

# PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR PEACE

## Peace News April 2012

Welcome to the autumn update of Psychologists for Peace. Congratulations to Di Bretherton and Nikola Balvin for their new book *Peace Psychology in Australia*, and to all the contributors, including members of PFP! (See more in Section 1).

A quick reminder to all members to renew their memberships of PFP when APS renewals come due next month. As you know, your dues support great projects engaging with practitioners, school children, and the community broadly around issues of peace. So we hope you'll continue with us.



The first anniversary of the ongoing nuclear disaster at Fukushima was on March 11. While hundreds of thousands of people remain displaced by the radiation exclusion

zone, and a clean up of the site is looking further and further away, a symbol of beauty and peace has emerged from the sadness. Sunflowers have been planted in their thousands in the radiation disaster zone by volunteers in an effort to absorb caesium from the soil. They have come to symbolise hope.

Japan and the world are shifting on nuclear power. Japan is moving to all renewable energy, Germany and Italy have vowed to phase out nuclear power. Australia is moving in the opposite direction in this respect as uranium mining companies have shifted the NSW government to permit mining, with Queensland likely to follow.



### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### 1. Recent publications & resources

- *Peace Psychology in Australia*
- *Encyclopedia of Peace Psychology*
- And more...

#### 2. Calls for papers & Conferences

- Cultivating Peace. 17 to 19 May 2012. Armidale, NSW, Australia
- Psychologists for Peace plans for the APS Annual Conference in Perth
- And more ...

#### 3. In the news

- Launch of the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
- and more...

#### 4. Merchandise

- Educational posters for conflict resolution

#### 5. Events and activities

#### 6. Contact Us

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## 1. Recent Publications & Resources

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### Peace Psychology in Australia

Congratulations to Di Bretherton and Nikola Balvin on the completion of their edited text, *Peace Psychology in Australia* (2012), which is the newest of the *Peace Psychology Book Series*. Professor the Hon Gareth Evans, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, has contributed a forward to this book. Many members of PFP contributed to this book, and the book includes a chapter on Psychologists for Peace itself, and the Enhancing Relationships in School Communities project, which has been an outgrowth of PFP activities. The website includes the following description:

“The book brings into focus the history of relations between Indigenous peoples and the descendents of British and other settlers, the experiences of recent immigrants, and the perspectives of peace professionals on how to achieve a more cooperative and less fragmented society. Chapters identify key factors in successful integration, analyzing the intricate balance between valuing diversity and promoting common bonds, values, and identity. The range of historical and contemporary issues featured includes the country’s hidden history of structural inequity, the rich tradition of Indigenous methods of resolving conflicts, and Australia’s unique possibilities for social justice. And peace psychologists are shown in context, whether advocating for asylum seekers or working with men’s groups to rethink the long-prevailing culture of male domination. Included in this important volume:

- Immigration and Australian national identity.
- Encouraging respect for diversity in the schools.
- Community development in Indigenous empowerment.
- Stereotypes: hidden obstacles to reconciliation.
- Peace objectives in the era of climate change.
- Practical and research challenges for the future.”

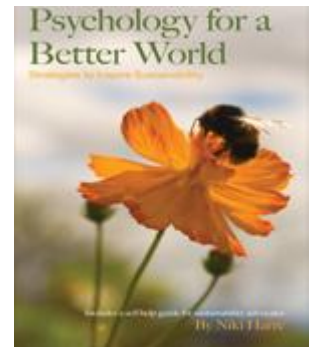
<http://www.springer.com/psychology/community+psychology/book/978-1-4614-1402-5>

### The Encyclopedia of Peace Psychology.

An important part of the *Peace Psychology Book Series* is this newly released three-volume set edited by Dan Christie. The text covers the spectrum of research and practice topics on psychological aspects of peace and conflict studies, with contributors from around the world providing over 300 chapters. Members of PFP have also contributed to these volumes.

<http://au.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1405196440.html>

## **Psychology for a Better World: Strategies to Inspire Sustainability - Niki Harré**



Niki Harré is Associate Professor at University of Auckland where she has taught social and community psychology for twelve years. Her recent research has focused on sustainable communities and schools, positive youth development and political activism.

*Psychology for a Better World* aims to describe a range of evidence-based approaches to creating a more positive, and sustainable world. It covers a range of relevant psychological research focussed on how to encourage and assist individuals to take constructive and positive actions towards creating a better world, with a focus on creating sustainability. The book includes some very practical tasks and worksheets for assessing one's own and others' capacities for change at personal, local and community levels.

You can get a free copy here: <http://psych.auckland.ac.nz/psychologyforabetterworld>

Kim Stewart has also reviewed the book in the April edition (p. 48) of the Friends of the Earth newsletter: <http://www.foe.org.au/sites/default/files/Chain-Reaction-%23114-April-2012.pdf> .

### **Report: *Japan's Nuclear Scandals and the Fukushima Disaster***

Dr Jim Green of Friends of the Earth Australia has written a report titled *Japan's Nuclear Scandals and the Fukushima Disaster*, which describes safety breaches and apparent cover-ups by TEPCO (operator of the Fukushima plant) , and suggests that the Japanese government was overly complacent in the lead up to the Fukushima disaster.

Download the report at  
<http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/>

### **Ken Pope's peace-related and mindfulness resources**

Dr Ken Pope is a clinical psychologist, formerly chair of the APA Ethics Committee and Fellow of 9 APA Divisions who resigned following concerns about the APA response to 9/11. He has received the Division 12 Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Clinical Psychology and the Division 42 Award for Mentoring. He suggests the following peace related and mindfulness resources.

Resources for Troops & Veterans, Their Families, & Those Who Provide Services To Them:  
<http://bit.ly/d2KenPope>

Links to 100+ Resources for Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, & Torture Survivors:  
<http://bit.ly/KenPopeResourcesforTortureVictims>

Resources for Psychologists, MDs, & Others Seeking to Help Those in Need:  
<http://bit.ly/KenPopeVolunteeringResources>

Psychologists and Detainee Interrogations: Key Decisions, Opportunities Lost, and Lessons Learned" in \*Annual Review of Clinical Psychology\* (2011):

<http://bit.ly/KenPopePsychologistsAndDetaineeInterrogations>

Recent Meditation Research (127 articles published in 2010 & 2011):

<http://bit.ly/KenPopeMeditationResearch>

Mindfulness Resources for Clinical Training & Practice:

<http://bit.ly/KenPopeMindfulness>

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## 2. Calls for papers & Conferences

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**Cultivating Peace: Context, Practices and Multidimensional Models. 17 to 19 May 2012. Armidale, NSW, Australia**

Watch this space for more information on the conference as it become available.

<http://www.une.edu.au/humanities/peace-studies-festival/conference.php>

**Psychology and the Occupy Movement: Synergies for Social Change. Psychologist for Social Responsibility's 30th Anniversary Conference. July 12-14, 2012. Washington, DC.**

The following is announcement from the group:

“The Occupy Movement in the United States, inspired by the earlier Arab Spring uprisings in North Africa and the Wisconsin Movement, is using creative, nonviolent methods to decry inequities in our society. It is enlisting citizens from all walks of life to right injustices of wealth and power and to stop the use of violence to perpetuate these injustices. This 30th anniversary PsySR conference will explore the relationship between psychology and the Occupy Movement and the synergies this relationship can generate in the service of social justice.”

The conference is described as focusing on the following three areas:

- ⤴ “Critiquing Psychology’s Role in and Relationship to Injustice: Psychology itself plays a role in the inequities of power, money, and aggression. We seek to ‘occupy psychology’ by addressing our own demonstrated potential for injustice in clinical, military, law enforcement, academic, and commercial settings, and considering countervisions to prevailing norms for diagnosis and treatment, professional ethics, and psychological research.
- ⤴ Broadening Psychology Toward Social Justice and Inclusion: A socially responsible psychology engages psychologies of liberation and indigenous psychologies, local and global advocacy, unjust practices and policies, participatory action research, and liberation arts.
- ⤴ Aligning Psychology to Support and Learn From the Occupy Movement: PsySR invites presenters to nourish psychologists’ imaginations regarding how their own skills, resources, and understandings can be used to support efforts for social and economic justice, dynamic peace, and sustainability.”

The conference officially begins on Thursday afternoon (July 12th) and concludes on Saturday evening (July 14th).

More at: <http://www.psyr.org//conference2012/>

**Women in War and at War. 11 to 12 May 2012. Aberystwyth, United Kingdom**

Website: <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/law-criminology/research/conferences/>

**Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference, Perth, 27-30 September**

Psychologists for Peace have made several submissions for the annual APS conference including panel discussions and symposia on peace research. We are making plans for a social event and Annual General Meeting at the conference. Some of the PFP conference events will be a celebration and launch of Di Bretherton and Nikola Balvin's (Editors) new book *Peace Psychology in Australia* (see information in section 1). At the event, we will also be welcomed by and acknowledge the work of the WA PFP group. Keep posted for events at the conference.

**Psychology Beyond Borders: Small Grants Scheme**

"Psychology Beyond Borders (PBB) is seeking proposals for projects that support our mission. PBB is an international non-profit organization focusing on the psychosocial impacts of disasters, armed conflicts, and terrorism. 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 - \$10,000 (USD) will be funded with an expected project duration of one year, beginning January 2013. Application deadline is October 12, 2012. For more information about the requirements and application information, go to [www.psychologybeyondborders.org](http://www.psychologybeyondborders.org) or contact [awards@pbbmail.org](mailto:awards@pbbmail.org)."

**Small Grants Program for the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence:  
Peace Psychology Research, Education, or Community Projects**

"The Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence: Peace Psychology Division 48 of the American Psychological Association invites applications for small grants for research in peace psychology, development of peace psychology education programs, or community projects involving the application of peace psychology. A total of \$6000 has been budgeted for small grants in 2012, and grant applications may request between \$300 and \$3000. The purpose of this grants program is to foster the development of the field of peace psychology through research, education, and the application of peace psychology in community projects." For additional information contact Dan Mayton at [dmayton@lcsc.edu](mailto:dmayton@lcsc.edu) .

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### 3. In the news

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#### **Launch of the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security**

On International Women's Day, 8 March 2012, the Government launched the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-2018, at Garden Island, Sydney. From their website: "This National Action Plan is a whole of government effort, coordinated by the Office for Women. It will consolidate and build on the broad program of work already underway in Australia to integrate a gender perspective into peace and security efforts, protect women and girls' human rights, particularly in relation to gender-based violence, and promote their participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution."

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/govtint/action\\_plan\\_women\\_peace/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/govtint/action_plan_women_peace/Pages/default.aspx)

#### **Vale voted the world's worst multinational company**

Vale, the Brazilian mining company present in 38 countries and the largest iron-ore mining corporation in the world, came first out of six finalists for the Public Eye Award, which annually elects the "worst company in the world" by popular vote. Vale won the award with 25,042 votes followed by TEPCO (owners of the Fukushima Daiichi power plant) in second place. Samsung, with 19,014 votes, came third for their abysmal record in worker safety at their electronics manufacturing concerns. Barclays Bank, Syngenta and Freeport took out fourth, fifth and sixth places. Find out more at <http://www.publiceye.ch/en/ranking/>

#### **Global military expenditure figures in 2011 released**

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has just released information about the level of global military expenditure in 2011.

<http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/milex>"

#### **Democracy under scrutiny as Wikileaks releases secret intelligence**

The following links describe the recent release of millions of Stratfor (intelligence firm) documents by Wikileaks related to U.S. government responses to Julian Assange, including an alleged secret indictment, for his part in establishing the Wikileaks institution in an attempt to make democracy accountable and expose war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan.-

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/politics/time-for-government-to-stand-ground-and-protect-assange-20120229-1u3cn.html#ixzz1o85BTxJc>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2012/mar/01/stratfor-wikileaks-obama-administration?INTCMP=SRCH>

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## 4. PFP Merchandise

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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/>

**YOU can help us spread the word by asking your local community group to feature our ad (right).**

**Peace Starts  
in the Mind**



Psychologists for Peace have created a series of colourful posters teaching peace, tolerance and conflict resolution for educators & practitioners. With titles including "Wise Ways to Win", "Rebuilding Relationships" and "Handling Anger Wisely", they are helpful & accessible to a wide audience.

Purchase online at <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/posters/>

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## 5. Events and activities

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### Global Day of Action on Military Spending



Global military spending is at an all time high since the end of the cold war at almost \$2000 billion. More than 50 countries participated in this, the second Global Day of Action on Military Spending on April 17. See their website for more information.

<http://demilitarize.org/>

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## 6. 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/>

The newsletter was compiled by Kim Stewart, Administrative Editor of the Psychologists for Peace Newsletter.