppoon after actions earlier this month in Adelaide, Melbourne and Swan Island. Actions include candlelight vigils, singing, sewing circle and a peace concert. See the Peace Convergence website or facebook for details: <http://www.peaceconvergence.com>

9. Contact Us

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PFP is an Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society. Its members are psychologists, and others, who are concerned about the prevalence of war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying their professional skills to issues relating to promoting peace and preventing war. We are working to promote peace in the world and prevent conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy.

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/>