



From the Editor

Dear PFP members,

Happy New Year, and welcome to our Summer 2018 edition. I hope that you all enjoyed your summer break and that you have stepped safely into 2018 with ease. Apologies for not getting this edition out to you sooner. However, an administrative issue held up the publication and distribution of this newsletter.

May I take the opportunity to welcome our 2018 office bearers, who will be acting in their roles until our next AGM (as no formal nominations were received in time for this AGM):

National Convenor – Winnifred Louis
National Treasurer – Eleanor Wertheim
National Secretary – Ann Sanson
Vic Coordinator – Sara Cohen
SA Coordinator – Helen Winefield
WA Coordinator – Manita Beskow

The Tasmanian, Northern Territory, and New South Wales Coordinator positions remain vacant, so please be in touch should you be interested in taking on any of these roles on a casual basis.

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead,
Sara Cohen
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The Youth for Peace Project Award 2017 Winners

Sara Cohen

The Youth for Peace Project Award is a national award made annually and administered by the PFP Victorian Subcommittee. Eligible to groups of 3 or more young people aged 12-18 living in Australia, this Award encourages and recognises innovative group projects that address current social issues around peace and conflict using psychological knowledge and strategies. This was the first year we offered the Award, and we were very impressed by the high calibre of applications we received. We are pleased to announce our **2017 Youth for Peace Project Award winner from New South Wales – Jason (Caitlin) Mason, Celia Connolly and William Todman.**

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Psychologists for Peace:

Working to promote peace in the world and prevent conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy.

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Newsletter contributions:

Please email any PFP news or any other related articles, resources and/or links to sara@luminousecho.com.au

Reader alert: Newsletter readers who use an Apple Macintosh computer may at times experience difficulties opening hyperlinks and URL addresses may need to be manually copied into the search engine of your browser.

Conferences

March 9th - 11th 2018

[2018 National Conference on Psychology and Peace](#)

University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

June 4th - 8th 2018

[4th Conference of the International Research Association for History and Social Sciences Education](#)

'Citizenship, Identity and Otherness' Paris Diderot University, Paris, France

June 29th - July 1st 2018

[The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues 2018 Conference](#)

'Bridges to Justice: Building Coalitions and Collaborations Within and Beyond Psychology'

Pittsburgh, USA

August 9th - 12th 2018

[126th Annual American Psychological Association Convention](#)

<http://www.apa.org/news/events/2018/apa-convention.aspx>

San Francisco, California, USA

First week of October 2018

[The 7th International Conference on Community Psychology](#)

'The Community in Motion: Building Diverse Spaces, Social Cohesion and Change' Santiago, Chile.

Calls for papers

The Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research seeks papers for publication in future issues. For more information:

http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/journals/call_for_papers.htm?id=5984

Prizes

In memory of the late Dr Gordon W Allport, **the Gordon Allport Intergroup Relations Prize** seeks published works – papers or articles – on intergroup relations. Originality of the contribution, whether theoretical or empirical, will be given special weight, and the research area of intergroup relations can include dimensions of age, gender, socioeconomic status and/or ethnicity. Sponsored by The Gordon W. Allport Memorial Fund of Harvard University and The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, an award of \$1000 will be offered to the prize-winner.

For more information about the prize, and to view previous winners:

<http://www.spssi.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.viewpage&pageid=715>

Research Grants

Research grants are offered by The Avielle Foundation to encourage neuroscience, public health or clinical research institutional/organisational applicants to conduct research to better understand the etiologies, precursors, risk and protective factors, prevention strategies and consequences of violence to self and others. A [link](#) for more information:

<https://aviellefoundation.org/research/opportunities/research-grants/>

The Youth for Peace Project Award 2017 Winners (continued from page 1)

Submitting a creative, courageous and innovative project titled *LGBTQ+ United Youth*, Jason, Celia and William sought to address the lack of representation and accurate information concerning LGBTQ+ identities and the damaging mental health implications on LGBTQ+ youth. They produced educational videos with positive information about LGBTQ+ identities, created an online community and offered their support during the plebiscite. The group also raised money for The Pinnacle Foundation, an organisation that supports LGBT+ youth who are disadvantaged. Jason, Celia and William received \$1000 in prize money, and showed commitment to continuing their project.

We wish to congratulate Jason, Celia and William for winning first prize!

Please view and share their videos and online content that is publicly available via the following links:

<https://lgbtunitedfilm.wixsite.com/lgbt-united>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUml7zeLVd5cNNaxzr2Q41gvReYvnWTxM>

<https://www.instagram.com/lgbt.unitedfilm/>

Our Selection Committee would also like to congratulate the two groups that were awarded Highly Commended Certificates and \$500 for their projects promoting peace in the community:



From the State of Victoria, **Miray Babawi, Meron Desta, Masho Tsegay, Mekides Zenebe, Fardin Jaberi and Miykail Maqdas** raised awareness of the needs of refugees within their school, collected donations from the student body and subsequently donated essential necessities including sanitary pads, tampons, toothbrushes and other hygiene

products to asylum seekers at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. They presented their project, *Donations to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre*, to staff and students at their school and also inspired another club within the school to carry out a similar project.

Elizabeth Loughton, Erin Branagh and Sophia Branagh from **Asquith High School Girls in New South Wales** held a Pride Week at their school to address the lack of inclusion and sense of belonging communicated by the LGBTI+ community at their high school. This group raised awareness of LGBTI issues and promoted acceptance within their school community. They also created a Snapchate pride story and collected donations for twenty10, an organisation that offers specialised services to LGBTI youth in NSW.

All three prize-winners used a range of resources to carry out their projects successfully including APS resources and tip sheets, and the groups also drew on psychological models including Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and the PERMA model.

We trust that their projects will serve as a source of inspiration for our 2018 applicants!



ICAN 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner

In our Spring 2017 edition, we congratulated the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for winning the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. This Australian-born organisation was founded in Melbourne in 2007, and the Prize offers formal recognition for ICAN's important efforts.

Psychologists for Peace is a partner organisation to ICAN! As those who were present at the start of our interest group are aware, one of our original causes was and has been to advocate for non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons.

In light of tensions between the US and North Korea over its missile development, ICAN's leader, Beatrice Fihn, warns that the threat posed by nuclear weapons is great, and she is calling on nuclear nations to adopt a United Nations treaty banning atomic weapons. You can read more by clicking [this link to the ABC website](#).

To find out more about ICAN, go to their website: <http://www.icanw.org/>

Other news

- Cyber-bullying campaign launched after suicide of Akubra face Amy 'Dolly' Everett
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-10/dolly-everett-nt-suicide-cyber-bullying-campaign-launched/9317056>
- Renewable energy: Solar and wind to the rescue in Victoria
<http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/news/national/renewable-energy-solar-and-wind-to-the-rescue-in-victoria/news-story/256fa00e7749b4b70b108b2e65c4eb8a>
- Australia has finally achieved marriage equality, but there's a lot more to be done on LGBTI rights
<https://theconversation.com/australia-has-finally-achieved-marriage-equality-but-theres-a-lot-more-to-be-done-on-lgbti-rights-88488>
- Unique project aims to address Islamophobia and public abuse
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-14/unique-project-aims-to-fight-against-islamophobia/9145750>
- Gay Imam hopes to open Australia's first LGBTI friendly mosque
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-01-09/gay-imam-hopes-to-open-australias-first-lgbti-friendly-mosque/9310952>

Resources

- **Understanding prejudice**

Developed by Professor Scott Pious Phd, Understandingprejudice.org is a website that offers education, resources and information on prejudice, discrimination, multiculturalism and diversity, with the goal of increasing tolerance in contemporary society. Take a look at the website's "Teacher's Corner" for teaching ideas and resources on a range of subjects including prejudice, racism or sexism; or spend some time in the "Reading Room" section, where you can access a range of articles, essays and other written resources including a bibliography of relevant children's books.

- **Peace Building in Post-Conflict Contexts – a Special Issue In Factis Pax**

This special issue was inspired by the 2016 Peace Accords in Colombia to end the 50 years' war, and brings together diverse perspectives in peace education and social justice studies. Access the issue here:

<http://www.infactispax.org/journal/>

- **Rewiring the brain for peace**

Following the Alliance for Peace Annual Conference that was held in October 2017, a Special Report on Rewiring the Brain for Peace was prepared.

Free to download here:

http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Special-Report_-AfP-Conference.pdf

Watch a range of videos by neuroscientists and other experts in the area of Rewiring the Brain for Peace:

<http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/our-work/about-our-work/neuroscience-and-peacebuilding/from-our-experts/>

View the Alliance for Peace Literature Map on the subject of Rewiring the Brain for Peace:

<http://app.mappr.io/play/RewiringTheBrain>

- **From conflict to Lasting Peace Positive Peace Report 2017: Tracking Peace Transitions Through a Systems Thinking Approach**

The Institute for Economics and Peace, headquartered in Sydney, is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank committed to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress. Their Report examines the question as to why some countries emerge from conflicts into peaceful societies, whereas others continue to exist in a highly fragile state. Access the Report here:

<http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/10/Positive-Peace-Report-2017.pdf>

Podcasts, videos and other links of interest

- **Building Peace conference – archives from the University of Oxford**

The University of Oxford has held conferences to explore 'Building Peace' from multidisciplinary perspectives, and a host of diverse and freely accessible podcasts are available on their website. The most recent podcast is a talk by Professor Alex Bellamy, Director Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at The University of Queensland on 'Tangible steps that can be taken to better organise the world for peace.' Other recent podcasts include a discussion on the role of school curriculum in promoting peace-building; preservation of cultural heritage and peace building; business as a force for supporting interfaith understanding and peace; and the Global Peace Index. Access these, and other podcasts, from the University of Oxford's website in their Open Education section:

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/building-peace>

- **The Avielle Foundation**

The Avielle Foundation funds research for exploring the underpinnings of the brain that lead to violent behaviours, and was created to prevent violence, build compassion through neuroscience research, community engagement and education. Access their website here:

<https://aviellefoundation.org>

- **Five voices: myth, disillusionment and the 1967 Referendum**

Reflecting on the Referendum 50 years on, this ABC Radio National podcast asks 5 people about their thoughts on the tangible outcomes of the Referendum. Access this podcast here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/awaye/1967-referendum8349940/9246626>

- **Bones of contention: The return of Mungo Man**

In November 2017, the three tribal groups who assert ownership of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area hosted a welcome home repatriation ceremony to celebrate the historic return of the 42,000-year-old remains of Mungo Man. Taken from his grave over 40 years ago by a team of anthropologist from the Australian National University without the permission of the traditional owners, the return of Mungo Man's remains "is one of those catalytic moments that we need to enhance Australian society, and bring empathy into understanding the Aboriginal culture," says Michael Young, Paakantyi man and member of the Aboriginal Advisory Group for Mungo Man's return.

Access the ABC Radio National Awaye! podcast here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/awaye/bones-of-contention:-the-return-of-mungo-man/9187814>

Or read more, here:

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-17/mungo-man-returned-to-ancestral-home/9159840>

The philosopher's corner

The Pale Blue Dot

When in a state of awe and reverence, we are far removed in our thinking of war and violence, leaving little or no room for anything other than the experience of beauty, peace and wonder. According to 18th-century German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, “the starry firmament above” is one such source that invites these qualities into the heart. And as if in dialogue with Kant across the space-time continuum, 20th-century British philosopher Bertrand Russell, noted that our entire galaxy is a tiny fragment of the universe, and within this fragment our solar system is “an infinitesimal speck.” The reality of this fact is brought home to us when we mediate on a photograph of planet Earth taken on February 14, 1990 by the Voyager 1 space probe. Famously known as the Pale Blue Dot, the photo taken when the spacecraft was hovering over the planet 6 billion km away shows that from this perspective the Earth's apparent size is less than a pixel. During the period following World War II when nuclear-arms were stockpiling, Russell refused to accept that our insignificant place in the universe – the so-called pale blue dot – meant that the possible end of life on Earth was of no importance. He subsequently made the goal of nuclear disarmament his main focus of political activity. Astronomer and author, Carl Sagan, adopted a similar philosophy, and in his book, *The Pale Blue Dot* (1994), he remarks:

“It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.”



The Pale Blue Dot

Link to Peter Singer's article on [‘The value of a pale blue dot’](#)

Excerpt from Carl Sagan's, book, [Pale Blue Dot](#) (1994)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in articles, podcasts and other resources contained in this newsletter do not reflect the official policy or position of the Psychologists for Peace Interest Group or any of its members.

Newsletter contributions

If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter in the way of articles, book reviews, interesting links, resources or any PfP news and updates, please email Sara Cohen:

sara@luminousecho.com.au



Youth for Peace Project Award 2018



Psychologists for Peace
(an Australian Psychological Society Interest Group)
is excited to announce the *Youth for Peace Project Award 2018*

Groups of young people (aged 12-18) are invited to undertake a project that builds peace - at school, in families, in communities, or globally.

Go to <https://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/pfp-project/> for further details and for resources to support your project

Awards:

First prize certificate with \$1000
Up to two Highly Commended certificates with \$500 each

Closing date – Tuesday 30th October 2018