

## Summer 2015

### Domestic conflict in the spotlight



With the awarding of Australian of the Year to Rosie Batty (pictured above), the issue of domestic violence is beginning to get the attention it deserves. Batty's 11 year old son Luke was murdered by his father a year ago. Batty has used that tragic event as a catalyst for her outspoken advocacy on behalf of victims of DV, raising awareness of the prevalence and hidden nature of violence between family members.

As we at PFP know, there are psychological links between all forms of violence. In this edition of the Peace News, we will share with you some of events and conferences addressing issues of violence in Australia in the next few months.

Be sure to check out the events section where GetUp has a petition to save funding DV services.

Best wishes,

*Psychologists for Peace*

**Below:** Rosie Batty and Chief of Victoria Police Ken Lay march in the Walk Against Family Violence 2014.



### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. PFP News
2. Recent publications & resources
3. Calls for papers & Conferences
4. In the news
5. News and views from the media and the peace movement
6. Merchandise
7. Educational posters for conflict resolution
8. Events and activities
9. Local and international events
10. Contact Us



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## 1. PFP News

Our AGM (on 5 November 2014) reconfirmed our executive: National Convenor (Associate Professor Winnifred Louis), Treasurer (Professor Eleanor Wertheim), Secretary (Adjunct Associate Professor Tony Thompson), Committee Members (Helen Winefield, Manita Beskow, Margot Trinder). State coordinators are appointed for 1 year and for 2014 are as follows: Helen Winefield (SA), Manita Beskow (WA), Margot Trinder (VIC), Winnifred Louis (QLD). The committee reiterates though that we are super keen for new energy if any members are interested in getting involved.

### Tips for Peace

Psychologists for Peace have prepared a list of ways to promote peace in 2015. The list includes suggestions for developing your understanding about peace and conflict, as well as actively advocating for equalities in human rights, and even advice for maintaining a critical perspective toward the beliefs and actions of your own group. <http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Tips-for-Promoting-Peace.pdf>

After the Sydney Siege in December last year, these tips were listed on the APS website along with other resources for helping people to deal with extreme and distressing events.

[http://www.psychology.org.au/news/news\\_updates/#23Dec14](http://www.psychology.org.au/news/news_updates/#23Dec14)

## 2. Recent Publications & Resources

### Social justice and psychology: What is, and what should be.

Louis, W.R. Mavor, K.I. La Macchia, S.T. & Amiot, C.E. (2014) *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology* "This article proposes that all psychologists—and all psychologies—are innately concerned with justice, and yet there is no consensually defined discipline of psychology, and no consensual understanding of social justice. Adopting an intergroup and identity-based model of what is and what should be, we will describe the mechanisms whereby identities and perceptions of justice are formed, contested, and changed over time. We will argue that psychological research and practice have implications for social justice even where—and perhaps especially when—these are not made explicit." <http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/teo/34/1/14/>



## **World War 1: A History in 100 Stories. 13 April, weekly for 5 weeks.**

### **Online and free of charge.**

Change the way you see World War 1 as you explore stories of hope, suffering and loss from newly released historical archives. "Each week we'll examine a different topic, including the physical and psychological wounds of war- shell shock, disability and trauma; women's mobilisation both at home and in the field; and what we've called 'the other Anzac': indigenous soldiers too often ignored in our history. We'll examine grief and mourning; protest and repatriation, the politics of war and its intensely personal dimensions."

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ww1-stories>

## **3. Calls for papers & Conferences**



### **Criminal Justice and Social Democracy Conference 2015.**

**8th - 10th July 2015. QUT Gardens Point., Brisbane.**

**Call for Abstracts – Now Open, Closing Date: 16 March 2015**

Abstracts are now open for the Crime, Justice and Social Democracy International Conference, 2015. Abstracts will be subject to a peer review process to ensure they fit with the conference themes. The number of abstracts

will be limited to 100. The aim of this conference is to reinvigorate the intellectual and policy debates about the link between social justice, social democracy and the reduction of harm, crime and victimisation through the alleviation of inequalities and building of more socially just and inclusive societies.

Please nominate which theme or themes your paper, 3 paper session or round table best fits.

- Penal Policy and Punishment in the Global Era
- Policing, Security and Democratic Freedoms
- Sex, Gender and Justice
- Eco-Justice, Corporate Crime and Corruption
- Crime, Courts & Justice Institutions
- Counter Colonial Criminologies & Indigenous Perspectives

<http://crimejusticeconference.com/call-for-submissions/>

### **Psychology and Animal Welfare: Starting the Conversation.**

**21 February 2015. The Grace Hotel, 77 York Street, Sydney, NSW**

This conference of key presenters in the field of human/animal psychology and welfare.

Topics include: 'The Psychological Underpinnings of our Views Towards Animal Welfare'. Dr Rosemary Elliott; 'Why is it important to preserve cheetahs in the wild' Kathleen Ager; 'The Orangutan Project' Leif Cocks; 'Animal Welfare and Organisational Wellbeing' Clare Mann; 'The Miracle Cat: the Treatment of a Cat that was Bitten by a Tiger Snake' Zaharah Braybrooke; 'The role of the RSPCA in advocating for better human and animal welfare' Di Evans; 'The Case for Mental Madness in Animals, and why it Matters. Black Beauty and Ginger on the Couch' Dr Maggie Rose; 'How The Human Animal Bond Heals' Melanie G Jones and Naomi Rossthorn; 'Animal Abuse and Family Violence – The Emerging Link' Emma Hurst; Animal abuse has long been considered an isolated concern. Yet research shows that animal abuse, elder abuse, child maltreatment, and domestic violence are often linked. The threat of harm to a companion animal can cause victims to either remain or return to violent situations. Many refuges or alternative forms of accommodation cannot accommodate for the animals. The issue of violence and abuse is complex, and often there are many victims. This presentation will consider the ways professionals can intervene to assist in these situations and will highlight the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to build collaborative initiatives in tackling this issue.

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=15330>





## **APCML One Day Conference: Non-International Armed Conflicts (NIAC): Developments and Challenges.**

**17 March, 2015. University House, Woodward Melbourne Law School.**

"The conference will engage with the various legal debates and narratives concerning the developments arising in Non-International Armed Conflicts (NIACs), which are the dominant form of conflict in the world today, as states fight non-state armed actors within and across state boundaries, and non-state armed actors fight each other.

The conference will cover issues such as the environment in which NIACs occur, the legal frameworks that apply to NIACs, specific legal issues that impact on NIAC and vice versa, and contemporary and future law and policy challenges from a multidimensional and multilateral perspective.

The conference is open to the public. The registration fee of \$120 (or \$25 for students) includes morning and afternoon teas, lunch and drinks at the end of the day."

<http://apcml.org/news-and-galleries/2015/02/11/83/apcml-public-conference>

## **Webinar series: Refugees & Asylum Seekers: Experiences, issues and interventions.**

**24 February, 2015. Online.**

"The plight of people seeking asylum in the lucky country seems to be worse in 2015 than it was in the dreadful days prior to the Palmer and Comrie Reports, which sparked real changes in our understanding of the impact of immigration detention on the mental health and wellbeing of detainees. Now, we know so much – and yet the evidence is ignored in Government policy. Psychologists and other mental health and health professionals are once again having to determine the ethics of working to support asylum seekers while they are in a system that is causing harm. We are having to work in systems in which Politics impacts our interventions, and where helplessness is learned, hopelessness reigns supreme. The APS Interest Group on Refugees and Psychology is responding to these conditions in the best way we can – by giving all those who have an interest in the area an opportunity to learn from the evidence, to grapple with the big issues and develop skills specific to working in the area. I urge you to avail yourselves of the forthcoming webinar series put together by the dedicated Interest Group team." Amanda Gordon Hon FAPS, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Canberra.

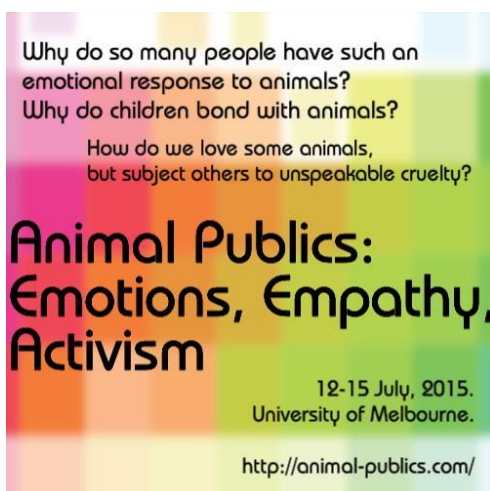
We are urging as many as possible to register for this very timely professional development opportunity (and which will provide active PD points). Please distribute this email widely through your networks. The webinar series with the complete program is on the APS Events page and an outline of the program is attached to this email. To register for the event please follow the link: <https://events.psychology.org.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=1601&s=3W00Q5TI4>

## **Animal Publics: Emotions, Empathy, Activism. Australian Animal Studies Group Conference**

**12-15 July, 2015. The University of Melbourne.**

"The human/nonhuman animal relationship is continually in flux. In the twenty-first century our relationship with other species is more complex than ever. Images of animals dominate advertising and the internet. Many people feel a profound connection with their companion animals, consider them part of the family, and grieve when they die. At the same time almost all the species we breed for consumption are processed through the animal industrial complex, and are neither seen, nor heard, nor touched in a living state. Animal exploitation and commodification is increasingly hidden from public view.

The predominance of some species, and the complete absence of others, in our relationships with animals, raises important questions about how we understand and empathise with other. Why do so many people have such an emotional response to animals? Why do children bond with animals? What have we lost by excluding so many animals from the public domain – from our cities and day-to-day lives?" Animal Publics, the seventh biennial AASG international Conference, will explore the complex relationship



between the public and private worlds of animals. It will consider the roles played by emotions, empathy and activism in the often contradictory way in which we relate to animals in both public and private spheres. Six acclaimed international key-note speakers will present papers over the four days. Speakers from around the world will also offer local and global perspectives on the issues involved. Debate will be further stimulated through an exhibition of art works, film screenings and book launches.

<http://animal-publics.com/>

#### **Call for Papers: Interventions for Violence. Submission Deadline March 31, 2015.**

*Psychology of Violence* invites manuscripts for a special issue on interventions for violence to be compiled by guest editors Laura Miller and Kathryn Howell. The special issue will appear in 2016.

This special issue will attempt to reflect state-of-the-art intervention science that focuses on the theoretical underpinnings, critical mechanisms, cultural adaptations and systemic implications of intervention related to violence exposure, victimization and perpetration.

We conceptualize violence broadly to include child maltreatment, psychological aggression, sexual violence and coercive control, intimate partner violence, teen dating violence, bullying, community violence, and political violence.” Find out more here:

<http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/vio/call-for-papers-interventions-violence.aspx>

## 4. In the news



### **The APS calls for all children to be released immediately from all Australian immigration detention centres. Media Release, Feb 12, 2015.**

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) welcomes the long-awaited release of the Australian Human Rights Commission’s report, *The Forgotten Children*, from its Inquiry into Children in Detention, and looks forward to the

Government’s response. The APS calls for all children in immigration detention to be released immediately, including those on Nauru, which the report makes clear is a particularly harmful environment.

APS President Professor Mike Kyrios says, “The report makes for distressing reading and catalogues the wide variety of psychological harms detention causes children, as well their parents. Detention is no place for children.”

“Psychologists will be extremely concerned at the report’s findings, in particular that 34 % of children in detention centres had mental health disorders of sufficient seriousness that if they were living in the Australian community they would require treatment. Less than 2% of children in the Australian community have such high levels of mental ill-health,” he says.

The APS supports the Commission’s recommendation that children currently or previously detained at any time since 1992 have access to government-funded mental health support. This recognises the significant and ongoing adverse mental health consequences of detention.

Read more here: [http://www.psychology.org.au/news/media\\_releases2015/12Feb/](http://www.psychology.org.au/news/media_releases2015/12Feb/)

### **Empowering cartoonists, deterring killers, protecting bystanders: Can psychology contribute?**

*In Mind*, 17 January, 2015.

PFP’s own Dr Winnifred Louis talks about the psychological implications of the Charlie Hebdo killings. “We respond on many levels, like our readers, to the 2015 attack on Charlie Hebdo staff in France. The human tragedy makes us sad and angry. The moral atrocity screams for outraged condemnation. The sense of threat calls out community



determination, courage, and sacrifice. The counter-mobilisation of millions, and of world leaders, evokes pride and grim satisfaction. “

<http://www.in-mind.org/blog/post/empowering-cartoonists-deterring-killers-protecting-bystanders-can-psychology-contribute>

## **At All Costs: The Dark Psychology Of Abbott Government Climate Policy**

*New Matilda*, 2 February, 2015.

“In a fitting irony, Tony Abbott is beginning 2015 amid a rapidly changing political climate. Dr Lissa Johnson explores the psychology behind the party and its policies.”

<https://newmatilda.com/2015/02/02/all-costs-dark-psychology-abbott-government-climate-policy>

## **Indigenous trauma course: University of Wollongong teams up with Harvard**

*Brisbane Times*, 12 January, 2015.

“The program recognises the role trauma plays among indigenous Australians and was developed as part of an official partnership with Massachusetts General Hospital, a teaching hospital of Harvard. Aboriginal health specialist Debra Hocking, who will run and co-ordinate the program, said it will aim to give participants better ability to treat individuals and whole communities through recognising the hurt caused to indigenous Australians.”

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/nsw/indigenous-trauma-course-university-of-wollongong-teams-up-with-harvard-20150112-12mec0.html>

## **Rosie Batty to launch a domestic violence app on Valentine's Day**

*Daily Life*. 13 February, 2015. Amy McNeilage.

“Rosie Batty has a Valentine's Day gift for the young women of Australia. The domestic violence campaigner and Australian of the Year is launching an app called iMatter on Saturday.

It's a dating guide. That is, one designed to help women recognise the warning signs of abusive and controlling behaviour...Doncare, a community services and counselling service, is behind the initiative. The centre's clinical director, Carmel O'Brien, said the app was aimed at women between 18 and 24, who are at particular risk of domestic violence.

"Disturbingly, a recent Australian study found that young women can see abusive and controlling behaviour as protective and caring, and that 22 per cent of girls aged under 20 had been victims of actual harm from dating violence," she said.

You can download the iMatter app on Google Play or iTunes.

<http://m.dailylife.com.au/news-and-views/dl-culture/rosie-batty-to-launch-a-domestic-violence-app-on-valentines-day-20150213-13dnsa.html>

## **We need to change the language we use to describe domestic violence**

*Courier Mail*. 12 December 2014. Clementine Ford.

“There's no doubt that the last couple of years have seen the conversation around violence against women increase dramatically in this country. Once a hidden issue, the concentrated effort of recent activists and service providers has shifted the topic into the spotlight. No longer will we tolerate cover-ups and downplaying of the violence women experience, most often at the hands of men. While there are still some people learning the statistics, it is a now an oft cited fact that on average, one woman will be murdered by her partner or ex partner in this country every week.” Read More:

<http://www.dailylife.com.au/news-and-views/dl-opinion/we-need-to-change-the-language-we-use-to-describe-domestic-violence-20141211-1251w9.html>

## 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

### Call for proper funding for domestic violence services.

Getup Says, "Domestic violence is a national emergency. It cannot be solved without a serious national conversation and full government funding and support for all services that prevent, and provide protection from, domestic violence.

We call on all Australian governments - federal, state and territory - to make good on their commitments to address our domestic violence epidemic by committing all funds needed to fully support programs which prevent domestic violence and provide protection and support for those affected. Including:

- Legal services - Crisis support and refuges - Outreach services - Men's behaviour change programs - Emergency accommodation and long-term housing - Counselling services - Homelessness services"

***If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) for 24/7 support.***

<https://www.getup.org.au/campaigns/womens-rights/domestic-violence-funding/stand-against-family-violence-service-cuts>

### Ask the Foreign Minister to sign the No-nukes pledge

"In December last year, the Austrian government hosted the third International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (the "Vienna Conference"), which saw the participation of 158 states and over 200 civil society organisations, including representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, UN agencies and research institutes. The great success of the conference has contributed to the growing awareness that the continued possession and deployment of nuclear weapons poses an unacceptable humanitarian and environmental threat. It is clear that urgent action is now needed to make concrete progress towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

At the end of the conference, the government of Austria issued the Austrian Pledge (attached), in which Austria pledged to "cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, States, International Organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movements, parliamentarians and civil society, in efforts to stigmatise, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons in light of their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and associated risks."

The Pledge recognises the important findings and outcomes of the Vienna Conference, as well as the momentum generated by the humanitarian initiative. It is an opportunity for states both to endorse the increased understanding



of the threat that nuclear weapons continue to pose to humanity and the environment, and to recognise the legal gap which exists in the framework regulating nuclear weapons, and the urgent need to establish new legal instruments to bring us closer to our shared goal of a world free from nuclear weapons.”

<http://goodbyenuk.es/take-action/>

### **Peace in Australia: The Untold Story. 16 March, 2015.**

This is the second public forum in the series 'Peace in Australia: the Untold Story' hosted by the Anzac Centenary Peace Coalition. 'Federation to the Aftermath of World War One' will cover the period 1900-1920, focussing on the social history of Australia leading up to the war; WWI, the anti-war and anti-conscription movements and the legal efforts to draft a framework for peaceful conflict resolution; and the human costs of war both at Gallipoli, the Western Front and at home. Featuring renowned Australian historians Professor Joy Damousi, Dr Val Noone and Professor Bruce Scates. <http://www.facebook.com/events/772942639407901/>

## **7. Contact Us**

PPF 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.

Find out more online <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/>  
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