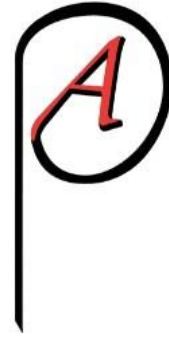


# Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI  
"Your participation is PA's future"



## September 2016

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

### Headlines

- Ω **Report:** Abuse victims and the estate of Bishop Ronald Mulkearns
- Ω **Report:** Victorian challenge to religious freedom
- Ω **Report:** Deracializing Jihadists
- Ω **Report:** Saint Mother Teresa
- Ω **Report:** Dying with Dignity
- Ω **Progressive Atheists AGM 2016**

### BackPage

**Membership Renewal Term 2016:** 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Term 2016:** 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

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

**Purchase Membership Online:**

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

### **CONTACT PROGRESSIVE ATHEISTS INC.**

**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)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc](http://www.facebook.com/ProgressiveAtheistsInc)

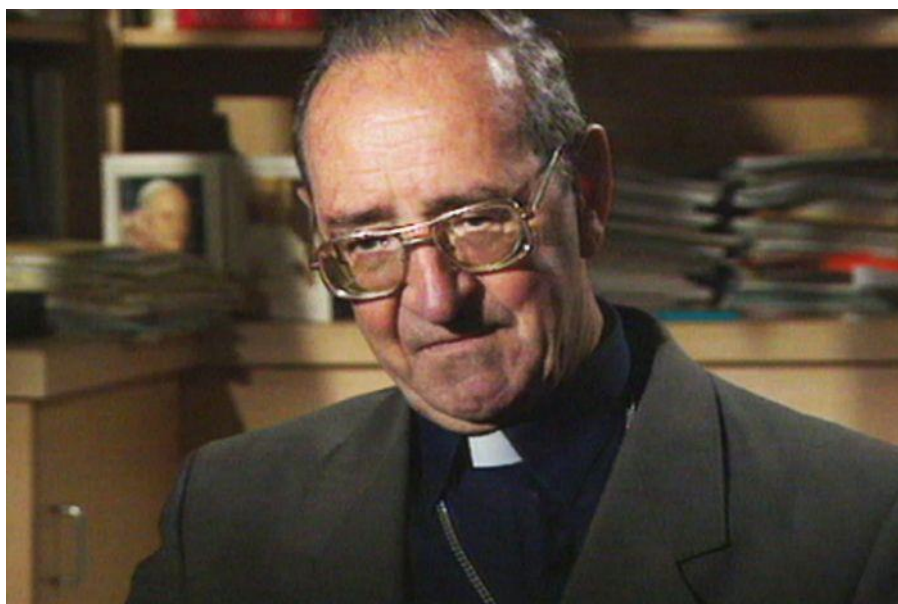
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc](http://twitter.com/ProgAtheistsInc)

## Progressive Atheist Inc. | Headlines

**Report:** Abuse victims to benefit from estate of former Ballarat Bishop Ronald Mulkearns

Real estate and cash left to the Catholic Church by a bishop blamed for the sexual abuse of hundreds of children in Ballarat, north-west of Melbourne, will be given to victims of abuse.

Ronald Mulkearns left nearly all of his estate, including a Fairhaven



property valued at more than \$2 million, to the Catholic diocese of Ballarat after his death his April.

He was accused of not properly handling complaints about abuse in

his diocese, which he apologised for while testifying before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

READ MORE HERE: <http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-06/assets-from-bishop-mulkearns-to-be-given-to-victims/7818984?pfmredir=sm>

## **Report:** Victorian challenge to religious freedom

On 30 August 2016 the Victorian Attorney-General introduced into the Victorian lower house the *Equal Opportunity Amendment (Religious Exceptions) Bill* 2016. The Bill proposes to “amend the **Equal Opportunity Act 2010** to modify the religious exceptions in relation to the employment of a person by religious bodies and schools”. I would like to suggest that, if enacted, it will fundamentally impair the religious freedom of faith-based organisations.

MORE TO READ HERE:

<https://lawandreligionaustralia.wordpress.com/2016/09/08/victorian-challenge-to-religious-freedom-of-faith-based-organisations/>

## **Religions of the World:** Aetherius Society

*In a new segment of the Progressive Atheists bulletin, the exploration of rare world religions will be examined. Any suggestions are welcome.*

Combining a bit of Christian dogma with Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish beliefs, and mixing them all together with a healthy dose of ufology, the 650 or members of the Aetherius Society strive to prevent the total annihilation of the Earth. This is a noble cause, to be sure, although their intentions are called into question by the fact that they claim multiple disasters have already been prevented through the use of prayer and ‘Spiritual Energy Batteries’, which hold within them healing energy generated by psychic abilities. They await the arrival on Earth of the ‘Next Master’, who appears to be some kind of Mega Jesus, descending from the heavens in a flying saucer and possessing great magical powers.

READ MORE HERE: <http://kizaz.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Aetherius-Society.png>

## Report: Deracializing Jihadists

A **GOOGLE-INCUBATED PROGRAM** that has been targeting potential ISIS members with deradicalizing content will soon be used to target violent right-wing extremists in North America, a designer of the program said at an event at the Brookings Institution on Wednesday.

Using research and targeted advertising, the initiative by London-based startup Moonshot CVE and Google's Jigsaw technology incubator targets potentially violent jihadis and directs them to a YouTube channel with videos that refute ISIS propaganda.

In the pilot program countering ISIS, the so-called Redirect Method collected the metadata of 320,000 individuals over the course of eight weeks, using 1,700 keywords, and served them advertisements that led them to the videos. Collectively, the targets watched more than half a million minutes of videos.

THERE'S MORE OF THIS FASCINATING STORY HERE:

<https://theintercept.com/2016/09/07/google-program-to-deradicalize-jihadis-will-be-used-for-right-wing-american-extremists-next/>



**Report:** Saint Mother Teresa

Mother Teresa may be synonymous with selflessness, but according to a team of Canadian researchers, the Catholic nun was “anything but a saint,” the Times of India reports.

In a study to be published this month in *Religieuses*, a French-language journal of studies in religion and sciences, they suggest the nun’s approach to caring for the sick was to glorify human suffering instead of relieving it.

Mother Teresa was lavish with her prayers, but penny-pinching with the wealth amassed by her foundation, according to Serge Larivée and Genevieve Chenard from the University of Montreal’s department of psychoeducation, and Carole Sénéchal of the University of Ottawa’s faculty of education.

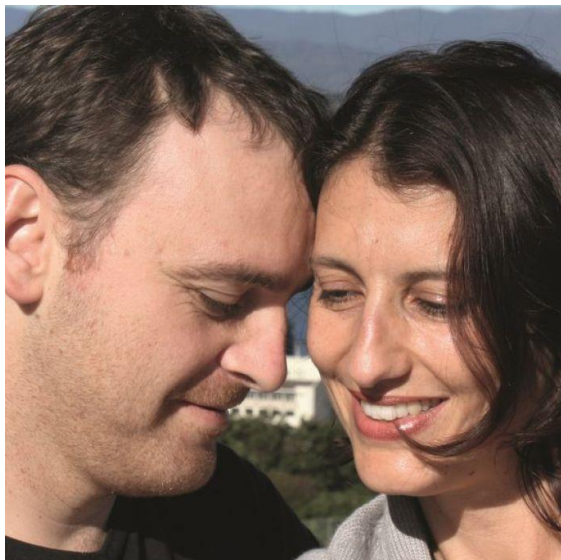
The beatification of Mother Teresa, which the Vatican completed in October, 2003, is the last step before sainthood.

THERE’S MORE HERE: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/the-hot-button/mother-teresa-was-anything-but-a-saint-canadian-study-says/article9317551/>



## Report: Dying with Dignity

Voluntary euthanasia, or "right to die" legislation continues to be a controversial issue, but we rarely hear from those at the forefront of the debate.



Matt Vickers and his late wife Lecretia fought for new laws to allow assisted dying in New Zealand while she battled terminal brain cancer.

Sadly, the successful young lawyer passed away last year — one day after the High Court rejected her legal challenge.

Matt continues to fight for assisted dying legislation and has written about his wife's battle in a new book, *Lecretia's Choice: A Story of Love, Death and the Law*.

READ AN EXTRACT FROM THE BOOK HERE:

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-08/dying-with-dignity-lecretia's-fight-continues/7822792?pfmredir=sm>

MATT VICKERS TALKS ABOUT ASSISTED DYING WITH ABC NEWS BREAKFAST HERE:

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-08/matt-vickers-talks-about-assisted-dying-with-abc/7825220>

## Progressive Atheists Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in Melbourne. At the meeting an Annual Report will be presented. The Term 2016 will step down and a new committee will be elected for Term 2017.

We are currently inviting expressions of interest to stand for the Committee Term 2017.

Roles to fill are:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

6 places for Ordinary Members

If you are interested to find out more about what these roles entail please contact the current committee. Contact details can be found on the website: <http://progressiveatheists.org/about-us/committee/> otherwise you can send an email to [contact@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:contact@progressiveatheists.org)

Progressive Atheists Annual General Meeting

Monday 31 October 2016

Dinner from 6.00 pm

Meeting 7.30 pm

La Notte Restaurant

140 Lygon St, Carlton VIC 3053

Join the Facebook Event - Progressive Atheists Annual General Meeting

<https://www.facebook.com/events/305415766515291/>

# Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI

## Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting

Our next Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting will be held at 12 pm on **Saturday, 24th September 2016** at the Melbourne Unitarian Hall, 110 Grey Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002. All who support our purpose are welcome.

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/232838589/>

*Reminder for October Open Meeting: Saturday, 22nd October 2016*

### 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:

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/calendar/>

### Membership Term 2015 | 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

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:

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

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 or badge on our website:**

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

Sales Rep. Elida Radig: [sales@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:sales@progressiveatheists.org)