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Feedback requested: what should CLA campaign on?

CLA is non-party-political. But there is an opportunity during the upcoming election campaign to ask parties and candidates to state their positions on important issues.

This also allows us to set out our position.

Which of these issues do you think CLA should mount a campaign on – that is, which of these issues is most important to you?

- Senate reform? Reinstating the proper role of, and not abusing the deliberative processes of, the Senate?
- A federal Bill of Rights? Introducing a bill or charter of rights similar to those of the ACT and Victoria?
- Empowering FOI laws? Rewriting FOI laws to correct their gradual decline federally?

- Cancelling the proposed ID (Access) card?

Email us with your choice(s), or any other suggestions for campaigns that we could focus on. Alternatively, you can vote online at: <http://www.cla.asn.au/index.php>

If we don't have the resources, we can try to liaise with other interested organisations to cover all critical issues. If you'd like to lead a campaign, let us know.

LAST WORD: *When did slavery end?*

Did slavery end in the 19th Century, or 20thC? Test your memory of when slavery was finally made a punishable offence with this news snippet from the London *Daily Telegraph* – see last item in this bulletin.

CLA asks for national consistency on medical directives

One of CLA's two media spokespeople, Clare Carnell, led a team to prepare a submission on new laws for medical consent in the ACT.

This is an important issue, allied to powers of attorney and enduring medical directives, where the proposed ACT legislation may set a benchmark for Australia.

In fact, CLA has formally requested the ACT Attorney-General, Simon Corbell, to ask the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) to produce nationally consistent medical directives legislation.

At the moment, a person can prepare a written medical directive (saying, for example, that they do not wish to be resuscitated in certain circumstances), but the directive has effect only in their home state.

The issue is of great concern to older Australians, who travel more than in the past, often visiting adult children who may live across a number of states or territories.

It is hoped the CLA initiative will lead to uniform national legislation across all these important medical/legal issues.

To read the CLA submission on Medical Consent, go to: <http://www.cla.asn.au/>

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Court rebuffs government, empowers prisoners

The High Court late last month upheld most prisoners' right to vote.

The court ruled that the Howard Government had acted unlawfully and unconstitutionally in imposing a blanket ban on voting by prisoners.

In 2006, the Howard Government passed legislation which denied all prisoners the right to vote. This law was challenged in the High Court by Vickie Roach, an Aboriginal woman who is a prisoner at the Dame Phyllis Frost Prison in Melbourne.

The High Court struck down the blanket prohibition on prisoners voting. The court upheld the validity, however, of the law which provides that prisoners serving a sentence of three years or longer are not entitled to vote.

– Philip Lynch, Director, Human Rights Law Resource Centre, Melbourne

Freedom of press vital, says Geoffrey Robertson

In a major set piece speech on freedom of the press, Geoffrey Robertson QC said that the Australian High Court had grown increasingly irrelevant to international jurisprudence (AFR p67, Friday 31 Aug 07).

"The Australian High Court is now largely ignored by other common law courts because Australia has failed to introduce a bill of rights, unlike other liberal democracies," the Australian Financial Review quotes him as saying.

Robertson singles out the Mason High Court, and cases such as the Teoh and Theophanous decisions, as examples of quality jurisprudence. He critiques recent judicial criticism of the media for inaccurately reporting judgements, the federal governments draft shield laws and the current state of Australia's freedom of information legislation.

Earlier, the AFR corrected comments made by Robertson that there were "thousands of suppression orders in NSW alone". The AFR reports that there are around 1000 suppression orders nationally, according to Australia's Right to Know media coalition. According to a spokesperson from the NSW Supreme court, 88 suppression orders have been made since September 2004. AFR agreed with Robertson when he says the number of suppression orders "needs explanation", as a decade ago there were only 100 nationally.

– Jessica Mohr

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Police and security agencies share crime data in real-time

Police and security agencies have begun sharing criminal intelligence in real time, using technology that sidesteps interoperability issues to create a unified national database.

Information about illegal drugs, firearms, money laundering, tax fraud and other serious crimes will be made available to all state police forces in return for access to their operational intelligence.

A new \$6.9 million Standard Intelligence Exchange Format establishes data exchange standards and processes to support the translation of information between disparate systems.

Built by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), the format uses an XML-based format to get around data compatibility problems that have dogged Australian police forces for years.

It automatically feeds data held by law enforcement agencies into a central repository – the Australian Criminal Intelligence Database (ACID) – where it is available to other participants. ACC chief executive Alastair Milroy all state police forces will be online by early 2008. (*Karen Dearne, The Australian IT, 31 July 08*)

<http://www.australianit.news.com.au/story/0,24897,22161696-15306,00.html>

CLA advises WA human rights consultation process

CLA last month provided a detailed submission to the WA Human Rights Consultative Committee inquiring whether WA should have an HR bill or charter.

The committee, chaired by former federal minister Fred Chaney, is due to report in November.

At Mr Chaney's request, CLA concentrated on lessons learned during the ACT consultative and implementation process, interviewing key players and reporting their 'know better next time' opinions.

In other major activities during August, preparations continued for the Laughing with Knives cartoon exhibition to open on 8 October at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Sir Gerard Brennan agreed to posting his paper on independent selection of High Court judges on the CLA website: <http://www.cla.asn.au/index.php>

CLA President Dr Kristine Klugman also met with Mr Harry Evans, Clerk of the Senate, to thank him for hosting CLA Director and internship student, Amanda Alford, for three months earlier this year.

The President, Secretary Bill Rowlings and media co-spokesperson met with ACT Attorney-General to discuss the Medical Consent submission process, and the need for a national/reciprocal approach to enduring medical directives.

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Recent media/speaking engagements

Haneef case: CEO Bill Rowlings spoke on 13 August at an ANU forum organised by the Law Students Society and hosted by ANU Head of Law, Prof. Michael Coper. The forum topic was the Haneef case, and Mr Rowlings spoke on how the basic principles of Australian society have been overturned. You can download a copy of the address here: <http://www.cla.asn.au/>

Expulsion from public gallery: ABC Radio Drivetime Hobart, 27 Aug: Eviction of Mr Jim Collier from the public gallery of the Tasmanian Parliament by Speaker Mr Michael Polley over the Gunns pulp mill issue. Bill Rowlings commented for CLA, calling Mr Polley's decision akin to 'shutting the door in the face of the Tasmanian people'.

Stun guns: Prime News, 30 Aug, release of AFP report on stun gun 'trial': Bill Rowlings commented that the report showed that the AFP were stunning prisoners captive in cells and paddy wagons with 50,000 volt charges. Someone was certain to die in Australia from use of these weapons, probably within the next four-to-five years, and possibly during APEC.

(CLA media co-spokesperson Max Jeganathan was overseas on leave for most of August, while Clare Carnell was leading the Medical Consent submission project).

New Bill extends model law, protects legal consumers

A new Bill expected to be debated this month in the ACT will give more protection to law consumers, according to a government media release.

It follows a new, model *Legal Profession Act 2006*, which repealed and replaced the *Legal Practitioners Act 1970*. "When all jurisdictions have implemented the model law, it will also be easier for lawyers to practise across State, Territory and international borders," ACT Attorney-General, Simon Corbell, said.

"The new Bill revises the national model law, and addresses a number of concerns raised by the Law Society of the ACT, and the ACT Bar Association.

"Important amendments flow from the significant contribution of the Law Society of the ACT and the ACT Bar Association to the development of the Bill. Costs disclosure and trust account provisions, in particular, underwent significant review in response to submissions from interested stakeholders, including the legal profession.

"There are some important clarifications of protections for clients and other people responsible for paying bills, as well as some practical amendments to reduce the level of unnecessary disclosure and notification undertaken by law practices when dealing with experienced clients."

NSW group to launch history

The history of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties – entitled *The Liberating of Lady Chatterley* – will formally launch on 26 September.

The books' authors are Scott and Dot Campbell, longtime members of the NSW group and parents of CLA member, Jane Campbell.

CLA will have copies of the book for sale: please let us know if you would like to order a copy. Email your interest to secretary@cla.asn.au

Technical detail: Publisher is NSW CCL, 206 pages plus 12 pages of photos, RRP is \$24.95.

The NSW CCL is also about to move outside Sydney for the first time in its 45 years. A branch in Newcastle is expected to form in September or October.

CLA congratulates the NSW CCL on this development, which is in line with CLA's strategy of extending civil liberties throughout regional and rural Australia, with a view

to creating national awareness, education and momentum on liberties and rights issues.

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RTA gets ready to impose 'Big Brother' speeding fines

The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is reportedly planning to introduce a tracking system that would average a driver's speed between highway Safe-T-Cams to calculate whether you should be fined.

The new system would depart from instantaneous radar readings to provide average speed readings as a way of cracking down on speeding drivers.

The RTA is measuring the distance between their highway safety cameras down to the last centimetre so that any fines would stand up in court.

Global-Inertial Positioning Systems Image Capture for Asset Management (GIPSICAM) is a mobile-mapping system used internally by the RTA to survey NSW state roads. It includes Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receivers, instrument navigation systems, cameras mounted in a vehicle and sophisticated computer links.

Under the proposed system, which would operate on high traffic routes such as the Hume Highway, if any motorist has an average speed greater than the allowable speed limit between two camera points, he or she could expect a ticket in the mail.

The Big Brother scheme would target not just truck drivers, who are usually screened by the Safe-T-Cam system, but all motorists.

The RTA is reported to be piloting the system before making a major announcement.

The use of similar systems on the M7 in Sydney has been denied in the past...but the technology is already in place, and the RTA is actively working on the scheme, according to very reliable reports.

ERG's loss indicates how ID card may falter

Smartcard provider ERG Group has foreshadowed a \$15m loss – up 50 per cent on earlier estimates – for the year ending 30 June 2007.

Extra testing of the NSW Tcard project is part of the cost over-run. The Tcard project is about a decade late and is expected to cost more than \$400m total.

Public trials on Sydney buses and trains, due to start late in 2006 have been delayed several times, and are now possibly to start this month (September).

The difficulty with this project gives a pastel outlook, through rose-tinted glasses, of the likely problems with the proposed national ID card (the Access Card) rollout.

Justice Kiefel appointed to High Court

Susan Kiefel has been appointed as the next Justice of the High Court of Australia. Kiefel, 53, originally from Cairns, has been a Federal Court judge since 1994. She was earlier a Queensland Supreme Court judge.

Her experience also includes being a lecturer in ethics at the Bar Practice Centre in Queensland and part-time Hearing Commissioner at the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

Justice Ian Callinan's resignation took effect from 31 August 2007.

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AustLII gains a grudging \$50K

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock last month announced a \$50,000 grant to the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII).

AustLII provides free access to legislation, treaties, decisions of courts and tribunals and journal articles to about 80,000 people a day.

The grant will help to develop access to case law, legislation, law reform reports, law journals and other legal information from more than 25 Asian and Commonwealth countries.

AustLII had been in danger of running out of funds, so Mr Ruddock has asked federal courts and tribunals to provide more funding.

It is hard to understand how a cash-rich government, which can afford \$43 million annually for a small Tasmanian hospital, can afford only \$50,000 to fund free access to the laws and decisions of Australian courts and tribunals.

Mr Ruddock should immediately provide a further \$5m from federal coffers to this most useful and democratic service, CLA President, Dr Kristine Klugman, said.

CLA has written to Mr Ruddock asking him to approve the extra expenditure.

Disclosure laws a step forward for privacy

The Federal Government is planning to introduce data disclosure laws in Australia as early as 2008.

The move is expected to follow of a review of the Privacy Act by the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC).

The ALRC's discussion paper, recommending new laws to force organizations to notify customers of security breaches, will be released this month with the final report to be delivered to the Attorney General, Mr Ruddock, in March 2008.

The USA is introducing similar legislation dealing with data breaches and disclosure laws, with one law (bill AB 779) making retailers responsible for the cost of a security breach. This law was scheduled to go before the Senate Appropriations Committee before the end of August.

In Australia, there is no obligation to notify customers if the security of their personal data has been breached.

CLA has been arguing in public for disclosure laws for years. We put the case strongly during the Access Card consultations, at the same time as proposing a complete overhaul of all Australian laws relating to data and data holdings.

This piecemeal approach appears to be a tiny step forward, when a giant leap is required.

Meanwhile, an industry-based group appears to be fighting a rearguard action against data disclosure laws by funding an academic exercise through the University of NSW. Anyone interested in specifics is invited to email CLA for our response email to a request to become involved in the project.

– *some information from a Sandra Rossi report in Computerworld, 6 Aug 07*

<http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php/id:1565774494>

Facts suppressed in the name of free speech

Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is considering tightening control over the media, according to press reports.

"The proposed changes, which may go before parliament next year, would mean that a media organisation could be shut down for putting out information or pictures deemed unethical, a threat to national security, or disparaging to one's religious beliefs," according to a report in the Australian Financial Review.

The Indonesian administration claims the laws are intended to result in a more professional media. Despite a recent change in information minister, work is continuing on the draft laws, according to the reports. (AFR, 29 Aug 07)

– Jessica Mohr

159 million affected by data breaches in three years

Data breaches at US universities, government agencies, and corporations have become so common that only the most egregious even make the news anymore, according to privacy advocates.

Just how common are they? The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse which tracks major breaches, now says that 159,105,898 people have been affected by data leaks since 2005.

<http://www.privacyrights.org/ar/ChronDataBreaches.htm>

<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20070820-159-million-users-affected-by-data-breaches-in-under-three-years.html>

– supplied by Catherine Raffaele, Choice magazine

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High Court rejects control order appeal

The High Court in Canberra last month rejected an appeal by Jack Thomas against a control order imposed on him by federal authorities after his conviction on terror charges was quashed on appeal last year.

The court ruled in a 5-2 majority that the Federal Government's defence powers under the constitution are not limited to external threats or war and extend to protecting Australia against potential terrorist acts.

The control order against Mr Thomas was the first granted under new anti-terrorism laws.

For highlights of Mr Justice Kirby's dissenting judgement, go to:

<http://www.cla.asn.au/index.php>

Australia needs to keep closer watch on Papua

"What else do you Papuan separatists want, all that's left is to wait like your leader Munir . . . You better get to know God quickly. . ."

– Text message sent 31 July 2007.

Three days after meeting with a U.N. envoy, the representative of the National Human Rights Commission in the troubled Indonesian province of Papua received another, similar message on his cell phone – it threatened Albert Rumbekwan and his children with death, accusing him of using human rights to hurt Papua.

Rumbekwan is just one of the many defenders who have received threats in a province largely closed to foreign press, diplomats, and international human rights workers. (Report from Human Rights First, 9 Aug 07).

<http://action.humanrightsfirst.org/ct/F1w9zX61CjyA/>

CLA, in giving evidence earlier this year before Australia signed the Lombok Treaty with Indonesia, asked the Australian Parliament to set up a formal, annual monitoring of the human rights situation in Papua. Nothing has happened.

Australia continues to train Indonesian soldiers accused of human rights violations in Papua, and to swap intelligence data with Indonesian police alleged to be victimising Papuans.

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NSW's boys in blue win the toy lottery

The federal government has spent \$4 million to train extra NSW Police helicopter crews and pilots, and \$500,000 to lease a Cessna aircraft for airspace patrol, for APEC's main week.

This makes \$169.1m over six years for APEC security planning, of which \$91.3m went to federal security agencies and \$77.8m for NSW police for Leaders Week.

In the APEC lottery for boys in blue, NSW Police have received command and control vehicles, armoured response vehicles, jet skis, rigid hull inflatable boats, help to upgrade the Police Operations Centre...as well as the helicopter and fixed wing bonuses.

Last month, the federal government also 'launched' 22 new explosives detention canine teams for APEX security, at a cost of \$9.3m.

Since September 2001, the federal government has spent \$10.4 billion on security. Based on other major government expenditure patterns (for example, Defence), probably 20% (or about \$2bn) of this 'emergency' spending has been wasted.

Broderick is new Commissioner

Ms Elizabeth Broderick is the new Sex Discrimination Commissioner with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

She takes up her five-year appointment on 10 September.

Ms Broderick has been a partner at Blake Dawson Waldron since 1995 and was a board member from 2003 to 2006. She has specialised in applying technology to legal practice and delivering legal services.

Six human rights activists detained

Chinese authorities have arrested and detained six human rights activists calling for the right of Tibet to self-determination

Melanie Raoul, Sam Price, Leslie Kaup, Nupur Modi, Duane Martinez and Pete Speller, from Canada, the USA and the UK and members of the organisation 'Students for a Free Tibet', were arrested for displaying a protest banner reading '*One World, One Dream, Free Tibet 2008*' in English and Chinese, on the Great Wall.

Bush law means no US conversation or email is private

New US law, signed into effect by President George Bush last month, broadly expanded the Administration's authority to eavesdrop on international telephone calls and email messages without warrants.

Previously, the US Government needed search warrants approved by a special intelligence court to eavesdrop on telephone conversations, email messages and other electronic communications between individuals inside the USA and people outside it, if the government conducted the surveillance inside the USA.

Today, most international telephone conversations are conducted over fibre-optic cables, and the most efficient way for the US Government to eavesdrop on them is to tap in to giant telecommunications switches in the USA.

By changing the legal definition of what is considered 'electronic surveillance', the new law allows the government to eavesdrop on those conversations without warrants as long as the target of the government's surveillance is 'reasonably believed' to be overseas.

[- from a James Risen article, NY Times, 6 Aug 07](#)

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/06/washington/06nsa.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

Unpaid fines may stop people leaving UK

Tens of thousands of people who have failed to pay court fines amounting to more than \$1 billion would be banned from leaving the UK under new powers outlined by the Home Office.

Ministers are also looking at ways of using the new \$2 billion 'e-borders' program to collect about \$20 million owed in health treatment charges by foreign nationals who have left the UK without paying.

The program will be phased in from October 2008. It will also create a centralised 'no-fly' list of air-rage or disruptive passengers which can be circulated to airlines. The e-borders program requires airlines and ferry companies to submit up to 50 items of data on each passenger between 24 and 48 hours before departure to and from the UK.

With 200 million passenger movements in and out of the UK last year to and from 266 overseas airports on 169 airlines, an enormous amount of data is expected to be generated by the program

– from an article by Alan Travis, The Guardian, 6 Aug 07

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Brits reverse policy on UK resident Gbay detainees

The British Government last month called on the USA to return five UK residents held without charge at Guantanamo Bay.

The move is a policy about-face after years of refusing to help the men.

Relentless pressure from the men's families and lawyers, and an imminent court decision which ministers feared could see them ordered to allow one detainee back into Britain had triggered the change (*Guardian*, 8 Aug 07)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guantanamo/story/0,,2143900,00.html>

14 added to Gbay purgatory

The US military has declared 14 'high-value' detainees transferred from secret CIA prisons to Guantanamo Bay last year as declared enemy combatants subject to trial.

They include people the US suspects planned the 11 September 2001 attacks, the USS Cole bombing and the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. They can now be held indefinitely and can face war crimes trials.

There have been repeated calls to shut down Gbay by congressmen and human rights groups. President Bush said the USA could not close it until other countries agreed to take the 350-plus people still held there.

from AP and the Boston Herald, 10 Aug 07

EU threatens tit-for-tat visa limits on Americans

The European Union is threatening to impose tit-for-tat entry restrictions on all US citizens traveling to Europe in response to new American laws designed to strengthen security at airports and prevent would-be terrorists entering the country.

US tourists can now travel to Europe without a visa, but European tourists to the USA will have to complete an 'electronic travel authorisation' (ETA). The ETA requires tourists from 14 mostly west European states, including Britain, who benefit from the US visa waiver program, to register online and give details of their passport, travel plans and planned social and business meetings at least two days before departure.

A similar scheme already operates in Australia, but the new EU system has heightened fears about privacy protection as the EU and US already exchange information about transatlantic passengers and airline manifests. (*David Gow. Guardian*, 8 Aug 07) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,2143761,00.html>

Mugabe sets up communications surveillance

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has signed into law the controversial Interception of Communications Bill, setting up a government communications surveillance agency and authorizing intercepts on the telephone, the internet, and other electronic communication devices.

The Bill has been criticized by opposition lawmakers as an effort to consolidate power and crack down on dissent.

It will also allow the government to open conventional mail, and requires communication services providers to facilitate the interception and storage of private communications at the government's request. The Senate and House of Assembly approved the legislation in June (*JURIST* report, 6 Aug 07).

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/paperchase/2007/08/zimbabwe-president-approves.php>

In the same week, the UN World Food Program (WFP) made an urgent \$138 million appeal to provide immediate assistance to 3.3 million Zimbabweans facing severe food shortages.

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End cheap thrill CCTV shows, says UK watchdog

Television shows should not be allowed to use CCTV footage as entertainment, the UK privacy watchdog says.

Information Commissioner Richard Thomas said last month it was inappropriate for images from surveillance systems set up to fight crime to be broadcast.

The crackdown could spell the end for shows that present surveillance of crimes, accidents and public disorder such as *Police, Camera, Action* or the like.

He also set out tougher rules limiting the spread of surveillance cameras, amid growing fears that the network is creating a Big Brother state.

There are 4.2 million CCTV (closed circuit television) cameras in Britain and it is estimated that people in cities are filmed 300 times a day.

Accountability on agenda at Commonwealth Uganda summit

The fight against corruption and checking public accountability will be a key issue at the forthcoming Commonwealth summit in November.

Civil society organisations want to use the occasion to spearhead a financial accountability agenda that will make the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) open and transparent for Commonwealth citizens.

Warren Nyamugasira, who chairs the 2007 Commonwealth People's Forum steering committee, says that civil society organisations and campaigners will highlight social, economic and political ills. They will also address the demands for leaders' responsiveness to the socio-economic advancement of the ordinary people during the Commonwealth People's Forum, a key pre-CHOGM summit to be hosted at Hotel Africana. For more information, see <http://allafrica.com/stories/200707310112.html>

First Khmer Rouge official charged

The head of a former torture centre has become the first Khmer Rouge official charged with crimes against humanity for his alleged role in mass murder in Cambodia from 1975 to 1979.

Duch, as the man is known, headed the S-21 prison in Phnom Penh where 16,000 prisoners were tortured before being transferred to the infamous 'killing fields' outside the city.

– *Toronto Star/Associated Press, 1 Aug 07*

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Iran increases its hangings

Iran hanged seven men, convicted of rape, abduction and theft, in public early this month in north-east city of Mashad, according to the ISNA student news agency.

Two other men were also hanged in a prison in Zahedan, in the south-east, convicted of armed smuggling of narcotics.

Late in July, 12 people were hanged at Evin Prison in Tehran for rape, criminal acts, abduction and selling drugs.

Amnesty claims Iran executed 177 people in 2006 and has put to death 143 people so far this year.

– from NY Times, 2 Aug 07

DIARY DATES

26 August to 1 September, Asia-Pacific: Privacy Awareness Week.

<http://www.privacyawarenessweek.org/paw/>

3-4 September, Sydney: Inaugural national 'Muslim Students in Australian Universities' conference hosted by University of Western Sydney, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Parramatta.

Details: <mailto:msau-sec@uws.edu.au> or

<http://www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/corpserv/edc/events>

8-9 September, Sydney: APEC Economic Leaders meeting.

9-13 Sept, Kenya: 2007 Commonwealth Law Conference, Nairobi.

<http://www.commonwealthlaw2007.com/>

25 September, Melbourne: 2007 Protecting Human Rights Conference, to discuss developments in the protection of Human rights by Australian charters and human rights acts. More information, **+61 (02) 9385 2259**; 0414 241 593.

3-10 November 2007, Sao Paulo, Brazil: VII International Human Rights Colloquium, annual peer-learning event for young activists from Africa, Asia and Latin America to make connections with and between UN organizations. Info:

http://www.conectas.org/coloquio/home_en.html

9 November, Canberra: Geoffrey Sawer Lecture, *Australian Exceptionalism*, Professor Michael Taggart, University of Auckland

9 November, Sydney: David Marr speaks on *In this day and age we can't be too careful, can we?* at inaugural Ken Buckley/John Marsden dinner. Details Berenice Buckley on 02 9818 1553 or email: <mailto:berryb@iint.net.au>

9-10 November, Canberra: 12th Annual Public Law Weekend: *Death of the Rule of Law?* Visions Theatre, National Museum. <http://law.anu.edu.au/cipl/events.asp>

28 November, Melbourne: Public forum: evening, for conference below...

29-30 November, Melbourne: 24th international conference, Law and Society Association of A & NZ: Proposals by 21 Sept. Centre for Media and Communications Law and Institute for International Law and the Humanities, U. Melb. Law School. Details: <mailto:law-cmcl@unimelb.edu.au>

10 December, World: Human Rights Day www.ohchr.org

2010:

10/10/10, World: Target date for the start of the **CLA**-promoted moratorium on the death penalty – **10/10 for Life**.

It's the rights thing

The *New World of Coca-Cola* is a 8500 sq m, \$113 million museum opened in May in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

It stands in Atlanta's once-blighted downtown area, on 8.9ha that the company bought in the early 1990s.

Coke donated part of the area for construction of the Georgia Aquarium, which opened next door in late 2005. Then, in October, the company announced it would donate 2.5 acres to the City of Atlanta for a civil and human rights museum.

We wonder which Australian company will donate land and/or money for an Australian equivalent of the civil/human liberties and rights museum?

CLA undertakes to find a spot in the national capital, and to supervise the project, if a company will provide \$100-150m for an Australian civil liberties museum and education centre.

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LAST WORD: ***Slavery outlawed, said the headline***

From the *SMH*, reprinted from the [London] *Daily Telegraph*

Saturday 11 August 2007

Slavery in Mauritania was finally criminalised on Thursday when MPs in Nouakchott approved jail terms for slave masters.

Owning slaves has been illegal in the West African country since 1981, but the crime previously carried no penalty.

– item supplied by Roger Clarke

CLArion is the monthly e-newsletter of Civil Liberties Australia A04043, Box 7438 FISHER ACT 2611 Australia. Please feel free to report or pass on items in *CLArion*, crediting CLA and/or the original source. We welcome contributions for the next issue: please send to: <mailto:secretary@cla.asn.au>

NOTE: This issue of CLArion has been interrupted by computer problems. Apologies if anyone's contribution has not made it.

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