

## Pre-poll voting may obfuscate early election results

A rush of pre-poll voting may delay the results of the 18 May federal election, making the TV station pundits' calls on election night more of a toss-up.

There's a theory that voters are waiting with baseball bats to metaphorically beat ALL mainstream party political candidates over the head. There could be a wide distribution of votes to minor parties and independents.

If so, people may have made up their minds by now, and be searching for their local pre-poll venue. By the date pre-poll voting opens, 29 April, the Australian Electoral Commission was due to have pre-poll options listed. They were not available on the afternoon of 27 April.

On election night, the first votes counted are those coming from traditional polling places. Pre-poll votes are not given preference for counting, as you might expect.

So the first results on election night could be even more confusing than usual.

Last election, in 2016 31% of voters took the pre-poll option. In 2013, it was 26%. Predictions for the 2019 election range as high as possibly 50% of votes being cast by pre-poll.

## What CLA wants politicians to concentrate on, and commit to:

- Holding the first-ever national inquiry involving federal, state and territory governments into how to improve Australia's legal/justice system, and preparing a 50-year plan to achieve positive change.
- Ensuring equal treatment and health concerns by police and before the law for everyone: Indigenous people, unionists, company directors, children and youth, etc. Especially refugee claimants.
- Introducing a bill of rights for Australia, including constitutional free speech and assembly guarantees.
- Bringing in more open and transparent rules and regulations around whistleblowing, including rewarding people who save governments actual cash or the equivalent.
- Abandoning any politically punitive actions before the courts (such as the Witness K-Collary matter).
- Standing up for Australians overseas by specifying what Australian citizenship means in terms of responsibilities and rights, and standing up for Australians mistreated overseas.
- MPs always putting their electors' personal, property and financial interests ahead of the MP's.

## Banning of property developer donations is valid

Just in time for the federal election in May 2019, the High Court has ruled a Queensland law banning political donations from property developers is valid.

Queensland brought in the law in 2018 to crack down on corruption and increase transparency. The court ruled the law is constitutional, but is yet to give full reasons.

Former LNP Queensland president Gary Spence challenged the law. He stepped down from his party role over the ban. He claimed the law meant he could face jail time because of his dealings with the property industry.

The High Court ruled that the Queensland Government was able to make property donations a criminal offence. <http://tinyurl.com/y3fvdblj>

## Spy boss dials up security fear before election

The list of security threats to Australia is "almost endless" and greater than ever before, Aussie spy supremo Nick Warner said last month, claiming he could list "90 or 100" current security risks.

"Australia is facing some of the most challenging strategic circumstances that it has for decades," Warner said to interviewer Geraldine Doogue on ABC Radio National.

*Photo: Spy boss Warner shares an 'iron fist' with maverick Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (right) in 2017*



He lists China-US competition and regional tensions, North Korea, technology change, threat to the rules-based international order and terrorism as the top threats.

Warner, director-general of the Office of National Intelligence, gives daily intelligence briefings to the prime minister. He says ONI has two roles: assessing security risks, and coordinating, integrating and evaluating Australia's 10 intelligence agencies, including ASIO and the several spookdoms in Home Affairs.

Mr Warner says he recognises "there's a delicate balance between civil liberties and security. The right way forward is to find the right balance between [security and civil liberties]. And that's the job of government."

No, not true, Mr Warner. That's also the job of the bureaucracy advising the government. Anyone running a beat-up that there are 90-100 current security risks should pull his or her head in. No wonder the government is so fearful when such nonsense is being peddled by a spy boss who believes it's his public relations duty to ramp up fear just before a federal election.

One thing you can guarantee, because it is a constant truism of security failures worldwide: if Australia suffers an attack of some sort, it will occur because the octopus-on-steroids spookeries under Warner's control did not communicate properly with each other. <http://tinyurl.com/y5a2s89j> (NOTE: this sentence was written BEFORE the Sri Lanka terrorist bombings, where its accuracy was clearly demonstrated).

## **Birds have flown...thanks to lax federal authorities**

The Australian government has tried to recall FOI documents released to the *Guardian* that contain critical information about exports of rare and exotic birds to a German organisation headed by a convicted kidnapper, fraudster and extortionist.

*Guardian Australia* revealed late last year that Australia had permitted the export of 232 birds, some worth tens of thousands of dollars, to the Brandenburg-based Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP) between 2015 and November 2018.

Conservation groups and federal politicians had repeatedly expressed concern about the group, which is headed by Martin Guth, a man with multiple criminal convictions. <http://tinyurl.com/y6u7e2am>

## **ODD SPOT: Being dogged at the airport on return to Oz**

"Don't pat the customs dogs. A guy I know patted the beagle as it trotted past, and then it made the customs officer suspicious and my mate ended up getting carted off for a full-body search." — Patrick from Mooloolaba <http://tinyurl.com/y5djrujx>



## **We must stand against political imprisonment**

Julian Assange is a whistleblowing newsman who is a political prisoner, CLA believes.

Personally, he may be narcissistic to a level that would qualify him for the American presidency. But he would not be behind bars if he hadn't helped to leak details of US atrocities, lies and cover-ups.

The organisation he ran, WikiLeaks, has published thousands of secret US documents. Leaking them was a public service to the world.

They included vision of a US military helicopter attack in Iraq that killed civilians, including two staff members of news agency *Reuters*. The published information revealed US forces committing war crimes. <http://tinyurl.com/yxpaxafi> Diplomatic cables which embarrassed the US government were also published.

As usual, only the public-spirited leakers have been punished: the state-funded criminals who committed war and other crimes go scot free again.

Now the USA wants to extradite him on 'treason 'like' charges developed by a secret and anachronistic US legal system called a grand (meaning large) jury.

Assange owes no fealty to Lord Trump and the USA.

If Australia stands for anything, it will stand up for Assange's rights as an Australian citizen. It will argue in public in courts and privately behind the scenes for his freedom.

Assange is a problem of principle, not of criminal offence. Sweden has twice formally dropped the original charge against him arising from consensual sex, while the original potential prosecutor in Stockholm did not believe the allegations were sufficiently robust to mount a legal charge in the first place.

The UK government wants revenge for being made to look stupid by Assange's seeking asylum in a London embassy (when it was entirely capable of being proven stupid all by itself, as Brexit clearly shows).

The US is notorious for imposing its pernicious hegemony on citizens of other countries: now it's Assange and Australia. If the Australian government stands for anything, it will stand for Assange, against America.

## CLA contributes to seminal prison inquiry

Civil Liberties Australia has lodged a detailed submission to a seminal inquiry into prisons, the costs of detention, and whether jail delivers any rehabilitation, as it is supposed to.

The full submission is available on the CLA website: See **MAKING PRISONS PAY** The Queensland government has ordered the Qld Productivity Commission to undertake the inquiry.

Like other states and territories, Qld is finding the current and prospective rising costs of jails and juvenile detention centres untenable. (CLA has copied its submission to all state/territory prison/justice ministers).

While the inquiry relates to Qld only, its findings are expected to point the way for many other jurisdictions, nationally and internationally. Read all the submissions to QPC: <https://www.qpc.qld.gov.au/inquiries/imprisonment/> Click on 'Final submissions'.

Prisoners nationwide rose 4% in 2018. The Australian prison population has gone from about 27,500 in 2008 to 42,974 in 2018. Indigenous people comprise 28% of prisoners (but about 2% of the population). <http://tinyurl.com/y4sk7coz> ACT prisoners up 99.2% <http://tinyurl.com/y65fy9dx>

## High Court endorses safe access zone laws

Laws promoting the safety, dignity and privacy of women seeking reproductive healthcare – that is, including abortion – have been upheld by the High Court of Australia.

The High Court rejected challenges by anti-abortionists from Victoria and Tasmania to safe access zone laws. The laws operate in most jurisdictions to stop anti-abortionists confronting women outside specialist health clinics. The zones prohibit conduct like harassing, filming and intimidating patients and staff within 150m of a health clinic that provides abortion.

The High Court had been asked to determine whether a prohibition on communications reasonably likely to cause distress or anxiety in Victoria, and a prohibition on protests about abortion in Tasmania, were constitutional.

Victoria introduced safe access zone laws in 2016, while Tasmania introduced them as part of decriminalising abortion in 2013. NSW, the ACT, the NT and Queensland also have safe access zone laws. <http://tinyurl.com/yxk8vdsd>

## ODD SPOT: Cleared to tell porkies only

In his press conference in August 2016 to announce the veto on the Chinese investment in Ausgrid, the then-Treasurer Scott Morrison was asked "What was the security concern?". He replied that: "The only person security-cleared in this room to answer that question is me". The truth is Mr Morrison has never had a security clearance as a politician. Federal MPs and Ministers are exempt from needing clearances: the ship of state is the only ship that leaks from the top...and tells porkies to promote false expertise and exclusivity. – Source: former member of government security detail.

## Legal aid effectively wound back again

The government continued in the 2 April Budget to wind back legal aid.

It will provide \$1.2 billion over three years, which sounds impressive. It is an extra \$30.5 million over the period. But Law Council of Australia president Arthur Moses (photo) said an extra \$310 million a year was needed.

In its pre-Budget submission, the LCA labelled the current levels of legal assistance funding in Australia as "abysmal" and "at its lowest level in decades".

In 1997, the federal government spent \$11.22 on legal aid for each Australian, Moses said. Today, it spends less than \$8 per head. <http://tinyurl.com/y38kcfwn>

In a bid to cut federal government costs further, there will be a new, single funding centre for Legal Aid Commissions, Community Legal Centres and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services via states and territories. The national mechanism starts on 1 July 2020. – Budget papers



## The inquiry into religion to enjoy a third coming...

In its Second Interim Report, the 45th Parliament's inquiry into "Freedom of religion and belief, the Australian experience", recommended that there be a continuing inquiry in the 46th Parliament.

That's the parliament we're about to get, the one we're voting for this month. The secular parliament's never-ending quest for having its religious cake and eating it too seems set to continue for decades.

Nevertheless, CLA's President, Dr Kristine Klugman, was able to highlight one clear anomaly, as reported in the Second Interim Report, released last month, in this excerpt:

- 3.106 Variations of this general argument are given by a number of submitters. Civil Liberties Australia also made similar statements at the Canberra public hearing, who argued that religion is given preferential treatment and has greater political clout:

*The atheists or the nonbelievers or the agnostics are not unified in a lobby group the way the various religious groups are. The religious groups do have far more power and far more sway with politicians because of their voting strength and their lobbying ability than do the disparate people who are agnostics or atheists or nonbelievers. The weight of the religious sector outweighs its representation in the community, and I think that's a bad thing.138*

138 Dr Kristine Klugman, President, Civil Liberties Australia, *Committee Hansard*, Canberra, 22 June 2018, p. 23. <http://tinyurl.com/yyfcu45e>

## Scrutiny committee continues its wimpish way

The Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills continues to come down with wimpish findings.

Instead of straight out saying some Bills should not be permitted to pass the parliament, because they don't meeting basic standards of the rule of law, fairness or justice, the Scrutiny committee produces mealy-mouthed criticism, like this:

### Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

- *Right to liberty – presumption against bail and parole*: the committee notes its significant scrutiny concerns regarding the expansion of the presumptions against bail and parole.
- *Trespass on rights and liberties – continuing detention orders*: the committee notes its significant scrutiny concerns regarding the expansion of the continuing detention of high risk terrorist offenders after their sentences for imprisonment have been served.
- *Procedural fairness*: the committee notes its scrutiny concerns regarding limiting an offender's right to receive a complete copy of an application for a detention order.

### Counter-Terrorism (Temporary Exclusion Orders) Bill 2019

- *Trespass on personal rights and liberties*: the committee notes its scrutiny concerns regarding broad discretionary ministerial powers to exclude Australian citizens from Australia and impose monitoring conditions on persons not convicted of any offence.
- *Procedural fairness*: the committee notes its scrutiny concerns regarding removing the obligation of the minister to observe procedural fairness.

– Standing Cttee for the Scrutiny of Bills: Scrutiny Digest No 2 of 2019

## Money allocated for integrity, but will it be a robust commission?

The federal budget allocated funds for a Commonwealth Integrity Commission but there is a long way to go before any investigative body with appropriate teeth – and able to pry into any dark corner – is in place.

32. The Government will provide \$104.5m over four years from 2019-20 (including \$10m in capital funding over four years from 2019-20) to establish a Commonwealth Integrity Commission (CIC).

33. The CIC will be an independent statutory agency, led by an Independent Integrity Commissioner and two deputy commissioners, tasked with the investigation of corruption in the public sector.

34. The Government will also provide:

- \$2.2m in 2019-20 (including \$800,000 in capital funding) for the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) to “morph” into the law enforcement integrity division of the CIC;
- \$4.9m over four years from 2019-20 for the Attorney-General’s Department to support the CIC and to provide legal services assistance; and
- \$1.0 million over three years from 2020-21 for the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman to oversee operations of the CIC.

### **ODD SPOT: More funds for government PR**

The Budget allocates \$2 million over the next two years to the High Court’s Australian Constitution Centre, which aims to increase public understanding of Australia’s constitutional framework. This sounds to CLA like a PR stunt for the government to indoctrinate children in similar vein to the military promotion programs run for schools by the Veterans Affairs Department.

### **Spook committee undertaking three new inquiries**

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security is holding three statutory reviews on the mandatory data retention scheme, the amendments made by the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Act 2018, and the Australian citizenship renunciation by conduct cessation provisions.

Committee chair Andrew Hastie noted that the full terms of reference for each review are available on the Committee’s website alongside information about making a submission.

“We’ve adopted these inquiries prior to the election in order to maximise stakeholder opportunity to engage with these important areas of legislation,” Mr Hastie said.

“Submissions are requested until 1 July 2019 for consideration during the 46th Parliament by the re-established Intelligence and Security Committee, which will carry these reviews to their conclusion.”

<http://tinyurl.com/y2dhb5o9>

### **Police get their own ‘barbed wire’ song**

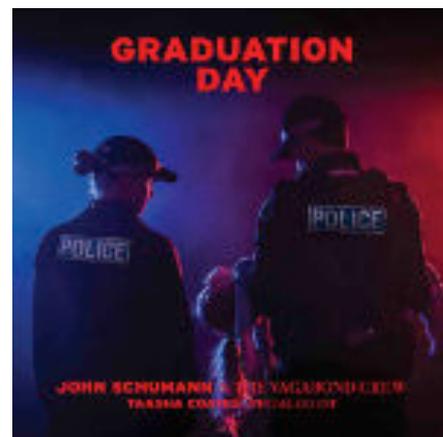
Noted Australian songwriter John Schumann has crafted ‘*Graduation Day*’ to help support serving and retired police and their families in need.

Artist royalties from sales – available at <https://www.fineprint.net.au/graduation-day> – go to the National Police Foundation.

Schumann, who wrote the Vietnam veterans’ anthem ‘*I Was Only 19*’, said that ‘*Graduation Day*’ took him almost a year to write. “I had to get inside a cop’s head, walk around in a cop’s shoes – and look out and see the world through a cop’s eyes,” Schumann said.

“The song owes everything to all the police officers around Australia who trusted me with their stories. The stories were very hard to listen to – but I got a real insight into what it means to go to work every day to keep the community safe – and then come home with a head full of barbed wire without knowing how to talk about it or what to do about it.”

He recorded the song with his long-time band, the *Vagabond Crew*; it also features guest vocalist Taasha Coates from *The Audreys*. Video clip: <http://tinyurl.com/y5p3asnj>



### **Internal investigations are a fraud on the public**

The ongoing fraud on the public that is internal Queensland Police investigations has been thoroughly exposed in a long-running case decided recently when a police “leaker” was exonerated of all charges.

A QPol unit on the Gold Coast had generated dozens of brutality complaints and a longstanding reputation among colleagues for excessive force before several of its members were publicly exposed in a leaked video, the *ABC* reported.

The appalling disciplinary records of Gold Coast police were intentionally hidden, prosecutions were delayed allowing alleged gross perpetrators to retire on a high payout, and even crystal clear video evidence of wrongdoing was ignored.

The failed prosecution of former police officer Rick Flori over an alleged leak opened up former members of so-called Surfers Paradise "Team Two" to interrogation over their disciplinary records, which revealed internal investigations of 21 allegations of serious misconduct. Team Two was one of a number of patrol units operating out of Surfers Paradise police, each with about 12 to 15 officers at any one time.

The ABC revealed there were at least 21 other complaints of excessive force against another two officers within Team Two in the years leading up to the unjustified assault of Noa Begic in the police station car park in January 2012. This assault became the cornerstone of the long-running saga, only recently resolved.

Despite the appalling records, the only police officer charged originally was Flori, who was forced to leak details of his colleagues' abuse in the search for justice.

For a rundown on how Qld Police's internal investigations have lost all credibility, see: <http://tinyurl.com/y4f73k4s>

## Keogh to find out why chief judge 'kept him in jail for 10 years'

Three Victorian supreme court judges have ruled that Henry Keogh can finally find out why current SA chief judge Chris Kourakis kept him in jail 10 years longer than he should have been there.

The ruling validated a Freedom of Information determination by State Ombudsman Wayne Lines. It means a review of the Keogh case conducted between 2003 and 2006 by then-solicitor-general Chris Kourakis, who is now SA's chief judge, can finally become public.

The review – which included a separate report by the state's then-head of pathology Barrie Vernon-Roberts – was the basis of the former Labor government's decision to reject a petition for mercy by Keogh, who was jailed in 1995 for the drowning-in-a-bath murder of his fiancé Anna-Jane Cheney.

The Vernon-Roberts section of the report was released to Keogh's legal team in 2013. It immediately provided the basis for Keogh's successful bid in the Court of Criminal Appeal to be freed from prison after more than 19 years in jail for a murder he did not commit. SA has paid him \$2.6m compensation.

The appeal court set aside his conviction, then a retrial fell over when the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to continue prosecuting.

Both Labor and Liberal governments in SA have fought tooth and nail to keep the full report secret. Ch 7's former news director and *'Today Tonight'* reporter Graham Archer (photo) has sought release of the report since 2007.

Keogh said: "I'm hopeful this is going to be the watershed that will change the way criminal law is practised... not just in SA, but right around the nation. It should be transparent, fair and available to everybody – but it's not.

"How on earth can anybody in the public realm have faith in a system that serves up the truth as and when it suits their purpose?"

The three Victorian appeal judges were Pamela Tate, Emiliios Kyrou and Richard Niall. <http://tinyurl.com/y2k9tfu8> <http://tinyurl.com/y25xxojv>



## How legal errors perpetuate...

Excerpts from a review of a book on the Keogh case by Archer (see above):

"Yet, at every stage, the various attempts to enlist the legal process to correct the grievous error of the Keogh case were rebuffed by those who should have known better.

"They (Keogh's legal team) were stunned to be given a forensic report, produced nearly a decade earlier by the Crown, to say that the forensic evidence did not support a murder conviction. The court had little choice but to allow the appeal and overturn the conviction."

– review by legal academic Bob Moles of Graham Archer, *Unmaking a Murder: the mysterious death of Anna-Jane Cheney*, Ebury Press, Penguin Random House, Sydney 2017: ISBN 978 0 14378 405 0 (pbk) 384 pages \$34.99.

"In nearly all miscarriages of justice, there has been a cock-up by police, forensics, the DPP or the Crown generally...and in virtually every case it is those authorities' cover-up of their cock-up which magnifies the insult to justice and the injustice to the individual," said Civil Liberties Australia's CEO, Bill Rowlings.

## Police in NSW specialise in unlawful strip searching

A third online post about dodgy police strip searching by NSW police has gone viral.

The video shows officers who don't know the correct search protocol or are just brazenly breaching it. The new post contains footage of two police officers conducting a search of a young white male on a Sydney suburban street at a public transport terminal.

The man, probably in his early 20s, stands with his hands against a wall, with his jeans pulled part way down below his underwear – in effect, “in the realm of the strip search”, Paul Gregoire writes on the Sydney Criminal Lawyers' blog. The man is in full view of nearby pedestrians.

“With so many violations of search rules taking place, the clip that's a little over a minute long reflects a now common scenario in (NSW): undertrained police officers unaware of the correct procedures over relying on this invasive search technique that's meant to be used as a last resort,” Gregoire writes. <http://tinyurl.com/y4loa6d3>

## 'Maybe Baby' is new top of the pops in Tassie



Tasmania has become the first Australian jurisdiction to make gender optional on birth certificates.

Liberal speaker Sue Hickey voted with Opposition parties to allow debate, allowing the Lower House to pass the Marriage Amendments Bill after it had previously passed the Upper House.

The new law makes gender on birth certificates optional. It gets rid of the need for transgender people to have surgery before their gender is recognised officially.

From age 16, a Tasmanian can apply to change registered gender without parental approval. <http://tinyurl.com/yygjry3e> Song: <http://tinyurl.com/y3bz4wqj>

## WA puts massive funding into the wrong end of prisons

WA will expand Casuarina Prison into one of the largest in Australia to keep up with rising prison numbers. In what CLA believes is an extraordinarily dumb decision, the state government is planning to increase the number of West Australians it funds to the tune of \$100,000-plus a year each to do nothing, by increasing the taxes paid by other West Australians who work for a living.

Casuarina was opened in 1991 with a design capacity of 397 people. It currently houses 952 and can house 1033. Corrective Services minister Fran Logan last month disclosed a \$186 million capital expenditure plan to expand the prison, to be announced in the 8 May 8 WA budget. The prison will then be able to cater for 1782 in four years time.

That means the government is spending \$186 million to be able to spend about another \$186 million each year to house and feed all the prisoners it is making room for inside Casuarina. Bureaucratic madness!

For less than \$100m a year, it should be possible to come up with a better scheme for reducing prison numbers and improving rehabilitation, so half the prisoners don't end up back in jail every two years, and educating both guards and prisoners to better serve their local communities.

“The Queensland Productivity Commission is near the end of a massive investigation into how to save money on prisons: WA should wait six months before committing massive expenditure at the wrong end of the prison problem,” CLA's President, Dr Kristine Klugman said.

“There is some hope WA will see sense: one of the new units will be an alcohol and drug facility, while another is for people with mental health problems. Such facilities are needed at all prisons.

“To cut the cost of prisons so taxpayers don't have to fork out so much dead money, governments must tackle the problems of too many still-innocent people on remand for sometimes more than a year, senseless jailing of people – particularly Aborigines – for petty, non-violent offences, and massive waste of minds and manpower of prisoners sitting idly in jail, learning nothing and not doing anything for their communities.” <http://tinyurl.com/y2gfbr64>

## A woman's home is her castle

NT Police breath-tested then arrested and charged an Aboriginal woman in Katherine in her own home despite receiving no complaint about her for being drunk

The charge against the woman, Aileen Roy, was dismissed in Katherine's Local Court, but NT Police appealed the decision and pursued the case to the Supreme Court, where a judge also rejected it.

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency lawyer Beth Wild said the decision would have implications for others in the same position. "The privacy that we have has to be balanced against police coming into our homes and conducting breath tests," she said.

NT Police argued they had the powers to take someone to the watch house under domestic violence laws, but the Supreme Court Justice Dean Mildren disagreed.

"I find that the police had no power to go to Ms Roy's home and take a sniff of her breath and then require [her] to provide a sample of her breath, that they were trespassers when they entered her alcove and knocked on the door," he said in his decision. "Consequently, the evidence was unlawfully obtained."

<http://tinyurl.com/y6offykw>

## Australian briefs

**Presuming no bail:** The Queensland government has passed new laws reversing the statutory presumption for bail for those who are either convicted of a terrorism offence or are currently or have been subject to a control order under the Commonwealth Criminal Code, no matter what they have been charged with. A presumption against parole will also apply to prisoners who have previously been convicted of a terrorism offence, who are the subject of a control order, or who have promoted terrorism. These prisoners will only be eligible for parole if the Parole Board Queensland is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. – media release, AG Yvette D'Ath 190328

**Home Affairs needs to justify \$1 billion spend:** Commonwealth Auditor General Grant Hehir will investigate the Department of Home Affairs' management of up to \$1 billion worth of security and welfare services contracts for offshore immigration processing centres. "This audit will assess whether the Department of Home Affairs has appropriately managed the procurement of garrison support and welfare services for immigration processing centres," he said. Parliamentary tabling is expected in January 2020. The audit will examine the background to the \$423 million in security contracts awarded security company, the Paladin Group, for garrison services at asylum seeker camps on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island following the October 2017 closure of the regional processing centre. <http://tinyurl.com/y2pgczbt>

**ODD SPOT:** NT Police are replacing their SS Commodore cars with Kia Stingers. Last month they showed off their new look cars, featuring one with the number plate 'WATCHNU'. We intend to keep WATCHN the police watchers.

**Qld to get female top cop:** Queensland has appointed its first female police commissioner, Katarina Carroll, to take over in July. She began her police career 26 years ago; in December 2014 she was appointed Commissioner of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Carroll will replace Ian Stewart after his term of six years in the top job and 46 years in the police service. Carroll will be Queensland's 20th police commissioner.



## Members' contributions

**America rules, OK?** I believe that the USA like any other sovereign nation, has the right to make laws that govern the behaviour of people in its territory, including both its citizens & visitors. It is open to the USA, like any other sovereign nation, to make laws governing the behaviour of its citizens, even when they are outside its territory. But what I don't understand or accept is that the USA, or any other sovereign nation, has the right to charge the citizen of another sovereign nation with a breach of its laws when they weren't even in its territory when they allegedly committed the offence. Our Prime Minister says that Julian Assange will be afforded consular assistance but won't be afforded any "special assistance" (Canberra Times 12 April).

In those circumstances, if the USA is successful in its attempt to extradite Julian Assange to face a court in the USA, then surely anyone anywhere could face the same fate. The appalling reaction of our PM surely

calls into question the ultimate value of our citizenship in the face of any abuse of power perpetrated by the USA while the so-called "rules-based international order" should be immediately renamed the "American rules-based international order". – John Richardson, Wallagoot NSW

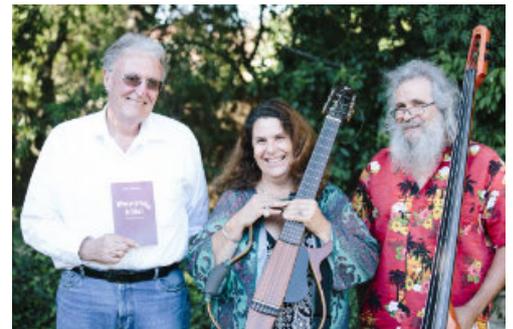
**Free speech was not the issue:** Like Elizabeth Farrelly, I also shed tears for Israel Folau's plight (Age 22/4/19). But Folau's case is not about free speech; it is about breach of employment terms. Rugby Australia has the moral and legal rights to sack him. But Julian Assange's case is different. Breaking into and dispersing government security data is a crime. But when the security data is about crimes committed by the US administration in the global murder of innocent people by waging wars premised on lies, then ordinary citizens have an inalienable right to break the law. This is what Chelsea Manning and Assange have done and can be compared to what Daniel Ellsberg did with the Pentagon Papers. Their act was to save lives, not to destroy them. – Bill Mathew, Parkville

**Where is your data?** I read recently that many treaties, including the Trans Pacific Partnership, contain clauses prohibiting restrictions on where data is stored. It is designed, I understand, to stop sovereign governments from requiring that, for example, data stored in your cloud account or at your bank be stored on national servers. It means your data can mostly be stored anywhere. Obviously, this does not include confidential government data, but for you and I, there is no prohibition on, say, your data being stored in Russia or China. – Ronald Watts, Chatswood, NSW. Details of TPP-11: <http://tinyurl.com/yyzlxj2k>

Note: CLA does not use PayPal, because its data is stored in the USA and Singapore, which means details of members' data held by PayPal would be legally available to security and spy agencies in those countries (and members could be subject to the laws of those countries, via their data). Find out where your data is stored: <http://tinyurl.com/y2tsqofl> How Google tracks your phone: <http://tinyurl.com/y2xtec6z>

**NOTE:** CLA member, blogger, poet and press gallery correspondent John Passant last month launched a new CD of his poems set to music by classical guitarist Mileyna Cifali. 'Whose Broken Is This?' (Ginninderra Press 2018) features four musical poems and Passant reading four of his other poems. Details: [en.passant@bigpond.com](mailto:en.passant@bigpond.com).

Passant is a former assistant commissioner of tax and a tax academic at ANU and U. Canberra. He blogs from a socialist perspective at: <https://enpassant.com.au> Passant (left) is shown with Cifali and fellow musician Jim Horvath.



## **Anzac Day observations: by CLA Director Jennifer Ashton**

Now, as a pacifist, I have always had an uneasy relationship with ANZAC Day. But I could acknowledge that a commemoration of the dead and suffering, the hope that this/these were the wars to end all wars, a reflection of the impact of war and the one chance in days when retired soldiers suffered in silence that this was their "one day of the year" (when they could actually share experiences). There was even a thought that ANZAC Day might wither away as the last of the veterans died.

But what has it become? The 25th April 2019 was little more than a jingoistic tribute to all those who have served, be it in peace-keeping forces in Cambodia, East Timor or Afghanistan, the battles in Iraq to protect the world from (alleged) weapons of mass destruction and in the middle-east to combat ISIS. We learnt of the ANZAC spirit (whatever that is) that makes our country great and were urged to learn and be inspired by our young fighters.

There is little room to criticise or debate as to do so now seems to be tantamount to treason.

I too have worked (or served) in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Syria. I was there to ameliorate the effects of war and its impact on civilian populations who have fled the havoc and horrors of constant bombings and shelling of their homes and livelihoods.

Maybe we should accept all this and rename ANZAC Day to National Armed Forces Day. There could be a parade of tanks down Anzac Parade in Canberra, fighter jets doing aerobatics over Parliament House, the War Memorial expanded even further to become a military display theme park all over the (former) Mt Ainslie reserve. All sponsored by arms manufacturers. Recruitment booths dispersed throughout. The Prime Minister of the day to have his (and it would have to be his!) own special Commander in Chief

uniform, preferably Armani designed, and to stand on the presiding podium surrounded by Australian flags. A representative of the monarchy would be an added bonus.

I take solace in the vigil held at the peak of Mt Ainslie on the eve of ANZAC Day. Peace songs led by the Chorus of Women, before a peace lamp illuminated silently all down the mountain as night descended.

## CLA report – main activities for April 2019

### CLA Director wins football/leadership award

The Australian National University Australian Football Club (ANUAFC), in partnership with Geocon, has awarded Eloise McLean the 2019 Women's Leadership Scholarship.

"Elly joined ANUAFC for the 2018 season, rapidly becoming a pivotal member of the women's team. Her importance to the team was highlighted at the end of the season as she received both the rising star and best and fairest awards," the award citation said.

"These achievements were particularly impressive, as this was Elly's first season of competitive AFL, having previously only been able to compete in one-off carnival days, representing her school. Consequently, Elly spent her school years excelling at rowing, netball, swimming and athletics."

Elly is currently undertaking a double degree in Law (honours) and Finance and will receive \$5000 a year for the scholarship. She has been a Director of Civil Liberties Australia since 2018.



### Media

Report by CLA Vice-President and National Media Spokesperson Tim Vines:

- Melbourne City Council's proposed smoking ban for Bourke Street Mall – radio interview on 3AW
- Free Speech, Hate Speech and Israel Folau – long-form radio interview with ABC Wollongong
- Meeting with Director Elly Mclean to discuss student engagement and social media platforms.
- 'Activists speak up on PS free speech', 1 April 2019: Rajan Venkataraman on free speech for public servants, [psnews.com.au](https://psnews.com.au) <https://psnews.com.au/2019/04/01/activists-speak-up-on-ps-free-speech/>

### VALE Keith McEwan:

On 7 April 2019, Keith McEwan, a long-standing CLA member died, age 93. Keith was a life long fighter for social justice. CLA helped him write a short version of his life story: if any member would like a PDF copy, email the Secretary.

**CLA Freedom Song** recording (music by Jeff Carroll, words by Kris Klugman) by Stephen The Bard of Eureka Records is nearing completion. The Freedom Song follows on CLA's initiative to plant the National Freedom Tree at the National Arboretum in Canberra on 10 December 2011.

### Meetings:

**Anna Bligh:** CEO of the Australian Banking Association, (*at left of photo at Parliament House Canberra, with CLA President Dr Kristine Klugman*):

CLA made four points in the agenda document for the meeting, given to the ABA:

- Rules about access to data and personal privacy are not keeping up with advances in e-records (eg, earnings, expenditure patterns, etc). Banking industry needs to make it crystal clear who can access what, what accesses are undertaken by banks, and what rights individuals/customers have to restrict and/or prevent access.
- Banks selling people's private data is not OK. It is also not consistent with confidentiality obligations under the law and with the Code of Banking Practice.
- The banks/banking industry must develop a 'privacy code of conduct' – in conjunction with civil society, particularly privacy, liberties and rights advocates – and publish it widely, then abide by it.



- CLA proposed to the Royal Commission on the financial sector that Model Litigant Obligations be imposed on banks, as they are (supposedly) on governments.

**Drs Des and Janette Griffin:** education, miscarriages of justice and right to appeal (Sue Neill-Fraser)

**Father John Parsons:** political systems and Middle East politics

**Rosemary Jennings:** proof reading CLA documents

Phone and email support to:

**Melissa Parke**, a CLA member and the former MHR for Fremantle, was to have stood as the Labor candidate for Curtin WA. However, unfortunately she withdrew in the face of vehement criticism from the Zionist Federation of Australia of her views on Palestine and Israel.

## **CHAMPIONS: New way to progress key issues**

**Deciding what to ‘champion’:** CLA Directors have nominated which area on the civil liberties–human rights spectrum they will concentrate on over the next two years (Members are most welcome to join in and/or make their own choice: let us know which cause you would like to ‘champion, or be joint champion for – email the Secretary with your choice and some dot points about it).

Championing **free speech:** Rajan Venkataraman will concentrate on free speech, particularly for public servants. He will initiate a process of changing restrictive policies, guidelines and codes of conduct that stop public servants from participating fully in debates around issues that concern them. Rajan will also continue as CLA Director in charge of submissions.

Championing **independent investigation**, incorporating police accountability: Margaret Howkins will research and prepare new approaches to police accountability, particularly in WA. “I’ve got a group of four CLA activists willing to work together. We intend to pool our minds to create a list of ‘CLA’s Principles of independent Investigation’, she reports. “Ultimately CLA’s objective is to change regulations governing the police forces, specifically procedures relating to police internal affairs investigations and also how police themselves do not get a fair go with health/mental health and similar career-ending issues.”

Championing **youth issues**, particularly for uni students and females: Elly McLean will help extend CLA’s reach by structuring CLA’s communication through social media, as well as enhancing relationships with media platforms such as radio and television. The aim is to involve young people at school and university more in hands-on liberties and rights campaigns, particularly by developing a ‘Youth Charter’ of the issues, problems, lack of rights and disadvantages experienced by those under 25.

Championing **sport issues:** Director Frank Cassidy (photo) will be taking on issues around sporting bodies usurping the role and functions of courts in society by restricting sportspeople from their trade before any finding of guilt is brought down against them by a legal tribunal. As well, he and CEO Bill Rowlings will analyse whether a sample of player contracts are civil liberties and human rights compliant, or whether they infringe on the rights of the individual so much as to be unconscionable documents.



Championing **health rights and genetic privacy:** In addition to leading CLA’s media work, VP Tim is the CLA board champion for health rights and genetic privacy. As part of this, he is monitoring developments in the collection and use of genetic information by governments, law enforcement agencies and private companies (including insurance companies). Tim also advises the CLA Board on and contributes to submissions on reforms to Australia’s defence export controls regime and government responses to pandemics and disease outbreaks (such as Ebola or measles). He will also work to mentor ANU uni students. Board Member Elly McLean and Aaron Bronitt, and WA Murdoch Uni’s Sam Coten to improve CLA’s engagement with students and to train future media spokespeople for CLA.

Championing **refugees and the ‘stateless’:** Jennifer Ashton will call on her decades of expertise to tackle the issue of people declared to be ‘stateless’ (including ISIS fighters and their families), and the problems of refugees in prolonged detention.

Championing **orphans and youths disadvantaged by Australia’s policies**, such as babies and young children in Asia and the Indonesian children aged 13-17 locked up by Australia as adults because they were acting as crew on boats ferrying refugee claimants. This concentration will extend some of Treasurer Sam Tierney’s work as a lawyer before the courts into the policy-changing and -making area.

Championing **bill(s) of rights and the right to protest** (including security for people attending maternal health clinics): Richard Griggs concentrates on securing a bill of rights for Tasmania and other states and

the NT, as well as helping to build the national campaign for a federal bill of rights, perhaps statutory to start with then in the constitution after 25 years of trial, as Canada did.

Championing **rights before the courts**, and **expanding CLA membership**: Kristine Klugman will continue to promote the Right To Appeal nationally (bringing in new laws to states and territories under which Henry Keogh in SA and Sue Neill-Fraser in Tasmania have been able to get new appeals), as well as exploring new ways to engage CLA members and to attract new ones: eg Freedom Song. She will also continue her approaches to letter-writers to the media to join CLA, contacting like organisations for networking, and exploiting the promotion value of CLA submissions by their wide dissemination.

Bill Rowlings will champion **prison issues, national legal/justice reform, and liberties and rights for elite sports people** as well as being the central hub of support for all of the above activities of other Directors.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Health emergency declared in NY; people barred from public spaces

Measles cases rose to 695 in the USA on 27 April, the highest number for a quarter century.

In New York City officials declared a public health emergency in the Williamsburg neighborhood, where a measles outbreak has run rampant in an Orthodox Jewish community since October 2018. There have been 285 cases of measles in the outbreak, 246 of which were in children. Most of the children were unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. The cases have led to 21 admissions to hospital, including five to intensive care units.

As part of the emergency declaration, any unvaccinated people living in affected postal codes who may have been exposed to the highly contagious viral illness will now be required to receive the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine or prove immunity. Violators could face a fine of \$1400, officials said.

Seven other locations in the USA are also affected, including areas of Washington state and Michigan, Butte County and Santa Cruz County in California, Rockland County in New York (which has declared a second state of emergency, and barred all children from public spaces), and Ocean County in New Jersey. Two public units in California quarantined more than 1000 students and staff who were potentially exposed.

Health officials are blaming the outbreaks on small but vocal anti-vaccine advocates who scare well-meaning parents by spreading dangerous lies and misinformation about life-saving vaccines and their safety. – *Ars Technica* <http://tinyurl.com/yxe9juct> Updated figures: <http://tinyurl.com/yxnolkp>

While the outbreak in Australia does not appear to be as severe, on 27 April 2019, the number of measles cases notified here had reached 103, the same number as for the entire 12 months of 2018.

### Invest in communities, not prisons

The American Civil Liberty Union's Smart Justice campaign, the largest in the organisation's history, has a goal of reducing the prison population by 50% through local, state and federal initiatives to reform bail, prosecution, sentencing, parole and re-entry.

"Incarceration does not work," said the ACLU campaign director Udi Ofer.

The ACLU wants to "defund the prison system and reinvest in communities." <http://tinyurl.com/yy5cy2n5> and campaign details: <http://tinyurl.com/yyn29ujt>

### How to solve contract disputes in milliseconds

Ott Velsberg – Estonia's chief data officer, a 28-year-old student undertaking his PhD – is overseeing the Baltic nation's push to insert artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning into services for 1.3m citizens.

The Estonian Ministry of Justice has asked Velsberg and his team to design a "robot judge" that could adjudicate small claims disputes of less than \$11,000. Officials hope the system can clear a backlog of cases for judges and court clerks.

The project will likely start later in 2019 with a pilot focusing on contract disputes. The two parties will upload documents and other relevant information, and the AI will issue a decision that can be appealed to a human judge.

Estonia's effort isn't the first to mix AI and the law, though it may be the first to give an algorithm decision-making authority. In the US, algorithms help recommend criminal sentences in some states. The UK-based DoNotPay AI-driven chatbot overturned 160,000 parking tickets in London and New York a few years ago. A Tallinn-based law firm, Eesti Oigusbüroo, provides free legal aid through a chatbot and generates simple

legal documents to send to collection agencies. It plans to expand its “Hugo-AI” legal aid service matching clients and lawyers to Warsaw and Los Angeles by the end of the year, said CEO Artur Fjodorov.

Estonians already use a national ID card and are used to an online menu of services such as e-voting and digital tax filing. <http://tinyurl.com/yyy4rt3g>



## Amal Clooney takes media freedom role

International human rights lawyer Amal Clooney has become UK foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt’s special envoy on media freedom to help highlight assaults and restrictions on journalists globally.

She will chair a high-level panel of legal experts on the issue.

The UK and Canada are hosting a ministerial conference in London in July to draw attention to attacks on journalists. It has been claimed that 2018 was the deadliest year yet for journalists, with 99 killed, 348 detained and 80 taken hostage by non-state groups. <http://tinyurl.com/y4zwex94>

## Brits plan massive crackdown on online content

The British government is proposing sweeping new laws to regulate online content ranging from terrorist propaganda to fake news.

The government plans to impose a new "duty of care" on websites hosting user-submitted content. A new UK agency would develop codes of practice for them, *Ars Technica* reported last month.

The British proposal follows the Christchurch killing of 50 people and live streaming of the massacre.

Australia has legislated that major platforms must quickly remove violent online material or face a penalty of big fines and/or jail time. The EU parliament is planning to fine online platforms up to 4% of their revenue if they failed to take down terrorist content within four hours.

Britain's proposal is much broader, requiring technology companies to police their platforms for a wide range of objectionable material. Companies could face fines if they don't remove harmful material quickly.

A 100-page white paper from Theresa May's government details the many categories of content that would be governed by the new rules, including child pornography, revenge pornography, cyberstalking, hate crimes, encouragement of suicide, sale of illegal goods, sexting by minors, and "disinformation."

<http://tinyurl.com/yyo44gr5>

## ODD SPOT: People thrown out for profitable virtual visits instead

Since the middle of April, inmates at the Adult Detention Center in Lowndes County, Mississippi USA may no longer receive visits from family members face-to-face.

Newton County, Missouri, implemented an in-person visitor ban last month. The Allen County Jail in Indiana phased out in-person visits earlier this year. Instead, all contact is by video.

The services are ludicrously expensive. Video calls cost 40¢ a minute in Newton County, 50¢ per minute in Lowndes County, and \$10 per call in Allen County. Outside of prison, of course, video calls on Skype or FaceTime are free.

“Jails could offer video calling without shutting down in-person visits,” reporter Timothy B. Lee said on *Ars Technica*. “But the fact that jails get a share of the proceeds from these services creates a perverse incentive for them to end in-person visits.”

This is not an innovation that Australia should copy, Civil Liberties Australia believes. <http://tinyurl.com/yxdqmdfo>

## How states keep track of their people

The *New York Times* ran a major feature item last month on ‘big brother’ keeping tabs on people, under the title of: ‘Made in China, Exported to the World: The Surveillance State’.

In Ecuador, cameras across the country send footage to monitoring centres to be examined by police and domestic intelligence.

“Today, 18 countries — including Zimbabwe, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates and Germany — are using Chinese-made intelligent monitoring systems, and 36 have received training in

topics like “public opinion guidance,” which is typically a euphemism for censorship, according to an October report from Freedom House, a pro-democracy research group, the NYT says. ”

As CLA V-P Tim Vines points out, it’s not the Chinese driving the policy: He highlights a statement by Huawei: “Huawei provides technology to support smart city and safe city programs across the world. In each case, Huawei does not get involved in setting public policy in terms of how that technology is used.”

<http://tinyurl.com/yy69ytx3>

## Heads roll as Australia ups its sales pitch

Human rights groups have hit out at the most recent brutal wave of punishment, revealed by the Saudis last month, in which 37 people killed.

An executioner chopped off the heads of most of them in public: at least one was crucified. Saudi Arabian authorities pinned the body of one man up in public and hoisted a severed head up a pole as a warning.

Critics say most of those killed were convicted after sham trials that violated international standards and relied on confessions extracted through torture. They also say the grisly and public punishments are being used as tools to crush pro-democracy campaigners, human rights activists, intellectuals and the Sunni Muslim kingdom’s Shia minority — to which at least 33 out of the 37 of those executed belonged. <http://tinyurl.com/y2smr4q4>

NOTE: Australia is trying to sell military equipment to Saudi Arabia: CLA asks why we trade with such a barbaric nation, when we don’t and won’t trade with other nations who do not chop people’s heads off.

## International briefs

**Stoned to death for gay sex:** Brunei is imposing death by stoning as a punishment for gay sex and adultery as part of the country’s implementation of sharia law. From 3 April, individuals in the south-east Asian kingdom will be subject to a draconian new penal code, which also includes the amputation of a hand and a foot for the crime of theft. The capital punishments are to be “witnessed by a group of Muslims.” The sharia law would apply only to Muslims, who make up about two-thirds of the population. <http://tinyurl.com/y2ppjetv>

**Pick your presidential option:** “The American people deserve to know whether Donald Trump is either (A) a legitimate president, (B) a Russian asset, (C) the functional equivalent of an organized crime boss, or (D) just a useful idiot who happens to have been victimized by the greatest collection of coincidences in the history of the republic,” House Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries (New York) said last month in relation whether or not the full Mueller report would be released – Roger Fitch Esq, writing in ‘*Justinian*’, the Australian legal blog.

**Homicides and self harm are up:** Homicides in England and Wales have risen to their highest level in over a decade. The Office for National Statistics said that to December 2018, 732 lives were lost to homicide compared with 690 lives the previous year, up 42, and the highest since 2008. <http://tinyurl.com/y5zmeg9t> Meanwhile, assaults and incidents of inmates self-harming are at a record high in prisons, according to Ministry of Justice figures. There were 34,223 assaults in 2018, up 16% from 2017. The proportion of assaults that were against staff increased to 30%. Self-harm incidents also rose, by 25% to 55,598. <http://tinyurl.com/y2fong7q>

**Mapping and tricking:** Liberty UK’s annual conference on 18 May at Cloth Hall Court in Leeds will include detailed discussion and debate on police surveillance technologies including facial recognition cameras which scan and make uniquely identifiable maps of the faces or everyone in view, and IMSI catchers which mimic mobile phone signal towers, tricking all phones in the area into connecting with them – and allowing the police to get hold of all the data stored on them. – message from Liberty to CLA.

## DATES:

**All 2019, World:** UN International Year of Indigenous Languages

**2 May, Perth:** Aboriginal Protection’ and the Politics of Reform in 19thC British Empire, lecture by U. Adelaide Prof History, Amanda Nettlebeck, Fox Theatre, Arts Bldg, UWA 6-7pm. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y395uent>

**24-25 May, Melbourne:** Justice for Young People conference Australasian Inst of Judicial Admin. Rendezvous Hotel. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/y2y2sxhf>

**Mid-2019, probably Sydney:** 'Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights: A national conversation on human rights', organised by the Australian Human Rights Commission. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/yanftqn3>

**6-7 June, Canberra:** 'How Does the 'Pacific' fit into the 'Indo-Pacific'? Two-day workshop, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Dept of Pacific Affairs and National Security College, ANU. Details: [mitchell.clyne@anu.edu.au](mailto:mitchell.clyne@anu.edu.au)

**25-27 June, Noumea:** 'Democracy, Sovereignty and Self-Determination in the Pacific Islands', at Uni of New Caledonia, run by the Pacific Islands Political Studies Association. Details: [kerryn.baker@anu.edu.au](mailto:kerryn.baker@anu.edu.au)

**29 June - 3 July, Melbourne:** Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP, involving 10 ASEAN countries, and China, Japan, India, Korea, NZ and Australia) 26th negotiating round: another trade deal being kept secret from Australian citizens during negotiations, and which gives special rights to foreign investors..

**4 July, Canberra:** Sir Kenneth Keith of NZ gives the annual Kirby lecture: 'NZ, Australia and International Human Rights: 1919-2019'; Crawford Bldg. Contact: [marketing.law@anu.edu.au](mailto:marketing.law@anu.edu.au)

**4-6 July, Canberra:** 27th ANZSIL conference at Crawford School, ANU: International Law Futures. Prof Christina Voigt (U. Oslo) and Dr Joshua Meltzer (IUCN Climate Change Task Force).

**5-10 July, Rhodes, Greece:** Hellenic Australian Lawyers Assn 2nd conference. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/yc4d6wxo>

**11-12 July:** International Bar conference, Singapore. <http://tinyurl.com/yykzexn5>

**15 August, Launceston:** Peace Festival lecture: Power of Integrity, by Dr Simon Longstaff. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y2caff6l>

**22 Aug, Brisbane:** Issues in Propensity Evidence, Prof David Hamer U.Syd, judge Soraya Ryan (photo) Qld Supreme Court, Benedict Power barrister, 5-6.45pm, Banco Court, 451 George St Brisbane. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/yyq5qczp>



**22-24 August, Queenstown NZ:** Aust & NZ Bar Assns conference. Info: Camilla Williams [events@austbar.asn.au](mailto:events@austbar.asn.au)

**17 Oct, Brisbane:** Prospects of Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), Prof Chester Brown U.Syd, judge Jame Douglas Qld Supreme Court, Prof Anthony Cassimatis Qld U. law school, 5-6.45pm, Banco Court, 451 George St Brisbane. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/yyq5qczp>

**8-9 Nov, Melbourne:** Justice for Young People conference Australasian Inst of Judicial Admin. Rendezvous Hotel. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/y2udcfkl>

## 2020:

**23-26 June, Brisbane:** Asia Pacific ministerial conference on Indo-Pacific natural disaster risk reduction, hosted by DFAT. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/y5qb9ysy>

## 2022:

**10 May, Adelaide:** 50th anniversary of the death by drowning of law lecturer Dr George Ian Ogilvie Duncan, thrown into Torrens River by a group believed to be police officers. Led to SA enacting the first homosexual law reform act.

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*CLArion* is the monthly e-newsletter of Civil Liberties Australia A04043, Box 7438 FISHER ACT 2611 Australia. Responsibility for election comment in *CLArion* is taken by CLA's Public Officer, Bill Rowlings, of Fisher, ACT. Please feel free to report or pass on items in *CLArion*, crediting CLA and/or the original source. We welcome contributions for the next issue: please send to: [Secretary\(at\)cla.asn.au](mailto:Secretary(at)cla.asn.au)

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