### **Progressive Atheists Inc.**

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



#### Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting | 28 February 2015

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Saturday 28 February 2015, 12 pm – 4 pm for lunch and discussion at Clover & Rye Café: 410 Bridge Road, Richmond, VIC. All who support our purpose are welcome.

#### **Progressive Atheists Purpose Statement:**

http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/purpose-statement/

#### Melbourne Atheists MeetUp Group | Event Calendar

Keep in touch with atheists around Melbourne via the Melbourne MeetUp: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/calendar/">http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/calendar/</a>

#### **Membership Term 2015** | 1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015

Progressive Atheists Membership is \$20 per annum / \$10 concession.

JOIN US | Purchase New Membership Online: http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/application/

For other methods to renew and join please see our website: http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/membership/

Email our Membership Officer: <a href="mailto:membership@progressiveatheists.org">membership@progressiveatheists.org</a>

OR ASK the person who gave you this bulletin

**Progressive Atheists Inc.** 'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges

#### T-shirts ONLY \$15 for members!

Badges \$2.50 each ~ 2 designs / 3 colours

Order your t-shirt, windcheater or badge on our website:

http://progressiveatheists.org/products-for-sale/

Sales Rep. Elida Radig: <a href="mailto:sales@progressiveatheists.org">sales@progressiveatheists.org</a>

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"Your participation is PA's future"



# February 2015

... we seek to go beyond divisive racial, religious, tribal, and sectarian constructs, and instead, contribute to a universal humanity.

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#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Term 2015: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

\*\*\* ONLY \$20 Annually \*\*\*

Purchase Membership Online:

http://progressiveatheists.org/product-category/membership/

#### CONTACT PROGRESSIVE ATHEISTS INC.

President: <a href="mailto:president@progressiveatheists.org">president</a> - Andrew: 0438 043 050

Secretary: <a href="mailto:secretary@progressiveatheists.org">secretary@progressiveatheists.org</a>

Website: progressiveatheists.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc

Twitter: twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc

## **Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines**

#### **Welcome:** Note from the President

Dear Progressive Atheists Members and Supporters,

The New Year has come and gone and we continue our work towards a better society for all. Last year we focused in the first half of the year on holding events in line with our purpose; the second half on school chaplaincy and the Victorian state election candidate survey.

We have started this year with the Queensland state election candidate survey and plan to continue on with this in March with a NSW election candidate survey.

The issue of blasphemy and apostacy has been an ongoing international concern. Progressive Atheists have been working to raise awareness of this issue. January 2015 marks the launch of an international campaign by many atheist groups around the world working together to address the harms caused by blasphemy and apostacy laws.

If you are not already a member of Progressive Atheists and would like to find out more, please see the purpose statement on our website and consider joining our team to work towards a better society for all – you will be most welcome!

#### http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/purpose-statement/

Thanks to all our members and supporters for your ongoing support - together we can make a difference!

Kind regards, Alice Carr President Progressive Atheists Inc.

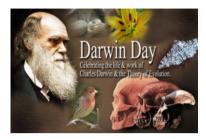
#### **Campaign:** Abolish Blasphemy Laws

Raif Badawi is a Saudi Arabian man who was arrested and charged in 2012 by his own government with insulting Islam through electronic channels; with setting up a website that undermines general security; with ridiculing Islamic religious figures; with going beyond the realm of obedience and finally for apostasy.

Raif's story is but one of many such stories of injustice for holding a particular worldview. You can read more on our website and contact us (see front page) to find out what more you can do to assist: <a href="http://progressiveatheists.org/">http://progressiveatheists.org/</a>

#### **Events:** Darwin Day Celebrations - February 2015

This year there are at least three public events being held in Melbourne to celebrate the life and work of the naturalist Charles Darwin.



Darwin Day BBQ & Lecture
Unitarian Hall | 110 Grey Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
Tuesday, 10th February
5 pm - BBQ | 8 pm - Lecture

#### http://progressiveatheists.org/events/calendar/darwin-day/

# Darwin Day Picnic -Studley Park Studley Park | 1 Boathouse Road, Kew VIC Thursday, 12th February 5.30 pm – Picnic in the Park

Melbourne Freethinkers - Fitzroy Gardens 230-298 Wellington Parade, Melbourne 3002 Saturday, 14th February 12.00 pm – Picnic in the Park



#### **Report:** Queensland State Election Survey

The Progressive Atheists conducted a 10 Question Survey of candidates standing in the Queensland State Election held on 31 January 2015. We received responses from 80 survey responses of the 433 total candidates standing giving us just over an 18% response rate.

You can see the raw data, candidate comments and chart responses for each question on our website: <a href="http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/elections/queensland-state-election-campaign-2015/">http://progressiveatheists.org/campaigns-projects/elections/queensland-state-election-campaign-2015/</a>

The Queensland candidate survey results were similar to the Victorian survey results. The Greens showing up as the most socially progressive on secular issues, followed by Labor, then the LNP and Family First being the most conservative. Again we received no response from the PUP candidates.

We will continue to raise important issues with candidates in the March NSW election. Keep an eye on our website for more details in March.