

# Progressive Atheists Inc.

Est. 10 Jan 2010 Reg: A0054119U Member of AAI



## Melbourne Atheist MeetUp Group

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

## La Trobe Atheists Club

[www.facebook.com/LaTrobeAtheists](http://www.facebook.com/LaTrobeAtheists)

## Geelong Atheists MeetUp

<http://www.meetup.com/Melbourne-Atheists/events/131603712/>

## Gippsland Atheist and Freethinkers Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/GippslandAtheistFreeThinkersGroup>

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

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*"Your participation is PA's future"*



## December 2013

# Merry Christ-myth!



Warm wishes to all heathens (and fence sitters) here's to a festive fight for a secular ideals and freedom from religion!

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Welcome New Committee!

Royal Commission Update

Zoe's Law passed NSW Lower House

Court Challenge & Same Sex Weddings

Victorian Parliament Report 'Betrayal of Trust'

Sunday Assembly

Summer Solstice Party!

### Why not buy a Gift Membership this Christ-myth?

Ask for a membership form at your local MeetUp

**Join Us \$20 – let's encourage positive change!**

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

### CONTACT US

President: Alice - 0422 907 106

Vice President: Andrew - 0438 043 050

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

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

# Progressive Atheist News

## Welcome New Committee!

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See more about our AGM and the new committee on our website:  
[progressiveatheists.org/events/annual-general-meeting-2013](http://progressiveatheists.org/events/annual-general-meeting-2013)

## Royal Commission Update

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Private sessions are an important way for Commissioners to bear witness and to hear first hand about the impact of child sexual abuse to better understand how it might be prevented. During December the RC will be holding these private sessions on:

2 December 2013 – Sydney, Brisbane and Perth  
9 December 2013 – Sydney, Melbourne  
16 December 2013 – Melbourne and Brisbane



The final public hearing for 2013 will be held in Sydney from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December. The Commission will hear evidence about the establishment, operation and review of the Towards Healing process by the Catholic Church. In addition, it will explore how that process works in practice with evidence from a number of people who have participated in it.

For more information go to: [www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)

## Zoe's Law has passed NSW Lower House

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The bill was voted through with 63 votes to 26

It will now move to the upper house where it will be debated. If passed, Zoe's Law will change the Crimes Act. A foetus more than 20 weeks old or weighing more than 400g – will be seen as a person. It will open the door to unintended consequences; the central issue is the impact on access to abortion.

The bill is opposed by the NSW Bar Association, the Australian Medical Association NSW, and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and many Women's organisations and groups.

## Court Challenge & Same Sex Couples Weddings

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ACT could hold same sex weddings from December 8<sup>th</sup> unless the High Court intervenes. The Commonwealth's submission has referred back to Roman times to bring attention to the recognition of the importance of marriage.

The court is to hear the challenge on December 3.

## Victorian Parliament Report 'Betrayal of Trust'

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Victorian Parliament's inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations have 15 recommendations to be implemented by early next year.

Read more:

[www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-13/15-recommendations-of-the-victorian-parliament27s-inquiry-into/5088928](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-13/15-recommendations-of-the-victorian-parliament27s-inquiry-into/5088928)

## Sunday Assembly

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December is full of events and get-togethers ! Craftnoon Garden Party, Choir Rehearsal and much more!

See MeetUp page: [www.meetup.com/SundayAssemblyMelbourne/](http://www.meetup.com/SundayAssemblyMelbourne/)

## Summer Solstice Party!

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Come along and enjoy a picnic and astronomy lecture at Fitzroy Gardens at the Old Melbourne Observatory. Or Join online with me and post your Summer or Winter Solstice pics!

To find out more see: [www.facebook.com/events/1390322094529876](http://www.facebook.com/events/1390322094529876)

