

Please note: we need as many members to vote in the upcoming AGM as possible, as 60% voting in favour is the very high pass mark to make some important proposed changes to the CLA Constitution.

Proposed integrity body is more bunny than tiger or shark

The Coalition government's proposed version of a national integrity commission is a toothless tiger with gum disease.

That is the suggestion of the Centre for Public Integrity, a think-tank with a board of legal 'heavies, mostly retired. The CPI says the government's proposed Commonwealth Integrity Commission will NOT be able to:

- investigate or expose corruption;
- begin investigations of its own accord;
- accept allegations from the public;
- hold public hearings or make a public report; or
- pursue referrals unless it can show evidence of a criminal offence being committed.

"It would not have been able to investigate the Bridget McKenzie (sports grants) affair, as there is little evidence of a criminal offence," CPI executive director Hannah Aulby wrote last month.

She said no member of the public would hear about corruption investigations unless the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) decided to pursue a case, maybe months or years after the conduct in question.

"The proposed commission will do more to hide corruption than expose it," she wrote. <https://tinyurl.com/wlrpo67>

President praises ANAO for its work

Taking a rare opportunity to be able to praise federal bureaucrats publically, Civil Liberties Australia has written to the Auditor-General Grant Hehir (photo) to praise his work and that of his staff.

They exposed the Minister McKenzie alleged rorts over sports grants; in the same time frame, they exposed the ongoing, decades-long incompetence of the Australian Defence Force and the Defence Department. No government seems to care about fixing the mammoth financial and time problems in Defence.

CLA President Dr Kristine Klugman wrote to Mr Hehir, saying:

"I congratulate you and your officers on the excellent work you are doing to 'support accountability and transparency in the Australian Government sector through independent reporting to the Parliament, and thereby contribute to improved public sector performance'.

"I was most impressed by the range of inquiries you have conducted, the timely and efficient production of evaluation reports, and the plain language in which they are expressed.

"I hope that the public attention given to your most recent report encourages journalists to take a closer look at your on-going work, and give it the attention and coverage it deserves.

"If there is to be a 'national integrity commission' created, we will campaign for you to head it and for ANAO staff to resource it," Dr Klugman wrote.

A letter writer to *The Age*, sounded a note of caution:

Expect the Australian National Audit Office to suffer a severe funding cut in the forthcoming budget.

– Michael Nolan, Capel Sound, Victoria.

Hehir's appointed term is for 10 years, ending in 2025.

Government 'leads' by royal commission

The propensity for the federal government to call royal commissions and create inquiries is a worrying trend of inappropriate governance.



This is not a new observation by us: Civil Liberties Australia has criticised the increasing number of commissions, inquiries and referrals to committees over the past few years, as the executive government struggles to identify and articulate a clear national vision and how to get where we want and need to be.

The Morrison government proposal to tackle failings and miscalculations around bushfires through a national royal commission is a waste of previous inquiries and research, and of time and of money. It diverts attention from the federal government's wider responsibility over international climate cooperation.

A letter to the editor puts it well:

"There is really no need for a royal commission on how to respond to a bushfire emergency. The government just needs a Parliamentary library researcher to spend a month pulling together the findings of the 57 public inquiries, royal commissions and reviews related to bushfires and bushfire management that have taken place in Australia since 1939," Clive Williams wrote in the SMH in mid-January 2020.

"If that's not enough, there is already a 28-page National Bushfire Management Policy Statement for forests and rangelands prepared for the Council of Australian Governments in 2014. Fourteen national goals were identified to achieve a (currently non-existent) comprehensive and sustainable bushfire management policy."

Williams wrote the letter as a private individual, and did not reveal that he is an ANU Professor and one of Australia's leading experts in national security, defence and counter terrorism. He knows his stuff in the emergency field.

And, here's an article from 22 years ago, with the bushfire problem clearly identified, and one of the many necessary aspects of the solutions implemented successfully: <http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/AUJIEmMgmt/1998/45.html>

ODD SPOT: Marr claims Australia being run by 3Cs supporting group

Who is running Australia? Noted leftish/progressive lawyer, author, journalist and Walkley Award winner and gay man, David Marr, says it is "...the far-right faction of the Liberal party, the men and women who stand for Christ, coal and the cops." – Marr, writing as a columnist on *The Guardian (Australia)* 4 Jan 2020 <https://tinyurl.com/w5pt6kp>

Bushfire inquiry by federal parliament extended

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment has decided to extend the existing inquiry into the intensity and frequency of bushfires in Australia.

Chair Ted O'Brien (Lib Fairfax, Qld) said that public submissions could be made until 31 March 2020.

"Once the current bushfire situation has eased, the committee looks forward to receiving a range of considered evidence to inform its inquiry. We want to develop recommendations that can assist in ensuring that Australia takes the best possible approach to preventing such terrible events in future and being better equipped to manage them'," Mr O'Brien said.

The inquiry, announced on 6 Dec 2019, is looking into the efficacy of past and current vegetation and land management policy, practice and legislation and their effect on the intensity and frequency of bushfires and subsequent risk to property, life and the environment.

You can make a submission via the inquiry [website](#).

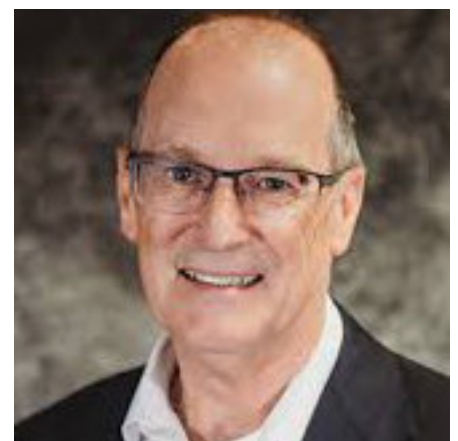
Time for PM to take responsibility, and act decisively

Instead of dealing with the alleged misbehaviour of one of his Ministers, Bridget McKenzie, over the sports rorts affair, Prime Minister Scott Morrison handed the task of examining her behaviour to his department head, Philip Gaetjens (photo).

Gaetjens is a former 10-year chief of staff to then-Liberal Treasurer Peter Costello, and for three years as recently as the middle of 2018 to then-Liberal Treasurer Scott Morrison himself. From Morrison's viewpoint, Gaetjens represents putting the decision "in safe hands", whatever that means.

But from a leadership position – and from the position of Minister McKenzie – Gaetjens is entirely the wrong person to decide.

Firstly, it is a 'ministerial' code that applies to ministers under the leadership, and control, of the prime minister. So the prime minister alone should consider the issues and



make the decision: he is responsible, personally, for setting the standards his ministers must continue to meet.

Secondly, most people believe public trials should be before a jury of one's peers. Gaetjens is not a peer of McKenzie, because she is a minister of the crown and he is a public servant. McKenzie would have a legitimate complaint if Gaetjens decides she has broken the PM's code, and she is sacked from the role, or laterally arabesqued elsewhere.

"The Prime Minister should decide quickly, personally, as sufficient detail of what McKenzie did and did not do is known," CLA CEO Bill Rowlings said. "And he should act decisively to dismiss her immediately if she has failed to meet the ministerial code of conduct, as most members of the public believe is the case.

"This is more than just possible roting of \$100m of public money for sports facilities. This process is setting the standard by which the integrity of the Morrison government will be judged for the rest of its term in office," he said.

Assange's fate rests on British justice, as Australia remains mute

Julian Assange is expected to face an extradition hearing in London starting late in February 2020, with five days of court time set aside for it, then another three weeks in May.

His legal team claim they have not had enough time to prepare his case properly.

The US wants him extradited to face multiple charges related to WikiLeaks releasing copious numbers of secret American diplomatic cables and other documents.

Assange has already served 50 weeks in Britain for jumping bail by seeking asylum for years in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Sweden has dropped the rape investigation against him which forced him to seek asylum.

If the UK refuses his extradition, he will be a 'free' man, provided he doesn't go anywhere where the USA could kidnap him. If he is freed, Australia needs to formally warn the US of the consequences if it kidnaps – they call it 'renditioning' – an Australian citizen.

If his extradition is approved by the British authorities, he will be taken to America to face a trial which could result in the death penalty.

The silence of the Australian government is deafening.

'Secret' decisions are always poorer

"The question is not whether the government gets the big secret decisions wrong, the question is how wrong, because secrecy always leads to poorer decisions." – Bill Rowlings, CEO of Civil Liberties Australia.

Author/journalist Brian Toohey has written:

"In 1950, (Australian Prime Minister) Bob Menzies indulged a fading power's demand for extreme secrecy whose malign consequences remain today...Menzies had confidence in his own judgement. Without consulting any other Australians, he agreed to let Britain explode prototype nuclear bombs in Australia and conduct even more dangerous trials of highly toxic bomb components from 1952 until 1963. The British also wanted to examine the the impact of the explosions on soldiers...Given the growing public revulsion at the H-bomb's power, Britain was keen to keep this activity secret." – Brian Toohey, in 'Secret: The making of Australia's Security State'

Mental health services continue downward spiral

Throughout Australia, mental health and disability services are apparently getting worse.

Governments are refusing public help because of an ideologically-driven agenda. When the bar on passing an original assessment is raised, large numbers of people needing assistance have nowhere to go.



Confirmation of how bad the issues are being managed comes from a report by Queensland's Public Advocate, Mary Burgess (photo). In her annual report for 2018-19, released in January 2020, she wrote:

"Reports from peak mental health bodies suggest that more than one-third of people with severe mental health problems are being rejected by the NDIS.

"In Queensland, in late 2016, the Queensland Alliance for Mental Health reported that more than half of the participants in the Day to Day Living program who were receiving support from a mental health service

provider were assessed as ineligible for the NDIS.

“A January 2018, University of Sydney and Community Mental Health Australia report found that at that time less than half of the expected number of NDIS participants with a primary psychosocial disability had become registered.” <https://tinyurl.com/vw379m6>

ODD SPOT: Having a red hot go at freedom

Former CLA Treasurer Phil Schubert has spotted what seems to be a submission to the Religious Freedom Inquiry from the Noosa Satanists. “I didn’t realise the Sunshine Coast in Queensland was the apparent centre of anti-christianity in Australia,” he said.

The Satanists don’t think the bill is necessary but look forward to expressing their newfound religious freedoms! He’s not sure if it’s a joke, but the point stands, the goose and the gander will have equal freedoms under Christian Porter’s law.

...and the devil is in the detail.

Are they justices, or judges?

An inquirer has asked why CLArion usually titles people sitting on the bench “judge” instead of “justice”. We believe they deliver legal decisions, not necessarily justice.

One of Australia’s most eminent jurists, Sir Owen Dixon, has actually answered the question for us. He retired from the office of (official title) Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia in 1964.

A story about Dixon, recounted by his biographer, Philip Ayres, was quoted not too long ago during a speech by a current High Court judge, Stephen Gageler:

At a dinner party, a woman seated next to (Dixon) was enthusing about how splendid it must be to dispense justice. Dixon replied, in a tone which Ayres wrote could only be his:

“I do not have anything to do with justice, madam. I sit on a court of appeal, where none of the facts are known. One third of the facts are excluded by normal frailty and memory; one third by the negligence of the profession; and the remaining third by the archaic laws of evidence.”

– P Ayres, “Owen Dixon’s causation lecture: radical scepticism” (2003) 77 ALJ 682 at 693.

ODD SPOT: Bon Sco-mots...emerging from Canberra’s ash-filled bubble

Scomo (defn): A person in charge who leaves things to others when a difficult or emergency situation arises. New word in the Urban Dictionary, added by Desirager12 17 Dec 2019. Use example: *Things were going badly at work, so I Scomo’d off to a tropical island for some R&R and let someone else sort it out.*

Scomo is loyal through thick and thin: he sticks by his ministers even when they are thick and their explanations are thin.

Scomo is a sports nut. As a cricket lover, he’s Australian prime spinister. But he’s not a yachtie – no, Scomo, Captain Cook did NOT circumnavigate Australia. Oh, and he wasn’t a Captain either: he was a Lieutenant when he parked his boat on the edging sands of your Cronulla electorate, now named after him.

Scomo is unflagging: he’s usually seen with six Aussie flags rampant. Did you know, by jingo, his security details carries four rolled-up flags in case of emergency?

Scomo does unique three-way interviews. A journo asks him a question, he bounces it off the triangular wall of his mind, then off the other internal wall, and sends an “answer” rushing back out through his mouth at you split into different wavelengths, covering alternative spectrums to the original question.

NB: ‘**Scotty from marketing**’ is disrespectful towards Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison: it is not his fault if his religion enables talking in tongues, making three different bushfire promises simultaneously, and spending the same budget magic pudding money half a dozen times over without affecting the bottom line.

Police get new laws to do their jobs properly

Bikies, pedophiles and drug traffickers could face up to five years in jail for communicating with other convicted criminals under proposed anti-consorting legislation.

Under the Labor government laws, police would be able to issue an “unlawful consorting notice” to anyone convicted of an indictable offence – such as murder, robbery or wounding – ordering them not to communicate with a list of other people who have committed an indictable offence.

Peter de Kruijff, writing in *PerthNow*, said that the new law would target criminal organisations like motorcycle gangs. Police claim they have more than 400-plus members in WA.

The former Liberal Barnett government's "anti-association" laws, introduced in 2012, tried to ban gang members from associating with each other, but resulted in zero notices from police.

Police Minister Michelle Roberts said that, in the past year, the gang crime squad seized more than \$1.2 million in cash, 48 guns and 13kg of meth and other drugs. <https://tinyurl.com/s2xpau>

CLAA believes the WA government would better use its resources by, first, totally re-writing the proceeds of crime and asset confiscation laws, as former top judge Wayne Martin recommended.

ODD SPOT: Watch what you claim, when

A Sydney man claimed for a \$1500 watch that had been stolen by bandits while he was on holiday. Despite having a police report for the robbery, the claim was denied after the assessors noticed that he was wearing the watch in social media photos — taken after he'd returned home. Source: 'The most bizarre travel insurance claims of 2019', *Travel Weekly*, 3 Dec 2019 via the ACT Law Society journal, *Hearsay*.

Facial recognition and surveillance becomes commonplace

Victoria Police is quietly using facial recognition technology to identify criminal suspects at 85 of the state's busiest police stations, according to Farrah Tomazin writing in *The Age* last month.

A month after body-worn cameras came under the spotlight, police figures reveal that another form of camera technology known as iFace has been rolled out at key stations.

The system uses biometric software to identify suspects by comparing still images against Victoria Police's mugshot database of known offenders.

But secrecy surrounds the network, its use and how many times people have been mistakenly flagged as potential criminals. Facial recognition technology has proved significantly inaccurate in overseas jurisdictions.

In July 2019, Police Minister Lisa Neville unveiled a squad of 50 new "eye in the sky" drones, fitted with 360-degree cameras, that police can use for search-and-rescue missions, crime-prevention, and counter-terrorism. At the time police did not rule out combining the aerial devices with facial recognition software, saying there was "certainly the opportunity" to do so in the future.

The Human Rights Commission called for a moratorium on the use of some technologies until there is a legal framework to safeguard human rights.

The federal Department of Home Affairs is creating a monster national database of facial images and other ID information to share with state and federal government agencies, and in some cases, private organisations.

But the enabling legislation – the Identity Matching Services Bill – was rejected in October 2019 by the Federal Parliament's joint intelligence and security committee. Both Liberal and Labor MPs demanded the legislation be redrafted to ensure citizens' rights are protected. – Farrah Tomazin, *The Age* <https://tinyurl.com/tgub3uv>

'Deep pockets' VicPol pays repeatedly for its stupidity



Defamation stupidity has cost Victoria Police a further \$90,000 after Inflation nightclub manager Martha Tsamis (photo) won her case that then police superintendent Brett Guerin damaged her reputation in 2014.

He claimed that she was running the club in "a manner that was conducive to drug trafficking, drunkenness and violence".

The Supreme Court also found Guerin conveyed to the *Herald Sun* newspaper and radio station *3AW* that she had allowed minors into the venue and jeopardised the health of patrons. At the time, the police were trying to limit the club's trading hours club in an application to the liquor regulation commission.

Justice John Dixon acknowledged the personal hurt to Ms Tsamis and the damage to her reputation, in particular her integrity.

The same Guerin, then VicPol's Assistant Commissioner of Professional Standards Command in February 2018, was stood down for using the alias 'Vernon Demerest' to make "crude and coarse" comments about former colleagues online. Victoria's Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) confirmed in September 2019 he would not face charges, but by then Guerin had resigned. <https://tinyurl.com/wj8cwwf>

Recently, and separately, VicPol paid \$3m compensation to two Inflation nightclub patrons shot during a VicPol raid on a swingers event in 2017. <https://tinyurl.com/tjmfdx>

Cautionary tale for Tasmanians over drivers licence central registry

Government officials in Suzhou, in East China's Anhui Province, apologised last month for releasing photos gathered by public surveillance cameras of people wearing pajamas in public.

The officials called pajama wearing "uncivilised behaviour," sparking online furore. The practice of pajama wearing in public is common in southern China.

The city's management bureau published photos taken by street cameras of seven people wearing pajamas in public, along with their names, ID cards photos, and other information, in a bid to shame all the city's citizens from the practice.

One of them was of Ms Dong, fashionable in matching pink bottoms and robe, along with orange pointy flat shoes (see photo, from the Chinese Communist party's 'Global Times') <https://tinyurl.com/ujcmuwt>

Why? Because Suzhou wanted to win a national tidy city award.

So, Tasmanians whose drivers licences now reside in a central registry in Canberra should be warned not to wear pajamas on the streets of Hobart or Lonny, or even Orford or Strahan. Facial recognition software might identify you, and publish shaming photos of your "uncivilised behaviour". Same caution goes to youths wearing baseball caps backwards, and anyone in a hoodie or dropping litter on the street.

ODD SPOT: Un-surveil?

From March, promoters say, you'll be able to wear sunglasses marketed as 'Reflectables' and claimed to be one in the eye for surveillance cameras. <https://tinyurl.com/s7m79qj>

Law reform institute to update human rights case

Tasmanian Director of CLA, Richard Griggs, has welcomed news that the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute will undertake a project next year titled 'Re-examination of the case for a Tasmanian Human Rights Act.

This project will build on the 2007 report from the Institute by collecting evidence and stories that have emerged in the 12 years between 2007 and 2019 which are relevant to assessing the need for human rights laws in 2020.

"We believe the case for a Tasmanian Human Rights Act has either remained steady or grown since 2007. We therefore see the TLRI update as an important positive step in maintaining an accurate and up to date evidence base," Griggs said, on behalf of the Tasmanian Human Rights Act Campaign Committee.

www.tashumanrightsact.org

Private prison's demise is opportunity for wholesale re-training, CLA says

The WA government has pulled the plug on private prison contractor Sodexo's regime in charge of Melaleuca jail and remand centre for women.

The firm's five-year contract to run the prison will end on 4 April 2020, about a year earlier than originally contracted for running the 26-bed female facility. In 2018 the WA Inspector of Custodial Services delivered a highly critical report on how Melaleuca was operating.

From May 2020, only one jail in WA – the lower security Acacia – will be run privately, by Serco, whose term runs out in 2021.

Prisons minister Fran Logan confirmed the government would employ some Melaleuca prison guards.

Civil Liberties Australia believes the absorption of staff is a perfect opportunity for substantial re-training of staff to produce a more liberties- and rights-aware workforce in all WA prisons.

Reports from prisoner members of CLA in WA indicate strongly that human rights standards have been allowed to drop. They say prisoners with toothache can't get to see a dentist for up to six months, and are given headache tablets only in the meantime. Prisoners with severe mental health issues are locked in isolation cells, given basic headache pills, and may never get to see a professional who can help them.



The result of these deprivations of common decency, quite apart from the prisoners' human rights, is to create more dangerous prisons with more recalcitrant inmates heading in the opposite direction to rehabilitation, reports indicate.

CLA comments that there is a need, every few years, to gain prison staff re-commitment to upholding the basic rights of prisoners. These are always prominent in corrections departments' manuals, guidelines and procedures...but become "more honoured in the breach than in the observance" over time. <https://tinyurl.com/tdlq9h3>

Australian briefs

'Assange': Hear Julian Assange's father, John, speak at a Brisbane special event – he describes his son's jailing in the UK as "judicial kidnapping". <https://youtu.be/kLoujC8H0vI>

Australia declines, as openness narrows: In the Pacific region over 2019, "the most alarming deterioration in civic space is occurring in Australia" the CIVICUS Monitor said in late December, according to Paul Gregoire, writing for Sydney Criminal Lawyers' blog. Indeed, our country has been downgraded from a classification of an "open" society, to one which is "narrowed", he wrote. The CIVICUS Monitor's *People Under Attack* report revealed Australia as one of only seven countries whose respect for basic freedoms declined in 2019, out of a total of 196 monitored. <https://tinyurl.com/rx4wuyg> CIVICUS media releases: <https://tinyurl.com/vs74adh>

Drugs, choking, mental health problems all rise: The Qld DPP reported that the number of drug offences received for prosecution increased 8% to 22,358 in 2018-19 from 20,744 in 2017-18. Of note, the number of charges of supplying dangerous drugs increased 4% from the previous reporting period to 12,837 charges. The number of offences of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting decreased 11.4% from the previous reporting period to 739 charges, with a three-year average of 648 charges. The DPP received 214 references to the Mental Health Court during 2018-19, up 26% from the previous reporting period.– Qld DPP annual report.

AGM under way soon: The Annual General Meeting of Civil Liberties Australia Inc will be held by electronic means, and by posted papers for those without e-facilities, from 2 Feb 2020 (call for motions) and between 10 March – 23 March (voting). Please keep an eye out, and vote in the AGM.

Comments by CLA's members and others (mostly in letters to the editors):

Other governments, please follow suit

I hope that governments throughout Australia will act upon the recommendations of former Chief Justice Wayne Martin concerning the gross injustices of criminal confiscation laws. – former High Court judge Michael Kirby commenting on the lead item in the January 2020 *CLArion* newsletter.

Suspensions mount over skewed terms, and waste

Call me a suspicious old codger but I distrust the suggestion of holding yet another Royal Commission (re bushfires). Why do we pay huge salaries to public service mandarins who don't even do their jobs? Whatever happened to green and white papers? We need to heed the expert advice already provided in spades, not a new commission report limited in scope by skewed terms of reference. The Prime Minister should just read the many reports lovingly laboured over by scientists and economists and which are now gathering dust in the metaphorical bottom drawer. They tell us to act on climate change right away and how to do it!– Pauline Westwood, Dickson ACT

Government has obligations to recognise volunteer firefighting 'service'

NSW Rural Fire Service volunteers come from all walks of life. Some, I understand, are in receipt of Newstart. For some inexplicable reason this vital volunteering, so valued by the community particularly at this crucial time, does not count towards the "mutual obligations" Newstart recipients must undertake so as to continue being paid this admittedly paltry sum. Perhaps the federal minister who administers this scheme, Stuart Robert, might be able to throw some light on this, given his own ability to be granted paid leave from Parliament to take a self-funded family trip to Israel during the 2019 Parliamentary annual sitting timetable (an exhausting total of 35 sitting days; the UK Parliament, by contrast, sits about 150 days per annum). Definitely smacks of "Do what I say" not "Do what I do". Canberra Times 16 Dec 2019 – Ann Darbyshire, Hughes ACT

Members: please copy to CLA the letters you send to the media. Email: [secretary\[at\]cla.asn.au](mailto:secretary[at]cla.asn.au)

Mass movement needed to restore power to the people

Luckily for capital there is no Jeremy Corbyn in the Federal Opposition in Australia. But there is a lot of working class and other discontent in growing inequality. The real task for the left, both revolutionary and social democratic and even the more intelligent members of the Parliamentary Labor Party, must be to build on that discontent and create an alternative to the neoliberal model so beloved of the Coalition. 'Power to the people', 'for the many not the few', are fine words that need a mass active movement among millions of Australian workers to make them a reality. – John Passant (photo), Kambah ACT



Secret, political arrests and trials pervert Australian justice

The circumstances surrounding the arrest, trial and punishment of Witness J raise very serious questions for civil liberties and freedom in Australia. That fact that we have had a person sent to prison without the knowledge of the general public has a terrifying resonance within the military dictatorship of Chile by Pinochet. Our legal system has enabled a person to be put through the trauma of arrest, court and prison and sentenced to a lifetime security order, without public knowledge. This is a dreadful reflection on our political system.

The concocted trials of Witness K and Bernard Collaery are enabled by similar aspects of our terrorist legislation. We have no information whatsoever as to whether any of these cases was justified because the rationale behind them is a political secret. From this time forward, no Australian will ever be able to tell if an arrest made has actually been made to protect us, or is it just another piece of political expedience. More than any time in our history we desperately need a Bill of Rights!. – Gerry Gillespie, Queanbeyan, NSW

Sue Neill-Fraser: [send Sue a card or note](#): address it to Sue Neill-Fraser, Box 24, LINDISFARNE Tas 7015. Her appeal is due to start on 25 May 2020. Now is an apprehensive time for her.

On 25 January 2020, her support group held a vigil for her outside Parliament House in Hobart.

Shouldn't our Queen stand for freedom, and our right to know?

The Age editorial (Royal veto infringes sovereignty, 18/1) and Troy Bramston's report (Palace backtracks on G-G letters deal, 18/1) should be of great concern to any Australian who values our democratic ideals and our inalienable right to know our history. Australia's turbulent history during the 1965 to 1975 period is immensely important to those who value democracy and the rule of law. Our history is important to us; we must know what has happened and also be able to learn what went wrong so as not to repeat mistakes.

If two unelected palace officials are the arbiters of what Australians are entitled to know of our history, our democracy is in dire straits. Their view that publishing the truth would affect the Queen's privacy and dignity is a further outrage to Australia's own compromised sovereignty. – Bill Mathew, Parkville, Vic

Are we a sovereign nation, or a nation which can't escape the poor rulings of a sovereign?

When better than 'Australia Day' to reflect on the sad but nevertheless wonderful irony that, while most of today's Australians ignore the rich history of the Aboriginal people & their brutal subjugation & attempted genocide by our European forebears, they themselves are denied knowledge & understanding of their own history by powers that are greater than those of their own alleged sovereign government. While descendants of today's Anglo-Celtic Australians might prefer to forget their humble origins & the cruel & vicious treatment meted-out on their forebears by the British Government; that same government & its so-called 'royal' patron continues to treat them with the same contempt, making a mockery of any pretence that Australia is an independent nation whose destiny is in the hands of its own people.

Most Australians believe that their country long-ago hitched its horse to the US wagon, however they would do well to remember that it was only a matter of 45 years ago that the same shadowy & entirely unaccountable forces that would even today deny us rightful knowledge of our own history, mounted a successful coup d'état against the then democratically elected Whitlam government, supported & encouraged by members of our own political class: a treasonous political class from all sides that has ever since collectively acted to debase & destroy everything of value that our forebears worked so hard to create. None so blind as those who will not see. – John Richardson, Wallagoot NSW

CLA report – main activities for January 2020

January is always busy with numbers and words, as CLA runs to a January-December fiscal and annual reporting year.

The finance side means the Treasurer balancing the books between our 'gateway' provider, the Australian-founded company eWay (like PayPal), our bank (Westpac), the hard-copy 'books' (chequebook, for

example) and the CLA membership database. At the same time, our groups based interstate report on their doings over the year, we compile the list of submissions made, assemble the main media interactions, the webmaster provides details of online improvements and doings, and we undertake the sad task of preparing information on members who have died during the year for the 'vale' section of the annual report. The President prepares her report for the year.

To help with these tasks, and in preparing for the AGM, CLA director Elly McLean has worked voluntarily in the CLA office for two full days over the past period, giving up part of her precious uni holidays (ANU, Law and Finance combined degree, in third year), which included preliminary training for the uni's women's AFL team. She is also organising a youth membership campaign, where she's trying to attract the best and brightest from Australian universities into membership to drive the future of the organisation.

Another advantage of her full-time involvement was observing and learning some of the more mundane CLA administrative tasks, documenting the processes as a template for training other people in future. For example, preparing for and running a CLA AGM is an arcane art practised by but a few people in the past, not all of whom are now available to do the job.

Australia Day letters;

Our Australia Day letters this year involve continuing to push two important projects which are part of our 10-year Better Justice drive, now in its fourth year:

- a. CLA has urged all Attorneys-General to, this year, initiate moves to get rid of mandatory sentencing throughout Australia. We're pushing this project, originally conceived by the International Commission of Jurists in Australia (ICJA), and launched in September 2019. The President ICJA is John Dowd AO QC, a long-time member of CLA and also a former NSW judge and government minister. Releasing their research paper – <https://tinyurl.com/shvd3d5> – President Dowd said: "There is no evidence that laws imposing mandatory minimum sentencing has any effect on reducing crime but does serious harm to intellectually, socially and economically deprived persons. It also particularly affects the young and a significant percentage of the Aboriginal community."
- b. CLA has likewise written to all AGs to ask them to copy WA, after the tabling of its Martin Report, recommended a complete rewrite of the most unfair laws in Australia, those relating to confiscation of assets and seizing sometimes-only-alleged proceeds of crime. Martin, the recently retired chief judge of WA, said the laws were so bad they could not be made fair by amendment: only a total rewrite would do, his report and recommendations said. The CLA Australia Day letter is a follow-up to our December letter which ensured that all Australian jurisdictions were aware of the Martin Report emanating in WA.
- c. CLA has asked the ACT Attorney-General, Gordon Ramsay to hold a public inquiry into all aspects of the case of David Eastman (photo: ABC, who served 19 years in jail wrongfully convicted. We are proposing the inquiry examines, from police investigation through DPP management and media coverage, to trial(s), conviction, sentencing to life in prison, the appeal process, ultimate acquittal by a panel of three Supreme Court judges and compensation from the public purse of more than \$7m under the ACT Human Rights Act. The 'Eastman affair' reportedly cost the ACT Government some \$40m. CLA believes the ACT should hold a full inquiry, to learn from the mistakes and missteps involved, for its own benefit and for the benefit of avoiding future wrongful convictions nationwide.



(Note: for the sake of full disclosure, Eastman's lawyer for his successful compensation claim was CLA Treasurer Sam Tierney of Ken Cush and Associates).

In the same vein as our Australia Day letters, we earlier wrote to all AGs and Corrections Ministers about our new 'Prisons' project, led by CLA V-P Rajan Venkataraman. We will be analysing the 'censorship' rules that prevent prisoners, for example, receiving study and educational material in a timely fashion, and also the wider procedural barriers to improved rehabilitation.

In this context, we keenly await the release, hopefully this month (February), of the report of the Queensland Productivity Commission inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism. Under formal provisions of the QPC enabling legislation, the government has six months to release the report: if the government does not release it, the report will then be released by the QPC. The six months runs out at the end of February. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/yxu24zxb>

Meetings

- CLA member Chris Stamford re strategies for a national charter of human rights
- CLA member Julie Carew-Neill on research for a national charter of human rights

- Bill Stefaniak to discuss current and possible future Liberal policy on a human rights act, and the Eastman case finalisation in the ACT.
- Shane Rattenbury, ACT Minister for Corrections and Minister for Justice, about the holding of a secret prisoner at the ACT's Jail, the Alexander Maconochie Centre. We also discussed introducing a right to appeal law in the ACT and censorship in prisons. *Attending (photo) were President Dr Kristine Klugman, Rattenbury and CLA member Ann Darbyshire.*



Skype with CLA member Dr Sarah Moulds of Adelaide, re strategies for a SA charter of human rights.

Congratulatory letter to Auditor General Grant Hehir on investigatory reports of the Australian National Audit Office.

Submissions January 2020:

Federal:

Confiscation of assets/proceeds of crime: letters to all AGs requesting they amend their legislation following the tabling of the Martin Report in WA by former top judge Wayne Martin (Rowlings).

Religious Freedom Bill (Venkataraman).

ACT:

Statutory review of section 44 ('Right of review of bail decisions – prosecution') of the *Bail Act 1992* – operation and effectiveness: comments on need for change (Rowlings)

INTERNATIONAL

US spooks lobby in bid to control UK trade policy

The head of MI5 has said US intelligence sharing with the UK will not be jeopardised if Britain uses Huawei technology in future 5G mobile phone networks.

Andrew Parker said he had “no reason today to think that” the long-standing intelligence partnership would be affected.

US spy and corporate interests are lobbying against Britain's using the Chinese company for the new 5G mobile phone infrastructure, where Huawei's equipment is widely acknowledged as world's best.

The US spooks, supported by western telecoms equipment makers, lobbied gullible Australian MPs to call in parliament for a ban on Huawei from providing the core of its national network. They succeeded, and the Australian government administration has banned Huawei...despite the firm being the prime sponsor of Canberra's national football team.

The USA had also banned Huawei, but President Trump later stepped back from an outright ban because he realised it was not in America's commercial interests. Despite that, a US delegation which includes the US National Security Agency, engaged in a last-ditch attempt to get Britain to introduce a blanket ban.

British ministers decided a year ago to allow the Chinese firm to supply “non-core” parts of the high-speed 5G network. <https://tinyurl.com/qqp8vxq>

No Re-Presentation without Taxation?

In March 2020, the US Supreme Court will hear arguments on President Trump's appeals to block subpoenas by Congressional committees and the Manhattan District attorney for his financial records, including tax returns.

The appeal to the top court follows the District of Columbia (DC) Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in October 2019 that the accounting firm used by President Trump must turn over the President's tax returns and other financial records subpoenaed by the US Congress. The DC court wrote that the Houses' "interests in pursuing their constitutional legislative function is a far more significant public interest than whatever public interest inheres in avoiding the risk of a Chief Executive's distraction arising from disclosure of documents reflecting his private financial transactions.”

In November 2019, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals [rejected](#) the President's attempt to block a grand jury subpoena for tax records held by his accountants, finding "no support" for the argument "that a President's private and non-privileged documents may be absolutely shielded from judicial scrutiny."

The Supreme Court will likely publish its ruling in June. <https://tinyurl.com/ujxpv85>

Brazil President supports charges against 'extinct species' – journalists

Brazilian federal prosecutors last month charged the noted American-born activist-journalist Glenn Greenwald, who lives in Brazil, with cybercrimes.

Whether or not he goes to trial will depend on a judge's ruling as to the legitimacy of the charges.

The move against Greenwald outraged local press freedom activists – while allies of the far-right president Jair Bolsonaro cheered. The president has recently increased his attacks on journalists, describing them as "a species in extinction" and saying that newspapers "poison" their readers.

State prosecutors allege that Greenwald "helped, encouraged and guided" hackers who obtained mobile phone messages between leading figures in Brazil's huge Car Wash anti-corruption investigation.

The leaks were published in stories on the investigative site *The Intercept Brazil*, which Greenwald co-founded. They indicate alleged collusion between then judge Sérgio Moro and prosecutors and have increased claims the scandal investigations are biased.

President Bolsonaro has named Moro Brazil's justice minister. <https://tinyurl.com/wvffe3x>

Beware when politicians usurp rule of law

"Autocrats understand that supposedly independent institutions such as the courts and prosecutors are vital to locking in their power.

"In Romania, a crusading anti-corruption prosecutor who was investigating top government officials was fired at the same time as the government advanced legislation to cabin the ability of other prosecutors to pursue cases against political officials.

"Poland's right-wing populist Law and Justice Party has attacked the independent judiciary and has sought to remove judges who do not follow the party line. Hungary has followed suit.

"Bulgarian politicians have persecuted civil society groups that have criticised their abandonment of the rule of law.

– from 'Donald Trump Wanted Another Roy Cohn. He Got Bill Barr.', NYT 12 Dec 2019. <https://tinyurl.com/tonetwv> an Opinion piece by Caroline Fredrickson (@crfredrickson) author of 'The Democracy Fix: How to Win the Fight for Fair Rules, Fair Courts and Fair Elections'. She is a former president of the American Constitution Society.

Indian government rules and divides

The Indian government new citizenship law aims to speed up applications for refugees from surrounding countries who are Hindu, Christian, Parsi, Jain or Buddhist – but not Muslim.

As the citizenship law and repressive actions in various states multiply, a pan-Indian protest movement is emerging to tackle the Hindu hegemony spawned from too many years of limitless power.

The government is also trying to create a new list of India's citizens, described as "a Kafkaesque exercise, according to Madhav Khosla, who teaches law and politics at Columbia Law School and Ashoka University and is the author of 'India's Founding Moment'. "(P)oor people with few official documents will have to prove their citizenship. If they happen to be Muslim, the citizenship law means the consequences they face will be different. Detention centres mushrooming across India reveal what those might be." – ML <https://tinyurl.com/wyww5dr>

'Police are dogs' is accurate in this case

The American Civil Liberties Union is asking Massachusetts State Police to explain how it uses robot dogs.

The police have been testing "Spot" robot dogs alongside some of its officers. The robots, made by Boston Dynamics, are believed to have helped with several live incidents as well as training scenarios.

The ACLU wants details about how and where the robots were being used.

A video captioned with the words "MA State Police" and showing the robots opening doors and entering buildings was shared online by Boston Dynamics earlier this year. **VIDEO:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXxrmussq4E>

"All too often, the deployment of these technologies happens faster than our social, political, or legal systems react," the ACLU said.

The campaign group said it wanted more "transparency" about the use of the robots, the ways in which they would be used and which officers would be deployed with them. There was a need for regulations governing the use of the robots to ensure they did not trample on established civil rights and liberties or lead to racial injustice.



The rights group also wants to know if the robots will ever carry weapons. <https://tinyurl.com/umdyb6r>

Climate campaigners listed as extremists

British counter-terrorism police placed the non-violent group Extinction Rebellion on a list of extremist ideologies that should be reported to the authorities running the government-backed Prevent program, which aims to catch those at risk of committing atrocities, the *Guardian* has learned.

The climate emergency campaign group was included in a 12-page guide produced by counter-terrorism police in the south-east of the UK, titled 'Safeguarding young people and adults from ideological extremism', which is marked as "official".

XR featured alongside threats to national security such as neo-Nazi terrorism and a pro-terrorist Islamist group. The guide, aimed at police officers, government organisations and teachers who by law have to report concerns about radicalisation, was dated last November. <https://tinyurl.com/rcgmed6>

ODD SPOT: Ban-it replaces Brexit as Brits' favourite word

Tree planting, putting golf balls, impromptu raves and "furious" cycling are among a growing list of activities banned by councils using fines to control behaviours, a *Guardian UK* survey has revealed.

A prolific enforcer of public spaces protection orders (PSPOs) is Peterborough city council, which raised \$500,000 in the year to August 2019, issuing 1,000 fines for unauthorised cycling – which is prohibited in the city centre if done in a "wanton or furious manner" – and more than 2000 fines for littering, freedom of information responses show.

The orders are drafted and approved by councils. They are allowed under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, part of efforts by the Conservative-led government to devolve powers locally.

Civil liberties campaigners warn they are part of a creeping "preventive state", which can stifle freedom of expression and rights to congregate. Swearing is banned by a dozen councils and gathering in groups is banned in some areas controlled by nine councils.

Parks in Richmond in London operate under a web of 26 banning orders relating to feeding animals, riding bicycles, tricycles, scooters and skateboards in a way that causes annoyance...and there are numerous ways of being deemed "lewd". <https://tinyurl.com/sczkqvf>

Can police 'steal' your face without permission?

A former Cardiff councillor, Ed Bridges, has won the right to argue before the Court of Appeal later this year against a ruling that South Wales Police did not breach his human rights by using automated facial recognition (AFR) technology.

Bridges was 'tagged' twice by police, while Christmas shopping in 2017 and at a protest in 2018. He claims the police action is unlawful and disproportionate, as well as interfering with his right to privacy.

In granting the appeal, Lord Justice Singh said that Mr Bridges's appeal had a "real prospect of success". He said that the case raised "issues of public importance" that affect all citizens. <https://tinyurl.com/yjilkcwz> and <https://tinyurl.com/ybtqfmwq>

Unwanted surveillance is the 'Big Brother' of the 21st century. In the UK alone, there is one CCTV camera for every 11 people. Ecuador has bought an entire national video surveillance system from China, including 4300 cameras with money lent by a Chinese bank, establishing a model for all less-wealthy nations. <https://tinyurl.com/yec73azd>

Woman ruled lewd for being topless while titivating her garage walls

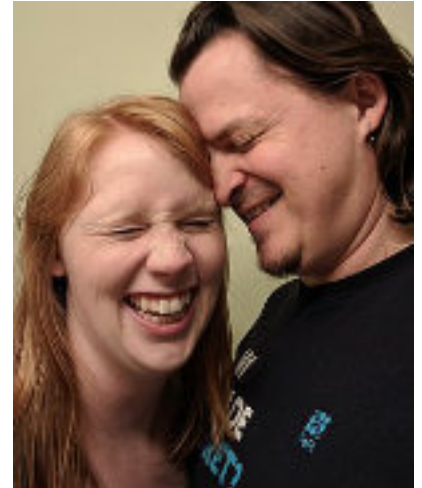
A judge refused last month to overturn part of Utah's lewdness law for a woman who is fighting criminal charges after her stepchildren, aged 9 to 13, saw her topless in her own home.

Judge Kara Pettit sided with prosecutors who argued that lewdness is commonly understood to include women's breasts in American society, according to the Salt Lake Tribune.

Tilli Buchanan (right, with her husband) can appeal the ruling. If she does not, her misdemeanour charges would move toward trial. If convicted, she could face jail time and be forced to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

Buchanan was charged after she and her husband took off their shirts to keep their clothes from getting dirty while they hung plasterboard to improve the look of the interior of their garage in a Salt Lake City suburb. The husband was not charged for having a bare chest.

The children's natural mother reported the incident to child welfare officials. <https://tinyurl.com/sm96wmn>



Pair who changed lanes may end up in jail

The US Supreme Court will shortly decide a fascinating case, Kelly v the US, which may influence corruption cases worldwide.

The question is: Does a public official defraud the government of 'property' by 'fudging' the real reason for an official decision (in this case, to hide a bid to exert political influence)? And, flowing from that, is the way to address alleged public corruption through jury trials?

In 2010, two public officials, Bridget Anne Kelly and William E. Baroni, Jr., reallocated two toll lanes on the George Washington Bridge's upper level to punish Fort Lee's mayor for refusing to endorse then-New Jersey governor Chris Christie's re-election campaign.

Re-allocating the lanes caused massive traffic disruption in the Fort Lee district, Cornell Law School explains: <https://tinyurl.com/w2xvkg9>

Despite disguising this corrupt act as a traffic study, Kelly and Baroni were indicted for and convicted of wire fraud (basically a fraud across state boundaries), defrauding a federally-funded entity, and conspiracy to defraud.

Kelly and Baroni now argue that the Port Authority was never deprived of a legally-protected property right and that fraud cannot have occurred because the alleged victim received exactly what was bargained for, even though the public officials lied about their true intentions.

The respondent, the USA, contends that the Port Authority was deprived of a property right because Kelly and Baroni's traffic-study lie encumbered the Port Authority's exclusive free use of the George Washington Bridge and because neither Kelly nor Baroni had the authority to make such drastic changes.

The outcome of this case has implications on future US politics and whether political corruption should be prosecuted as a federal crime.

Deaths in prison is 'national scandal'

The persistently high death toll in prisons is a British "national scandal", with too many deaths avoidable, according to a new report published last month.

In the year to September 2019, someone killed themselves in jail in England and Wales every four days, Ministry of Justice figures reveal. Self-harm rates are also up by around a quarter from 2018 figures.

But analysis of 61 coroners' reports and prevention of future death notices, by Inquest, the charity that supports families of people who have died in the custody or care of the state, finds that significant numbers of fatalities could have been averted.

Coroners' advice on how to avoid further deaths is frequently ignored. The report also concludes that even when deaths were due to "natural causes", often they were a reflection of serious lapses in prison healthcare.

"This report is a stark illustration of a system in deep crisis: too many deaths are eminently preventable," says Deborah Coles, Inquest's executive director and one of the report's authors. <https://tinyurl.com/rd7nvy8>.

UK proposes to punish and prevent nomadic way of life

The British government is proposing to criminalise trespassing and "unauthorised encampments" – which would mean gypsies and what the British call "travellers" could be jailed for their way of life.

"Gypsy and traveller communities are already some of the most persecuted in the UK," according to the Director of Liberty UK, Martha Spurrier. "Criminalising trespass would make this far worse and act as justification for the discrimination they face."

The plans also give police powers to ban communities from returning to a specific area for a year – disrupting family access to education and healthcare – and to seize property, meaning they could take away gypsy and traveller homes.

Police have said they don't want the powers and a public consultation under way even acknowledges that the real problem is the lack of authorised sites.

"But instead of solving this issue, the Government is treating an entire community with contempt. And the proposals are framed so broadly that it could also scoop up peaceful protests, for instance environmental protests where participants camp out," Spurrier said.

"The right to protest is a fundamental right and essential to our democracy – another reason trespass must not be criminalised." – correspondence from Liberty UK January 2020

International briefs

What can you use instead of Google and Facebook? BBC News Business website had some answers last month, provided by their Technology of Business reporter Tom Jackson. The article outlined alternatives including DuckDuckGo for searching, Brave or Firefox browsers, ProtonMail, or Signal instead of WhatsApp. – ML <https://tinyurl.com/tda6eeo>

We are becoming more corrupt: Perceived corruption in Australia got worse last year, according to Transparency International, which ranks governments worldwide according to a corruptions perception index. Australia is one of 21 nations which "significantly declined" over the past seven years. Denmark was the least corrupt country, with NZ second. Australia ranked 12, up one from a year earlier but only because Canada and the UK slipped. – PW <https://tinyurl.com/t5ggvlo>

Trans debate gets threatening: Oxford modern history professor Selina Todd is accompanied to, from and during lectures by protectors after suffering alleged threats. She said the threats stem from her views on the need to protect women's spaces, such as single-sex refuges, from people who self-identify as women but are anatomically male. The academic said that she has witnessed "quite antagonistic" and "quite confrontational" protests outside women's rights meetings she has spoken at in the past. "It's always the case that groups' needs and interests can conflict with those of other equally legitimate groups," she said. ML – <https://tinyurl.com/v3wmxvn>

DATES:

10-13 Feb, Western Sydney: 3rd Advancing Community Cohesion Conference – The Way Forward, Western Sydney Uni Parramatta campus, organised by CLA member Prof Sev Ozdowski (photo). Details and rego: <https://tinyurl.com/y52j6zqp>

13 Feb, Adelaide: The Biography of an Abortion Law: lecture by Prof Sally Sheldon 5.30-7.30, Flinders U. theatre Level 1, 182 Victoria Sq. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/qtfujym>

22-24 Feb, Melbourne: Global Legal Hackathon at Monash Uni. Team assault on specific legal problem, with 48 hours to create a tech solution. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/ttac7bk>

29 Feb-1 March, Canberra: Sentencing conference. Judges, academics, policy makers and other experts will analyse sentencing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and sentencing in historical child sexual abuse cases. Details: <https://njca.com.au/course/anu>

5-7 March, Brisbane: Aust. Bar Assn and Qld Bar Assn. conference. Keynote by Malcolm Wallis of the Supreme Court of Appeal South Africa. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/sfgfz4m>

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

16-17 April, Wellington NZ: ANZSIL Oceans and International Environmental Law workshop. Details: <https://www.anzsil.org.au/event-3515188k>

16-18 April, Melbourne: National Treaties Summit conference, gathering of First Nations representatives, leading academics, politicians and supporters to engage in a national dialogue of agreement-making and treaty. Venue: U. of Melbourne. Details <https://tinyurl.com/r4qx42n>

30 April – 1 May, Brisbane: Qld Community Legal Centres state conference. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/u373elw>

13-15 May, Darwin: Inst of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/y3eqnug9>

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

2-3 July, Canberra: State of the Pacific conference, ANU. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/vclsw8z>

2-4 July, Canberra: 28th ANZ Society of Intntl Law conference, ANU. Details: <https://www.anzsil.org.au/events>

5-10 July, Rhodes, Greece: *Themes in Democracy – Liberty, Justice and Human Rights*. Hellenic Australian Lawyers Assn Intntl conference. Keynote High Court judge Stephen Gageler. Details: <https://hal.asn.au/rhodes2020/>

13-14 July, Brisbane: Australasian Law Reform Agencies conference. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/wpl6gwz>

27-29 July, Sydney: 2020 National Closing the Gap Indigenous Health Conference. Info: <https://www.indigenoushealth.net>

21-25 Sept, Sydney: 22nd triennial meeting Intntl. Assn Forensic Sciences with 25th symposium of the ANZ FS Society, Convention Centre. Register/details: <https://iafs2020.com.au/>

19-21 Nov, Hobart: Australasian Association of Bioethics & Health Law Conference, Hobart Function Centre, 1 Elizabeth St. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/y25tn84z>

7 Dec, Canberra: Inaugural director of CIPL (see below), Professor Philip Alston, of NYU Law and UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, will deliver the annual ANU Geoffrey Sawer Lecture at 6pm on 7 December 2020. Info: <https://tinyurl.com/u99bbks>

8-9 Dec, Canberra: Public Law and Inequality, major international conference to mark 60th anniversary of ANU Law and 30th of the Centre for International and Public Law at ANU Guest speakers include Prof Julie Suk of the City U. of New York (left) and Prof Asmi Wood of ANU (right) <https://tinyurl.com/vfmsqaz>

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 in Australia.

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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