Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to all the Australians who have suffered and lost loved ones in the recent flooding in Queensland and Victoria. Winnifred and myself got our boots muddy for our many friends affected by the crisis here in Brisbane.


On a different note, it is time to organise our participation in the APS annual conference. Our convenor, Winnifred, is taking submissions for a *Psychologists for Peace Symposium*. Please consider submitting a proposal for this exciting opportunity to spread our message of peace to the psychological community. Contact Winnifred by March 10 at w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au to express interest and ask questions. There is more info re the conference below.

Best wishes,
Kim Stewart for Psychologists for Peace

Above: Psychologists for Peace join the anti-trident missile protests in the U.K, 1978. Trident protests in the U.K continue to this day.

IN THIS ISSUE:

1. APS Brisbane Branch call for psychologists to work with Red Cross

2. PFP News
   - Social Networking: PFP on FB
   - Student prize winners announced!
   - ERIS final report published

3. Recent publications & resources
   - Free Online Peace Workshops
   - Psychologists for Social Responsibility release social change guide
   - How to help psychologically during - and after - the floods
   - Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology: recent articles of interest

4. Calls for papers & Conferences
   - Australian Psychological Society Conference 2011 (Canberra) October 4-8
   - Psychologists for Social Responsibility Conference (US: Boston) July 14-16

5. Obituary
   - Ole Kureitanni (1938-2011). Norwegian peace and anti-nuclear advocate

6. In the news
   - Psychologists for Social responsibility (US) call on government to support democratic change in Middle East
   - *Peace News*: 20 climate activists acquitted on “necessity defence”
   - Amnesty to conduct investigation into Dubya
   - and more...

7. Merchandise
   - Educational posters for conflict resolution

8. Events and activities
   - Local and international events and actions

9. Contact Us
1. Call for Psychologists by the APS Brisbane Branch

[The following will apply mainly to psychologists in SEQ and northern NSW as travel to Brisbane is required. – WL]

Dear APS member,

The Red Cross have contacted us asking for psychologist volunteers to provide peer support for their Personal Support Workers in Northern Queensland. Personal support workers go out in the field following a disaster to provide psychological first aid to affected people. The psychologist would be embedded in teams of Red Cross personal support workers, and travel into the field in cyclone affected areas in Queensland.

The psychologist would be working as a Red Cross volunteer, and would be responsible for providing psychosocial support to Red Cross staff and volunteers in the field and will not be working directly with those affected by the Cyclone Yasi. The Red Cross are asking peer supporters for a commitment of 8 days, 1 day training and 7 days in the field (1 day travelling from Brisbane to the field location, 5 days offering peer support, 1 day travelling back). It is likely that training will take place on Fridays in Brisbane, with people heading out into the field on Saturday. Two peer supporters are likely to be sent out at a time. Even if individuals have a current police check, Red Cross will need to obtain a new one.

Psychologists volunteering for this peer support role would need the following:

- Availability for 8 consecutive days to travel to Brisbane, then into the field in Northern Queensland
- Skills in the provision of psychosocial support for people affected by disasters or emergencies (including an understanding of Psychological First Aid, community recovery, familiarity with the IASC guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency settings)
- An understanding of the personal support model used by the Australian Red Cross (some training will be provided by Red Cross before deployment)
- Experience in working with volunteers (including provision of peer support, ability to work within a team)
- Knowledge and skills in the area of self-care If you are interested and available to volunteer to provide peer support with the Red Cross in the coming days and weeks, please contact us at DRN@psychology.org.au.

The Red Cross are seeking peer supporters from now up until the 4th April 2011.

Dr Phillip Stacey, Chair, APS Brisbane Area Branch
2. PFP News

Social Networking: PFP is on Facebook!
Keep up to date with the latest PFP information, and share your own through our new Facebook page. The group is open to everyone: professionals, students, interested members of the public, so feel free to invite all your friends.

Please join and show your support for PFP to the Facebook community. http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=101618416556161

Student Prize Winners Announced
This year’s student prize winners have been announced: Rishani Panawennage from LaTrobe University, for the thesis *Intergroup Forgiveness After the Prolonged Conflict in a Sri Lankan Sample*, and Miriam Capper from the University of NSW for the thesis, *Practising Self-Control Decreases Reactive Aggression in Aggressive Individuals*. Congratulations to our winners! We will bring you more details of the students’ work in our next newsletter.

ERIS Final Report Published
Enhancing Relationships in School Communities (ERIS): PFP are one of the partners in this ARC linkage project that has recently been completed. Visit our ERIS website at http://www.eris.org.au/index.php and follow the link at the bottom of the page to read final project report.

3. Recent Publications & Resources

Free Online Peace Workshops
From the Medical Peace Work MR: “January 27th saw the launch of seven new and revised Medical Peace Work online courses. The aim of the interactive courses is to educate health professionals about the impact of war and other forms of violence on the health of individuals and populations, and to show how they can make a positive and particular contribution to peace building, violence prevention and conflict transformation.

Renowned health professionals such as Bernard Lown, inventor of the defibrillator and founder of the Nobel peace prize winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, speak out for Medical Peace Work: “The doctor cannot ignore the issues of peace and war. There is no greater pathogen than war. So why do you worry about tuberculosis, malaria, shistosomiasis, coronary artery disease, hypertension, diabetes, but when it comes to war you don’t want to talk about it.”

The courses provide the participants with new insights about the special role and responsibility of healthcare professionals in peace work. The courses, which will be promoted worldwide, were developed by 19 organizations from Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Turkey and the UK.

They are not only designed for health professionals and students who wish to do humanitarian or development work or who want to work with human rights or medical peace organizations; these courses are valuable for all health workers, no matter where they work and live. The course issues range therefore from suicide and interpersonal violence prevention to the abolition of nuclear weapons.”

The courses are freely available at www.medicalpeacework.org

Psychologists for Social Responsibility release social change guide
Psychology for Social Change: Strategies That Work is a new guide from U.S. Group Psychologists for Social Responsibility. The guide shows how psychological knowledge and practice can aid work to alleviate social and environmental conflicts. Written to suit a wide public audience including news media, politicians and advocates, it can be downloaded from the website at no cost.

A free PDF version be downloaded HERE. More info: http://www.psysr.org/about/pubs_resources/social_change-brochure.php
How to help psychologically during - and after - the floods

Thousands of Queenslanders have been affected by the recent floods that have disrupted lives and created much distress. The Australian Psychological Society has prepared the following guidance for the many hundreds of professionals and volunteers who now want to know the best ways to support those affected to assist their recovery.

Professor Ronan, author of the guide says, “Helping people reinvigorate a sense of hope, while acknowledging the real distress they may be experiencing, has been identified as one way of helping people manage more effectively as they begin the process of recovery.” [http://www.psychology.org.au/news/media_releases/6jan2011/](http://www.psychology.org.au/news/media_releases/6jan2011/)

The Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology

“The mission of the Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology is to promote deep reflection on community change and system transformation in which counselors, psychologists, and other human service professionals play a role. The journal aims to highlight ‘engaged scholarship’ and the very important social change work done by professionals and activists that would not normally find its way into publication. The journal thus attempts to break down the divide between theory and practice in one of the most critical areas of our work: social transformation toward social justice and peace. Potential authors are urged to pay special attention to the following guidelines for submissions.

Manuscripts submitted should be relevant to counselors, psychologists and related human service professionals as well as students and educators. Policy makers, community organizers, and activists should also find the content to be informative and relevant to their work.” (Journal for Social Action in Counseling and Psychology).


4. Calls for papers & Conferences

Australian Psychological Society 46th Annual Conference, October 4-8 2011, Canberra

***Submissions will close on Tuesday 15 March, 2011.***

The Committee now invites submissions of abstracts for the forthcoming conference, focusing on the relationship between research and practice.

Submissions are welcome for the following presentation types:

- Individual Research Papers ; Poster Presentations
- Symposia
- Professional or Practice Fora
- How-to-sessions
- Full day and half day workshops

Submissions are to be made via the online submission form below. Additional information, submission guidelines and copyright information can be accessed via the links below.

**Psychologists for Peace is taking submissions for a PFPeace Symposium at this years APS conference. Please consider submitting a proposal for this exciting opportunity to spread our message of peace to the psychological community. Contact Winnifred by March 10 at w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au**

Transforming a World in Crisis: The Role of Socially Responsible Psychology, July 14-16, Boston

**Call for proposals, Now Through March 15th**

Organisers invite psychologists, professionals, researchers, teachers, students, and other activists to join Psychologists for Social Responsibility for our July 2011 Conference, "Transforming a World in Crisis: The Role of Socially Responsible Psychology." The conference will "examine the many crises in today’s world and explore the roles that socially responsible psychology can play in promoting positive social change". Find out more:

http://www.psysr.org/conference2011/

5. Obituary

Norwegian Peace and Anti-nuclear Activst, 73, dies

“He was perhaps best known for pushing a cart laden with buttons advocating a ban on nuclear weapons and other political causes, but Ole Kople evacuated (1938-2011) was much more than a fixture on Oslo’s main boulevard. He was a committed and award-winning peace activist.”


6. In the news

Psychologists for Social responsibility (U.S.) call on government to support democratic change in Middle East

In light of unfolding events in Egypt, Tunisia, and elsewhere in the Middle East, Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) has issued the statement below calling on leaders of the United States to stand in support of democratic change in the region.

They say, “The rapidly unfolding events in Egypt and Tunisia have stunned and engaged the world. The governments of these countries have long been criticized for their widespread human rights violations, including restrictions on freedom of expression and association, the abuse of state of emergency powers, the imprisonment of dissidents, the use of torture, and the persecution of journalists and human rights defenders. But today we are witnesses to the extraordinary power manifest when ordinary people join together and challenge undemocratic rulers, expressing the seemingly timeless human aspiration to be free of tyranny, oppression, and exploitation.”

Read full statement here: http://www.psysr.org/about/programs/humanrights/mideast-democracy.php

From Peace News: 20 climate activists acquitted on “necessary defence”

Non-violent direct action won a legal standing for climate activists in the U.K. who were charged with conspiracy to commit aggravated trespass. They had planned to shut down Ratcliffe on Soar power station in a protest against the ongoing contribution the U.K.’s biggest emitter is having on the rights of humans and nature affected by dramatic climate change. http://www.peacenews.info/issues/2528/25280202.html

It is an oft used defence of peace activists who argue that intervention in stopping war and deaths necessitates their breaking of property laws.
Amnesty to conduct investigation into Dubya

On 10 November, Amnesty International urged a criminal investigation into the role of former US president George W Bush and other officials in the use of “enhanced interrogation techniques”. In his memoirs, Bush confirmed his personal involvement in authorizing “water-boarding” and other techniques against “high value detainees”. Bush cancelled a trip to Geneva in February after activists promised to have him arrested and investigated under international law if he entered Switzerland. [http://www.amnesty.org.au/news/comments/24737/]

Egypt: Cyberactivism, Group identity and hitting the “Like” button on Facebook.

“The mental image of the Egyptian police, as a symbol of the state, has played a special part in mobilizing collective feeling against President, Hosni Mubarak. Street rallies began January 25, a day that coincided with the National Police Day holiday. Last week police stations were torched.”

Read more here: [http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-me-in-we/201102/egypt-cyberactivism](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-me-in-we/201102/egypt-cyberactivism)

Wikileaks editor Assange awarded Sydney Peace Medal and nominated for Nobel Prize


Veterans group says Abbott's attitude is bipartisan


Statement on Aboriginal rights by leading Australians

Thrity prominent Australians including QC Julian Burnside, and a host of religious and academic names have called on the Australian government to take heed of the treatment of indigenous Australians and see that they are treated in conformity with our UN treaty obligations. In a statement they declare, “just how far Australia is lagging behind international standards on human rights policies” and urge change. [http://www.indymedia.org.au/2011/02/09/statement-on-aboriginal-rights-by-leading-australians](http://www.indymedia.org.au/2011/02/09/statement-on-aboriginal-rights-by-leading-australians)

Peace Convergence calls for cancellation of Australia-U.S. Joint War Games for disaster relief

A broad alliance of peace groups has called on the government to cancel the Talisman-Sabre Australia-U.S. Joint war games, to be held in Queensland in July 2011, and put the money towards the Queensland disaster relief. Spokesperson Dr Hannah Middleton says the cancellation will divert $100m to much needed reconstruction in the wake of floods and Cyclone Yasi. She said, “We need your help in a campaign to persuade the Gillard Government to divert some of the bloated military budget into the Queensland recovery and reconstruction effort. Already Rob Oakeshott, Andrew Wilkie and Adam Bandt have raised this demand publicly, breaking a long official and media silence about Australia’s exorbitant military spending. As a first step we are calling for cancellation of the Talisman Sabre military exercise.” Read more here: [http://www.peaceconvergence.com/2011/02/15/call-on-govt-to-cancel-talisman-sabre-to-save-for-disaster-recovery/](http://www.peaceconvergence.com/2011/02/15/call-on-govt-to-cancel-talisman-sabre-to-save-for-disaster-recovery/)
7. PFP Merchandise

Psychologists for Peace have available a range of colourful and helpful posters for peace advocates and educators. They target a range of age groups.

We have the PFP prize winning children’s book “Wise Ways to Win” and educational posters themed on issues including bullying, dealing with anger, how to say sorry, peaceful families and conflict resolution, all brightly illustrated and easy to understand.  
http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/educational/

8. Events and activities

Vision in Action: Melbourne March 3, 2011

Vision in Action will celebrate the creative human rights initiatives of Victorian refugee and migrant community groups in places of war and conflict in an evening of conversations and performances. This event is an important opportunity to recognize the positive and inspirational role played by diaspora communities in Australia in the promotion of peace and human rights, and to further explore how the aid effort can support them in this. See the Humanitarian Crisis Hub for more information http://crisishub.org.au/

Signatories concerned at Australia's MOU with Afghanistan

Seventy organisations and fourty-five individuals signed a letter to the Australian government calling on them to repeal their MOU on the repatriation of Afghan refugees into danger. “The agreement includes provision for sending back children: unaccompanied minors and other Afghan children who have become separated from their families. “ Read statement here and SIGN ON as an individual or organisation.


Peace Convergence calls for volunteer psychologist

The Peace Convergence is an biannual community camp that draws peace advocates from around Australia to Yeppoon in central Queensland where the Australian-US joint war games, Talisman Sabre, are held. The TS games are the biggest military operation outside of the field of war and are held in the Great Barrier Reef and Shoalwater Bay. The PC is asking for a peace psychologist to be involved in the 2011 camp to offer conflict resolution skills and as a speaker on peace psychology at a public forum that will be held in the week 18 to 29 July 2011

Contact Robin on 0411 113787 if you are interested. http://www.peaceconvergence.com

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, March 8, 2011, Globally

You are invited to participate in the creation of an extraordinary global multi-media event to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of International Women’s Day, on March 8, 2011, and the transformative power of women in global society. The IWD collective are “looking for 1000 passionate women to form the 1000 Friends of Women’s Day Live! donating $1,000 each . We invite men and women together to be part of the Women’s Day Live Founding Circle.” (WD Live website). For more information http://www.womensdaylive.com/index.html
9. Contact Us

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w.louis@psy.uq.edu.au  07 3346 9515

Kim Stewart, Admin, PFP
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PFP is an Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society. Its members are psychologists, and others, who are concerned about the prevalence of war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying their professional skills to issues relating to promoting peace and preventing war. We are working to promote peace in the world and prevent conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy.

http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/