

Progressive Atheists Inc. News

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



Secular Activism Conference | 22 February 2014 | Report

Professor Marion Maddox and Dr Cathy Byrne, provided an in depth account of Australia's secular heritage, explaining how our founders created an education system that was 'free, compulsory and secular'.

In the second part of our conference, [Fairness in Religions in School](#) (FIRIS) campaigner Lara Wood provided great insight into the many serious concerns around Special Religious Instruction.

Lara also introduced us to a true secular hero – Joe Kelly, principal of Cranbourne South Primary School in Victoria, who ousted ACCESS Ministries from his school upon concluding that their courses failed to provide a legitimate educational program. See <http://secoa.org/> for more.

Intelligence Squared Debate | 26 February 2014 | Report

The debate was to “examine what it means to move away from the secular model and towards a spiritual one; debating the merits of our current model of volunteer church run instruction, as opposed to a balanced study of comparative religions, and contesting where such religious instruction sits within the central tenet of Australian democracy – the separation of church and state.”

Marian Maddox, David Vann and Peter Sherlock spoke affirmatively, while Nick Cater, Justine Toh and Tim Costello spoke against. The audience voted overwhelmingly for the affirmative side. The ABC should soon broadcast the event, on its “Big Ideas” programs (radio & TV).

Advertising in our Bulletin & on our Website

If you would like to advertise in our Bulletin or on our Website please get in touch. Offering advertising can both assist to provide funding for the PA Inc. to pursue 'good deeds' on behalf of progressive atheists as well as promote business, products or services of interest to progressive atheists.

Email your interest to: contact@progressiveatheists.org

Proudly Atheists T-shirts

ONLY \$15 for members! Order your t-shirt on our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/products>

Sales Rep. Elida Radig: tshirts@progressiveatheists.org

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“Your participation is PA's future”



March 2014



Events

- ✓ Clean Up Australia Day
- ✓ International Women's Day
- ✓ International Day to Defend Apostates and Blasphemers
- ✓ Harmony Day
- ✓ Easter Zombie Sunday
- ✓ PA Open Meeting

News

- ✓ Secular Activism Conference | Report
- ✓ Intelligence Squared Debate | Report
- ✓ PA Members Email Exchange
- ✓ Advertising
- ✓ PA T-shirts | ONLY \$15 for members

MEMBERSHIP

We need YOU!

Ask for a membership form at your local [MeetUp](#)

Or send us an email:

membership@progressiveatheists.org

CONTACT

President: president@progressiveatheists.org

Vice President – Andrew: 0438 043 050

Secretary: secretary@progressiveatheists.org

Website: progressiveatheists.org

Progressive Atheist Inc. | Events

Clean Up Australia Day | 2nd March 2014

Clean Up Australia Day is a simple way atheists can take action to clean up, fix up and conserve our prized Australian environment. So lend a hand on Sunday 2nd March 2014. See website for events near you:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/events/calendar/clean-up-australia-day/>

International Women's Day | 8th March 2014

Chief Commissioner Ken Lay spoke about violence against women at a White Ribbon Day breakfast on 23 November 2012. He spoke about the ugliness of family violence; the reality that is men bashing often defenceless women in their homes; and the reality of a men terrorising their children.

There is no doubt in the mind of women around the world that domestic violence is the single most important issue for this generation to solve. This is due to the destructive nature of violence within the enclosed boundaries of the family, and the long-term effect on all its members as the violence in one generation can be reproduce in the next one.

Even those children who are now free from violence and are growing up in a caring, loving environment, could later on have their lives effected by marrying a person who has been a witness to constant domestic violence and has accepted it as a way of life. The repercussions of violence in the home can be exponentially damaging to our culture and society.

So let's respond to the 2014 theme of International Women's Day and spend some time in reflection on how we can contribute positively to the safety of women and children in their own homes.

Let's Inspire Change! <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

International Day to Defend Apostates and Blasphemers | 14 March 2013

This day is an opportunity to remember and offer support to people like Alexander Aan, who has recently been released from an Indonesian prison. The Jakarta News [reported on 31 January](#) that atheist Alexander Aan had been released early from his prison sentence of 2-1/2 years for "inciting religious hostility" for posting on his personal Facebook page that "there is no god."

The Progressive Atheists Inc. are currently collecting funds towards a scholarship and a lawyers fees fund. If you would like to contribute to these funds please see our website or make a cash donation into the fund at a local [MeetUp](#).

Harmony Day | 21st March 2014

"Harmony Day 21 March is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it."



Schools, community groups and organisations across Australia host Harmony Day events:

<http://www.harmony.gov.au>

The Progressive Atheists plan to attend the Federation Square Harmony Day display this year wearing our t-shirts and giving out leaflets with our perspective on Harmony Day. Please send us an email for more information:

contact@progressiveatheists.org. We welcome your participation.

Easter Zombie Sunday | 20th April 2014

Easter Zombie Sunday provides an opportunity for us to demonstrate the ridiculousness of heeding claims made by a book written hundreds of years before the advent of modern science. In this case the words of Matthew 27:50-53.

Please register your interest to participate with our event coordinator Elida Radig: zombie@progressiveatheists.org and see our website for more information.

Website: <http://progressiveatheists.org/events/calendar/easter-zombie-sunday/>

Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting | 22nd March 2014

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Saturday 22nd March 2014, 1 pm – 4 pm for lunch and discussion at Clover & Rye Café: 410 Bridge Road, Richmond, VIC. All who support our mission and purpose are welcome.

Melbourne Atheist MeetUp Group – Event Calendar

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