



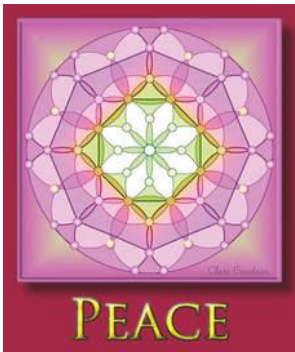
Psychologists for Peace

Peace News - December 2013



Psychologists
for Peace
Interest Group
APS
Australian
Psychological
Society

Peace requires equality and justice



In October this year the *Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report* rated Australia the richest country in the world on a per capita basis, with 1.2m people who are millionaires and a median wealth of \$233,504. Yet Australia still has a huge gap between rich and poor, UNICEF Australia estimates

that one in seven Australians live under the poverty line. There is now mounting evidence linking inequality to ill health, crime, greater stresses on social services and lower levels of overall happiness in society.

In global terms, Australians are on average much better off. Yet our government has seen fit to abolish AUSAID, the agency that distributes overseas aid to our impoverished neighbours. It has slashed the numbers of refugees to be allowed to settle here and taken away their rights to work and legal aid, further marginalising those who are disadvantaged.

As the Christmas seasons approaches, Psychologists for Peace would like to encourage you to give a gift of aid to disadvantaged groups here and overseas. Peace and goodwill to you for the holiday season.

Best wishes,
Psychologists for Peace

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1. PFP News

Children's Peace Literature Award Announced

The winners of the 2013 Children's Peace Literature Award were announced at a gathering at Oakbank Area School. The authors of the winning books, Aaron Blabey and Barry Jonsberg, were not able to be present but sent messages to the students about why they were pleased to have won this prize. The event was part of Psychology Week.



(Left: Kate Prescott, PFP SA committee member and Convenor of the Judging Panel, listens to the video'd acceptance speech by Barry Jonsberg.)

Oakbank Area School is attended by children from the Inverbrackie Detention Centre, some of whom gave a delightful musical performance before the speeches. Two school classes of children attended and discussed what they liked about the books and asked questions, with the PFP and Judging Panel members who were

present. The books entered for the Award were donated to the school and the Librarian was very pleased by that.

The winners were selected from five short listed books in each category and from over 80 entries of children's books published between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2013. The winner for Junior Readers was *The Ghost of Miss Annabel Spoon*, by Aaron Blabey. The winner for Older Readers was *My Life as an Alphabet* by Barry Jonsberg. The convenor of the judging panel, Kate Prescott, said the judges were impressed by the books' literary merit, engaging styles, and the main characters' capacity to engage others effectively to reduce conflict.

Every second year for the last 26 years Psychologists for Peace (SA), a special interest group of the Australian Psychological Society, has raised money to offer as a prize to the author of a book for children that encourages the non-violent resolution of conflict or promotes peace at the global, local or interpersonal level. This is the 15th award of the prize, and this year the prize money was expanded to recognize winning books for both younger readers and older readers (\$1500 each). The inaugural winner in 1987 was South Australian author Gillian Rubinstein for her first novel *Space Demons*.

Ms Prescott said that through the CPLA, Psychologists for Peace aims to recognise authors who promote peaceful resolution of conflict in their books, and to encourage and publicise these books so that children have peaceful models on which to base their own behaviour.

The 2013 shortlist, selected by a combined panel of psychologists and children's literature experts, comprises books appealing to a wide range of ages from preschool to young adult:

Junior Readers

A Bus Called Heaven – Bob Graham (Walker Books, Australia)

King Pig – Nick Bland (Scholastic Australia)

The Ghost of Miss Annabel Spoon – Aaron Blabey (Penguin Group Australia)

The Pros and Cons of Being a Frog – Sue deGennaro (Scholastic Australia)

Violet Mackerel's Personal Space – Anna Branford and Sarah Davis, illustrator
(Walker Books, Australia)

Older Readers

My Life as an Alphabet – Barry Jonsberg (Allen & Unwin)

Pan's Whisper – Sue Lawson (Walker Books, Australia)

Pookie Aleera is not My Boyfriend – Steven Herrick (University of Queensland Press)

The Beginner's Guide to Revenge – Marianne Musgrove (Random House Australia)

The Invisible Hero – Elizabeth Fensham (University of Queensland Press)

Summaries of the shortlisted books and the winning entry will be posted on:

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

Kate Prescott

Convener of Judging Panel

Peace Art Prize Announced



Western Australia again ran a successful Peace Art competition, with 28 entries from very artistically skilled and thoughtful students.

Monique O'Neil, a year 12 student from Eastern Hills Senior High School, WA, won with her entry (left), 'I cried Because I Had No Shoes ...' (Acrylic and ink). Monique wrote, "My design urges people to be less conditioned and look past the stigma attached to mental illness. To progress with the aid of innocence from ignorance to awareness to acceptance to find peace in self and others."

Peace Psychology radio series now available for podcast

You can download all ten episodes here: <http://www.cpod.org.au/page.php?id=456>

This ten-part radio series, sponsored by Psychologists for Peace and other organisations, includes interviews with counsellors, researchers, peace advocates and citizens about their experiences in peace psychology. The series covers the breadth of the field from interpersonal and couples conflict, through

group conflicts including racism, to national and global conflicts like war.

As an example, in episode 3 we talked to PFP member Dr Olwyn Maddock (a school psychologist based in Western Australia), Terry Pinnell (who volunteers in prisons) and Taylor Clark (a university student turned AVP trainer).

More info: www.facebook.com/peaceinmindproject



Psychologists for Peace have a Kiva lending group. Kiva helps people connect with others in the majority world to allow person to person small loans. These loans help people get small business off the ground, which is a great way to alleviate long term poverty.

Through offering a series of small loans (such as \$20) over time, the PFP Kiva group has loaned \$29,200 to 964 small business in the developing world.

Join here: http://www.kiva.org/team/psychologists_for_peace

PFP Peace Project Award - Final call for nominations (5 December)

This is a final call for fourth year students and coursework masters students to be nominated (or nominate themselves) for this award on the basis of their research project. Details can be found at:

http://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/peace_award/

2. Recent Publications & Resources

Diverse contexts and approaches in peace psychology research. Opatow, Susan; Luke, Timothy J. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 19(1), Feb 2013. <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/pac/19/1/1/>

Contributions of positive psychology to peace: Toward global well-being and resilience. Cohrs, J. Christopher; Christie, Daniel J.; White, Mathew P.; Das, Chaitali *American Psychologist*, 68(7), Oct 2013, 590-600. <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/amp/68/7/590/>

On the (In)Compatibility of Attitudes Toward Peace and War Bizumic, B et al. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/pops.12032/pdf>

Definitions of peace and reconciliation in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Canada, the United States, and Australia. *International Handbook of Peace and Reconciliation. Peace Psychology Book Series*, Volume 7, (pp 35-49). 2013. http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-5933-0_4

3. Calls for papers & Conferences

Call for papers: Peace and Conflict: The Journal of Peace Psychology - When hurting helps: The role of well-being in engagement with, and desistance from, collective wrongdoing . Abstracts (250-500 words) may be submitted at any point until 28 February 2014.

http://www.sasp.org.au/images/sasp_files/temporary/CFP_jpp.pdf

Call for Papers: Gandhi Marg, journal dedicated to Gandhian philosophy, is inviting manuscripts from psychologists and other scholars working in allied disciplines to contribute in its Spring 2014 publication.

The focus of this volume is any aspect of behavior that could be linked directly or indirectly to Gandhian philosophy and its utilization.

APA Division 48 President Rachel MacNair Announces the Formation of a Division Task Force into the Psychology of Weaponized Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones). “Drones are - I don’t think there is any question – a great threat to peace in the world.” Article: *Some Thoughts for the Drone Task Force* on page 5 of <http://www.peacepsych.org/images/PeacePsychNewsletterSpring13.pdf>

Social Justice Research journal call for submissions: , the official journal of the International Society for Social Justice Research would like to welcome researchers from a wide variety of disciplines with a common interest in justice and justice-related issues to submit their work to be considered for publication in *Social Justice Research*. <http://www.isjr.org/> All manuscripts should be submitted using the online system. Instructions for Authors are available at <http://www.springer.com/11211>

Global Peace Convention, Kuala Lumpur, Malasia, Dec 5-8 2013. “The GPC is an annual convening engaging leaders from the government, faith-based organizations and civil society to advance efforts for peace and development. It serves as a platform for the sharing of best practices and expertise, as well as developing innovative peace-building models.” Website: <http://2013.globalpeaceconvention.org/>

December 10th 2013: International Conference on ASEAN Women: 'Empowerment: Issues and Challenges' Bandung, Indonesia. <http://www.conferencealerts.com/show-event?id=119817>

January 8th 2014 Asia-Pacific Social Science Conference Seoul, Korea (south). <http://www.apssc.org/>

March 9th 2013: 7th PSPC - Poverty and Social Protection Conference 2014 Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.conferencealerts.com/show-event?id=120584>

4. In the news

ACOSS Poverty in Australia Report updated 2013

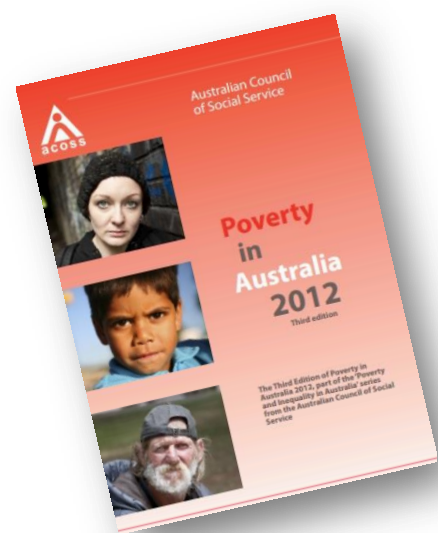
In November 2013 the Australian Council of Social Service released a new report showing poverty in Australia remains a problem “with an estimated 2,265,000 people or 12.8% of all people living below the internationally accepted poverty line used to measure financial hardship in wealthy countries.

The report provides the most comprehensive picture of poverty in the nation since 2006 and shows that people who are unemployed, children (especially in lone parent families), and people whose main source of income is social security payments, are the groups most at risk of poverty.

"This report reveals that despite years of unprecedented growth and wealth creation, we have made little ground in combatting the scourge of poverty with 1 in 8 people overall and 1 in 6 children living below the poverty line," said ACOSS CEO, Dr Cassandra Goldie." <http://www.acoss.org.au/policy/poverty/>

UNICEF ponders wealth disparity in Australia

“As for inequality, the richest 20 per cent of Australians hold a staggering 61 per cent of our wealth. This leaves just 1 per cent of Australia’s wealth to be shared amongst the poorest 20 per cent of the population. ... inequality hits children hardest, the most vulnerable being: Children living with disabilities; Children living in remote areas; Children in sole parent families; Indigenous Australians; and Migrants and asylum seekers” <http://www.unicef.org.au/Discover/unicef-australia-blog/November-2012/Why-Poverty,-and->



[does-Australia-need-to-worry-abou.aspx](#)

How should psychologists engage with the consequences of poverty?

“There is an overwhelming consensus amongst psychologists and other social scientists that poverty has deleterious consequences for mental and physical health (Carr and Sloan, 2003) but what can psychologists do to make a positive difference?”

<http://www.counsellingconnection.com/index.php/2013/08/01/how-should-psychologists-engage-with-the-consequences-of-poverty/>

Special Section Editorial: Psychology and Poverty Reduction –

David Fryer (Australian Institute of Psychology; University of Queensland). And Cathy McCormack (Anti-poverty campaigner, social commentator, author, community activist). “Having read this Special section we hope it will be hard to resist the conclusion that it is an urgent priority for us to better understand the socio-structural violence which is poverty and to better deploy that understanding progressively in the interests of, and in collaboration with, those subjected every day to the war without bullets in our communities.”

[http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/ACP-25\(1\)-Fryer.pdf](http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/ACP-25(1)-Fryer.pdf)



Typhoon Haiyan: Children in disaster zone are vulnerable, warns Unicef - UN agency says 1.7m children have been displaced and may be at risk of exploitation, abuse and trafficking

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/20/typhoon-haiyan-children-vulnerable-unicef>

800 delegates walk out of Warsaw climate conference - “...the talks, ending on Friday, have stuttered over several issues, particularly whether rich nations should pay developing countries for losses suffered due to the effects of climate change, and the lack of ambitious pledges to cut emissions”

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/environment/climate-change/lack-of-progress-at-warsaw-climate-talks-prompts-green-groups-exit-20131122-2xze8.html>

Environment, psychology and health news – The APS Public Interest and Environment team compile a monthly newsletter summarising recent news items, research, campaigns, and information about climate change, psychology and health. To subscribe, click here:

<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/r/5266FE38A0D5979F> **October newsletter:**
<http://aps.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/r/DE65B77224A41FC12540EF23F30FEDED>

57 Years since Maralinga: Australia’s uranium fuelling disaster since the 1950s - “Despite claims to the contrary, Aboriginal people did wander through radiated lands. They camped in fresh craters, to keep warm and to trap rabbits blinded by cobalt pellets. When discovered, they were compulsorily showered, their finger nails scrubbed with soap. The women suffered miscarriages. They were herded in trucks or pushed onto trains, expelled from a sacred site at Ooldea, a day’s walk from Maralinga airport. Alice Cox — at 87, the oldest survivor of the tests — remembers it well. “Soldiers everywhere. Guns. We all cry, cry, cryin’. Men, women and children, all afraid.” John Keane, “Maralinga’s afterlife” *The Age* May 11, 2003.

<http://qnfa.org/2013/09/28/57-years-since-maralinga-australias-uranium-fuelling-disaster-since-the-1950s/>

Asylum seeker children moved from Nauru due to mental health concerns - A group of unaccompanied child asylum seekers have been transferred from Nauru to Brisbane amid concerns about their mental health and fears they may try to self harm. <http://www.theage.com.au/national/asylum-seeker-children-moved-from-nauru-due-to-mental-health-fears-20131123-2y29d.html>

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons – ICAN Australia continues to campaign to abolish the use of nuclear weapons in our name. They are protesting the Australian government’s continued subscription to ‘extended nuclear deterrence’, by which the US would apparently defend Australia with its nuclear arsenal. This notion is out-dated and legitimises the continued existence of weapons of mass destruction. <http://www.icanw.org/au/>

Fallout - Fallout is an excellent new documentary about On The Beach- the book and Hollywood film adaptation which captured the world’s imagination and explored the sinister theme of nuclear annihilation.

Directed by Lawrence Johnston and produced by Peter Kaufmann, the film has completed a successful season in Melbourne and is moving on to Sydney and Canberra. If you're in Sydney, Fallout is coming to the Dendy Newtown on the 12th December and in Canberra it will grace the National Film and Sound Archive from the 8th of December. Do go along to a screening as the film is a timely reminder in the post-Fukushima era of the ongoing threats posed by nuclear technology.

5. 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 prize winning 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/>

6. Events and activities

G20 Community Response Discussion Forum

"The G20 is coming to Australia, to be held in Brisbane in November 2014. Grass roots civil society groups are organising to take advantage of this unique opportunity to speak to some of the most powerful nations leaders."

<http://www.facebook.com/events/1482378418654882/>



Community Civil Liberties campaign launches in Brisbane

The Queensland government has been passing legislation that is of concern to civil liberties groups. The legislation is being said to pose a threat to democracy, the right to associate, and the right to peaceful assembly. The attached is a Facebook event page related to a campaign aimed at concerned individuals, community organisations, unions, churches and other organisations.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/437202133047083/>

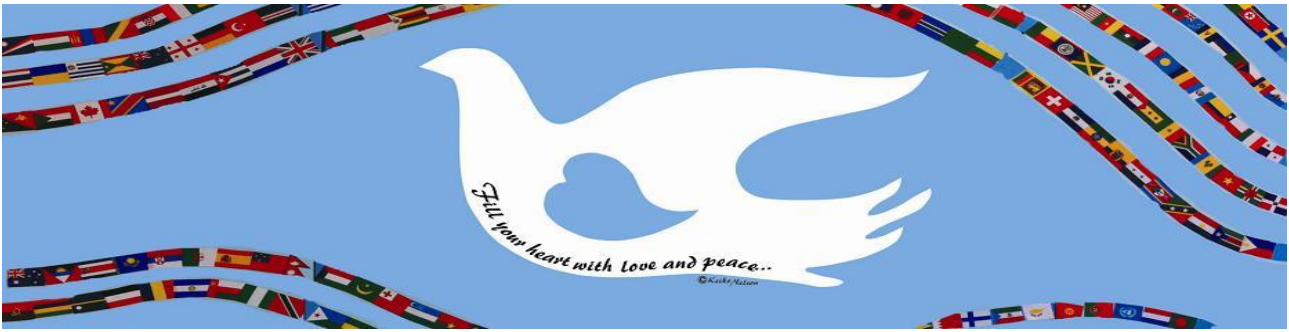
Red Cross Philippines typhoon appeal

"Red Cross is assisting hundreds of thousands of people after Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful on record, caused widespread destruction across central Philippines. Fresh relief supplies are being distributed in many devastated towns." <http://www.redcross.org.au/typhoon-haiyan-2013.aspx>

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Christmas appeal

"The situation for asylum seekers in Australia is the worst it's been in 30 years. On top of this, the ASRC is being forced out of its home in West Melbourne, just at a time when demand for services is expected to increase by 300%. The good news is that the ASRC has found a new home in Footscray, three times the size of the current Centre. From this new home, the ASRC will be able to care for over 4,000 asylum seekers in 2014."

<http://www.asrc.org.au/get-involved/give-money/donate/>



8. Contact Us



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/>

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