

## **Aboriginal leaders call for cutting ties with the Queen**

Northern Territory Aboriginal leaders have called for significant — not symbolic — new change to Australia’s system of government to better empower the nation’s indigenous people.

Leader of the powerful Rirratjingu clan of East Arnhem Land, Bakamumu Marika (photo), said it was time to “start afresh” by cutting ties with the British monarchy and becoming a republic, *NT News* reported.

“If we break away, and Australia becomes a republic, then we no longer become a subject of England, of the monarchy,” Mr Marika said. “I think that would be more powerful — becoming an independent (nation).”

He said while he supported the current national push for a new referendum to properly recognise Aboriginal people in the Constitution, voting to ditch the Queen would signal a more meaningful social shift. <http://tinyurl.com/yamnnmtu>



## **Uluru gathering requests new Indigenous representative body**

The call for a republic came as Indigenous leaders meeting at Uluru last month decided the first peoples of Australia wanted real, not token, recognition in the Australian Constitution.

They want a representative body enshrined in the nation's founding document and a process established to begin working towards formal treaties, and a “truth and justice” commission.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is the result of three days of deliberations during the national gathering of hundreds of people from throughout Australia.

"Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people," the statement said. <http://tinyurl.com/yar83szy>

## **Doctors change their mind on same-sex marriage**

The AMA has changed its diagnosis: it now supports same-sex marriage, declaring it a public health issue and calling on politicians to end the divisive debate.

The “doctors’ union” says excluding same-sex couples from marriage has significant mental and physical health consequences and contributes to high suicide rates in the gay community.

President of the conservative group, Dr Michael Gannon, has written to PM Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten urging bipartisanship.

The AMA's about face is the culmination of a long fight for high-profile Sydney physician and campaigner Kerryn Phelps, who was AMA president in 2000. <http://tinyurl.com/mxukrq2>

## **Police over-confidence – and unreal PR – has significant costs**

The consistent theme when police operations go wrong is police over-confidence.

This blight infects wrongful convictions, a failed siege handling like the Lindt Cafe, stun gun deaths, car chase crashes with innocent people losing their lives, and the semi-regular excesses and abuses of power throughout Australia

Officers believe they know better than everyone else. Some mysterious force makes them omnipotent.

They believe they’re smarter than others with real experience who write rules and guidelines about how to behave in gathering evidence, controlling dangerous situations, using dangerous technology, pursuing vehicles and dealing with citizens and the community they are meant to “serve”.

Police PR always portrays officers as super heroes, battling evil, winning “wars” against crime.

The reality is that police officers – from bottom to top – are just like the rest of us, trying to do a good job against the odds and gaining a “pass” grading most of the time, but sometimes failing and very, very rarely operating at “hero” level. \*\*\*

But massively increased public relations and video resources over the past 20 years now pump out booster messages only, constantly portraying all police as heroic 24/7...and never in error.

Today, the first rule of police – and national security services, and immigration, and border force – PR is to pull down the shutters totally if even something minor goes wrong. There is no longer any openness in public services: there may be “service”, both good and bad, but it is not “public”.

These services are not properly accountable, because citizens gain insight into their competence, efficiency or otherwise only in the rare instances where there’s a royal commission, an appeal court finding, or a major coronial or similar inquiry. Such scrutiny occurs once in a blue moon only, and is very costly.

Whenever close scrutiny is applied, the police (and security, etc) inevitably don’t live up to their carefully-crafted PR image. They came up seriously short in command ability and how they use their systems, and in internationally learned know-how and training in the case of the Lindt siege.

The same will likely be true whenever ASIO and Immigration and Border Force come under retrospective public scrutiny, if they ever do. New laws now prevent any public scrutiny whatsoever of ASIO, for example.

In relation to police, the consistent footage shown on TV, and in news photos, is of black-armoured and -helmeted officers with massive automatic weapons drawn, supposedly protecting us. But the Lindt siege demonstrates all those officers, all the armour and weapons and helmets, are powerless unless well taught, trained, deployed and led.

Perhaps it’s time for police and all Australian security services to reconsider that the PR images they are incessantly pumping out may be counter-productive when they don’t reflect reality. People eventually see through fake images, and turn the purveyors of them into objects of ridicule.

Perhaps it’s time for police and their PR to develop some humility, and along with it to tell the truth, all the truth about their good and bad operations and operatives, not just a gilded version of 1/10th of 1% of it.

*\*\*\* There were a dozen or so police heroes at the Lindt siege, those who finally stormed the doors. Ironically, they are the ones usually not allowed to speak to the media.*

## **When two innocent people died...**

The Lindt siege inquiry, in which two innocent people died...

- sat for 111 days.
- considered 1130 witness statements taken.
- dealt with 90 lever arch folders or 68,399 pages, or evidence.
- reviewed more than 1000 hours of CCTV footage.
- had to come to grips with 24,000 inquest-related emails sent or received by the solicitor assisting the inquest. <http://tinyurl.com/y92al56a>

While important, the question is whether this inquiry should ever have been allowed to grow so huge.

There are many instances a year when two innocent people die violently – and sometimes police are involved as in car chase crash deaths – but those tragedies get not 1/100,000th of the attention of the Sydney cafe siege. Better balance is needed in how we review “public” deaths and make changes in systems and behaviours, CLA believes.

## **OPCAT can expose jails to fresh air and light**

In a move that could open the windows and let fresh air and light – figuratively – into Australia’s jails and detention centres, a six month round of national consultation is just getting under way.

The Australian Human Rights Commission is running the consultation, spurred by a sudden decision by Attorney-General George Brandis earlier this year that Australia would ratify OPCAT by December 2017.

OPCAT is the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Australia signed on in 2009, but has never incorporated the provisions into Australian law by formal ratification.

The long-sounding convention could have major impact in opening up Australia’s forgotten hellholes – unseen jails within jails and possibly hidden mistreatments, known abuse within children’s detention centres – to regular public scrutiny. The scrutiny will come under formal provisions requiring states and territories to be more open about what is happening in the facilities they run, and by regular inspection by external (from outside Australia) UN panels every three years.

There has never been a wholesale national review of Australia’s jails and detention centres. Like police forces, such state and territory facilities should be formally reviewed at least every decade, because bad practices inevitably creep in when no-one is watching closely, CLA believes.

We are keen to raise questions about rehabilitation, which is the supposed purpose of jails and detention centres. But what educational programs exist, and what measures are taken as people enter and exit to see whether they have improved, or in fact been harmed by, jail. Similar measures should be taken for a detainee's mental health on entering and leaving centres.

If we are not rehabilitating prisoners, if we are not improving their day-to-day life skills as a minimum, if their mental health is worse on leaving than on entering, then we have to re-think how jails and detention centres operate. Details of consultation <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/opcat-consultation-page>

**NOTE:** The federal government will claim that Manus and Nauru are not subject to external inspection under Australia's OPCAT ratification, because these two centres are run by "independent" countries, which everyone knows is just a "legal" ruse. However, the threat of OPCAT may well have had a hand in Immigration Minister Peter Dutton's announcement that these centres will close "by the end of October".

## No hearing for alleged jihadists

Three alleged Australian jihadists captured in Lebanon could lose their Australian citizenship, Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne (photo) said last month.

He told Channel 9 the government had the power to strip dual nationals fighting overseas of their Australian citizenship, and was prepared to do so to prevent them returning to Australia.

"We will look very carefully at what those three have been doing and of course give them a very fair hearing but we will take action, if necessary, to protect Australians from potential terrorists," he said.

Mr Pyne doesn't seem to know how the law works. There is no 'hearing' (fair or otherwise) under the law the Coalition government passed. And that was deliberate. Civil Liberties Australia believes any accused person is entitled to a hearing – a fair one – before "conviction" action is taken by the state.

The federal government has said that up to 110 Australians are fighting in the conflict in Iraq and Syria, with a further 70 killed. <http://tinyurl.com/kcfswwm>



## Military spooks get new 'toys'

The military spooks are 'refurbishing'.

The Defence Department is proposing "replacement of services and infrastructure at Russell Offices Buildings 5 and 6 in Canberra, currently occupied by the Australian Signals Directorate". Estimated cost of the project is \$75.4m ("excluding GST").

Let's hope the refurbishing doesn't result in "penetrations" by other nations' spooks, as happened with construction of the nearby ASIO building.

Meanwhile, some \$320 million extra in new funding went to the AFP in the latest federal budget. At some stage, excessive, wasteful spending on "terrorism-related" policing must be reined in by someone in government with some sense. – details from the Budget 2017

The never-ending spending in the military and security space contrasts dramatically with reduced spending in the rights and liberties and legal support area in Australia, and in overseas aid. There is absolutely no doubt than the balance is seriously skewiff from traditional allocations.

## New government plans law initiatives

A new Labor government in WA has a long list of "law and order" initiatives it plans to implement, as per its pre-election statements:

- bringing in a 'no body - no parole' rule for murder,
- ending time limits for legal action by people remembering sexual offences,
- introducing a Right to Appeal (with fresh and compelling evidence),
- expunging record of homosexual crimes,
- setting up a bureau of crime statistics and research,
- establishing an independent law reform commission,

- creating a sentencing data base,
- increasing accountability of the DPP by way of parliamentary review,
- introducing laws for class actions, and
- starting ‘live streaming’ (video coverage via the internet) of court proceedings.

While CLA is supportive of most, some will need close inspection as the actual legislation is drafted to make sure they don’t unreasonably limit people’s liberties and rights, or just plain breach common sense.

## Latest law fad ripples around Australia

The latest fad in ‘law and order’ legislating is no body, no parole (NBNP)...which has serious flaws.

Queensland is about to have its second iteration, because the current Labor government doesn’t like the law the former LNP government planned. WA is introducing a brand new law.

The NT thinks such a law will help find the body of Peter Falconio, for whose murder Bradley Murdoch is in jail until 2032. By then he will be 74, and so institutionalised he probably won’t want to – or be able to – leave jail. If you did bury a body in the vastness of the NT outback, could you remember exactly where?

Similar legislation has been introduced in Victoria and South Australia, and is being considered in NSW.

Civil Liberties Australia is concerned that such laws completely ignore the cases where someone is wrongfully convicted for a murder they did not commit\*\*\*. Around Australia, there are people still in jail years after they could have had parole because they continue to profess their innocence. How do they find a body to nominate?

\*\*\* A conservative estimate, based on solid and reliable data over 20 years, strongly indicates the wrongful conviction rate in Australia is probably at least 3.4%. The people producing that solid data believe the rate is more likely 7%. Competent “insiders” (prisoners with a statistics/criminology background, now released) believe the figure for Australia is at least 5%.

The NBNP laws must have “failsafe” get-out-of-jail clause, CLA says. What happens when someone is convicted of a murder and the body is dumped in the entrance to a fast-flowing river, or at sea? How could such a murderer tell anyone where the body is?

So, there’ll have to be one rule for on-land murders, and another one for at-sea murders.

CLA is sorry for the victims – frequently parents mourning a daughter or son who has never been found – but we hope they do not suffer even more under the proposed laws, by being given false, “political” hope.

## At last, a chance to fix Aboriginal juvenile justice in the West

The new broom WA government, elected in March, has brought the Department of Corrections back into the fold with the Department of the Attorney General to comprise the Department of Justice.

Crucially, management of prisons meets management of rum and rations for the legal system.

With the new department head, Dr Adam Tomison, in place in WA for just six months, there is now a chance for a new perspective on reducing prison numbers, cutting the numbers of juveniles in detention, and finding a solution for the misery-go-round of fines for Aborigines which they can’t pay sending them to prison where they die, as was the case with Ms Dhu.

The new Attorney General, John Quigley, is believed to have outlined a busy reform program for the new department, including mirroring the ‘Right To Appeal’ law in place in SA and Tasmania and being voted on by the ACT cabinet this year. *Photo: CLA President Dr Kristine Klugman met with WA Department of Justice Director-General Dr Adam Tomasin in May 2017.*



## CCC to secretly surveil ‘Mr Bigs’ ...and Mr Littles: keep your receipts!

The Corruption and Crime Commission’s extraordinary powers in WA will be used to target money laundering by the “Mr Bigs” of crime...or rather, anyone rich who comes under suspicion.

Bikie gangs, drug traffickers and people who finance methamphetamine (“ice”) manufacture and sale will be subjected to covert surveillance, forensic accountants and compulsory examinations under new Attorney-General John Quigley’s reforms. “The only way of killing a snake is to cut off its head and these syndicates are evil serpents in our community,” he said.

Unexplained wealth provisions have existed in WA since 2000. Criminal Property Confiscation laws call up “proceeds of crime” provisions which extracts funds from crooks guilty of some offences. The new law goes much further, potentially stripping assets from people who haven’t been convicted of a crime but are suspiciously wealthy.

Civil Liberties Australia warns everyone – not just crooks – that you need to keep receipts for everything you ever buy, down to your tennis racquet, running shoes, your iPhone and the magazine from the newsagent, just in case someone decides that you are “suspiciously wealthy”.

Mr Quigley said the CCC was “uniquely placed...covert operatives, covert listening and tracking devices, access to telephone intercept warrants and experienced crime analysts and forensic accountants”. <http://tinyurl.com/lhta9zn>

That’s the problem, CLA says: full-on secret state surveillance based on “suspicion” only. Nowhere in Australia have the “Mr Bigs” been caught under such laws. It is occasionally the Mr Middlings but mostly the Mr Littles and Mr Tinies vacuumed up by these oppressive procedures.

Draconian laws such as these should have three- or five-year sunset clauses: if they haven’t worked as promised to catch Mr Bigs in that timeframe, they should be thrown out, CLA says.

## **Police ‘regret’ 13-year wrongful conviction; multiple inquiries into PathWest**

WA Police “regret” taking a year to tell the Director of Public Prosecutions a DNA profiling mistake had led to an innocent man being convicted.

He was charged in 2004 over a burglary and agreed to plead guilty, despite protesting his innocence, because his lawyer said he risked jail if he lost a trial on the back of “strong DNA evidence”.

AG John Quigley said the Department of Health’s forensic service, PathWest, had incorrectly matched the innocent man to DNA of another man with the same name because PathWest did not check the birth dates.

PathWest told WA Police about the mistake in April 2016, but WA Police told the DPP in April 2017, at the same time officers delivered a letter to the man about what had happened. He was in his early 20s when charged and was not jailed...but he has had trouble getting jobs because of his “criminal record”.

Separately last month, it emerged a forensic biologist for now reputationally-challenged PathWest, Laurance Webb, was sacked because he breached testing protocols four times between 2008 and 2014, including failing to conduct quality control testing and have work peer reviewed.

A PathWest statement said “an internal inquiry” found Mr Webb didn’t compromise evidence, so no incorrect results were given to the police or the DPP.

PathWest chose Christmas Eve 2016 to advise the DPP of the sacking and the failure to follow rules. The forensic lab also vigorously argued with the DPP that no public disclosure should be made.

In May, Health Minister Roger Cook asked the public sector commissioner to conduct an immediate inquiry into PathWest’s operations; there is another inquiry by the Dept of Health’s North Metropolitan Health Service; there will be a Ross inquiry, and Mr Quigley has referred the matter to the Corruption and Crime Commission. <http://tinyurl.com/m5zh9vp> Terms of reference: <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2017/05/PathWest-review-will-look-back-15-years.aspx>

Note: the “Ross Inquiry” is trying to work out whether sacked Pathwest senior DNA analyst Laurance Webb compromised nearly 27 cases provided to WA Police and the Office of the Department of Public Prosecutions. <http://tinyurl.com/m4x2qva>

## **Sue Neill-Fraser to get a day in court in July**

A hearing in Hobart last month cleared the way for the ground-breaking request for an appeal by Sue Neill-Fraser to be heard in the Tasmanian Supreme Court next month.

Justice Michael Brett endorsed evidence agreements reached by Neill-Fraser’s pro bono legal team, led by Barbara Etter and barrister Tom Percy, and the Tasmanian Director of Public Prosecutions, Darryl Coates.

There will be a brief “mention” in the Supreme court on 21 June, before an expected five-day hearing begins at 10am on Tuesday 25 July. If she is successful in that case, three judges will hear a full appeal later in the year.

Neill-Fraser was convicted of murder when her husband disappeared after spending overnight alone on their jointly-owned yacht moored in Sandy Bay, Hobart, in January 2009.

Although there has never been a body found or any murder weapon identified, and the police and prosecutor's case was riddled with suppositions manufactured using tunnel vision, she was sentenced to 26 years in jail, with an 18-year non-parole period, after a jury decision that belied common sense and indicated a serious misunderstanding of forensic evidence creatively presented to the court.

An earlier appeal admitted the now-Chief Justice of Tasmania, Alan Blow, didn't know the State's sentencing rules when presiding over the original trial, so her sentence was reduced to 23 years, with a 13-year non-parole period.

She has served nearly eight years for a "crime" that half of Tasmania, and Civil Liberties Australia, believes she did not commit. The legal mechanism under which she is now appealing is a direct result of CLA lobbying, helped by others, to the Tasmanian Parliament: it mirrors legislation passed in SA in mid-2013.

## **Tassie opts for cameras...without a protocol**

Tasmania will spend \$3.4m over four years equipping its entire police force with body-worn cameras.

Civil Liberties Australia welcomes the move, but notes two issues:

- a. the cameras are being ordered and adopted before a protocol is negotiated; and
- b. apparently, Tasmania is opting for the cheaper version, which means the camera must be physically turned on before recording starts, instead of operating on a loop basis of 30-60 minutes of auto-record.

The Tasmanian Police Association welcomed the move, saying it was primarily a matter of safety, but there would also be "crime-fighting and crime-solving efficiencies". Acting president Gavin Cashion said the knowledge an incident was being recorded tended to modify the behaviours of both officers and the public for the better.

NSW, Qld, WA, NT and Victoria are all adopting similar body-worn cameras. <http://tinyurl.com/n2jndc3>

## **ODD SPOT: Euthanasia law goes backwards in the voting**

Former Premier of Tasmania, Labor's Lara Giddings (right, ABC photo), joined last month with the Greens' Cassy O'Connor to promote a Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2016 in Tasmania.

But after a day of debate, they lost the vote 16-8.

A 2013 bid led by Ms Giddings and then leader of the Tasmanian Greens Nick McKim to introduce legislation which would have allowed terminally ill Tasmanians to end their lives 10 days after making three requests to their doctor was voted down, with 13 against and 11 in favour, with all Liberal MPs and three Labor members opposing it. <http://tinyurl.com/m97h53w>

A similar bill, with cross-party support, is up for debate in the NSW Parliament.



## **Select committee may opt for electoral reforms, cutting voting age**

The ACT Parliament has set aside 2017 to investigate a range of electoral reforms, including reviewing the 2016 election, the Electoral Act and other laws.

A select committee has called for submissions on lowering the voting age, improving donation rules and donation reporting timeframes; and increasing voter participation in elections and encouraging political activity. There is a discussion paper to help prepare written submissions: [View Discussion Papers](#)

Submissions close **30 June 2017**. The committee will report by 30 November 2017.

The select committee of MLAs is Bec Cody chair, James Milligan deputy, Tara Cheyne, Caroline Le Couteur and Andrew Wall.

## **Contemptuous, malicious police officer costs AFP \$35,000**

A Canberra man locked up and accused of throwing his bike in the path of an Australian Federal Police officer after fleeing a breath test has won \$35,000 damages for unlawful arrest and malicious prosecution.

Magistrate Dr Bernadette Boss slammed the arresting officer's "contemptuous and dismissive" attitude towards the man and his decision to arrest the accused on "suspicion" he'd breached his bail conditions.

Luke Marsh launched legal action in the ACT Magistrates Court, seeking damages under the Human Rights Act, with the case heard over three days

Magistrate Bernadette Boss said, in a decision handed down in April, that the police officer had acted only on a suspicion Marsh had breached his bail conditions and formed the view he would respond violently.

"His attitude towards Mr Marsh appeared to be contemptuous and dismissive," she said. "The senior constable was either wilfully blind to the discretion in relation to arrest on breach of bail conditions or failed in his duty to consider the matter."

She said she was "satisfied that these were embellishments inserted into the account to make out the charge". Dr Boss found Mr Marsh's treatment amounted to malicious prosecution. "I am satisfied that the senior constable was primarily motivated by his dislike of Mr Marsh, it was his dominant purpose." <http://tinyurl.com/mmo3rvu>

## **Legal pair question whether jury trials are as fair as they used to be**

A barrister and an academic in the ACT are questioning whether jury trials can still be fair with social media so ubiquitous.

Defence barrister James Lawton and ANU associate professor in law, Mark Nolan, both believe jurors may be using search engines instead of only considering what they hear and see in court, as is the rule.

"It's probably a bigger problem than we actually know about because I suspect a lot of it occurs but doesn't get discovered," Lawton said.

The threat to jurors misbehaving is patchy around Australia, with the laws in various jurisdictions not keeping up with changes in social media access. As CLA has long argued, it is time for a thorough review of the entire legal system in Australia. <http://tinyurl.com/l2buy5>

## **Libs propose revenge porn law; NT considering one**

The Liberal Opposition in the ACT are planning to outlaw "revenge porn", and have released a draft law. Liberal AG's spokesman, Jeremy Hanson, said one study suggested 1-in-5 people nationwide had had "revealing images" shared online without permission.

The ACT draft is modelled on new Victorian law. There are penalties of up to two years jail for distributing "intimate" images of someone, if the distribution is "an indecent invasion of privacy". You can go to jail for up to a year for threatening to distribute an intimate image.

The legislation doesn't require malicious intent for a prosecution, but it provides a defence if the person posting the image believed he or she had consent to share the image, as long as the person photographed or videoed was at least 18. <http://tinyurl.com/kbfln8t>

The NT Law Reform Committee has recently produced a Report on the Non-Consensual Sharing of Intimate Images. <http://tinyurl.com/m2f5zcl> The NT is also considering a new law.

## **Courting good and bad electoral news...**

A former general secretary of NSW Labor has been found guilty of unlawfully using electoral roll information after he passed confidential personal details to former union leader Derrick Belan.

In Downing Centre Local Court last month, magistrate Beverley Schurr dismissed Jamie Clements' claim that he had made an honest mistake when he requested details about a man named Craig Wilson to pass on to Belan. <http://tinyurl.com/k4p4jym>

Commenting on the case, former Australian Privacy Foundation chair (and CLA member) Dr Roger Clarke, said the good news from the case was highlighting that it's nominally illegal to use electoral information for just about anything other than election purposes; the Electoral Commission actually initiated a prosecution, and the miscreant was found guilty of one of the charges

But, he pointed out, the bad news is that:

- there's massive leakage of electoral roll data to large numbers of people, and many are by their nature untrustworthy. [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol\\_act/cea1918233/s90b.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cea1918233/s90b.html)
- there's no effective control over use of the information for other than "a permitted purpose" [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol\\_act/cea1918233/s91a.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cea1918233/s91a.html)
- even where a charge is brought there are lots of impediments that make convictions difficult, and

- the sanctions are dismally limited (100 penalty points x \$180 for use, 1000 penalty points x \$180 for disclosure...and the prosecution failed in the quoted case on the second charge anyway, despite the data being disclosed) [http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol\\_act/cea1918233/s189b.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/cea1918233/s189b.html)

## ODD SPOT: Try your hand at handing down a jail sentence

A new online tool allows pundits to put themselves in the shoes of a judge or magistrate and decide the appropriate sentence for an offender.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, reinstated by the current government, has launched an interactive educational tool to inform people about what happens when judges sentence offenders.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Yvette D'Ath said the *Judge for Yourself* website allowed people to hear evidence in three different cases and allocate the appropriate sentence, based on various factors that judges have to consider. <http://www.sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au/judgeforyourself>

## Abortion in NSW a crime, sort of...

Abortion stays a crime in NSW after the Legislative Council voted down a Greens bill to overturn the 100-year-old law, which is more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

Under a tacit agreement with well run abortion clinics, NSW Police have left them alone since the 1960s. The 1971 Heatherbrae case\*\* endorsed the situation, legally, with abortion available for a range of reasons.

Last month, Greens MLC Mehreen Faruqi's Abortion Law Reform Bill was defeated 25 to 14. Eight Labor MLCs and all five Greens MLCs, as well as Animal Justice Party MLC Mark Pearson voted for the bill.

Public members in the gallery shouted "shame" as the result of the conscience vote was announced in the Legislative Council. "[The] position...is completely out of step with modern medical practice, community expectation, and laws in almost all other states," Dr Faruqi (photo) said.

Queensland is the only other state which retains a ban on abortion, though moves are under way with private members' bills to change the law in that state.

<http://tinyurl.com/n4onrdd> \*\* Lead barrister was former CLA Director, Jim Staples, now deceased.



## 'Tough on crime': all for political posturing, no evidence of benefit

The former NT corrections minister John Elferink – a former NT policeman, and a lawyer – has told the royal commission into youth detention that being seen to be “tough on crime” was a vote winner, despite there being no evidence that such an approach had any benefit.

The commission heard Mr Elferink had drawn up a list of “tough on crime” policies for the Country Liberal Party (CLP) government before the 2016 election. The 31 items included reviewing mandatory sentencing for violent youths, establishing reform schools, increasing police powers to “arbitrarily” search homes of suspected criminals and affording police “shakedown powers”.

Mr Elferink also suggested the government seize TVs belonging to the parents of child criminals.

A month after sending the list to the Chief Minister, Adam Giles, the CLP announced it would legislate to use “mechanical devices” to restrain children in detention.

The list also suggested a “substantially enhanced juvenile squad to target known ratbag families”.

When questioned about what and when he knew about problems with the NT's youth justice system, Mr Elferink had difficulty recalling specifics, but agreed many issues had been raised with him.

Part of the difficulty recalling specifics came from his ministerial workload, he told the commission. He held up to 14 portfolios at one stage, including the taxing areas of health, corrections, and children as well as being attorney-general. <http://tinyurl.com/k4pzn5w>

## Australian briefs

**Shop owner dirty on cashless card:** A Ceduna SA shopkeeper has stopped supplying advance goods to people on the Centrelink “cashless” card because it has cost him \$100,000...even while his customers go

cold and hungry. Malcolm Spry said he was not angry at those who were no longer making repayments to his store – they had no choice – but the card had taken away discretion over income management and spending. “I’m angry at the people that implemented the card,” Spry said. “They’re heartless. My family started this business in 1931 but if the card isn’t scrapped we will shut our business.” <http://tinyurl.com/l92paza>

**Police do well in budget:** NT Treasurer Nicole Manison last month announced \$26 million funding for a new Palmerston police station. Budget 2017 will include an extra \$11m for Stage 2 of the station on top of the \$15m already fast-tracked last year for Stage 1. Budget 17 also includes a \$45m upgrade of the PROMIS system – a venerable computer system which the NT bought into when the AFP were phasing it out – and more police officers. – NT Treasurer’s media release 1 May 2017

**Police stun man who dies soon after:** The Major Crimes Squad and Internal Affairs are investigating the death of man in Perth within hours of WA police using a stun gun on him. Late one morning last month, police called to East Perth found a man needing urgent medical attention, first reports said. While officers were helping him, the man became aggressive and a police officer was injured, reports claimed. Police used a stun gun to subdue the man, who became unresponsive, dying later in hospital. <http://tinyurl.com/kzc5mpp> and <http://tinyurl.com/k22wn97>



**Rainbow flag to come down when same-sex marriage gets up:** A rainbow flag will fly in the CBD of the Darwin suburb of Palmerston until marriage equality is legal in Australia. Palmerston Council unanimously voted to erect the flag at their regular council meeting last month, lining up with Darebin Council in Melbourne and up-and-down Surf Coast Council in Torquay, near Geelong. Palmerston alderman Seranna Shutt (photo) said the flag would fly from 1 June and was a show of solidarity with the LGBTIQ community. <http://tinyurl.com/mwbya2h>

**First female president to keep upper house “children” in line:** Veteran Labor MP Kate Doust has become WA’s first female president of the legislative council, while Sue Ellery will lead the government in the upper house. Ms Doust said her experience as a mother of three had prepared her to deal with a sometimes boisterous upper house. “I’m sure I’ll be able to cope with 35 members on the floor,” she told reporters. <http://tinyurl.com/ybba4chu>

**Man loses house over cannabis stash:** A 47-year-old Canberra man is to lose his home as well as serving time in jail. Gregory William King pleaded guilty to trafficking cannabis after police found 8.6kg stashed around his home in late 2015. They also found scales and clip seal bags, along with equipment for growing cannabis in the garage. Justice David Mossop sentenced him to 18 months jail, suspended after nine, plus a 30-month good behaviour bond. He also ordered the public trustee of the ACT to sell King’s house, which has been forfeited under proceeds of crime legislation, making a second penalty for the one offence. <http://tinyurl.com/m7g9lyj>

**Police data released less frequently:** WA police will report crime statistics every three months instead of one. Police commissioner Karl O’Callaghan said some crimes were over-reported by about 5.5 to 6.4%.— someone breaking into a car and then stealing items from the car would have been recorded as two offences. Data would also be broken down into more subcategories, such as stealing from a retail store, a residence or car, rather than just stealing. <http://tinyurl.com/k4jn7h5>



**Moves to improve parole board:** Queensland’s Minister for Corrective Services Mark Ryan says the new Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 is about an improved, robust and professionalised parole board and ultimately increasing the safety of Queenslanders. “The government accepted 89 of the parole system review’s 91 recommendations, committing to the most comprehensive overhaul of Queensland’s parole system in a century to make our communities safer with tougher and stricter supervision of parolees and improved rehabilitation of offenders,” Minister Ryan said. <http://tinyurl.com/n3ajb3q>

## Comment by members:

### Re the May CLArion newsletter lead item:

On the topic “Parliament must be empowered to decide on Australia going to war” my view is that sanctions are aimed at deterring those who pose a major threat to international peace and security. To pronounce sanctions by one nation against another is to instigate a declaration of conflict that may lead to war.

The United Nations works on reducing global conflict and promoting peace. The role of the Security Council is the maintenance of international peace and security and it is often called to sessions to respond quickly to international crisis. When peace and security are under threat it is advisable Member State(s) seek UN support as well. – Elizabeth Brancaccio, CLA member, works for the UN, Italy

## CLA report – main activities for May 2017

The principal activity for the month by the executive was a visit by president and CEO to Perth, to re-establish an active and effective CLA group there.

However, Director Richard Griggs was active “in the pub” in Tasmania, and CLA member Felicity Gerry QC lectured to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegates in London on “modern slavery”, the issue on which she had just lead-authored the CLA submission lodged with the Australian Parliament in May.

Right: CLA member Felicity Gerry QC (centre rear) briefed members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in London recently on modern slavery. She had just finished acting as lead author on CLA’s submission to the Australian Parliament on whether we should enact a modern slavery act here, as the British have done. – CPA photo



Left: CLA’s Tasmanian Director Richard Griggs speaking, with Rodney Croome, Meg Webb (Anglicare) and Jen Brown (master of ceremonies) on the couch at a politics in the pub at the Duke Hotel in Hobart last month on the topic ‘Why Tasmania needs a Human Rights Act’. – Kartika Franks photo.

The Perth visit was successful in an overall sense, due to intensive preparation, numerous meetings with influential people and the invaluable assistance of Perth CLA member Margaret Howkins.

A detailed report is available on the CLA website, but highlights were meeting with about 40 people including government and opposition politicians, leading academics from four universities, senior barristers and bureaucrats, as well as holding a meeting of CLA members to listen to their views and perspectives.

Among the issues we raised with the people we met, were:

- the **Right to Appeal**: WA is enacting the same legislation in place in SA 2013 and in Tasmania 2015 and going to cabinet in ACT 2017, which enables people – who have exhausted all their traditional

judicial appeal rights – to appeal when there is “fresh and compelling evidence” of innocence. We expect this will be an early initiative of new AG John Quigley and his Chief of Staff, Colleen Egan.

- legislation or changed rules/regulations (after current Lloyd Rayney civil defamation suit ends) **preventing police naming ‘people of interest’**, saving reputations and save government money in compensation. [A CLA-only initiative](#).
- options for **attitude changes by police** with the appointment of a new Police Commissioner later this year (campaign: what sort of PC do we need?)...and putting a **community representative on the PC selection panel** ([the latter a CLA initiative](#)).
- failure of the Corruption and Crime Commission, **establishment of an office of police conduct review** (Margaret Howkins is running an active petition campaign in her own name).
- **forensics reform**, and the issues involving PathWest (sacking of senior forensic scientists and review of “doubtful” cases, systemic problems in path labs – [the latter a CLA initiative](#)).

A CLA board meeting on 21 May elected the following office bearers after the recent two-yearly election: President Kristine Klugman, Vice President Tim Vines, Secretary and Treasurer Bill Rowlings. (Note: we are seeking a person with good Excel and reasonable computer skills to be the new treasurer, expressions of interest very welcome). Tasmanian Director Richard Griggs and WA Convenor Margaret Howkins, as an observer, joined the board meeting by Skype, the first time we have had input from more than one state simultaneously at a meeting.

WA convenor Margaret Howkins was welcomed to a board meeting for the first time, and her ‘convenor’ role was endorsed by board; She explained her own ‘Office for Police Conduct’ petition process, and progress to date. The Board congratulated President, Secretary and WA convenor on excellent achievements on the Perth two-week visit and meetings in May 2017.



*Right: Margaret Howkins in conversation with UWA Professor of International Law (and former Australian Foreign Minister) Stephen Smith during the CLA round of meetings in Perth in May.*

Richard Griggs reported on the Tasmanian Bill of Rights campaign, Rajan Venkataraman reported on the range of submissions made since January across Australia, Mark Jarratt reported on marketing (university debating teams links to be followed up) Jennifer Ashton is working on members’ interests and involving members more. Tim Vines reported on media contacts and interviews.

A report on the Perth meetings was sent to all WA CLA members and supporters, as well as all the individuals with whom the president and CEO met. Several WA federal MPs will be followed up in Canberra when the House is sitting.

A letter was sent to WA Police Minister regarding the appointment of the new WA Police Commissioner, urging community input and representation on an advisory panel.

The president and CEO attended the opening of a new exhibition at the National Museum of Australia on 50 years since the 1967 referendum, at the invitation of Aboriginal elder Joyce Clague, one of the two Indigenous people who formally launched the new exhibition at the NMoA. They also attended a panel discussion on the Anti-slavery Commission in the UK.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Australian government tries to revive inequitable treaty

Australia is leading the charge to save the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal thrown into doubt by Donald Trump’s decision to pull America out of the pact, *The Guardian* reported last month. “Asia Pacific trade ministers gathered in Vietnam with Australia, Japan and NZ at the forefront of efforts to save the deal,” the newspaper said.

The 12-nation TPP covered 40% of the global economy before US President Trump abruptly abandoned it in January as part of a campaign pledge to save American jobs he said had been sucked out of America and transplanted overseas.

CLA believes the TPP is good for multinational companies and will effectively rob from poorer people so big corporates can make bigger profits. It will also over-ride national laws by the use of investor state dispute settlement, an “old pals” act that arbitrates disputes without reference to precedents and High Court decisions. <http://tinyurl.com/l9wuqub>

## **Civil society groups in Asia want court of human rights**

Civil society bodies from across south-east Asia last month called on their governments to establish an independent regional court to promote and protect human rights and prosecute abuses by member states. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Civil Society Conference (ACSC) said it was time for the regional bloc to create its own human rights court, especially since governments in the region were “installing laws and committing actions that continue to destroy the enabling environment for civil society and grassroots organisations”.

“Ordinary innocent people become targets of extrajudicial killings. Leaders of groups challenging government policies are harassed, jailed, disappeared or even killed,” said Jelen Paclarin, ACSC’s regional steering committee chair.

Paclarin said the latest reports show 1302 cases of forced disappearance in the region, the Philippines topping the list with 625 cases, followed by Timor-Leste (428) and Indonesia (163).

ACSC representatives met with Asean ministers from the 10-member regional bloc to raise the human rights issue and their demand to prioritise people’s rights, ensure just and lasting peace, provide decent work and social protection, as well as address the roots of forced migration.

Lee Shook Fong of Malaysia’s Centre for Independent Journalism said the envisioned court could help uphold human rights and freedom in the region while adjudicating violations by governments as well as private corporations. The tribunal would be similar to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights established in 1979, and the African Court on Human and People’s Rights founded in 2004. <http://tinyurl.com/l8msd3w>

## **Taiwan leads the way on same-sex marriage**

Taiwan will become the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage, after the island’s constitutional court ruled current laws defining unions as between a man and a woman are invalid.

Taiwan’s Council of Grand Justices said barring gay couples from marrying violated “the people’s freedom of marriage” and “the people’s right to equality”.

“Sexual orientation is an immutable characteristic that is resistant to change,” the court said. “The freedom of marriage for two persons of the same sex, once legally recognised, will constitute the collective basis, together with opposite-sex marriage, for a stable society.”

Taiwan’s parliament has two years to amend or enact laws addressing same-sex unions, otherwise gay couples will automatically be allowed to register under the current framework. <http://tinyurl.com/kjgq248>

## **Is UK prison mental health catastrophe reflected in Australia?**

New, record levels of self-harm and suicide in UK jails are exposing a collapse in mental health support for vulnerable prisoners, according to Richard Vize writing in *The Guardian* last month.

Last year there were 40,161 recorded instances of prisoners harming themselves, almost 8000 more than 2015 and about 800 a week. Suicides reached 119, the highest since records began in 1978. That means a prisoner kills themselves every three days.

UK Labour’s Luciana Berger has called it “the death penalty by the back door”.

As well as coroners’ inquests and the findings of prison inspectors there have been at least 10 major reports investigating deaths in custody since 1991, including six in the past six years.

Since 2010, according to Full Fact, the number of frontline prison officers has been cut from 19,900 to 14,700 full-time equivalents, as the prison population continues to climb.

A parliament’s joint committee on human rights – with members drawn from both the Lords and Commons – rushed out a report on mental health and death in prisons before parliament was dissolved for the

election. They have been trying to understand why the deaths have continued despite endless investigations and government promises to do something. – David Kravets, <http://tinyurl.com/mxegplt>

## Judge wants marijuana legalised, prisoners released

An Ohio supreme court judge who is considering a run for governor has said it is time for the state to decriminalise marijuana.

William O'Neill, a Democrat, said making marijuana legal was working in Colorado and doing it in Ohio would bring hundreds of millions of dollars in sales taxes. O'Neill announced earlier in 2017 that he was considering stepping down and making a run for governor, but he does not plan on making a decision until the end of the year.

In a speech mixed with his analysis of last year's presidential election and thoughts about problems facing the state, O'Neill said he not only wants to legalise marijuana but also release all non-violent marijuana offenders from prison. Those two things would generate an estimated \$470m to combat drug addiction and create a mental health network run by the state, he said. <http://tinyurl.com/m6nfgdw>

## Gay-ety banned in Banda Aceh

Two men, 20 and 23, were each sentenced last month to 85 lashes in public, the first case of people being punished for homosexuality in the Indonesian province of Aceh which has adopted strict Shariah law.

Homosexuality is effectively a crime in 72 countries: it is legal in most of Indonesia, but not in Banda Aceh. However, after a nationwide campaign by conservative groups against homosexuality, a case now before the country's Constitutional Court will decide whether sex outside marriage should be banned throughout Indonesia. A ban on sex outside marriage would effectively ban homosexual sex, as gay marriage is illegal in Indonesia. <http://tinyurl.com/lf8n3st>

## Naked truth: First Amendment doesn't have you covered

A man who stripped naked at an airport security screening checkpoint must pay a \$670 fine after a US federal appeals court ruled that the First Amendment to the US Constitution does not protect this method of protest.

The nude protest at Portland International Airport by a traveler named John Brennan prompted legal action by both the federal government and the state of Oregon. Portland prosecutors charged him with indecent exposure. A local judge acquitted him, saying that Oregon cannot "punish" him for his nudity, which amounted to protest speech protected by the First Amendment.

Federal authorities also imposed a civil fine for violating a US law that prohibits "interference with screening personnel."

The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, siding with the government, ruled last month that the First Amendment is no defence to getting naked in a TSA security line. <http://tinyurl.com/m2fbxb2>



## ODD SPOT: Yellow guru makes town council see red

A man in Beaverton, Oregon state USA, has been fined \$660 by the town council for not having an engineer's licence when he researched and calculated why it was wrong of the city to fine his wife for going through a red traffic light signal. The yellow warning signal did not last long enough, he worked out. Now Mats Jarlstrom is hitting back by suing the city council for breaching his first amendment rights. <http://tinyurl.com/kbotsgv>

## Saudis refuse access to UN human rights representative

Saudi Arabia has been accused of using anti-terror laws to suppress free expression and failing to carry out independent inquiries into its Yemen bombing campaign.

So says a rigorous report last month by the UN special rapporteur on human rights, Ben Emmerson, after he spent five days in the kingdom.

Emmerson went to the capital city, Riyadh, on behalf of the UN: Saudi officials refused to grant the rapporteur access to prisoners the UN believes are being wrongly held under anti-terror laws.

He also said he had heard repeated stories of wrongful arrest, misuse of court procedures, cases of torture to extract confessions and clear cases of miscarriages of justice in recent beheadings. <http://tinyurl.com/n32mbbn>

## **NZ breaks new constitutional ground; inmates to get vote**

The NZ Appeal Court has ruled against the NZ government's appeal against a 2015 High Court Decision which issued the country's first declaration of inconsistency under its Bill of Rights, effectively restoring the vote to prisoners.

In 2015, Justice Heath ruled that the Electoral (Disqualification of Convicted Prisoners) Act 2010 which applied a blanket ban on inmate voting was inconsistent with the NZ Bill of Rights Act.

[https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/cases/the-attorney-general-v-taylor-others/@\\_@images/fileDecision](https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/cases/the-attorney-general-v-taylor-others/@_@images/fileDecision)

In the absence of a further appeal by the Government to New Zealand's Supreme Court, the successful lead litigant, Auckland prison inmate and jailhouse lawyer Arthur Taylor, is demanding the government restores voting rights to eligible inmates in time for the September 2017 national election.

Failure to do so could leave the government exposed to damages claims from inmates who have been wrongly denied their vote, Taylor says. – personal correspondence.

## **US winds phone tapping back towards legality**

The US Administration has ended a formerly super-secret form of phone-tapping begun when national security powers expanded rapidly after the 11 Sept 2001 aircraft attacks on New York.

The National Security Agency no longer collects "peripheral" Americans' emails and texts exchanged with people outside the USA. These are communications that simply mention identifying terms – like email addresses – for foreigners whom the agency is spying on, but are neither to nor from those targets. Now, the program receives and stores only intercepted messages that are directly sent to or from a target.

The decision is being hailed as a major winding back of American surveillance policy. Privacy advocates argue that the practice skirted or overstepped the Fourth Amendment.

The policy change is a direct result of leaks by contractor Edward Snowden, still holed up in Moscow and sought by the USA for punishment. After the Snowden disclosures, the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, an independent watchdog agency, re-analysed the warrantless surveillance program. The new policy just announced is the result.

Mr Snowden wrote on Twitter that "the truth changed everything." <http://tinyurl.com/jwdo8yu>

It's worth noting that America's 'Five Eyes' spy partners, including Australia, are not constrained by American law and can still run the same intelligence checks that the US agencies were running. As well, only "peripheral" Americans' emails are no longer collected and parsed in the USA: the rest of the world's emails – including yours – are still open slather to US, Australian, UK, NZ and Canadian spooks.

## **Congress rules pot sessions OK**

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions wants to fight state cannabis laws. But Congress just thwarted him.

The recent 1665-page spending bill maintains a provision that prevents the Department of Justice from using any of its funds to hamper state laws related to medical marijuana. The department cannot "prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana," Section 537 of the bill reads.

The \$1.1 trillion spending bill—the Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 244 (PDF)—passed the Senate with a 79-to-18 vote. The White House has signaled that President Trump will sign it, which will keep the government running until September. <http://tinyurl.com/ld6jzg2>

## **International briefs**

**New privacy group launches:** The Privacy Foundation of New Zealand was launched last month to advocate for people's privacy and personal information rights in NZ. The country's former Privacy Commissioner Marie Shroff and Associate Professor Gehan Gunasekara of Auckland University Business

School are the chair and deputy, while other founding committee members are Associate Professor Alex Sims (Auckland University Business School), Alida van Klink (Chartered Accountant, Auckland), Kathryn Dalziel (Christchurch) and Katrine Evans (Wellington), both specialist privacy lawyers in private practice. <http://tinyurl.com/kdavic63>

**Proposed nuclear weapons ban treaty ready for vote:** The UN in Geneva is considering a draft treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons, and may vote on it by 7 July. President of the negotiations, Ambassador Elayne Whyte of Costa Rica, presented the draft treaty last month. It is based on the discussions and inputs made at the first session of the conference to negotiate such treaty held on 27-31 March 2017. <http://tinyurl.com/y8ewvhxp>

**Journalists are threatened species:** Mexico is the most dangerous place in the western world to be a journalist: 104 have been murdered since 2000, while 25 others have disappeared. Last year, 11 died. This year, in March alone, seven were shot, three of them to death. In the past six years, there have been 800 cases of harassment against journalists – with only two prosecutions – and mayors and government officials are as likely to be the alleged harassers as drug cartel criminals. <http://tinyurl.com/n6ddkkw>

**Convicted for laughing and parading:** Desiree Fairouz, a left-wing activist with NGO Code Pink, is guilty of engaging in “disorderly or disruptive conduct” with the intent to disrupt US congressional proceedings, as well as “parading, demonstrating or picketing”. On 10 January, when now-AG Jeff Sessions’ colleague, fellow Alabama Republican Senator Richard Shelby, said Sessions’ record of “treating all Americans equally under the law is clear and well-documented”, Fairouz laughed out loud twice then, “grew loud and more disruptive” as an officer attempted to remove her. She will be sentenced in June. <http://tinyurl.com/k464kct>

**No democratic delights in Turkey:** Turkish internet users woke up one Saturday last month to find that they no longer had access to Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia written by volunteers. As well, they realised sackings had reached an estimated 140,000 people from the state and private sectors, and more than 1500 civil groups had been closed, since a failed coup last year. <http://tinyurl.com/mwz37dx>

**Expatriate workers, go home!** All 70,000 expatriate workers in Saudi Arabia’s Public Service must leave within the next three years, the Ministry of Civil Service has ruled. Deputy Minister for Civil Service, Abdullah Al-Melfi said the ruling applied to all ministries and government departments and there would be no exceptions. <http://tinyurl.com/m9q9jgg>

## DATES

**9-17 June, Venice:** The Venice School of Human Rights – Human Rights as Our Responsibility, European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation. Boo <https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-35.7089846,149.7797929,9z> k until 27 April, early bird 30 March with discount. <mailto:giulia.ballarin@eiuc.org>

**15 June, Perth:** Law Society of WA celebrates 90 years.

**24-30 June, Bali, Indonesia:** ‘Justice on the Sniff of an Oily Rag’, the 16th biennial Criminal Lawyers Assn of the NT, conference. Info: [russell.goldflam@ntlac.nt.gov.au](mailto:russell.goldflam@ntlac.nt.gov.au)

**29 Jun – 1 July, Canberra:** 25th ANZSIL conference; Sustaining the international legal order in an era of rising nationalism. Keynote speakers include: Prof Balakrishnan Rajagopal (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Prof Natasha Affolder (University of British Columbia), Prof Tim McCormack (University of Melbourne), Prof Kerrie Sadiq (Queensland University of Technology). Details: <http://anzsil.org.au/event-2443757>

**2-8 July 2017, London and Dublin:** Australian Bar Association conference. [www.abaconference2017.com.au](http://www.abaconference2017.com.au)  
(No, we don’t know why the “Australian” BA conference is on the other side of the globe but it is, every two years).

**9-13 July, Brisbane:** International Association of Genocide Scholars 13th conference – Justice and The Prevention of Genocide – at TC Beirne School of Law, U. of Queensland. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/zwzufbv>

**16-18 July 2017, Gold Coast:** 30th ANZ Society of Criminology conference. Details: [www.icccf2017.com.au](http://www.icccf2017.com.au)

**17 Aug, Canberra:** Accountability and the Law: Case for a federal anti-corruption commission, at Parl House. Details/ register: <http://tinyurl.com/mzor8sw> Speakers include: Nicholas Cowdery, Geoffrey Watson, George Williams, Brew Walker, Fiona McLeod, Gabrielle Appleby (photo).

**8-9 Sept, Sydney:** 40th anniversary of the Federal Court – considering the court’s contribution to



the development of Australia law. Venue, Law Courts Building, Queens Square. Details: <https://law.anu.edu.au/news-and-events>

**11-29 Sept, Geneva:** UN Human Rights Council meeting. <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/Home.aspx>

**17-21 Sept, Cairns:** 2017 International Women & Law Enforcement Conference. Details: 1800 807 730 or [info@destinationcairns.com.au](mailto:info@destinationcairns.com.au)

**23 Sept, NZ:** Election

**8-13 Oct, Sydney:** International Bar Association conference: 8 -13 October 2017 [www.ibanet.org/Conferences/Sydney2017.aspx](http://www.ibanet.org/Conferences/Sydney2017.aspx) (We don't know why the "international" bar association conference is in Sydney, and the "Australian" conference is in England and Ireland - see 2-8 July)

**24 Oct-4 Nov, Hobart:** 'An Inconvenient Woman', the play about the Sue Neill-Fraser case, Pop-Up Theatre No 9, Evans Street. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/jpmkkkp> .

**1 - 3 Nov, Melbourne:** 50 years of naming institutional racism: realising racial equity or intensifying injustices? 9am-7.30pm, Deakin University Downtown, 727 Collins St, Melbourne. Chair, organisers: Prof. Yin Paradies [yin.paradies@deakin.edu.au](mailto:yin.paradies@deakin.edu.au)

**30 Nov - 3 Dec, Montreal, Canada:** 8th International Conference on Human Rights Education: Bridging Our Diversities. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/kvpzg2v> NOTE: 9th of series to be held in Sydney in 2018.

**5-8 December, Canberra:** International Conference on Cybercrime and Computer Forensics: Collaboration Imperative – Acknowledging the past. Imagining the future. Details TBC.

## 2018:

**Late 2018 (Timing/venue TBC):** 9th International Conference on Human Rights Education. Contact: Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, Coordinator, International Human Rights conference series:, President, Australian Council for Human Rights Education. Email; [S.Ozdowski@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:S.Ozdowski@westernsydney.edu.au)

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*CLArion* is the monthly e-newsletter of Civil Liberties Australia A04043, Box 7438 FISHER ACT 2611 Australia. Responsibility for election comment in *CLArion* is taken by CLA's Public Officer, Bill Rowlings, of Fisher, ACT. Please feel free to report or pass on items in *CLArion*, crediting CLA and/or the original source. We welcome contributions for the next issue: please send to: [Secretary\(at\)cla.asn.au](mailto:Secretary(at)cla.asn.au)

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