

Peace News September 2008

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From Our National Convenor

Dear Members,

I'm looking forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend the Psychologists for Peace AGM next week at the 2008 APS National Conference in Hobart.

Date: Wednesday September 24th

Time: During Conference Sessions Lunchbreak 1-2pm

Venue: Harbour View Room 1, Hotel Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania

The Conference will include a climate change forum on Tuesday 23th September, from 5:15pm-7pm. The topic is 'what role can psychology/psychologists play in dealing with climate change; urgency and agency'.

For those of you who are eligible to vote in the current elections for 2 director vacancies on the APS Board, don't forget to vote by 24th September. Voting online is pretty quick – it takes a bit longer if you need to look at the profiles of the candidates or the Q & A session that is currently being posted at the APS website.

ACTION: Go to APS website

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

Select button on mid-right "Board of Directors Election", Select "Click here to vote" then you just need your APS member number and your surname (eg. Burke – case sensitive).

There are many candidates running for election, but you can only vote for 2. I'm happy to tell you privately who I voted for if you're interested. One of the keys to creating cultures of peace, which we highlighted in our cultures of peace poster, is to support democracy and exercise your right to vote, so I encourage you to do so! There are many important issues on the APS agenda including climate change, disaster response, refugee policy, racism,

so we need a strong Board.

Susie Burke

Queensland PFP's Peace Podcast

Our Queensland PFP group has created a marvellous Peace Podcast, which is a brilliant way to mark International Day of Peace this weekend. Big thanks and congratulations to Winnifred, Michelle, and all those who contributed. It's up on our website, both as an MPEG file for listening, and also as a Word written transcript. Listen to it yourself, and pass it on to friends as an International Day of Peace gift. Go to

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

For More **Brisbane** IDP events, Go to

http://www.idpa.org.au/index.php?pr=Events_2008

International Day of Peace

September 21 is UN International Day of Peace. Take a look at the following for links to events, activities and ideas about marking it, all around the world.

<http://www.un.org/events/peaceday/2008>

<http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org>

United Nations Secretary-General: *International Day of Peace SMS Campaign* (<http://www.cellular-news.com/story/33350.php>)

Médecins Sans Frontières: *Refugee Camp in your City tour*

<http://refugeecamp.msf.org.au/>

ThinkPEACE Network: *International Stand-Up for International Peace comedy shows* (<http://thinkpeace.net/11433.html>).

For those in Melbourne, an invitation from Pacific People Building Peace, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC):

Please join us in 'Sharing Our Space,' with communities of people of diverse cultural, ethnic and faith backgrounds, sharing commitments to spiritual understanding and healing. Sharing Our Space is a free event celebrating International Peace Day and the opening of Multi Faith Week. Australian Indigenous Elders will welcome all who attend, joining in prayerful reflections,

healing ceremonies and two panel discussions with representatives from Australian Indigenous and Multi Faith communities talking about ways in which we can reconcile and heal with one another.

Date and Time: 21st September 2008: 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Venue: Aboriginal Advancement League, 2 Watt Street, Thornbury, Victoria.
Melway Map 30 E3

Transport: Please note we have a free bus leaving Dandenong Station at 12 midday and Blackburn sikh Gurudwara at 1pm.

RSVP to Jessiee on 0411 300 655 or email: jessieeks@hotmail.com

Children are most welcome to attend and they will have specific activities organised for their enjoyment.

There will be live International music and delicious food provided by the Sikh community.

For more information on the Multi-Faith Week go to <http://www.commonmelbourne.com/>

Latest News from ICAN – International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

<http://www.icanw.org>

Australia is currently reviewing its defence policy, and the majority of people having input are those who want a bigger military. Consultation meetings <<http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/activities.htm>> are still to be held in WA, NSW and Victoria, and an easy e-mailable public submission form <<http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/makesubmission.htm>> is on their website. Have your say!

Recently, the Nuclear Suppliers Group did not approve the US-India deal, instead suggesting over 50 amendments! Disappointingly, Australia not only supported the deal but is rumoured to be lobbying other countries to approve it. This delay risks the entire passage of the deal and so members are urged to again e-mail Foreign Minister Stephen Smith <<mailto:Stephen.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au>> to tell them you think it's vital to reject the deal. Hear a 5 minute video <<http://jp.youtube.com/watch?v=jfJZi29I4Ic>> by Ambassador Dhanapala about why the future of the NPT hangs on this deal. Read more <#US_India> about status of deal.

This week, the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties is publically questioning whether we ratify a treaty to sell Uranium to Russia. There also

appear to be doubt within the Australian Government about whether to sell uranium to Russia, with the Chair of the Treaties Committee Kelvin Thompson expressing reservations. Read More <#Putin> . Act today-e-mail the Government. <<http://www.icanw.org/mpletters>>

Things you can do:

1. **Contribute to the Australian Defence Review.** Key issues for ICAN include: Australia to reject the protection of US nuclear weapons including supporting foreign military bases. More info <<http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/index.htm>>
2. **Mark the International Day of Peace:** pledge a small action <<http://www.peaceday.org/commitment.aspx>> for 21 September. Events for this day are at www.mapw.org.au <<http://www.mapw.org.au/>>
3. **Join the Stop the War Fair** campaign against the arms fair opening on Remembrance Day in Adelaide. Join Campaign. Sign a petition <<http://www.gopetition.com.au/online/21474.html>> to support.
4. **NO! to the US-India Deal.** E-mail Stephen Smith <<mailto:Stephen.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au>> . Watch Dhanapala Video <<http://jp.youtube.com/watch?v=jfJZi29I4Ic>> (5mins).
5. **NO! to Russian uranium deal.** E-mail the Joint Standing Committee. <<http://www.icanw.org/mpletters>>
6. **ICAN Give!** Help ICAN survive after our initial funding runs out next year: donate online <<http://www.egive.org.au/website/index.php>> .
7. **Order ICAN resources:** info@icanw.org

New Book: *Human Rights Overboard: Seeking Asylum in Australia*

The Testimonies of the People's Inquiry into Detention by Linda Briskman, Susie Latham and Chris Goddard, is now released.

In 2005, in the wake of the Cornelia Rau scandal, a citizen's inquiry was established to bear witness to events in Australian immigration-detention facilities. Until then, the federal government had refused to conduct a broad-ranging investigation into immigration detention in Australia, and the operations within detention centres had been largely shrouded in official secrecy.

The People's Inquiry into Detention (as it came to be called) heard heartbreaking evidence about asylum-seekers' journeys to Australia, their detention process, life in detention, and life after detention. In total, around 200 people testified to the inquiry, and a similar number of written submissions were received.

Human Rights Overboard draws together, for the first time, the oral

testimony and written submissions from the inquiry in a powerful and vital book that stands as an indelible record of one of Australia's bleakest legacies.

This is a profoundly important book. It is an unflinching look at disgraceful events. Too many Australians allowed these things to happen. Our generation will forever be marked with the shame of it. It is not only an epitaph for the Howard government: it is also a caution to future generations. (Julian Burnside QC)

For more information and to order:

<http://www.safecom.org.au/humanrightsoverboard.htm>

Study Peace and Conflict Resolution at the European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU), Stadtschlaining, Austria

We wish to invite you to join a select group of 44 students from around the world in an intensive course in peace and conflict studies. All courses are taught in English, by leading specialist in their field from around the world, including Dr. Johan Galtung, one of the founders of the academic discipline of peace research and frequent mediator in international conflicts; Dr. Hossain Danesh, founder of unity-based conflict resolution and education for peace; international lawyer Dr. Richard Falk. Imagine you could study psychology with Sigmund Freud, or economics with Adam Smith!

The EPU program is designed to provide students with the intellectual competence to analyze conflicts and their underlying causes, with practical skills in conflict transformation and peacebuilding, and with the motivation to do everything in their capacity to help create a better world. We seek to enable our students to help build a more peaceful, equitable and just global society, in harmony with nature. The Program was founded in 1988 by Dr. Gerald Mader, our President. It has so far educated about 1000 students from about 100 countries in peace studies and conflict transformation. It received the 1995 UNESCO Peace Education Prize.

In addition to attending courses, students get to know each other closely and conclude friendships for a lifetime. Currently we have 50 students from 31 countries, about half from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Many former students said that studying at EPU was the best time of their life. Students who have successfully completed our program are well grounded in both theory and practice to face the challenges of global conflict transformation and peacebuilding. We are happy that many of our former students have successful careers in international organizations, NGOs, businesses, universities, or work with their governments.

From Fall 2008 a new and improved curriculum will come into effect, with 9 modules, spread over 3 trimesters (fall, spring and summer). - Module 1: History of and Introduction to Peace Studies - Module 2: International

Relations & International Law - Module 3: Conflict Transformation & Peacebuilding - Module 4: National Security & Human Security - Module 5: Regional Conflicts & Peace Work - Module 6: Sustainable Development - Module 7: Human Rights & Democratization - Module 8: Peace Education & The Media - Module 9: Peace Culture, Religions & Ethics

In addition, there are several academic excursions. For a course calendar, course descriptions and biographical notes about our faculty members, see www.epu.ac.at <<http://www.epu.ac.at/>>

Fall term 2008: 28 September - 20 December Spring term 2009: 1 February - 25 April Summer term 2009: 31 May - 22 August

Location: Stadtschlaining is a beautiful, small and quiet medieval town with a 13th century castle hosting a peace museum, in the foothills of the Alps, between Vienna and Graz, surrounded by hiking trails. Austria's best known spa with hot springs is nearby. Classrooms and 44 single rooms with bath are in a new building.

Peace Library: next to the castle is a famous peace library with 25,000 books, journals and many films, mostly in English.

Who Should Apply: Students from any discipline interested in peace and conflict resolution, young diplomats, government officials, NGO members, teachers, journalists, lawyers, social workers, officers, psychologists, and anyone interested in solving conflicts by peaceful means. A first university degree (bachelors or equivalent) is required, and preferably some professional experience.

Degrees: Those who successfully complete one trimester obtain a Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies. Those who complete three trimesters (Fall, Spring and Summer) and write a thesis obtain a Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies, approved by the Austrian Ministry of Education. Students can begin in any of the three trimesters. The three trimesters need not be taken in succession, they can be spread over several years if preferred.

Costs: 2500 Euro tuition + 1400 Euro room rent per trimester, plus a one-time 800 Euro fee for two thesis advisers for the Master of Arts program, or 12'500 Euro for the entire MA program. Those who pay in advance obtain a 500 Euro discount. If you cannot come for any reason, you get a full refund. If you need to end your studies early, you get a pro-rated refund. Some partial scholarships are available for students who need one.

When to Apply: EPU now has a rolling admission policy. You can apply at any time before the trimester in which you wish to begin to study, and if you qualify and we have space left, you will be admitted. Those who need an Austrian visa are advised to apply very early, because the process of obtaining the visa can take months.

EPU does not discriminate on the basis of (among others) gender, race, class, age or national origin.

<http://www.epu.ac.at> <<http://www.epu.ac.at/>>

For further questions, please contact Anita Flasch, Administrative Assistant <epu@epu.ac.at>, Tel +43-3355-2498-515 (Monday-Friday mornings) or Dr. Dietrich Fischer, Academic Director, Tel+43-3355-20726 anytime. We will be happy to answer your questions and help you.

News from the Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace - Vukovar, Croatia.

For more news and info about this group's interesting and important work, go to <http://www.cwwpp.org>

Studying with the cwwpp: Places open for Fall 2008

The CWWPP has announced its program for study for 2008. This year we offer an intensive course which will last for four weeks and an optional project period, which will last for another month. If an applicant decides to stay the whole program, there will be additional two week vacation between the intensive course and the project period. The Introductory Course in Post-Conflict Studies will be given from November to December, 2008, or January 2009, depending on the option you choose. There is also the possibility of assistance for Masters and Doctoral students. More information is available at <http://www.cwwpp.org/Study.htm>. You may also write to us at institute@cwwpp.org.

Educational Programs

The CWWPP is working towards developing of online educational programs for post-conflict areas. The program will include development of: 1) the "Core Course" for non-professionals to give them the basic skills and knowledge to be able to carry out work in their own areas at a high level of competence; and in later stages, 2) program leading to a BA and an MA in post-conflict studies that will combine the theoretical and practical aspects of work in such areas. Our aim is to provide relatively simple access to the degree course on the one hand and quality on the other. Key personnel responsible for the program are our Educational Coordinator, Ms. Sandra Maric, Head of Mission, Dr. Charles David Tauber, and Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Sinisa Stanivuk. The CWWPP is creating a network of Subject Matter Experts with the professors and Ph.D. students from abroad who will be involved in the developing of the program. Dr. Dennis Mills from Olympia, Washington, USA, is our key advisor. Dr. Mills visited us in June and October 2007. Visit our website for further updates on educational programs. If you have an MA or a PhD and are interested in volunteering with us as a Subject Matter Expert please write to us at institute@cwwpp.org.