

Rights not wrong: celebrating Australia's first bill of rights

Today – 1 July 2014 – is the 10th anniversary of the first human rights bill in Australia.

The Human Rights Act 2004 in the Australian Capital Territory became law on the first day of July in that year, brought in under the direction of the then ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope.



Jon Stanhope

A former president of the ACT's civil liberties organisation, he is now Administrator of Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean.

So far, no judges have "created" new law as a result of the legislation.

The judicial and social system in the ACT has not broken down. The world has not ended because of the bill of rights.

Where an interpretative issue was questioned, it was referred back to the ACT Legislative

Assembly for determination...as it should be. Parliament decided the extent of the law, as it should.

All of which (along with the Victorian equivalent Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities two years later) demonstrates that there is no reason Australia continues to reject a national Bill of Rights.

Why are our politicians afraid of giving more power to citizens – the little people – to right the wrongs against them?

It must be scary to be as afraid of the power of the people as our politicians are, Civil Liberties Australia says.

ODD SPOT: Freedom confidential

Submissions (5000+) to the Attorney-General about his proposals to increase Freedom of Speech under clause 18C will be kept confidential, Senator George Brandis confirmed last month.

Labor rejects chance to take principled stance

An internal Labor bid to humanise refugee policy was thwarted last month by the party's right wing.

Labor MPs Melissa Parke of WA, Anna Burke of Victoria and Lisa Singh of Tasmania brought a cross-factional motion to a caucus meeting that called for Labor to "no longer support the transfer of asylum seekers by Australia to Manus Island or Nauru" and for "detention centres in those places to be closed".

However, shadow minister Richard Marles and the NSW and Victorian Right prevailed with a blancmange motion that merely said "asylum seekers should be afforded safe, dignified and humane conditions while awaiting refugee status determinations" and called for refugee claims to be processed in a "timely manner" to avoid asylum seekers being left in uncertainty.

When either major party, or the parliament, is given the chance to take a higher moral stance, they inevitably always wimp it, CLA says. <http://tinyurl.com/kw9kw5s>

Aussie 'freedom fighters' can't be excluded

Most Australians fighting with jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq are not dual nationals, meaning it will be effectively impossible to stop them returning to Australia.

Despite vows from the government to keep these fighters out of Australia, they cannot be stripped of their Australian citizenship and must be allowed to return.

Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said last month that most of the roughly 150 people alleged to be involved with extremist groups were believed to be Australian citizens only.

The admission appears to contradict a feisty declaration by the Prime Minister to the meeting that "the government that stopped the boats will stop the jihadists" the *SMH* reported.

Revoking citizenship would leave these people stateless, which is regarded as legally and diplomatically impossible. It is not known whether the government believes it has an option to send them to Manus Island or Nauru.

Independent National Security Legislation Monitor Bret Walker urged the government in a report last month to consider revoking citizenship of such people but stressed only if "to do so would not render them stateless" – meaning it could only apply to dual citizens. <http://tinyurl.com/l4sxs8p>

FREEDOMS UNDER QUESTION

CLA reminds IPA about freedom of speech and dissent

You may be surprised to learn that CLA's President, Dr Kristine Klugman, is a member of the Institute of Public Affairs (and that one of the members of the IPA is a member of CLA).

Dr Klugman believes it important to reach people and organisations thought to be on "the other side". Sometimes, she does so by letter...like this one to the IPA last month:

I write to bring to your attention an article by Liz Curran in *The Saturday Paper* 14 June, entitled *Blind Justice*. She reports on moves by the AG to reframe the funding and service agreements to limit the freedom of agencies like community legal centres to advocate legal reform. This will have the effect of restraining criticism of policies.

This appears to be in direct contradiction of Senator George Brandis' statement to *Quadrant* in 2012 re respecting the views of citizens, no matter how offensive they may seem to others. And his more recent statement about people having the right to be bigots...

Community legal centres are often in a unique position to evaluate the effects of government policies – often unintended consequences – and bring these to the attention of governments. To silence these avenues of feedback, by threatening their funding, is a cynical, counter-productive and callous exercise. Allied with harsh budget measures, and funding cuts, the effect will be to further disempower the powerless sections of society.

Fortunately, Civil Liberties Australia is NOT funded by government so we can continue to be critical when necessary. But it is a sad reflection of government policy in a democracy when they cannot tolerate criticism – don't you think?

The IPA response was that funding decisions should not be taken on whether or not organisations choose to exercise freedom to speak out. Hear! Hear!...but of course, under the current Abbott government, that is exactly what has been threatened by some Ministers.

Govt promises not to gag NGOs

The government has promised not to gag the welfare sector as it has outlined plans to shrink the number of payments and supplements from 75 to as few as four.

Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews said in Brisbane that the interim report of the McClure welfare review would be released shortly, and there would be a time for discussion and submissions before a final report was presented to the government in September or October this year.

Asked to guarantee that he wouldn't impose gag clauses on welfare organisations in receipt of government funds as did the earlier Howard government, Mr Andrews said he would not. "We supported the [Rudd government's] legislation to remove the gag clauses, and we have no intention of changing it," he said. "The institutions of civil society are important and we support them."

His guarantee is at odds with comments by Immigration Minister Scott Morrison when withdrawing funding from the Refugee Council of Australia. He said it was "not the government's view that taxpayer funding should be there to support what is effectively an advocacy group". <http://tinyurl.com/qhxoeej>

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, 18 June 2014: "If you want a simple straightforward statement about Coalition foreign policy, it is unmistakably to project and protect Australia's reputation as an open export orientated, successful market economy and an open liberal democracy, committed to freedoms, democratic institutions and the rule of law."

'Freedoms-committed' Morrison videos a dubiously legal message

Australian immigration minister Scott Morrison has recorded a video directly threatening asylum seekers detained in Australia's offshore detention centres in Papua New Guinea and Nauru to return to the countries they have fled from or spend a "very, very long time" in detention.

The video directly contradicts the claims (see above) made by Foreign Minister Bishop about freedoms and the rule of law.

Guardian Australia says the footage shows the immigration minister (right) staring down the lens of a camera and telling asylum seekers in a pre-recorded message: "There are new rules in place under this government so I urge you to think carefully about your next decision and to make a decision to get on with the rest of your life and to not remain here, and take the option to go back to the country from which you've originally come."



Ben Pynt, the director of human rights advocacy at Humanitarian Research Partners (and a CLA member), said the video showed the immigration minister's "callous disregard for the mental health of asylum seekers detained offshore". He said it highlighted the government's attempt to actively coerce people into returning to their country of origin.

"This isn't just a violation of the technicalities of international law, this violates the fundamental object and purpose of the refugee convention and other human rights treaties that Australia's governments have undertaken to protect." <http://tinyurl.com/na3lu7k>

Security 'reforms' keep expanding powers

AG Senator George Brandis last month revealed the national security "reforms" he proposes.

The "reforms" are a vast expansion of the powers of the spooks agencies, Civil Liberties Australia says. Proposals include:

- expanding "computer" in the *ASIO Act* and warrants issued to ASIO to include other computers used by a target;
- allowing ASIO to access third-party computers to access a target's computer;
- a power to vary ASIO warrants, rather than having to cancel one and issue another;
- allowing secondments involving ASIO staff;
- clarifying (that is, expanding) the authority of the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation;
- allowing ASIO agents immunity from non-serious criminal prosecution in a scheme similar to the Australian Federal Police's for undercover officers (ie it won't extend to serious violent crimes);
- modernising the now-antiquated rules around ASIO's use of optical (as opposed to listening) surveillance devices;
- enabling warrants to be executed by classes of individuals (eg ASIO officers) rather than, as currently required, named officers;
- ASIO's capacity to work with private sector agencies be placed on a stronger legal footing;
- ASIO itself be allowed to refer breaches of the prohibition on naming officers for prosecution;
- power to enter third-party premises to carry out search warrants on targets;
- allowing reasonable force to be used in searches, but only against property, not persons;
- allowing the Australian Security Intelligence Services, the Australian Signals Directorate and DIGO to investigate Australians engaged in intelligence or counter-intelligence activities, if the relevant minister authorises it (a power likely to be used in the current Syrian context);
- where ASIO and ASIS, ASD or DIGO are involved in joint activities relating to an Australian, ASIO standards and protections are to apply; and
- an evidentiary certificate regime to prevent the revelation of ASIO officers in legal proceedings, but not in relation to material facts of a prosecution. (*List compiled by Bernard Keane, Crikey*).

"These 'reforms' themselves have an unsatisfactory history," Civil Liberties Australia's CEO, Bill Rowlings, said.

"They are in effect a wish list prepared by the spooks in collaboration with the AG's department a few years ago under then-AG, Labor's Nicola Roxon, who acted as chief booster in promoting them in public.

"The proposals were pilloried by all sensible public commentators when she floated them. But, as frequently happens, excessive claims have been 'washed' through the processes of a parliamentary committee, and emerged hardly shrunken at all.

"That is the way the spook and police bodies in Australia manage 'disfunction creep' to achieve the legislation they want. With each tranche, roughly every 2-3 years, democracy dies a little and personal civil liberties decline," Mr Rowlings said.

Euthanasia bill controversy may come again

The debate on euthanasia, which bubbles to the surface from time to time, state by state, has surfaced recently in WA, after the deaths of an elderly couple and support by an influential federal MP.

The cases of desperate West Australians who ended their lives after battling terminal illnesses prove people want the option to die with dignity, federal Labor MP Alannah MacTiernan said last month.

Ms MacTiernan and Greens health spokesman Richard Di Natale announced they would push for a private member's bill in the federal parliament to legalise voluntary euthanasia.

Their move came a day after WA Police said they were satisfied no third party was involved in the death of an elderly couple in Albany. The pair both suffered debilitating illnesses and had reportedly contacted euthanasia advocacy group Exit International about products that could end their lives. <http://tinyurl.com/m6mne7k>

Liberal MP Kevin Andrews, now Minister for Social Services, is the man who led the movement to over-ride – that is, to reject – an NT euthanasia bill (The Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995) which has passed that territory's parliament. He is likely to again be behind moves to prevent a conscience vote on the issue in the federal parliament.

Prisoners do it tough...outside jail

Most ex-prisoners are unemployed or homeless six months after their release, and the results are worse for people with mental illnesses, an Australian study has found.

The Melbourne U study interviewed 1,300 Queensland prisoners while incarcerated and then again three and six months after their release. The study's lead author associate professor Stuart Kinner said the research was some of the first to look beyond the lifespan and rates of recidivism of ex-prisoners.

"This is the largest study in Australia and one of the largest in the world looking at what happens to people after they're released from prison. What we found is that they experienced a range of poor health and social outcomes across a whole lot of different domains," Professor Kinner said.

Prisoner numbers in Australia topped 30,000 for the first time in 2013, the Australian Bureau of Statistics says. Of those, 58% had served a previous sentence in jail. <http://tinyurl.com/nv5fmvj>

Prisoners in Australia

- 30,775 prisoners (sentenced and unsentenced)
- 92% males
- Median age: 33.9 M / 34.5 F
- 24% on remand awaiting trial (or awaiting sentence) – source: ABS, Dec 2013, ABC online news

Some clouds have patriot lumps in them

By all means go "cloud", Civil Liberties Australia says...but be aware of the potential consequences.

Telstra has just opened a Telstra cloud hub on the US east coast.

"It completes Telstra's global network of cloud hubs and is the latest move in the telco's bid to lift the revenue it generates offshore," the PR spin would have it. Nathan Bell, Telstra Global's director of marketing, products and pricing, told *IT Pro* the new hub enabled the company to offer truly global cloud services for the first time. Telstra Global is headquartered in Hong Kong. <http://tiny.cc/t1t1hx>

If your data is housed in Telstra's hub in the USA, it is subject to the US Patriot Act and to all US-based covert and overt surveillance. Just sayin'.

And Telstra Global itself is based in Hong Kong, which makes it subject to Chinese rules and regulations.

Cupid suffers privacy arrows to heart

An online dating company has been found in breach of privacy laws after hackers accessed the personal information of about 245,000 of its Australian users.

Australian Privacy Commissioner Timothy Pilgrim found Cupid Media breached the Privacy Act by failing to take reasonable steps to secure data held on its websites.

Cupid operates more than 35 niche dating websites such as ChristianCupid, MilitaryCupid, SingleParentLove and other sites based on ethnicity, religion and location.

Hackers gained unauthorised access to Cupid web servers in January last year and stole the personal information of the Australian Cupid site users. It included full name, date of birth, email addresses and passwords.

Pilgrim found Cupid had failed to properly protect the details, and had also failed to get rid of data once it was no longer relevant, which is an obligation under privacy principles. <http://tinyurl.com/kj8bczq>

Candles vigil aims to shed light on injustice

Candles burn for mercy as speakers call for probe into murder verdict without a body

MICHELLE PAINÉ • MERCURY • JUNE 14, 2014 12:00AM

Facebook 0 | Twitter 0 | +1 0 | LinkedIn 0

A CANDLELIGHT vigil for Susan Neill-Fraser and the man she was convicted of murdering, Bob Chappell, attracted more than 70 people in Hobart last night.

Speakers vowed to push on for a fresh look at the case.

"We're working with a number of independent experts ... on reports to challenge some of the critical evidence," former Integrity Commission chief and senior policewoman Barbara Etter said.

"The next step is for a petition of mercy ... to the current Attorney-General."



Tom and Elaine Martin at the vigil at Parliament House last night for Susan Neill-Fraser and Bob Chappell. Source: News Limited

The protest movement for Sue Neill-Fraser (SNF) continues to gather strength, with more than 70 people attending a twilight vigil outside Parliament House Hobart on a freezing winter's evening last month.

Civil Liberties Australia believes she is innocent, and that the 23-year sentence she is serving in Risdon Prison is a major miscarriage of justice. She was convicted by a jury of killing her husband, Bob Chappell, who disappeared overnight, while working alone on board, from a yacht moored off Sandy Bay on Australia Day 2009.

His body has never been found.

The tragic miscarriage of justice has already been the subject of 60 Minutes investigation and an award-winning documentary film. Soon a new play about the case will be performed for the first time.

SNF's pro bono lawyer, Barbara Etter, is harnessing the talents of a range of expert lawyers and others around Australia to finalise a petition for mercy – basically, an appeal to the Tasmanian Attorney-General to grant a new hearing – which will challenge some of the key evidence on which she was convicted.

Prosecutor found guilty of killing

The man who decided to prosecute Sue Neill-Fraser, and who acted as prosecutor in her case, now himself faces a jail term for killing.

Tasmanian Director of Public Prosecutions Tim Ellis was found guilty last month of negligent driving causing death.

Mr Ellis pleaded not guilty, but magistrate Chris Webster said Mr Ellis, 58, was on the wrong side of the Midland Highway near Otlands in March 2013 when his Mercedes sedan

ploughed head-on into a Toyota Corolla, killing 27-year-old Natalia Pearn.

Magistrate Webster rejected Mr Ellis's claim he had fallen asleep immediately before the crash.

A five-day hearing in March 2014 heard Mr Ellis crossed on to the wrong side of the road while travelling south on a sweeping right-hand bend 800m to 1km before impact.

The case hinged on whether Mr Ellis was consciously in control of his Mercedes sedan in the 26 seconds before the crash or whether he had suddenly and unexpectedly fallen asleep. He claimed to have drifted off to sleep as he went around the corner. The hearing featured reconstructions by police in a similar vehicle on the same bend, designed to test whether a driver could follow the road if asleep.

Magistrate Webster described Mr Ellis as "not a good witness" who was argumentative and appeared at times to be reconstructing what may have happened, *The Mercury* reported. He found Mr Ellis would have needed to make multiple adjustments to the steering wheel of his vehicle in order to remain in his lane.

Submissions on sentencing will be heard in the magistrates' court on July 22. Mr Ellis faces a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$1300 fine.

Mr Ellis receives salary, travel and other allowances worth \$563,000 a year. He has been suspended on full pay since November 2013, and is believed to have been on sick leave and leave before that.

Under the Director of Public Prosecutions Act, DPPs can be sacked if they become incapable of performing the duties of the office, are guilty of misbehaviour or go bankrupt.

<http://tiny.cc/vfuzhx> and <http://tiny.cc/2ge1hx>

State reverses onus of proof in drug cases

People convicted of commercial drug trafficking offences in Victoria will have all their assets seized, not just those bought with the proceeds of crime.

The new law is yet another reversal of the onus of proof in Australian state, territory and federal jurisdictions: no longer will the state have to prove you are guilty – you must prove you are innocent!

Victoria's Attorney-General Robert Clark (right) said new forfeiture laws would send a message that organised crime did not pay. He said the seizures would apply on top of existing jail terms.

"The new forfeiture law will apply on top of the average 14-year jail term that offenders will face under our baseline sentencing reforms," he said. "The key difference is that under the new laws there'll be no need to prove that the offender's property came from the proceeds of crime or was used to commit the crime." <http://tinyurl.com/movuj9b>



Victorian AG
Robert Clark

Sydney clubs become police collection points

ID scanners are now operating at about 35 high-risk licensed venues in Kings Cross, Sydney.

The scanners are designed to enforce banning orders, and anyone wanting to enter the clubs will have to provide some form of photo identification. Police hope trouble-makers won't be able to access pubs after they have been banned elsewhere.

Information captured will be kept for a month and can be used by police investigating crime in the area.

Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch says the power will not be used lightly. "Only inspectors and above can look at the information, the secure database. They need to have sufficient reason to interrogate the database," he said. <http://tinyurl.com/pxbwzhh>

Women kept in jail with men

NSW women are being detained in the colonial-era men's jail at Bathurst because of overcrowding, as the state's prison population passes 11,000 for the first time.

Bathurst, a medium-security men's jail, has been holding female offenders since January, documents obtained under FOI show, according to the *SMH*. The Dillwynia women's prison has regularly exceeded its operating capacity in 2014. Between seven and 10 female offenders are now being housed each week at Bathurst, the documents show.

Inspector of Custodial Services John Paget, who was appointed in October, has handed the NSW government a scathing report on systemic problems caused by overcrowding. The prison population reached 11,021 last month. Dr Paget, a former chief executive of corrective services in South Australia, said the NSW prison system was harsh, austere and risky.

Last month, the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics warned that the rapid 13% growth in NSW prisoners in the past 18 months was "a matter of significant concern". <http://tinyurl.com/nxa86w3>

Prison enters 'pressure cooker' phase

Hakea Prison in WA was forced into lockdown last month amid chronic staff shortages and a swelling of the inmate population to more than 1000 for the first time.

The prison houses maximum, medium and minimum security male prisoners. Hakea's 64-cell Unit 12, which could potentially accommodate 128 prisoners, remains empty with no immediate plans by the Department of Corrective Services to open it. The WA Prison Officers Union said opening the extra unit would help alleviate overcrowding at Hakea, but there would not be enough officers to staff it.

A Department of Corrective Services spokesman said the prison muster indicated there were 1011 inmates at the jail in the wake of a spike in the number of remand prisoners over a weekend.

WA Prison Officers Union secretary John Welch said there were grave concerns about overcrowding at Hakea and the potential for unrest amongst inmates in a mounting "pressure cooker" type environment. Concerns have also been raised about the prospect of mandatory sentencing forcing up the numbers of prisoners incarcerated in WA jails. <http://tinyurl.com/p38rdpd>

At the end of the month, it is believed a second prison was also in lockdown.

No limits funding is new regime for polls

Queenslanders will go to the next state poll under a new electoral regime:

- there will be no limit on what can be spent on election campaigning in each electorate;
- the sum at which donations must be declared rises from \$1,000 to \$12,400;
- voters must produce ID at a polling booth (if they don't, they lodge a vote "verified" later);
- parties or independents must secure 6% (up from 4%) of the vote to receive public funding; and

- the Electoral Commission website will publish official, party-authorised, how-to-vote cards.

The Newman government changes are designed to advantage the major parties. – source: Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013, passed 22 May 2014

Appointment ruffles top silk, legal profession

Queensland's Bar Association president has resigned over the Newman government's appointment of the state's next chief justice.

Tim Carmody, the chief magistrate, was named by the government last month as the next chief justice of Queensland's supreme court, despite senior members of the legal profession questioning his suitability. Carmody became Queensland's chief magistrate in September 2013 only.

Terry O'Gorman, vice-president of the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties described the promotion as a throwback to the type of rapid promotions which occurred during the corrupt era of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Former state solicitor general, Walter Sofronoff QC, and the head of the landmark 1980s corruption inquiry, Tony Fitzgerald QC, had warned against the appointment.

Carmody hit back at the critics and described himself as "fiercely independent". AG Jarrod Bleijie congratulated the new CJ, saying "Originally a meat packer and a police officer, His Honour was admitted to the Bar in 1982."

The legal backlash intensified when the president of the Bar Association of Queensland, Peter Davis QC, announced he was quitting the role as he had "no faith in the integrity of the process".

"My sense is that there was little, if any, support for the appointment within the legal profession and little, or none, within the ranks of sitting supreme court judges. Senior figures warned against the appointment and some have spoken out against it since its announcement." <http://tinyurl.com/n3ungsn>

NT crime down as booze bans bite

"Crime is down in the NT as assaults in the NT are down 16% in the four months to April 2014 compared to the same period last year," Chief Minister Adam Giles said in June.

There has been a 16% drop in alcohol-related assaults under Alcohol Protection Orders (APOs). With about 1500 people on APOs, potential offenders have been forced off the booze. The orders ban buying, consuming or possessing grog or attending licensed premises.

Assaults are down by 44% in Tennant Creek, 25% in Alice Springs, and 9% in Katherine compared with 2013.

Attorney-General John Elferink said there has been a decline in domestic violence-related assaults, with 18% fewer offences. "Traditionally, 60% involve grog and our hardline approach to tackling alcohol-fuelled violence is starting to have early success in driving down domestic violence," Mr Elferink said.

Property crime is down, with a 12% fall in total property offences and a 16% decline in commercial break-ins in 12 months. House break-ins are down 26% Territory-wide.

Civil Liberties Australia is always wary of police-generated statistics: the Association of Chief Police Officers in the UK has admitted that police statistics can not be trusted.

Australian briefs

Soldiers infiltrate protest 'war': Former soldiers and intelligence operatives have tried to infiltrate anti-coal

protesters aiming to thwart a multi-billion dollar expansion of coal production in northern NSW. Using false identities, the spies-for-hire have tried to penetrate the inner sanctum of a group of environmentalists and local landowners vigorously attempted to stop the coal mines at Maules Creek and Boggabri. The move represents a significant escalation of a heated battle between Whitehaven Coal and Idemitsu Australia Resources and anti-coal activists, *Fairfax* reported. <http://tinyurl.com/mprkcx8>

Police tap into fine savings: In an Australia first, Tasmanian police are to issue infringement notices electronically on tablet computers. Police will use a mobile app they developed in-house to input data, doing away with handwritten fines. It is estimated not having to return to the station should save more than 20 hours a day, or the equivalent of two extra police on the beat. <http://tinyurl.com/pnbddr2>

Fugly-AG joins the Finkes:

Prisoners from the Alice Springs Correctional Centre have once again built and maintained a buggy (*right, the 2013 version*) that raced in this year's two-day Finkel Desert Race last month, with the NT Attorney-General John Elferink as driver. The buggy, named Fugly, has allowed prisoners to learn



engineering and mechanical skills with many of them going on to complete a Certificate 1 in Automotive. "I want inmates who leave the corrections system to be more employable than when they first came into prison," Mr Elferink said. "Low-security prisoners who prove themselves in engineering and mechanical learning and other skilled programs can become eligible to take part in the NT government's Sentenced to a Job paid employment program."

Prisoners on the up in NT? G4S will monitor and track criminals in the NT using electronic bracelets on ankles under a new \$1m deal with the NT government. G4S is also monitoring prisoners for the South Australian, Victorian and New Zealand Governments to monitor offenders – media release 10 June 2014. The move indicates the NT government expects large numbers of new prisoners, as they expect to open a new 1048-bed, \$620m jail at Holtze, 30km out of Darwin, within weeks.

Boozed driving locks enter the ACT: Repeat drink-drivers in Canberra must now have special alcohol interlock locks fitted to their cars to stop them driving under the influence, instituting a system in the national capital that is already in place in the NT, SA, Queensland, Victoria and NSW. Convicted motorists in the ACT convicted of serious drink-driving offences now have to pay for fitting the device to their vehicle, which costs about \$1100 over six months. A driver must blow an alcohol-free breath sample into the device before the car will start. <http://tinyurl.com/kxtgth3>

Victoria to monitor intellectually disabled people:

Changes to the Disability Act will allow Department of Human Services secretary Gill Callister to require people to wear an electronic monitoring device while on leave from residential treatment facilities. The changes will affect about 14 residents of the Disability Forensic Assessment and Treatment Service in Fairfield. Ms Callister will consider the violence threat they pose to the community and the impact that monitoring them will have on their treatment when deciding whether to fit them with the device. <http://tinyurl.com/q9fpyoe>

Second action plan launched: Australian governments, with the non-profit sector as partner, have launched the second phase of a national plan to reduce violence against women and children. The phases are: Building a Strong Foundation – 2010-2013, Moving Ahead 2013-2016, Promising Results 2016-2019, and Turning the Corner 2019-2022. Why do they sound like political slogans? CLA asks.

Future is rosier: Mentally impaired Aboriginal woman, Rosemary Fulton, 24, who has been held in jail without trial or conviction for 21 months, is due to be released to be closer to her family. She is being transferred from Kalgoorlie Prison in WA to Alice Springs in the NT, where she will live in a house managed by staff from the Department of Health. About 120,000 Australians signed a petition to have Ms Fulton freed after her story was broadcast on ABC's *Lateline* program in March.

Civil Liberties Australia - report for June 2014

Networking:

- Jane Timbrell re TPP, Vintage Reds (retired unionists) projects;
- David Letts ANU re Operation Sovereign Borders: need for transparency and operating according to law;
- Prof Kim Rubenstein re criminal law courses and CCA critique of Sue Neill-Fraser appeal case;
- Rosemary Jennings re editing and proof-reading;
- Senator Lisa Singh (Labor, Tas) re right to appeal
- Senator Lin Thorp (Lab, Tas to 30 June 2014) re thanks for her support of CLA and of Susan Neill-Fraser during her term.
- Senator Larissa Waters (Greens, Qld) re gender issues, state and federal right to appeal laws:

From the inaugural speech in federal parliament of Senator Larissa Waters (Greens, Qld) on 23 August 2011:

I come to this place from the community legal sector, from one of 200 of Australia's vastly underfunded, non-government, not-for-profit legal practices. I spent the bulk of my working life on an award wage as a public interest environmental lawyer at the Environmental Defenders Office in Brisbane, an organisation which is a great unsung hero of many legal improvements in Queensland. Working in a community legal centre brought home to me the lack of genuine access to justice. Having good laws on paper does not do much if people are not aware of their rights, are not able to enforce them or cannot even afford legal advice to know where to begin. The risk of crippling court costs in public enforcement cases, the sheer complexity of environmental laws and the lack of understanding of the handful of rights people actually have to protect the environment all need redressing. We need legal aid for the environment, and all community legal centres need more recurrent funding for services. – since her speech, and in the May Budget, community law centres have had funding further slashed, CLA notes.

Projects:

- Internet access for prisoners;
- Altering policies to asylum seekers through establishing a cross-bench group in federal parliament;
- Right to Appeal to federal Law, Crime and Community Safety Committee: letter to AG SA John Rau;
- Opposition to government withholding funding to NGOs who criticise government policies

Parliamentary hearings:

Civil Liberties Australia President Dr Kristine Klugman and CEO Bill Rowlings appeared before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee inquiry into Incident at Manus Island, which focused on legal duty of care of Commonwealth. CLA's



Senator Penny Wright, Dr Kristine Klugman and Senator Sarah Hanson-Young at the the inquiry into the Manus island riot death

supplementary submission highlighted the need for a longer-term, bipartisan solution to emerge from parliament. To see both the original submission and details from the supplementary, go to: <http://www.cla.asn.au/News/cia-puts-solutions-to-riot-inquiry/>

Media:

Tim Vines, V-P and National Media Spokesperson:

An online 'Right to be Forgotten' and the EU: *Triple J Hack* (radio interview)

New Security Laws: SBS TV 6.30pm main national news Interview (on camera)

CEO:

ABC New Radio, interview with Shon Walker on privacy re surveillance of drivers and passengers by more detailed roadside police cameras.

Canberra Times Public Service section, 3 June 2014: 'The latest Australian Border Farce: pointless politicking with customs', June 3, 2014, reprinting of an article which first appeared on the Civil Liberties Australia website: <http://tinyurl.com/lru4vyw>

Submission requests:

Ability to eliminate gun-related violence: Senate Legal and Con. References Cttee, 15 August received

INTERNATIONAL

Court rules police need warrants to search mobile phones

In a sweeping victory for privacy rights in the digital age, the US Supreme Court unanimously ruled last month that police need warrants to search the mobile phones of people they arrest.

The decision will protect the 12 million people arrested every year, many for minor crimes, in the USA.

But the ruling's impact will most likely be much broader, almost certainly also applying to searches of tablet and laptop computers, Adam Liptak reported in the NYT.

Its reasoning may apply to searches of homes and businesses and of information held by third parties like phone companies.

"This is a bold opinion," said Orin S. Kerr, a law professor at George Washington University. "It is the first computer-search case, and it says we are in a new digital age. You can't apply the old rules anymore."

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr, writing for the court, was keenly alert to the central role that cellphones play in contemporary life. They are, he said, "such a pervasive and

insistent part of daily life that the proverbial visitor from Mars might conclude they were an important feature of human anatomy."

He said that old principles required that their contents be protected from routine searches. One of the driving forces behind the American Revolution, Chief Justice Roberts wrote, was revulsion against "general warrants," which "allowed British officers to rummage through homes in an unrestrained search for evidence of criminal activity." <http://tinyurl.com/nlwo5ct>

Campaigners wants new rules on emails

US campaigners believe they may at last be able to revise the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act, written before email was widespread.

It allows cops to read emails that are six months old or older without a warrant because the law treats emails that are "undownloaded" as abandoned property. In 1986 that might have been a fair assumption, but today most use webmail and don't necessarily have local copies of our emails.

Last month, the Email Privacy Act update to the ECPA gained its 218th co-sponsor in the US House of Representatives, which means an absolute majority now supports it in an unusual bipartisan fashion.

If the House votes on the bill, it will pass, so now's the time. Twenty-eight years is long enough to wait, right? Especially since the state of digital privacy has changed, well, quite a bit since the 1980s – Lily Hay Newman, Slate: <http://tinyurl.com/lkxzps2>

US arrogance 1, Rest of the World 0

US Magistrate Judge James Francis last month ruled that local search warrants must include customer data stored in servers located outside the USA, referring to a case involving a search warrant issued to Microsoft for a customer's e-mail data stored in Dublin, Ireland, which houses European citizen data.

Francis said the likes of Microsoft, Google, and other online service providers should hand over such data because, if US law agencies were to coordinate efforts with foreign governments to secure such information, the "burden on the [US] government would be substantial" and US law enforcement efforts would be "seriously impeded".

Microsoft has filed a motion to quash the request for overseas data. It said: "A US prosecutor cannot obtain a US warrant to search someone's home located in another country, just as another country's prosecutor cannot obtain a court order in her home country to conduct a search in the United States. We think the same rules should apply in the online world, but the [US] government disagrees."

Basically, the US Administration believes its laws should rule the world...and all other countries should be subject to US law, while the USA and US citizens are not subject to any international law, Civil Liberties Australia says. <http://tinyurl.com/mbm9v9q>

UK Govt justifies snooping on all social media

Mass surveillance of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and even Google searches, is permissible because these are "external communications", according to the UK government's most senior security official.

In the first detailed justification of the UK's online interception policy, Charles Farr, director general of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, has defended the way in which it sidesteps the need for individual search warrants.

The policy's rationale has been published as part of the government's defence against a case being brought by Privacy International, Liberty, Amnesty International and other civil rights groups before the Investigatory Powers Tribunal (IPT), which deals with complaints against the intelligence services.

The claims have been brought in the wake of revelations from the US whistleblower Edward Snowden about mass surveillance under the Tempora program by the UK monitoring agency GCHQ and the US National Security Agency (NSA). Under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA), the interception of any domestic communications requires an individual warrant – a legal safeguard that previously was thought to extend to all users. <http://tinyurl.com/lks7unh>

US no-fly list review system "wholly ineffective", says judge

The Department of Homeland Security's method for the public to challenge placement on a no-fly list is unconstitutional, a federal judge ruled last month.

US District Judge Anna Brown ordered authorities to revise a process she said was "wholly ineffective."

Brown's ruling stems from a case brought by 13 people on a no-fly list. The judge wrote that the redress process does not provide "a meaningful mechanism for travelers who have been denied boarding to correct erroneous information in the government's terrorism databases."

It was the first time a court declared the Traveler Redress Inquiry Program run by the DHS as unconstitutional. The decision comes months after a Muslim woman was the first to successfully challenge her placement on a watch list.

Several Australians have fallen foul of the indiscriminate US no-fly list. In one case three years ago, CLA wrote to the DHS explaining why it was utter US Administration stupidity for the name of one prominent Australian woman to be on their list. Her name was subsequently removed, and she was able to once again fly in and out of the USA without being delayed for up to six hours at every entry/exit point. <http://tinyurl.com/k9a4qlo>

Zeid becomes top human rights advocate

Prince Zeid al-Hussein of Jordan will become the UN's first Muslim and Arab high commissioner for human rights on 1 September 1.

Currently Jordan's UN ambassador, the 50-year-old was nominated by UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and unanimously elected by the 193-member General Assembly last month for a four-year term. He replaces current high commissioner Navi Pillay of South Africa.

Prince Zeid said he was "very honoured by the confidence" instilled in him and acknowledged that he would be the first high commissioner from the Asian continent, as well as the Arab and Muslim world.

A highly respected diplomat and avid campaigner for peacekeeping and international justice, Prince Zeid played a key role in the establishment of the International Criminal Court and has also chaired complex negotiations on the elements of individual offences for the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

He went to school in England where he became a rugby union fanatic, graduated from Johns Hopkins University and has a



PhD from the University of Cambridge. Prince Zeid is married with three children. <http://tinyurl.com/m92s8uf>

Latter-day dispute, based on name calling, is match made in hell

The Electronic Frontier Foundation in the USA is coming to the rescue of an online dating site for Mormons in a case involving the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons).

The church is trying to block the site from being named Mormon Match amid accusations that the term "Mormon" breaches the church's intellectual property rights.

The legal flap concerns Jonathan Eller, the man behind the startup website, and Intellectual Reserve Inc(IRI), which is the holding company for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Eller has filed to trademark his site's name, while the holding company has moved to block it before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

"IRI cannot restrict Eller from using the word "Mormon" to describe his Mormon matching service as 'Mormon Match,' any more than Burger King® could prevent In-n-Out Burger® from including the term 'burger' in its name," the EFF wrote in a Texas federal court amicus brief.

For its part, Utah-based IRI does indeed own multiple trademarked terms, in addition to "Mormon," that are related to the word. Among them, they include Book of Mormon, Mormon.org, Mormon Tabernacle Choir, The Mormon Church, and many others. <http://tinyurl.com/qxh478k>

ODD SPOT: Parliament – outdated, ruthless, rich and male?

Outdated, ruthless, rich and male: that is women's overwhelming and damning view of the British Parliament according to a survey by the UK parenting website Mumsnet. Nine out of 10 of Mumsnet's members, who are 97% female, say they believe the political culture there to be sexist, while two-thirds believe success in politics is all down to what school or university you went to and the "old boys' network". When asked which characteristics would be advantageous in politics, 94% of respondents said ambition, 92% cited social connections, 86% said ruthlessness, 84% said being well-off, and 78% said being male. <http://tinyurl.com/kjcfmm4>

Secret memo explains killing the innocent

A secret Obama administration memo disclosed last month outlines the legal justification for the US government's drone killing, a lethal strategy that assassinates innocents as collateral damage.

The memo – <http://tinyurl.com/18r> – released by a US federal appeals court under an FOI request, describes the government's legal underpinnings for its overseas targeted-killing program where drones shoot missiles at buildings, cars, and people. It began under the George W. Bush administration but was broadened under Obama and now includes the killing of Americans.

The Obama administration fought for years to keep the Justice Department Office of Legal Counsel memo from becoming public. The document says that lethal force is authorized under international war rules and the US "war" on terror. Rights groups, however, decried the 41-page document, saying that it amounted to a legal blueprint for other nations to follow.

"While today the US, the UK, and Israel are the only countries known to have used killer drones, experts say that within 10 years virtually every country will be able to build or acquire drones capable of firing missiles. The USA loosening and

redefining international rules governing the use of force and war is ultimately not going to make anyone any safer," Pardiss Kebriaei, a senior attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights, said in a statement. – from <http://tinyurl.com/lwkdran>

We should have own constitution, Wales says

Britain – and presumably Australia – should introduce its own constitution with an enshrined right to freedom of speech similar to that of the US, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales has said.

He said that doing so would help prevent governments from cracking down on media organisations that wanted to publish potentially damaging stories.

"One of the important things about the US is that something like the first amendment and the rest of the Bill of Rights is very difficult to change – whereas here, it's not so easy to construct something that's difficult to change. Parliament can ultimately change anything with a majority vote and that's that."

Wales was speaking at a London summit on surveillance, at which video star Stephen Fry called the UK government's actions in spying on its own citizens "squalid and rancid". <http://tinyurl.com/osgve9o>

ODD SPOT: Forget bikies, it's the oldies behind the new crime wave!

Crimes committed by elderly people in Japan is increasing: government figures show the number of criminals aged 65 or older charged by police had risen sixfold in two decades to 2011. Most crimes committed by older people were shoplifting or theft, but violent crimes were also on the rise, statistics show. The number of Japanese aged 65 or over stands at about 32 million, making up a quarter of the nation's population of 127 million, an all-time high and one of the highest proportions of elderly people in the world. <http://tinyurl.com/ov5fhsq>

Britain – almost – overthrows rule of law

An attempt by the Crown Prosecution Service to hold a terrorism trial entirely in secret has been overturned by the Court of Appeal.

The request, unprecedented in recent criminal justice history, would have prevented anyone knowing even the identity of the two accused, known only as AB and CD. They can now be named as Erol Incedal, who was AB, and Mounir Rarmoul-Bouhadjar, who was CD.

The decision by three court of appeal judges, Lord Justice Gross, Mr Justice Simon and Mr Justice Burnett, will now mean that the opening and closing sections of the trial will be held in public. Gross said the court was not convinced of the need for the defendants to be anonymised and for their trial to be held entirely in secret. <http://tinyurl.com/ly2zp5a>

Your image has been logged...

The National Security Agency is harvesting huge numbers of images of people from communication intercepts to use in sophisticated facial recognition programs, according to top-secret documents.

The US spy agency is increasingly relying on facial recognition technology as it turns to new software to exploit the flood of images included in emails, text messages, social media, videoconferences and other communications, the NSA documents reveal. Agency officials believe that technological advances could revolutionise how the NSA finds intelligence targets around the world, the documents show.

The agency intercepts "millions of images per day" – including about 55,000 "facial recognition quality images" – which translate into "tremendous untapped potential", according to 2011 documents obtained from the former agency contractor Edward J. Snowden.

Once focused on written and oral communications, the NSA now considers facial images, fingerprints and other identifiers just as important to its mission of tracking suspected terrorists and other intelligence targets, the documents show. <http://tinyurl.com/kgerujk>

Big Brother's watching you!

Coming to streets near you, undoubtedly, is a surveillance van like this one in Glasgow last month.

Not content with cameras on every corner, the Scottish city uses mobile vans to scan between corners. The vans have long poles through their roof and cameras on top which can be driven from below to keep 360 degree-surveillance on citizen shoppers.



Big Brother is a fictional character in George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. He is the enigmatic dictator of Oceania, a totalitarian state wherein the ruling Party wields total power "for its own sake" over the inhabitants. In the society that Orwell describes, every citizen is under constant surveillance by the authorities. The book was mostly written while Orwell was in Scotland. - Phil Schubert photo

Top court indicates parliament should make euthanasia decision

Britain's top court has upheld the ban on doctors helping patients end their lives but ruled that judges do have the "constitutional authority" to intervene in the debate.

The supreme court ruling challenges parliament to re-examine the predicament of those who are severely ill and wish to die but unable to do so without medical assistance. A private member's bill on assisted suicide will be debated in the House of Lords this month (July 2014).

The cases were brought by Paul Lamb, who suffered catastrophic injuries in a car accident and now requires 24-hour care, Jane Nicklinson, the widow of the right-to-die campaigner Tony Nicklinson, and a claimant known only as AM or Martin.

By a majority of seven to two, the justices dismissed the claims brought by Nicklinson and Lamb. A narrow majority of the justices – five to four – did, however, decide that the court has the power to declare the law on suicide incompatible with human rights legislation. If such a declaration is made, the parliament may be forced to act. <http://tinyurl.com/ld62azc>

In a related ruling in France, a doctor has been acquitted of poisoning charges after giving lethal injections to seven terminally ill patients. <http://tinyurl.com/qcbx4n6>

Snowden-style whistleblowers get protection

The US Congress passed a law in late June offering whistleblower protections for government intelligence employees, a move cheered by supporters of former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

The new law is included in the annual provision authorising the US government's intelligence activities for the 2015 budget year, which begins on 1 October.

Section VI forbids firing, demoting or other reprisals against any intelligence worker who reports violations of federal law, wasting of funds or any activity that puts the public in danger.

It applies to the inspector-general of agencies such as the National Security Agency (NSA) or Central Intelligence Agency. The statute also applies to anyone reporting issues to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, or to lawmakers on intelligence committees. <http://tinyurl.com/pjbt9n>

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Journalists continually at risk: Al Jazeera Australian-Latvian journalist Peter Grete is in jail for seven years in Egypt for doing his job. He and colleagues Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed were found guilty of reporting false news in the wake of the 2013 coup and of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, a declared terrorist organisation in that country. Meanwhile two Fijian academics are believed to be under formal investigation after they repeated a report in *The Age* quoting Fijian Brigadier-General Tikoitoga admitting to acts of torture by the military since the 2006 coup, but claiming they were necessary to maintain civil order. <http://tinyurl.com/pa544r7> and <http://tinyurl.com/mvk4gf6>

Top US court aborts law curtailing where free speech operates: The US Supreme Court, in the McCullen case, last month ruled it was illegal for Massachusetts to impose a 35-foot (11m) buffer zone around clinics where anti-abortion protesters could not "engage women approaching abortion clinics in 'sidewalk counselling'". The pro-life urger-free zone law was passed to try to avoid harassment of women about to undergo medical treatment. A recent new law in Tasmania aims to achieve the same effect, with a much greater buffer zone. <http://tinyurl.com/putng4j>

Church votes for same-sex marriage: The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has voted to change the definition of marriage from "a man and a woman" to "two people," and to allow ministers to perform same-sex marriages where it is legal – NYT, 20 June 2014

Germany to investigate US spying on Merkel: Germany's federal prosecutor is formally investigating alleged snooping by the US National Security Agency (NSA) on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone. "I have started a preliminary investigation over tapping of a mobile phone of the chancellor," Harald Range said. The inquiry, which follows allegations last year that US spies had eavesdropped on the German Chancellor's mobile in the past, is against unnamed persons, Range said. He said he had decided against opening an investigation into claims of wider NSA surveillance against German citizens. <http://tinyurl.com/nfripu5>

New law put on hold to avoid prison overcrowding: UK justice secretary Chris Grayling is delaying minimum six-month jail sentences for those repeatedly caught carrying a knife to avoid prison overcrowding. Grayling, despite drawing up the proposal himself, is expected to delay it until April 2015, just before a general election, because it would "impose a substantial new pressure" on the prison population. Penal reformers estimate that a further 1945 adults and 200 children could be jailed if it were implemented. Jails in England and Wales were holding 84,533 inmates last month, with about

1,000 "spare" places. The prison population soared by 734 in just five weeks over May and June. <http://tinyurl.com/lbozh6>

US Senate tries to rein in wholesale surveillance: In a surprising vote late one night last month, a strong majority (293-123) of the US House of Representatives voted to cut funding to National Security Agency operations that involve warrantless spying on Americans or involve putting hardware or software "backdoors" (secret reporting mechanisms) into various products. The amendment was added to a defence appropriations bill, meaning it avoided scrutiny by the intelligence committees, which may have stopped it if given the chance. If the Senate passes the amendment, the provisions would operate from 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/o3szhf9>

Top US court to decide bounds of free speech: The US Supreme Court will decide a thorny free speech issue in the digital age: at what point does a statement on Facebook or Twitter cross the threshold from protected free speech under the US Constitution's First Amendment to a criminally actionable threat? The case, *Elonis v. United States*, has reached the nation's high court on appeal, after the Third Circuit Court of Appeals found that defendant Anthony Elonis' 2010 Facebook rants mentioning attacks on an elementary school, his estranged wife, and even law enforcement, constituted a "true threat" under First Amendment precedent. As such, the court upheld Elonis' sentence and conviction. <http://tinyurl.com/p7cbm5w>

DATES

3-5 July, Canberra: Theme: 100 years since start of WW One: *Towards International Peace through International Law* 22nd annual conference, ANZ society of Intl Law (ANZIL), at ANU. <http://law.anu.edu.au/anzil/conferences.html>

9 July, Canberra: Drugs in Australian Sport: Deterrence and Detection. Ass Prof Stephen Moston of U Canberra and Dr Terry Engelberg of Griffith U. Bldg 6C, Room 35, UC campus 1800-1930.

15 July, Toowoomba, Qld: Free screening of *Utopia* by John Pilger, R113, USQ Toowoomba. Info: david.harley@usq.edu.au

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/>

23 July, Hobart: Conflict and the Media: The War on Information. Journalist Peter Cave, former foreign affairs editor of the ABC. 6-7.30pm, Stanley Burbury Theatre, UTAS Sandy Bay. E: UTAS.Events@utas.edu.au; T. 036226 2521

5 Aug, Sydney: Animals and Social Justice, Prod Will Kymlicka, Canadian Research Chair Political Philosophy, Queens U, addressing the question: Do animals have rights? 6-7.30pm, Sydney Law School, U Sydney. <http://tiny.cc/8la8gx>

7 Aug, Brisbane: Towards Global Security? Dr Matt McDonald, UQ Art Museum, 5.30--6.30pm, details: <http://cccs.uq.edu.au/mcdonald-lecture>

7 Aug, Melbourne: Reclaiming American Virtue: The Human Rights Revolution of the 1970s, by Dr Barbara Keys, Sen. Lect. School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, 5-6.30pm, Level 9 Melbourne Law School. email emma.shortis@unimelb.edu.au

9 Aug, Perth: Hazara Exodus – The Unseen Road to Asylum: Afghanistan. Photographer Barat Ali Batoor discusses his and his family's journey and the persecution of Hazaras in Afghanistan and Pakistan. 2–3.30pm at WA Museum.

Batoor's series for the Global Mail won the Nikon-Walkley award for best photographic essay of 2013.

19 Aug, Sydney: Rights Talk...on the ageing and those suffering mental health issues, Prof Henry Brodaty (left), 12.30-1.20pm, AHRC L3, 175 Pitt St, Sydney. <http://tiny.cc/i3orbx>

21 Aug, Darwin: Vincent Lingiari Memorial Lecture. Details: email – marissa.briston@cdu.edu.au

31 Aug - 4 Sep, Adelaide: 22nd international symposium of the forensic sciences, ANZFSS. Info: <http://www.aomevents.com/ANZFSS2014>

28 Sept–1 Oct, Sydney: Aust. Political Studies Conf, U. Syd, Details: apsa2014sydney@gmail.com

1-3 Oct, Sydney: ANZ Society of Criminology, U. Sydney Law School. Theme: Testing the Edge: Challenging Criminology. Details: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/law/457.html?eventid=10300>

16 Oct, Sydney: Charles Perkins Memorial Oration and Prize, 6-8.30pm, Great Hall, U. Sydney. <http://tiny.cc/0za8gx>

5 Nov, Canberra: National information policy conference, held by the Office of the Australian Information Commission. Details TBA. Info: <http://www.oaic.gov.au/news-and-events/oaic-events/information-policy-conference-2014>

7-8 Nov, Adelaide: In the Shadows of Justice (tentative title), conference of Centre for Criminal Justice, Policy and Research at Flinders U. Details: willem.delint@flinders.edu.au with keynote speaker Prof Kent Roach of Canada.

11-12 Nov, Melbourne: 10th annual Islamic studies postgraduate conference: postgraduate students from any uni welcome. Contact Tessa Shaw: law-cilis@unimelb.edu.au

14-15 Nov, Manly, Sydney: Aust. Labour Law Association biennial conference. 'Under the Microscope: the Next Phase of Aust. Labour Law. <http://tiny.cc/ua8gx>

10 Dec, World: International Human Rights Day

15-16 Dec, Singapore: 'Researching State and Personhood: Law and Society in Southeast Asia', Centre for Asian Legal Studies, U. Singapore, focusing on research located in one or more of the following: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. Details: lynettehua@nus.edu.sg

2015:

14-15 Feb, Canberra: National Judicial College of Australia conference, ANU. Details: <http://njca.com.au/program/anu-njca-conference/>

17-20 March, Brisbane: 7th Australian drug and alcohol conference, hosted by Queensland Police and Australian Federal Police. Brisbane Convention Centre. Details: <http://event.icebergevents.com.au/adasc-2015/>

June, England: 800th anniversary of Magna Carta
Date, Place TBC: 2nd Global Domestic Violence Conference

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)

ENDS ENDS ENDS