

## Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



### Progressive Atheist News

#### Women in Secularism Conference

Progressive Atheists Inc. committee member Elida Radig will be attending the Women in Secularism Conference organised by the Centre for Inquiry in Washington DC, May 17-19<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Please contact Elida if you have any ideas or questions that you would like her to share at the conference.

**Email:** [women@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:women@progressiveatheists.org)

**Website:** <http://www.womeninsecularism.org/>

#### Victorian Atheist Conference – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013

The Progressive Atheists are encouraging community development with regards to issues that matter to freethinkers. Our latest project seeks to provide an opportunity for atheists and freethinkers to come together and share ideas with a focus on how we can better bring about positive changes to our community, culture and society.

Looking forward to seeing you there and hearing your views!

See our Events Calendar for more details:

<http://progressiveatheists.org/events/calendar/>

#### Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting

**When:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – 12 pm Lunch – 1 pm Meeting

**Where:** Olmecs Café, 410 Bridge Road, Richmond

**Contact:** Andrew Rawlings – 0438 043 050

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

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*"Your participation is PA's future"*



### May 2013

- ✓ Sean Faircloth Tour of Australia – Report
- ✓ Zombie Day Report!
- ✓ Women in Secularism Conference
- ✓ Victorian Atheist Conference
- ✓ Progressive Atheists Inc. Open Meeting

### Membership

**Ask for a membership form at your local meet-up**

ONLY \$10 – let's encourage positive change!

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

### Contact the Progressive Atheists Inc.

President: Andrew – 0438 043 050

Secretary: Alice – 0422 907 106

Email: [info@progressiveatheists.org](mailto:info@progressiveatheists.org)

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

## Sean Faircloth Tour of Australia – Report

Lawyer, politician and lobbyist, Sean Faircloth seems like the right man for the job to sell the value of secularism to the world on behalf of The Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science. Sean provided much passion and direction in his recent tour of Australia.

During his tour, Sean highlighted the concern that the religious right are organising in Australia. Religious schools are on the rise in Australia and we have a major problem with religious influence in schools via the schools Chaplaincy and Special Religious Instruction programs in all our schools public and private.



Photo by Adam Ford (Spot Theatre, Melbourne)

The religious right are organising and so too do we need to organise to fight for a truly secular society. We need to build coalitions and networks with freethinking, secular AND religious groups. Our aim needs to be changing legislation to ensure a real separation of Church and State.

Our community needs to organise for science, reason, justice and compassion. We need to become leaders for human rights, secular values and morality. We need to overcome the tradition and doctrine that is preventing progress.

We need to give people something to care about that will motivate them to take action and participate in our movement. We need to work with legal and political experts to learn what can be done to protect and strengthen our secular democracy.

We need to actively lobby government, develop relationships with politicians and push for change. We need to develop working relationships with the United Nations.

Sean encouraged Australian free-thought groups to join forces and host Secular conventions with Australian speakers. He suggested that we develop local groups like Rotary all over Australia with a focus on lobbying for a true secular society.

This isn't a quick fix situation – but over time in conjunction with our fellow travellers we can make a difference. Come along to the next Progressive Atheists Inc. open meeting and see what you can do to help create change for the better.

## Zombie Day Report!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Easter Sunday Zombie re-enactment. Everyone who participated enjoyed the experience and we all plan for a bigger event next year.

Join the Facebook Page to keep in touch with our plans for next year:

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

Photo:

A Roman Soldier checks a Zombie who lies in wait for Matthew's voice to raise him from the dead.



Photo below: The Zombies follow Jesus and the Roman Soldier keeps them in check, whilst Easter Day service attendees leave the Church behind them.

