ON FRIDAY 13 AUGUST THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (UNAA) PRESENTED ITS INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD TO DR STELLA CORNELIUS, AO OBE, FOR HER LIFETIME ADVOCACY OF PEACE, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. FOUNDER OF THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION NETWORK IN AUSTRALIA AND PATRON OF CPACS, STELLA WAS PRESENTED WITH THE AWARD BY THE HON. SIR LAWRENCE STREET, AC KCMG QC, AT A CEREMONY IN THE NSW PARLIAMENT THEATRETTE.

In addition to the formal introduction and comments from Professor Robert Hill, National President UNAA, and Mr Graham Hunter, President UNAA (Vic.), members of the audience spoke warmly about their personal experiences of Stella. A highlight of the ceremony was the ‘Guard of Honour’ formed by a group of young peace ambassadors who expressed their admiration for Stella and what they had learnt from her about contributing to a more peaceful world.

Stella was delighted to receive this award and even more delighted to receive crucial support from the UNAA “way back in 1973” when others were busily branding her a “communist” or labelling her conflict resolution and peace work as “idealistic”.

Now in her ninetieth year that idealism has proven to be a limitless, youthful source of inspiration— a deep spring of ideas to promote nonviolent conflict resolution, human rights education and social justice. Just last week Stella rang CPACS to discuss an idea she had in response to our government’s conundrum about “what to do with Anzac Day”? Her response, to re-imagine “Lest we forget” as “Let their legacy be peace”.

As CPACS Council member Roger Wescombe remarks “in my experience Stella’s great gift to us all has been her power to make the idealistic practical”.

Such initiatives include Stella’s lifelong “Work for All” project that re-defines unemployment as a peace with justice issue and re-imagines the possibility of a world with full employment. Another Stella endeavour is initiating the UNAA Media Peace Awards in 1979, recognizing and promoting the role and responsibility of the media to engage in conflict-resolving journalism. Active leadership and participation in both the state and federal committees responsible for the Decade of Aboriginal Reconciliation (1990’s) and the UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), highlight Stella’s tireless commitment to envisioning, creating and sustaining peace with justice projects. Establishing the country’s first conflict-resolution tertiary education program at Macquarie University, underpins her passion for such ‘practical idealism’.
Most recently, Stella is excited to see the UNAA’s new vitality around the campaign to establish a World Ministry for Peace, a longtime Stella vision. Indeed, in his keynote address at the UNAA conference, Dr Keith Suter—friend and colleague of Stella—suggested a Ministry for Peace is something for all of us to lobby for, nationally and internationally. CPACS Council member Prof. Chris Hamer writes “Stella has always been a strong supporter of the World Federalist Association, and later the World Citizens Association, and is on the Advisory Board of the latter. There is an enormously positive and encouraging presence wherever Stella appears.”

And Stella appears, on your screen, on your phone, in conversations with colleagues or in awe-struck conversations with students. Because our much awarded but very humble Dr Cornelius AO OBE is at heart a collaborative and collegial networker. Sharing ideas and pooling energies is Stella’s chosen method for creating cultures of peace. As Dr Wendy Lambourne comments “[t]his is typical of Stella – she adopts and connects people, young and old, from all backgrounds and walks of life, with her passion for being positive, learning skills and taking action to promote peace and social justice.”

In the words of CPACS Council member, Abe Quadan: “Stella Cornelius is a great Australian who is highly respected by all those who have met her or know of her and her work”. Fellow Council member, Andrew Greig adds: “What a feisty woman is Stella! And what energy and optimism she radiates.”

Staff and members of CPACS and the Sydney Peace Foundation congratulate our “inspirational grandmother” Stella on receiving the UNAA International Peace Award and express sincere appreciation for the many years of compelling visions and actions for peace.

### The Power of Human Stories

**by Alice Aslan**

**FETHİYE ÇETİN, A WRITER, LAWYER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST FROM TURKEY, RECENTLY VISITED AUSTRALIA FOR THE MELBOURNE WRITERS’ FESTIVAL. ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, SHE SPOKE AT THE CENTRE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES ABOUT HER BOOK MY GRANDMOTHER AT AN EVENT ENTITLED “TOWARDS JUSTICE, DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION”.

"My Grandmother" is a powerful, groundbreaking work that tells the poignant life story of the author’s grandmother. Çetin had always thought that her grandmother was Turkish and Muslim until one day, when she was a young law student, the old woman revealed to her that she was born into an Armenian Christian family – and that her real name was Heranush, not Seher. As a 9 year old child in 1915, Heranush had witnessed a haunting tragedy: Turkish soldiers rounded up the young Armenian men and killed them, and deported the women, children and elderly on foot. During the long and torturous death march into the Syrian desert, hundreds of thousands of Armenians died. Heranush was forcefully separated from her mother and adopted by a Turkish soldier. Afterwards, she was never again able to see her surviving relatives, who managed to move to the United States.

This revelation changed Çetin’s life forever, making her more inquisitive about Turkey’s history, and far more critical of the official national story. Since then she has challenged the denial of the Armenian Genocide, and inspired many other Turks to talk more openly about the horrors of 1915 and to care about what really happened to the millions of Armenians who suddenly disappeared from the Anatolian interior. Just as her grandmother broke her long silence about her personal tragedy toward the end of her life, Fethiye Çetin has helped break the national silence about these historical injustices with her book.

Interestingly, there has been a very positive response to Çetin’s book, even though the Armenian Genocide is still a very sensitive issue in Turkey. As a result, more and more Turks, who have discovered their own Armenian origins, are telling their own Armenian grandparents’ stories. In her second book, soon to be published, Çetin compiles the stories told by 25 of the unknown number of Turks with Armenian grandparents.

Çetin believes that Turks need to come to terms with their true history, and acknowledge all the injustices done to Armenians. She also believes in the power of stories: their power to move people, connect them with others and inspire them to search for the truth. And she encourages everyone to listen to their grandparents’ stories to discover the truth of history.

Alice Aslan is a social anthropologist and writer based in Sydney. She is the author of Islamophobia in Australia.
Responses to the IPRA conference

by Jake Lynch

CPACS PLAYED HOST, OVER FIVE DAYS IN JULY, TO ‘COMMUNICATING PEACE’, THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION. THE BIGGEST EVENT THE CENTRE HAS EVER ORGANISED, THE IPRA CONFERENCE WELDED MORE THAN 400 DELEGATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING OVER 60 GRANTEES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PAID FOR WITH MONEY THE CENTRE EARNED FROM SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE GRANTS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Eighteen University of Sydney students, many from CPACS, took up the opportunity to present a paper to IPRA’s many Commissions and Working Groups, benefiting from a waiver of the delegate fee. At least four of these Commissions are now working on edited collections of the papers presented in their proceedings, to be offered for publication to Sydney University Press, with the production costs to be met from conference funds.

The conference also launched a revival of IPRA itself, which has been virtually moribund, for all purposes besides conferences, for the last five years. With a new membership list, bank account and PayPal service, it is open to anyone to join! The first e-newsletter of the new era will be distributed by the end of this year, with paid-up members also in line to receive special journal editions, and be consulted on the future scope and content of peace research.

Shortly before the IPRA conference, two of its leading lights, the veteran peace researchers, Elise Boulding (in the US) and John Burton (here in Australia) passed away. We staged a special evening memorial event, which was attended by Hamish McDonald, Asia-Pacific Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald. Writing in the paper the following day, he reflected:

“This conference, which finishes today, had a wonderful array of talks: on Maoists in Nepal, human traffickers in central America, Serbian extremists and the internet, even ‘the strategic use of humour for non-violent resistance’, to name a few topics. Plus a look at every kind of conflict and the performance of governments, armies, United Nations agencies, companies, aid groups and journalists in dealing with them.

It started just two weeks after the death of one of its co-founders. John Burton died in Canberra on June 23 at the age of 95. More than any other Australian, probably, he deserves to be up in the pantheon of world peace-making”.

Hamish’s was just one of the many generous tributes that have continued to pour in since the conference finished. A selection:

“The best IPRA conference I have ever attended” – Professor Johan Galtung, keynote speaker at the conference and one of IPRA’s co-founders, with Burton, in the 1960s.

“The scholastic quality of the conference was much higher than at earlier ones and many interesting themes were introduced and developed through the plenary/workshop format” – Professor Kevin Clements, IPRA Secretary General, 2008-2010.

“Great efforts – appreciation to the organising, volunteers and the students” – Associate Professor Ramu Manivannan, University of Madras, India.

“A great conference: the most genuinely international I’ve attended; great people; wonderful work by CPACS with doubtless limited resources” – Professor Robert Hackett, Simon Fraser University, Canada.

“A genuinely inspiring and creative conference – all thanks to Jake and his magnificent team” – Dr Steve Wright, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK.

“A very enlightening, very educative conference – thank you” – Eleanor Nandutu, Gender and Peace Commission, Uganda.

“A great opportunity to share so many experiences from all over the world, and also to be with people with the same commitment about peace – thank you, well done” – Diana de la Rua Eugenio, Argentina.

“A+ - excellent. Thanks to all who helped to make this conference a great success” – Professor George Kent, University of Hawaii, USA.

“Fabulous conference – staff friendly and efficient, great books available, great fringe events” – Marty Branagan, University of New England, Australia.
I have been so incredibly inspired this week and made wonderful connections — overall, great job hosting. Sydney has been so welcoming!” — Rebecca Norlander, USA.

“Enhanced societal learning about peace on inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches with the mixing of participation by both academics and practitioners (NGOs)” — Pranil Kumar Upadhayaya, Nepal.

“The only frustration was too much good stuff at once — impossible to choose! Thanks for the very impressive level of organisation and attention to detail” — Susy Lee, Australia.

“I have been to many conferences in peace and conflict and non-violent action in the last ten years, but the energy, enthusiasm, creativity and optimism of this group stands out. I am humbled by this group’s devotion and commitment” — Cynthia Boaz, USA.

“Future organisation of the IPRA global conference must follow the process, methods and means adopted by our Australian friends” — Muhammad Kamal Uddin, Bangladesh.

On that last note, some continuity will, indeed, be assures, since I was elected by IPRA members at the conference to be the Association’s new joint Secretary General, part of a two-person team with Katsuya Kodama, from Japan.

So, if you are interested in joining IPRA, and being part of its new era, please do contact me: Jake.lynch@sydney.edu.au

In Memoriam: IPRA Founders John W. Burton and Elise Boulding

by Wendy Lambourne

AT THE IPRA CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY, WE CELEBRATED THE LIVES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF TWO OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF IPRA, LEADING PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION THEORIST-PRACTITIONERS, JOHN W. BURTON AND ELISE BOULDING, BOTH OF WHOM DIED IN JUNE THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION TO BEING HONOURED IN THE OPENING CEREMONY, A SPECIAL MEMORIAL EVENT WAS HELD ON THE EVENING OF 9 JULY IN THE FOOTBRIDGE THEATRE.

Dr Wendy Lambourne, having met with John Burton in his home in Canberra in April not long after his 95th birthday, read a message he wished to convey to IPRA members and conference participants. The message encouraged us to focus on the pursuit of harmonious relationships in order to build more peaceful societies, including the teaching of relationships in schools, the workplace and in governments. Lauded internationally for his contributions to political and conflict resolution theory and practice, Burton was born in Melbourne the son of a radical Methodist minister, studied psychology at the University of Sydney, and obtained his PhD from the London School of Economics in London in 1942.

Special guest, Dr Greg Tillett from the School of Law, University of Western Sydney, spoke passionately and evocatively about John Burton’s various career highlights which have gone largely unrecognised in his home country: his meteoric rise to the top in the Department of External Affairs and his forward-thinking approach to foreign policy; his challenges to the dominant international relations paradigm in his writing and teaching at ANU (1955-1963) and University College, London (1963-1978); his role as founder and director of the Centre for the Analysis of Conflict at the University of Kent and later of leading conflict analysis and resolution programs at the University of Maryland and George Mason University in the USA; and his prolific writing and publishing on political theory, peace theory and conflict resolution.

John Burton’s pioneering work in conflict analysis and resolution and his invention of the ‘problem-solving workshop’ had a profound influence on the subsequent development of what we know today as alternative dispute resolution and interactive conflict resolution or Track Two diplomacy. In 1994 he was awarded the Doctor of Letters honoris causa from Macquarie University where Greg Tillett was the founding Director of the Centre for Conflict Resolution. In his article ‘Professor John Wear Burton: Dangerous
Elise Boulding

Outgoing IPRA Secretary-General, Professor Kevin Clements, and a number of conference participants including Birgit Brock-Utne spoke warmly and admiringly of how Elise Boulding had influenced their lives with her enthusiasm for life and living, peace research and peace education, and her contributions to women’s studies, futures studies and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), as well as IPRA. Elise died just a few weeks before her 90th birthday at the retirement home in Massachusetts where she had lived for the past ten years. Born in Oslo, Norway, Elise and her family emigrated to the United States when she was a young child. She married fellow peace studies pioneer, Kenneth Boulding, in 1941 and obtained her Masters in Sociology in 1949 whilst raising a young family, and her doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1969.

Amongst her many accomplishments, Elise began publishing the first International Peace Research Newsletter in 1963; helped to found IPRA, the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development (COPRED) and the IPRA Foundation; ran for US Congress on the Peace Party platform; served as the International Chair of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Secretary-General of IPRA; and was appointed to the Congressional Commission that established what became the United States Institute of Peace. She was a consultant for UNESCO and with the United Nations University, and taught at Dartmouth College, University of Colorado and George Mason University. As an academic and activist, Elise was passionate and prolific in her writing and advocacy for the role of women as peacemakers, the impact of gender, children’s rights, the role of the family and the promotion of a culture of peace.

As Kevin Clements commented in his opening remarks to the IPRA conference, it is hard summing up the significance of these two individuals. They had a powerful impact on the field of peace and conflict studies, but more importantly ‘they showed us something of the character required to be effective cosmopolitan peacebuilders in a world too often beset by xenophobic nationalists’. From what I experienced personally and have heard from others, the key characteristics they shared in common could perhaps be summed up as being visionary, intellectually curious, practically-oriented − and determined! Long may we continue to learn and follow in their footsteps as we strive to fulfil their visions of a more peaceful world.


IPRA Plenary #3

by Lynda-ann Blanchard, IPRA Organising Committee

MY WORKING WITH COLLEAGUES ON THE PANEL OF IPRA PLENARY #3 WAS AN EXTREMELY MOVING AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE IN TERMS OF THE IPRA THEME OF “COMMUNICATING PEACE”. THE TOPIC SET FOR DISCUSSION: A SAFE AND PEACEFUL WORLD MEANS ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE PLENARY SPEAKERS REPRESENTED DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ON THIS TOPIC FROM ACADEMIC TO ACTIVIST VOICES, TO THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES CONVEYED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AND INDIGENOUS VOICES.

Yami Lester, a Yankunytjatjara man, began the dialogue recalling how he was blinded as a three year old child by the black mist of the fallout from British nuclear tests at Maralinga in central Australia during the 1950’s. There was an attempt to gather the wildlife away from the test area, however no attempt was made to communicate with the local Aboriginal people living in the area about the proposed tests. After the mist passed, Yami’s community camp experienced sudden deaths, outbreaks of skin rashes, vomiting, diarrhoea and temporary and permanent blindness. Yami’s significant contribution to the rights of Aboriginal people was helping gain recognition of the impact of nuclear testing on Aboriginal communities.
Junko Morimoto, a Hibakusha (Hiroshima survivor) from Japan, continued the dialogue through her translator. Junko was a young teenager when the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima took place in 1945. Her painful and courageous testimony recalled the horrific scenes of people’s ‘melting skins’ and ‘thirsty people on fire who could not drink the contaminated water’. Through writing illustrated children’s books — such as My Hiroshima (1997)—about the human and environmental devastation caused by nuclear weapons, Junko is educating for a more peaceful world. Participation last year in the Peace Boat’s Hibakusha project involved more than 100 survivors travelling the world together, telling their testimony and writing to governments of the countries they visited calling out “a safe and peaceful world means abolishing nuclear weapons”.

Dimity Hawkins, the third speaker, works for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and has directed projects with the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Part of Dimity’s work is to educate and raise awareness about our unsafe nuclear weapons world: “People are often astounded to hear that there are around 23,000 nuclear weapons in world today, that 96% of them are still in the arsenals of Russia and the USA, that thousands remain on hair trigger alert, ready to be launched in just minutes. Many younger people are shocked when I tell them that there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests since the first use of these abominable weapons. But they are also angry – why didn’t they know? Why doesn’t anyone talk to them about this?”

Professor Larry Wittner concluded the plenary session with his research and teaching about “Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the Nuclear Disarmament Movement”. Drawing upon extensive research in the files of peace and disarmament organizations, government records, as well as interviews with former officials, anti-nuclear activists, and others, Larry discussed the history of the anti-nuclear movement from its origins in the aftermath of World War II. His optimistic thesis suggests progress is being made in terms of “confronting the bomb”.

This was a challenging and moving plenary. I thank all the participants for their courageous work in communicating peace. Sincere thanks go to Yami’s carer and Junko’s translator for their generosity in accompanying our speakers. And special thanks also to the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (NSW); Sydney Peace Foundation (SPF) and Peace Boat (Japan) for their sponsorship of our panelists. I am very grateful to SPF Executive Officer Dr Hannah Middleton and MAPW (NSW) Coordinator Dr Anne Noonan for proposing and liaising with speakers for this panel. A plenary to remember!

The IPRA conference on TV!

“FORA.tv is the leading online destination for intelligent video programs on the people, issues, and ideas changing the world. We offer free, paid-membership, and fee-based video viewing of live events, lectures, and debates to a smart, deeply-engaged audience: you!

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You can buy a conference pass for US$39.95, or a ticket to a single plenary session for US$4.95. CPACS is sharing the revenues with FORA.tv so any purchase also helps the Centre in its work.

*An interesting historical note… On its website, San Francisco-based FORA.tv names, as its “principal investor”, William R Hearst III, who is a scion of the Hearst family of newspaper publishers. The original William Randolph Hearst is sometimes credited with (or blamed for) pushing the USA into a war with Spain, in 1898, in an early example of war journalism. Good to see the family fortune now being harnessed for peaceful purposes!

Commission Convenor, Dr Cynthia Cohen, from the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University in the US, spoke passionately about the role of aesthetic engagement in supporting conflict transformation and reconciliation after war and violence. Two young indigenous singers from Contact Inc performed and were then interviewed by Dr Mary Ann Hunter, an honorary researcher with the University of Queensland, about their experiences of youth empowerment in the creative arts. Contact Inc, based in Brisbane, operates on the social justice principles of access, equity and participation and focuses on cross-cultural youth arts and cultural development.

Nosindiso Mtimkulu, whose participation was made possible through a grant from UNESCO, described with joy and humility her arts-based work with youth in South Africa. Nosindiso, who is the project leader for the Memory, Arts and Culture Program at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town, demonstrated one of the traditional African musical instruments she uses in educational workshops to assist young South Africans to understand, accept and feel pride in their indigenous heritage. Finally, we wereentranced and impressed by the documentary trailer ‘Acting Together on the World Stage’, a collaboration with Theatre Without Borders, which showcased experiences of creative agency and peace from countries throughout the world including Peru, Serbia, the Netherlands and Cambodia.

As co-convenor of the Reconciliation and Transitional Justice Commission, I was privileged to chair a joint commission session with the Arts and Peace Commission, which further explored some of the interconnections between the creative arts, peace and reconciliation with Cynthia, Nosindiso and discussants Polly Walker from Partners in Peacebuilding, Australia, and Maria Elisa Pinto from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan. We discussed how the arts enable us to transcend the complexity of narrative to a deeper, more profound relationship with ourselves and others. This sense of trust and belonging provides a source of richness and strength which we carry back as an empowered capacity to deal with the complexity and challenges of peacebuilding.

Dr Wendy Lambourne, Senior Lecturer and Academic Coordinator, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Star-struck! Afternoon tea with Galtung

by Juliet Bennett

“IT’S INCREDIBLE TO SEE HOW STUDENTS’ EYES LIGHT UP WHEN THEY READ PROFESSOR GALTUNG’S WORK,” SAID JAKE LYNCH AS HE INTRODUCED JOHAN GALTUNG AT THE IPRA CONFERENCE IN JULY. I GRINNED TO MYSELF AND NODDED. I AM ONE OF THOSE STUDENTS.

Galtung has provided me simple definitions of complex concepts, like positive peace, negative peace, and structural violence. He has explained the politics of the global economy – the difference between core and periphery, and the human agency that underlies them. And then, after looking at all this violence, he manages to leave me with a sense of hope. His message: with creativity, any conflict can be transcended.

“Professor Galtung will be available to talk with at the 3:30pm break tomorrow and Thursday afternoon,” Jake announced after thanking the professor for his enlightening lecture. I noted it down in big letters on my schedule. Tomorrow I would meet my academic hero!

The next day I stepped into the CPACS Posters for Peace Gallery and pulled up a chair to join the circle surrounding Galtung. Like the apostles surrounding Jesus, we listened attentively to our teacher’s wise words.

“It all starts with a vision,” he said. “We need to be more creative, to try to imagine what the solution would look like....” Take the Israel-Palestine conflict for example – what would peace look like? While addressing the problem from a creative top down approach – suggesting a FIVE (rather than two) state solution, Galtung also envisioned what peace would actually be like on the ground: “Can you imagine having
breakfast in Tiberias in Israel, lunch in Jericho in Palestine, the night life in Aqaba by the Red Sea in Jordan?“ he laughed. “What we are talking about is open borders, a Middle East Community, with roads that permit this kind of movement.” Now that’s my kind of vision!

I tried to apply Galtung’s theories of transcendence to a big question that had been on my mind for a while: with expanding population, diminishing resources, and insatiable greed, is humanity on a path to self-destruction? How might we transcend the lifestyle and conflicts that place us on this path?

If it starts with a vision, I wonder, what would an ecologically peaceful human society look like? Would we still have “countries” and “passports” or would we be “citizens of the earth”? How many people would live in each country? What kind of diversity would exist between our races, would it be a source of discrimination or something to be cherished? What would our lifestyles be like? Do we still work? Do we have enough water? Is our air clean? What do we eat? How do we interact with each other? Do we still use money? How to we express our creativity?

What would your ideal world look like? What needs to change for us to get there? These are the things we must be thinking about: peace starts with a vision.

Juliet Bennett completed a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies in 2009 and is now researching and writing a Master of Philosophy. She shares her “paradoxical journey toward truth” in an academic, photographic and personal blog: www.julietbennett.com.

West Papua Project cuts a high profile at IPRA

by Camellia Webb Gannon

AT THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (IPRA) HOSTED FROM JULY 6-10 THIS YEAR BY THE CENTRE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, ACTIVITIES INITIATED BY THE CENTRE’S WEST PAPUA PROJECT WERE A CONSIDERABLE FEATURE. THIS CONFERENCE WAS A TIMELY ONE FOR SUCH A FOCUS, GIVEN THE SIMULTANEOUS OCCURRENCE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MASS POLITICAL MOBILISATION IN WEST PAPUA IN OVER A DECADE, AND THE SUPPORTING POLITICAL ACTION TAKING PLACE IN WEST PAPUA’S SUPPORTER STATE, VANUATU.

The conference attracted a high number of papers focused specifically on, or referring to, the conflict in West Papua. Among the non-West Papuan presenters, Damien Kingsbury from Deakin University discussed West Papua as a case study in his paper on post-colonial states and ethnic minorities; Jill Kealey McRae presented on the legality of the New York Agreement and its ramifications; Camellia Webb-Gannon from CPACS discussed the links between independence and peace with justice in West Papua; and Akhisa Matsuno from Osaka University considered why the Special Autonomy package in West Papua has failed.

Bringing their experiences and biographies, and greatly adding to the overall richness of the West Papua related papers and events at IPRA, was the participation of two veteran West Papuan leaders and refugees, Dr John Otto Ondawame and Dr Jacob Rumbiak. John Ondawame currently resides in Port Vila, Vanuatu, and is chair of the West Papua National Coalition for Liberation, an umbrella body comprising 30 resistance organisations in West Papua. He gave a keynote address at the conference on human rights advocacy and challenges to peace research, speaking of his conversion from a belief in armed resistance as the most effective method of peacemaking to dialogue and non-violence. Jacob Rumbiak, Foreign Affairs Minister for the West Papua National Authority, a provisional West Papuan government, presented a paper discussing options for “solving the political impasse between Indonesia and West Papua”. Their presentations and the discussion they generated around each of the other West Papuan papers added an invaluable personal dimension to issues raised.

Two new West Papua publications were launched at IPRA. The first was John Ondawame’s PhD thesis turned book, One people, one soul, an account of his life and work as a West Papuan refugee and activist, which attracted critical acclaim. The second was a report published by the West Papua Project at CPACS entitled Get up, stand up: West Papuans stand up for their rights, by Jim Elmslie, Camellia Webb-Gannon and Peter King. The report was launched by John Ondawame, and is a rebuttal of a tendentious and error-strewn March 2010 International Crisis Group report on violence in West Papua. It is available from the CPACS office for $10.

The day following the report launch, Thursday July 8, West Papua experienced its largest-ever political demonstration, with up to 20,000 protesters taking to the streets in West Papua’s biggest city, Jayapura. The people of West Papua, supported by church groups, women and customary leaders, the transitional West Papua National Authority government, student groups and other civil society
and political leaders, appealed to the provincial parliament to ‘hand back’ the spectacularly unsuccessful Special Autonomy package imposed on Papua by the central government in 2001. Negotiations and demonstrations are still underway. A month earlier, a foreign policy coup in favour of challenging West Papua’s legal status as part of Indonesia with the International Court of Justice, was achieved in Vanuatu’s parliament. Known as the Wantok Blong Yumi Bill, this foreign policy win added to the atmospheric high that West Papuans and their supporters were experiencing during the IPRA conference.

Both John Ondawame and Jacob Rumbiak, together with the conveners of the West Papua Project, were privileged to spend an afternoon with one of the founders of peace studies, Professor Johan Galtung. Not only is West Papua embroiled in what has so far proved to be an intractable conflict in pursuit of political independence from Indonesia, but the independence movement itself is troubled by internal politicking and factionalism. Creative conversation with Galtung ensued around these issues, offering up new ideas and ways of perceiving the conflicts, the stakeholders and the stakes. Galtung was enthusiastic in commending the idea that activists on Papua’s behalf need to identify and stress the benefits for Indonesia which would flow from independence in Papua — an end to military impunity, military buildup and military dirty business in their last great bastion in Indonesia, and a big boost for Indonesia’s international reputation which is now most threatened by developments in Papua.

Certainly one of the highlights for the West Papua Project at IPRA was the chance to bring Jacob Rumbiak and John Ondawame together in Sydney. The aforementioned factionalism within West Papua’s independence movement had also affected the two leaders who had previously experience political tensions in their own relationship, but had had few opportunities to meet and resolve them given their geographical distance and the movement’s limited funds. The IPRA conference provided the ideal forum for the two to work through some of their disagreements. While many of their differences still remain, Rumbiak and Ondawame were able to identify important points of agreement. Based on positive discussions, they agreed to attend August’s Pacific Islands Forum together as representatives for West Papua.

The West Papua Project is committed to facilitating greater understanding and collaboration between West Papuans, their supporters, and Indonesians working for peace in West Papua. This role for the West Papua Project has been arrived at in consultation with both LIPI (the Indonesian Institute of Sciences) in Jakarta and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva which is supporting LIPI and a Papuan team in Jayapura to promote a “Road Map” for peace and dialogue between Papua and Indonesia. Enabling a West Papuan profile at IPRA, through supporting Papuan activists, providing academic papers, and hosting promotional activities, is an example of how the West Papua Project at CPACS undertakes this role.

If you are able to financially contribute to the West Papua Project, your support would be invaluable. For more information about the Project, or for details on how to contribute, please email: Jim Elmslie on jelmslie@ozemail.com.au
Camellia Webb-Gannon, PhD Candidate, West Papua Project, CPACS

Dr John Otto Ondawame and Dr Jacob Rumbiak at CPACS

IPRA 2010: We are all anarchists now
by Karen Kennedy


I would like to give an unashamedly subjective reading of the anarchist sensibility I found at IPRA. The sessions I attended regularly were those of the nonviolence commission. So, this may be a major misrepresentation of the conference as a whole, or, it may be an indication that something is brewing? At the very least it’s an expression of my research interest. In his opening address, the IPRA exiting Secretary-General Kevin Clements announced, “IPRA is too hierarchical!”

Anarchism is anti-hierarchy; Anarchist philosophy and practice perhaps contains the most consistent critique of hierarchy and the restrictions it imposes on the goals of anarchism - freedom and liberation. There simply is no hierarchy to which we should submit, no authority to whom we owe obedience. In short no need for hierarchy. His next comment:“Networks and ‘synergetic’ clusters are needed to take IPRA into the 21st Century”.

Anarchists have worked hard on this. Their disdain of hierarchy and use of
unstructured and open methods such as affinity groups, convergence spaces, flash mobs, networks and nodes all operate on the principles of self-organisation and the idea of spontaneous order. The global Indy media project was set up on anarchist principles; and a diversity of literature exists on the importance of anarchism to the global anti-capitalist movement, itself a movement of movements that operates on a decentralised network of shifting currents. How would anarchists run an IPRA conference? They would use open space technology, allowing agendas to be worked out by those involved rather than being pre-determined.

Back to the opening speech, “I am reminded of the philosopher Emanuel Levinas...”

Anarchism is widely described as a practice of ethics. I call this an ethic of mutuality, voluntary co-operation and solidarity, based on my understanding of contemporary anarchist philosophy and practice. Along with other contemporary thinkers such as Simon Critchley, Judith Butler and Timothy Morton – (take his name down now! and join him in The Ecological Thought) I am exploring the Levinasian idea of responsibility preceding freedom. This is a consistent idea in the history of anarchist thought and practice. Mutuality is always foreground, the freedom of one is linked to the freedom of all; hierarchy is not used to contain any living thing to the waiting room of history. All this and the key address has not even begun!

Words spoken to me at my annual review in 2009, “Galtung does not have to be in everything”, kept coming into my mind. I admit to finding Galtung’s work very dense and convoluted. I wish he would call a spade a spade: especially in relation to capitalism! Anarchists are opposed to capitalism, their critiques of capital (as a social relation) cannot be separated from war, inequality, injustice or the daily relations between people and institutions that overtly and covertly rationalise these.

My initial reluctance soon subsided. I began to laugh. Galtung’s playful nature embodies the spirit of play and the ludic in anarchism. His idea of inventing new words especially struck the anarchist chord. There is no blueprint for an anarchist society; it is dependent upon the power of the imagination to come up with new ways of relating, sharing, speaking and creating.

Galtung’s “equiarchy” – his combination of equality and anarchy – got me thinking. Given the grave and common misunderstandings around anarchism, could this term be deployed in its place? It is after all, always argued that we need new terms for good ideas. Ideas such as nonviolence and anarchism that to this day receive bad or no press and sit at the margins of academic and cultural practice.

And what of his other invention “condiction”? Are we surrounded by condictions rather than contradictions? Can the deployment of a new word change the contradictions? Who knows, the point and one that should be remembered within anarchism and nonviolent action, is to experiment with truth, to take direct action without recourse to authority, in this case to fixed semantic and vernacular authority. Perhaps the use of condition will allow for greater clarity and less obfuscation.

Galtung used the terms repressive, domination, exploitation and hierarchy to describe the current geo-political philosophies of the US and Israel. Now it would be outrageous for me to claim that any ideal or philosophy has a bigger claim to words and the terror they produce in practice than any other. These are, however, all vernacular enemies of anarchism. They are the terms that describe the practices of authoritarian systems, and all who take shelter under the umbrella of Anarchism are anti–authoritarian.

From the mystical anarchy of antiquity to the current resurgence of anarchism in the present, the driving idea is that people are best left to work things out for themselves in voluntary association. All anarchists condemn imposed political and religious authority, hierarchy and domination.

Without even touching on my own presentation or prising open other instances of anarchist currents at the IPRA Conference. There seems little doubt that, as head of our school, Simon Tormey notes, anarchism is an umbrella term that shelters a staggering diversity of political currents and groups. Amid the cold rain and hectic pace of the conference, anarchism provided a mostly unacknowledged shelter of mutuality, voluntary co-operation and rebellion as love.

Something is definitely brewing, and it is not a storm in a tea cup – nor is it proper tea – remember as Jake Lynch does so well, that all property is theft! To echo the words of my elusive supervisor GT, anarchy will prevail!

If you would like to know more about my research feel free to email me kken0486@uni.sydney.edu.au. If you would like to know more about anarchism in general, head on down to the Jura Collective Space in Petersham, or visit them in cyberspace. Use wikipedia, it has useful links to the classical anarchists of the 19th Century and even contains a listing called new anarchism, that links to some of the global anarchist info shops and libraries – these are all free. Join the unfinished revolution...
Colonial Edge

by Stuart Rees

Your country looks so rich
I think I'll take
whatever I need to make me richer
and my big overseas friends
will have no objection
as they're hooked on the same habit
and don't want to be weaned off
their attraction to gold, oil, copper,
your land and labour, fish and trees.

The UN says you can object
but you're too small to make a difference
and just remember, several years ago
you'd have been called primitive
which means you were not as civilized
as the cultivated exploiters
even though their greed
is beyond your understanding.

So the land you say is yours
may never even smell independence
despite our mouthing the principles
of self determination
which we only recite at week-ends
cos on weekdays
your country looks so rich.

A tribute to John (Otto) Ondawame
resistance fighter for his West Papuan
people on the launch of his book,
One People One Soul. Sydney, July 7th 2010

Are you afraid of refugees?

by Lesley Carnus

ON SATURDAY 26TH JUNE, TEACHERS
AND STUDENTS FROM THE REFUGEE
LANGUAGE PROGRAM FINISHED OUR
CLASSES EARLY SO WE COULD
PARTICIPATE IN THE RALLY TO
WELCOME REFUGEES ORGANIZED BY
THE REFUGEE ACTION COALITION (RAC).

Speakers at the rally included author
and long-time refugee activist, Thomas
Keneally; ex-politician -now
International court judge- John Dowd;
RAC speakers as well as refugees from
Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Our group
marched in pale blue t-shirts with the
slogan compassion not detention printed
across the front.

Rallies such as this, help disseminate
information about refugees, which the
two major political parties choose to
hide from their constituents. Antipathy
and fear of refugees is being stirred up
once again for political gain. Asylum
seekers are being cast as illegal
immigrants, queue jumpers, economic
refugees, boat people; all denigrating
terms meant to mask the truth that
these people are fleeing from murderous
regimes that imprison, torture, silence
and execute their own citizens.

Both the Labor party and the Liberal/
National Coalition are competing for
the "toughest party to refugees" award.
Tony Abbott would like to push the
boats back to sea, whereas Julia Gillard
announced at the beginning of elections
that she could understand why the
Australian people were frightened of
boat people/refugees, I think she made a
huge linguistic blunder. Didn't she
mean to say she acknowledges
that some people are afraid of refugees, but
as an intelligent, far-sighted leader of
the Australian people she would like to
dispel the myths about asylum seekers
that feed this unwarranted fear?

Ms Gillard went on to talk about the
special treatment that refugees receive. Is she referring to years
of detention, perhaps? Or maybe she
means the lack of the right to earn a
living to support yourself? Or perhaps
she is referring to the right to NO Centrelink or NO Medicare support.

On 14th August, one week before the
elections, I comforted a distraught
asylum seeker from one of our classes.
May from Indonesia, has been here 14
years and she has exhausted all possible
avenues for having her application for
asylum recognised. In her hand, as she
cried with her head on my shoulder, was
the final rejection letter from the
Immigration Minister telling her to
make arrangements to leave the country
by September 1st.

You can read a similar story of Soraya,
another of our students, in Anna Maria
Dell’osa's reportage of her experience
teaching creative writing on the Refugee
Language Program in GriffithREVIEW
29, Prosper or Perish published this
month.

Regardless of party electoral policies,
refugees need our support and
understanding. We all can help by
dispelling some of the lies that politicians
and the uninformed tell. To start with,
you could read GetUps myth busting
sheet on https://www.getup.org.au/
files/campaigns/asylum_myths_
factsheet.pdf and go out and tell your
neighbours, your families, your friends
and most importantly your electorate's
Federal politician, that you are not
afraid of refugees.

To donate to the Refugee Language
Program, please contact Lesley Carnus at
lesley.carnus@sydney.edu.au
TRANSCEND: Enabling Peace
by Lynda-ann Blanchard, Co-Convenor
TRANSCEND Pacific/Oceania

CPACS WAS PLEASED TO HOST THE 2010 TRANSCEND GLOBAL MEETING - “ENABLING PEACE: PEDAGOGY AND TRAINING” SYDNEY-AUSTRALIA, JULY 3-5, 2010. THIS SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL MEETING BROUGHT TOGETHER PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES ACADEMICS AND PRACTITIONERS FROM MANY CORNERS OF THE WORLD INCLUDING: AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA, CZECH REPUBLIC, JAPAN, LEBANON, NEPAL, NIGERIA, PHILIPPINES, RUSSIA, SWEDEN, TURKEY, NEW CALEDONIA, NORWAY, USA.

The stimulating global meeting agenda traversed diverse themes from music and art for peace; to peace-promoting international relations and regional security. The keynote address Positive Peace: Underlying Epistemology was delivered by Johan Galtung. Other formal presentations included Music Therapy and Logotherapy in Creating a Culture of Peace by Maria Elena Lopez Vinader (Argentina); International Relations through Films and a Peace Perspective, Itir Toksoz (Turkey); Transforming the US-led War on Terror in Pakistan’s Tribal Areas, Tatsushi Arai (Japan); Karma Peace Project Palestine, Jorgen Johansen (Sweden); The TRANSCEND Art & Peace Network: Achievements and Potential Olivier Urbain (Belgium) and George Kent (USA); The War of the World, or a World Without War, Charles Webel (USA).

Important dialogue about the work of the regional TRANSCEND networks and future directions of TRANSCEND Peace University also took place. A Tribal Warrior tour of Sydney Harbour and night of theatre at the Sydney Opera House provided some local hospitality for our international guests.

King in the Classroom
by Kristi Maroc (reprint from Usyd News 1 July 2010)


According to the indigenous people, however, the implementation of the Accord provisions has not been acted upon since the agreement. The CHT Commission has been lobbying the current Bangladeshi government to take action and fully implement the Accord, a promise which was made during their 2008 election campaign. The Awami League government of Bangladesh was elected in late-December 2008, and promised a full implementation of the Accord. However, some of the worst violence of recent years has taken place in 2010.

Raja Roy’s address focused on ‘The Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Process: Lessons for Peace Building and Accord Implementation’. During the visit Raja Roy also held a meeting with Director of the Centre for Peace Studies, Associate Professor Jake Lynch. During his time in Australia, Raja Roy has visited Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney to meet with aid representatives, government officials and deliver talks at the University of Melbourne, UNSW and the University of Sydney.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a region of south-east Bangladesh which stretches across approximately 13,000km2 and borders India and Myanmar (Burma). It has an estimated population of 1.3 million according to UNICEF, around half of which is made up of indigenous people from many different tribal communities. The indigenous people of CHT have had a long history of conflict with the Bangladeshi military as they have sought to protect their land and communities from occupation and forced displacement. The Bangladeshi army has been accused of many human rights violations within the CHT.

In 1997, following 26 years of violent conflict, a Peace Accord was signed which promised the withdrawal of military, rehabilitation of displaced indigenous people, and resolution of land disputes in the region. Raja Roy acted as a facilitator during formal talks that led to the signing of the CHT Accord between the indigenous people and the Bangladesh military.

The Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research initiated its Humanitarian Competition for Global Visioning in 2009. The idea of “Humanitarian Competition,” was first proposed by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi in his 1903 work *The Geography of Human Life*. It sprang from Makiguchi’s observation that competition based on military, political or economic superiority was not serving the best interests of humankind. Instead, he envisioned a world in which groups and nations would vie with each other to find the most effective and humane solutions to our most urgent problems.

CPACS proposed the project, *Envisioning Peace Through Tourism—a project to promote human security through international citizenship*. In keeping with Makiguchi’s observation that competition based on economic superiority was not serving the best interests of humankind, this research project develops an understanding of how tourism can be harnessed to achieve important humanitarian goals, including peace, justice and respect for human rights.

This project along with two others was successful. The Toda Institute award includes support to (i) bring ten peace tourism academics and practitioners together for a two day working conference and (ii) provide a book contract with IB Tauris to publish the ensuing research findings, working title *Envisioning Peace Tourism*.

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**A high school student visits development projects in India**

*by Bethany Archer*

Bethany Archer, a Year 12 student from Mount Annan High School, is one of the leaders of a recently-formed human rights group at Mount Annan High School. Along with a number of other Year 12 students, Bethany has led campaigns in the school to raise awareness of human rights issues such as fair trade, child slavery and AIDS. Three weeks back Bethany was informed that she was a winner of the Marie Bashir Peace Award for her outstanding work in the field of Social Justice. The following is a speech that Bethany wrote for presentations to students at our school about her experiences in India.

Dr Daryl Le Cornu, HSIE Head Teacher - Mount Annan High School

I share here some of my experiences from my recent trip to India. It was my first trip overseas and definitely an eye-opening journey. I took this trip to see first-hand what people my age and younger are going through and to experience a tiny taste of what living in a slum in a developing country is like. I wanted to see how people in difficult situations can have hope for a better future. I wanted to know how I make a difference. I definitely wanted to tell the stories for the people who can’t. I also wanted to see World Vision in action, as this is the organisation I went with. **While I had thought about it in theory, I wanted to see the differences they are making in practice.**

**What I experienced?**

Imagine this, me, a 16 year old girl who has never been overseas, getting off a plane in Chennai at midnight. There are thousands of people, new smells, the traffic is crazy - rickshaws, motorbikes, cars tooting their horns; and before we even got to the taxi with our driver I was confronted by a severely disabled beggar. It was intense. What should I do? Then I noticed someone sitting behind the taxi controlling him, he was telling him to beg to us. I realised the money wouldn’t go to the man but to his keeper. I wanted to help but knew I couldn’t. Probably one of the most challenging things with which I was confronted was in the middle of a positive day. We had been to transit schools and seen kids who were given a chance to rejoin school. As we were on our way out of the slum, I was shocked when we walked past a tiny room. In the middle of it a Sari stretched out over a huge frame. Three young boys, maybe 10 years old, were sitting around the frame stitching it. I had heard about child exploitation and now I was standing two meters away and helpless. What was more shocking was to discover that these boys were in bonded labour. They were working 12 hours a day and not being paid because their labour was paying off a never ending debt. Luckily I was able to see, through other projects, what is being done long-term to
Without doubt the most amazing experience of all for me was the afternoon we visited a rag-pickers slum in Kanpur. As we arrived, there were hundreds of kids and their families greeting us, garlands of flowers were placed around our necks. Suddenly we heard drumming; a young man had a drum around his neck and was beating it wildly. Spontaneously, kids started dancing and yelling in happiness. It was a truly extraordinary experience. I was really touched by the little girl who held my hand throughout our whole visit to the slum. She danced with me, smiled at me and chased after the bus as we left. She even ran further than any of the other kids waving joyfully at me. I will always remember that afternoon!

After my visit, it felt so weird to be in a huge, modern, well equipped school. The transit schools that I had been to were not even half the size of one of my FIVE classrooms! It has also been an important reminder to me that I have two great classrooms! It has also been an important reminder to me that I have two great

What can we do to help?

There are plenty of other things that we can do such as:

• Look out for the fair-trade symbol in the supermarket. This means that the product has been produced ethically and no one, including kids, has been exploited along the production line.
• Join the “Don’t Trade Lives Campaign”
• Support “Child Rescue” which helps vulnerable Children
• Sponsor a child, which helps with community development
• Do the 40-hour famine

Most importantly we must use our voice to ask questions, to inform ourselves about the big issues of our day, to speak out on behalf of those who can’t, and to challenge others to do the same!
study of IDD in China. Programs instituted in China led to him carrying out a study in Tibet in 1999, with replacement programs established there. The Professor and his teams have instituted Iodine Replacement Programs in China, Tibet, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Vanuatu and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The British medical journal, The Lancet, has reported that iodine deficiency is the most common cause of preventable intellectual and physical impairment worldwide. In regions severely deficient in this micronutrient many residents suffer reduced quality of life, with intellectual and physical disabilities being endemic. The community’s productivity is also compromised.

Pakistan is one of many countries where iodine deficiency is being tackled through the assistance of the international association dedicated to the elimination of this. Someone started a rumour that iodised salt was a contraceptive, according to an article in the New York Times, (December 4, 2008) and the reason for the addition of iodine to salt was to prevent Pakistanis from having children. It was found that this belief spread because the company that marketed the salt also marketed condoms! The Micronutrient Initiative in Pakistan has had enormous benefits according to Dr Khawaja Masuood Ahmed. “We are spending very little, but the benefit is enormous. We are preventing people from becoming mentally retarded,” he said. The damage caused by floods will surely have caused serious problems for the Micronutrient Initiative in addition to the horrendous loss of life, suffering and devastation.

In 1990, the United Nations adopted a global plan for the elimination of IDD (Iodine Deficiency Disorders) proposed by the International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, with the aim of eradicating them by the year 2000. This policy of salt iodisation is an inexpensive way to prevent the denial of the right to grow and develop normally, with the inheritance of the genetic gifts of parents being realised, allowing brains and bodies to develop as they should, ensuring much better quality of life. The intellectual and physical capabilities of the world community depend on all its citizens being able to realise their full potential. Elimination of iodine deficiency disorders results in improvements in health, quality of life, the learning potential of children and adults, and the economic productivity and wellbeing of the community.

The World Health Organisation and UNICEF are supporting this venture, but not all countries have been able to take advantage of the program. The deadline passed, but unfortunately, the aim was not realised. Some of the reasons for this include extreme poverty, famine, war and civil unrest, and unsuccessful efforts to educate public officials about the problem. The lack of public knowledge of the cause of the IDD status of millions and the simple means of rectifying this contribute to the slow progress of reform. When the CPACS community of researchers, scholars and graduates work in the wider community, especially when their work takes them into areas where such distressing IDDs are demonstrably present, a very worthwhile endeavour would be to help with ensuring the global plan is being activated in those communities. The work in Australia by the Australian Thyroid Foundation and the medical teams who advise and support them can be carried out elsewhere. The CPACS family with its emphasis on human rights, peace and justice, armed with knowledge of the problem and its cheap and effective solution, can be a force for good. Encouraging and assisting NGOs and local communities to be part of the solution in improving the physical, mental and intellectual wellbeing of the human race is surely a very worthwhile undertaking.

Peggy Craddock is volunteer Librarian at CPACS and member of the CPACS Council

Give Peace A Chance

by Prof Stuart Rees

The ABC and love of war can titillate their audience with one eyed lens of death and gore their smorgasbord of violence.

Against this nightly newsy stance protesters gathered in the mist, their bold placards ‘give peace a chance’ proclaimed non violence can be kissed.

They whistled, chanted, banged their cans charged the mainstream men with failures for seeing peace as also rans as insight-less as vuvuzelas.

As soft in heart, not worth a cent ‘cos politicians like ‘defence’ no limit to the money spent tho’ killing projects make no sense.

Like Afghan war so often praised by those who ignore public polls which don’t want any bodies raised in flag draped coffins – more own goals.

Protesters had a cause in sight ‘don’t grovel the Israeli line’ to thank oppressors is not right from anchor’s mouth or on Lateline.

So diverse groups from near and far from Africa and even France with Ossie compass as their star their message boomed ‘give peace a chance’.

Sydney July 9th 2010, outside the ABC studios
Ending War, Building Peace

SMH Review (19th June 2010 pg. 37)


The essays are prefaced by a thoughtful introduction by Professor Stuart Rees, who proposes a peace settlement that includes financial reparation, the withdrawal of foreign troops, the removal of the debris of war and the creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The opening essay deals with themes revisited later, namely the veneration of violence in everyday life. Other essays consider the human costs of the conflict, including the deaths of more than 1 million Iraqis and more than 4,000 American troops and the displacement of more than 4 million Iraqis. As to the financial costs of the war, one estimate is $US3 trillion ($3.5 trillion) - or about $US12 billion a month - money that could have been better spent to alleviate the plights of the world’s poor. Another essay explores the implications for stability in the Middle East, pointing to the resurgence of Iran as one consequence of the war.

The second part of the book focuses on nonviolent alternatives and the notion of peace with justice. Associate Professor Jake Lynch makes the connection between the use of force and vested interests of the arms industry— “disaster capitalism”, as Naomi Klein calls it.

Donna Mulhearn describes her experience, as an aid worker in Iraq, of being shot at by American soldiers after asking permission to transport much needed aid to a hospital. In a particularly poignant passage, she describes the response of an Iraqi to her protestation that most Australians opposed the war and many had marched against it— “Then why did the government go to war, if the people didn’t agree? This is what happened, and you want to bring us democracy?” The point seems unanswerable.

Vale Christina

By Wendy Lambourne

A HIGHLY EXPERIENCED NSW SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER, CHRISTINA BATCHEN WAS ONE OF CPACS’ FIRST MASTERS STUDENTS NEARLY TEN YEARS AGO. I REMEMBER READING WITH INTEREST HER DISSERTATION ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION IN THE CPACS RESOURCE CENTRE. AFTER COMPLETING HER MA (PACS) DEGREE IN 2002, CHRISTINA UNDERTOOK TRAINING IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITH THE CONFLICT RESOLUTION NETWORK AND EVENTUALLY LEFT THE SECURITY OF HER TEACHING CAREER TO BECOME A CONSULTANT TRAINER HERSELF. MOST RECENTLY, SHE WAS EXCITED TO BE PURSING TRAINING IN FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Christina presented guest lectures on restorative justice in my postgraduate course on ‘Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation’ and became CPACS’ regular conflict resolution skills trainer, offering workshops each year for postgraduate students as a complement to their formal studies. Abe Quadan recalls that he first met Christina as a participant in his basic mediation skills workshop and later she became a colleague and co-trainer with him. Abe has observed that ‘Christina has the natural ability to connect with others through her passion and genuine belief...
in alternative conflict resolution and nonviolence’.

Christina also made a unique contribution to the postgraduate unit ‘Passion Peace and Poetry’. Stuart Rees and Lynette Simons recall how Christina’s almost natural skills in conflict resolution were aided by her insight into diverse poets’ advocacy of justice and their irony about the value of war. In these classes Christina always gave space to others and so facilitated the expression of their interests rather than her own. In this manner, as in so many other ways, she showed that altruism and humanity which made her such a supportive colleague and effective teacher.

On 23 August we heard the sad news that Christina had died the previous week. More than 100 people were present at Christina’s funeral and the eulogies paid particular attention to her intelligence, courage and commitment to social justice. We join her husband, family and friends in mourning the loss of such an unassuming yet highly accomplished individual who will be greatly missed by all of us who knew her.

Dr Wendy Lambourne with colleagues Professor Stuart Rees, Lynette Simons and Abe Quadan, 7 September 2010. Thanks to Christina’s husband, Ben Batchen, for providing the photo.

Making Peace with the Earth

by Hannah Middleton


Born in 1952 to a father who was the conservator of forests and a farmer mother with a deep love for nature, Vandana Shiva received her first lessons on environment protection in the lap of the Himalayas.

She trained as a physicist and wrote her Ph.D. on the “Hidden Variables and Non-locality in Quantum Theory” at the University of Western Ontario. She later shifted to inter-disciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy, which she carried out at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore.

In 1982, she founded an independent institute, the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, dedicated to high quality and independent research to address the most significant ecological and social issues of our times, in close partnership with local communities and social movements.

In 1991, she founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seeds. It
places farmers at the centre of conservation and empowers them to take control of the political, ecological and economic aspects of agriculture.

Dr Shiva has contributed in fundamental ways to changing agriculture and food. Her books, *The Violence of Green Revolution* and *Monocultures of the Mind* have become basic challenges to the dominant paradigm of non-sustainable, reductionist Green Revolution agriculture.

Intellectual property rights (IPRs) and biodiversity are other areas where Dr Shiva has contributed intellectually and through campaigns. The Neem Campaign and Basmati Campaign are examples of her leadership in IPR and biopiracy issues. Besides her activism, she also serves on expert groups of government on IPR legislation.

Biotechnology and genetic engineering are another dimension of Dr Shiva’s campaigning internationally. She has helped movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Ireland, Switzerland and Austria with their campaigns against genetic engineering.

Dr Shiva’s campaigns to protect biodiversity have insisted on stricter standards of bio ethics and have challenged so called advances in biotechnology and genetic engineering. She is regarded as a supporter of farming practices which enable small communities to be self sufficient and in this respect she has been one of the significant leaders of the anti-globalisation movement.

Dr Shiva’s contributions to gender issues are nationally and internationally recognised. Her book, *Staying Alive* dramatically shifted perceptions on Third World women. In 1990 she wrote a report for the FAO on Women and Agriculture entitled, “Most Farmers in India are Women”. She founded the gender unit at the International Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu.

Dr Shiva suggests that a more sustainable and productive approach to agriculture can be achieved through reinstating a system of farming in India that is centred around engaging women. She opposes the prevalent “patriarchal logic of exclusion,” claiming that a woman-focused system would change current methods in a positive manner.

In 1998 she initiated an international movement of women working on food, agriculture, patents and biotechnology called Diverse Women for Diversity.

Dr Shiva has also served as an adviser to governments in India and elsewhere as well as non-governmental organisations, including the International Forum on Globalisation, the Women’s Environment and Development Organisation and the Third World Network.

In 1993, Dr Shiva received the Right Livelihood Award (also known as the Alternative Nobel Prize) for “placing women and ecology at the heart of modern development discourse.” Other awards she has received include the Global 500 Award of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in 1993, and the Earth Day International Award of the United Nations (UN) for her dedicated commitment to the preservation of the planet.

International Conference on Human Rights Education

by Lynda-ann Blanchard, Chair NSW Human Rights Education Committee

IF YOU ARE A TEACHER, PRACTITIONER OR INTERESTED ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION, JOIN US AT THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION CONFERENCE “EDUCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE”, NOVEMBER 4TH -6TH 2010, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY.

The conference has been organised in response to the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education to advance human rights education, in particular in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Endorsement has been forthcoming from the Prime Minister of Australia who says; “...a culture of human rights is critical to a democratic society and to the protection of the rights of all Australians – ensuring that everyone, no matter their background or beliefs, has a fair go...”

According to conference convenor and CPACS Adjunct Professor Sev Ozdowski, “World class speakers and the conference program will focus on the contribution of a human rights culture to the successful functioning of civil society; highlight key trends and achievements in human rights education; and in particular, discuss ideas to secure greater commitment for future human rights education. It will have a strong development and Indigenous component.”

CPACS Community

On 29th of July we farewelled Trent Newman from his role as coordinator for the Youth Peace Initiative and welcomed the new coordinator Susy Lee Deck. Susy is a passionate advocate of children’s rights and peace education.

Trendy Trent
by Dr Ken Macnab 29.7.10

Sartorial splendour in modish style,
Displayed with dash and flair;
From daggy jeans with classy tops
And rolled-up sleeves on brassy shirts
To artistically mussed-up hair.

But ‘neath it all a thinking-caring man,
Keen to meet and talk to all;
No matter age or sex or class
With peaceful vibes and reaching means
He showed what all can hope and plan.

Left: Trent Newman and Ken Macnab on Melbourne Cup day, 2009

Susy Lee Deck farewell to Trent

Winter School, July 2010

United Nations class farewell drinks
IPRA Conference Dinners

Clockwise from right:
1. Annie Herro & Oliver Richmond
2. IPRA Conference Team: Sarah, Melissa, Neven, Leah and Anna
3. Joanna Blachowska & Belinda Beasley
4. Elisabeth Porter & Briony Jones
5. Kim Dong Jin & Wendy Lamboume
6. Susy Lee & Joanna Quinn