

# Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



## Viva Festival Report | 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014

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On Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March a group of PA Inc members attended the Viva Festival wearing their progressive atheists t-shirts with the aim to promote progressive atheists at the festival promoting the diversity of Australian culture. Members received some attention and were able to give out business cards and share news and views of Progressive Atheists.

## Progressive Atheists Inc. Members Email Exchange

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The Progressive Atheists now have a members email exchange so that members can keep each other informed of events and matters of concern to progressive atheists.

If you are a member and are not currently on the exchange, please inform us asap and your email address will be added. If you would like to join the email exchange so our website for membership forms or ask a local member.

## Melbourne Atheist MeetUp Group – Event Calendar

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

## Advertising in our bulletin and on our website

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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](mailto:contact@progressiveatheists.org)

## Progressive Atheists Inc 'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges

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T-shirts ONLY \$15 for members!  
Badges \$2.50 each ~ 2 designs / 3 colours  
Order your t-shirt or badge on our website:  
<http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/products>  
Sales Rep. Elida Radig: [sales@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:sales@progressiveatheists.org)

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*"Your participation is PA's future"*

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## April 2014

### Events

- ✓ Easter Zombie Sunday – The March of the Zombies 2014!
- ✓ Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting
- ✓ Melbourne Atheist MeeUp Group – Event Calendar

### News

- ✓ Indigenous Australians and our Constitution
- ✓ Homophobic Law Uganda | I'm ready for Gay fight – Museveni
- ✓ Saudi Arabia declares all atheists are terrorists
- ✓ Viva Festival Report
- ✓ Progressive Atheists Inc. Members Email Exchange
- ✓ Advertising in our bulletin and on our website
- ✓ Progressive Atheists Inc. 'Proudly Atheist' T-shirts & Badges

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## MEMBERSHIP

We need YOU!

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

Or send us an email:

[membership@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:membership@progressiveatheists.org)

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## CONTACT

President: [president@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:president@progressiveatheists.org)

Vice President – Andrew: 0438 043 050

Secretary: [secretary@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:secretary@progressiveatheists.org)

Website: [progressiveatheists.org](http://progressiveatheists.org)

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# Events & News

## **Easter Zombie Sunday | 20<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

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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](mailto:zombie@progressiveatheists.org) and see our website for more information.

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

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/Easter.Zombie.Sunday>

## **Indigenous Australians and our Constitution**

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It's time to RECOGNISE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution. It's the right thing to do.

"Constitutional Recognition would allow the first chapter in the Australian story to be acknowledged. Our history is part of the shared story of every Australian and our Indigenous heritage is something that enhances and enriches every one of us."

ADEN RIDGEWAY, spokesperson for Recognise

"We want to be recognised. It's just as simple as that. We've never been recognised. We are the first Australians, okay? And it is time we were recognised."

LOWITJA O'DONOGHUE, legendary campaigner

"I'm a big supporter of this. It should be a unifying moment for Australia. It should be a healing moment for Australia. And that's what I want to bring about."

TONY ABBOTT, Prime Minister

See more on their website: <http://www.recognise.org.au/>

## **Homophobic Law Uganda | By RICHARD WANAMBWA | 31 March 2014**

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President Museveni yesterday told a rally of supporters of the Anti-Homosexuality Act that he endorsed the law to reaffirm Uganda's sovereignty. The President said he did not approve of agitation by foreign powers against the new law.

Mr Museveni said the West have a wrong justification of homosexuality. He explained that besides the Bible being against the act, even long ago among African cultures homosexuals were referred to as ekifiire (walking dead).

## **Saudi Arabia declares all atheists are terrorists**

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As defined by new Saudi Arabian laws, the Progressive Atheists Inc. would be a terrorist organisation. Saudi Arabia, in the last two months, has introduced new laws that include non-violent activities in Saudi Arabia as terrorism. Top of the list is Article 1: Calling for atheist thought in any form, or calling into question the fundamentals of the Islamic religion on which this country is based.

Saudi Arabia's new terrorism law and a series of related royal decrees create a legal framework that appears to criminalise virtually all dissident thought or expression as terrorism.

On January 31st, Saudi authorities promulgated the Penal Law for Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing (the 'terrorism law'). The law cites violence as an essential element only in reference to attacks carried out against Saudis outside the kingdom. Inside the kingdom, 'terrorism' can be non-violent - consisting of "any act" intended to, among other things, "insult the reputation of the state", "harm public order" or "shake the security of society".

On February 3rd, two days after the terrorism law came into force, King Abdullah issued Royal Decree 44, which criminalises "participating in hostilities outside the kingdom" with prison sentences of between three and 20 years.

On March 7th, the Interior Ministry issued further regulations designating an initial list of groups the government considers terrorist organisations inside the kingdom and regulations for other sweeping provisions that authorities can use to criminalise virtually any expression or association critical of the government and its understanding of Islam.

It's not just our progressive secular values that Saudi Arabia is years behind, it is also years behind the values claimed by the Arab world. Article 32 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, to which Saudi Arabia is party, guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and to impart news to others by any means. Article 28 guarantees the rights to peaceful assembly and association.

As progressive atheists we need to be very concerned about what this means for residents of Saudi Arabia as well as for tourists who travel through.

See more related news links on our website:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/news/overseas/middle-east/>

## **Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting | 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

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Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2014, 12 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.