

Police investigating police comes under national scrutiny

Civi Liberties Australia has launched a national campaign to show how the practice of police investigating police is against the rights and liberties of police officers and of the public.

Police officers claim that they are not treated equitably during internal, self-serving “investigations” of in-service, personal, medical problems like Post Traumatic Stress Disease (PTSD) and occupational health and safety issues. Equally, the public complains that citizen complaints of police misbehaviour do not receive proper, independent evaluation.

CLA will present to the ANZ Society of Criminology conference in Perth in November on the issue.

In Queensland, civil liberties spokesperson Terry O’Gorman has highlighted a case where a whistleblower policeman is the only person charged despite apparently clear video evidence – and secret compensation paid to the victim by the state – of four police officers assaulting a handcuffed man at Southport police station in 2012.

“What’s publicly known in this case is, the video shows a person being viciously bashed by police,” O’Gorman said. “That person civilly sued the police and was paid out a significant sum of money in a confidential settlement, and yet none of the police concerned have been criminally charged.

“And yet the person who leaked that particular video to the media ... has been charged with a criminal offence.”



He said the Qld Crime and Corruption Commission has become almost ineffective when dealing with internal police investigations and called on it to review the case of the alleged whistleblower, Sergeant Rick Flori, who was suspended and charged with misconduct. <https://tinyurl.com/y6e8ktrh>

Unsettled parliament dominated by chancers, hypocrites and liars

The new, 46th Australian Parliament has not settled down to sensible business yet, even though it’s late July and the federal election was held on 18 May, 10 weeks ago.

The parliament will manage about 42 days of sitting in 2019 out of a possible 300 days – allowing MPs nine weeks to run an election campaign (5 weeks) and have annual holidays (4 weeks).

Ours is possibly the laziest parliament in the western world. The British House of Commons sits for about 150 days a year: it sat for 133 days when it held an election in May 2015. The US Congress sits for about 150 days. The NZ Parliament must sit for about 90 days, Canada’s for about 125.

The daily business of Australia’s parliament is moulded by who can wedge whom and how, using a philosophy of ‘*Whatever it takes*’, which infects both major parties.

‘Wedging’ means an assault on opponents based on muck-raking, personal or side issues, rather than contesting what is best for the people’s future based on ideas or principles.

With the nation crying out for statesmen and stateswomen, the parliament comprises mostly chancers, hypocrites and liars, sometimes all three in the one package, and from both the government and opposition. That is only take-out from a close reading of Nikki Savva’s book**, ‘*Plots and Prayers*’.

The book dissects the coup which skewered Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister and manufactured Scott Morrison as PM over Peter Dutton.

There are some decent people in the federal parliament, but Savva’s book indicates they are in a minority.

* The title of the autobiography of Graeme Richardson, once-upon-a-time a minister and the string-puller and Mr Fixit of the Labor Party. ***Plots and Prayers*, Nikki Savva, Scribe Publications, \$35, 400 pages.

Legal aid abandoned in a forest of misspending

Chronic underfunding was destroying the nation’s legal aid system, the Law Council said last month.

LC of Australia president Arthur Moses said the federal government had continually ignored the profession's pleas for more funding. The Productivity Commission has similarly warned federal funding is hundreds of millions of dollars short of what is required to meet demand, the *Guardian* reported.

In the lead-up to the last federal budget, the LCA told the government there was a minimum \$310m a year shortfall in legal assistance funding.

The government offered an increase from \$350.3m in 2019-20 to \$370m ongoing from July 2020.

The LCA slammed that increase at the time as "abysmal".

The sum of \$20m is about what the security agencies, crime commissions and federal police spend on tea, coffee and biscuits annually, CLA says.

A NSW Supreme Court case postponed last month for at least a year has highlighted the problem.

Three men were due to face trial for the 2016 alleged killings of underworld figure Pasquale Barbaro and Mehmet Yilmaz. But there were no available barristers to defend them: the legal aid rates were insufficient for suitable barristers to take on a lengthy and complex case.

"Vacating" the four-months set aside for the trial throws the court's upcoming schedule into greater chaos.

Statesmen and women needed for the sake of humanities

Legal Aid is funded by the Australian government through the National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services.

The federal government's excessive and imbalanced spending over two decades on security, police and military/defence, over terrorism in particular, has stripped resources from human rights, civil liberties and humanities areas of vital national importance, CLA says.

"Parliament desperately needs a statesman or woman in a very senior role who can see the wood from the trees," CLA president Dr Kristine Klugman said. <https://tinyurl.com/y326yxrz>



10 years jailed despite mounting contrary evidence

Sue Neill-Fraser this month chalks up a decade in Risdon Prison – for a "murder" that possibly wasn't even a murder. There has never been a body. There is no believable motive for her to kill.

An eyewitness to what happened to Sue's husband, Bob Chappell, has told chillingly, with anguished and tortured visage as confronting memory pictures came flooding back to her, how he died. The witness's written statement – later recorded on TV to be seen and judged by all prepared to look with open eyes – has been acknowledged in a Tasmanian appeal court.

Tasmania's top politicians personally, as well as the State's prosecutors, police and judiciary, have seen or heard in precise detail the facts that exonerate Sue Neill-Fraser (photo).

The powers-that-be in Tasmania appear to have abandoned justice: there is a basic rule of law that says an innocent person should not be jail.

The truth is now well known.

Sue Neill-Fraser should be freed the very moment of lodging the documents for her appeal hearing that must – if the rule of law is to apply in Tasmania – seal her innocence.

As we have said for the best part of a decade, the "killer/s" of Bob Chappell are still at large.

'Scrutiny' makes no difference to bills' excesses

The federal parliament's Scrutiny Committee, in its Digest 3 of 2019, has commented:

Counter-Terrorism (Temporary Exclusion Orders) Bill 2019:

- *Trespass on personal rights and liberties*: the committee (is concerned about) broad discretionary ministerial powers to exclude Australian citizens from Australia and impose monitoring conditions on persons not convicted of any offence.

- Exclusion of judicial review: the committee (is concerned about) excluding judicial review under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977* in relation to decisions made under the bill.
- Procedural fairness: the committee (is concerned about) the removal of the obligation of the minister to observe procedural fairness.

ASIO Amendment (Sunsetting of Special Powers Relating to Terrorism Offences) Bill 2019:

- Trespass on rights and liberties: the committee (is concerned about) extending the sunsetting date for ASIO's special powers relating to terrorism by a further 12 months.

The problem with the parliamentary committee system is that neither the parliament nor the government is obliged to act on the recommendations of committees, even when Coalition MPs are in the majority.

If the normal pattern is followed, there will be a batting back and forth between the committee and the government departments involved...but these bills will simply waft through parliament despite their flaws.

Kershaw is third Top Ender to head AFP

Northern Territory Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw (photo) has been appointed the new Australian Federal Police Commissioner.

He replaces Andrew Colvin, whose five-year term ends on 1 October.

Before the NT, Kershaw served with the AFP, including secondments at the National Crime Authority, the Australian Crime Commission and postings to The Hague, East Timor and the Solomon Islands. During his time at the AFP Mr Kershaw was based in Melbourne, the ACT and WA.

Kershaw is the third NT Police Commissioner to take over as boss of the AFP, following Peter McAulay (1988) and Mick Palmer (1994).



There is no defence for this...

“Despite...grand gestures, multiple internal reviews, declarations of zero tolerance, and an entire new unit dedicated to military sexual assault victims, sexual assault remains intransigent within the institution. In short, when it comes to military sexual assault in the Australian Defence Force, nothing has changed – both in terms of the rates, and how the public makes sense of this violence.”

“The ADF has made public declarations of ‘zero tolerance’ approximately every five years over the past two decades, even as rates of sexual assault and misconduct remain steady, and in some years increasing. (265 total incidents were reported in 2017 compared to 261 in 2015 and 252 in 2016)”

– Megan MacKenzie, Professor of Gender and War, Uni of Sydney

Admissions prove Australia is driving refugees to mental illness

The independent health advice panel overseeing medical transfers for asylum seekers offshore says there were 73 admissions covering 43 people at the medical centre on Nauru in the first quarter of 2019.

As well as the 73 admissions with stays ranging between 1 and 44 days, there were 8260 medical consultations provided to people on Nauru in the quarter, mostly for mental health problems.

In PNG, there were 1134 primary health consultations, 472 mental health consultations and 375 specialist consultations at East Lorengau refugee transit centre on Manus Island. There were 21 admissions to Lorengau general hospital for 17 people, again mostly for mental health conditions.

The new figures bolster concerns over the mental health of asylum seekers, and people whose asylum claims have failed.

The civil liberties-oriented Liberal backbencher, Russell Broadbent, declared publicly last month that Australia could not continue with “indefinite detention”. More Coalition MPs must speak out against the Australian government’s terrorism of forcing the refugee claimants to live their lives in limbo on prison islands, CLA says.

NZ’s offer to resettle 150 refugee claimants still lies on the table, rejected. <https://tinyurl.com/y6mj6ja7>

ODD SPOT: The Department of Home Affairs says that 229,000 people on bridging visas were in Australia in March. The figure includes about 80,000 spouses of Australian citizens waiting for their permanent residence. The unemployment rate of those on bridging visas is about 20%. <https://tinyurl.com/y2k6b5lo>

Vets need better care and support...with Defence to foot the bill

Australia's support of veterans "requires fundamental reform," according to the Productivity Commission, but it has retreated from an earlier recommendation to abolish the Department of Veterans' Affairs entirely. The Australian Productivity Commission's final report said Australia's system of compensation and rehabilitation for veterans is "out-of-date and is not working in the best interest of veterans and their families, or the Australian community".

The report called for a new commission, a single minister to oversee defence personnel and veterans, and a system focused on lifetime wellbeing.

The system, which cost \$13.2 billion in 2017-18, "is overly complex (legislatively and administratively), difficult to navigate, inequitable, and poorly administered (which places unwarranted stress on claimants)".

The report called for the system to be brought into the 21st century and focus on prevention of injuries and illness as well as rehabilitation and transition, saying some supports were "archaic". "New governance, funding and cross-agency arrangements are required to address the problems with the current system."

It also called for a premium to be levied on Defence annually to fund the expected cost of future claims.

What a good idea, CLA says: the premium should come from Defence being forced to make annual savings, same as all other government agencies. They are currently exempt. <https://tinyurl.com/y3xk7mgl>

Australian govt's press raids and threats impacts the world: Clooney

Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney has taken a swipe at Australia's failure to protect press freedom following police raids and threats of criminal charges against journalists for doing their jobs.

Ms Clooney warned that AFP raids on journalists in Australia and other leading western countries could be used as a blueprint by other nations to clamp down on press freedom.

Speaking at the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London last month, Ms Clooney was asked about the recent raids on *News Corp* and *ABC* journalists.

"What happens in a country like Australia or the UK or the US will be looked at by every other leader in the world and potentially be used as an excuse to clamp down even further on journalists," she said.

"Journalists all around the world are less safe if the rhetoric, or even policies or laws, of states that are supposed to be free are actually a threat to journalists in those countries." <http://tinyurl.com/y6gmojmc>

Ombudsman wants openness: Dutton is SuperRedactor

The Commonwealth Ombudsman, Michael Manthorpe (photo), has asked parliament's Security and Intelligence Committee to remove Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton's power to redact reports.

No other minister can do so, Manthorpe told the committee. Why should Minister Dutton?

Security agencies were granted greater access to encrypted messages late in 2018, with the Commonwealth Ombudsman overseeing the scheme. But Mr Dutton has the power to delete content from Ombudsman reports before tabling them.

The power is supposedly only to be used if information in the report could reasonably be expected to prejudice an investigation or prosecution or compromise an interception agency's operational activities.

But secrecy, redaction and stretching 'reasonableness' to suit themselves have all become hallmarks of government, CLA notes.

Instead of openness and transparency, government is become more opaque across virtually every aspect of its dealings with citizens. Finding out information about what the government is doing is longer, harder and more bureaucrat-bound every year, CLA says. <https://tinyurl.com/yxpq2ctr>

'Private' letters ruling to be tested in High Court

Historian Jenny Hocking is planning to take the battle for release of the "palace letters" over the dismissal of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam to the High Court.

The letters are the correspondence between the Queen of Australia and Governor-General Sir John Kerr. The High Court will hear Hocking's bid for the letters on 16 August 16. The court is being asked to overturn a Federal Court decision which ruled 2-1 against releasing the letters between Buckingham Palace and Sir John Kerr in the lead up to the dismissal in 1975.

The Federal Court ruled the letters were personal communications of the GG rather than official Australian records. It is hard to understand how anyone could come to that conclusion, CLA believes.

The letters are scheduled for release in 2027...but only if the Queen approves. She can veto release.
<http://tinyurl.com/y5l96eao>

ODD SPOT: Australian government issues fake news

"The Australian Government is a staunch defender of human rights and a strong advocate for humane treatment in the course of judicial processes."

– statement by the Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade, media release re Julian Assange 31 May 2019:
<http://tinyurl.com/yyzdgnog>

Civil Liberties Australia believes the second phrase of this statement to be a direct lie.

DFAT/the Australian government is obviously not a "strong advocate" against the Home Affairs Dept in relation to detainees on Manus and Nauru. In fact, DFAT and anyone outside Home Affairs appears to be silent on the matter. Certainly, Australia is not delivering "humane treatment in the course of judicial processes" in relation to the detainees. If it was, the detainees would not be suiciding and self-harming.

K and Collaery face court

Dean of Law at UNSW, Prof George Williams, commented: "In the witness K case, the court is closed and the judicial officer is required to give the greatest weight to the protection of the community over the right of the individual to a fair trial.

"In the US much of this Australian law would be illegal because the US has a Bill of Rights protecting individuals from such laws. We do not have such a Bill of Rights (US) or Charter of Rights (Britain) in Australia, although a survey has showed that 61% of Australians think we have one." <https://tinyurl.com/y4tjb6n>

(We do have bills of rights in the ACT, Victoria and Queensland but they are subservient to federal laws).

Hell is where scruples go to die

Lawyer David McBride is before the ACT Supreme Court for being a whistleblower over Australian actions he believes were illegal in Afghanistan. Speaking in front of protesters who support him, outside the ACT courts buildings last month, he said:



"(It's not to do with my case)... in Syria, I think it was Amnesty International worked out that the coalition declared we killed 100 civilians in a particular bombing action, and it turned out we had actually killed 1100. They achieved this (lower number) by reclassifying the definition of civilians...by saying anyone above 16 and below 60 is not a civilian, they're a combatant.

And that's sickening. And that's us, that's not the enemy, that's us. And without people like you [protesters], we will become the bad guys."

Photo: Elliot Williams, Canberra Times

Murder un-made in lecture at Flinders

Five people responsible for getting wrongfully convicted Henry Keogh out of jail after 19 years explained how they did it, and why it took so long, in a lecture at Flinders Uni in Adelaide on 25 July 2019.

The preamble to the lecture, entitled The Un-Making of a 'Murder', sums up how backward Australia is in its legal system and delivering justice to all.

"In recent years the USA has had over 2000 exonerations – some 350 based upon DNA. The UK Criminal Cases Review Commission has helped overturn some 440 convictions – including four (4) in which people had been hanged. Innocence Canada has helped exonerate 25 people wrongfully convicted.

"Major reports in each of those countries have identified prosecutorial misconduct, faulty expert evidence, police misconduct, judicial error – leading to corrective actions.

"Australia has no review commission and stubbornly resists claims of wrongful conviction.

"In South Australia, it took researchers 14 years to get one murder conviction, that of Henry Keogh, overturned. This was despite the fact that the state had declared the expert witness in his case to be unqualified 20 years earlier.

"There has been no previous case as bad as that in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, or America."

The lecturers were Associate Professor Bibi Sangha; Dr Bob Moles, Adjunct Principal Researcher; Professor Tony Thomas, Pathologist and Expert Appeal Witness; Graham Archer, former Executive Producer Today Tonight TV program, author of 'Unmaking a Murder', and Sam Abbott QC, Senior Counsel on Mr Keogh's appeal. <http://tinyurl.com/y4t6qese>

CLA hopes to bring you some of their addresses in future issues.

Three ways we can halt the explosion in prisoner numbers

Ruth Barson of Melbourne's Human Rights Law Centre says:

1. Raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14;
2. Change bail laws so only those at proven risk of causing serious harm are locked up before their trial;
3. Get rid of low-level offences, like public drunkenness, to where they belong in the health (not prison) system. <https://tinyurl.com/y3kdq8h2>

Victoria's prisons now cost more than \$1.6 billion to run, triple what the outlay was in 2009-10.

In the May 2019 budget, the government also announced a record \$1.8 billion in new capital spending on prison infrastructure.

"Build more jails and they will come," CLA says.



Prosecutor finds no public interest in pursuing man who aided suicide

A Canberra man who helped his partner die was "relieved" and "grateful" when assisted suicide charges against him were dropped last month.

ACT Director of Public Prosecutions, Shane Drumgold (photo), decided it was not in the public interest to prosecute Neil O'Riordan, 63, for an act of "love and compassion".

O'Riordan, a nurse, modified equipment so that his partner of 35 years, Penelope Blume, could die a painless death after becoming unconscious. She was suffering from the advanced stages of motor neurone disease when she died in his arms at their Canberra home on 15 March.

DPP Drumgold explained that a decision to prosecute a case was two-stage.

The first question was whether the evidence offered a reasonable chance of securing a conviction. He concluded there were reasonable prospects of a conviction as Mr O'Riordan had knowledge of the impending suicide and had intentionally modified an item used to bring about his wife's death.

The second question was public interest. Mr Drumgold found it would not be in the public interest to prosecute Mr O'Riordan as the consequences would be "unduly harsh and oppressive in the circumstances"

But DPP Drumgold said it was not his intention to set a precedent for how assisted suicides were dealt with in the ACT, noting it was not a government policy position. <http://tinyurl.com/y6sqqs43>

Forensic scientist questions pathology

A British forensic pathologist last month told the WA Court of Appeal it is unlikely the knife said to have been used in the 2007 murder of a woman could have inflicted the victim's fatal injuries.



Dr Richard Shepherd said it was unlikely the 10cm blade caused the 21 wounds that were 13-15cm deep found on the body of Stacey Thorne, stabbed to death while four months pregnant with the baby of Scott Austic.

He is serving life for the murder in December 2007. In a most unusual move, WA Attorney-General John Quigley has referred the case to the appeal court for reconsideration.

Severe doubts have hung over the conviction and there are allegations evidence was planted by police, including the knife in question. A cigarette packet (centre foreground of photo) found on a table at Austic's home, that appeared to have blood on it, was not in the first photos police took of the crime scene, but turned up in photos taken on subsequent days. <https://ab.co/2JTi2kk>

CCC claims double corruption, and problem of resigning scot-free

When WA's potato regulator closed, there was "serious misconduct" by senior bureaucrats who "abused their power", according to the WA Corruption and Crime Commission.

CEO of the potato regulator, Peter Evans, took a \$400,000 redundancy...but was then kept on in the role and paid a further \$95,000 for consultancy work, according to CCC Commissioner John McKechnie in a report to the WA Parliament. He described the arrangement as a "serious" abuse of power.

The CCC also accused former Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development senior staffer Felicity Heffernan of "falsifying records and deceit", resulting in "significant unauthorised expenditure of public funds in defiance of Cabinet decisions".

The CCC claimed Ms Heffernan concocted a "sham arrangement" to circumvent a WA government hiring freeze and helped Mr Evans to draw down funds set aside for the PMC's closure for his own benefit. She strongly denies the CCC claim.

The CCC also stated in its report that Ms Heffernan had resigned during an investigation into her conduct "without consequence".

CCC commissioner John McKechnie said it was a "real issue" that people could resign from unresolved investigations, then apply for employment elsewhere within the public sector without there being knowledge of the previous proceedings.

"It is an issue we have asked the Public Sector Commission to give consideration to," Mr McKechnie said.

Hear, hear! says Civil Liberties Australia. The most egregious anticipatory resignations are those by police officers who leave the force and go scot-free in the face of serious allegations of misconduct against citizens, in WA and throughout Australia. <https://tinyurl.com/y3bzln3a>

Forensics in dire straits

Queensland's forensic services for courts are in a state of ageing decline, an audit report finds.

Analysis is holding up court cases, and there's no guarantee police forensic exhibits can be relied on, especially for any future re-use of samples held by the police, the Queensland Audit Office found in a report released on 27 June 2019.

Responsibility for examining, analysing and reporting on DNA exhibits is split between the Qld Police Service (QPS) and Qld Health (QH).

The number of DNA exhibits that were 120 days or older increased by 344% over the past five years measured, from 289 in 2013–14 to 1284 in 2017–18.

The audit report contains a mysterious mention of "incorrect results"...with no details given: "The manufacturer has since rectified the issue and Queensland Health reports that no incorrect results were generated during this period (2017–18)".

QH's Forensic and Scientific Services is struggling to keep pace with the increase in demand for DNA analysis. (Demand) is up 21%, but staffing is down from 65 to 61 in 2017–18. The budget for forensic DNA is also down —about \$1 million— over the five-year period.

The average time to produce a drug analysis result was six months, the audit found. "Delays of this nature can result in cases being adjourned or, in extreme circumstances, charges being dropped."

As well, the audit said, the police themselves were creating extra drug danger: "The unnecessary handling of illicit drugs also poses security risks," the audit said. – 'Delivering forensic services' Report 21: 2018-19 Qld Audit Office. Article by Bill Rowlings, CLA CEO: <https://www.cla.asn.au/News/states-forensics-in-ageing-decline-audit-finds/>

Indigenous workers win 80yo claim for wages

More than 7000 Indigenous workers in Queensland who had their wages stolen have won recompense from the state government to the tune of \$190m.

Lead applicant Hans Pearson, advised by John Bottoms of Bottoms English Law in Cairns, took the Qld government to the federal court to claim wages he earned but did not receive between 1939 and 1972.

He and his fellow Indigenous workers forfeited their pay, which was given to the state under the Protection Act.

Pearson was chosen as lead applicant because, unusually, he had stumbled upon his own records – on their way to a tip – that could prove his claim.

John Bottoms said it was overdue acknowledgement of the injustice faced by thousands of Indigenous people. While he spoke for Qld, similar situations probably applied in most parts of rural and regional Australia, CLA believes. <https://tinyurl.com/yyruewhx>

Note: John Bottoms was one of CLA's first members in Far North Queensland 15 years ago.

NT govt is not racing to replace Don Dale juvenile jail

A former juvenile detainee, Marley Campbell, is suing the NT over his detention – and the use of a spit hood and handcuffing to a fence – between 2009 (aged 14) and 2012 in Alice Springs and in the Don Dale detention centre, and over a temporary transfer to the Darwin adult prison.

Campbell's lawyer, Sam Tierney* of Ken Cush and Associates, alleged in court documents last month that the use of the spit hoods was unlawful and involved excessive force, *Guardian Australia* reported.

"On the first occasion ... placed in a spit hood, it was applied from behind, without warning and caused the applicant to experience discomfort, difficulty breathing, shock, panic and fear and to believe that he was being suffocated by the officers," the documents allege.

The NT government is still fighting civil claims from Don Dale detainees by arguing the use of spit hoods on minors was "reasonable", despite having since banned their use and agreeing to Royal Commission recommendations to outlaw the practice.

Campbell's case is due for hearing in the federal court in Darwin in September 2019.

The NT government has not yet turned a sod on its promise to replace the Don Dale centre entirely, even though the RC handed down its final report in November 2017. It has decided to not build a new centre in Alice Springs at all.

However, the government last month announced a \$12m grant to build a new grandstand for Darwin Turf Club, which will be ready by July 2020. <http://tinyurl.com/y4rwpw8p>

* Tierney is Treasurer of Civil Liberties Australia.



Govt aims to cut youth offending

The NT is spending \$900,000 to expand court-ordered youth justice conferencing and giving \$1.25m to Victims of Crime over five years to deliver a support program.

Under the 'Back on Track' program, the conferencing forces offenders to sit before victims and face the consequences of their actions. Research says the approach is effective in deterring repeat offending.

Youth justice conferencing is expanding to Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, where it is currently not available.

The second phase of the partnership will include a two-year pilot program in three remote communities, working with elders groups and law and justice entities to build a youth justice conferencing model that aligns with the principles of local decision making and creating local jobs. – media release 190719, Minister for Families Dale Wakefield (photo).

Australian brief

Kids stripped searched for near-zero result: NSW junior jail officers routinely strip search children just 10 years old with minimal or no contraband found, according to new data. The Human Rights Law Centre obtained figures under FOI that show that 403 strip searches in one month on detainees at two NSW youth prisons, with one plain table tennis ball the only finding. They are conducted after contact visits with family or when detainees leave or enter the jail. Former inmates claim the searches trigger mental health problems. <https://tinyurl.com/y2sljvnt>

Are the dogs on drugs: why are they wrong so often? “According to NSW parliament documents, drugs were only found in 36% of 1124 strip searches prompted by sniffer dogs in 2017.” – *Perth Now* <http://tinyurl.com/y2uyewwa> ...Or, to put it another way, 64% of the strip searches were actually just harassment of citizens. Usually, sniffer dogs are used by police to select who they will search: formal research (by the NSW Ombudsman) has shown that sniffer dogs are usually wrong about two-thirds of the time. Their use is a PR-publicity stunt by police (and customs), rather than being of practical assistance re drug offences in the vast majority of indications. They actually waste police time carrying out useless searches, and so are counter-productive, CLA believes...unless, of course, you work for Police PR.

DNA's a go-go, provided your life is cheap: You'll be able to get life insurance without disclosing DNA tests...if your life's worth less than \$500,000. The Financial Services Council, representing life insurers in Australia, has announced the new regime. Life insurance includes death cover, total and permanent disability, and income protection and trauma insurance. People have avoided DNA tests because you had to disclose adverse results to an insurer. The new Australian provision operates until 30 June 2024: how well it is going will be reviewed in 2022. The review may adjust the limit on the size of the policy, now \$500,000. Above \$500,000, insurers can still demand you tell them about genetic results. There is also a limit of \$500,000 for total permanent disability cover, \$200,000 for trauma or critical illness cover and \$4000 a month in total of any combination of income protection, salary continuance or business expenses cover. <https://tinyurl.com/y5txpvn8>

Your privacy is nearly always at risk: ‘Anonymised’ data can never be totally anonymous, according to a study by Belgium’s Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain) and Imperial College London. A dataset with 15 demographic attributes, for instance, “would render 99.98% of people in Massachusetts unique”. And for smaller populations, it gets easier: if town-level location data is included, for instance, “it would not take much to re-identify people living in Harwich Port, Massachusetts, a city of fewer than 2000 inhabitants”. The study makes a mockery of claims that businesses and government agencies can sell de-identified datasets without risk, CLA says. – AB: <https://tinyurl.com/yxanerhu> (Original study: <https://tinyurl.com/yygyxtcu>)

CLA Members' (and other) contributions

The picture says it all...

The so-called leader of the free world is photographed shaking hands with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who international investigative agencies accuse of ordering the assassination of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Once again, the almighty dollar – the arms deals, the trade disputes, national interests – overrules all other considerations and human rights are thrown into the garbage bin. – Rob Phillips, North Epping.

Trump gazumps rights of residence

“Go back where you came from”, is the voice of hate. It is the voice of intolerance. It is the voice of malice aforethought. It is the voice of the holocaust. It is the voice of the pogrom. It is the voice of exclusion. It is the voice of racism. It is a reversion to the basest of base instincts turning us into vile reptiles. Every time you hear those six words a part of your soul dies. Those six words. "Go back where you came from" have no place in a civilised society, and it is up to each and every one of us to expunge them from our collective consciousness. – Jon Jovanovic, CLA member, Lenah Valley Tas

We need a bill of rights:

We Australians need a Bill of Human Rights. The citizenry has had many civil rights stripped away in response to the hysteria about terrorism. Until the Australian Parliament can come to terms with the Makarata, indigenous peoples' well being in the 21st century is in danger. I think the two issues work

together. Australians need fresh thinking about our constitution and attitudes about democracy. – Carolyn van Langenberg, Blackheath NSW

We asked CLA poet member, Carolyn (above), if she had written anything on rights and liberties:

limited truths

Assange in curved space-time
scans text for filaments
silver hair splits flaked words
breakfast toast loses crunch
grim data between rotting teeth

limited truths picked, wiped dry
static manipulates
bruised ear drums
soothe one hysterical
cat snarls in the embassy

– Carolyn van Langenberg

CLA report – main activities for July 2019

ANU law intern student Tyler Graves came two days a week to CLA's office over the past six weeks.

His internship project was to evaluate and comment on the parole system in three states and territories (NT, ACT and SA), and to learn about the incorporation rules, state/territory/national requirements and management and operation of an NGO.

CEO Bill Rowlings was effectively Tyler's day-to-day supervisor. Tyler accompanied the CEO and President Dr Kristine Klugman on a meeting at Federal Parliament with Andrew Leigh MP (at right, in photo right), to meetings with CLA members, and to the McBride demo (see story and photo above).

His legislative and associated analysis of the three parole systems (ACT, NT, SA) – which he will submit for marking to the ANU Law School – developed into a sound and robust document. We worked with him over four drafts to hone and refine his work.



We were impressed by how dedicated and diligent Tyler was in approaching his 'legal' side of the internship, and how interested he was in learning the 'small NGO' administrative and management aspects of our business, which was an added bonus of this particular internship.

Meetings:

The President, CEO and WA Director Margaret Howkins held a lengthy Skype session to update on the police-investigating-police project, and to plan for a poster presentation at a criminology conference in Perth in November. We will be seeking input from WA academics on the project.

Andrew Leigh MHR and author: We discussed press freedoms, CLA's criticisms of the Joint Cttee on Intelligence and Security, the development for Australia of a 'freedoms index', territory rights and the prospect of a private Member's bill sponsored by Mr Leigh at the end of 2019. Also discussed were a national bill of rights, states' bills of rights and the rise of populism. CLA was able to alert him, for an article he will produce in August on prisons, to the imminent major report by the Qld Productivity Commission inquiry. Mr Leigh will publish a new book at year-end: *Innovation and Equality*.

Exchanges:

Email correspondence with Tom Clarke re campaigns for a human rights bill. CLA is concentrating on the states and the NT. The Human Rights Law Centre will focus on the national campaign.

Email correspondence with Scott Hannaford, Deputy Editor *Canberra Times* re whistleblowers.

Email correspondence with Stan Winford, Associate Director Centre for Innovative justice RMIT re restorative justice.

Letter from Tasmanian Director Richard Griggs to TasPol, asking for further information and legislative basis for lockdown raids on entire Tasmanian towns and suburbs.

Media:

Comment on TasPol's locking down of towns: letter to the editor (Rajan Venkataraman)

Submissions:

Australian Human Rights Commission inquiry, lead-authored by Director Jennifer Ashton.

INTERNATIONAL

PM Boris takes liberties...with facts and justice

Liberty UK has given its verdict on the new UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.

"Johnson has made no bones about his intention to increase police use of discriminatory stop and search.

"He's consistently pointed to his time as London Mayor, during which – he says – he reduced violent crime by upping the controversial tactic. But government statistics consistently point to stop and search having 'no discernible crime-reducing effects'.

He has repeatedly backed the government's racist hostile environment and supports locking up migrants without release dates – tearing families apart and devastating mental health.

"He voted to get rid of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and is against publishing a gender equality strategy. He supports mass surveillance of the entire population. That's the collection of everyone's calls, texts, emails, GPS locations and internet browsing histories," Liberty UK says.

The Master of Hyperbole claims to have slept on a Canberra roundabout in his youth: <https://tinyurl.com/y4sdfwaj>

UN expert calls for G20 summit to be moved from Riyadh



The UN expert Agnes Callamard, who investigated the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi has called on world powers to not hold the next G20 summit in Saudi Arabia.

The special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions recently reported "credible evidence" that linked Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) to Kashoggi's killing.

"Political accountability for Mr Khashoggi will mean that (the Riyadh G20 summit) doesn't happen or it's moved elsewhere," Callamard told the Brookings Institution in Washington DC.

The G20 leaders' forum comprises 19 countries and the European Union. The group represents more than 80% of the world's economic output and two-thirds of its people. <http://tinyurl.com/y3ehzwgl>

US sanctions are killing tens of thousands of people

"More than 300,000 Venezuelans are at risk due to a lack of lifesaving medications and treatment," doctors write in a recent *Lancet* medical journal.

"An estimated 80,000 HIV-positive patients have had no antiretroviral therapy since 2017. Access to medication such as insulin has been curtailed because US banks refuse to handle Venezuelan payments for this. Thousands to millions of people have been without access to dialysis, cancer treatment, or therapy for hypertension and diabetes.

"Particular to children has been the delay of vaccination campaigns or lack of access to anti-rejection medications after solid organ transplants in Argentina. Children with leukaemia awaiting bone marrow transplants abroad are now dying. Funds for such health-assistance programmes come from the PDVSA state oil company. Those funds are now frozen. Food imports dropped by 78% in 2018 compared to 2013.

"The very serious threat to health and harm to human life caused by these US sanctions are thought to have contributed to an excess of 40,000 deaths in 2017–18 alone.

"...the US State Department recently boasted about the economic hardship that they have caused through their now expunged communiqué, released on 24 April 2019.

"They assert that 'US policy has and continues to prevent the Venezuelan Government from participating in the international market and has led to the freezing of its overseas assets'. US National Security Advisor John Bolton stated that they are backing the illegal coup in Venezuela, as 'it will make a big difference to

the United States economically if we could have American oil companies invest in and produce the oil capabilities in Venezuela'."

–from 'US sanctions in Venezuela: help, hindrance, or violation of human rights?' by concerned doctors Tanya Zakrison of Chicago and Carles Muntener of Toronto, *The Lancet* Vol 33, No. 10191, 29 June 2019: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)31397-2/fulltext?](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)31397-2/fulltext?)

ODD SPOT: How politicians pick the voters

"Redistricting is like an election in reverse! Usually the voters get to pick the politicians. In redistricting, the politicians get to pick the voters! [It's] the only legalized form of vote-stealing left in the United States" - late Republican strategist and mapmaker Thomas Hofeller, as reported by 'Fitch' on the *Justinian* newsblog.

Stunning decision by police gear maker

Axon, America's biggest police body camera manufacturer, has banned using face recognition technology in its products after its independent ethics board said recently that the "technology is not yet reliable enough to justify its use on body-worn cameras" due to "unequal and unreliable performance across races, ethnicities, genders and other identity groups."

Once primarily known for selling the electronic stun gun, the Taser, the online news outlet *Gizmodo AU* reports that Axon is now a \$430m company selling a suite of technologies including police body cameras to 17,000 law enforcement agencies in more than 100 countries. The company also sells so-called "smart weapons" for military and government use.

Over the past decade, Axon has shifted heavily to selling police body cameras. As the technology has proliferated, civil liberties experts are increasingly worried that the devices can be used to covertly introduce heavily criticised face recognition technology into cities. <http://tinyurl.com/y2uta3wf>

Suicides in prison are a scandal, inspector says

The number of people killing themselves in British prisons is a "scandal" with many inmates dying in preventable circumstances, according to the chief inspector of prisons.

He is calling for an independent inquiry after tabling his 2018-19 annual report.

Peter Clarke said levels of self-harm were "disturbingly high" and self-inflicted deaths had increased to 83 from 72 the previous year. There was also a 25% increase in reported incidents of self-harm from 36,347 in 2017 to 45,310 in 2018.

Clarke said: "Is it time, after years and years and years of the same faults, same mistakes, same admissions leading to self-inflicted deaths, is it time for there to be an independent external inquiry into this whole subject? It is no exaggeration to say it is a scandal. People in the care of the state are dying unnecessarily in preventable circumstances." <http://tinyurl.com/yyr6qq2y>

ODD SPOT: One in five have mental disorders post-conflict

A World Health Organisation global study, largely driven by Queensland researchers, shows why greater monitoring and ongoing support is needed for people from conflict areas. One in five people in conflict-affected populations have mental disorders, such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. In one in 20 cases, the disorder is severe. <https://tinyurl.com/yyo7j6p7>

NZ gears up to make money from cannabis

Late last year the NZ government passed a law that will eventually make medical marijuana widely available locally, and also create an export market.

Under an informal "amnesty" for growers, they have been able to work with research and development companies. Now a nationwide search is under way for unique strains of the cannabis plant, with many varieties growing in isolation for decades on the fertile North and South Islands.

A legalised cannabis industry is expected to generate up to \$230m in tax revenue to the government.

The legalisation of both medicinal and recreational cannabis is being seen as a potential boon for marginalised Māori communities in particular, who have seen scores of young men and women imprisoned in regions where employment opportunities are scarce and the drug trade has become a way of life.

According to the health ministry, 11% of New Zealanders use cannabis at least once a year and 44% of those people report using it for medicinal purposes. NZ may hold a referendum on recreational use of marijuana in 2020. <http://tinyurl.com/y3uzy7zc>

Unfairly accused launch campaign for anonymity pre-conviction

British radio presented Paul Gambaccini has said there is a “false allegation crisis”, as he and singer Sir Cliff Richard launched a petition calling for anonymity for sexual offence suspects.

The pair, who both had cases against them dropped, are hoping to secure debate in the British Parliament. Gambaccini was accused of sexually assaulting two boys when he was arrested in October 2013 as part of Operation Yewtree, which was set up in the wake of revelations about paedophile British entertainer Jimmy Savile. He spent a year on bail before the case was dropped.

He told *BBC Radio 4's Today* that he wanted “a balancing of something which has gone out of balance”.

“At the moment accusers have life-long anonymity and the accused have no seconds of anonymity. And this does, unfortunately, encourage everyone from liars to lunatics to make false accusations and get in on the action,” he said. <http://tinyurl.com/y2p6kvfm>

Guardian columnist Sino Jenkins wrote: “The ever-expanding legal realm of hate speech and causing offence accepts that words can hurt and harm. Reputations are as precious as heads, arms, legs and property.

“But the feeding frenzy of the internet is terrifying enough already without being fed by the British justice system. Pre-charge anonymity is a sound principle, one that parliament should now uphold.” <http://tinyurl.com/y25tru4o>

Do you know where your image is ‘banked’?

Dozens of databanks of people’s faces are being compiled without their knowledge by companies and researchers, with many of the images then being shared worldwide.

The databases are pulled together with images from social networks, photo websites, dating services and cameras placed in restaurants and on uni campuses.

Privacy activists say repositories that were built by Microsoft, Stanford University and others with one holding over 10 million images while another had more than two million.

In Australia, facial recognition technology is being enhanced by “the exchange of identity information between the Commonwealth government, state and territory governments and ‘non-government entities’ through the creation of a central hub called ‘The Capability’, as well as the National Driver Licence Facial Recognition Solution, a database of information contained in government identity documents, such as driver licences,” according to Prof Liz Campbell of Monash U, writing in *The Conversation*: <http://tinyurl.com/y66n45pk>

The face compilations throughout the world are being driven by the race to create leading-edge facial recognition systems.

This technology learns how to identify people by analysing as many digital pictures as possible using ‘neural networks’, which are complex mathematical systems that require vast amounts of data to build pattern recognition.

Tech giants like Facebook and Google have most likely amassed the largest face data sets, which they do not distribute, according to research papers, the *New York Times* reported. <https://tinyurl.com/y3c3lqvp>

Impunity rules, as tyrants and bullies compete for top atrocity

David Miliband, the former British Foreign Secretary who is now Chief Executive of the International Rescue Committee, argued in a recent speech that we live in an Age of Impunity – an age where non-intervention has become the norm, irrespective of the scale of the atrocity.

The 21st century was being defined by diminished outrage and accountability, he said.

Miliband called the lack of constraint on this “arrogance of power” a “political emergency”, “a new and chilling normal.”

Civilians are expendable. Ethnic cleansing is tolerated. The shame of international inaction during Rwanda’s genocide has been forgotten. The notion of a rules-based international order is no longer taken seriously. Miliband drew a number of lessons from these observations:

First, beware this vacuum in global leadership. Second, the western retreat from robust foreign policy reflects a crisis in domestic western politics (Trump, Brexit, and more).

Third, the fight for civil and political rights is never over. Fourth, every generation has to remake the positive case for international cooperation and justice.

He said that, fifth, there was a new dividing line in politics, between those who understand that power needs to be checked by strengthening the rule of law, and those who do not. <https://tinyurl.com/y5cdykv7>

NY moves to boost rights and claims

In a significant breakthrough, the New York legislature has expanded protections against discrimination and harassment under its State Human Rights Law.

In 2018, new laws focused on sexual harassment prevention, through mandatory training and revamped policy requirements.

The 2019 changes align the law with the more progressive NY City Human Rights Law and further away from US federal laws.

People may now assert and prove discrimination and harassment claims and win more damages. The cases, decisions and damages will in future be much more public.

Employers must maintain an environment without discrimination and harassment, and the time limit to file a sexual harassment claim is now three years, up from one. <http://tinyurl.com/y6dgr93f>

Secret GBay, where the USA continues ‘war’ crimes

In April 2019, the US military took reporters and photographers on a public relations visit to the Guantanamo Bay prison on American-owned land in Cuba.

During the four-day visit, only a few hours were allocated to the sprawling Detention Center Zone, whose staff of 2000 United States military personnel and civilians oversees the remaining 40 detainees, just one of whom has been convicted of a war crime.

GBay opened in January 2002, which was just four months after the “9/11” (11 Sept 2001) aircraft attacks on America. At maximum in July 2003, 18 months later, it held about 675 prisoners

To run the show, there are up to 6000 base residents at a time, about a third of them Jamaican and Filipino guest workers operating the base’s service sector, like working at McDonalds, in other restaurants, or doing menial jobs.

New York Times photos show an ageing facility, barbed and razor wire rusting in silent commentary, as inside the piecemeal prison a group of Muslim men exist in a limbo of US injustice, mostly without trial or conviction, which is arguably a ‘terror’ crime in itself, Civil Liberties Australia believes.

Certainly no man on this island, prisoner, guard or exploited worker, can hear the Liberty Bell toll so far removed from the principles on which a once-great America was founded.

NYT credit: Reporter Carol Rosenberg, photographer Doug Mills (about 40% of the photos he took were censored by the US military). <https://tinyurl.com/y5n6xwcb>

ODD SPOT: A lease deal property developer Trump would be proud of

The USA leases the 120 sq km site known as Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$4085 a year. Cuba has not banked the annual US payment for 60 years. Cuba claims the lease, which has no end date, is illegal because it was imposed on Cuba by force in 1903. The first article of the agreement says it is a lease for naval stations; another article says there will be no commercial or other enterprise within the lease area.

Looking back on predictions of what type of President Donald Trump might be:

“Authoritarianism is also associated with suspiciousness of the humanities and the arts, and with cognitive rigidity, militaristic sentiments, and Christian fundamentalism.”

– One snapshot from a June 2016 (rpt, 2016) predictive article by psychologist Dan P. McAdams of the type of President Trump might turn out to be. Interesting reading three years later in relation to the USA and Australia. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/06/the-mind-of-donald-trump/480771/>

If the word fits...

Here are new words, just adopted by academics of the Bro Linguistic Institute of North Gungahlin (BLING):

Tantrump

A major development of a hissy fit, often occurring suddenly in the early AM.

Tweetledum

Nickname for President Trump, acknowledging a penchant for short, staccato e-xpressions.

Trumpanal

(pron. trump-a-nal, with a short 1st and 2nd ‘a’...as in ‘urinal’)

The round, anus-like, lip gesture President Trump makes when speaking.

Trout-a-don

Alternate name for poking one’s lips out and round like a fish, as per President Trump.

SigHail Show

Description of the process of President Trump signing formal documents and turning them to camera so as to display his “I went to an exclusive school” running writing for the world to see.

BLING is expected to release new Trump definitions in the lead-up to the 2020 election.

Police officer creates his own evidence

A cop who planted evidence is getting his comeuppance

Eleven victims were named in deputy sheriff Zachary Wester’s arrest affidavit, but 119 cases involving the disgraced cop have been dropped, at least eight inmates have been released from prison, with 262 cases still under review, and dozens of victims are now expected to sue.

Since joining the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office in mid 2016, Wester made countless finds of meth drugs in vehicles he pulled over for a broken headlight or seatbelt not done up.

But his own police bodycam footage eventually revealed how he would plant the drugs in the vehicles before then ‘finding’ them and charging the drivers, whose lives have been ruined by false convictions.

Wester has been charged with racketeering, official misconduct, fabricating evidence, possession of a controlled substance and false imprisonment, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement revealed. He was also charged with misdemeanour perjury, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He faces three decades behind bars. <http://tinyurl.com/yxwru3o5>

International briefs

Scotland’s jails full: The headcount in Scottish prisons reached 8222 at July 2019, compared with about 7400 at the start of 2018. The remand prison population is at 20% (it is about 40% in Australia). The chief inspector of prisons for Scotland, Wendy Sinclair-Gieben, said: “The prison system is under significant pressure with more than 700 extra prisoners, which is the equivalent of one large-sized prison.” <http://tinyurl.com/y5b7vlqg>

Right to privacy splits USA: Trump administration officials held a National Security Council meeting recently on the challenges and benefits of encryption, according to a report in *Politico*. A source said officials are split: either decide, create and publicise the administration’s position on encryption, or ask Congress to ban end-to-end encryption. The administration did not decide which, *Politico* reported.

Encryption was a front page issue in 2015 when Apple and the FBI fought an open battle over encryption: during a campaign speech, then-candidate Donald Trump proposed a boycott of Apple that never materialised. <http://tinyurl.com/y2ummmycw>

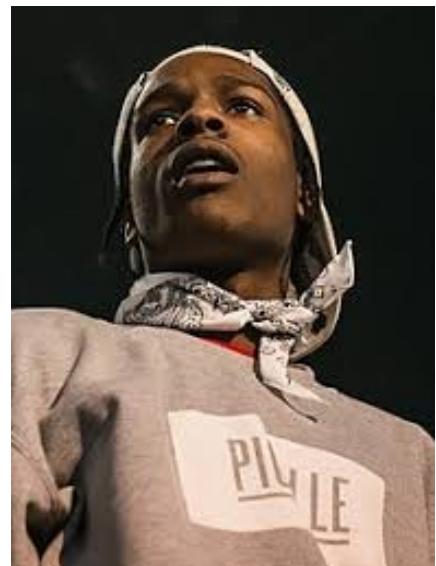
Court’s votes delivers to both sides: In decisions with major implications for American politics, the US Supreme Court recently delivered a victory to Republicans by ruling that federal courts are powerless to hear challenges to extreme partisan gerrymandering but gave a reprieve to Democrats by delaying the Trump administration’s efforts to add a question on citizenship to the 2020 census. The key parts of both decisions were decided by 5-to-4 votes. In the gerrymandering case, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joined his usual conservative allies. In the census case, he broke with them to vote with the court’s four-member liberal wing in preventing, for now, what advocates have argued would be a deterrent to immigrants from participating in the once-a-decade count. <http://tinyurl.com/y43htook>

Where is the ‘worldwide’ payment? The US credit bureau Equifax is expected to pay around \$920 million to settle US federal and state investigations and consumer claims relating to a data breach that exposed

sensitive information belonging to 145 million people in the USA. Equifax holds records on hundreds of millions of people worldwide and delivers about two billion consumer files each year to lenders and other companies seeking information on those taking out mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and other financial products. There is no indication Australian consumers are being compensated. <https://tinyurl.com/y3ou4dxf>

ODD SPOT: Well I'll be... The US Supreme Court gets profane: The US Supreme Court recently ruled 6-3 to permit words and symbols that are "immoral" or "scandalous". You may trademark protect profane and even racist brand names. Clothing designer Erik Brunetti, who sought to trademark the phrase FUCT, brought the case. Now he can. The court struggled in its ruling over how to deal with the word/brand's pronunciation. Justice Elena Kagan described it in her majority opinion: The clothing brand "is pronounced as four letters, one after the other: F-U-C-T. ... But you might read it differently and, if so, you would hardly be alone."

Sweden puts on a Rocky horror show, America says: US rapper A\$AP Rocky (photo: Wikipedia) and his crew pummeled a man – Mustafa Jafari – in Sweden, punching and kicking him after he was felled, leaving him battered and bloodied in the street, according to witnesses on the scene, and a video clip, online entertainment magazine TMZ said last month. <https://tinyurl.com/yxobwg42> US Senators and President Donald Trump immediately leapt to the rapper's defence, pillorying Swedish justice, its jail and no-bail system, and even its prison food: they demanded the Rocky horror should end with his immediate release. Not one word in the Home of Hypocrisy was said about Australian rights and liberties advocate Julian Assange's un-judicial treatment by Sweden, CLA notes.



Persecuted put their faith and hope in equal review: Persecuted humanists – victims of oppressive blasphemy and apostasy laws and societal hostility towards the non-religious – want the UK Government to urgently launch a global review into the persecution of non-religious people who face death, violence, and torture for expressing non-religious beliefs. The letter is signed by 17 non-religious activists including those from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Nigeria, Malaysia, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia who have all faced extreme persecution. They want a global review of the persecution of the non-religious, similar to the recent review by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office into the persecution of Christians. – CM <https://tinyurl.com/y4ujksh3>

DATES:

All 2019, World: UN International Year of Indigenous Languages

2 Aug, Brisbane: Queensland Law Society criminal law conference, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, 8.30 – 5.35. Note: One of six streams is devoted entirely to 'How to challenge a decision of Parole Board Queensland to refuse, suspend or cancel a parole order'. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/y5jukrxk>

2-4 August, Darwin: National IPAN conference 'Australia at the Crossroads: Time for an independent foreign policy', incl. public meeting Friday evening at CDU's waterfront campus, with conference Sat & Sun at CDU Casuarina campus. Details/register: www.ipan.org.au/event/conference2019

5 Aug, Canberra: Bullying and Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession, 5.30-7pm, China in the World building, ANU. Analysis and discussion on the landmark global survey of the prevalence, nature and impact of these practices and crimes within the legal profession. Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/y3m2ywtx>

7 Aug, Perth: Screening of The Stanford Prison Experiment (2015), followed by discussion with Alex Haslam, Prof Social & Organisational Psychology and an Australian Laureate Fellow at U. Qld. <https://tinyurl.com/yxthgf57>

7 Aug, Sydney: 2019 ACCEL Distinguished Speakers' Address: Power Blackouts and Climate Justice, U. Sydney 6-7.30pm. Prof Rosemary Lyster chairing, with speakers Prof Daniel Farber of UCLA, and Prof Robert Verchick of Loyola U, New Orleans. Details: law.events@sydney.edu.au

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/yyq5qcgp>



22-24 August, Queenstown NZ: Aust & NZ Bar Assns conference. Info: Camilla Williams events@austbar.asn.au

23 Aug, Adelaide: Poisoning, Women and Murder in 19th Century Australia. David Plater, 1-2pm, Piper Alderman Moot Court, Adelaide Law School, <https://tinyurl.com/y22el6ft>

18 Sept, Sydney: Sydney Science Forum – Not Guilty: the psychology of crime investigations:

Wrongful convictions are not just a legal matter; the science of how our brains work plays a big part too. Dr Celine van Golde explains how psychological and legal research is coming together to seek justice for the wrongly convicted. 5.45-7pm, Charles Perkins Auditorium. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/y4vmhrjy>



8 October 2019, 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>

17 Oct, Brisbane: Prospects of Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), Prof Chester Brown U.Syd, judge James Douglas Qld Supreme Court, Prof Anthony Cassimatis Qld U. law school, 5-6.45pm, Banco Court, 451 George St Brisbane. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/yq5qczp>

1 Nov, Canberra: Technology, public law and public administration conference. China in the World building – discussing unique challenges of automation and AI to liberal democratic governments, administration and public law. Details: marketing.law@anu.edu.au

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

2020:

21 March, Canberra: Start, 60th year of the ANU College of Law celebrations. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/y46hwot9>

23-26 June, Brisbane: Asia Pacific ministerial conference on Indo-Pacific natural disaster risk reduction, hosted by DFAT. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/y5qb9sy>

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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