

## Will Abbott government and AG Brandis rise to the challenge?

It's a very simple challenge: ensure Australians don't have fewer civil liberties and human rights in 2016 than we have in 2013.

That's the challenge Civil Liberties Australia poses for the first term of the Abbott government.

George Brandis, the Attorney-General, has made bold statements – <http://tiny.cc/pvn53w>

*"I represent the only political party in the Australian Parliament which was brought into being for the very purpose of advancing and protecting the rights of the individual," he wrote.*

*"A Coalition Government will defend freedom of speech and expression..."*

*And we will review the Commonwealth statutes to identify – and we will then, where appropriate repeal – those numerous instances were traditional procedural rights, such as the presumption of innocence, the privilege against self-incrimination, and legal professional privilege, have been attenuated or abrogated entirely."*

By George, if only!

There's the challenge for AG Brandis. Live up to your own words.

Ensure Australians are better off when this parliament ends – in terms of liberties and rights – than when it starts.

Neither Prime Minister Abbott nor AG Brandis should look to the example of the Howard Coalition government for how to treat liberties and rights.

The Howard government trashed freedoms in the face of fear, it's own, not the Australian people's. Never has Australia had a more cowardly government, or one which stripped away so many fundamental Australian liberties and rights, all in the name of terrorism.

If AG Brandis is as good as his word, we can look forward to a wholesale review of "the Commonwealth statutes".

By George, bring it on!

CLA welcomes the chance to help rewrite Australian law, from tax to terrorism, based on principles of the inherent rights and liberties of the Australian people, rather than introducing laws which allow terrorists to win by restricting the liberties of the individual.

Australians are not nearly as cowardly as their governments have been over the past decade.

## Coalition gets off to an awful start

Based on the promises of AG Brandis on behalf of the government, the Coalition has got off to an awful start.

Senator Richard Colbeck of Tasmania managed to dominate the island media with his threats to close down free speech in a new Competition and Consumer Act.

CLA wrote – <http://www.cla.asn.au/News/standing-up-for-right-to-boycott/> – to the good Senator, reminding him that

free speech trumps the corporate demands of commercial entities. We copied the letter to AG Brandis.

In these early days of the Abbott government, we ask CLA members to be specially alert to unbridled excesses of enthusiastic ministers and juniors, like Colbeck.

Please let us know immediately if you spot some kite flying disguised as possible changes to our laws affecting Australian liberties and rights.

## Oz's aid floats off in wrong directions

Writing about the West Papua freedom flotilla last month, Shirley Shackleton said Australia's aid was skewed against our own interests.

"Perhaps the brave souls manning the flotilla are aware that Australian foreign aid to Indonesia is \$647 Million – a 350% increase over seven years. Australia also provides military and other hardware above this amount," she wrote in *New Matilda*. "Indonesia's expenditure on military is \$8 billion – a 300% increase over the same seven years.

"Australia gives more foreign aid to Indonesia than the whole of Africa and the Middle East combined. Australia's aid to Indonesia has increased while aid in all other areas including Pacific neighbours has been cut.

"In other words, Australian taxpayer dollars could be helping to finance the purchase of Apache attack helicopters for the Indonesian military – the same military that is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths in occupied West Papua," she wrote.

Shackleton is a veteran activist for East Timor and widow of Greg Shackleton, one of the five journalists killed in Balibo in 1975. She is a Walkley award winner and a recipient of the Order of Timor-Leste. <http://tiny.cc/9hwt2w>

## Big banks give privacy the brush-off

The financial regulator has brushed aside recommendations to remind banks of their privacy obligations when lenders are sending customers' personal data overseas.

In a guidance note last month, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority urged companies to take a "cautious and measured" approach to managing data when offshoring.

But the Australian Privacy Commissioner, Timothy Pilgrim, recommended APRA should draw banks' attention to their obligations under the Privacy Act.

After a wave of offshoring in financial services, privacy has emerged as a key flashpoint, causing some state government agencies to restrict what information can be stored overseas.

Mr Pilgrim says the regulator should refer to the national privacy principles, which are federal rules that restrict how big businesses handle personal information.

They require companies to follow domestic rules when they transfer data overseas, and serious breaches can result in multimillion-dollar fines.

But APRA's guidance note to banks – which is intended to identify potential problem areas – did not mention either "privacy" or "personal information."

Instead, it focused on potential risks to the financial system from data management, Clancy Yeates wrote. <http://tiny.cc/pq0u2w>

## Serco, G4S mandatory reports don't exist

Widespread failures by global security companies Serco and G4S to report on Australia's detention centres are raising



concerns about whether the quality of care provided to asylum seekers is being accurately monitored by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Immi).

A freedom of information (FOI) investigation by *Guardian Australia* has revealed that key reports from Serco and G4S, the companies that run detention centres on Australia's mainland, and the regional processing centre on Manus Island, do not exist.

The scale of the failures has never been publicly reported before, and exposes major gaps in reporting by both companies as well as Immi's oversight of the centres.

There are no "joint performance reports" from the Manus Island processing facility from February to June 2013, according to a letter from Immi, responding to FOI requests for the documents.

The reports were intended to monitor the welfare, care, security, health and medical, counselling and education of detainees, according to the performance management framework for the Manus facility, released under a further FOI request. <http://tiny.cc/v2x53w>

See [International](#), below: **Serco, G4S under investigation for over-charging UK**

## Fear stalks corridors of Queensland parliament

The *G20 Safety and Security Bill* in the Queensland Parliament will allow police to arrest and detain anyone deemed a threat without giving them bail for the week of the G20 summit.

*In Canada in 2010, the G20 sparked public protest.*

*Tomasz Bugajski photo*



Police will search people on the spot and publicly broadcast the names and photos of people listed who are "prohibited" from the city. As well as obvious weapons, many other items will be prohibited in the secure zone including glass bottles or jars, reptiles, metal cans or tins, hand tools, handcuffs, surf-skis or surfboards and banners bigger than 1m x 2m.

Police will also be allowed to publish the names and photographs of anyone they decide should be prohibited from entering the secured inner-city zone.

Armed troops will also be deployed around the city.

The bill is to be debated in October 2013. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is obliged to report by Tuesday 22 Oct. Under the Bill, the powers could come into effect from the third week of February 2014...even though the event is not until November 2014.

Once again, fear is being used as a tool to inflict draconian laws on individual Australians.

Tens of thousands of homes and businesses in Brisbane will be enclosed inside the security perimeter during mid-November next year. <http://tinyurl.com/ncks63s>

NOTE: Sydney will host a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors from 21-23 February 2014.

## High Court judges take to the small screen

The High Court of Australia is entering the *YouTube* world: from today (1 Oct 2013), video recordings of its hearings are available online.

The recordings will cover all full court hearings heard in Canberra, other than applications for special leave, taking the judges into the world of video and online entertainment.

The HC website already covers case management timelines, written submissions, transcripts of oral arguments, judgments and judgment summaries (see <http://www.hcourt.gov.au/cases/current-cases-submissions> and <http://www.hcourt.gov.au/cases/cases-heard>). Its alert systems, covering judgments, case summaries, judgment summaries and publications, has 20,000 subscribers.

– media release: Ben Wickham [bwickham@hcourt.gov.au](mailto:bwickham@hcourt.gov.au)

## Religious boy loses bid to refuse treatment

A Sydney teenager has lost his court appeal to refuse a potentially life-saving blood transfusion treatment because he is a Jehovah's Witness.

The 17-year-old cancer victim, known as X, appealed against a NSW Supreme Court order that staff at Sydney Children's Hospital should be allowed to give him the treatment.

He told his doctors he would rip the IV out of his arm if forced to have the transfusion, which he believes is akin to being raped. X is suffering from Hodgkin's disease and his doctors believe he has an 80% chance of dying from anaemia if he does not receive the treatment.

In March, Justice Ian Gzell ordered the hospital be allowed to carry out the treatment on the boy, who immediately appealed. Three Court of Appeal judges have now confirmed the decision.

The boy turns 18 on 18 January 2014, when he will be able to exercise his right as an adult to refuse further treatment. <http://tinyurl.com/ll2fr4u>

## Police-CCC fight: justice loses

The justice system in WA is dysfunctional because two upholders of the law are at open loggerheads, with the parliament forced to act as referee.

The relationship between the WA Police and the Corruption and Crime Commission resembles a prize fight.

It is extraordinary that 25% of the the WA Parliament's committee reports tendered so far this year have been on the CCC, mostly concerning police-CMC imbroglios. There have been 20 parliamentary committee reports to mid-September, five are on the CMC.

"The two agencies are at odds over core aspects of electronic reporting, internal investigation and oversight of misconduct within the police," Nick Goiran MLC reported to the parliament last month.

"The tensions between the two are stalling investigations into police officers who have been accused of misconduct," according to award winning journalist Gerry Georgatos. <http://tinyurl.com/muy7z55>

"The unresolved tensions between the two crime-fighting bodies has reached an impasse that required a parliamentary Joint Standing Committee to get involved.

"The Committee delivered the Corruption and Crime Commission report and stung several rebukes to the Commissioners of the WA Police and to the CCC.

"At the centre of the dispute is the internal affairs investigation management system of the WA's Police.

"Despite the CCC having access to electronic reports since 2007, as part of its overseer function to check misconduct, the CCC complained that there are reports it cannot access because they have been secured, hence encrypted," Georgatos (right) says.



"The CCC Parliamentary Inspector, retired Supreme Court Justice Michael Murray investigated the issue on behalf of the standing committee.

"The previous CCC Parliamentary Inspector and the CCC were often at loggerheads. Mr Murray found that 'the two agencies are at odds over core aspects of the electronic reporting'."

– sources include WA Parliament reports for the year to 23 Sept 2013: <http://tiny.cc/epiq3w>

### State chooses SAS man to control prisons

WA has appointed former SAS regiment commander James McMahon as its new Commissioner of Corrective Services.

The portfolio, under corrective services minister Joe Francis, is troubled after January's riot at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre.

Mr McMahon has recently worked in financial services after ending a 24-year army career in 2007. He served in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, and won the DSM and DSC, as well as receiving the Sword of Honour and Governor General's Medal. He is a West Coast Eagles board member.

Minister Francis has pledged to reform WA corrective services – he and Mr McMahon might start with an active strategy and plan to reduce the massively excessive numbers of Aborigines – particularly juveniles – in WA prisons.. <http://tinyurl.com/pve7h6k>

### Rayney acquitted...twice

Lloyd Rayney has been re-acquitted of murdering his wife Corryn in 2007 after an appeal by the State of WA against his Supreme Court acquittal in 2012.

Three judges were imported to WA to re-consider the case against the prominent WA barrister. Sitting as the WA Court of Appeal, they dismissed the State of WA's attempt to re-try Mr Rayney.

Many in the legal fraternity were shocked when the NSW Department of Public Prosecutions (on behalf of the State of WA) launched an appeal at the 11th hour, *WA Today's* Aleisha Orr reported.

The initial murder trial cost taxpayers more than \$2 million, ran for more than three months and attracted unprecedented public attention.

The appeal and associated activity probably cost at least an extra \$1m, CLA believes.

Mr Rayney's defamation suit, filed against the state of WA in January 2013, can now be dealt with.

He launched defamation proceedings in September 2008 after Senior Sergeant Jack Lee – the man leading the murder investigation into his wife Corryn's death – branded him the investigation's "prime" and "only" "suspect. <http://tinyurl.com/p8da4ry>

## NSW Police special:

*There seems be numerous moves afoot in NSW to further remove, curtail or overturn civil liberties...*

### Police get new arbitrary stop-search powers

NSW police may gain unfettered power to stop and search people, cars and workplaces without a warrant.

The police-state laws before the NSW Parliament would apply to people banned from owning guns.

At present, police need reasonable suspicion and a judge's signature before searching for guns. Under the changes, police will be able to search without a warrant, even if there is no cause for suspicion, Premier Barry O'Farrell said.



"There's a clear need for law enforcement agencies to have sufficient powers to deal with people who have a record of abuse of weapons," CLA member Prof Roger Clarke (left) said. "There's also a clear need for controls on law enforcement agencies.

"The standard means for balancing powers against rights are judicial warrants, and authorisation of interventions based on reasonable grounds for suspicion of a criminal offence.

"Measures such as 'self-issued warrants' and open-ended authorisations give rise to arbitrary stop, search and seizure powers. Under no circumstances should arbitrary powers be granted to law enforcement agencies.

"We should work out what refinements are needed to the process and the scope or definition of judicial warrants in the case of outbreaks of gun crime...but the judicial warrants should remain," said Prof Clarke, who is chair of the Australian Privacy Foundation. <http://tinyurl.com/nrtna53>

### Police get new powers to random search

The NSW Government is also moving to tighten controls on convicted sex offenders.

Under proposed changes to the Child Protection Act, police will gain new powers to carry out random searches of sex offenders' homes and computers.

The changes will also limit where a registered sex offender can work and ramp up penalties for people who break the rules. <http://tinyurl.com/lb9w5rf>

### New powers to ban people not found guilty

Civil liberties in NSW took another blow when it was revealed police will banish scores of bikie gang members and 'career criminals' from pubs and nightclubs using new ID scanning powers aimed at curbing alcohol-related violence.

Police will be able to prohibit people from entering large hotels in Kings Cross for up to a year. The orders will be enforced with linked identification scanners installed in hotels, which will contain the details of anyone who has been banned.

Yet again, an Australian government is selecting one community group to become a pariah, in this case the already-vilified bikies.

If there are 'career criminals' – including bikies – known to police, why are they not charged, convicted and behind bars? Why are police so apparently incompetent that they can "know" someone is a career criminal...but can't do anything about it?

The *SMH* reported last month that, under the legislation, a long-term banning order may be issued against anyone who "has been charged with, or found guilty of, a serious indictable offence involving alcohol-related violence".

The legislation states that an order can be made "whether or not the offence was committed in the Kings Cross precinct", significantly broadening the application of the powers.

The article said the new scanner technology and banning orders were announced in response to the death of teenager Thomas Kelly in an unprovoked attack at Kings Cross last year.

The death of Thomas Kelly had nothing to do with bikie gangs. <http://tiny.cc/1m9m3w>

## Police officers can refuse to answer questions

A Coffs Harbour police officer who shot a suspected car thief during a dramatic arrest two years ago has won a NSW Supreme Court battle to remain silent about his involvement.

In a case, which the court heard could change the way NSW police investigate their own, a Sydney judge found Constable Errol Baff was entitled to protect himself from self-incrimination by refusing to answer the questions of his senior colleagues.

Justice Christine Adamson found that as the NSW Police Commissioner was "liaising with the DPP" about whether there was sufficient evidence for Const Baff to be charged for a significant time after the criminal interview had ceased, he remained exposed to the risk of prosecution.

She declared he was entitled, in the exercise of his privilege against self-incrimination, to refuse to answer questions asked of him about the shooting.

She said it was "unlawful" for the commissioner to direct him otherwise and ordered the NSW Police Force to cover the costs of the proceedings. <http://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/action/PJUDG?jgmid=166849>

## Liberals look to Labor man to solve excesses

Former Labor federal attorney general Robert McClelland (right) will head an inquiry into NSW police investigating themselves when there is a police shooting or death.

The inquiry follows criticism after the death of Brazilian Roberto Laudisio-Curti

following extensive police stun gun discharges, and the fatal police shooting of a mentally-ill man, Adam Salter.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell announced that from September 2013, the police commissioner would have to notify the ombudsman whenever someone dies or is seriously injured during a police operation.

However, police will still investigate police.

Mr McClelland will also examine if there is duplication in the oversight of police investigations. In NSW, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Police Integrity Commission and the Ombudsman all have oversight roles, as well as police internal affairs – Mark Coultan, writing in *The Australian*, 18 Sept 2013.



## Police may face charges over alleged assault of Aborigine...and perjury

Six police officers could face charges over the arrest and assault of an Aboriginal man on the NSW north coast more than two years ago.

Corey Barker and a number of friends clashed with police while walking to a hotel at Ballina in January 2011. The 23-year-old was arrested and taken to the Ballina Police Station.

The arresting officers alleged he punched one of them in the nose. Those charges were later dropped when restored CCTV footage showed it was Mr Barker who was bashed. The Police Integrity Commission has found six police officers lied about the incident.

Findings tabled in State Parliament recommended consideration be given to prosecuting them with charges including fabricating false evidence, perjury and assault. <http://tiny.cc/0ou62w>

...ends NSW Police special

## AFL rules free speech is behind at the footy

The most galling incident of the first weekend of spring came at the MCG, when a middle-aged woman was harassed, humiliated, and eventually stripped of a small token protest about the handling of the Essendon drugs episode.

Her small cardboard sign read: "AFL can take whatever it wants, but it can't take our passion." Unbelievably, two MCG security staff demanded she remove it.

After being rightly howled down each time they attempted to confiscate the sign, police, even more incredibly, were called in. Spectators nearby were told by security staff that the instruction to get rid of the sign came from the AFL.

For a brief moment, the MCG might have been Lenin Stadium in the mid-1960s.

What an appalling look for an organisation that increasingly comes across to its public as dismissive, uncaring and wallowing in its wealth and power. The dictionary definition of integrity reads: "adherence to moral and ethical principles". Far too often lately, the AFL's own definition seems to have a sub-clause which reads: "when it suits us". – by Rohan Connolly, <http://tiny.cc/Orer2w>

## Law students caught 'sharing info'

Law students at the University of Tasmania will be forced to re-sit an exam after concerns a small number may have "shared information" in a recent assessment.

Some 162 law students will have to sit two formal tests because the university's Faculty of Law suspects a recent online assessment task was "compromised".

While not revealing the specific nature of the conduct, the university said law faculty staff believed some students collaborated "in a way that was inappropriate".

Co-ordinators of the unit being studied, Civil and Criminal Procedure, have since replaced the original task with upcoming in-class tests and an end-of-semester formal exam. <http://tiny.cc/ghjq2w>

## State parliament to vote on euthanasia bill

Premier Lara Giddings introduced the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2013 into the Tasmanian Parliament on 26 September.

"I passionately believe people at the end of their life deserve dignity, respect and compassion, and that's what this legislation will provide to those Tasmanians experiencing unrelievable, persistent and intolerable suffering because of their incurable and irreversible medical condition," she told CLA.

"Who are we to decide that an independent, competent adult must continue to live with pain and suffering, rather than allowing them to end their life at the time of their choosing? This Bill is about giving people the right to choose to end their suffering.

"The Tasmanian model will provide peace of mind to a relatively small number of people whose suffering at the end of life cannot be adequately relieved. I am confident that the model can operate safely in Tasmania." – email to CLA from Tasmanian Premier. Details are at: [website](#)

## DPP faces charge over death in car crash

Tasmania's Director of Public Prosecutions, Tim Ellis, is facing a magistrate's court charged with causing death by negligent driving.

The charge, under the Traffic Act, carries a maximum penalty of 12 months in prison and a \$1300 fine. Mr Ellis has been on leave from his DPP duties since the accident in March 2013.

Launceston woman Natalia Pearn, 27, died in a head-on crash on the Midland Highway on a Sunday afternoon. Ellis, 58, of Mount Stuart in Hobart has been charged by summons. The matter will be heard in the Magistrate's Court in Hobart and has been listed for plea on October 1.

The *Hobart Mercury* reported in March 2013: "Police yesterday confirmed witnesses had reported a blue 2011 Mercedes sedan understood to be driven by Mr Ellis...was on the wrong side of double white lines before the head-on collision at Lovely Banks at 6.15pm." <http://tinyurl.com/q4zfn6s>



**PETITION** for re-trial for Sue Neill-Fraser (pictured left): please consider supporting it...

<http://www.change.org/petitions/the-attorney-general-and-parliament-of-tasmania-investigate-sue-neill-fraser-s-conviction-with-commission-of-inquiry>

## UNSW internship to research Right to Appeal

Anna Talbot, candidate for a Masters in Law, will research the Australian and international settings for 'Right to Appeal' laws, in a bid to help motivate states and territories to adopt the legislation now operating in South Australia.

The 'Right to Appeal' (R2A) legislation is possibly the 'last hope' to get Sue Neill-Fraser's miscarriage of justice (MOJ) case back before the Supreme Court in Tasmania.

CLA is Talbot's host organisation, with the work supervised by CLA member Dr Chris Michaelsen, who is a lecturer at UNSW, and CLA president, Dr Kristine Klugman.

Talbot, with a strong background in community involvement, is ideally placed to undertake this research. She is admitted as a

barrister and solicitor in Victoria, and worked for two years there in the Consumer Affairs division of the Justice Department. For four years she was an advisor in the international law program of Amnesty International in its London headquarters.



With an Arts degree which included political science and a Law degree with honours from ANU, Talbot (left) has experience in both states and territories in Australia, and internationally in lobbying in the UK and working with UN committees in Europe.

Ms Neill-Fraser has just entered the fifth year of a 23-year sentence for murdering her partner/husband in a case based totally on circumstantial evidence. The body of Bob Chappell has never been found, after he disappeared from a yacht moored off Sandy Bay in the Derwent River on Australian Day night in 2009.

Currently, the Tasmanian Attorney-General, Brian Wightman, is considering a formal plea, prepared by pro bono lawyer and CLA member Barbara Etter, to request the Supreme Court to reconsider the case. But whether to do so is a 'grace and favour' – that is, a political – decision of the executive government.

Under proposed R2A legislation, Ms Neill-Fraser and other prisoners would have a legal entitlement to ask for their case to be reconsidered if they could demonstrate there was new material and facts not available at the time of the original trial.

CLA is working with Dr Bob Moles of Networked Knowledge in SA to get states and territories to 'mirror' the SA legislation, gazetted in May. The first case in SA under the new legislation, that of Henry Keogh, is now before the courts.

The Standing Council on Law and Justice (SCLJ, or 'sludge' as a nickname), which comprises all Australian attorneys-general, will consider the 'mirroring' proposal at its meeting in Sydney this month (October). SA AG John Rau has placed the issue on the agenda.

Talbot's research will cover the numerous MOJ cases in recent years around Australia, as well as the current ones, which includes the Macartney case in WA where there has been a formal appeal for a re-hearing, because of defects in forensic interpretation, to WA AG Michael Mischin.

She will also examine whether there are parallels in Australia with the situation in the UK, where the government decided to create a Criminal Cases Review Commission.

## Qld govt to take Xmas gifts back from grannies

Convicted drug traffickers will now have to forfeit to the state the Christmas presents they gave their grandmothers up to six years ago.

The unconscionable development is one aspect of what the Qld QG Jarrod Bleijie calls "some of the toughest laws in Australia".

From September 2013, convicted drug traffickers in Queensland will be forced to forfeit all their property, whether it was obtained legally or illegally, and presents given to people, including relatives, over the past six years

"Our tough legislation targets the Mr Bigs of the criminal underworld," the AG says.

Let's hope so. CLA says that, in other Australian jurisdictions, the Mr Bigs have gone scot free, and it has only been 'Mr

Littles' of crime who have victimised, typically people growing a handful of marijuana plants.

Fortunately, the Qld law allows an offender's dependants to apply for financial support on the grounds of hardship. Elsewhere, police and prosecution authorities have abused such laws to keep innocent people penniless for up to eight years.

"If the State can prove on the balance of probabilities that there is reasonable suspicion a person has been involved in a crime, the onus will be on the individual to prove they obtained their property and money legitimately," the AG said.

That is, the burden of proof is reversed: you have to prove you are innocent. As well, the usual criminal standard of 'beyond reasonable doubt' has been abandoned so that Mr Bleijie and the government can get their hands on some spare cash to dole out – legally – to selected electorates before the next election.

"Illicit drug use (costs) Queensland more than \$1 billion a year," Mr Bleijie said.

This claim has never been itemised, and the AG has never referenced where it comes from, CLA says. It is bunkum.

## Big Brother speaks to you in Canberra

A trial of a new talking CCTV speaker system in Canberra will tell visitors Big Brother is watching.

Speakers are linked to cameras at the corner of Alinga and Mort streets in Canberra's city centre: visitors to the Civic bus interchange will hear a message reminding them they are being watched and recorded. "The speakers will broadcast a message to let people know that they are being viewed and recorded by ACT Policing," ACT Attorney-General Simon Corbell said.

The speaker system does not record audio from the area, and complies with the ACT Government's CCTV rules, which are monitored by a community committee. Civil Liberties Australia has sat on the committee since the CCTV system was planned, helping to draw up the rules and to monitor how they are implemented.

The suburban Belconnen Bus Interchange already has a similar system, which provides public and passenger information.

There are 72 CCTV cameras round Canberra, including within the entertainment precincts of Civic, Manuka and Kingston and at other mass gathering sites, such as the football stadiums.

Mr Corbell said the cameras are continually monitored, with ACT Policing undertaking live monitoring on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. <http://tinyurl.com/q6z9py3>

## Police lobby group supports excessive force

The Australian Federal Police Association is up in arms because a sergeant has been sacked after a colleague reported him for using excessive force with capsicum spray up very close and real personal into an arrested person's face.

Sacked in June 2013, the AFPA is taking the sergeant's case to the federal court.

"A dangerous precedent will be set if a highly experienced, frontline operational cop can be sacked for using a non-lethal and safe tool issued to him, when he had a genuine belief that the offender posed a serious threat to members of the public and himself," the AFPA's Jon Hunt-Sharman said.

CLA says that an excellent precedent could be set if the outcome of the case eventually reminds Australia's 56,000 police they are not entitled to use excessive force, with capsicum spray or any other item of police equipment.

It takes extraordinary moral courage for a colleague to report a sergeant, as happened after the incident outside The Cabinet nightspot in Manuka. It also takes corporate 'courage' for the AFP to sack one of its sergeants on such an allegation. CLA congratulates both the colleague and the AFP for their courage in confronting the allegation. <http://tinyurl.com/o2tq3w4>

## Australian briefs

**Your life...online:** A new online portal will help Queenslanders organise their wills, enduring powers of attorney and advance health care directives. The 'Planning for Life' initiative is a collaboration between the Public Trustee, the Adult Guardian and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. It is at: [www.justice.qld.gov.au/justice-services/guardianship/planning-for-life](http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/justice-services/guardianship/planning-for-life)

**NSW Parl goes 'drug gardening':** New laws outlawing synthetic psychoactive substances have passed the NSW parliament despite claims of drafting so poor they could "criminalise the Botanic Gardens Trust", according to MP Amanda Fazio. Penalties for manufacturing or supplying synthetic drugs include up to two years jail and a fine of more than \$2000; possessing could result in a year in jail and more than \$2000 in fines. The law groups substances into families, such as synthetic cannabinoids, making it easier to crack down on slightly-tweaked chemical formulas. <http://tinyurl.com/kqfdotp>

**Keogh's freedom still delayed:** In a directions hearing in September, a judge adjourned further consideration of the Henry Keogh appeal case to 19 November 2013 which means that a date for the hearing of the appeal has still not been set. His appeal is the first under new "Right to Appeal" provisions\* passed by the SA Parliament in May 2013. Keogh was convicted in 1995 and sentenced to 26 years in jail for the 1994 murder of Anna-Jane Cheney, his fiancée. He has served 18 years in jail for a murder most independent observers believe he did not commit. \*CLA is actively campaigning to have these provisions 'mirrored' throughout Australia – court info source: email from Dr Bob Moles of Networked Knowledge. <http://tinyurl.com/ma2p9rp>

**Database causes youth abuse by police:** The NSW Supreme Court has found hundreds of young people were illegally held in custody because police relied on a database that was not updated with changes to bail conditions. The lead applicant in a class action against police is a boy, now aged 19, who was arrested in Punchbowl in western Sydney three years ago on suspicion of breaching bail conditions. The boy was driven to Penrith, where he was strip-searched and held overnight. But police were relying on incorrect information. In fact, the boy had charges against him dismissed a few days earlier.

**Please refrain when at the station:** Female rail workers in NSW have lodged a claim of sex discrimination with the Human Rights Commission over mandatory urine testing. All rail workers, male and female, have to undergo urine testing for drugs and alcohol. But the NSW Rail, Tram and Bus Union

says mandatory urine testing is a greater ask for women and amounts to sex discrimination. <http://tinyurl.com/mtldfx> See CLA website for student testing in USA: <http://www.cla.asn.au/News/students-to-pee-or-not-to-pee/>

### CLA report – main activities for September 2013

Talk to Belconnen Amnesty group – good discussion of current issues: talk by president, CEO, with attendance by several CLA members, including Songfa Liu.

Formal series of letters to Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) in relation to who supervises the rights/wrongs of the surveillance which is being undertaken by Australia security and police. No satisfactory response yet received.

#### Networking meetings:

Dr Jeff Sutton, psychologist

#### Functions attended:

Launch of book on East Timor ANU

Investiture of CEO Bill Rowlings with OAM, Government House, Canberra

#### Meetings with CLA members:



- Tim Vines (left) and Chevaun Walsh (shown with Bill Rowlings), re internship on surveillance in the workplace
- Patricia Bourke re rights of elderly

- Dr Helen Wiles, rights of people in aged care
- Phyllis Ives, rights of people in wheel chairs
- Lance Williamson re membership data base
- Keith McEwan re prison reform research
- Rosemary Jennings
- Kathy Klugman on upcoming Pacific Island meetings and conferences
- Robbie Swan (by phone/email) on his bid for Senate seat
- Jim Dunn (left) and Rob Wesley-Smith of Darwin, with Kris Klugman: re East Timor



Research for a publication on history of civil liberties in Australia continues...

#### Correspondence:

- Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull on appointing civil society (and particularly civil liberties and privacy) representatives to boards in his portfolio.
- Parliamentary Secretary (to the Minister for Agriculture) Richard Colbeck on free speech re proposed changes to Competition and Consumer Act.
- AG George Brandis on the Colbeck matter.

#### Submissions:

IP Australia: Submission to IP Australia on an Objects Clause for the Patents Act 1990, ensuring consumer rights are protected". (Tim Vines)

#### Main media activity:

##### National:

*Fairfax Digital:* 'Pub scanners raise privacy concerns' Lucy Carrroll – Bill Rowlings 14 Sept 2013 <http://www.smh.com.au/digital-life/consumer-security/pub-scanners-raise-privacy-concerns-20130913-2tq97.html#ixzz2eqOaaAfg>

*Good Weekend:* CLA calls for for SA Right to Appeal law to go national (Derek Bromley case) - yet to be published.

Response to Canberra Grammar student regarding surveillance laws: being prepared as general CLA comment.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Stop surveillance, president demands

Brazil's president, Dilma Rousseff, launched a blistering attack on US espionage at the UN general assembly last month, accusing the US National Security Agency of violating international law by indiscriminate collection of personal information of Brazilian citizens, and by economic espionage targeted against the country's strategic industries.

Rousseff's angry speech was a direct challenge to President Barack Obama, who was waiting in the wings to deliver his own address to the UN general assembly. It was a direct result of the revelations by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

"As many other Latin Americans, I fought against authoritarianism and censorship and I cannot but defend, in an uncompromising fashion, the right to privacy of individuals and the sovereignty of my country," the Brazilian president said. She was imprisoned and tortured for her role in a guerilla movement opposed to Brazil's military dictatorship in the 1970s.

"In the absence of the right to privacy, there can be no true freedom of expression and opinion, and therefore no effective democracy. In the absence of the respect for sovereignty, there is no basis for the relationship among nations."

Rousseff called on the UN to oversee a new global legal system to govern the internet. She said such multilateral mechanisms should guarantee the "freedom of expression, privacy of the individual and respect for human rights" and the "neutrality of the network, guided only by technical and ethical criteria, rendering it inadmissible to restrict it for political, commercial, religious or any other purposes". <http://tinyurl.com/nnwyjxm>



### Atheists get equality with Catholics in Irish primary schools

Atheists in Ireland have secured the right to teach the republic's primary children god doesn't exist.

The first-ever atheist curriculum for thousands of primary school pupils in Ireland has been drawn up by Atheist Ireland in an education system the Catholic church hierarchy traditionally dominates.

From September 2014, children will read texts such as Richard Dawkins' *The Magic of Reality*, his book aimed at

children, as well as other material at four different primary levels, according to Atheist Ireland.

Up to 16,000 primary kids in the fast growing non-denominational Irish school sector will receive direct tuition on atheism as part of their basic introduction course to ethics and belief systems.

But Atheist Ireland's co-founder Michael Nugent stressed that all primary school pupils, including the 93% of the population who attend schools run by the Catholic church, can access their atheism course on the internet and by downloading an app on smartphones.

He said these will be advertised and offered to all parents with children at primary schools in Ireland. <http://tinyurl.com/p7nwyvy>

## Domestic workers get some protection at last

Campaigners are celebrating the long-awaited ratification of a treaty on labour rights for domestic workers that will offer protection to millions of employees worldwide.

From last month, the domestic workers convention became legally binding for signatory countries. The treaty, originally adopted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 2011, is the first to deal specifically with domestic workers.

There are about 50-100 million domestic workers globally, mainly women and girls. Their tasks include cooking, cleaning and looking after children and the elderly. They are often poor and employed outside their home country, making them particularly vulnerable to abuse and slavery.

The treaty gives employees the right to claim basic rights, including days off each week, set hours and the minimum wage. Eight countries have ratified the convention, including Italy, the Philippines, South Africa and Bolivia. More are poised to follow suit, including Germany and Switzerland. <http://tiny.cc/uryx2w>

## US Senate may force surveillance wind-back...but only for Americans

Four senators at the vanguard of bipartisan efforts to rein in US government spying programs announced the most comprehensive package of surveillance reforms late last month.

A new draft bill with key Republican and Democratic support in the US Senate may roll back the powers of the National Security Agency in the wake of top-secret disclosures made by whistleblower Edward Snowden...but only for Americans.

"The disclosures over the last 100 days have caused a sea change in the way the public views the surveillance system," said Democratic senator Ron Wyden, unveiling the bill at a press conference alongside Republican Rand Paul. "We are introducing (a) comprehensive bipartisan intelligence reform proposal," he said.

The *Intelligence Oversight and Surveillance Reform Act* cherry-picks from ideas contained in about 12 other draft bills. It would prohibit the NSA's bulk collection phone records of Americans under section 215 of the Patriot Act, the most controversial aspect of US surveillance revealed by documents supplied by Snowden to the Guardian.

The bill would also prevent a similar data trawl of internet communication records, which was stopped in 2011, and definitively close a so-called "backdoor" that potentially enables the NSA to intercept the internet communications of Americans swept up in a program protected by Section 702 of the *Fisa Amendments Act*.

There is limited, if any, support in Congress for limiting the NSA's ability of monitor or gather evidence on foreigners, however. <http://tinyurl.com/plxf3l3>

## Ex-NSA director calls on spooks to tell truth

The US should conduct a holistic reappraisal of its laws and authorizations to balance privacy, civil liberties and surveillance across the public and private sectors, former National Security Agency director Bobby Ray Inman has said.

Inman strongly defended bulk surveillance of phone records and internet communications, and criticized members of Congress wanting to restrict it as ignorant of the way the programs operate.

But he also warned that intelligence officials have an obligation to tell the truth about surveillance in their public statements. <http://tiny.cc/ssnn2w>

## 1984 is so yesterday

The potential of the surveillance state goes way beyond anything in George Orwell's book *1984*, Alan Rusbridger, *Guardian* editor-in-chief, told a New York audience last month.

Speaking in the wake of a series of revelations in the UK's *Guardian* about the extent of the National Security Agency's surveillance operations, Rusbridger said: "Orwell could never have imagined anything as complete as this, this concept of scooping up everything all the time.

"This is something potentially astonishing about how life could be lived and the limitations on human freedom," he said.

Rusbridger said the NSA stories were "clearly" not a story about totalitarianism, but that an infrastructure had been created that could be dangerous if it fell into the wrong hands.

"Obama is a nice guy. David Cameron is a nice social Democrat. About three hours from London in Greece there are some very nasty political parties. What there is is the infrastructure for total surveillance. In history, all the precedents are unhappy," said Rusbridger, speaking at an Advertising Week conference.

He said that whistleblower Edward Snowden, who leaked the documents, had been saying: "Look, wake up. You are building something that is potentially quite alarming."

Rusbridger said that people bring their own perspectives to the NSA revelations.

People who have read Kafka or Orwell found the level of surveillance scary, he said, and that those who had lived or worked in the communist eastern bloc were also concerned. <http://tiny.cc/1o4w3w>

## Lao human rights activist still missing

Sombath Somphone was kidnapped from Vientiane, the capital of Laos, in December 2012.

*He is shown (right) with South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu.*



Police security footage show he was stopped at a police checkpoint in the capital and taken into custody. He has not been seen since.

Civil Liberties Australia has joined the calls of a wide range of international organisations calling for the Lao government to release the noted human rights activist.

Kay Danes\* writes: "This case is but one in a sea of thousands. Over the years, in fact, the last decade alone, there have been numerous reported disappearances.



"It is clearly evident that the Laos government has a long way to go before it fully appreciates the mandates and treaties it becomes a signatory too, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in particular article 7 on torture and arbitrary detention."

Kay Danes (right) knows how the Lao government works: on 23 December 2000, while working as security managers in the country, she and her husband, Kerry, were taken hostage by Laos secret police.



She says: "Arbitrarily detained in what was then considered one of the world's most secretive prisons, we faced torture, mock executions and ill-treatment and witnessed the same treatment of those with whom we were detained — mostly political prisoners arbitrarily imprisoned over decades.

"Fortunately, despite the propaganda that the Laos Government put out in the media to say we were criminals, as all persons in their camps are, evidence to the contrary proved their allegations false and hence why the Australian Government and other States fully supported our release, almost a year later.

"The Laos Government believes itself to be accountable to no one but according to UN treaty bodies and International law, it is." More info on Kay Danes: <http://kaydanes.com/books01.html>

## Serco, G4S accused of over-charging

In the UK, both Serco and rival G4S have been accused of charging the UK government for tagging criminals who were either in prison, never tagged at all, or dead.

The Ministry of Justice has already asked the Serious Fraud Office to consider carrying out an investigation into G4S, and fraud detectives have confirmed they are considering information provided by the ministry on Serco.

UK Justice Secretary Chris Grayling has assured his Labour counterpart, Sadiq Khan, no new contracts will be awarded to either company until a series of official "forensic audits" has given them a clean bill of health. <http://tiny.cc/btx53w>

## ODD SPOT: Official: 'likes' are signs of the times

The US Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that Facebook "likes" are protected speech under the US First Amendment, according to *Gizmodo*.

Back in 2009, Sheriff BJ Roberts was running for re-election in Hampton, Virginia: he was miffed to find that six of his employees had "liked" his opponent's Facebook page. When he won the election, he fired them. They fought back, but a US District Court basically ruled that "likes" don't require enough effort to count as free speech.

Now, it has swung the other way. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that liking a Facebook page is the online equivalent of putting a political sign in your yard. And it has been long-established that such signs are totally covered by the First Amendment. <http://tinyurl.com/m619gb3>

## Australian escapes death penalty in Malaysia

An Australian facing the death penalty for drug trafficking in Malaysia has been acquitted.

Dominic Bird was arrested in Kuala Lumpur in March 2012 after allegedly supplying an undercover police officer with 167gm of methamphetamine.

The 34-year-old originally from Perth suburb of Success was acquitted last month after Justice Kamardin Hashim said the prosecution had failed to prove its case.

Mr Bird's lawyer told the Kuala Lumpur High Court that his client should be acquitted, because he was in fact the victim of a "deep-seeded vendetta" on the part of the undercover police officer who had arrested him. Inspector Luther Nurjib was last month found guilty of contempt of court, for which he was fined \$660, after it emerged he had threatened and attempted to bribe a witness in the case.

The lawyer told the court that Mr Bird had been "set up" by Insp Nurjib, repeating allegations made earlier in the trial that the detective had a history of shaking down drug dealers to finance a lavish lifestyle. <http://tiny.cc/x1yw2w>

## UN troops ruled responsible

The Netherlands has been ordered to pay compensation for the deaths of Bosnian Muslims in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre in a ruling that opens up the Dutch state to compensation claims from relatives of the rest of the 8,000 men and youths who died.

The judgment by Holland's supreme court is the final decision in a protracted claim brought by relatives of three Muslim men who were expelled by Dutch soldiers from a UN compound during the Balkans conflict then killed by Bosnian Serb forces.

Although the case related only to the murder of three victims, it confirms the precedent that countries which provide troops to UN missions can be held responsible for their conduct. <http://tiny.cc/orsz2w>

## Pot could add to the tax pot



Legalising and taxing cannabis could earn the UK government \$2.2bn a year, a study suggests.

The Institute for Social and Economic Research study quantifies for the first time the revenue to be gained from the regulation and taxation of the cannabis market in England and Wales.

It estimates that reduced enforcement costs, such as police, court and prison time and community sentences, could save \$515m alone, with the remaining three-quarters of net benefit from tax revenue.

The paper, co-authored by Stephen Pudney (pictured), professor of economics at the University of Essex, balances revenue against potential costs, such as regulatory costs and increased health promotion initiatives. <http://tiny.cc/r3dg3w>

## Law may allow minors a clean online slate

Young people don't value their own privacy, until it looks like biting them on the bum: in the USA, California legislators have given minors the legal right to scrub away their online indiscretions.

The right-to-delete, or eraser, provision is part of a broader bill that prohibits web sites, which have "actual knowledge" that a minor is using the site based on a profile and activity on the site, from running ads for a range of products — including alcohol, spray paint, tattoos, tanning beds and e-cigarettes.

The eraser section compels online sites to let users under 18 delete rants, tweets, pictures, status updates and other material.

Although many companies, including Facebook and Twitter, already offer this option to their users, the new California law

makes it a right across the Internet for children who live in that state. <http://tinyurl.com/q6fvtdw> and <http://tinyurl.com/npfjtx9>

## **Police lied, hid video, invented and doctored evidence: commission**

The South African commission investigating the Marikana mining massacre, which left 34 mineworkers dead, has adjourned after claiming that police officers lied, withheld evidence and presented a false version of events on and around 16 August 2012.

The adjournment came after Lieutenant Colonel Duncan Scott, in charge of dispersing and disarming the striking mineworkers, was accused of manipulating and hiding evidence under cross-examination. To prove his innocence, Scott offered his hard drives to the inquiry – the hard drives that contain all the police evidence.

On the drives investigators found a video filmed after the shooting on 18 August, showing Brigadier Adriaan Calitz congratulating his troops on a perfectly executed plan. Crucially, that video was hidden from the Commission and made to look like it never existed.

That wasn't all. *Daily Maverick* sources say the hard drives also contained evidence showing that the police meeting in Potchefstroom, a nine-day event to prepare for the commission, was in fact a plan to lie and deceive, including inventing and doctoring evidence. <http://tiny.cc/oxqp3w>

## **International briefs:**

**Who's that DNA you're flashing?** Scientists are discovering that — to a surprising degree — we contain genetic multitudes. Not long ago, researchers had thought it was rare for the cells in a single healthy person to differ genetically in a significant way. But scientists are finding that it's quite common for an individual to have multiple genomes. Some people, for example, have groups of cells with mutations that are not found in the rest of the body. Some have genomes that came from other people. <http://tiny.cc/adbl3w>

**Top UK cop wants drugs decriminalised:** A senior UK police officer has called for major drugs to be decriminalised and for the policy of outright prohibition to be radically revised. Mike Barton, Durham's chief constable, has suggested that the UK's public health system could supply drugs to addicts, breaking the monopoly and income stream of criminal gangs. Comparing drugs prohibition to the ban on alcohol in 1920s America that gave rise to Al Capone and the mafia, Barton argues that criminalising the trade in drugs has put billions into the pockets of criminal gangs. <http://tinyurl.com/ouy7da3>

**Spooks crack encryption – privacy is dead:** US and British intelligence agencies have cracked most online encryption that people worldwide use to protect the privacy of their personal data, online transactions and emails, according to top-secret documents revealed by former contractor Edward Snowden in the *Guardian* and other publications last month. A 10-year NSA program against encryption made a breakthrough in 2010 which enabled the agencies to exploit "vast amounts" of data collected through internet cable taps. Funding for the program – \$283m for this year – dwarfs that of the Prism program, which operates at a cost of \$22m a year, according to previous NSA documents. Security experts say the spook programs 'undermine the fabric of the internet'. <http://tiny.cc/2knz2w>

**US surveillance is 'in the black':** The US 'black budget' for fiscal 2013 amounts to \$57 billion, and covers what *The Washington Post* calls a "bureaucratic and operational landscape that has never been subject to public scrutiny." According to a story last month the *Post* says that it now has the entire 178-page classified budget summary as supplied by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden. This entire budget comprises the annual expenditures for the NSA, the CIA, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and other spy and military agencies. <http://tiny.cc/n9bi3w>

**Licence plates to flash status:** California plans to create the USA's first electronic licence plate. Rather than have a static piece of printed metal and stickers to display proper registration, the plate would be a screen that could wirelessly (likely over a mobile data network) receive updates from a central server to display that same information. In an example shown by a South Carolina vendor, messages such as "STOLEN," "EXPIRED," or something similar could also be displayed on a license plate. California is planning a limited "pilot program" to run until January 2017. <http://tiny.cc/7ao12w>

**Lord King calls for new surveillance laws:** British laws used to justify mass surveillance and interception must be reviewed to keep pace with "incredible changes" in communications, says Lord King, the former Conservative defence secretary. Lord King, who also chaired the cross-party intelligence and security committee, said that the current version under Sir Malcolm Rifkind had come out too quickly to back GCHQ (the UK surveillance agency) following revelations about industrial-scale snooping. King said the public needed to be completely reassured that "huge amounts of interceptions" undertaken by GCHQ had been "properly authorised under the normal standard arrangements". <http://tinyurl.com/npl6pmu>

## **DATES**

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

**2 Oct, Sydney:** Enterprising Justice: new model of community prison: Rachel O'Brien.. Details at....

**3 Oct, Melbourne:** <http://rsaanz.org.au/>

**3-5 Oct, Brisbane:** Fourth Justice Environments Conference, organised by U. Western Sydney, QE2 Courts Brisbane. Court of the Future Network, in association with the French Institut des hautes études sur la justice (Judicial Research Institute). To register: [Fourth Justice Environments Conference - Registration Form](#)

**4 Oct, Brisbane:** Virtual Battlegrounds: Cyber Warfare and the Law of War: Dr Emily Crawford, U. Sydney, 12-1pm, Rm 1-W341, Forgan Smith Building St Lucia. <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/law-research-seminar-series> Info: Beth Williams 07 3346 9350 or [events@law.uq.edu.au](mailto:events@law.uq.edu.au)

**8 Oct, Adelaide:** Elliott Johnston Memorial Lecture 2013 – Putting meat on the bones of the UNDRIP: Letters Patent and regional governance, Prof Megan Davis on the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People. Details: Claire Treacy ([claire.treacy@flinders.edu.au](mailto:claire.treacy@flinders.edu.au)) (08) 82015028)

**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](mailto:c.mcfall@uws.edu.au) or 02 9685 9576

**9 Oct, Perth:** Oceans governance and marine species protection: by Prof and Dean of Law at UWA, Erika Techera (right). The presentation will trace the development of the Law of the Sea from ancient origins to modern challenges. Webb Lecture Theatre, Geography Building, 6-7pm. Details: <http://tiny.cc/bkai3w>



**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](mailto:law-cccs@unimelb.edu.au)

**15 Oct, Melbourne:** Trade and Technology: What does the Trans-Pacific Partnership mean for Australia? Public discussion, Uni of Swinbourne, 5.30-7.30pm. TD Bldg, Room TD121 Wakefield St Hawthorn 3122. <http://tiny.cc/779r2w>

**21 Oct, Canberra:** 18th annual remembrance 'for those who lose their life to illicit drugs', 12.30-1.30pm Weston Park, Yarralumla at the Drugs Death Memorial. Details: [www.ffdlr.org.au](http://www.ffdlr.org.au) Keynote speaker: Sen Richard Di Natale, Australian Greens.

**24-26 October, Canberra:** Australian Lawyers Alliance ALA 2013 national conference, including Attorney-General: Law Reform Agenda and the Legal Issues for the Commonwealth, plus Lawyers in the Court of Public Opinion (Crispin Hull), Rydges Lakeside Hotel. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/oprfp3y>

**30 Oct, Canberra:** World Crime Forum: Professor Dr Stephan Parmentier on how the criminal justice system is viewed in Europe, then panel discussion led by Dr Adam Tomison. 10am-1.30pm at A. Institute of Criminology. Details and to register: <http://tiny.cc/dvun3w>

**31 October, Brisbane:** Update on last 18 months of reform in Qld criminal law, by Qld DPP, Anthony Moynihan, 5-6pm Banco Court, L3, 415 George St. <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/current-legal-issues-series> Info: Hollie Spencer, 07 3238 5109 or email [cpd@qldbar.asn.au](mailto:cpd@qldbar.asn.au)

**1-2 Nov, Gold Coast, Qld:** Succession and Elder Law residential, RACV Royal Pines Resort. Details: <http://tiny.cc/rts2w>

**7 Nov, Canberra:** Launch of revamped Honest History website – [www.honesthistory.net.au](http://www.honesthistory.net.au) – by Paul Daley, journalist and author at Manning Clark House, 11 Tasmania Circle Forrest ACT 6pm. RSVP: [admin@honesthistory.net.au](mailto:admin@honesthistory.net.au)

**12 Nov, Hobart:** A Nuclear Weapon-Free World: Perfect Vision with a Deadline, Red Cross Oration 2013, by Professor Dr Tadatoshi Akiba, president of Mayors for Peace 2003-2011, an international group striving for nuclear disarmament. E: [UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au](mailto:UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au), P: 03 6226 2521 at the Stanley Burbury Theatre, University Centre, Sandy Bay campus, from 6pm.

**13 Nov, Melbourne:** Human Rights Under Threat in Australia? CLA's Humphrey McQueen will speak along with ACTU President Ged Kearney and refugee advocate David Manne. Event chair is rights lawyer Rob Stary. 6.30-8.30pm Wheeler Centre, 176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne. Info: Shirley 0417456001

**14-15 Nov, Port Vila, Vanuatu:** inaugural South Pacific Lawyers Conference: Legal Challenges in Paradise. Details: <http://www.southpacificlawyers.org/>

**15 Nov, Canberra:** Annual Geoffrey Sawer lecture, by Prof Michael Coper, ANU College of Law. Public Law Weekend. Details: [cipl@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:cipl@law.anu.edu.au)

**15 Nov, Canberra:** Administrative Law Conference hosted by ANU's CIPL: <http://tiny.cc/o5gr2w> National Museum of Australia, Lawson Cres, ACTON 2601

**17-22 Nov, Sydney:** AFP Specialist Response Group hosts International Negotiators' Working Group 2013 conference. Restricted attendees. Details: <http://tiny.cc/wesaww>

**28-29 Nov, Canberra:** 2013 Timor-Leste update: A new era? Details: <http://goo.gl/rLgQ6t> More info: [peta.hill@anu.edu.au](mailto:peta.hill@anu.edu.au)

**3 Dec, Melbourne:** Atmosphere of the Lawscape: Bodies, Space, Justice: Professor Andreas Phipopoulos-Mihalopoulos, 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](mailto:law-iilah@unimelb.edu.au)

**5-8 Dec, Canberra:** Law, Literature and Humanities Association 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](mailto:chairman@gcadv.net)

## 2014:

**14-15 Feb, Surfers Paradise:** Queensland Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA) conference, including International Air Crash Litigation (Joe Wheeler, Shine Lawyers), Marriott Resort. Details: <http://tiny.cc/8w3o3w>

**Feb, Sydney:** 12th annual National Security Australia conference: venue/days not yet revealed. Info: <http://www.iir.com.au/conferences/defence/national-security-australia>

**16 May, Torquay:** Victorian Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA) conference, at Petters The Sands Resort.

**16-18 July, Hong Kong :** Obligations VII – Divergence and Convergence. Jointly hosted by law faculties at U. Hong Kong and U. Melbourne, to be held in Hong Kong. <http://www.law.hku.hk/obligationsvii/>

## 2015:

**June, England:** 800th anniversary of Magna Carta  
**Date, Place TBC:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Domestic Violence Conference

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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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