

AHRC launches ‘rights futures’ project

The Australian Human Rights Commission has launched a new long-term project to assess the impact emerging technologies are having on our rights and liberties.

The aim is to decide how Australia can regulate high-tech tools to benefit rather than harm people.

The new project is an initiative of Edward Santow, the new human rights commissioner.

He believes Australia should focus on "responsible innovation" in the face of technologies that threaten to worsen inequality. He says the potential of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies to help or harm is "almost limitless". <https://tinyurl.com/yc49l9hb>

The move comes as Queensland sets aside funds to introduce the third bill of rights in Australia (see ‘**State to get human rights act**’, below).

Protestors believe Timor Leste bugging case is a downer

Protests took place around Australia on 25 July 2018 about the upcoming case against Witness K and his lawyer Bernard Collaery for exposing Australian government spying, bullying, hypocrisy and cover-ups around sea boundary negotiations with Timor Leste.

The precise location of the agreed boundary between the two nations materially affected how much income the poor, undeveloped country would get from large under-sea oil and gas deposits closer to Timor Leste than Australia.

Federal Liberal and Labor governments condoned the bugging, allegedly approved by then-Foreign Minister Alexander Downer in 2004. He and others from both mainstream political parties were later employed or contracted by the Woodside company which stood to gain from the oil deal.

K and Collaery are charged with revealing the government’s notorious misuse of ASIS, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, to plant bugs in the Timor Leste Cabinet office in Dili. The pair claim they did everything legally and by the book according to the draconian laws that surround anything to do with the super-secret ASIS and its spooky political overlords.

The protest in Canberra, where the pair were due to appear before a magistrate for the first “public” revelation of the charges, was abandoned when the federal Director of Public Prosecutions asked for the case to be delayed.

But protests went ahead in Sydney, Melbourne and Darwin, where Civil Liberties Australia members were prominent in their support for the unfairly targeted pair. Photo: CLA members, Rob Wesley-Smith, wearing the young country’s top medal, the Order of Timor Leste, and Alistair Wyvill, are pictured with Leanne (left) and Cindy Watson of Australian Friends For East Timor (AFFET) in Darwin. Photo: Vaughan Williams.



Barrister Wyvill pointed out that the Australian government appears to have broken international law by bugging the Timor Leste Cabinet discussions. There was consensus at the Darwin protest that the wrong people were before the court, and that the recently-retired Australian High Commissioner in London, Downer, would have been a better choice to face charges in relation to the bugging.

Wilkie calls on AFP to investigate government ‘criminals’

Independent MP Andrew Wilkie wants the Australian Federal Police to investigate the role the nation’s intelligence services played in bugging the cabinet room of Timor Leste.

The 2004 bugging occurred while Australia and TL were negotiating maritime boundaries. The boundary line determines who most benefits from massive oil and gas deposits..

Wilkie (Denison, Tas) used parliamentary privilege to reveal the federal Director of Public Prosecutions had lodged criminal charges against Canberra lawyer Bernard Collaery and a former spy known as 'Witness K' for divulging information about the operation.

In interviews, Wilkie – himself a former whistleblower over mythical weapons of mass destruction – said senior government officials were the "real criminals – the people who ordered the illegal bugging".

Three Australian senators have joined him in referring the matter to the AFP: Greens senator Nick McKim (Tas) and SA crossbenchers Tim Storer and Rex Patrick.

"We wish the police to conduct an investigation to look at who's involved, who the senior officials are, who the government ministers were, noting all of this has been done in secret," Mr Wilkie said. "No-one is above the law." <https://tinyurl.com/yd53hrvj> Note: Wilkie is a member of Civil Liberties Australia.

Cover-ups! Government hides its mistakes to avoid being further sued

The federal government is paying out upwards of \$5m a year for its own mistakes...but keeping the payments secret.

The secrecy is partly so other potential claimants aren't made aware of the government's misbehaviour. If you don't know what has happened to someone else, you don't sue for compensation in similar cases.

Richard Baines, in an exclusive piece on the *ABC's* online website, revealed the official government rort after a company sworn to silence was inadvertently given the chance to speak out. A Walgett NSW meat company was driven to bankruptcy by a mistake of AQIS, a former meat inspection authority.

Eventually the federal Dept of Agriculture paid \$1m compensation. The company claimed the AQIS error had cost them \$10m, including their business.

As usual, those compensated were sworn to secrecy by official settlement documents. That means that they can't make others in the same industry aware that they too might have been duded by the government. The pattern is repeated across all government departments and agencies.

Baines' article reveals the Dept of Finance runs a centralised payment mechanism within government. It manages the scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA).

Finance claims it does not keep a tally of how much money it has paid out in compensation for bureaucratic mistakes. Rubbish! Civil Liberties Australia says. Finance's meticulous record-keeping would allow it to tally the annual payout in a matter of seconds, with a few keystrokes.

If that is not the case, then the Australian National Audit Office should be called in to analyse why the Department of Finance is so financially incompetent.

Baines quotes former Commonwealth Ombudsman, and also federal Information Office supremo, Prof John McMillan, who said the CDDA scheme was secretive. "A person who has had a dispute with a government agency should be able to talk about it publicly, equally there's a strong public interest in knowing how government resolves disputes," he said.

Prof McMillan examined the scheme almost a decade ago and was concerned back then. "A strong criticism I made back in 2009 of the scheme was there wasn't sufficient visibility and transparency of how CDDA operates: I don't think that's changed at all," he said. <https://tinyurl.com/ycolrt9p> Note: Prof McMillan is a member of CLA.

New troop call out bill is an alarming escalation of potential autocracy

Civil Liberties Australia is alarmed by a new draft law for calling out the troops around the nation, and turning Australia into a place where "unwritten law" becomes the law of the land.

The Defence Amendment (Call Out of the Australian Defence Force) Bill 2018 escalates the federal government's ability to turn the troops out on to the streets at a moment's notice, on the say-so of a minister.

Specifically, that minister can be the Minister for Home Affairs, who is named specifically in the draft law.

CLA is preparing a submission, due in by today (1 August) to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs legislation committee, to point out where we believe the draft bill is faulty. The list is long;

CLA says the bill over-reaches its claimed aims considerably. It is a sledge-hammer to crack a nut.

- It is questionable whether it will survive a Constitutional challenge.
- It permits over-ride of state and territory control of their own policing responsibilities.
- It allows the federal government to call out the troops "on spec", in case something might happen.

- It seductively slides Australia from an exemplary democracy into a potential autocracy.
- It allows troops to question, detain, arrest – and shoot – civilians with the lowest standard of responsibility possible.
- It permits naval vessels to shell onshore facilities, and military aviation assets to bomb houses.
- It empowers Ministers to order the Chief of the Defence Force where and how to deploy troops.
- It proposes a parliamentary overview, then dispenses with it in the next paragraph.
- It enables the Nuremburg defence to prevail: “*I was only following orders*”.
- It is a “big” national law where a mediated agreement would more than suffice.

And, for the first time that Civil Liberties Australia is aware of in any Australia legislation, the Defence Call Out Bill allows “unwritten law” to prevail. The ‘definitions’ in the proposed new law say:

“substantive criminal law means law (including unwritten law)”.

The draft law presented to parliament admits that the bill breaches many human rights, including the right to life, to freedom from arbitrary detention and arrest, the right to liberty and security of the person, and the right to freedom from arbitrary and unlawful interference with one’s privacy or home.

But it fails to mention that the law potentially impinges on the right to freedom of speech and freedom of association. It does so because it is designed specifically to allow troops to be deployed on the streets, lands, reserves and foreshores of Australia in cases like protests around the Adani mine in Queensland or against coal mines, fracking or environmental abuses anywhere. For that reason alone, it needs to go back to the drafters to be reconsidered before being resubmitted to the parliament.

And, it would also allow massive deployment of troops to create a ring of khaki around a US President, such as Donald Trump, when he visits Australia, expected to be in November this year.

In fact, the new law could be called the Donald Ducking For Cover bill.

CLA started the national publicity of the Bill, whose proponents apparently wanted it hushed up because the mainstream media took no notice when the draft law was tabled. See: <https://www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au/blog/new-laws-will-allow-the-use-of-military-to-break-protests/>



New Laws Will Allow the Use of Military to Break Protests

By Paul Gregoire | 19/07/2018 | 4 Comments

PRINT

The Turnbull government recently introduced legislation into parliament designed to lower the threshold for calling out the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to assist state police forces with public incidents.

No one else will do it for us

“My observation after four weeks in Europe, is how small Australia seems when overseas,” says CLA Vice-President and National Media Spokesperson, Tim Vines.

“It doesn’t feature in the news, even when it is inflicting significant blows to its own democratic institutions, such as passing laws that criminalise whistleblowing and seriously hinder investigative journalism, which goes to show how easily it is for democracy to wither without notice.

“Ultimately, the only people who can protect and defend democracy and democratic institutions in Australia are *Australians*. No one else will do it for us,” he said.

Targets for females...but not for MLPs

All Commonwealth departments and agencies from 1 July have specific targets to brief female barristers. Attorney-General Christian Porter said: “All Commonwealth entities are bound by the *Legal Services Directions*, which encourage the briefing of a broad range of barristers and, in particular women, based on their skill, experience and expertise.

“Amendments to the (LSDs) require (the entities) to make all reasonable endeavours to brief or select senior female barristers for at least 25% of briefs and junior female barristers for at least 30% of briefs.” Lest this be thought magnificent government largesse towards legal females, the AG’s own media release pointed out that in 2016-17, female barristers received 29.6% of all briefs and 26.2% of the value of all briefs for the Commonwealth. So the new target for senior females is lower than what they are achieving without the target! <http://tinyurl.com/y737lbyy>

Civil Liberties Australia believes the AG would do far better to concentrate on setting targets for departments and agencies to prove that they abide by the Model Litigant Principles (MLPs), which are also part of the Legal Services Directions.

The AG's department does nothing to actively monitor or legally enforce adherence to MLPs, which are a fundamental basis of a fair go for citizens and companies under the rule of law in Australia. The MLPs are a direct responsibility of the first law officer of the nation, AG Christian Porter, who is failing in his duty to enforce that departments and agencies do as they are legally obliged to do.

Is nascent fascism affecting the west, and Australia? <https://tinyurl.com/y8w6vpcy>

"It is not easy to get people to give up their ideas of freedom and civility. You have to ... get people used to something they initially recoil from," Fintan O'Toole, writing in the *Irish Times*.

Dutton caught opening government's 'brown paper bag' to pork barrel

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton – just before the 28 July by-elections – announced a grant of \$134,000 to Waratah-Wynyard council through the federal government's Safer Communities Fund.

But the council, which is in the Tasmanian Braddon electorate due to vote on 28 July, hadn't applied for the grant. "Council did not make a formal application for this funding," a spokesman said.

The Safer Communities Fund requires councils to formally apply for funds.

The Minister for Justice then personally "short-lists preferred proposals" from a list selected from applications for grants. The list is then evaluated, "before being resubmitted to the Minister for final approval". That is, personal approval. See 4.5 of the ANAO audit report [No 43 2016-17](#).

But not before a by-election, apparently.

Minister Dutton also promised \$60,000 for CCTV cameras to Burnie City council, also in the Braddon electorate. That council would not confirm whether or not it had made a formal application for funds.

The pork barrel money comes from what Civil Liberties Australia calls a "brown paper bag" fund established under the government's unexplained wealth and proceeds of crime laws. This rule-of-law-reversed legislation means a person must prove where, when and how they acquired every asset they own – from cash in the bank, to house to car to gym gear and earrings – or hand everything over to the government.

Both federal and state governments are currently boosting prosecutor office resources to rake in more funds. It is entrepreneurial law-making, which allows ruling parties at federal and state level to hand out largesse. 'Doing a Dutton' might be a good name for distributing brown paper bag money. <https://tinyurl.com/ybxvl2oq>

The 'brown paper bag' funds are managed by the Australian Financial Security Authority, AFSA.

Assets: How AFSA extracts its funds – \$250 an hour – as values decline

ANAO reports how much AFSA (above) charges, and how uncommercial and wasteful AFSA is with assets.

5.8 AFSA's proceeds of crime functions operate on a cost recovery basis, however its performance measures do not include the costs of managing property under its control. AFSA staff time spent on the management of individual cases is charged at \$62.50 per every 15 minute increment, with the cumulative cost (called Official Trustee fees) being deducted by AFSA from the proceeds of the disposal of the property once the matter is finalised. Expenses incurred through third party service providers—such as maintenance and storage costs, valuation costs, legal and conveyancing costs, sales commissions—can be recovered directly from funds in restrained or forfeited bank accounts at the time the expenses are incurred.

5.9 As an example, one older matter from 2003 that was finalised in 2015–16 involved property (notably a boat) valued a little over \$400 000, but marina-related costs totalled \$245,000 and Official Trustee fees \$30,000. Another case from 2005 (finalised in 2014–15) involving property valued at \$3.2 million incurred \$101,000 in Official Trustee fees. <https://tinyurl.com/y7u8c86c>

Not all seized assets are lost, necessarily, as the seizure by the state may be ruled unlawful.

People complained to CLA years ago that seized assets, like high-priced motor bikes and boats, were left out, uncovered, in storage on open lots. When a court ordered return of the assets, they were worth virtually nothing because they had not been looked after, even by covering with a \$25 plastic tarpaulin.

No defence to windows opened by see-through US ‘intelligence’

Professor Greg Austin, a former intelligence analyst and author of books on China’s security policies, has explained why Australia cannot trust US “intelligence”, particularly where it may be biased by US trade considerations in favour of American multinationals.

“The consensus of global scholarly opinion on (supply chain components in the information age) suggests that those in Australia advocating for a ban on Huawei in the 5G network – mimicking the opinion of US intelligence chiefs expressed in February 2018 – have not reviewed all of the available information and perspectives.

“Public policy analysts in Australia should be wary of their own government when it so closely mirrors senior officials in the Trump administration on any issue of intelligence policy, for two reasons.

“The first, and most worrying, is the poor record of the US intelligence community on big issues of analysis if they’re highly politicised. Remember Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction as one in a 70-year saga of great US intelligence failures.

“The second is that internal political disputation within the Trump administration and the US Congress on relations with China is at fever pitch.

“The national security damage caused by vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows puts into the shade the unsubstantiated claims (unsubstantiated in the public domain at least) that Huawei equipment has directly produced security breaches. Moreover, NSA cyber weapons based on the vulnerabilities in Windows, such as Eternal Blue, have caused more documented security breaches globally, and in Australia, than any Huawei products. Yet Australia’s Defence Department uses Microsoft Windows.” <http://tinyurl.com/y9f6wrqx> under the title, ‘The campaign against Huawei’. Originally published by The Australian Strategic Policy Institute's 'The Strategist'.



Vets department starts down apology path...at last

New Department of Veterans' Affairs boss Liz Cosson (photo) has offered to personally apologise for the way her department handled an injured paratrooper's compensation claim.

Department Secretary Cosson asked to meet veteran Martin Rollins after the ministers for Defence and Veterans' Affairs ordered a review into his case.

The ABC's 7.30 revealed the DVA had changed its own policy in order to thwart Mr Rollins's claim for a badly damaged back. It was part of a decade-long battle between the former paratrooper and the department, which spent more than \$600,000 fighting the claim until an apology and an offer of \$127,000 in 2016.

An independent investigation into the matter identified some "systemic" problems with the handling of veterans' claims, and the department has since made some changes.

But Defence Minister Marise Payne told Parliament more reforms may be needed. "It is evident that there were and may still be cultural issues in the department that do need to be addressed," she told the Senate.

CLA's observes that Cosson will have a full-time job apologising if she is to admit to all evils perpetrated by DVA against veterans over the past 20 years. Vets have consistently complained that the department supposedly established to support them was in fact doing them down. <https://tinyurl.com/y8gbzclt>

CLA wonders whether this case will make it into the report by Veterans' Affairs to the Office of Legal Services Coordination on how the department did not abide by Model Litigant Principles (see item on 'Targets for females...but not for MLPs').

TPP again up for review but we still can't change any clause

Two committees of parliament are reviewing the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement, known as TPP-11, because it involves the original 12 countries minus the USA.

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, which has a government majority, is due to report on 22 August. The Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade on which Labor, Centre Alliance and Greens have a majority, is due to report on 18 September.

No committee can change the text of the agreement; they may only recommend for or against the legislation which will implement the agreement. Parliament will vote for the agreement after both committee reports are finalised.

TPP-11 still contains foreign investor rights to sue governments over public interest laws (the ISDS clauses), restricts future governments from regulating essential services in the public interest, promotes privatisation, provides for increased numbers of temporary workers tied to one employer and vulnerable to exploitation without first testing if local workers are available, and lacks legally enforceable labour rights and environmental standards. – Dr Pat Randal, AFTINET media release

‘Rights are enhanced by parliamentary committees’

Research by CLA member, (now Dr) Sarah Moulds, into parliamentary committees and rights protection in Australia has concluded that the committees are having a rights-enhancing impact on Australia’s counter-terrorism laws, in some cases in a quite profound way.

Very rarely, though, do the committee processes have a rights-remedying impact. They would work much better, she concludes, if they worked collaboratively in a systemic way.

“My research does not find that parliamentary committees alone are well placed to *remedy* unjustified or disproportionate intrusions into individual rights, or that they can singlehandedly sustain the type of rights culture that may be thought necessary for a country like Australia. Studies of the content of Australian laws, including counter-terrorism laws, consistently conclude that Australia trails behind its Western counter-parts when it comes to complying with international human rights standards, particularly when it comes to minority rights.”

Dr Moulds (photo) undertook the study for a PhD. She has recently been recommended for a Dean’s Commendation and the University Medal of the U. of South Australia for her work.



“...my research suggests that, when individual parliamentary committees work together as a system, they can effect rights-enhancing change at the policy development level, right through to the content of enacted provisions,” the precis of her thesis says.

“They can smooth off rough edges of proposed laws that seek to extend executive power at the expense of individual rights, introduce safeguards to ensure access to review of executive decisions, and significantly limit the scope of proposed new law-enforcement and intelligence-gathering powers and new criminal offences.

“They can also work to focus the minds of public servants, parliamentary counsel and parliamentarians on the type of principles that should be observed when making laws that broaden the powers of the executive branch of government at the expense of individual rights, and offer analytical frameworks for balancing competing rights or interests”.

Dr Moulds makes recommendations for reform options for the system of committees which CLA hopes the parliament will heed, such as improving communications between committees, increasing committee resources to deal with high work loads, encouraging multi-committee scrutiny of rights-engaging bills, and documenting committees’ contribution to establishing a common rights-scrutiny culture within the Parliament.

One of her key proposals is to adopt an initiative recommended by CLA two years ago. She says:

- Encourage proponent Ministers and relevant departments to refer draft Bills and discussion papers to inquiry-based committees for report prior to formally introducing the Bill into Parliament.
- This could be facilitated by adopting the ‘Blue Paper’ strategy recommended by Civil Liberties Australia in 2016.

Her thesis should shortly be available through the U of SA library,

Keogh gets \$2.5m compensation

The SA government last month announced \$2.5m compensation for wrongfully-convicted Henry Keogh.

Keogh, now 63, spent nearly 20 years in jail for a “murder” eventually shown to be most likely an accidental death.

He was released in December 2014 after two decades in jail for a crime he always denied, holding his then fiancée Anna-Jane Cheney by the legs in a very small volume of water in a bath until she drowned. Keogh also claimed the now-disgraced SA chief pathologist, Dr Colin Manock, made gross errors in his methodology, analysis and reporting of the case, as in many others, it is alleged.

The appeal processes in SA were deficient until the government in 2013 passed a new 'right to appeal' law if "fresh" and "compelling" evidence could be produced. That law returned second and subsequent appeals to the law courts, rather than being through the political branch of government via an Attorney-General. The SA law was 'mirrored' in Tasmania in 2015; it is now under close consideration in Queensland and WA. Asked last month whether there should be a proper commission of inquiry into the numerous alleged SA miscarriage of justice cases, Keogh said:

"Absolutely, there should be without any question at all and I think the sooner that happens the better. Because if people are to have confidence in the legal justice system, it should be robust enough and mature enough to say 'yes we got it wrong, but we're here to fix it'. That's the thing I think that will give people more confidence instead of just continuing to put your head in the sand and/or deny that there's a problem." <http://tinyurl.com/ybg7ye3v> See also: <http://tinyurl.com/ybbos5oc>

State to get Human Rights Act

The Queensland budget has set aside \$2.3m over four years for the state's Anti-Discrimination Commission to administer the Human Rights Act that the government will soon be introducing.

Lee Carnie, a lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre, said it was great to see the Queensland government moving to protect people's civil and political rights in the law.

"A Human Rights Act will better protect Queenslanders' human rights in law. It will require the government to think about people's rights when making laws and policies and delivering services like housing, aged care and disability services. It will give people a way to hold the government to account if it crosses the line and breaches rights. It will make Queensland a better and fairer state," Lee Carnie said.

The Palaszczuk Government committed in 2016 to introduce a Human Rights Act. Deputy Premier Jackie Trad has confirmed the legislation will be unveiled shortly. It is understood the legislation will be modelled on Victoria's Charter of Human Rights. CLA hopes Queensland introduces a mechanism for people to enforce their rights, which the Victorian legislation lacks. <https://www.hrlc.org.au/>

New youth justice strategy under way

Queensland will put much more effort into early intervention to stop young people going off the rails, and will develop a new youth justice strategy by the end of 2018.

The decision follows a report by former Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson, who found the issues facing troubled young people were complex but early intervention could make the difference.

"Bob Atkinson's report shows that we are a much better chance of changing a young person's behaviour when they are 12 than when they are 27," the Minister for Child Safety and Youth, Ms Di Farmer said.

The report's recommendations include:

- continued investment in early intervention to prevent youth offending;
- intervening and support for parents as early as the pre-natal stage;
- greater collaboration between government departments, police and the courts;
- more alternative, flexible options for young people at risk of disengaging from education;
- keeping minor offences out of the court system;
- reducing the number of young people in youth detention; and
- options to divert young people away from the Youth Justice system. <http://tinyurl.com/y7nslld2>

Prisons are powder kegs

"Most WA prisons are in a powder-keg situation ready to explode: it is a system that is under immense pressure of overcrowding and understaffing. In 2013 WA's prison population sat around 5000. Today we are rapidly approaching 7000 with no sign of slowing down."

These are the words of WA Prison Officers Union acting secretary Paul Ledingham after 10 prisoners escaped from Greenough jail last month.

Greenough houses male and female prisoners with a capacity of 332 on three levels of security: maximum (remand), medium, minimum. It is 16km south of Geraldton, which is about 420km north of Perth.

"Regional facilities including Greenough Regional Prison are among the worst affected, recruitment is an enormous problem, (and) there is a lack of incentive for prison officers in Perth to relocate to regional facilities such as Greenough.

”Four out of the six units at the prison have been destroyed, and Mr Ledingham said he didn’t expect the prison to return to full capacity until repairs were carried out. Currently, the rooms that are designed for just one prisoner will now need to house seven inmates. <http://tinyurl.com/y8z92473>

CLA believes similar comments could be made validly by prison union officials throughout Australia. After years of ‘law and order’ crackdowns, mandatory sentencing and under-funded courts, Australia jails are clogged.

The states can’t afford to build new prisons, and there is no comprehensive strategy to reduce prison numbers. CLA believes addressing drug use (not selling) as primarily a health issue rather than a criminal issue, could ease pressure on jails considerably and cost no more money.

Each prisoner in an Australian jail costs taxpayers more than \$300 a day. The cost of housing juveniles can be about \$600 a day. ‘Law and order’ elections are costly affairs, not for MPs, but for citizens.

ODD SPOT: Missing in action

- 30 stun gun cartridges,
- 34 cans of pepper spray;
- 6 expandable 26-inch (66cm) batons;
- one long aluminium baton;
- 22 pairs of handcuffs;
- 1 handheld laser speed gun...all in the past 15 months from WA Police.

Plus 1 police car last month while officers responded to a burglary, temporarily, until it was crashed into another vehicle not far away. Phil Hickey <http://tinyurl.com/yb8ackca>

Bill, 91-year-old former cop, finally rewarded for his strength of character

Bill Fanderlinden is a WA policeman who stood by his principles...and eventually received a medal.

More than 40 years after refusing to prosecute an indigenous man over a trumped-up charge that ultimately exposed police corruption, the 91-year-old has been recognised for his “unique contribution, significant commitment and ethical and diligent service” and awarded the National Police Service Medal, Tony Barrass reported on the PerthNow online journal last month.

“The long-forgotten scandal launched the distinguished career of Fanderlinden’s solicitor Robert French — who went on to become the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia — and the ambitions of up-and-coming MP Brian Burke, whose crusade on Fanderlinden’s behalf sparked the Baymis Ugle Royal Commission,” Barrass wrote.

“However, Fanderlinden’s career suffered over many years, with a vengeful police hierarchy going out of its way to make the prosecutor’s life a misery.” <https://tinyurl.com/y7osfas3>

In memoriam: Evan Whitton

William Blackstone (1723-1780) popularised the statement: It ‘is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer’.

“The reality today is that in 100 cases up to five innocent men are convicted and more than 50 guilty men escape justice. Truth-seeking systems are much better at both,” says Australian award-winning journalist and author Evan Whitton (photo), who died last month.

“Blackstone’s successors have generally adopted a posture of ostrichism about the system’s history and vices, but some ease their consciences by writing papers critical of an aspect of the system (but not the system as a whole or its basis), safe in the knowledge that judges and trial lawyers will ignore the papers and they will be unintelligible to the public.”

– ‘*Our Corrupt Legal System*’, p59, by Evan Whitton available at: <http://netk.net.au/whitton/ocls.pdf>

Blackstone — who died before Australia was born — laid the foundation for British (and Australian) common law, and his ‘Commentaries’ are still highly influential today. It is said the Commentaries are quoted in US Supreme Court judgements 1-12 times a year.



Australian briefs

AG tries to put end to sorry saga: Qld's Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath is trying to close the wholly unsatisfactory saga, including "riots" by islanders, that resulted from the death in custody of Mulrunji Doomadgee on Palm Island in 2004. A recent statement from her said: "In December 2016 Federal Court Justice Mortimer found in favour of Lex, Cecilia and Agnes Wotton, and ruled that the conduct of certain QPS (ie, police) officers in 2004 contravened section 9(1) Racial Discrimination Act 1975 and that the actions of certain police were unlawful. The settlement scheme and apology have now been formally approved by the Federal Court, and the apology published in the Palm Island Voice, Townsville Bulletin, and the Courier Mail. We all hope this provides some closure for the Palm Island community and that we can move forward together." <http://tinyurl.com/yccclk2d3>

What if you're calling 000? WA Police have handed out a \$400 fine to a cyclist for using her phone while riding a bike in the Perth suburbs. The cyclist told police she was talking to her daughter. Traffic Enforcement Group Inspector Mike Sparkman said under WA laws in place since 2011, motorists and cyclists were treated the same when it came to mobile phone usage. However, he said, it was not illegal to use a phone with headphones while cycling, "as long as you're not holding the phone up to your ear or you've got it on loudspeaker and you're riding one-handed." <https://tinyurl.com/ybeh2oxf>

Police chief apologises to first peoples: WA Police Commissioner Chris Dawson last month delivered an unprecedented speech apologising for the "devastating" mistreatment of Indigenous people by law enforcement in the state. The historic comments, timed to coincide with NAIDOC Week, were made at the police headquarters in Perth where the Aboriginal flag was raised for the first time. "I will take steps to heal historical wounds between police and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Mr Dawson said. <https://tinyurl.com/y7a7vm33>

UQ offers Indigenous law scholarship: The University of Queensland is offering scholarships for up to 17 students to study at UQ's School of Law with \$8000 a year for up to five years. The Leadership, Excellence and Diversity (LEAD) Scholarship is aimed at students who live in rural or remote areas, come from low income or refugee families, identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or have faced illness or setbacks during their schooling. Head of School Professor Patrick Parkinson said the scholarship was designed to make a UQ law degree more accessible to talented students who aspire to a career in the legal profession. "Beyond the financial support, LEAD scholars also benefit from dedicated academic mentorship and valuable internship and professional networking opportunities." <https://tinyurl.com/y83o4u59>

Members letters:

Crook as Rookwood!! The Bernard Collaery-Witness K abuse of process by government:

- Where is the Royal Commission into the behaviour of the former foreign minister, "Fishnets" Downer, and other members of the Executive in the Timor Leste bugging affair?
- Where is the RC into the activities and involvement of Woodside in this affair?

Fish rot from the head down, Mr Turnbull. You & yours are definitely "on the nose" ... your dreadful government's behaviour is the antithesis of everything that Australia should stand for. Shame on you.

– John Richardson, CLA member, Wallagoot NSW

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/politics/federal/prosecution-of-witness-k-and-his-lawyer-is-a-disgraceful-act-of-revenge-20180701-p4zou5.html>

Thickening web entraps us, as attacks on civil society increase:

My interests and concerns include (but are not limited to):

- the thickening web of wider police powers, increasing surveillance and greater secrecy in the name of security and anti-terrorism;
- the rising tide of attacks on independent journalism and investigative reporting, particularly attacks on the ABC which is the only truly independent major source of news and information not compromised by commercial or political affiliations;

- the use (threatened or possible) of anti-terrorism laws and enforcement agencies against people involved in civil dissent and protests;
- the prosecution of and secret proceedings against the courageous whistle-blower who exposed the Australian government's disgraceful spying against Timor Leste;
- racial profiling (particularly of young men) in Aboriginal, migrant and other minority groups, and the high incarceration rate of Aborigines in particular;
- mistreatment of refugees and asylum seekers in apparent contravention of our international legal obligations;
- attacks on civil society including charitable organisations and other community groups engaged in advocacy in the form of ATO investigations and withdrawal of their charitable status in retaliation for their advocacy campaigns.

I just hope that if others write letters and send submissions to parliament, as I try to do, the numbers alone will make the authorities take notice of our concerns. – Paul Reid, CLA member, Kyneton Vic

CLA report – main activities for July 2018

Submissions/etc for July 2018:

Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill, Senate Legal and Con Affairs cttee (Rajan Venkataraman). Draft law making it easier for the governments to confiscate the assets of people who have not been convicted of a crime. Proposed law changes to the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* and the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* for governments to share and swap information, and use a single unexplained wealth order to deprive possibly unconvicted people of their assets, from homes to cash and tennis racquets. <http://tinyurl.com/y96248d9>

Independent Review of the Australian Public Service (APS): submission to the Independent Review (President Kris Klugman)

Modern Slavery Bill 2018: Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (Felicity Gerry QC)

Australia-Iran Human Rights Dialogue: Submission to DFAT (student member Eloise McLean)

Defence Amendment (Call Out of the Australian Defence Force) Bill: Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (Bill Rowlings)

Open Government: submission to the public consultation on the Second National Action Plan.

TAS: CLA Directors Richard Griggs and Rajan Venkataraman met with new Attorney-General Elise Archer (photo). CLA in Tasmania also submitted to the review of Electoral Act (Tas) that Tasmania should adopt real-time, on-line disclosure of donations over \$1,000 <http://tinyurl.com/y7ctrbch>

Outcomes over past month: the Australian government and opposition conspired to pass the 'foreign interference' laws that criminalise whistleblowing and investigative journalism, just as diversity in media dies a little more as Nine and Fairfax 'merge'.

Correspondence

- with NT correctional system Minister Natasha Fyles re censorship of prisoners' mail;
- to Stromlo High School re students participating in a federal submission on voting age;
- circulated CLA APS submission to relevant people
- requested information from Speaker Hon Tony Smith on how composition of parliamentary committees in determined

Research and consideration of four important cases have taken quite some time this past month: the Sue Neill-Fraser appeal, a possible appeal by Barbara Etter against the Tasmanian Legal Profession Board decision against her, a potential case of Kay Danes against Defence, and the Collaery-Witness K case. In the Etter case, the CLA Board approved by email an urgent funding allocation of \$3200, if needed, to allow a High Court appeal to go ahead, but the funds were not required when Mrs Etter and her adviser Hugh Selby decided against proceeding with such an appeal.

DFAT NGO consultation on Australian Iran dialogue, scheduled for August 1, submission prepared by Eloise McLean, CLA student member. Attending: President Klugman, Director Jennifer Ashton (representing the UN former staff association) and Eloise McLean.



West Australia:

Meetings with:

- former Premier Carmen Lawrence (Indep. Police Complaints Com (IPCC) Strategy and CLA membership invitation);
- Alanna Clohesy MLC and staff (latest media reporting on WA police), meeting again 10 August;
- Adele Farina MLC, discussing plans related to IPCC
- Ron Willis, WA letter writer activist and former civil liberties office holder, delivering CLA information;
- Rika Asaoka, two-way update on civil liberties awareness amongst corporate staff.

Emails to and from Sam Coten (CLA youth media rep, currently in Europe), agreeing strategy on push for an amendment to the WA Equal Opportunity Bill re LGBTIQ anti-discrimination measures. He sent letters to AG John Quigley and MLC Alison Xamon. Positive reply was quickly received from Xamon. Meeting 22 August to decide next step.

Contact: Banksia Hill Youth Detention Centre asking again for permission to visit. Written permission now required from Superintendent; and *National Indigenous Times* to receive updates on Newman's Aboriginal Men's Health Centre.

Attended: Cartoon and comic book national convention opening at Edith Cowan U to hand out CLA leaflets; waiting for 'Go Ahead' to mount a CLA stall at the Fremantle Growers Market. Currently there is no spare space. Market stalls have increased in line with unemployment.

Tasmania:

CLA Directors Richard Griggs and Rajan Venkataraman met with new Tas Attorney-General Elise Archer, and also submitted to review of Electoral Act (Tas) that Tasmania should adopt real-time, on-line disclosure of donations over \$1000. <http://tinyurl.com/y7ctrbch>

Griggs met with the Tasmanian Human Rights Campaign Committee.

Northern Territory:

Demonstration against the charging of whistle blowers Bernard Collaery and Witness K, NT Legislative Assembly (see above).

NT Human Rights Awards lunchtime talks, organised by Caitlin Perry (see DATES).

National Capital/ACT:

Networking meetings: President and CEO

- Margaret Howkins, WA director CLA (by Skype): current issues, submissions
- Keith McEwan: NAIDOC week activity
- Marli and Kevin Popple: art exhibition
- Dixie Lee: War Memorial Commando commemorations
- Julie Klugman: aid projects Myanmar
- Mark Blumer of Blumers Lawyers (photo, with President Kristine Klugman): re Barbara Etter's case in Tasmania



Media:

ABC Radio Darwin interview – My Health Record and data Privacy, with CLA VP and national media spokesperson Tim Vines.

CLA calls for new Australian law to protect people's DNA privacy and rights; backgrounding by and interview with CEO Bill Rowlings: report by Erin Pearson <http://tinyurl.com/yd6kxuvf>

Alarm over proposed new Defence Call Out law: <https://www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au/blog/new-laws-will-allow-the-use-of-military-to-break-protests/> Bill Rowlings and others.

'Overhaul system of donations to Tasmanian political parties: Richard Griggs <http://tinyurl.com/y7ctrbch>

INTERNATIONAL

Canadian health care workers troubled by detention of immigrants

More than 2000 health care individuals and 34 organisations have petitioned the Canadian government to end indefinite detention of migrants, separating families, and detaining children.

“Over the past six years, Canada has held approximately 45,000 people in immigration detention,” says the petition to the Canadian PM and relevant ministers. “For the first time in over a decade, Canada is projected to see a sharp rise in the total number of detainees.

“Children continue to be detained in Canada in large numbers, with current projections exceeding last year's total of 162 children held in immigration detention.

“Canadian research and reports have repeatedly shown the severe mental health effects of even short-term detention on both adults and children. These effects can include depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms in adults, and regression of developmental milestones, sleep disruption, anxiety, and depression in children.” <http://tinyurl.com/yal6992q>

Five sets of spooks likely complicit in torture, rendition

British intelligence agencies were involved in the torture and kidnap of terrorism suspects after the aircraft attacks on the USA in 2001, the UK's parliamentary intelligence and security committee has said.

Two of its reports published recently reveal the UK intelligence agencies were complicit in links to torture and rendition by the USA.

If the UK was so deeply connected, Civil Liberties Australia believes it would be surprising if Australia's spook agencies were not equally aware of, and/or party to, the breaking of international law under the 'Five Eyes' arrangements with the USA, UK, NZ, Canada and Australia.

The UK reports says there was no evidence of officers directly carrying out physical mistreatment of detainees, but the overseas agency MI6 and the domestic MI5 were involved in hundreds of torture cases and scores of rendition cases. Australia's equivalents are ASIS and ASIO.

The UK committee says the agencies were aware “at an early point” of the mistreatment of detainees by the US and others. There were two cases in which UK personnel were “party to mistreatment administered by others”. One has been investigated by the Metropolitan police but the other is still to be fully investigated. <https://tinyurl.com/y93uapfn>

Top anti-corruption police unit under investigation

The anti-corruption unit of Britain's top cop force is being investigated over “serious corruption and malpractice” within its own ranks.

The UK police watchdog, the Independent Office of Police Conduct, said the claims relate to the Scotland Yard's Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS). The claims include interfering in investigations, racism and turning a blind eye to wrongdoing.

The IOPC said one officer was under criminal investigation and three have been formally notified that they are under disciplinary investigation for gross misconduct. The Metropolitan Police Service – Scotland Yard in shorthand – is Britain's biggest police force and the DPS is supposed to guard against lapses in the force's ethics, integrity and standards. <https://tinyurl.com/ya757nkb>

Traditional fighting rules turned into laws

Councillors from PNG's Western Highlands Province have formally agreed to implement 15 traditional rules of fighting into local government laws.

Photo shows the signing ceremony.

The traditional rules are similar to principles in international humanitarian law. You must not destroy public infrastructure or target civilians or neutral tribes, and you must respect children, women and health care providers.



Agreeing to the new laws took 18 months discussion between tribal leaders and provincial authorities, facilitated by the the International Committee of the Red Cross. Now 36 councillors have signed the formal agreement. The ICRC aims to replicate the agreement in other PNG provinces. <http://tinyurl.com/yceucgla>

'Emergency' ends, but dissidents still face trials

Turkey's two-year state of emergency ended last month, but trials of dissidents and journalists continue. Human rights campaigners say citizens are suffering a “suffocating” crackdown on free speech.

The state of emergency, in place since a failed coup attempt in July 2016 that killed 250 people and wounded 1400, was used to detain opponents of the recently re-elected president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, for lengthy periods without trial and to intimidate dissidents and prosecute media outlets.

More than 120,000 people in the police, military, academia, media and civil service have been detained or dismissed from their jobs over their alleged links to Fethullah Gülen, an exiled preacher based in the US whose supporters Ankara blames for the coup. About a quarter of Turkey's judges have either been dismissed or detained, comprising a vast realignment of the judiciary.

Erdoğan's ruling Justice and Development (AK) party has tabled a controversial anti-terrorism bill that will retain some of the state of emergency measures. One provision allows local governors to impose curfews or make some areas off-limits to the public, making it easier to ban demonstrations. <https://tinyurl.com/ybhqyfjq>

Israel heads towards apartheid-like system

Israel's ruling party has passed legislation allowing for Jewish-only communities, which critics have condemned as the end of a democratic state.

The law allows the state to "authorise a community composed of people having the same faith and nationality to maintain the exclusive character of that community". Some say it is a new apartheid. The law means Jewish religious law dominated in some circumstances, and Arabic is no longer an official language. Mordechai Kremnitzer, from the faculty of law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said the bill "removes the mask so as to reveal the ugly face of ultranationalist Israel in all its repugnance". The debate has also opened a rift with the Jewish diaspora, with fears among more liberal American Jewish groups that it prioritises Orthodox communities over other sects. <https://tinyurl.com/y9dowm87>

11m children barely exist in the 'cave' that is Yemen

"There is no justification for this carnage," Henrietta Fore, UNICEF executive director has said after visiting Yemen, according to a report in *The Lancet* by Sharmila Devi.

Fore was taken aback by the level of devastation caused by the three-year conflict, saying many children had been "taken out of school, forced to fight, married off, hungry [and] dying from preventable diseases".

Eleven million children need help with food, treatment, education, water and sanitation, UNICEF says.

"Since 2015, more than half of health facilities have stopped working and 1500 schools have been damaged due to airstrikes and shelling", Fore said. "At least 2200 children have been killed and 3400 injured. These are the only numbers we have been able to verify. The actual figures could be even higher." Health care workers haven't been paid for two years, but continue to operate the few centres that are open.

A Saudi-led coalition launched an offensive in March, 2015, aimed at reinstating the internationally recognised government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi (photo) and to push back Houthi rebels, said to be backed by Iran. <http://tinyurl.com/y6vrs52g>

The UN this year sent a fact-finding mission to Yemen. The three-person team included former MHR for Fremantle (and CLA member) Melissa Parke. Their completed report is due before the UN in September. CLA is urging the UN to bring forward debate on the report, which should lead to an hiatus in the war.



ODD SPOT: Nitrogen to be new death row killer

Alabama will gas eight death-row prisoners instead of using a lethal drug injection or electrocution. The US state has joined two others by passing a law permitting execution by nitrogen gas and allowing prisoners to choose to die by nitrogen hypoxia. Alabama's lethal-injection process used the controversial sedative midazolam, which has been implicated in numerous executions across the USA described as "botched." Even though the method is permitted, so far no-one has been executed in the USA by use of nitrogen.

<https://tinyurl.com/y7dc8cyu> and <https://tinyurl.com/yceet59x>

Activists killed at rate of four a week

Nearly four land and environmental activists were killed each week in 2017, making it the deadliest year on record, according to a new report by Global Witness.

The UK-based watchdog said last month that 207 people lost their lives in 2017 in their fight against companies and governments that seize land and harm the environment.

Latin America was once again the most dangerous region for environmental activism, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the total killings. At least 57 people were killed in 2017 in Brazil, marking the most deaths of land and environmental defenders ever registered in one year in any country. <https://tinyurl.com/ybg38feg>

ODD SPOT: 200 women prosecuted for fake rape claims

UK authorities are “exceptionally aggressive” in pursuing women for lying about rape, a news report says. At least 200 women have been prosecuted for fake rape cases in the past 10 years, according to a *BuzzFeed News* analysis of press reports. Most of the women were sent to prison, with dozens of them facing sentences of more than two years. <https://tinyurl.com/yaxen8fd>

Women drink at their peril in Italy

Italy’s top court has ordered the retrial of two 50-year-old men who raped a young woman after ruling that the victim had voluntarily got drunk before the attack and so an earlier penalty against the men could not be increased.

Alessia Rotta, a politician with the centre-left Democratic party, said: “The ruling from the supreme court takes us back decades ... it is a sentence that risks nullifying years of battles.”

The Court of Cassation ordered a retrial to revise the sentence, saying that even though the defendants took advantage of the woman’s drunken state to have forced sex with her, aggravating circumstances were not applicable because she had voluntarily consumed alcohol. <https://tinyurl.com/y9jfp87w>

The right terrorises, Muslims get the blame

Terrorist attacks by Muslim extremists receive 357% more US press coverage than those by non-Muslims, according to quality-controlled research from the University of Alabama.

Terrorist attacks by non-Muslims (or where the religion was unknown) received an average of 15 headlines, while those committed by Muslim extremists received 105 headlines.

The findings are based on all terrorist attacks in the US between 2006 and 2015 according to the Global Terrorism Database. The disparity in media coverage is particularly out of sync with reality: white and right-wing terrorists carried out nearly twice as many terrorist attacks as Muslim extremists between 2008 and 2016. <https://tinyurl.com/y7re77e7>

International briefs

Renting company bars meat: A company that rents out and manages office space will no longer hold staff events that include meat, and staff will not be able to claim expenses for any meals that include poultry, pork or red meat. WeWork co-founder Miguel McKelvey also said that WeWork’s upcoming summer music and food festival which is only open to WeWork members, will not serve any meat options. Tickets to the event cost as much as \$400, based in part on the free food available on site. McKelvey said the company was eliminating meat for environmental reasons. <http://tinyurl.com/yb44tvqk>

Girl raped by brother jailed over abortion: A 15-year-old Indonesian girl raped by her older brother has been jailed for six months for having an abortion, Agence France-Presse has reported. The girl was sentenced last month alongside her 17-year-old brother in a closed hearing on the island of Sumatra. “The girl was charged under the child protection law for having an abortion,” a court spokesman said. Her brother was sentenced to two years in jail for sexually assaulting a minor. <https://tinyurl.com/y9ggyhuq>

Arabs, Arabic downgraded: Israel has passed a law declaring that only Jews have the right of self-determination, a move described by members of the Arab minority as racist and verging on apartheid. The “nation state” law, backed by the right-wing government, passed by a vote of 62-55 with two abstentions in the 120-member parliament after months of political argument. The bill strips Arabic of its designation as an official language alongside Hebrew, downgrading it to a “special status” that enables its continued use within Israeli institutions. There are 1.8 million Arabs in Israel, about 20% of the 9 million population. <https://tinyurl.com/y7ax89kt>

DATES:



1 Aug, Launceston: Tamar Valley Peace Festival: The Future of Feminism and Diversity: A Conversation with Sara Mansour (photo) – lawyer, poet and feminist Mansour with UTAS Institute for the Study of Social Change Deputy Director, Dr Meredith Nash. Annexe Theatre, School of Creative Arts UTAS, Inveresk Campus, Launceston. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/ybbbwk4a>

13 Aug, Canberra: Is Nuclear Disarmament Possible, lecture by Joseph Gerson, coordinator of the American Friends service committee. 5.30-6.30pm, staff library, ANU Law School. Enquiries/RSVP: email: david.christine@inet.net.au

15 Aug, Darwin: Vincent Lingiari memorial lecture, by Josie Crawshaw (photo). a Gurindji woman, a long-time Indigenous rights campaigner and current co-chair of the Uluru Statement Working Group. She will speak on the fundamental and vital elements for change contained in the 2017 Uluru Statement of the Heart. <https://tinyurl.com/yb4m9x9c>

16 Aug, Brisbane: Deep Sea Mining: the next frontier. Bar Assn of Qld, Gibbs Room, 107 North Quay, Brisbane. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/y8o4jflo>

23 Aug, Melbourne: Seminar (5.45-7pm) and book launch (7-8pm) on/of 'Foundations of Indirect Discrimination Law' edited by Hugh Collins and Tarun Khaitan, with launch by former High Court judge, Michael Kirby. Indirect discrimination (or disparate impact) is applying the same rule to everyone, even though the rule significantly disadvantages one particular group. Info: law-alc@unimelb.edu.au

23 Aug, Canberra: Prospects for a new convention on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity: the UN special rapporteur for the project, Sean Murphy, will speak. 11-12noon at DFAT HQ <http://tinyurl.com/yaoye7tu>

27 Aug, Canberra: Reform of investor-state dispute resolution: challenges/prospects. Prof Catherine Kessedjian of = U. Panthéon-Assas Paris II, 1-2pm, Staff Library ANU Law School. Details/rego: <http://tinyurl.com/ydgdwdg8h>

29 Aug, Darwin: NT Human Rights lecture series: New Ways of Thinking About Human Rights, sign language interpreter Liz Temple. RSVP to Suzy on 08 8914 2300 for catering, or contact: nthumanrightsawards@nt.gov.au

7 Sept, Adelaide: A Bird and a Fish in Love: a View on a Reconciled Nation, Andrea Mason (right), Moot Court, Ligertwood 333 lecture theatre, Adelaide Law School, 12.30-2pm. <http://tinyurl.com/y8hpp3j2>

1 Oct, World: International Older Persons Day <https://tinyurl.com/6eq6p5l>

2-5 Oct, Brisbane: National Family Law conference, Law Council of Australia. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/yc8t4z93>

3-7 Oct, Byron Bay NSW: 16th International Criminal Law Congress, at Elements of Byron Bay. Speakers include CJ Susa Kiefel, Qld CJ Catherine Holmes, Don Watson and Prof Megan Davis. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/y7jyqqq3>

2-3 Nov, Canberra: Annual ANU Public Law weekend, with top academic and judicial speakers, including the High Court's Justice Stephen Gageler. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/y8kcaon2>

12-13 Nov, Canberra: 'Happy anniversary? Reflecting on marriage equality after one year', at ANU. Speakers include Rosemary Auchmuty U Reading, England; Tiernan Brady, marriage equality campaigner (Australia and Ireland); Quinn Eades, La Trobe U; Anja Hilkmeyer, UTAS (photo), Carol Johnson, U Adelaide. Details: Email: marylou.rasmussen@anu.edu.au

13-16 Nov, Canberra: Asia Pacific Coroners conference 'Three cats in a freezer and other tales!' Info: <http://tinyurl.com/y8aro9kh>

15-17 Nov, Sydney: Australian Bar Association conference, Intntl Conf Centre. Info: <http://tinyurl.com/yczmcvsc>

November: US President Trump expected to visit Australia. It is believed he has confirmed a visit to PNG (as has Chinese President Xi Jinping).

26-29 Nov, Western Sydney: 9th International Conference on Human Rights Education – Unleashing the Full Potential of Civil Society. Contact: Dr Sev Ozdowski AM, Coordinator, International Human Rights conference series, President, Australian Council for Human Rights Education. Email; S.Ozdowski@westernsydney.edu.au Website: <http://ichre2018.com.au>

28 Nov, Darwin: NT Human Rights lecture series: A Giraffe, the Bush and Human Rights: Deb Martin, Life Education. RSVP to Suzy on 08 8914 2300 for catering, or contact: nthumanrightsawards@nt.gov.au

10 Dec, World: International Human Rights Day <https://tinyurl.com/y79ssoyz>

2019:

July: International Bar conference, Singapore

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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