

Quintet: Where Evils Dare

News media, led by Glenn Greenwald, have exposed the massive US, UK – and presumably Australian – surveillance on innocent people's phones, computers and other comms devices.

The surveillance is so widespread that it is probably beyond the practical control of the governments who have initiated, encouraged and 'authorised' wholesale spying on their own citizens, virtually without limit, and on citizens of other countries entirely without limit.

If there is any centralised control at all, it comes from a group so far not mentioned in any public discussion. That is the shadowy, secretive 'Quintet'.

Here's what Civil Liberties Australia wrote about the self-named body in 2011:

The third meeting of the "Quintet" of Attorneys-General was held in Australia last month (July 2011): it comprises the AGs of the USA, NZ, UK, Canada and Australia, who meet once a year.

Eric Holder (right), the US Attorney-General, said afterwards: *"These (Quintet) ties transcend parties and governments in each of our nations..."*

Precisely! That's what's wrong with self-selected cabals – they "transcend governments" and become power fiefdoms in their own right. Which is dangerous. There's little doubt they will start out benign in their early years. But, as time passes, cabals like the quaintly-named Quintet have the potential to be and do evil. They deserve the closest monitoring.

From August 2011 CLArion: see Quintet 'transcends governments', says US A-G Holder, p9 (also see Fusion melts boundaries of privacy and data holdings, p8): email secretary@cla.asn.au for a copy.



The evil the Quintet has allowed in mass-surveilling communications is now obvious. Civil Liberties Australia predicts other evils they are now doing, or allowing, will become obvious in future. There is no doubt, for example, that the US has tortured people: there is no doubt that Australia has been at least complicit in at least one case.

No group should "transcend...governments", which is how Holder describes the Quintet. Therein lies the danger.

The Australian Government should withdraw from the Quintet in the name of democracy. All the governments should dismantle the sinister surveillance cliques that are mushrooming uncontrolled.

The danger is that one day, these secret entities might be the government, or think they are the government, or believe they know better than the government. On first reading, this sounds alarmist...but, for a country further down the track towards this outcome, see the story of Hungary: [http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/17/1984-hungarian-edition/?](http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/06/17/1984-hungarian-edition/)

Access to justice comes under major scrutiny

The Productivity Commission is to examine how to improve access to justice in Australia.

"An effective justice system should provide timely and affordable justice for all Australians. It should not be dependent on capacity to pay and vulnerable Australians should not be disadvantaged," Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said.

The PC will examine what contributes to the costs of legal representation and accessing justice services, the social and economic impacts of these costs, and whether they are proportionate to the issues in dispute.

The PC will also report on options for lower-cost dispute resolution, including through alternative dispute resolution, the use of technology and expedited procedures. It will advise on data collection across the justice system to enable better monitoring of costs and evaluation of measures aimed at keeping costs down, and on the number of Australians who may not be able to afford to secure legal representation but who also do not qualify for legal assistance.

The inquiry will also analyse and report on how best to fund legal assistance, in a report due about October 2014. The terms of reference are available at <http://tiny.cc/g845yw>

CLA's five main campaign points for election:

A change of Labor leadership does not affect what CLA will campaign for in the upcoming election.

CLA will promote five main issues, preparing for active lobbying of whomever takes power:

- incorporating the "terror laws" (there are more than 50) into the normal Crimes Act;
- introducing a 'Right to Appeal' where there is new and compelling evidence (as well as fighting for establishment of a national Criminal Cases Review body);
- winding back anti-association (the claimed "bikie") laws which could be abused by governments in the future targeting any groups they dislike, as the laws don't say "bikies";
- developing consistent Foreign Affairs policies relating to support for Australians on death rows overseas (and for consular and other assistance to imprisoned Australians, and people we extradite); and
- preventing excessive restrictions – censorship – of Australians' internet access.

ODD SPOT: Deja vu, all over again...

I have become disenchanted with party politics as they are practised in this country and with the pressure groups which have an undue influence on the major political parties. The parties seem to polarise on almost every issue, sometimes seemingly just for the sake of it, and I wonder if the ordinary voter is not becoming sick and tired of the vested interests which unduly influence political parties...

From a speech by Don Chipp, resigning from the Liberal Party on 24 March 1977. Chipp went on to lead the Democrats, a party which lasted in federal parliament for about 28 years, in a similar balance of power role to that now occupied by the Greens. – Chipp D and Larkin J *Don Chipp: The Third Man*, Rigby 1978, ISBN 0-7270-0827-7

Former AG calls for less Indigenous jailing

Former Labor Attorney-General Robert McClelland implored governments to address the over-representation of young Indigenous people in the criminal justice system when giving his final speech to parliament last month.

"All attorneys-general really want to focus on that issue," he said. "And I think the time has come where, not only the rates of victimisation but also the rates of incarceration, bringing down those rates, need to be made part of the closing the gap targets." <http://tiny.cc/5f73yw>

At last, someone has pulled an ACC claw

The High Court has pulled a claw of the nation's biggest bully, the Australian Crime Commission.

The ACC constantly tries to abuse Australian protocol, privacy and laws, such as:

- 'blackest day in Australia's sporting history' (drugs media conference beat-up);
- 'we would dob in a banker to his chairman if he (merely) enters the same hotel where crime bosses are meeting' (evidence to parliamentary committee);
- failure of Project Wickenby tax cases because ACC actions were leading to "oppression and injustice" in the courts, according to a Supreme Court judge; and now
- 'if you're charged, we'll use our special powers to compel you to confess...or else' (see below).

The HC ruled last month that the ACC is not allowed to force someone already charged in the normal way with a drug offence to be "examined" on the same allegations under the ACC's special – and extraordinarily draconian – powers.

Under the ACC's powers, refusing to answer an ACC "examination" is itself an offence punishable by potentially significant jail time.

The HC, by majority, ruled that the ACC was not allowed to engage in compulsory examination when someone had already been charged before a court.

If the examination rules of the ACC's legislation were interpreted as the ACC wanted them interpreted, it would fundamentally alter the "accusatorial and adversarial process of criminal justice" in Australia, the HC ruled. Changing Australia's justice system so dramatically was only possible if the Australian Parliament made it explicitly clear in the ACC's empowering legislation that's what the parliament wanted to happen, which the parliament had not done.

Thank goodness the High Court judges are not intimidated by the ACC, as politicians appear to be.

Civil Liberties Australia wonders how many times the ACC has to transgress in these diverse ways before someone in parliament demands an inquiry into how the ACC operates, is managed, and is directed by its entirely inappropriate board of directors.

The board comprises the heads of all Australia's police forces, a spook chief, some department supremos and the ACC boss himself: there is not one person on the ACC board representing the public...and common, non-government, sense.

The ACC should have at least five external-to-government board members, and a monitoring/auditing body with open access to files by random selection at quarterly meetings.

The ACC board members should be held individually accountable – and be forced to pay compensation personally – for ACC transgressions in future. Otherwise, no-one is accountable.

Let's not impede snooping! Spooks rule, OK?

The Labor Federal Government has flatly rejected legislation to block Australian law enforcement agencies obtaining access to telecommunications records without a warrant, stating that such regulations would "critically impede national security and law enforcement investigations".

"The Bill's requirement for ASIO and law enforcement agencies to get a warrant to obtain telecommunications data would critically impede national security and law enforcement investigations," a spokesperson for AG Mark Dreyfus said. <http://tiny.cc/z7zyyw>

Faulkner wants safeguards for freedoms



Former Labor Defence Minister John Faulkner (left) has confirmed that the heads of the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Defence Signals Directorate, David Irvine and Ian McKenzie, have briefed the federal parliament's intelligence committee on the US PRISM internet surveillance program.

The Australian Government would not comment on whether Edward Snowden's exposés of top secret US and British intelligence and surveillance programs have been the subject of diplomatic exchanges between Canberra and Washington. Foreign Minister Bob Carr's office would not say whether he has had any exchanges with US Secretary of State John Kerry on the subject.

However, Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus's office has confirmed that a high level interagency taskforce is monitoring events and coordinating the government's response.

Senator Faulkner told the Senate that Mr Snowden's revelations "will heighten anxiety in this country about data retention." Speaking on the tabling of the parliament's intelligence committee's report on telecommunications and internet data retention, the former Defence Minister said it was essential that "any legislation to establish a mandatory data retention scheme in Australia contains the strongest safeguards to protect the privacy of our citizens."

"Our challenge will be to achieve the right balance between the safety and security of our citizens, and their personal rights and freedoms, including the right to privacy, if a proposal for a mandatory data retention scheme goes forward." <http://tiny.cc/rr0bzw>

Athletes now forced to comply

Australia's anti-doping agency will shortly possess police-like powers to compel suspect athletes and others to submit to questioning.

A law passed by parliament in its dying days means the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority can issue disclosure notices requiring compliance, with a fine of up to \$5100 for people who don't. ASADA will also be able to compel athletes to hand over documents.

The right to remain silent was returned to individuals, while doctor patient confidentiality has also been protected so GPs will only have to answer questions about doping and not about an athlete's medical history. <http://tiny.cc/0r9czw>

Carr refuses to provide clear answer

Independent senator Nick Xenophon is pressing for answers about whether Australian parliamentarians are being watched

by intelligence agencies in the wake of revelations in *The Guardian* about the US Prism program.

Xenophon asked the foreign minister, Bob Carr, whether any email addresses were exempt from the Mainway, Marina, Nucleon or Prism programs.

Carr said the government did not comment on intelligence matters, but that there was a strong legal framework to protect Australians. Xenophon argued that Carr had not provided a specific answer to his question. Carr said he had, and did not intend to comment further. <http://tiny.cc/ntr3yw>

CLA problem with Constitution highlighted

A Civil Liberties Australia comment on section 59 of the Australian was discussed at the Parliament House roundtable on the Australian Constitution last month.



CLA member Jeff Miles brought to the attention of the House of Reps' Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee that section 59 was an anachronism. It allows the Queen to repeal a passed Australian law, even after it has been formally assented to by the Australian Governor-General, for a period of up to 12 months after the law receives the GG's assent.

Sir David Smith dismissed the need to do anything about it, saying the clause was "otiose" or "serving no practical purpose". Sir David, personally knighted by the Queen, not by his country, said the Queen would never act that way.

Prof Anne Twomey, a Constitution scholar from the University of Sydney, immediately pointed out to Sir David, a former GG secretary, that there was a danger that an incoming PM from a different party could use the clause to advise the Queen to overturn legislation passed by previous PMs of another political persuasion in the preceding 12 months.

Under normal protocols, the Queen would be obliged to act on the Australian PM's advice, one would think.

At the end of the roundtable, after discussions of other clauses, there seemed to be recognition that the Constitution needed "cleaning up"...including s59. Well done, Jeff Miles.

There was head-nodding in agreement to comments that the Constitution needed to become a "living" document, and the imperative was to find a way for the Australian people to "own" it, so that kids in school for example become familiar with the document that was the basis of Australia.

Customs: changes too little, too late

The time is up for corrupt Customs officers, the border patrol authority itself says after announcing new integrity measures.

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) was reacting to release of an Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity report into the activities of four corrupt officers arrested between August last year and February 2013.

ACBPS CEO Michael Pezzullo said the behaviour of those officers undermined the community's trust in the service. Since September 2012, the ACBPS had significantly strengthened integrity processes and hardened against

infiltration and corruption, he said. "... here is the bottom line: there is no escape form the new integrity approach and your time is up," Mr Pezzullo said.

Customs officers will only now undergo random drug and alcohol testing, and be legally required to report corruption and serious misconduct. In Australian airports, Pezzullo says there's a ban on personal mobile phones in sensitive operational areas and new rules for the processing of passengers known to officers.

Minister for Justice Jason Clare said the report follows the arrest of 20 people, including four employees of the ACBPS, one officer from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, one baggage handler, and 14 others. Further arrests are possible, he said. <http://tiny.cc/kOn5yw>

Too little (especially in not removing senior managers), 10 years too late, CLA says.

Why these measures were not introduced at least eight years ago is both a mystery and gross incompetence by a government agency, CLA says. The airport problems in particular were exposed by whistleblower Allan Kessing 10 years ago.

His public service cost him his job, his superannuation...and resulted in a \$220m upgrade in airport security around Australia initially, and now this further affirmation that he was right, and the government was wrong.

When will the government thank Kessing and compensate him financially with a \$5m grant?

'Kid-check' sledgehammer misses the mark

The system of compulsory background checks on the millions of people who work with children needs an overhaul because it misleads people into thinking children are safe, misses some targets, wrongly catches others, and may be a "very costly sledgehammer to crack the wrong nut", according to the new National Children's Commissioner.

Apart from being questionable in scope, Working with Children Checks "provide an unwarranted sense of child safety" said Megan Mitchell, the former NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People, who took up the national post in March.

The system may "unfairly discriminate and discourage, especially in relation to non-crime records", she said, particularly when employers opt to do their own police checks rather than use a third party agency.

Of 217,508 checks conducted last financial year, 805 applicants were initially assessed as higher risk based on their records. Since 2006 the Victorian Department of Justice approved over 864,000 people to work with children, and rejected 1406.

Police and other information is not continuously shared across state and territory borders, and there is no mechanism for accessing overseas records.

Ms Mitchell said rather than spending years trying to "harmonise" the inconsistent approaches, it was time to "bite the bullet" on a simplified national system. <http://tiny.cc/icnbnzw>

ODD SPOT: Pyne-ing for liberty, freedom

"Australians value freedom!. We value freedom! We believe in liberty and freedom! That is how you understand Australia!" the Liberal's Christopher Pyne, from South Australia, quoted by Erik Jensen in *The Monthly*, June 2013, p16. Let's hope he lives up to his statements when a Minister.

Drugs beat books, fashion for industry size

We're spending more than \$7 billion each year on illicit drugs, according to groundbreaking research from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Australians spent about seven times more buying drugs in 2010 than governments spent enforcing drug laws. The vast majority of the billion-dollar market is going directly to drug manufacturers and retailers, with early analysis from the ABS staff research project showing profit margins of more than 80%, Amy Corderoy reported in *Fairfax* media.

The Drug Policy Modelling Program at UNSW calculated Australia was spending about \$1.1bn on enforcing drugs laws, dwarfing the \$361m spent on treatment and \$36m for harm reduction.

ABS research calculates the size of the Australian market using health and law enforcement data on drug use, seizures, purity and import costs. The \$7.1 billion spending estimate for 2010 is nearly twice what official ABS statistics say Australia spends on literature, and \$2 billion more than is spent on fashion. Other figures show in 2010 Australians spent about \$3.8bn on cannabis, with a margin of \$3.7bn for manufacturers and sellers. <http://tiny.cc/9cobzw>

SLUDGE to consider new journo shield law

Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said last month that SLUDGE (the Standing Council on Law and Justice, SCLJ) would consider whether Australia should have uniform national protection for journalists and their sources, in other words, a "shield" law.

"Recent court proceedings have highlighted the inadequacy of protections for journalists in some jurisdictions and lack of uniformity in laws across Australia," Mr Dreyfus said.

"Journalists need to be confident that they can protect the identity of sources without being held in contempt of court."

The Commonwealth, NSW, Victoria, WA and the ACT have laws of various strengths and coverage for journalists' privilege. Queensland, SA and the NT don't have specific laws to protect the relationship between journalists and their sources. – AG media release.

PS: SLUDGE replaced SCAG (the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General) in Sept 2011.

CLA sounds alarm over Xbox's potential

CLA's National Media Spokesperson and Vice-President, Tim Vines, was quoted in relation to Microsoft's new game and entertainment console last month.

The Xbox One could collect data relating to individual entertainment use, personal movements, speech and activities before sending it to the tech giant's servers, according to the *SMH*. It needs a connection to the internet to function, and also requires a constant link with Kinect – Microsoft's all-in-one HD 3D camera and microphone device.

The *SMH* quoted "Tim Vines, a director at Civil Liberties Australia", saying that this combination paints a picture of "quite an intrusive device". "We're not exactly sure what level of information [Kinect] is providing, but these sort of machines will often send analytical data, performance data back to Microsoft HQ in order for the service to be improved in the future.

"That could include the camera trying to guess how many people are in a room, trying to recognise shapes in order to distinguish between a male and a female, between children, adults and teenagers," Mr Vines said.

"If people want to have it in their living rooms, and if Microsoft want people to buy it, then I think they have an obligation to be honest about what information's being collected and how it's going to be used."

The all-in-one nature of the Xbox One means it's intended to serve as a gatekeeper between you and all your media, designed to access and process your live television, online media subscriptions, video games, web browsing and TV, films and music served by Microsoft. This potentially extends the data that could be harvested to TV viewing habits, film preferences, whether you stay in front of the TV during advertisements or how many times you laugh during an episode of a comedy show. <http://tiny.cc/1s9ayw>

Ferguson calls for action on forced labour

More needs to be done to eliminate forced labour, slavery and trafficking in persons from global supply chains, according to a new report by the Human Rights sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The Trading Lives: Modern Day Human Trafficking report recommends that the Australian Government investigate anti-trafficking and anti-slavery mechanisms appropriate for Australia with a view to creating a greater awareness of forced labour in global supply chains.



"There are an estimated 20 million victims of forced labour globally. The annual profit made from these victims is estimated at \$US32 million. That is a profit of \$US13,000 for each woman, man and child trafficked into forced labour," chair Laurie Ferguson (pictured) said.

"More needs to be done to raise community awareness about this issue. Introducing a labelling and certification strategy for products and services that have been produced ethically as well as increasing the prominence of fair trade in Australia will enable consumers to make better, more informed choices regarding products they buy." Report: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfact>

No offence...but we help people speak freely

Earlier this year CLA was concerned to learn of proposed new Tasmanian laws that would have made it illegal for someone to say something that caused another person to take offence on political or religious grounds.

Imagine it ... just one Labor, Liberal or Green party member reading a political cartoon in the newspaper would need to have taken offence before the complaint could have been heard by the State Anti-Discrimination Commission.

The laws were particularly outrageous when the current Tasmanian economic climate was considered. The Museum of Old and New Art (aka MONA) is widely regarded as an economic beacon of hope for Tasmania with thousands of visitors from interstate traveling to visit MONA and spend time and money in the State.

As well as providing a shot in the arm to the economy, MONA is also well known for displaying artwork that certainly would cause some religious people to take offence. It would have been damaging not only to Tasmania's economy but to free speech in the State if MONA was prevented from doing what MONA does best – shock, stir, and generally provoke deep (and new) thought in visitors.

At the time CLA learnt of the proposal, the bill had already passed the Tasmanian Lower House. Undeterred, CLA wrote to each of the 15 members of the Upper House pointing out the danger in the proposal and suggesting appropriate amendments.

In what can only be seen as a positive example of government listening and acknowledging an overreach into free speech, CLA understands the Tasmanian government is tabling in the Upper House an amendment suggested to it by CLA. Suffice to say we hope it passes both houses.

– Richard Griggs, CLA Director, Tasmania

Coronial inquiry unfinished...four years on

The family of convicted murderer Susan Neill-Fraser is still waiting to hear if or when a coronial inquest into the death of her partner will resume – half a year after making the request.

In January 2013, Ms Neill-Fraser's family petitioned Chief Magistrate Michael Hill to reopen the inquest. The petition came on the fourth anniversary of Royal Hobart Hospital chief radiation physicist Bob Chappell's disappearance from the family's yacht, *Four Winds*, at Sandy Bay.

Mother-of-two Neill-Fraser, 59, has served four years of a 23-year jail term in Risdon Prison. She and her family strongly maintain her innocence, the Mercury's Zara Dawtrey wrote last month.

An inquest was opened into Mr Chappell's presumed death before criminal charges were laid against Neill-Fraser, but the inquest has effectively been adjourned for the past four years.

The legal team, including prominent solicitor Barbara Etter, believes there has been a miscarriage of justice. Civil Liberties Australia supports the claim.

Mrs Etter said that after a thorough and extensive analysis of the evidence available, there were a range of critical issues in the case that required close and open examination in the public interest. "We also have a range of ... fresh evidence to be considered," she said. <http://tiny.cc/rzfjyw>

Ethics? Tassie seems to have missed out!

A new report highlights gaps in ethical training and inadequate handling of complaints in Tasmania's public sector.

The Tasmanian Integrity Commission report was based on a survey of 26 state departments and government businesses, with a total staff of 31,000.

It said 17 of the 26 agencies surveyed did not provide adequate training or awareness-raising in ethics and integrity after staff induction.

Nine agencies did not have a complaints policy or defined process for handling complaints and eight did not have a complaints register to track breaches of policy and report trends to senior management. <http://tiny.cc/a75oyw>

Town 'reeks of racism': radio claim

An Indigenous broadcaster has used his nationally-syndicated radio program to say the Northern Territory town of Katherine "reeks of racism".

Tiga Bayles, who hosts a talk show on Brisbane's 98.9 FM, is also the chairman of the Australian Indigenous Communications Association.

After visiting Katherine, he told his radio audience he was shocked to learn the shopping centre in the town, about 300 kilometres south of Darwin, charges \$2 for people to use its toilets, a move he believes is targeted at Indigenous people.

Katherine mayor Fay Miller said Mr Bayles's comments were out of line. She said she may write to the shopping centre management to ask for the fee to be reduced to \$1. <http://tiny.cc/x9lkyw>

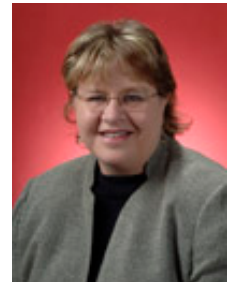
Dumped Crossin slams NT intervention

Outgoing NT Senator Trish Crossin – giving her farewell speech – said her "darkest day" in the Senate was when the Northern Territory intervention was announced.

"To move into people's lives and communities in this way left me speechless and helpless," she said. "These people that I have lived and worked with were humiliated and shamed, left to wonder why and how it had come to this."

Former PM Julia Gillard in January dumped Crossin (pictured right) without NT party members having any say: Ms Gillard instead used a "captain's pick" to parachute Ms Nova Peris, the first Indigenous Australian to win Olympic gold, into the position. Ms Peris was not a member of the Labor Party when Ms Gillard made the announcement, but later joined and secured preselection.

CLA salutes Senator Crossin's service: we believe she played a pivotal role in making the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee work well in producing the least-worst laws that could be achieved in the out-of-control days of anti-terrorism legislation. <http://tiny.cc/k2jvyw>



NSW passes law to ban unvaccinated children

NSW has passed new laws allowing childcare centres to ban unvaccinated children in a bid to encourage vaccination.

From January 2014, a childcare centre can refuse to enrol a child whose parents or guardians cannot show proof of vaccination or provide an approved exemption. Health Minister Jillian Skinner says parents seeking an exemption will need to speak to a general practitioner.

Childcare centres will face fines if they do not complete checks to ensure a child is vaccinated, or that they have exemption.

Health experts have warned of increasing instances of whooping cough across the state, which they attribute to low immunisation rates. A recent report found that in the far north coast town of Mullumbimby, less than half of young children were fully immunised. <http://tiny.cc/sbr5yw>

Magistrate: you have right to freedom in cars

A Melbourne magistrate has ruled that police cannot pull over vehicles without a reason in a case that has reignited questions of racial profiling by law enforcement, and one which will call into question similar powers in other states and territories.

Police have long relied on section 59 of the Victorian Road Safety Act to stop motorists at random to check licences, registration and for outstanding warrants. Section 59 states that a driver is required to stop their car, produce their licence for inspection and state their name and address "if requested or signalled to do so by a member of the police force".

But the magistrate, Duncan Reynolds, ruled last month that the law did not give police "an unfettered right to stop or detain a person and seek identification details".

Magnus Kaba, 21, from the Ivory Coast, was a passenger in a car stopped by police in the of Melbourne suburb Ascot Vale in April 2012 as part of a random routine intercept. Mr Kaba has been charged with a number of offences including assault after an altercation when one of the police officers asked to search the car.

Mr Reynolds ruled that the evidence of the police officers was inadmissible because it had been unlawful to stop the car without cause. "Their conduct, in my opinion, unjustifiably breached the right to freedom of movement for Kaba and the driver," he said. <http://tiny.cc/g6x3yw>

Will it be called 'jail', or 'ail'?

Ararat Council in western Victoria wants to house Australia's first purpose-built jail for old people.

The council says the prison would cater for inmates over 65 and could bring 200 jobs to the town. Chief executive Andrew Evans says prisons are not equipped to deal with elderly inmates. "What better than a facility that is right next door to a large regional hospital?" he said.

Ararat is already home to Hopkins Correctional Centre (right), otherwise known as Ararat Jail. <http://tiny.cc/ndr5yw>

Qld Minister's move to create vigilantes

Queensland is considering emailing photos of sex offenders to residents who live nearby.

Parents could also obtain background checks of people who have regular, unsupervised contact with their children, according to Police Minister Jack Dempsey. He is considering similar laws to WA, which allow residents to ask for and receive information about sex offenders.

There are apparently 129 offenders subject to orders under the Qld Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. It's understood the Queensland government is only considering releasing the details of those offenders, and not the 4000 sex offenders living in Queensland and listed on the Australian National Child Offender Register. <http://tiny.cc/eok7yw>

Police Minister Dempsey is apparently unaware of the Qld Govt's own Corrective Services website [Fact Sheet](#) of January 2009 (accessed 1030 hours 130625) which says, in relation to publicly-available sex offender websites in America:

"Vigilantism offences have been evident in the US where, for example, murders of registered sex offenders took place in Washington State in August 2005 and in Maine in April 2006. These offences resulted in the the Maine Sex Offender Registry Website being dismantled."

Get kids out of jails, Mitchell tells Qld

National Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell has condemned Queensland's policy of sending 17-year-old offenders to adult prisons.

She says Queensland is the only jurisdiction that sends juveniles to adult correctional facilities. (WA has been doing it as a temporary measure, until this month).

"Sending 17-year-olds to adult prisons is actually a contravention of Australia's obligations under the Convention for the Rights of the Child," she said. "Children have particular developmental needs and requirements and need to be treated differently than adults and that includes 17-year-olds."

Ms Mitchell has called for a rethink on government spending to tackle the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the child protection and juvenile justice systems. <http://tiny.cc/dkxeyw>

Firearms: no confidence in the numbers

WA Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan (right) has announced a gun amnesty in response to Auditor General Colin Murphy concerns about the management of firearms in WA.



In a report to Parliament, Murphy highlighted significant concerns with the WA Police Firearms Management System, particularly the firearms register and its supporting systems.

"As a result of our findings, we have no confidence in the accuracy of basic information on the number of people licensed to possess firearms or the number of licensed or unlicensed firearms in WA," Mr Murphy said. [WA Police are] unable to effectively manage firearms licensing and regulation in WA."

Commissioner O'Callaghan said issues raised in Mr Murphy's report were linked with difficulties with the existing firearms registry. Funding was now available for a new database system. Police believe there are 81,711 firearm license holders and 270,392 licensed firearms in WA. <http://tiny.cc/xq0czw>

Retiring MP-doctor calls for decriminalisation

The Member for Moore, Dr Mal Washer, called for change to drug laws in his valedictory speech:

"One of the causes I have been most passionate about is the issue of the use of illicit drugs and its treatment as a criminal offence. Whilst the popular refrain 'tough on drugs' is an easy phrase, the issues are much more complex and need sensitive consideration in line with mental health and social welfare issues.

"As chair of the Australian Parliamentary Group on Drug Law Reform I have lobbied governments and oppositions around the country to change the laws. We have also lobbied to have a reference to the Productivity Commission to consider the true cost to the Australian community of the current policies on the use of illicit drugs, thus enabling us to compare the cost of law enforcement versus harm reduction and prevention.

"The use of some illicit drugs needs to be decriminalised. The use of some should change. We are losing too many of our young people because they are seen as criminals and, as a result, do not seek medical help. They are convicted of drug crimes rather than being helped with underlying causes. This impacts on their future options to be fully participating members of our society.

"I have been particularly concerned with the high rate of incarceration of Indigenous users, who are not helped but damaged by our current policies, Dr Washer told parliament. <http://tiny.cc/6hwyw>

Australian briefs

Parke heads parliamentary drug law reform: Melissa Parke (Labor, Fremantle WA) is the new chair of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform. She was elected at the group's AGM for 2013 in Parliament House last month. Parke takes over from Dr Mal Washer (Liberal, Moore WA – see above). CLA hopes Ms Parke is not "retiring" also from the tight seat of Fremantle, as she brings a strong background in civil liberties, human rights work with the UN and community legal services to the table. She was elected to the seat in 2007, and re-elected in 2010.

Unions forced into ballots: The Queensland Government has introduced laws forcing unions to ballot members before they spend money on political campaigns. The laws also reduce unions' access to public servants and blocks them from using government resources. Stricter reporting and disclosure are now required for unions and industry groups. <http://tiny.cc/kqxeyw>

(B)locked from driving: The worst drink-drivers will be curtailed lock, stock and barrel by a new law in the ACT. They will have to pass a self-administered breath test before getting behind the wheel. If convicted of high-range drink-driving or caught more than three times, ACTarians will have to pay about \$1000 for an ignition locking device that includes a breath testing unit. Like elsewhere in Australia, they won't be able to start their cars unless they blow a zero blood alcohol reading. <http://tiny.cc/kg59xw>

Another stolen generation? Current government policy is to remove Aboriginal children into non-Aboriginal families, which contravenes the aims of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CLA member Pat Varga reports. The numbers removed from their families and into out-of-home care continues to double every 10 years in Australia. At 30 June 2012, there were 39,621 children in out-of-home care, 13,299 (or 34%) were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Indigenous people make up less than 3% of the Australian population.

Give the people bread and circuses: Brisbane workers will get an extra public holiday on 14 Nov 2014 because of the G20 leaders' summit. The State Government has announced the day off to "reduce disruptions". The holiday is only available to people working in Brisbane, based on where you work and not where you live. Basically, with a number of no-go areas to be proclaimed, authorities are again locking the people out of their own city. <http://tiny.cc/m40fyw>

Cigs get locked out of jail: Northern Territory prisons have banned smoking by prisoners from this month. Correctional Services Minister John Elferink says the Territory is the first jurisdiction in Australia to completely ban tobacco products from its prison system. <http://tiny.cc/xn73yw>

Tassie crime calls up: Is Tasmania becoming more criminal? Crime Stoppers Tasmania logged a 36.5% increase in calls on the previous year after a crime-solving drive concentrating on arson, rooms growing marijuana in residential properties, and motor vehicle theft. The organisation says people should program its number – 1800 333 000 – into their phones.

CLA report – for June 2013

CEO of Civil Liberties Australia, Bill Rowlings, was awarded an OAM in the June honours list for "services to civil liberties and human rights".

President Dr Kristine Klugman represented CLA at 2013 NGOs' forum: DFAT and AGs – see report CLA website.

Meetings:

Senator Penny Wright – right to appeal legislation
James Robertson, forensic pathologist re Yacht No Body case in Hobart

Arved von Brasch re censorship
Phylli Ives with Keith McEwan
Herschel Hurst, law reform
Benjamin Pynt, refugee law reform

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Forums attended:

- Friends and Family Drug Law Reform
- Institute of Public Affairs 70th anniversary function, Parliament House
- Drug Law Reform week meetings
- Parliament's Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives: Round Table on Australia's Constitution: CLA question (Jeff Miles) re section 59 was raised and discussed: agreed that a number of sections needed 'cleaning up'.

Interviews by email: (History civil liberties in Tasmania), John and Dr Susan Lamp, Charles Wooley, Prof Derek Roebuck

Media

National:

- FAQ on Saturday Detention in Public Schools - comment for school student.
- *Global Mail* - comment on wiretapping and interception orders
- *Computerworld* - comment on PRISM and impacts on individuals and business. Available here: https://www.computerworld.com.au/article/464445/prism_revives_data_sovereignty_arguments_australia/
- Our comment on the Xboxes surveillance capabilities (made before the PRISM scandal broke) featured on the front page of Reddit briefly. Reddit is a popular site self-styled as the 'Front Page of the Internet' and stories are 'up voted' by members of the public.



Tasmania:

- 1000 word opinion piece by CLA Director, Tasmania, Richard Griggs, published in the Hobart Mercury setting out key principles of freedom and using the 2013 drugs in sport saga as an example (above).

Submissions:

- Privacy Amendment (Privacy Alerts) Bill 2013 - available at http://www.cla.asn.au/Submissions/2013/privacy_amendment_bill.pdf
- Inquiry into the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Bill 2013. To see why we made a submission see: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2235982>

Gene Patents Campaign:

- Ongoing updates to our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/freegenes>) and Twitter Account (<https://www.twitter.com/freegenes>)
- Academic article published in *Journal of Law and Medicine* (see a copy here - <http://bit.ly/19NGxHy>)

Civil Liberties Australia's contribution to the Gene Patents Campaign was commended by Fremantle Labor MP Melissa Parke in Parliament last month. See <http://www.cla.asn.au/index.php/articles/new-patent-law-helps-to>

INTERNATIONAL

US Supreme Court blesses gay marriage

As a result of two US Supreme Court judgements last month:

- Any same-sex marriage must be recognised as a 'marriage' by the US Government.
- Whether a US state allows same-sex marriage is a question for that state to address. There is, however, no general 'constitutional right' to marriage for same-sex couples.
- Same-sex marriage remains legal in those states which have allowed it. It is doubtful that, having granted it, a state could subsequently withdraw the right.
- That said, a same-sex couple married in a pro-gay marriage state (eg New York) may not have their marriage recognised in another, anti-gay marriage state.

This last point is because the part of the *Deference of Marriage Act* that allowed States to ignore same-sex marriages solemnised in other states was not challenged in the Supreme Court. So it remains valid (for now). <http://tiny.cc/pv9azw>
– summary by Tim Vines

Google wins 'right to remember forever'

Google won when the European Union's highest court received a recommendation last month to strike down a Spanish regulator's demand that the search engine grant citizens abroad digital "right to be forgotten".

The right would include being able to delete arrest records and negative publicity from Google's online search results.

An expert opinion requested by the European Court of Justice recommended that Google not be required to expunge all links to a 15-year-old legal notice published in a Barcelona newspaper documenting a man's failure to pay back taxes.

The recommendation of the court's advocate general, Niilo Jaaskinen, who acted as an official fact-finder for the panel, could inform the debate in the European Parliament over updating Europe's 1995 data protection law.

A proposal before the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, the European Union's upper legislative chamber, would give residents of the 27-nation bloc broader control over display of personal information, including the digital "right to be forgotten." <http://tiny.cc/2ybbzw>

Security toys may be 'turned' as double agents

A US security expert says he has identified ways to remotely attack high-end surveillance cameras used by industrial plants, prisons, banks and the military, something that could potentially allow hackers to spy on facilities or gain access to sensitive computer networks.

Craig Heffner, a former software developer with the National Security Agency (NSA) who now works for a private security firm, said he discovered the previously unreported bugs in digital video surveillance equipment from firms including Cisco, D-Link and TRENDnet.

They could use it as a pivot point, an initial foothold, to get into the network and start attacking internal systems.

Heffner plans to demonstrate techniques for exploiting these bugs at the Black Hat hacking conference, which starts on July 31 in Las Vegas.

In 2011, the \$7 million security camera system at Parliament House in Canberra was found to have "critical" security

deficiencies that left the building vulnerable to attack, according to a whistleblower's report. <http://tiny.cc/we1uyw>

You can't spy on people in the USA

Comment on a blog site:

At a press conference to discuss the accusations, a National Security Agency spokesman surprised observers by announcing the spying charges against whistleblower Edward Snowden with a totally straight face.

"These charges send a clear message," he said. "In the United States, you can't spy on people." Seemingly not kidding, he then discussed another charge against Mr Snowden – theft of government documents: "The American people have the right to assume that their private documents will remain private and won't be collected by someone in the government for his own purposes."

And, if you like the comments above, the website *techdirt* also has an interesting video mash-up of Obama comments, interspersing his comments BEFORE becoming President with comments AFTER inauguration: <http://tiny.cc/7ux3yw>

UK spooks may bypass the law, Davis claims

Britain's intelligence agencies are only subject to the law "in theory", raising the prospect of an "extremely serious violation" of the rights of British citizens over the use of personal data, the former Tory leadership contender David Davis has warned.

Davis accuses the GCHQ* eavesdropping centre of circumventing "inconvenient laws" in Britain by handing over personal information to the US that is examined "at will" by its security services.

The former shadow Home Secretary, who triggered a parliamentary by-election on the issue of civil liberties in 2008, issues his warning in his first newspaper article about Britain's intelligence agencies since Edward Snowden leaked details of the Prism program to *The Guardian*.

Davis writes: "As the Prism controversy has exposed, there is nothing to stop GCHQ from handing over our personal information to US security services so they can pick through it at will. What is more, they appear to have been doing so on a large scale. Like Google sending its money offshore to avoid taxes, our intelligence agencies can send our personal data abroad to get around inconvenient laws at home." <http://tiny.cc/e8e9yw>

* UK Government Communications Head Quarters

'Snooper's charter' only a May-be

The world's five biggest internet companies, including Google and Facebook, have privately delivered a thinly veiled warning to the British Home Secretary, Theresa May, that they will not voluntarily co-operate with a proposed "snooper's charter".

In a leaked letter also signed by Twitter, Microsoft and Yahoo!, the web's "big five" say that May's rewritten proposals to track everybody's email, internet and social media use remain "expensive to implement and highly contentious".

The private letter is part of a series of continuing confidential discussions between the industry and the Home Office, Alan Travis of *The Guardian* reports. The letter says that May's "core premise" to create a new retention order requiring overseas internet companies to store the personal data of all their British-based users for up to 12 months has "potentially seriously harmful consequences".

The leading US-based internet players have also told the home secretary that her proposed \$2.8 billion communications data plan puts at risk Britain's position as a leading digital nation and jeopardises the UK's leading role in promoting freedom of expression on the internet around the world. <http://tiny.cc/vtexxw>

Torture committee hauls UK over the coals

The British government's human rights record since 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq is facing stinging criticism from a UN panel, which warned last month that prompt action is needed to ensure the country meets its obligations under international law.

The UN Committee against Torture is recommending more than 40 separate measures to be taken before the UK gets a clean bill of health.

While the committee has focused on the failure to hold to account those responsible for human rights abuses in the so-called war on terror, and for the mistreatment of prisoners in Iraq, it also raises other serious concerns, among them:

- cease reliance on "unreliable and ineffective" diplomatic assurances when seeking to deport people to countries where they risk being tortured;
- consider halting the deportation of failed asylum seekers to Sri Lanka; and
- ensure that police officers fire stun gun weapons only when "there is a real and immediate threat to life or risk of serious injury".

Press agency slams US 'Justice' Dept

Associated Press president Gary Pruitt has slammed the US Department of Justice for acting as "judge, jury and executioner" in the seizure of the news organization's phone records and he said some of the wire service's longtime sources have clammed up in fear.

Pruitt said the department broke its own rules with the seizure, which was too broad, and failed to give *AP* notice of the subpoena. Pruitt questioned the DoJ's actions concerning the subpoena — had the DoJ come to the news organization in advance, "we could have helped them narrow the scope of the subpoena" or a court could have decided, he said.

"There was never that opportunity," Pruitt said during a speech at the National Press Club in Washington. "Instead the DoJ acted as judge, jury and executioner in private, in secret."

AP reported in May that the Department of Justice had secretly obtained records that listed incoming and outgoing calls in April and May of 2012 and the duration of those calls for work and personal phone numbers of *AP* reporters and phone lines for *AP* offices in New York, Hartford, Conn., and Washington. The seizure also included the main number for *AP* reporters in the House of Representatives press gallery. <http://tiny.cc/ljw3yw>

Dotcom aided by courts in extradition battle

A New Zealand court has granted Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom access to all evidence seized by police in a 2012 raid, helping his fight against extradition to the US over online piracy charges.

Repeating its decision that warrants used in the raid on Dotcom's home were illegal, the NZ High Court ruled that police must provide copies of evidence considered relevant to the US investigation. These include materials forwarded to the FBI. Any evidence seized in the raid, including computers,

hard drives, files, and other materials deemed irrelevant must be returned to Dotcom.

An extradition hearing is scheduled for August, but may be delayed due to separate cases linked to another court ruling that unlawful warrants were used in the police raid. <http://tiny.cc/aobyxw>

International briefs

Governments sign treaty to control trade in conventional weapons:

UN states have voted 154 to 3, with 23 abstentions, to control a trade worth an estimated \$73bn annually. Syria, Iran and North Korea blocked the treaty's adoption by consensus, and Russia and China were among countries which abstained. The treaty will regulate sales of battle tanks, large-calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships and small arms and light weapons. It requires nations to establish national regulations to control the transfer of conventional arms, regulate arms brokers, and assess the risks of weapons being used in human rights violations. <http://tiny.cc/2bd3xw>



FBI makes phoney claims of accuracy:

US District Judge Joan H. Lefkow of Chicago ruled police claims about the accuracy of cell (mobile) phone tracking is wanting. The judge wrote that "multiple factors can affect the signal strength of a tower" and an FBI special agent's "chosen methodology has received no scrutiny

outside the law enforcement community." Edward J. Imwinkelried, a law professor at U. California at Davis, who co-authored a treatise on scientific evidence, says cell tower records are not completely worthless but, in some areas, a caller could have been anywhere within a 420-square-mile (110,000ha) vicinity of a particular tower, he said. <http://tiny.cc/ake5xw>

'Golden Thread of British Justice' unravels:

The UK Ministry of Justice plans to put up the cost of judicial reviews steeply, slash lawyers' fees and award criminal legal aid contracts through competitive tendering, aiming to cut \$350m out of the annual legal aid bill of \$3.3 billion. Defendants on legal aid will no longer be able to choose their solicitor. The Bar Council says the government risks "damaging the British justice system, which is renowned worldwide for fairness and impartiality". <http://tiny.cc/77o5xw>

Lords keep same-sex options open:

Peers from across the House of Lords last month overwhelmingly defeated an attempt to kill the parliamentary bill equalising marriage. Campaigners for same-sex marriage hailed the result after a wrecking amendment, tabled by the former West Midlands chief constable, Lord Dear, was defeated by 390 to 148 votes, a majority of 242. The bill now moves to line-by-line examination at its committee stage in the Lords. <http://tiny.cc/okk7xw>

UK health system kills people – Minister: Eight patients a day – 3000 a year – die in the UK because of lapses in safety in the National Health System, where errors are so common that people have become conditioned to the thought of patient harm, the British health secretary Jeremy Hunt said last month. Patients whose safety was compromised while

receiving care represented a tiny proportion of all those treated, he said, but still about 500,000 patients were harmed and 3,000 died each year as a direct result of safety failings. <http://tiny.cc/2c70yw>

Pop musicians fail patriotism test: Five pop acts in Uzbekistan have been banned from performing live for failing to sing songs that "praise the motherland". The performers had their licenses revoked by the national culture agency, UzbeKnavo, because their songs were deemed "meaningless from musical and lyrical standpoints" and "lack artistic value", according to a report by the Russian news agency *RIA-Novosti*. "Their songs do not conform to our nation's cultural traditions, they contradict our moral heritage and mentality," said the UzbeKnavo. "We should not forget about our duty to praise our motherland, our people and their happiness." Seven other acts were warned and given until 1 July to "eliminate creative shortcomings". <http://tiny.cc/ww70yw>

Prison website certainly not Taylor-made: CLA's favorite NZ prisoner, Arthur Taylor, has posed a new question: How do you write a webpage headed "Human Rights in New Zealand prisons" and make no mention at all of the NZ Bill of Rights Act and the Human Rights Act? Incredibly, on 1 June 2013 New Zealand's Corrections Dept managed to do so, he says. <http://tiny.cc/q4g4yw>

Long speech saves abortion rights: A controversial abortion bill was defeated after a day of political drama in Texas last month that began with a marathon filibuster speech and ended with a raucous public protest that derailed a vote in the state legislature. Democrats led by Senator Wendy Davis staged a procedural filibuster to block a bill that would have severely restricted abortion in the state. Davis launched into a speech that would last for 10 hours and 45 minutes. David Dewhurst, the Texas lieutenant governor, finally conceded defeat, saying he had missed the midnight deadline to sign the bill. <http://tiny.cc/l1eazw>

MI5: guardian of civil liberties: Senior figures inside British intelligence have been alarmed by GCHQ's secret decision to tap into transatlantic cables in order to engage in the bulk interception of phone calls and internet traffic. According to a source directly involved in GCHQ operations, concerns were expressed when the project was being discussed internally in 2008: "We felt we were starting to overstep the mark with some of it. People from MI5 were complaining that they were going too far from a civil liberties perspective ... We all had reservations about it, because we all thought: 'If this was used against us, we wouldn't stand a chance'." <http://tiny.cc/7p75yw>

Army manoeuvres: The US Army blocked access from America to *The Guardian's* UK website late in June. *The Guardian* broke the PRISM-Snowden story earlier in the month. In 2010, the US Army blocked access to the *New York Times* over WikiLeaks. <http://tiny.cc/fozdzw>

DATES

4 July, Canberra: 2013 Kirby lecture on international law: Prof. Gillian Triggs, president of the A. Human Rights Commission, 6.30, Finkel Theatre, John Curtin SMR building,. RSVP by COB 26 June to svp@law.anu.edu.au Info: http://law.anu.edu.au/sites/all/files/events/kirby_lecture_2013.pdf

4-6 July, Canberra: 21st Annual Conference of the the ANZ Society of International Law: details <http://tiny.cc/xk5txw>

19 July, Sydney: ASIO's Absurd Powers: Why campaign for reform needs to succeed: Stephen Blanks, Secretary, NSW Ccl for Civil Liberties; Nicola McGarrity, Lecturer, Law UNSW. 6-7.45pm, Gaelic Club, 164 Devonshire St, Surry Hills.

25 July, Melbourne: 2013 Rare Books Public Lecture: *'The Book Theft Century: A Lament'* by Associate Professor Travis McDade, 6.30-7.30pm, Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham St Carlton. Email: law-events@unimelb.edu.au or phone 03 9035 1111. Flyer: <http://tiny.cc/8e4fww>

27 July, Sydney: Sydney Launch of the National Stop Deaths in Custody Coalition, Saturday July 27 2013, at 3:30pm, at The Settlement, 17 Edward St Darlington, organised by the Indigenous Social Justice Association, Raul Bassi 04003 037 376 or isja01@inernode.on.net

5-6 Aug, Canberra: Cyberwar, Cybercrime and Cyberdefence: Mapping the Ethical Terrain Workshop. Info: Shannon Ford E: shford@scu.edu.au

8 Aug, Canberra: Private Intelligence Symposium, organised by CEPS. Details: Kate O'Donnell k.odonnell@griffith.edu.au Civil Liberties Australia will be a key speaker.

25-28 August, Adelaide: 8th Australian Women and Policing Conference. Details: conference@acwap.com.au Info: <http://www.acwap.com.au>

11 Sept, Melbourne: The Security Council: Dr Devika Hovell, London School of Economics, at Melbourne Law School, 12.45-2pm. Details: <http://tiny.cc/ym4fww> or Vesna Stefanovski, (03) 8344 6589 or vesnas@unimelb.edu.au

1-3 Oct, Brisbane: 26th ANZ Society of Criminology conference, Convention Centre. Details: <http://tiny.cc/vvsaww> Email: anzsoc2013@griffith.edu.au

9 Oct, Parramatta: Space, Technology and the Challenges for International Humanitarian Law, Prof Steven Freeland, 11.30-12.30, Moot Court, Bldg EO, Parramatta Campus UWS. Details: Cathy McFall c.mcfall@uws.edu.au or 02 9685 9576

11-12 Oct, Melbourne: Democracy and Human Rights: Past Their Use-By Dates? Melbourne Law School, Friday PM/ Saturday AM. Contact Jean Goh law-cccs@unimelb.edu.au

3 Dec, Melbourne: Atmosphere of the Lawscape: Bodies, Space, Justice: Professor Andreas Phiipopoulos-Mihalopoulos (right), Director of the Westminster Centre for International Law and Legal Theory and a Prof of Law and Theory at U. Westminster in London. 6-7.30pm, Theatre G08, Melbourne Law School, Carlton. Details: Vesna Stefanovski law-iilah@unimelb.edu.au

5-8 Dec, Canberra: Law, Literature and Humanities Assn of Australasia conference, Hedley Bull Centre, ANU. Rego: <http://law.anu.edu.au/conferences/registration-rates>

11-13 Dec, Parramatta, Sydney: Trans-Tasman Domestic Violence Conference, Rydges Parramatta Hotel, website: <http://www.gcadv.net/2013dvconference.htm> Call for papers (first closing 30 Oct 2012) or details and registration form, email: chairman@gcadv.net

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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