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PeaceWrites

**Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees relinquished his position as Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the Annual General Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007. Associate Professor, Jake Lynch was appointed as the new Director, according to clause 5.3 of the Constitution. At the end of the message from the new Director, is a list of Office Bearers appointed at the AGM.**

### MESSAGE FROM JAKE LYNCH, DIRECTOR OF CPACS

**“We must decontextualise terror ... any attempt to discuss the roots of terrorism is an attempt to justify it. It simply needs to be fought and destroyed”. So said Richard Perle, neo-conservative guru of the Project for a New American Century, and former member of the Pentagon policy board.**

This, the orthodoxy of our times, amounts to a repudiation of social science. Its rise has paralleled the ascendancy of creationism in schools – a denial of science, in the form of evolutionary theory – and even the attempts by the Bush White House to deny or downplay global warming, in the face of international consensus among professional researchers.

How are they connected? They’re all attempts by special interest groups to ratchet back the extent of what we know, leaving us more vulnerable to suggestion and manipulation. Appointing Professor Tim Flannery as Australian of the Year was a good sign that my new compatriots are determined to resist this process. And, if the iteration of scientific knowledge in the public sphere is a task that has acquired a new urgency, so have our efforts to articulate and bring to bear the teachings of social science.

Our part in this, in CPACS, is to insist that social conflict and even violence are intelligible phenomena. They can be understood and explained, without excusing or justifying them. The proposition that we can make any useful observations about them, without context, is absurd – and, Voltaire said, whoever can

persuade us to believe absurdities, can also persuade us to commit atrocities.

Which brings me to the Philippines. This was the location for the last major assignment in my previous career as a journalist, covering the worsening human rights situation there for BBC World. On an internal flight, I chanced to meet an official from DFAT, heading back to Canberra, and took the opportunity to introduce myself as the new Director of CPACS. What had he been doing? “CT work”, he replied. Me: “Conflict Transformation?” “No – counter-terrorism”.

The official may even have been preparing the ground for the visit to Cebu for the East Asia summit by John Howard and Trade Minister Warren Truss, due to take place in December but postponed to January. Our PM reached agreement with his hosts for Australian troops to enter the



Jake Lynch, newly appointed Director of CPACS

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The views in this publication are solely those of the contributors.

southern island of Mindanao to take part in the so-called 'war on terrorism'.

Actually, this is one place where the doctrine of decontextualising political violence, and attempting to fight and destroy it, is making conflict palpably worse. There's been a thickening stream of mysterious killings, with journalists and activists typically shot at close range by masked assassins who then melt away into the traffic on the back of a motorbike. Hardly any of the perpetrators are caught and punished.

The Amnesty International researcher I interviewed back in London, blamed them on the listing by the Philippines government of the communist rebels, the New People's Army, as a terrorist group – a decision announced shortly after the visit to Manila by George W. Bush, in 2003. This had given a green light to elements of the armed forces, he said, to treat anyone of leftist sympathies as a legitimate target.

If Australia is going to step up its cooperation with the Philippines military, it risks giving tacit approval to these abuses. The same is true, in spades, of the Lombok Accord, due to be examined in Senate hearings soon, which would restore military cooperation with Indonesia, including its notorious special forces, the Kopassus.

The Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Bougainville – the list of countries where Australia is intervening in conflict is growing, and that is to say nothing of Iraq or Afghanistan.

These interventions urgently need to be supplemented with context – an understanding of how conflicts arise out of injustice and unmet human needs, and how to divert them along non-violent paths. To do effective counter-terrorism, in other words, requires conflict transformation. We, in CPACS, need to seek and develop opportunities to apply our social science to the problems of our own region and beyond.

What about our own society? CPACS will play host to the World Peace Index, an unprecedented global ranking of nation states according to their peacefulness. Among the best performers – Scandinavian countries, transformed over centuries from the rampaging Vikings of yore to the considerate neighbours of today.

If Australians believe themselves to inhabit a peaceful country, on the other hand, then the rankings may come as a shock. And our closest ally, the United States, will be nearer the bottom than the top.

Our other task, as I see it, is to champion the principles of peace and non-violence here and now. We have an enormous amount of social capital to work with, especially the values so many Australians still share – the fair go, of course, and openness to other cultures and traditions, as well as Primo Levi's principle of social responsibility: if not us, who? If not now, when? If David Hicks is, indeed, home before this year's Federal election, it will be to thousands of our fellow citizens that the credit will belong.

### Night leaves

*By Bernadette Connole*

Dili leaves do not budge,  
They float, they flow into the  
night rain.

Dili flowers do not twist  
They stand, they sit, they bud  
in the evening.

Dili women love to taste, to turn,  
to sew their Tais silks  
by the evening candles.

Dili kids love to play,  
To hit with soccer balls  
that fly off rocks,  
To kiss with broken lips  
by the evening rain.

## OFFICE-BEARERS AND SPECIAL ASSISTANTS

Elected at the CPACS  
Annual General Meeting  
20 February 2007

President: Ken Macnab

Vice-President: Erik Paul

Director: Jake Lynch

Secretary: Kath Logan

Treasurer: Coral Hauenstein

## Special Responsibility CPACS Positions

### Membership Secretary

Coral Hauenstein  
Abe Quadan

### Publications Officer

Coral Hauenstein

### Librarian

Peggy Craddock

### Seminars Coordinator

Coral Hauenstein  
Leona Kieran  
Bernadette Connole

The full list of elected  
CPACS Council Members  
will be placed on the  
website shortly and  
emailed to all members.

## CANBERRA CONVERGENCE:

# BRING DAVID HICKS HOME

Stuart Rees, Professor Emeritus,  
The University of Sydney  
Director, Sydney Peace Foundation

February 6<sup>th</sup> 2007, over five years since citizen David Hicks was imprisoned, shackled and put in solitary confinement in Guantanamo Bay. February 6<sup>th</sup> is also opening day for the new session of the Federal Parliament.

On the lawn before the Parliament, home of a democracy, symbol of justice, temperatures rise to the high thirties. In a neighbouring church, Federal politicians in their suits and dresses are singing hymns, seeking blessings and praying. A stench of hypocrisy reaches three hundred citizens gathering on the parliamentary lawn to seek justice for David. Orange banners with black lettering demand, 'Close Guantanamo', 'Bring David Home.' In an iron cage guarded by Ned Kelly, Prime Minister Howard is shackled. He is clothed only in parliamentary prison clothes – loin cloth made from the Australian flag. He pleads for mercy and says he'll be better behaved next time. The cage attracts journalists. The crowd is not sure what the prisoner means.

A warm up speaker for the rally on the lawn asks the media to cease giving Attorney General Ruddock so much opportunity to claim that he knows something about human rights. In future they should ignore him. Better still remove his mask and laugh him to scorn.

To the podium come a parade of politicians who are committed to all the principles of human rights, Senator Kerry Nettle for the Greens, Senator Kate Lundy for Labor and three Democrats, Senators Lyn Allison, Andrew Bartlett and Natasha Stott Despoja. Their common themes are clear. Five years of Ruddock's cruelty must be

ended. Five years of pompous indifference from Lord Downer of Baghdad must be ended. Five years of Howard's grovelling subservience to President Bush has to be ended. Bring David Hicks home. Natasha Stott Despoja promises a motion in parliament to test how many Coalition members will vote to end this injustice. To vote in support of the motion they will need a spark of courage, a touch of humanity and at least a modest idea about justice. If they've forgotten the meaning of courage and of justice, they can heed the example of the dignified Terry Hicks, David's father, or the brave advocacy of American defence counsel Michael Mori.

Mahmdou Habib, David's ex prisoner colleague, follows the Senators to the microphones. He confirms that he was the subject of US rendition, experimental medical treatment and torture.



CPACS represented at the rally

The speeches conclude. The heat rises. The protesters march to the American Embassy. The prison-oriented violence so central to American ideas about security is immediately obvious. On the walls surrounding a handsome mansion are two metre high railings. Twelve cars ring the compound. The words 'Protective Services' decorate half of the cars. Are those the 'services' to which citizen Hicks is entitled? Confronting the crowd are thirty police, grim faced, protecting American diplomats, bureaucrats and secret service personnel. At the Embassy entrance are statuesque sentries in akoubra hats - today's private security guards. They stand beside six plain clothes characters

in dark glasses and white shirts, legs wide apart, arms folded, looking simultaneously sinister and indifferent, cocky and bored. They take pictures of the crowds. They do not answer the protesters' questions 'Have you been renditioned, what was it like?', 'Why not do something valuable with your lives?' 'Do you tell your wives that you love violence and injustice?' The crowd chants, 'Swop Howard for Hicks', 'Imprison Ruddock', 'Bring David Home.'

A *Get Up* Truck with a large 'Close Guantanamo Bay, Justice for David' billboard attracts the lens of television cameras. The drummers in the crowd have ceased their drumming. The protesters look parched but satisfied. They would have been ashamed not to have come.

Back in the church politicians are still singing and praying. The clergy escort them from their pews. Outside they queue

for white cars to take them to their large office, that people's house on the hill. The earlier stench of hypocrisy has thinned to become an odour but it persists. The Prime Minister confesses to members of his party that the Americans have not done a great job in handling the Hicks case. Ruddock parrots his master, says Hicks should be charged, should be held accountable but he thinks it has taken too long.

Back on the parliamentary lawn an Indigenous Elder from the Gulf country observes, 'Howard still cannot find the courage to say 'I'm sorry, I've colluded in another terrible injustice, I shall ask for David Hicks to be brought home!'

## Letter from Stuart Rees to John Howard

The Hon John Howard MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
Office of the Prime Minister & Cabinet  
Canberra ACT

August 8<sup>th</sup> 2006

Dear Prime Minister,

*David Hicks*

I write to you with a deep sense of concern for human rights and for the values inherent in the notion 'a common humanity'. I write to you with awareness of the fair go traditions of Australia and for the claims that this country respects justice. I write to you with a certain pride tinged with misgiving about the protection afforded by the status of being an Australian citizen.

All of these principles – concerning human rights, humanity, citizenship – have been violated in the treatment of David Hicks. He has become the victim of a culture of cruelty sanctioned by you and your government. Such cruelty shames us all.

Even after four years of incarceration, and in common with the judgements of the British Attorney General we ask you to return to the principles of human rights and to values associated with notions of a common humanity. Please use your influence to give David Hicks justice, to no longer use violence against him, which in effect means bringing him home.

Yours sincerely,

**Stuart Rees**

**Professor Emeritus & Director  
Sydney Peace Foundation**

## Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM, Adjunct Professor

by Lynda Blanchard



**Welcome to CPACS!**

**In appointing Dr Ozdowski as Adjunct Professor for three years, CPACS gains the wisdom of a scholar in areas such as human rights, multiculturalism, diversity, equity, discrimination, disabilities services, mental health, civil society, public administration, and capacity building in developing countries and post communist countries.**

This semester Professor Ozdowski will be instrumental in teaching the Human Rights, Peace & Justice (PACS6915) postgraduate course. Regular commentary on current hot topics such as 'A Bill of Rights for Australia' and other subjects close to his heart will also feature regularly on the CPACS website.

As the Australian Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner from 2000 to 2005, Dr Ozdowski authored the ground-breaking "National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention: A Last Resort?" The report ignited a national debate about Australia's immigration detention policies and ultimately led to children being released from mandatory detention and a rethinking of the government's detention policies.

As Disability Discrimination Commissioner, he was instrumental in the 'National Inquiry into Mental Health Services: Not for service' report, which

placed mental illness on the national agenda and led to the reform of, and major budgetary increases for, mental health services in Australia.

Professor Ozdowski has an LLM and MA in Sociology from Poznan University, Poland and a PhD from the University of New England, Armidale. In 1984 Dr Ozdowski was awarded the Harkness Fellowship which took him to Harvard and Georgetown Universities and the University of California to work on race relations, international human rights and public administration. Most recently he has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Melbourne's RMIT University; appointed Director of Equity and Diversity at the University of Western Sydney; and, President of the National Committee for Human Rights Education.

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## Transdisciplinary Collaboration

**Dr Wendy Lambourne, Lecturer and  
Postgraduate Coordinator**

In August-October 2006 I spent three months as a Visiting Scholar with the Centre for Peace Research and Strategic Studies at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven not far from Brussels in Belgium. The transdisciplinary nature of the postgraduate program was refreshingly familiar and the intellectual environment was both stimulating and challenging. The integration of an inter-faculty teaching program with a collaborative research and practice agenda involves academic scholars from Social Sciences (Political Science), Theology, Psychology and Law (Criminology). These disciplines individually and together provide important insights into theories and practice of peacebuilding, including the role of psychosocial and spiritual dimensions in addition to military, political, economic and legal structures and processes. I presented a research

seminar to colleagues at KU Leuven on 'Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding After Mass Violence' and the article based on this seminar has been submitted for publication in the *International Journal of Transitional Justice*. It is intended to forge greater links between CPACS in Sydney and CPRS in Leuven in the domains of teaching, research and practice to support sustainable peacebuilding.

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## Following is a copy of a submission written by Stuart Rees to the Chair of the Social Science Review

Dear Professor Kvan  
Chair, Social Science Review

September 17<sup>th</sup> 2006

*Review of Social Science Teaching  
at The University of Sydney*

I am at least 48 hours late with this submission. I am also aware that there is an online arrangement for colleagues' responses. In my current location I have no such facilities. I would therefore be grateful if you would accept this letter as a contribution to your committee's deliberations.

I wanted to make this 11<sup>th</sup> hour submission for several reasons. As Professor of Social Work for over twenty years I was responsible for teaching across disciplines and for assessing the merits of different social science departments within Australia and overseas. I assured Professor Don Nutbeam that I would contribute to discussion on this topic.

Three issues concern me: (i) the relationship between theory and practice; (ii) the boundaries which departments erect around disciplines; and (iii) obstacles which hinder departmental cooperation and respect.

### (I) THEORY & PRACTICE

There is a tradition in the social sciences – and in most disciplines – that a test of knowledge is how it may be applied. In students' vernacular, 'do academics walk the walk as well as talk the talk.' In the words of the American sociologist Howard Becker, social scientists have an obligation to say what they stand for, what they believe in, what evidence supports their claims. They cannot pretend neutrality. They have to be able to answer the question 'whose side are you on?'

In spite of this tradition, I have experienced social science academics being preoccupied with demonstrating that they are scientific, irrespective of whether the questions they ask have much relevance to the human condition or to social and political circumstances. Failure to be seen to take stands on public issues - for example on the commercialization of universities – contributes to an inward looking culture in which departments are on the defensive about their existence or are concerned with to produce work only for small appreciative audiences. Such academics, said Robert Lynd were 'lecturing on navigation while the ship is going down.'

This inward looking culture is disappointing. It is as though the responsibility for translating theory to practice is regarded as inferior to the accumulation of knowledge for its own sake. I suspect that the work of the Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies in investigating human rights abuses in West Papua or in contributing to the work of the Reconciliation Commission is not regarded in certain university circles as an appropriate activity for academics. The very large public which knows of the Centre's work would probably think otherwise. Put in crude terms, there is a mismatch between accountability to a wide public and accountability to a culture characterized by counting student numbers and competing for

ARC grants. Is success in obtaining such grants the yardstick of academic worthiness? One way of confronting this understandable yet toxic trend would be to give social scientists a heavy dose of training in street wisdom. This might include knowing how to stand up to their political overseers and contributing to debate in numerous public forums.

### (II) DEMARCATION DISPUTES

In an absence of dialogue and collegiality it is too easy for social science departments to be defensive, circle the wagons, consolidate positions and prepare to repel outside threats. A concern with boundaries which are created by departments and have little to do with disciplines, means that social scientists within the university may remain woefully ignorant of studies which challenge their cherished positions. For example, I recently had to listen to a behaviourist psychologist reciting a theory about personality types as though her claims were scientific and therefore binding. Yet forty years ago, numerous sociologists showed that such psychological labelling not only had few merits but was frequently destructive, even dangerous. Without dialogue across boundaries, the consequences of labelling remain unknown to behaviourists. They continue to parade a version of the truth which has been debunked for decades.

Demarcation disputes absorb time, energy, notepaper and cyberspace. They are confusing to students who are expected to stay loyal to one department or another. For example, at Sydney University, experts on media studies exist in the Department of Government and International Relations, at this Centre and in Sociology. Yet a separate department of media studies grows while the best resource for media students flourishes down the road at the University of Technology. Demarcation disputes

also result in duplication of resources.

When large social science departments are broken up into smaller fiefdoms, the opportunity for cross fertilization of people and ideas, of shared research and collegiality diminishes. For example, the previous department of Social Work, Social Policy and Sociology produced energy and brilliant research – see Alan Davis and Janet George's 1995 'States of Health' – which benefited students, staff, the university and a wide public. Six years ago, however, that department was balkanized. Social Work & Social Policy went to the Faculty of Education. Sociology stayed within the Faculty of Arts. Now they both teach aspects of social policy and sociology and have chairs in such fields. Competition flourishes. Confusion persists. Coherence in the social sciences is a figment of imagination.

### (III) OBSTACLES TO COOPERATION

In an ideal world a community of scholars would share their knowledge and understanding, would cooperate in joint projects, would motivate students to participate in exploring the latest developments in their field. Such an ideal presumes that each social science academic would be sufficiently confident in their area of expertise to be able to express genuine interest in others' work. The fusion of diverse perspectives on particular issues – such as the powerlessness of women in specific contexts in developing countries – is made possible by professional cooperation between sociologists and demographers, historians and epidemiologists, philosophers and anthropologists.

The previous College of Humanities and Social Sciences at least symbolized identity and a potential for communication and coherence. For once there was a match between organizational arrangements (the College Structure) and the aspirations of academics in the social sciences.

That match was short lived. The latest brand of managerialism arrived. Another administrative fashion needed to be tried. There is appalling irony in all this. A range of significant social science based studies has shown the human costs of clumsy management concerned allegedly with efficiency. Yet those in positions of administrative leadership did not appear to know of such work or perhaps did not care. Deaf to the findings of valuable research, publicized world wide, they proceeded with more restructuring: an exercise in anti intellectualism in a university.

Other obstacles to the coherent and efficient – i.e. avoiding too much overlap – teaching and research in the social sciences are not of the university's making. The struggle to demonstrate the financial viability of units of study has encouraged competition, has valued marketing, has encouraged departments and schools to dramatize their virtues. Self aggrandizement and self congratulation take precedent over any notion of a common good. Departments may be defined as weak, even as non viable if they cannot generate large student numbers and dollars. The same culture leads powerful departments and schools to continue to protect their interests by refusing to allow new developments which ought to be attractive to students and for which there may be similar initiatives overseas. Walls of protection are built. A free trade in the social sciences is not allowed. Even the word cannibalism is used to describe a serious threat. A possible successful innovation in the social sciences – as might occur with an undergraduate unit taught by the Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies – is regarded as likely to eat alive existing Faculty units. The potential cannibals cannot even ponder their curriculum menu.

We look forward to reading the results of your committee's deliberations.

## Irene Khan: The cost of human rights is what you are willing to pay

By Jaime Koh

Her publicity photograph paints the picture of an ordinary and unaffected administrator. However, Irene Khan – the recipient of the 2006 Sydney Peace Prize – is anything but that.

In her short but packed visit to Sydney to receive the Prize in November 2006, the head of Amnesty International demonstrated the tireless passion and courage for human rights, for which the Peace Prize recognised her for. Even before she arrived in Sydney, Irene issued an open letter to Australia Prime Minister John Howard chastising Australia's resounding silence on the illegality of Guantanamo Bay and the indifference to David Hicks' fate.

When in Sydney, Irene parried with Aboriginal women leaders on issues of Aboriginal women rights and Amnesty International's roles in advocating for them.

At the sell-out City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture at Seymour Centre, Irene issued a sober warning to Australians: "We could choose to live in fear. Or we could make that other choice: the choice of a fair go for all; the choice of being true blue to universal freedoms. Are you ready to make that tough choice?"

She exchanged frank views on social justice issues with Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies students.

At Cabramatta High with a crowd of some 1,000 school children, many of whom are from refugee families, Irene was honoured with performances and an ethnic costume parade. There was also the signature question-and-answer session where the students asked everything from how they can land a top job like Irene's to whether she likes her job.

One question, however, stood out. "What is the cost of achieving human rights?" asked a teenager. Without hesitation, Irene answered: "It is what you are willing to pay."

That is a choice we will have to make.

## Promoting Peacebuilding Coordination, Commitment and Civil Society Participation

Dr Wendy Lambourne

Professor Luc Reyckler and colleagues at KU Leuven identify the 'theory-practice gap' resulting from a limited exchange of knowledge between decision-makers, practitioners, researchers and civil society in general as a major conceptual impediment to understanding and promoting sustainable peacebuilding. Both the limited communication between theorists and practitioners, and the lack of coordination between disciplines in practice, are being addressed by the recent establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Recognising a gap in the UN's coordinating machinery, the 2005 World Summit agreed to the proposal to establish the PBC. The PBC was established by Security Council and General Assembly resolutions passed in December 2005. The 31 members of the Commission were elected five months later and the first meeting was held on 23 June 2006.

The main purposes of the Commission are to:

- 1) bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
- 2) focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development; and
- 3) provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the United Nations, to develop best practices, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery.

The new PBC should thus provide a context for ensuring more comprehensive and longer-term attention to peacebuilding processes, at least in relation to the countries it has selected for particular focus. In June 2006, Burundi and Sierra Leone were selected as the first two Country Specific Meetings for the PBC. Policy recommendations have been formulated with input from the Sierra Leone and Burundi governments respectively, in addition to civil society representatives from both countries. East Timor and Haiti are expected to be the next two countries to be the subject of PBC focus.

Civil society, researcher and practitioner input to the development of peacebuilding policy recommendations is being supported by the Peacebuilding Support Office in New York and civil society networks both in-country and internationally. The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung have organised meetings in Brussels, Geneva and New York to promote civil society and practitioner input to the PBC, and South Africa's Centre for Conflict Resolution has supported the development of a civil society network in Sierra Leone to provide input to the work of the PBC.

**For more information about the work of the PBC go to [www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding](http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding)**

## A New Jerusalem

SJR Hyams Beach

*We see again that politician*

*whose heart has been removed,  
whose white sepulchre mask  
has marble eyes with dots  
which gaze at his own convictions  
but are blind to others' lives.*

*We hear a leader who chuckles  
into microphones at cricket matches,  
mouths mateship to deafen the noise  
of his cruelty towards those  
who cannot be considered voters,  
and to a young man locked away.*

*We have a water shortage,  
rivers suffocated when they need to flow,  
farmers killing themselves when they  
want to grow,  
the indifferent hosing driveways  
taking long showers with their wives  
and washing their four wheel drives.*

*We have been given a due process  
explanation  
for a despot being hanged,  
the righteous insisting this was not  
revenge  
but it looks like camouflage for cronies  
who gave the gas, armed the man  
and have broken the Geneva ban.*

*We are bewildered by the official  
violence  
when we can also see  
the magic of children's innocence,  
the imagination of artists  
and the hospitality of mothers  
who nurture so many futures.*

*We know we can depend  
on balance in the forests,  
harvests from the seas,  
and can feed from humanity's  
ubuntu-like feel  
of fascination for difference.*

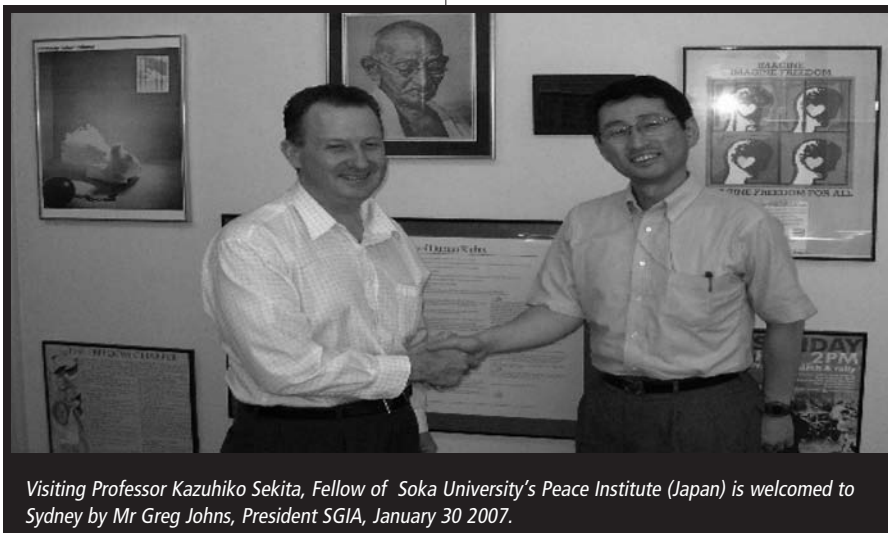
*We must find the life enhancing sights  
of shores swept clean by tides,  
of cities without walls, gardens without  
fences  
and of khaki illusions cured  
by winds with rain and by high pressure  
bars  
which announce the sun again.*

*From the shadows of satanic mills  
we can build reverence without religion,  
resolutions without armies  
and so taste the beauty of unusual  
heights  
in streets made sacred  
by a poetry for all the people's lives.*

## Peace Education and Cultural Exchange (P.E.A.C.E.)

By Lynda Blanchard

Professor Sekita, an education psychologist, advocates what he calls "cooperative learning pedagogy" which involves not only promoting students' academic achievement but also facilitating their social competency such as interpersonal conflict resolution skills.



Visiting Professor Kazuhiko Sekita, Fellow of Soka University's Peace Institute (Japan) is welcomed to Sydney by Mr Greg Johns, President SGIA, January 30 2007.

In a week-long research visit to CPACS earlier this year, Professor Sekita was keen to observe the Centre's syllabus as well as ways of teaching. In particular, the prospect of creating an annual 'study tours' program in which CPACS hosts undergraduate students from Soka University for a three week peace education and cultural exchange program was on the agenda. The proposal is for the first of these study tours to take place in August 2008.

The prospect of a formal international student exchange agreement was also keenly discussed. That entails a reciprocal agreement which would enable PACS students to opt for undertaking research in Japan on an 'international fee free' basis. It is hoped that this agreement will be formalised in the near future.

CPACS has strong links with both Soka Gakkai Australia (SGIA) and Soka University (Japan). These relationships include a number of key initiatives to promote 'peace with justice'. CPACS and SGIA have co-hosted a number of advocacy, research and teaching activities including the significant Gandhi, King, Ikeda exhibition in 2004; the overwhelmingly popular teaching workshop 'Conflict Transformation by Peaceful Means', held at the SGIA Culture Centre in March 2003; and

the National Committee on Human Rights Education Annual Conference (2004) with special guest speaker Ms Joan Anderson from SGI, Japan.

Close association with Professor Junichi Maeoka (World Citizens Peace Work and Research, Soka University) over the past decade has provided opportunities for visits to CPACS. In 2004, colleagues from Soka University – Professor Tadashige (Director, Division of Correspondence) and Professor Hiroto Teranishi (Director, International Affairs Office) met with CPACS President Dr Ken Macnab.

There have also been visits to Japan including Professor Rees' visit in 2000 where he was awarded Soka University's highest honour for contribution to world peace and more recently, Dr Lynda Blanchard's visits to Japan in 2002, 2004 and 2005.

## Book Review

Anthony Arrove (2006), *Iraq, The Logic of Withdrawal*, New York, New Press, pp. 184, US\$18.95

Reviewed by Stuart Rees

Anthony Arrove makes a powerful case for withdrawing US troops from Iraq and for ceasing America's fascination with violence and with militarism. But President Bush and his willing mates, Prime Ministers Blair and Howard have refused to heed even the main lessons which pepper the pages of this powerful book. 'American exceptionalism', the doctrine that entitles the President of the USA to do what he likes irrespective of international law and even against his country's social and economic interests, continues to cause widespread death and destruction. That's lesson number one. The President's claims that his war in Iraq was legal, that it promotes democracy, combats terrorism, honours the dead and is enabling the country to be rebuilt, are demonstrably false. A third lesson applies to those journalists in Australia and elsewhere who continue to label any criticism of the Bush Administration or of the Iraq war as anti American. This is such a lazy, catch-all jibe, full of derision but seldom accompanied by serious analysis. It contributes to a persistence of the assumption that support for American power is the equivalent of defending ourselves against an enemy, therefore even modest criticism is a form of naïve masochism amounting to disloyalty. Uncritical deployment of that lazy adjective 'anti American' should cease.

This compelling essay can become a text for all those anti war campaigners and for all those who may not wish to hear that the fair minded Coalition of the Willing sanctions torture, disdains human rights and regards civil liberties as an obstacle to the war on terrorism.

Arnove also compares the Iraq and Vietnam wars, the latter another disastrous military project in which disproportionate numbers of troops who served, who were badly injured or who lost their lives were black, poor and not well educated. Like a threatening cancer which should not be ignored, Arnove exposes the class and race issues in both wars.

Anthony Arnove has done a great service by producing the paperback version of his book just when President Bush is sending 20,000 more troops to secure Baghdad and Democrat contenders for the 2008 Presidency are wondering how to disguise their former support for war, how to distance themselves from a dangerous President and how to end this catastrophe. 'Iraq, the logic of withdrawal' gives these contenders all the arguments and the ways of developing non military alternatives. The policy is now available for them to read, heed and put into effect.

## Refugee Language Program

By Coordinator Lesley Carnus

The Refugee Language Program (RLP) at Sydney University, has continued to provide a diverse range of services to refugees and asylum seekers, during 2006. These services include on-campus classes, home tutoring, a mentoring program for medical professionals, and a referral service. The RLP holds an academic writing class on Wednesdays, and on Saturdays, a General English and a Creative Writing class.

There have been a number of staff changes during the year and we would like to thank those teachers who have contributed so much to the RLP. These include Kerie Hooke, Cassandra Graham, and Olivia Murphy. We also welcome 3 new teachers to the Saturday program, Dr Kim McShane, (Institute for Teaching and Learning) Dr Susan

Murphy, a writer and academic from UWS and Joseph Havlena, an experienced TESOL teacher. Patrick O'Mara, from the Law Library, is a new volunteer who assists the co-ordinator with grant applications.

The RLP is slowly building up a team of volunteers, who tutor our students in the individual learning context. New tutors in our home tutoring service include Lorraine Towers from the Koori Centre, Alice Brennen from ABC Radio, Anita Krivicas from Government Architecture, Dr John Dalton from SOPHI and Dr Sara Coombes from Westmead Hospital. The Home Tutor service aims to both supplement classroom studies, and to teach refugees who cannot come to classes. Students are unable to attend on-campus classes for several reasons; one of the most compelling being the psychological damage and trauma that they have experienced in their own countries; or from long periods of detention experienced in our country. Students often cite depression or inability to concentrate, as reasons for not continuing a class. Poverty also precludes refugees from classroom attendance. Housing provided by charities, is usually located in isolated areas; and as many of our students are not eligible for travel concessions, the fares to get to class are prohibitive.

The Senate of the University of Sydney funds the part-time salary for the Co-ordinator and in 2006 we were able to raise some extra funds from Government bodies and private individuals. We received a grant from the City of Sydney, Community Grants Program, which will help towards the cost of running the program.

### SUCSESSES

Dr Elsadig Mohammed, one of the first RLP refugees, who arrived in Australia from the Sudan, understanding only basic English, has just gained an internship at Westmead Hospital. For

3 years he has studied assiduously and passed the language skills and clinical conversion examinations to become a medial practitioner. A short article about Elsadig, was published in *UniNews* on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, 15 students, from the Bankstown Intensive English Centre, accompanied by their counsellor, Geraldine Lonnon, visited our Saturday classes. These students are young adult refugees, who will start Year 12 in 2007. The RLP hopes to integrate some of these students into our classes, and work with them towards improving their academic reading and writing skills for their HSC examinations.

### END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

On Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> the Refugee Language Program held our end of year party. Continuing students, as well as former students attended, some with their families. We were able to offer small gifts to the volunteers and students, thanks to the generosity of Dione Hart, ([www.hartandheim.com](http://www.hartandheim.com)) who donated over 50 diaries. It was a very successful lunch and most of the students assured us that they would enrol for the next semester starting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.

### FUTURE INITIATIVES

The RLP would like to initiate some changes in 2007. We hope to expand our mentoring and tutoring program. Many of the refugees indicate that they would appreciate computer-training classes. We are presently negotiating with staff members in IT who may be able to provide voluntary computer courses on campus. The Co-ordinator is also negotiating with a teacher to offer an academic writing class in the evening in 2007.

Our classes this year will move to

the Mackie Building. Office space in the Education Faculty, for the Co-ordinator, was withdrawn last year, and it has been very difficult to manage the program from a cupboard in one of the classrooms. With the full support of the staff at CPACS, the move to the Mackie Building should be a very positive one for both the teachers and the students.

If you would like to contribute in some way to the Refugee Language Program, I would be happy discuss your ideas with you. We need people to initiate, as well as help out with fundraising; volunteers to tutor students who live in the outer Western suburbs, clerical assistance as well as volunteers to come on Saturdays to act as conversation partners. Please contact Lesley by email on l.carnus@edfac.usyd.edu.au if you are interested in becoming involved.

**CREATIVE WRITING BLOG**

The Creative Writing teachers are compiling student stories and poems with a view to setting up a class blog. The first acrostic poem below, written about the city she was born in, is by the creative writing teacher, Dr Susan Murphy; the second by a young Iraqi male, Nawfel.

**CAIRNS**

Carelessly our sun-black shadows  
skipped and sang  
Among the flattened bodies of dead  
cane toads stretched  
In final fervent prayer to the  
Roaring gods who  
Never ever look back ---  
Softly fell the rain into those puddles.

**DIWANIA**

Dear old friend  
In that forgotten world, I  
Wonder, what you do?  
Aims are hard to reach  
Nights become longer without you.  
I can catch the stars - this is what I  
used to dream; without home  
I can't do it  
Anymore

*Students at the RLP end of year party*



**Sydney Peace Prize turns 10!**

By Lynda Blanchard



*Professor Muhammad Yunus, 1998 Sydney Peace Prize Recipient, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient*

**A fitting beginning to its tenth anniversary year, is recognition of the inaugural Sydney Peace Prize recipient, Professor Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank, by the Nobel Committee in Oslo.**

Since formally celebrating the leadership of Muhammad Yunus in 1998, as an “innovator in working for the world’s poor and inspiring advocate of the view that peace is freedom from poverty”, the Sydney Peace Foundation (SPF) has continued over the past decade to set standards of excellence in awarding Australia’s only international peace prize.

This year will be no exception! The 2007 Sydney Peace Prize recipient will be announced by mid-May. There is plenty of information available from the new look SPF website, including a monthly newsletter and a newly designed ‘peace blog’ revealing all the current news surrounding our esteemed group of nine.

This anniversary year will also see the launch of an on-line Schools’ Peace Gallery. In show-casing the work of young people in promoting peace with

justice in schools, communities and international settings, SPF aims to publicly recognise and share significant 'peace' projects initiated by youth.

By mid-year, cafés throughout Australia will be papered with an SPF Anniversary Card – thanks to the generous sponsorship of two innovative and dynamic small businesses *Design Animals* (Sydney) and *Avant Card* (Melbourne).

### CPACS Membership Fees

The CPACS Council voted at a 2006 meeting to raise membership fees for 2007. They are as follows per year (including GST).

Full membership	\$44.00
Concession	\$16.50
Joint/Family	\$70.00
Life membership	\$400.00

Organisational membership is also available.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please phone the Membership Secretary, Coral Hauenstein on 9351 7686 or email coral.hauenstein@arts.usyd.edu.au

### Book Review

*The Best Intentions: Kofi Annan and the UN in the Era of American Power*

James Traub, London, Bloomsbury pp 442 (reviewed by Stuart Rees\*)

The United Nations Charter gave to the UN Secretary-General, the responsibility to achieve international peace and security. Since 1948 that leader's tasks have increased dramatically. He is now expected to uphold human rights, stop genocide, administer territories, protect refugees, supervise the delivery of humanitarian aid, monitor elections and authorize inspections of weapons of mass destruction. He has to lift ten times his weight, with millions applauding but rogue leaders and even supposed allies wanting to add more weights, to ensure that the already burdened man does not succeed.

In the past ten years the leader who lifted these weights has been the gentle, softly spoken Ghanaian, Kofi Annan. For many years his role was bedevilled by the hostility of the Republican US Congress and by President Bush's declaration of war against Iraq. A sobering chapter 'What Did They Die For' tells of 'the worst day in the history of the United Nations' when the gifted leader of the Assistance Mission for Iraq, Sergio Viera de Mello, was blown to bits along with twenty one UN colleagues.

The Bush Administration's hostility to the UN was compounded by the appointment of an aggressive US Ambassador John Bolton who blocked UN reforms and rejected Millennium Goals such as the drastic reduction of global poverty and the ending of nuclear proliferation.

From early 2003, just before the Secretary-General's mission to Baghdad to negotiate with Saddam Hussein for the continuation of weapons inspections, James Traub, journalist with the New York Times magazine, enjoyed privileged access to Kofi Annan. The result is a story of international politics, of intrigues and selfishness, of loyalties and occasional vision. Traub's chapters are part contemporary history, part biography and part political text for those who want to understand why the UN leader was not always perceived as an impartial referee. The trouble with this analogy is that when he blew his whistle, too many politicians used those far too facile claims about sovereignty to ignore the rules of the game and to do so with impunity.

This brilliant piece of investigative journalism tells of adventures and disasters unduly dominated by the power of the United States yet often rescued by the selfless, self effacing and reassuring figure of Kofi Annan. He will be missed. One way to recall his record is to read this impressive book.

\* This is an abbreviated version of the review which appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> December 2006



New graduates: Cath Jensen, Paul Clark, Kath Logan and Jaime Koh with Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees, Dr Lynda Blanchard and Dr Ken Macnab

## Peace Research and Practice

By Leona Kiernan

CPACS students not only study and research a broad curriculum of peace and conflict studies but increasingly bring experience in Peace Practice to their studies. Many have previously worked in diverse areas of conflict around the world and Peace and Conflict research also often involves field work in areas of conflict. This experience is valuable not only for the students involved but can be a resource to other students.

It was decided to feature the research and practice of the centre's students and graduates in the 2006 lunchtime seminar series. These seminars in second semester were an opportunity for students and the wider community to engage with 'peace practitioners' and those with field experience in their research.

The first seminar *Youth in Bougainville: Their Situation, Involvement in Peace building and Images of Peace* was presented by Yuko Miyazawa who recently completed her M.Litt. The presentation focused on Yuko's month long field visit to Bougainville with revealing interviews and photos, including unforgettable photos of children's paintings from refugee camps during the war. The youth will help shape the precarious future of their country, and they will be influenced by their experiences and images of peace.

Powerful photographs gave memorable images for Master's student, Stephanie Chiu's account of her work with women in Afghanistan in 2003. Her presentation *Giving Afghan Women a Voice: Parwana Media Network* described an informal media network of women-managed, independent, community radio stations in Afghanistan which Stephanie helped to establish. These radio stations strive to give Afghan women a voice

in a society where they experience extreme discrimination and poverty. It was remarkable to learn about the empowering impact this community development project had had on Afghan women.

Master's student, Fadia Sassine spent three months of research in the

process and peace building initiatives. He is now reading for his doctorate in Conflict Transformation, so his seminar, *Negotiating Peace in Sri Lanka*, promised an expert view as previous peace negotiations have always failed. His historical perspective and close association with the Tamil Liberation



Afghan woman and tank taken by Stephanie Chiu during her visit to Afghanistan

Baddawi refugee camp in Lebanon and is passionate about the 'forgotten refugees'. Palestinian refugees have been living in Lebanese refugee camps since 1948, denied the right to work, own property, and most importantly, the right to return to their cherished homeland. With the aid of graphic photos, Fadia spoke of three generations of Palestinian refugees attempting to maintain a strong sense of identity despite abject poverty and adverse living conditions. In her seminar, *Preserving their Identity - Palestianness*, she argued that resilience and *samud* will assist them to defy the odds and break the walls of their prisons. The concept of *Palestinianness* will be intrinsic to any peace negotiations.

Rasiah Nimalan Karthikeyan has extensive experience of the long conflict in Sri Lanka. He has worked with humanitarian relief, post conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction, and has assisted militant groups in the peace

Tigers gave credibility to his argument that the previously failed cease fire agreement could still be relevant to a permanent peace agreement.

M. Litt candidate, Jaime Koh, addressed the situation of the North Korean refugees who are not recognized by the UNHCR. Her presentation was *Human Insecurities or Liabilities? The North Korean refugees and the changing security paradigms*. She explored the concepts of human security and refugeehood and their nexus with *realpolitik*, concluding there was a real need for human ethos. During the discussion, a Korean student from another faculty gave first hand information about a North Korean student refugee in Sydney, giving an impassioned plea for their situation.

**We thank the seminar presenters and look forward to another series in second semester 2007.**