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Re-righting an old agenda: the Julia options

Change brings opportunity. Sometimes, change restores options believed lost.

Kevin Rudd was not an advocate of civil liberties, personal freedoms and human rights. He was individualistic, self-certain and patrician of outlook once he had 'made it'.

Julia Gillard still shows some evidence of her roots as a migrant battler.

She has made good from the bottom up, by hard work of her parents and self.

She understands some families, without friends at court, may need help to get their fair share of what Australian society offers. She knows, from personal experience, that students and workers and poor people can be trodden down, locked out, in a system designed for the rich and the knowing.

Gillard fought through student politics and the Labor Party's conscience faction, the left, to rise to Prime Minister. She worked with and for society's victims as a lawyer with Slater and Gordon, and appeared as representative for those at the bottom of the national industrial complex's food chain, unionists.

So she is much more likely to be personally receptive, for example, to the need for a bill of rights in Australia than was the former PM, who never showed personal interest in the concept.

For that reason, an Australian Bill of Rights – in the second term of the Labor Government – may yet be a positive outcome to emerge from the Night of the Blackberries that overturned Kevin Rudd. One PM is history...but perhaps a Bill of Rights for Australia isn't.

There is a strongly positive sign of how the new reality of politics in Australia can produce quite dramatic change: see below for the story on how Tasmania – with its Labor-Green coalition government – is planning to introduce both a bill, or charter, of rights and new euthanasia legislation. In both cases, electors overwhelmingly support the initiatives, polls show.

Now is the time to come to the aid of the party

As the federal Labor Party tries to file off its recent rough edges, and girds for an election, there is a fleeting opportunity to put – or restore – important issues on to the national agenda.

Here are ideas for the governing party to consider: please give us your thoughts on them, and on a priority order:

Indigenous equity: abandon the NT intervention; get most Aboriginal juveniles out of jails;

Refugees: no children in detention or 'camps';

Anti-terror legislation: a review, from scratch, 10 years on: remove what has not been needed;

Reform parliamentary democracy: give MPs back the power to debate, vote on and decide what happens in Australia: review and restrain COAG, SCAG and the 40-plus Ministerial Councils that have usurped political power in this country;

Reform the war power: legislate for parliament to vote to approve Australia going to war, initially and annually, with formal reporting/budgeting and annual reviews;

National commission - Police (like a Royal Commission): Inquiry into police forces and allied bodies, illegality and corruption in Australia;

National commission - Jails: Inquiry into Australian corrective services and detention regimes, including restorative justice.

National commission - Drugs: Inquiry into the 'war on drugs', with a view to producing a better national and international strategy, including the option of decriminalisation;

National commission - Censorship: Inquiry into the changed needs, or otherwise, for censorship in the 21st century, including that related to the internet.

Bill of Rights: bring in a statutory Bill of rights by 2012: legislate for a referendum to incorporate the statutory Bill of Rights into the Australian Constitution in 2050.

Tasmania to move on bill of rights, euthanasia

Tasmania looks likely to get its own bill of rights and also euthanasia law...sooner rather than later.

In her Budget Reply speech last month, Tasmania's Attorney-General and Deputy Premier, Lara Giddings, said her priorities for the year would be:

- progressing a Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities;
- developing voluntary euthanasia laws;
- introducing surrogacy laws; and

- reforming Tasmania's sex industry laws.

"I am announcing my reform agenda early in order to be as open and transparent as possible with Tasmanians as to the issues I believe need further consideration and reform over the coming year."

Ms Giddings said a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities was a key reform which would protect human rights in Tasmania.

"The Government first commissioned the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute to investigate a Charter of Rights for Tasmania in 2006. The Institute found, in their report of October 2007, strong support for a Charter in the community. In recent years, the Victorian and ACT Governments have both introduced Charters of Rights and Responsibilities."



The Deputy Premier (*pictured*) said she would progress the issue in Tasmania by developing a discussion paper broadly based on the Victorian and ACT model of a Charter before a proposal is taken to Cabinet. "The discussion paper will help to dispel some of the myths surrounding Human Rights Charters and to identify where the Victorian or ACT legislation may be adapted to meet Tasmania's needs.

"I want to see a Charter adopted in this state that acts as a statement about the values and principles of the community, and introduces standards to ensure that human rights are a priority for the government when making laws and decisions, while also ensuring transparency in government when legislation does infringe on a person's human rights.

"We will undertake consultation around the discussion paper and Cabinet will make a final decision on the proposed model."

Ms Giddings said she would be working with Tasmanian Greens leader Nick McKim to prepare a Private Member's Bill in relation to voluntary euthanasia.

"I will be working closely with Mr McKim on this issue in our capacity as private members. Mr McKim's Dying with Dignity Private Member's Bill failed to gain majority support in the House of Assembly.

"Nonetheless, law reform in relation to voluntary euthanasia attracts a great deal of community support and I believe it's an area which warrants further exploration.

"I believe we need to examine more closely other countries' approach to Dying with Dignity legislation to come up with a bill that ensures appropriate safeguards but not make the process so cumbersome it becomes unworkable," Ms Giddings said.

CLA says that surveys throughout Australia for the past 30 years or more have shown at least 70% of Australians approve of some form of 'dying with dignity' legislation.

A Tasmanian bill of rights is likely to have sufficient support to pass in the state's lower house: the upper house is thought to be more problematical, according to CLA analysis.



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Ex-Army chief backs need for parliamentary debate on war

Former Australian army chief Lieutenant General Peter Leahy has backed calls for a parliamentary debate ahead of any move to despatch troops to foreign conflict, according to an *AAP* report.

Mr Leahy, director of the National Security Institute at U. Canberra, said the parliament and the Australian people should be involved in deciding to engage in armed conflict.

"My view is that as a matter of principle the parliament should discuss these issues as we are going and then discuss them periodically throughout the deployment," he said.

A Greens bill on this topic was considered by a parliamentary committee recently, but rejected by both the Labor and Coalition parties. <http://snipurl.com/xi0il>

Take a note to the judge, civilly

In future, before you can have your day in federal court civilly, you'll have to send the judge a note explaining why you've been a good boy or girl, and the other side has been a naughty boy or girl.

Here's how the Attorney-General describes his new law:

"The Civil Dispute Resolution Bill 2010 will require prospective litigants to lodge a statement with the court detailing what steps they have taken to resolve their dispute or, if they haven't, the reasons why."

So there, fess up...or you're not allowed to take your matter to the Federal Court of Australia and the Federal Magistrates Court. Details: <http://snipurl.com/xglie>

Control freak government targets poor over their spending

Unfortunate Australians lost the right to control their own spending under a new piece of federal legislation last month.

The law extending income quarantining across the NT – and the rest of Australia – passed the Senate quietly out of the limelight as the nation focused on a new Prime Minister.

The Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 gives the Commonwealth the power to extend income management measures across the country.

The income management scheme will expand immediately in the NT, affecting all welfare recipients, not just Indigenous people.

Senator Rachel Siewert, Greens spokesperson for Community Services, said: "There is nothing in the legislation to prevent the laws being rolled out across the nation. A change of government, or a change of heart by this government could see compulsory income quarantining applied anywhere at any time.

"The minister's claim that the introduction of indiscriminate mandatory income management is 'all about human dignity' is nothing short of hypocrisy. On-the-ground impacts of the policies on Aboriginal people in the NT show that this is anything but the case. There is no dignity in being subject to compulsory income management and having control of your day to day finances micromanaged by Centrelink," she said.

Australian Human Rights Commissioners Graeme Innes and Mick Gooda said passage of the act would go some way to lifting the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA) and state and territory anti-discrimination laws in the NT.

Yes, it will, CLA says...but that means that rights have now been lost by everyone, instead of just by Indigenous people. Double wrongs don't make one right.

Scrutiny of bills on hold, because of unscrutinised bill

An inquiry by the Scrutiny of Bills Committee into how the federal parliament should go about analysing the quality and worth of bills is on hold...because of a new bill about the rights of Australians, which the Scrutiny of Bills Committee won't get the chance to scrutinise!

Instead of giving Australia a Bill of Rights, the Rudd government introduced a new bill: the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill 2010*. CLA calls it the No Rights Bill.

Attorney-General Robert McClelland first put the No Rights Bill before parliament on 2 June.

The parliament immediately sent the bill to the Senate Legal and Constitution Affairs (L&C) Committee, for a full report with detailed analysis and comment on the bill by 15 JUNE, just two weeks later.

The L&C committee then sought input from civil society, giving organisations like CLA until 9 JULY* – to undertake a detailed analysis of the most significant piece of human rights legislation to ever come before the Australian Parliament.

But the Scrutiny of Bills (SoB) Committee, with its inquiry under way into ways to improve the scrutiny of bills before parliament, is not (repeat, not) being given an opportunity to consider the No Rights Bill and to comment to the L&C Committee.

To say that the Rudd Government's human rights commitment was insincere, and that parliamentary scrutiny of bills was – and is – in chaos, are understatements.

* The Senate L&C Committee was anticipating that, on 15 June, it would receive an extension of time to report to parliament.



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Scrutiny Committee tables its proposals

Here's what happened, in chronological order:

- On Wednesday, 12 May 2010 the Scrutiny of Bills Committee tabled its interim report relating to the inquiry. Interim report:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/scrutiny/future_direction_2010/interim_report/index.htm

"It will be relevant for the Scrutiny of Bills Committee to consider the content of the enabling (human rights committee) legislation before it can develop an informed view of its own future role and direction and complete its current inquiry," the Scrutiny Committee said.

- The enabling legislation, introduced into the House of Representatives on 2 June 2010, is the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill 2010* and the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2010*. They can be accessed online at <http://www.aph.gov.au/bills/index.htm> (follow the 'Bills before Parliament' link). These bills have also been referred to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report. Details about this inquiry can be accessed online at

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_cte/human_rights_bills/index.htm

- The Scrutiny of Bills Committee will continue with its inquiry into its future role and direction once it has considered the proposed legislation and the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee report. Now, is that all perfectly clear?

Rights Committee is a whiter shade of pale, CLA says

The *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill 2010* would create a new Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights to examine and report to Parliament on the compatibility of legislation with Australia's international human rights obligations.

According to Attorney-General Robert McClelland, these obligations are contained in the seven core international human rights treaties to which Australia is a party, including the:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- International Covenant On Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women;
- Convention against Torture and Cruel and Inhumane and Unusual Punishment;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child; and
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

However, the obligations are deficient, CLA says, because they do not include civil liberties and human rights in the Australian Constitution, existing statutes and regulations, and freedoms developed through the Australian common law.

"The bill Mr McClelland proposes is a very pale imitation of the liberties and rights that parliamentarians should always consider before adopting any new bill," CLA President, Dr Kristine Klugman said. "It also does nothing to systematically review existing Australian laws to see whether they comply with our treaty obligations."

Mr McClelland said the proposed committee would have representation from both Houses of Parliament and the power to initiate inquiries into bills, existing Acts and delegated legislation as well as conduct broader human rights inquiries. It will also be empowered to conduct public hearings when the Committee believes it would benefit from submissions from the public or particular expertise.

Under the proposed new law, each new bill introduced into parliament must be accompanied by a statement of compatibility with Australia's international human rights obligations. The ACT and Victoria have similar requirements for their new bills.

The new bill would also appoint the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission as an ex officio member of the Administrative Review Council.

The government is touting the proposed new committee as a key to its 'Human Rights Framework', available at <http://www.ag.gov.au/humanrightsframework>.

However, CLA points out that a "framework" is what you have when you don't have content, and is a triumph of style over substance, like a house facade with nothing behind it.

Governments treat parliamentarians and Australians with disdain

Another key committee reported in the dying days of the current government and inadvertently highlighted the disdain with which those in power have treated the parliament and the Australian people for most of the past decade.

Groups like CLA and many others, plus numerous individuals, put in hundreds of hours of research, analysis and writing to produce detailed inputs to parliamentary committees - then we and the parliamentarians are ignored.

A table at the back of the Procedure Committee's report shows that about 70-plus formal reports of House of Representatives (HoR) parliamentary committees have been totally and utterly ignored by the government.

The governments – both Howard's and Rudd's – have failed to make any response whatsoever to HoR reports that go back as far as 2004. What applies to HoR reports applies similarly to Senate committee reports.

As the HoR Procedures Committee report – *Building a modern committee system* – says, its review identifies opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the HoR committee system, which has more than 30 committees.

It has been 20 years since the current committee system was established in 1987, and the last review was in 1998. CLA believes that a review is needed of the entire operations of the Australian Parliament, including procedures, number of sitting days, committee structure and system, and the like.

Procedure Committee Chair Julie Owens noted that the review was timely.

"The community makes significant contributions to the work of committees... The Procedure Committee wants to ensure the House committee system continues to engage effectively with the community."

For report copies: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/proc/committees2/report.htm> or contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4672.



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Govt pulls secrecy shade over plans to spy on internet use

The federal government is hiding controversial plans to force ISPs to store internet activity of all Australian internet users for law-enforcement agencies to access, Asher Joel reported in the SMH last month.

The draft policy is described as "alarming" by those briefed on it. They say the government is planning "a fishing expedition for as much data on the public as they can get". One ISP executive described the plan as "a nanny state gone totally insane".

The Attorney-General's Department has been consulting with industry about implementing a data retention regime like that in Europe. But everyone briefed has been sworn to secrecy, which bodes ill for the government's bona fides on the issue. <http://snipurl.com/xiirh>

Even more spying on Australians...

The *Telecommunications Interception and Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* will remove potential legislative barriers to agencies working closely by:

- allowing secondments between national security agencies; and
- developing joint teams to address key national security issues.

The bill will also enhance the ability of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) to provide telecommunications interception capabilities to Commonwealth, State and Territory law enforcement agencies.

There are no extra safeguards in the bill to try to wind back the extent of spying and recording of unaccessible data on ordinary Australians.

Ministerial Statement points to AFP as armed security force

Read what Home Affairs Minister Brendan O'Connor said in parliament, and a CLA commentary, on how the AFP appear well on the way to being Australia's fourth armed force, operating in a central security role: **Is Australia a police state?** at <http://www.cla.asn.au/index.php>

Police State: 2

Laws that allow police to search homes covertly and detain terrorism suspects without charge will be extended for three years, NSW Premier Kristina Keneally announced last month.

The laws were introduced after the terrorist attacks in the US on 11 September 2001, Sewan Nicholls wrote in the *SMH*.

The covert search powers were used three times since their introduction, in relation to Operation Pendennis, which led to the conviction of five men for terrorism-related offences. The contentious preventative detention powers, under which someone "reasonably suspected" of involvement in terrorism can be detained for 14 days without charge, have not been used.

After a mandatory review, none of the core laws are being abolished: CLA asks why laws are retained if they are not used?

The NSW government will fiddle at the edges of the Terrorism (Police Powers) Act to force police to retain records of a covert search for inspection by the NSW Ombudsman.

<http://snipurl.com/xtbcp>

Senate inquires into privacy protection

The Senate is inquiring into the adequacy of privacy laws, sparked by online privacy controversies and government plans to snoop on people's internet communications.

Senator Scott Ludlam (Greens, WA) proposed the inquiry to examine privacy protections and data collection on social networking sites and the data collection activities of private companies and government agencies. The report is due by 20 October. <http://snipurl.com/xu3la>

Centralise, control...the new principles of government

The House of Representatives Communications Committee's latest report – *Hackers, Fraudsters and Botnets: Tackling the Problem of Cyber Crime* – wants Australia to have a Cyber Tsar to control the internet and to centralise complaints.

The proposal is the outcome of a year-long inquiry into the problem of computer crime and online identity theft and fraud. The report makes 34 recommendations aimed at improving Australia's response to cyber crime (crime involving computers and the internet).

The House Communications Committee recommends an Office of Online Security within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, headed by a Cyber Security Coordinator (the CyberTsar). The office would coordinate cyber crime policy across Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, and foster partnerships with industry and the community.

Committee Chair Belinda Neal said: "Australia needs to take a cyber-space perspective and cut through the territorial and jurisdictional boundaries of traditional institutions". The committee also recommends a national 24 hour cyber crime reporting facility. Ordinary members of the public need a 'one-stop shop' to report cyber-crime – one that provides initial advice, takes reports and makes referrals, she said.

"By centralising the reporting process consumers will get the immediate level of service they deserve. It is vital that police and other agencies can aggregate the data to detect large-scale organised crime that is pervasive on the Internet," Ms Neal believes.

The HCC also recommends a mandatory e-security code of practice for the Internet industry that goes beyond the industry's recently launched voluntary code.

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'Parliament should scrutinise AFP over counter-terrorism'

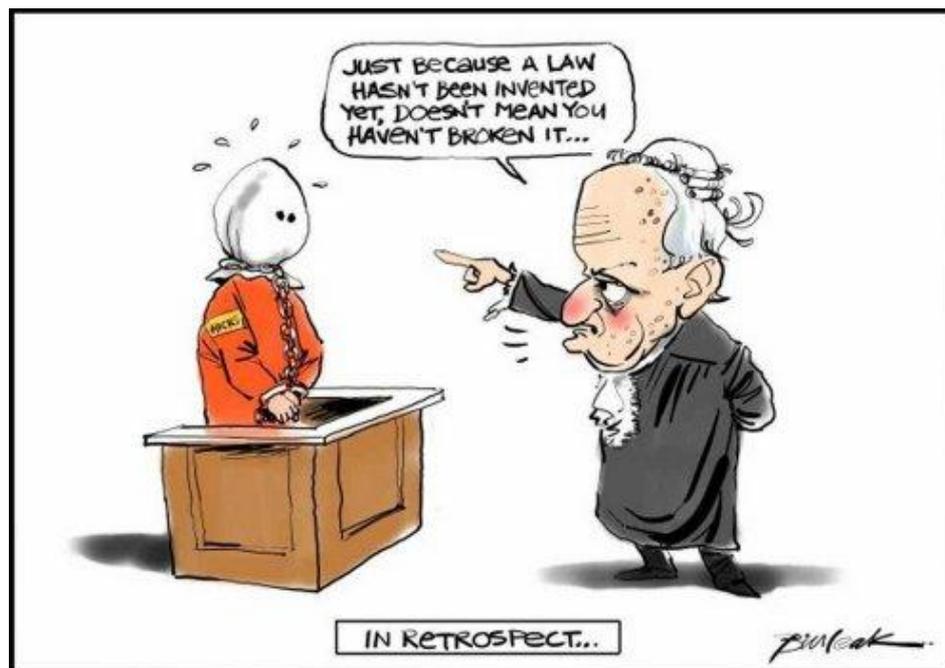
The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security wants the right to scrutinise the counter-terrorism activities of the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Chairman Arch Bevis says his committee carries out an important role in ensuring intelligence agencies ASIO and ASIS still respect civil liberties while carrying out their secret duties...but it cannot examine the AFP in the same way.

"The committee has a key role in ensuring a balance between the security requirements that we all understand and appreciate, [and] laws that might otherwise be seen to transgress civil liberties and basic human rights that we in a democracy hold dear," he said.

The committee's deputy chairman, former Attorney-General Philip Ruddock, agrees that the AFP should not be exempt from appearing before the committee. Mr Ruddock's statement is extraordinary: he was the A-G when the parliamentary committee was established by legislation, and its powers delineated.

If the PJCIS's powers are deficient, Mr Ruddock is the man who made them so.



How cartoonist Bill Leak saw Mr Ruddock's contribution to law-making in the case of David Hicks...

PJCIS also recommended boosting the budget of the Office of the Inspector General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) because intelligence activity in Australia was hugely increased, and so greater monitoring was needed. Hear, hear!

<http://snipurl.com/xmre0>

Qld police again criticised over Doomadgee death

Queensland's Crime and Misconduct Commission has found that Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson was responsible for seriously "flawed" investigations into the 2004 death in custody of Palm Island man Mulrunji Doomadgee.

A CMC report last month found that the original police investigation into Doomadgee's death and a later internal review were both biased and did not follow police procedures. The internal review in 2006 followed Deputy State Coroner Christine Clements severely criticising the initial death-in-custody investigation as lacking "transparency, objectivity and independence".

Last month's CMC report recommends charges of misconduct or disciplinary action against a number of police, including the two senior officers hand-picked by Commissioner Atkinson to conduct the review into the initial investigation.

Doomadgee died in the police lock-up soon after being arrested for public nuisance by Senior Sergeant Chris Hurley. The death sparked riots that saw the police station and housing on Palm Island razed, and riot police rushed to the island, off Townsville, with a population of about 3500. Sergeant Hurley was acquitted of Doomadgee's manslaughter three years later. Last month, the third inquest into the death found that Sergeant Hurley had fatally injured Doomadgee during a scuffle at the lockup; acting Coroner Brian Hine made no finding whether the death was accidental or deliberate.

The CMC report entirely vindicates Coroner Clements, who was severely criticised by police and the police union for her principled findings. <http://snipurl.com/xi33v>

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Needham appointed new crime 'watchdog'

Former Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission chair Robert Needham has been appointed the public interest watchdog under the state's new "anti-bikie" laws.

Attorney-General Cameron Dick said Mr Needham's appointment marked the final step in implementing the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*.

"He will now fulfill an important role in the operation of the act by monitoring applications made to the Supreme Court by police for orders to be issued against alleged criminal organisations. As an independent lawyer, he will represent the public interest and help the court by testing applications made by the police," Mr Dick said.

Queensland's artful contrivance of an "independent" monitor stems from the SA Supreme Court's rejection of SA legislation which gave that state's A-G the power to declare an organisation criminal on the basis of untestable information (not "evidence") supplied to him in secret by the police commissioner.

The SA Government's appeal against the SA Supreme Court ruling has been heard in the High Court, with the HC expected to hand down its important ruling in the September sittings in Canberra.

The tone of the HC hearings indicated the court might take a tougher line with over-the-top legislation, supposedly aimed at organised crime and terrorism, that has become the norm federally and in Australian states and territories since 2001.

The legislation is uniformly anti-human rights, draconian and secretive: it gives to police and to political elites dangerous, excessive powers that fly in the face of the traditional rule of law in Australia, CLA says.

Care, the factor governments lose on being elected

Social Inclusion Commissioner David Cappo says he is becoming disillusioned with the South Australian Government's response to his report on hardcore youth offenders.

The chair of the Social Inclusion Board gave his *Breaking the Cycle* report to the Government in 2007. He scores the response as a one out of 10, *ABC Radio SA* reported last month.

Monsignor Cappo says the recommendations were sound and the money available but the right programs are not being implemented.

There simply is not enough support for young people when they leave detention, he says. <http://snipurl.com/x0tdl>

Street racers face life sentence

Life in prison is proposed in South Australia under a new law making street racing a criminal act. For a first conviction, street racers could go to jail for up to three years or lose their licence for a year.

But Road Safety Minister Jack Snelling says any driver who causes a death while street racing could face life in prison. <http://snipurl.com/xtgyiwww.cla.asn.au>

Canberra police can use false identities, extra surveillance

The ACT Legislative Assembly has passed new laws which let police assume fake identities and use four different types of surveillance devices, including listening and tracking.

ACT A-G Simon Corbell pointed out that police still have to obtain a warrant: "Police can get an emergency authorisation but if the judicial officer says 'look this doesn't stack up, you shouldn't have given that authorisation in the first place', then any evidence obtained is completely unavailable to police – I think this is a very important check," he said.

The same law makes it an offence to recruit people for criminal activity or threaten someone with violence. The Liberal Party wanted to create a special offence for assaulting a police officer, but the Greens and the ruling Labor Party opposed the amendment. <http://snipurl.com/xu4kp>

False rape charge, botched forensics, outrage community

A case where a teenage boy spent a year in custody because of a false rape allegation and WA police and prosecutorial incompetence has outraged people throughout Australia.

Featured last month on SBS TV, *Every Family's Nightmare* told the story of Patrick Waring, 15, who was arrested in the middle of the night while his parents were away, and locked up in prison for almost a year.

Police botched the forensics side of the case; despite no forensic evidence pointing to Waring's guilt – and clear forensic evidence pointing to his innocence – prosecutors continued to try to put him in the frame. Read more here: <http://snipurl.com/xbtuh>

<http://www.sbs.com.au/documentary/program/everyfamilysnightmare>

Nile's burka bill is a ploy for the bigot vote, says fellow MP

NSW MP Reverend Fred Nile has introduced a private members bill to the state's parliament, calling for people to be banned from wearing full face covering in a public place.

The Summary Offences Amendment (Full-face Covering Prohibition) Bill 2010 would make it an offence to wear a face covering while in a public place, punishable by a fine of \$550.

Greens MP John Kaye says the bill is directly targeted at Muslim women wearing burkas. "The Greens are appalled that the parliament allowed Fred Nile to use it as a platform to launch an attack designed to harvest the bigot vote," he said.

"He wants to boost his party's chances at the 2011 election, and he doesn't care what damage it does to community relations." <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/23/2934503.htm>

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Police drug tests get increasingly less accurate

One in five drivers who this year tested positive to drugs in WA police roadside analysis was later exonerated, as the accuracy of drug-driver testing continues to fall each year.

The WA Law Society called last month for the immediate suspension of drug-driver testing after figures obtained by *The West Australian* newspaper revealed that of the 141 confirmed positive roadside drug tests to 21 May this year, 28 were found to be negative when analysed by a laboratory.

Although a review of WA's drug-driving regime in February 2009 by Adelaide University's Centre for Automotive Research recommended that police closely monitor the accuracy of their roadside analysis, the rate of false positives has increased from 1 in 9 in 2008, to 1 in 7 in 2009, and to 1 in 5 in 2010. <http://snipurl.com/xahzq>

NSW may opt for non-jail option up to two years

Weekend detention in NSW could be replaced with a system of community-based treatment and monitoring orders in an overhaul designed to bring down recidivism rates, according to a report in the *SMH*.

Magistrates and judges sentencing people convicted of crimes that attract less than two years' jail will have the option of making an intensive correctional order, forcing them to undergo rehabilitation and education and complete a minimum of 32 hours a month of community service.

A court would also be able to impose conditions such as a ban on drinking, curfews, travel restrictions, random breath tests and electronic monitoring with ankle bracelets.

Offenders whose criminal behaviour is a result of gambling or alcohol addiction face having to wear monitoring devices for up to two years to ensure they avoid casinos or hotels. The orders would apply to motoring offences, speeding, drug offences and some assaults. Offenders have to be assessed as suitable for the program.

If the orders are breached, the NSW Parole Authority will have the power to order the balance of the sentence be served in jail. <http://snipurl.com/xcetx>

See also item below in 'International' section, *'Prison boss questions...'*

Top judge says NSW has got it wrong over 'tough' jail sentences

A senior NSW judge has called for a change to 'law and order' policy in the state, because excessive sentences and imprisonment rates have created a billion-dollar-plus prisons budget without a corresponding increase in public safety.

Justice Reg Blanch, now Chief Judge of the District Court, spent six years prosecuting criminals as the director of public prosecutions, Joel Gibson reported in the *SMH*.

The judge proposed a "calm review" of bail laws, standard non-parole periods, mandatory disqualification for some driving offences and the definition of some sexual assaults, which had all contributed to a record prison population of more than 10,000.

For some time, CLA has been saying that 'tough on crime' government policies are really 'tough on taxpayers' pockets'...without net benefit.

WA's 'stop and search' laws likely to be on hold until 2011

A parliamentary committee analysing and reporting on the draft 'stop and search' legislation in WA has delayed its report until October.

It is the second time the group has required an extension: the committee was due to report last month. The five person committee includes two Liberals and a Nationals MP.

Police Minister Rob Johnson claims the group is taking too long to complete its review. The Opposition's police spokeswoman Margaret Quirk says the delays are evidence that the legislation is flawed.

"They've gone ahead with what's slipshod and very shoddy legislation and even Government members in this committee, I suspect, are having problems delivering the kind of report that the Government would want to read. If the issue was clear cut, I could have anticipated a report from the committee would have been produced by now." <http://snipurl.com/xhgwI>

ACT gets more power to recoup fines

The ACT Government will have greater powers to try to recoup \$3.5 million in unpaid court fines after legislative changes became law last month.

The new measures include property seizure and financial institution deduction orders. Drivers' licences and registrations can also be suspended if fines remain unpaid.

The changes will also boost the enforcement of compensation payments by offenders to victims.

Police misconduct not independently investigated

NT Ombudsman Caroline Richards says her office does not have the power or the personnel to investigate police misconduct.

She told NT budget estimates hearings that her office has 99 open cases resulting from allegations made against police, including 14 claims of serious misconduct. But the NT does not have an independent agency to investigate police.

"I think that a lot of people believe that we do the investigation into police complaints," she told ABC Radio. "We don't. All police conduct is investigated by a unit of the police department."

<http://snipurl.com/xhlyk>



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Report on **CLA** activities in June:

Submissions in the period:

- Access to Justice, to ACT Leg. Assembly: lead author: Jeff Miles, associate Bill Rowlings.
- Drug Driver Testing legislation ACT: assistance to MLAs: lead: Lance Williamson.
- Cyber-Safety, Joint Select Committee: lead: Arved von Brasch
- Human Rights Council, Australian NGOs' joint response: input: Bill Rowlings
- Police Powers: lead: Lance Williamson

Invitations to submit being considered:

- Civil Dispute Resolution Bill
- Family Violence Reform
- Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Bill
- Telecommunications Interception & Intelligence Services Legislation Amendment Bill
- Inquiry into the Aviation Crimes and Policing Legislation Amendment Bill 2010
- Inquiry into the Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2010
- Inquiry into exposure drafts of Australian privacy amendment legislation

CLA made submissions to reports released in this period:

- *Building a modern committee system*, June 2010, HoR Standing Cttee on Procedure; <http://www.apf.gov.au/house/committee/proc/committees2/report.htm>
- *The Hidden Toll: Suicide in Australia*, 24 June 2010, Senate Community Affairs References Committee: (possibly the worst report – in terms of being biased towards a desired outcome rather than evaluative of facts – ever produced by a parliament in Australia). It decided Australian Bureau of Statistics figures were wrong, so effectively made up numbers using spurious reasoning. It refused to discuss euthanasia as part of 'suicide in Australia', and ignored submissions, including those of CLA and Dying With Dignity. It produced recommendations for massively increased spending by the suicide prevention industry, when ABS figures show a "steady decline" of suicide in Australia over a decade. http://www.apf.gov.au/Senate/committee/clac_ctte/suicide/index.htm

Inquiries to CLA:

Revised, expanded and updated list of CLA members to whom Inquiry manager Phylli Ives can direct inquiries, thus involving more members around Australia. The willingness of members who have volunteered to help is much appreciated.

Inquiries, from the website, continue to run at about three a week. Recent inquiries have included:

- mandatory survey and census activity by the ABS;

- surveillance by 'spy' agencies;
- police - Queensland, NT;
- children's and citizen's rights re police;
- personal injury issues;
- privacy and CCTV;
- religious education in schools; and
- road authority licence rules.

Management of membership list/ financial system:

System being upgraded, by dedicated and detailed work by Lance Williamson, with extensive input from Treasurer Kevin Popple and some input from Bill Rowlings.

Meetings:

Jeremy Hanson, ACT MLA, Shadow Minister for Police re drug-driving legislation (Lance Williamson, Kris Klugman);

Dr Peter Stanley, National Museum of Australia, re 'What Australians fought for in the World Wars';
Email and phone 'meetings' with members in Cairns, Brisbane, mid north coast NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, SA and WA.

Students:

Meeting with Kali Yuan of ANU re possible internship on legal governance/international aid;
Meeting with internship organiser ANU, Peter Ford.

Media and media-related:

- Radio interview with ABC Radio Eyre and Peninsula: registering alcohol purchases in Ceduna, SA;
- Analysis/commentary response to student (SA): suspended sentencing;
- Radio Interview with The Wire (national community and online radio) about facial recognition technology in NSW;
- WA Times about police scrutiny in criminal trials;
- Analysis/commentary to SA teacher: serious and organised crime legislation;
- Analysis/commentary to SA student: DNA profiling of young offenders;
- Interview with WA Today journalist: children's rights and access to hardship allowances;
- Interview with ABC Radio Canberra Drive program: new fine recovery legislation;
- TV interview with Claire (ABC TV News, WA) on wearable personal police video cameras; and
- ABC online journalist about use of facial recognition software at a Coogee NSW nightclub.

Correspondence:

To AG Robert McClelland, urging he take example of Victorian Police policy on police car pursuits to Police Ministers Council/Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, 20 June 2010;

To Prof Simon Rice, requesting information on the current activities of the Legal Review Advisory Committee 18 June 2010: no response to date.

Projects:

List of issues to question political parties in upcoming federal election (Tim Vines);
Idea of conference in 2011: *Liberties Lost*, to be pursued with CIPL, ANU.

Forums:

Attorney-General/ Department of Foreign Affairs: Inaugural Government – Non Government Organisations Forum on Human Rights, Old Parliament House - please see report on website; ACT Government Human Rights Commission meeting on review of *ACT Human Rights Act 2004*, and possible extensions of it, after first five years.



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AUSTRALIAN BRIEFS

Keep an eye on the pollies: If you want to access the latest info on federal parliamentarians and what they are up to, this is a great website: <http://www.openaustralia.org/>

Drug report released: The Australian Crime Commission released *Illicit Drug Data Report 2008–09* in Melbourne last month. A copy of the report is available at www.crimecommission.gov.au

Law and order election auctions counter-productive: For a rundown on the stupidity of ‘law and order’ campaigns, see this article in *The Australian* featuring NSW Liberal Shadow AG, Greg Smith, and the state of crime, prisons and justice in NSW: <http://snipurl.com/wxxne>

Aboriginal life expectancy closes: For 2005–2007, the gap nationally between Indigenous and non-Indigenous life expectancy was 11.5 years for males and 9.7 years for females. See: *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*, free download from the ABS website: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4704.0/>

ACT AG wants more to opt-in to human rights: ACT Attorney-General, Simon Corbell, has called on both community and commercial groups in Canberra to ‘opt in’ to being bound by the same human rights frameworks applying to public authorities under the ACT Human Rights Act. “...it is time that more organisations follow the lead of three community groups and make a written commitment to be human rights compliant,” Mr Corbell said.

Brumby adopts carrot-stick approach: Victorian Premier John Brumby has flagged the possibility of cutting the probationary period of young drivers from three years to two if they undertake defensive driving courses. He has also threatened sending them home with a note to their parents if they offend on the roads. At least he is thinking differently, and not jumping on a “law and order, lock ‘em up” bandwagon. <http://snipurl.com/xn43y>

Time to re-think parole, says judge: Prisons, parole and a ticket-of-leave system are in the inherited DNA of many Australians, WA's Chief Justice Wayne Martin points out. It's time we re-thought sentencing and parole to better reflect what today's community wants...and it may be a case of *deja vu* all over again! Future Directions for Criminal Law, address by Chief Justice of WA, Wayne Martin. <http://snipurl.com/y6wqu>

INTERNATIONAL

‘Framework’ can’t make up for PM’s disengagement

Australia’s foreign and law ministers last month launched the *‘Framework for Law and Justice Engagement with the Pacific’*.

Little more than an extended media release, the ‘framework’ is claimed to be “a statement of the priorities and principles that guide Australia’s Pacific work in the law and justice sector”, including:

- developing approaches to law and justice appropriate to local circumstances and contexts;
- complementing and building on existing systems; and
- ensuring Australia’s development activities are well coordinated and targeted.”

Australia gives \$90m a year to justice initiatives in the Pacific. But the problem is that the previous Prime Minister, Mr Rudd, studiously avoided any close and meaningful interaction with Pacific forums since his election in 2007...and the leaders of Pacific nations have noticed the slight. CLA has already commented that a party has a 'framework' when it doesn't have a positive program of action. Access the skeleton document at: <http://www.ag.gov.au/pacificframework>

Police violence in PNG is alarming, UN expert says

An independent UN human rights expert has voiced concern about the "regular practice" of police violence in Papua New Guinea, which he said often reaches the level of torture, as well as appalling conditions for detainees, *UN News* has reported.

Manfred Nowak, the UN's torture investigator, made the comments at the end of a 12-day, fact-finding mission, during which he conducted unannounced visits to places of detention and interviewed detainees in private.

"My main concerns are systematic beatings of detainees by the police upon arrest and within the first hours of detention, including during interrogation," he said in a news release issued in the capital, Port Moresby. "This regular practice of police violence, corroborated by medical evidence, often reaches the level of torture," he said. <http://snipurl.com/xlv4m>



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Indonesian kids at risk, because rights ignored

Millions of Indonesian children remain vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and discrimination because the government has not prioritised children's rights, according to a coalition of NGOs.

The National NGO Coalition for Child Rights Monitoring recently launched its review on the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) between 1997 and 2009, making a number of recommendations to better protect Indonesian children.

"The government has shown a lack of initiative in integrating the CRC with Indonesian law," said Ahmad Taufan Damanik, executive coordinator for the National NGO Coalition for Child Monitoring in Jakarta.

Among the recommendations are for the government to ratify protocols against the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution; to amend the constitution to include all rights of the child; and to develop a mechanism whereby legislation conflicting with the CRC can be overturned or revoked.

Contrary to the convention, Indonesian law allows children aged 12 to consent to sex, while the age for criminal responsibility is eight.

"Children as young as 12 can be tried as adults and be imprisoned with adults," Setiawan Cahyo Nugroho, programme manager for child rights at Save the Children Indonesia, told IRIN.

According to the National Commission for Child Protection, 89.8% of children sent to court in 2009 were sentenced to prison. Data from the social welfare department at the University of Indonesia shows that 57% of those children were placed in detention with adults.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?Reportid=89252>

Prison boss questions suitability of short sentences in jail

Prison has no effect in stopping thousands of criminals reoffending and politicians should look again at whether it is a suitable punishment for minor crimes, the outgoing head of the UK prison service told the UK's Independent newspaper last month.

Phil Wheatley, the director general of the National Offender Management Service who ran all 140 prisons in the UK until mid-June, said that offenders who serve sentences of six months or fewer were not being rehabilitated and usually went on to commit further offences.

Mr Wheatley also warned that the government would soon have to decide whether to build extra prisons or start releasing more prisoners early.

There are about 8,500 prisoners serving sentences of less than six months in the UK. They are eligible for release after half of their sentence – because their sentence is less than a year, they do not get a probation officer. Figures show that prisoners released after less than 12 months commit an average of three crimes each in their first year of freedom. <http://snipurl.com/x9q90>

US secrecy extends to police surveillance on protestors

Reversing a lower court ruling, a panel of US federal judges last month decided that the city of New York can keep secret roughly 1800 pages of records of police surveillance leading up to the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York.

The ruling by the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit was a decisive victory for city lawyers who have waged a long fight to keep the police department's voluminous intelligence documents from public view.

Ultimately, the panel concluded that a "law enforcement privilege" outweighed the need to open the documents to public scrutiny.

The NYPD deployed undercover detectives around the world to gather information on political activists and others planning demonstrations leading up to the summer convention in the city, according to a sampling of the records reviewed by *The New York Times*. <http://snipurl.com/xahx2>

Police marksmen kill prisoner

Four police marksmen killed a man in the US State of Utah last month.

They used rifles to end the life of Ronnie Lee Gardner, who had been in prison for 30 years for himself shooting two people dead.

It had been 14 years since the last execution in America by firing squad. <http://snipurl.com/xj1yh>

Judge decides to let laptop go free

A federal judge in the US has ruled that border agents cannot seize a traveler's laptop, keep it locked up for months, and examine it for contraband files without a warrant half a year later.

US District Judge Jeffrey White in the Northern District of California rejected the Obama Administration's argument that no warrant was necessary to look through the electronic files of an American citizen who was returning home from a trip to South Korea.

"The court concludes that (the) search required a warrant," White ruled last month, referring to a search of Andrew Hanson's computer, seized at San Francisco International Airport in January 2009.

The Justice Department invoked a novel argument – which Judge White dubbed "unpersuasive" – claiming that while Hanson was able to enter the country, his laptop remained in a kind of legal limbo where the US Bill of Rights did not apply. (The Fourth Amendment generally requires a warrant for searches). http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-20007315-38.html

US bill claims Obama owns and can 'kill' the internet

US President Barack Obama would have the power to control and shut down the internet under a new bill before the US Congress.

The bill, which claims the internet as a US 'national asset', has been approved unanimously by the US Homeland Security committee and will be put to a vote on the Senate floor shortly

Senator Joe Lieberman, the committee chair, introduced the bill to grant the President broad emergency powers over the internet in times of national emergency.

Titled "Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset Act", the bill stipulates any internet firms and providers must "immediately comply with any emergency measure or action developed" by a new section of the US Department of Homeland Security, dubbed the 'National Centre for Cybersecurity and Communications'. <http://snipurl.com/xlv5y>



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INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

More guns on American streets: The US Supreme Court ruled last month that an American's constitutional right to bear arms applied throughout the nation. The split 5-4 ruling specifically overturned a ban on handguns in Chicago that had stood for 28 years. The general finding – that all states must comply with the second amendment to the constitution – is likely to have a sweeping impact on local gun laws, particularly in inner-city areas. America will now get more guns on its streets. <http://snipurl.com/ybn7e>



Thai is new rights boss: Thailand's Ambassador to the UN Office in Geneva has been named as the new president of the UN Human Rights Council, the panel established in 2006 to tackle human rights violations worldwide, *UN News* reported last month. Sihasuk Phuangketkeow (*pictured*) becomes the fifth president of the 47-member council, which replaced the earlier UN Commission on Human Rights. He was the candidate of the panel's Asian members.

China's courts can't use torture-derived evidence: Evidence obtained under torture cannot be used in China's courts, the government has said. Laws banning torture are already in place, but analysts say they are widely disregarded. Officials have been embarrassed by Zhao Zuohai, who spent 11 years in jail for a murder that never happened. Claiming he was beaten by police until he confessed, he was eventually given \$118,000 compensation and two policemen accused of beating him were arrested. Chinese courts were strongly dependent on confessions, motivating police to use force. Details: <http://snipurl.com/x7k8e>

Lazy polities told to get to work on time: The Justice System Monitoring Program monitored the Timor Leste parliament in March and April 2010 and "observed that many members do not observe the proper working hours and are often late". Article 46 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the National Parliament states that the normal working hours of the parliament are from 9am to 6pm. "However in practice members of parliament always turn up at 10am and they are supposed to return at 3pm for the afternoon session but they always turn up at 4pm. JSMP is concerned with the attitude of these members because their work is not an adequate reflection of the duties and responsibilities entrusted to them, and the remuneration that they receive." Well said.

Obama wants 'secret' prison in Afghanistan: The Obama administration plans to hand control of its largest prison in Afghanistan to the country's government, but with the American military permitted to hold terrorism suspects from other countries there, according to US reports. If Afghan officials agree, the US Administration would have a place to hold and interrogate terrorism suspects captured elsewhere around the world. President Obama wants to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, leaving the administration without a lockup for those suspected of plotting attacks against the US. <http://snipurl.com/x9rra>

Advocates target Africa's laws which fail women: A team of international human rights lawyers and advocates are looking to change the mores around sexual assault and women's rights in Africa, beginning with Kenya, Malawi and Ghana. All three countries are reviewing laws related to marital rape, but additional efforts will be needed to address the norms of customary law that equate women with property, *The Globe and Mail* of Toronto, Canada, reported last month. – UNity, UN of Australia newsletter No 648, 18 June 2010.

Refugee returns become a trickle: Only 251,000 refugees – out of a total of 15.2 million – repatriated in 2009, compared to an average of half a million annually for the past 10 years. With major conflicts in Afghanistan and Somalia among those showing no signs of being resolved, the

number of refugees voluntarily returning to their home countries last year plummeted to their lowest levels in two decades, according to a new UN report <http://snipurl.com/xm01k>

Drug use rises: Amphetamine-type stimulants and prescription medications are increasingly the drugs of choice globally, according to a new UN report. Drug use has stabilised in developed nations while it seems to be rising in the developing world, the *UN News* reported last month. The World Drug Report 2010, launched by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), says that the number of users of synthetic drugs – estimated at around 30 to 40 million people worldwide – will soon exceed the number of users of opiates and cocaine combined.
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2010.html>

India's 'Right to Information' law empowers the poor: For stories of how a new law is freeing poor Indians from the nation's bureaucratic nightmare, see this collection of tales – “giving the people the power to challenge the government: this is no small thing”. <http://snipurl.com/ybqeb>



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DATES:

30 June, Launceston: 7.30pm Ray Escobar at the Launceston Conservative Speakers Club on the inequities in the Tasmanian Family Violence Act 200; venue: Max Fry Hall, Trevallyn.

2 July, Adelaide: Bishop Levee Kadenge: *The Church and Political Change in Zimbabwe* at 3.30pm in Noel Stockdale Room, Central Library. Admission free: <http://www.lib.flinders.edu.au/new/exhibitions.php>

4-10 July, Australia: NAIDOC Week: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander celebrations.
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

4-7 July, Launceston (UTas Lonny campus): Challenges faced by universities in increasing community participation and addressing social equity: the Australian University Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA) national conference theme is Communities Partnership and Participation.
<http://aucea.com.au/events/2010-aucea-national-conference>

6 July, Sydney: 'Better more cameras than more crime' debate on CCTV. City Recital Hall, Angel Place, 6.40pm, for later broadcast on ABC Radio. Details: <http://www.iq2oz.com/events/event-details/2010-series-sydney/05-july.php>

6-11 July, Mparntwe/Alice Springs: Indigenous Solidarity and Defending Rights Conference,
<http://defendingindigenoustrights.wordpress.com/>

6-10 July, Sydney: Biennial conference of International Peace Research Association. Theme: *Communicating Peace*. Speakers: Patrick Dodson, Johan Galtung, Oliver Richmond, Ursula Oswald Spring, George Kent and peace advocates from Guam (LisaLinda Natividad); West Papua (John Ondawame) and Palestine (Samah Sabawi). Info: www.iprasydne2010.org

8-9 July, Canberra: Nat'l Graduate Law conf. –

http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/graduate_conference/index.htm Dr Mark Nolan: mark.nolan@anu.edu.au
Dinah Rigg: dinah.rigg@anu.edu.au

21 July, Perth: Delivering Value to Citizens: the Challenge for Australia's Federation: The 2010 Reid Oration by Peter Allen, Deputy Dean, Australia and New Zealand School of Government; U. Western Australia. Info: <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/allen>

13 Aug, 2010, Sydney: UN Association of Australia national conference 2010, NSW Parliament, with theme, *State of the World post Copenhagen*. Info: Peter Airey: office@unaansw.org.au

20-23 Aug, Montreal, Canada: Civicus World Assembly, details: <http://www.civicusassembly.org/>

27 Aug, Brisbane: International Pro Bono Roundtable, in conjunction with 3rd National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference. Info: <http://www.ag.gov.au/internationalprobono>

30 Aug – 1 Sept, Melbourne: 63rd UN Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organisations (DPI/NGO) conference: global health as it relates to the Millennium Development Goals. Details: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/index.asp>

1 Sept, Brisbane: Prof David Weisbrot of Macquarie Law School, Macquarie U. on “[DIY Genetics: Carbolic Smoke Ball Meets the Internet](#)” at [Griffith U.](#) Rm 2.06, N54, Nathan campus with videolink to Room 1.04, G34, Gold Coast campus and Room 2.27, L03, Logan campus.

15 Sept, World: International Day of Democracy: <http://www.ipu.org/dem-e/idd/overview.htm>

17-25 Sept, Brisbane: IFIP Human Choice and Computers International Conference, part of the IFIP world conference, details: <http://www.wcc2010.com/HCC92010/index.html> Sessions include ethics and ICT governance, surveillance and privacy.

27-28 Sept, Melbourne: Public Interest Law Opportunities and Obstacles: The 2010 Conference of the Civil Justice Research Group, Melbourne Law School. Info: g.cazalet@unimelb.edu.au
18-19 Oct, Melbourne: 1st International Serious and Organised Crime Conference (ISOC 2010), Convention Centre. <http://www.aic.gov.au/events/aic%20upcoming%20events/2010/isoc.aspx> *Note: A conference about organised crime, not one held by organised crime: organised by Aust. Inst of Criminology.
21-22 Oct. Adelaide: 2010 Institute of Public Administration Australia national conference, Adelaide Convention Centre, details: <http://www.ipaa.org.au/>
28 Oct, Perth: Use of Information Technology in Criminal Trials, 4.30–6.00pm, Ceremonial Court, District Court of WA, 500 Hay Street, Perth. More info: <http://www.lawsocietywa.asn.au/cpdseminars.htm>
4-6 Nov, Parramatta: **Human Rights Education Conference, *Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue***, U. of Western Sydney, organised by Dr Sev Ozdowski, Register by 22 Oct. Details: <http://www.humanrightseducationconference2010.com.au>
10-13 Nov, Bangkok: **14th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC)**. Details: <http://14iacc.org/>
19 Nov, Brisbane: ***E-Democracy – Global Trends to Local Citizen Engagement***, 2.30–4.30pm, Bldg 96, St Lucia Campus. Info: juliemccredde@uq.edu.au

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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: [mailto:secretary\[at\]cla.asn.au](mailto:secretary[at]cla.asn.au)

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