



**Edmund Rice Centre**  
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

---

## **ERC JUSTICE UPDATES**

### **May 2021 No.45**



We are saddened by news today of the death of Phil Glendenning's daughter Kate. Kate, thirty five, is the mother of two little boys, aged three years and one month. For the past month she has battled a rare and aggressive cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with her partner James with Phil and all her grieving family. May the spirit of courage and resilience with which Kate faced her illness be a source of comfort and strength to those she leaves behind.

**Peace & Blessings**

**The staff and volunteers at the Edmund Rice Centre**

**Dear All,**

**Welcome to the 45th Edition of ERC Justice Updates your regular newsletter from the Edmund Rice Centre, on all sorts of matters relating to human rights, first nations and environmental justice.**

**As each new day in this upside down world we live in brings much sadness, many challenges and the never ending fight for justice for the vulnerable and**

downtrodden let us reflect on the words of Albert Camus:

**"Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend. *Albert Camus***

As always please send us anything you would like included in Justice Updates. Your suggestions and comments both positive and negative or indeed any information that you would like to disseminate amongst the wider Edmund Rice Network - it is all much appreciated.

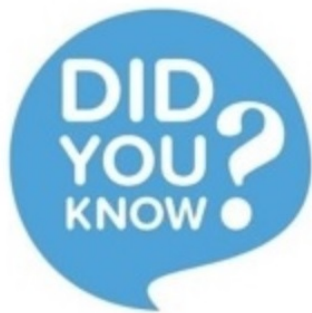
Don't forget to forward Justice Updates onto anyone or let me know their email address and I will subscribe them.

Previous editions are available at <https://www.erc.org.au/newsletters>

**Peace & Blessings**

**Marita**  
**Communications Project Officer,**  
**Marita McInerney**

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that there may be articles in this publication with names and images of deceased people.*



*On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Australian Government will have detained men & women on Nauru & Manus Island/Port Moresby for 2823 days.*



In April 2021 The Human Rights Law Centre releases a Report entitled *'Together in safety: A report on the Australian Government's separation of families seeking safety'*.

**The Executive Summary states:**

*'The Australian Government uses the ties that bind families together - the love that a mother has for her child, a person has for their partner, a brother has for his sister - to try to prevent people from exercising their right to seek safety.'*

#### **Report's Five Recommendations**

*Families thrive when they are together. We call on the Australian government to take these five steps and stop using family separation to punish people seeking safety.*

- *End discrimination against refugees based on how they arrive in Australia:*  
No one should be punished for seeking safety in Australia. No family is less deserving of the right to build their lives together. The same pathway to family reunion must be available to all refugees living in Australia regardless of how they arrive.
- *End offshore processing, to ensure families are never again deliberately torn apart:*  
Today refugee families who have reunited in Australia after separation by offshore detention remain at risk of being torn apart again in future if family members are returned to Nauru or PNG. The offshore processing framework must be dismantled, and all refugees affected should be brought to Australia or a safe third country, to ensure that these families remain together and are never separated between Australia and places of offshore detention in the future.
- *Grant permanent status to long-term temporary visa holders and refugees who are barred from applying for protection visas, to enable family sponsorship:*  
Denying some families the right to ever apply for reunion is both unlawful by international standards and unjustifiably cruel. In addition to barring people from reuniting with their loved ones, short term visas and lack of visa pathways rob people of certainty and prevent them building a long-term future in the community.
- *Stop endless deprioritisation and drastically improve processing times:*  
Family reunion applicants must not be treated as the lowest priority simply because of their mode of arrival. As a start, the Government must replace Direction 80 with a policy that does not separate some Australian residents from their families indefinitely. It must also

reform the processing priorities applicable to the Special Humanitarian Program.

- **Create a new humanitarian family reunion visa stream:**  
The current family reunion pathways are inadequate and plagued by delays, discrimination, insufficient quotas, red tape and hidden costs. Australia needs a new , uncapped humanitarian family reunion visa scheme, available to all refugees regardless of visa status or mode of arrival. This must be a fair, fast and accessible process that reflects and inclusive understanding of 'family'.

**To read full report:**

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/580025f66b8f5b2dabbe4291/t/6082667935d08840b1aaba8/1619158657519/HRLC\\_Together\\_in\\_Safety\\_REPORT.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/580025f66b8f5b2dabbe4291/t/6082667935d08840b1aaba8/1619158657519/HRLC_Together_in_Safety_REPORT.pdf)



NSW MP Linda Burney has called the deaths 'a national emergency'. Picture: NCA NewsWire / Gaye GerardSource:News Corp Australia

## **Inmate in Cessnock Correctional Centre becomes seventh First Nations death in custody in two months**

***Rhiannon Tuffield,news.com.au , 27th April 2021***

***Two Aboriginal people have died in Australian prisons in less than 24 hours, including one man found unresponsive in his cell today.***

Two Aboriginal people have died in Australian prisons in less than 24 hours, as

authorities investigate the circumstances.

A man, 37, died at the Cessnock Correctional Centre on Tuesday morning, after being found unresponsive in his cell about 10am, a Corrective Services NSW spokeswoman confirmed.

“He was found unresponsive in his cell at about 10am before he was pronounced dead at 11.15am,” the spokeswoman said.

“Corrective Services NSW and NSW Police are investigating the incident. All deaths in custody are subject to a coronial inquest.”

The death is the seventh First Nations death in custody in less than two months.

It comes less than a day after another Aboriginal man died at Melbourne’s Port Phillip Prison on Monday night.

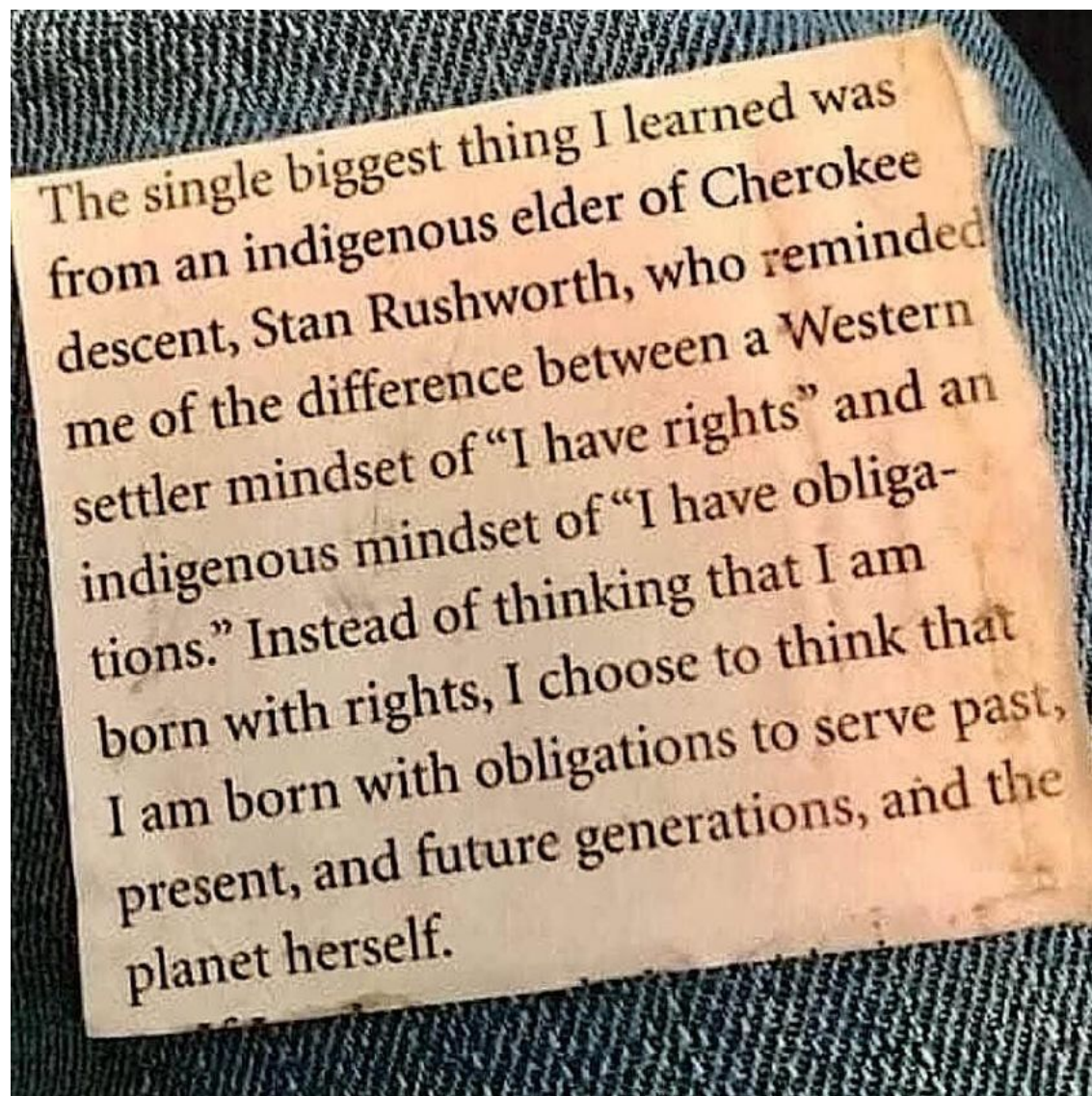
He is believed to have suffered a medical episode.

The deaths this week coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, with more than 475 Aboriginal people dying since the 1991 inquiry.

Read More:

<https://www.news.com.au/national/nsw-act/politics/inmate-in-cessnock-correctional-centre-becomes-seventh-first-nations-death-in-custody-in-two-months/news-story/530e6cf2325759d382476817175757b3>





## **Change constitution for Indigenous: Labor**

***Rebecca Gredley, The Canberra Times, April 27th 2021***

Enshrining an Indigenous voice to parliament in the constitution is a matter of respect, Anthony Albanese says.

The federal Labor leader rejects claims by those opposing the move that it would be a third chamber of parliament.

It would simply ensure Indigenous Australians are consulted on matters that affect them.

"That's just good manners, and it's a matter of respect," Mr Albanese told ABC radio on Tuesday.

Australia must recognise its history did not begin with the first fleet, but extended

back 65,000 years.

"That should be a source of incredible pride, that we have the oldest continuous civilisation right here in our midst," Mr Albanese said.

"We should value that, it should be acknowledged in our national document, our constitution.

"We should enshrine a voice so that First Nations people can have that certainty going forward."

Changing the constitution requires a referendum, and Mr Albanese believes there is broad support for including an Indigenous voice.

He cites the 1967 referendum for inspiration.

Australians overwhelmingly voted on that occasion for changes to the constitution to include Indigenous people in the census and allow the federal government to create laws for them.

Mr Albanese is visiting the Northern Territory in the lead-up to the four year anniversary of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

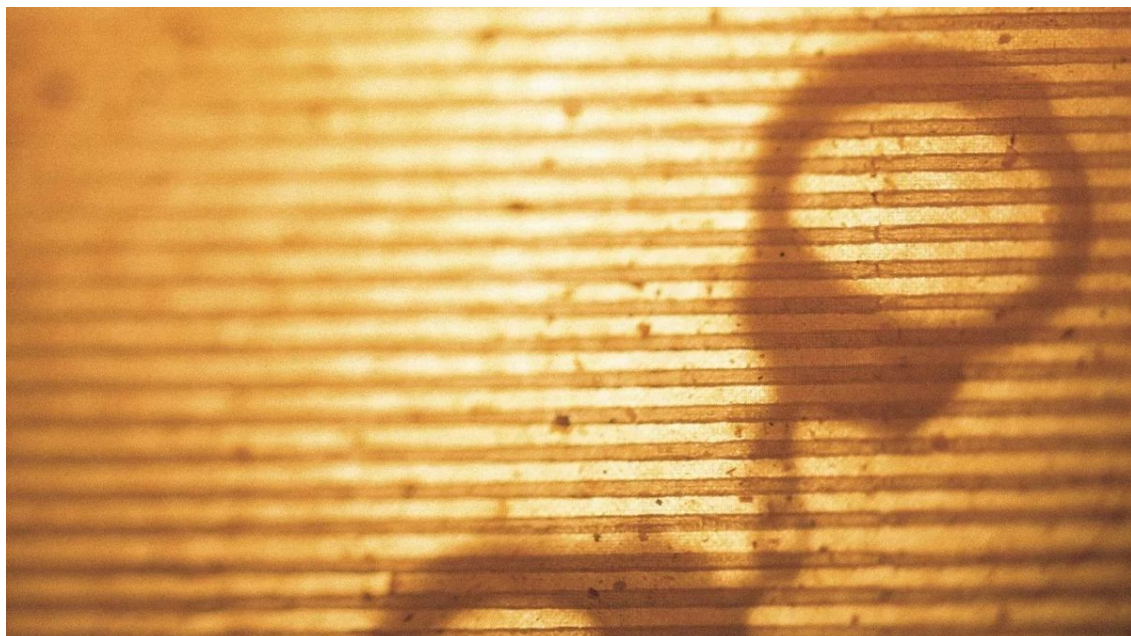
Endorsed by hundreds of Indigenous leaders across the country, the statement called for a constitutionally enshrined Indigenous advisory body and a commission to oversee treaty-making and truth-telling.

The coalition is working on a design for an Indigenous voice to government, which would be consulted on laws but would not be cemented in the constitution.

Read full story:

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/7226738/change-constitution-for-indigenous-labor/?cspt=1619481190%7C2872272c451a6cb083dd08bcca5d476b&fbclid=IwAR1B76xKnAJWPJQ4zZAfoo2Tee6njXdNOPC-8cBtJEle699v8JwPYezPXwY>

BEING ABORIGINAL  
IS NOT A COLOUR  
IT IS A HERITAGE



Locking more children up will not make us safer.

**Children caught in turbo-charged 'tough on crime' politics**

*Meena Singh and Monique Hurley, Brisbane Times, 1st May 2021*

Children should be in playgrounds and classrooms, not locked up behind bars.



Yet Queensland continues to imprison children at alarming and unacceptable rates.

This injustice is compounded by the fact a staggering 99 per cent of the children entering Queensland youth prison are unsentenced and languishing behind bars for behaviour that a court has not yet found them guilty of.

To make matters worse, the Palaszczuk government introduced laws that will see the number of children in pre-trial detention soar higher.

The laws make it harder to get bail in more circumstances than before, making time behind bars the default setting for children in certain cases.

The laws – driven by turbo-charged “tough on crime” politics – are doomed to fail and will only serve to harm the most marginalised children who become caught in the claws of the criminal legal system.

The Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville. Just 19 of the almost 1900 admissions to Queensland youth detention centre admissions in the 2019-20 financial year were sentenced.

The laws will funnel more children into youth prisons and, when those youth prisons reach capacity, the measures will result in more children being warehoused in tiny, cold police watchhouse cells.

Police watchhouses are no place for children. They are designed to hold adults for very short periods of time. Only two years ago, a Four Corners investigation revealed that children as young as 10 had been confined alongside adults in awful conditions, sometimes for weeks on end.

Detaining children in such conditions is not just cruel, it calls into question the Queensland government’s compliance with its own human rights laws.

The children who will be harmed by these laws will be disproportionately Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Due to systemic racism and discriminatory policing, these are children who are already over-represented in prisons. A staggering 70 per cent of children in Queensland’s youth prisons are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Read More:

<https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/politics/queensland/children-caught-in-turbo-charged-tough-on-crime-politics-20210430-p57nrv.html?>



**Let me tell you how they move us**

***Mardin Arvin, Overland, 21st April 2021***

***I am outside of detention, but not outside of grief.***

On Sunday night, we watch the footage from Kangaroo Point Central Hotel, Brisbane: blue plastic gloves on working men's hands, uniformed arms pulling and lifting bodies that beg for the ground. The bodies are men who have been imprisoned in hotels since 2019 under Medevac legislation for asylum seekers in indefinite detention. We see them, face down, torsos and arms and legs grabbed by those blue hands. We can't see their faces, they don't turn to their friend who is filming the relocation to share it with the networks of people against detention. Where are they being taken?

Then on Monday morning come the videos from Brisbane BITA detention centre. I know the sounds, the yelling. Seventeen medevac refugees are being moved by force from BITA detention to Melbourne while someone else films them. The guards confiscate the detainees' mobile phones and handcuff three men. Serco, the police and Australian Border Force know where they are taking these men, but they do not tell them. We, who have been recently released, feel pain for them. We know what it is like to be moved without knowing where you will be taken.

These are men who were brought here from Manus and Nauru prison for medical treatment almost two years ago. They have received little medical treatment, and their physical pain has been compounded by two more years of stolen time and literal torture. To imprison anyone is to torture them. To keep a human from free movement is torture. To keep a person from being able to plan any future at all is torture. This is what indefinite detention is: they tell you only

that you will never be released. To put people into hotels as prisons, and to forcibly relocate them without information or notice is a special kind of torture.

I know, I've lived through this. I've been outside for almost three months now. I still haven't seen the doctor I need.

Let me tell you how they move us. I was moved twelve times while they detained me. Forced relocation within imprisonment is its own act of torture.

I was in one shared room at the Mantra hotel for fifteen months. I was lucky – can you believe I can say that? – because when I was taken there, Serco had recently allowed the prisoners to wind open the awning windows for air. That 10-centimetre space at the bottom of the window brought us the sounds of Bell St traffic and sometimes the voices of protesters calling out to us. Wind could reach us and tell us of outside.

One day, a Serco man came to my room. He held a piece of paper with a list of names printed on it. He knew me, just as I knew all of our guards, and he said 'Hi Mardin, go to the activity room.' All sixty of us detainees were sent to different rooms. Split-second analysis: is there an order here? Why am I in this group and not in another? How was that list ordered – not alphabetically, not by ethnicity. As always, there was no answer. The randomness confounded us.

A uniformed Border Force employee waited in each room.

'You will be transferred to a new hotel very soon.'

Soon? How soon!?

'We don't know.'

Where will we be taken to?

'We don't know.'

When?

'We don't know. We'll tell you to pack when the time comes.'

They decided that we shouldn't know anything. Sent back to our rooms, we didn't talk – we were in shock. Anyway, what was there to say? We couldn't imagine our transfer to Manus, or from Port Moresby to the Mantra Hotel. This was the twelfth time that they were moving me.

Read More:

[https://overland.org.au/2021/04/this-is-how-they-move-us/?fbclid=IwAR25U3rTHBV6k2HnJ8HkiJXYOrxaqjGYNVsLs\\_UG80b8-j3j6xBzyENi6K8](https://overland.org.au/2021/04/this-is-how-they-move-us/?fbclid=IwAR25U3rTHBV6k2HnJ8HkiJXYOrxaqjGYNVsLs_UG80b8-j3j6xBzyENi6K8)



Rosemary brings together people from disparate backgrounds. Fan Force

**‘She beams goodness and light’: Rosemary’s Way is about a hero transforming the lives of migrant and refugee women**

***Kathomi Gatwiri, The Conversation, April 26th 2021***

***Film review: Rosemary’s Way, directed by Ros Horin.***

I love finding myself new heroes. Rosemary Kariuki is an extraordinary change-maker and leader I have recently added to my list. As the 2021 recipient of the Australian of the Year Local Hero award she has been recognised for her strong advocacy and community building among migrant and refugee women in suburban Sydney.

A new film, *Rosemary’s Way*, celebrates her work as a charismatic community worker who has transformed the lives of thousands of women dealing with disconnection, domestic violence and trauma.

The film starts at Rosemary’s house, and in a “typical” African fashion, there is singing, dancing and food. Rosemary uses these familiar cultural symbols to



build friendships and trust within members of the migrant communities she works with.

From isolation to connection

Rosemary arrived in Australia in 1999, after escaping tribal clashes in Kenya following a disputed election. The challenges she experienced as a new migrant were a springboard towards her passion to support others who arrived after her.

Rosemary's various community programs are aimed to reduce the sense of loneliness and isolation which have been cited as some of the biggest factors affecting people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in Australia.

Rosemary's programs bring together migrants and refugees from European, Middle Eastern, South American, African and Asian backgrounds. "She's the mum of everybody!" laughs one woman in the film. Rosemary affirms she is "a great believer in different cultures coming together," to share what's common among them rather than what is different.

One program she organises is the cultural exchange program. In the film we see Rosemary lead a group of migrant and refugee women to country towns in New South Wales where they are hosted by welcoming "local Aussies". It's an opportunity to "get out of the house".

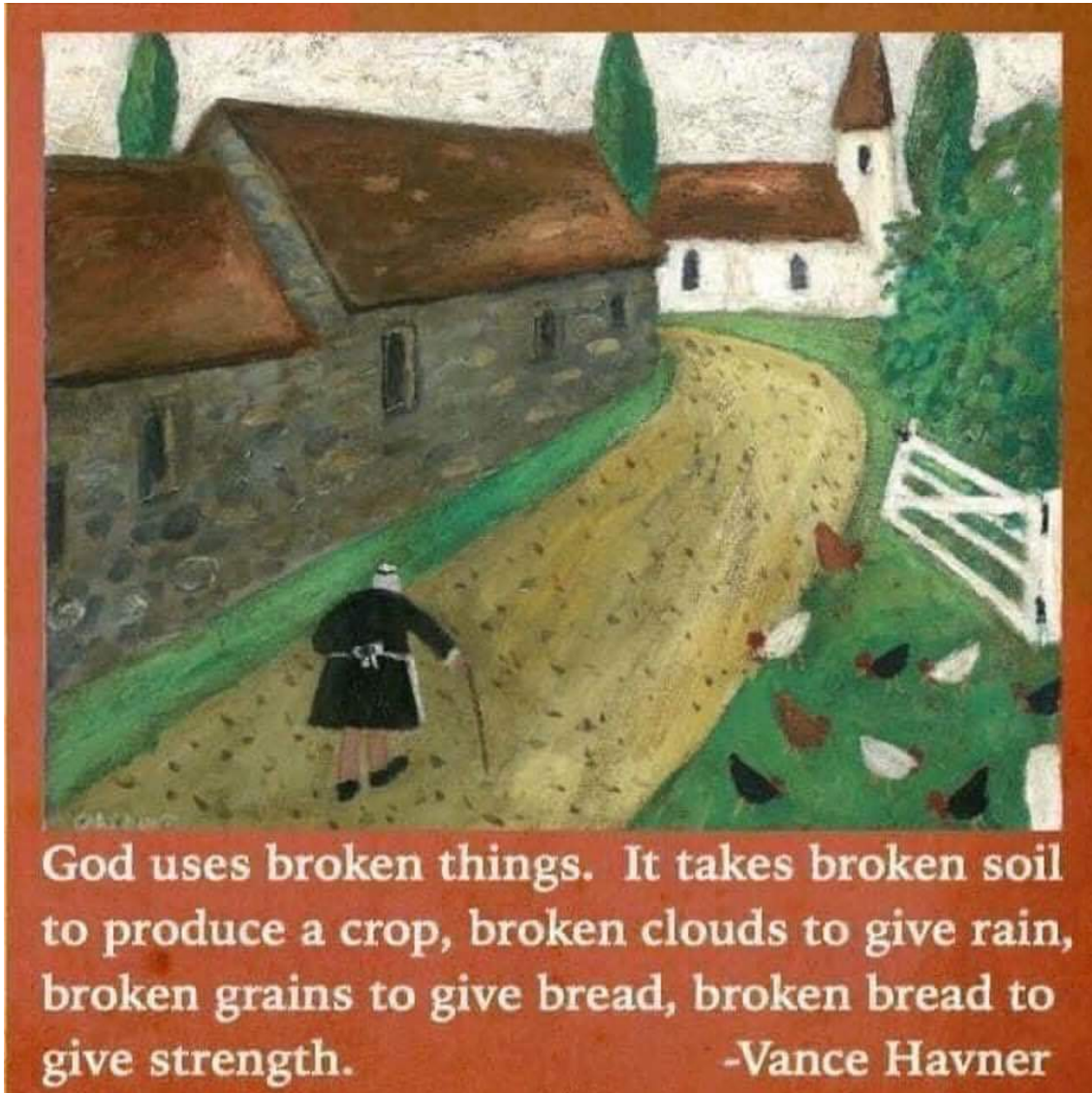
One woman reflects on her experience with the host family as being the "most generous anyone had been to her since she arrived in Australia". Another says she "felt like a celebrity" when the host family brought her "tea on the veranda everyday, because they knew I was a bit depressed".

Such small acts of kindness are experienced as symbols of acceptance. These moments of connection help build relationships that humanise migrants and refugees and foster strong bonds, promoting a sense of well-being and belonging.

Read More:

[https://theconversation.com/she-beams-goodness-and-light-rosemarys-way-is-about-a-hero-transforming-the-lives-of-migrant-and-refugee-women-159124?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929418879&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929418879+CID\\_575ec3232b9f03167148dfcddb5c194f&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor&utm\\_term=She%20beams%20goodness%20and%20light%2](https://theconversation.com/she-beams-goodness-and-light-rosemarys-way-is-about-a-hero-transforming-the-lives-of-migrant-and-refugee-women-159124?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929418879&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2026%202021%20-%201929418879+CID_575ec3232b9f03167148dfcddb5c194f&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=She%20beams%20goodness%20and%20light%2)

[0Rosemarys%20Way%20is%20about%20a%20hero%20transforming%20the%20lives%20of%20migrant%20and%20refugee%20women](#)



India Covid crisis: families' plea for help amid oxygen shortages and mass cremations

## **We are witnessing a crime against humanity': Arundhati Roy on India's Covid catastrophe**

***It's hard to convey the full depth and range of the trauma, the chaos and the indignity that people are being subjected to. Meanwhile, Modi and his allies are telling us not to complain***

***Arundhati Roy, The Guardian 29th April 2021***

During a particularly polarising election campaign in the state of Uttar Pradesh in 2017, India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, waded into the fray to stir things up even further. From a public podium, he accused the state government – which was led by an opposition party – of pandering to the Muslim community by spending more on Muslim graveyards (kabristans) than on Hindu cremation grounds (shamshans). With his customary braying sneer, in which every taunt and barb rises to a high note mid-sentence before it falls away in a menacing echo, he stirred up the crowd. "If a kabristan is built in a village, a shamshan should also be constructed there," he said.

"Shamshan! Shamshan!" the mesmerised, adoring crowd echoed back.

Perhaps he is happy now that the haunting image of the flames rising from the mass funerals in India's cremation grounds is making the front page of international newspapers. And that all the kabristans and shamshans in his country are working properly, in direct proportion to the populations they cater for, and far beyond their capacities.

"Can India, population 1.3 billion, be isolated?" the Washington Post asked rhetorically in a recent editorial about India's unfolding catastrophe and the difficulty of containing new, fast-spreading Covid variants within national borders. "Not easily," it replied. It's unlikely this question was posed in quite the same way when the coronavirus was raging through the UK and Europe just a few months ago. But we in India have little right to take offence, given our prime minister's words at the World Economic Forum in January this year.

Modi spoke at a time when people in Europe and the US were suffering through the peak of the second wave of the pandemic. He had not one word of sympathy to offer, only a long, gloating boast about India's infrastructure and Covid-preparedness. I downloaded the speech because I fear that when history is rewritten by the Modi regime, as it soon will be, it might disappear, or become hard to find. Here are some priceless snippets:

"Friends, I have brought the message of confidence, positivity and hope from

1.3 billion Indians amid these times of apprehension ... It was predicted that India would be the most affected country from corona all over the world. It was said that there would be a tsunami of corona infections in India, somebody said 700-800 million Indians would get infected while others said 2 million Indians would die.”

“Friends, it would not be advisable to judge India’s success with that of another country. In a country which is home to 18% of the world population, that country has saved humanity from a big disaster by containing corona effectively.”

Modi the magician takes a bow for saving humanity by containing the coronavirus effectively. Now that it turns out that he has not contained it, can we complain about being viewed as though we are radioactive? That other countries’ borders are being closed to us and flights are being cancelled? That we’re being sealed in with our virus and our prime minister, along with all the sickness, the anti-science, the hatred and the idiocy that he, his party and its brand of politics represent?

When the first wave of Covid came to India and then subsided last year, the government and its supportive commentariat were triumphant. “India isn’t having a picnic,” tweeted Shekhar Gupta, the editor-in-chief of the online news site the Print. “But our drains aren’t choked with bodies, hospitals aren’t out of beds, nor crematoriums & graveyards out of wood or space. Too good to be true? Bring data if you disagree. Unless you think you’re god.” Leave aside the callous, disrespectful imagery – did we need a god to tell us that most pandemics have a second wave?

This one was predicted, although its virulence has taken even scientists and virologists by surprise. So where is the Covid-specific infrastructure and the “people’s movement” against the virus that Modi boasted about in his speech? Hospital beds are unavailable. Doctors and medical staff are at breaking point. Friends call with stories about wards with no staff and more dead patients than live ones. People are dying in hospital corridors, on roads and in their homes. Crematoriums in Delhi have run out of firewood. The forest department has had to give special permission for the felling of city trees. Desperate people are using whatever kindling they can find. Parks and car parks are being turned into cremation grounds. It’s as if there’s an invisible UFO parked in our skies, sucking the air out of our lungs. An air raid of a kind we’ve never known.

Oxygen is the new currency on India’s morbid new stock exchange. Senior politicians, journalists, lawyers – India’s elite – are on Twitter pleading for hospital beds and oxygen cylinders. The hidden market for cylinders is booming. Oxygen saturation machines and drugs are hard to come by.



Read More:

[https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/apr/28/crime-against-humanity-arundhati-roy-india-covid-catastrophe?utm\\_term=de5f545c37c32a0aea5de511d6c94129&utm\\_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/apr/28/crime-against-humanity-arundhati-roy-india-covid-catastrophe?utm_term=de5f545c37c32a0aea5de511d6c94129&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU_email)



Pacific activists have been urging Japan to halt plans to dump the wastewater in the ocean until consultations and an independent review takes place. Photograph: Supplied

**If it's safe, dump it in Tokyo. We in the Pacific don't want Japan's nuclear wastewater**

***Joey Tau and Talei Luscia Mangioni, The Guardian, 26th April 2021***

***Japan's plans to discharge radioactive wastewater into the Pacific Ocean is a callous act that would do catastrophic harm***

Earlier this month, the Japanese government announced plans to discharge 1m tonnes of radioactive wastewater accruing since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in 2011 into the Pacific Ocean.

To Pacific peoples, who have carried the disproportionate human cost of nuclearism in our region, this is yet another act of catastrophic and irreversible trans-boundary harm that our region has not consented to.

While Japan's plan is for the water to be diluted first and discharged over the course of about 30 years, and the Japanese government has tried its hardest to convince the wider public of the treated water's safety through the use of green mascots and backing from American scientists, Pacific peoples are once again calling it for what it is: an unjust act.

"We need to remind Japan and other nuclear states of our Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific movement slogan: if it is safe, dump it in Tokyo, test it in Paris, and store it in Washington, but keep our Pacific nuclear-free," said Motarilavoa Hilda Lini, Vanuatu stateswoman and veteran activist of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP) movement, after Japan's announcement. "We are people of the ocean, we must stand up and protect it."

Many in the Pacific have lived experience of nuclear harm with the continuing irradiation of our environments, while survivors and their descendants continue to experience harrowing maladies such as lymphatic cancers, thyroid and reproductive health issues.

Since the Hiroshima and Nagasaki detonations in 1945, 315 nuclear tests have been undertaken across the Marshall Islands, Australia, Kiribati and Maohi Nui. All of which were, at the time, described by nuclear nations to be scientifically sound and safe.

Indeed, both Japan and Pacific states share the trauma of nuclear testing. However, the Japanese government has since enthusiastically embraced the nuclear power industry.

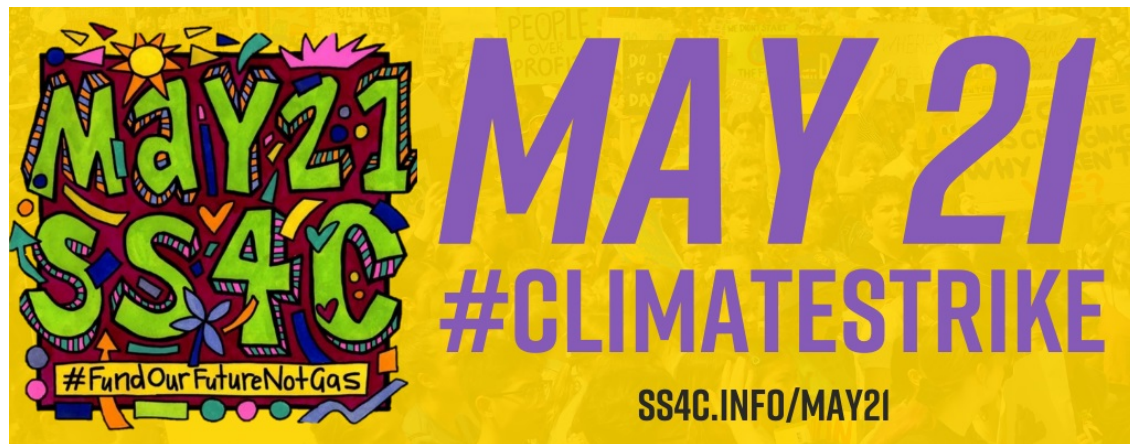
Advertisement

One would think that Japan's proposal to dump nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean is something novel but there is a history of precedent. The shady practice was virtually a global norm in the past for the likes of nuclear nations like Japan, America and Europe. Things came to a head in 1979, when Japan's clandestine proposal to dump nuclear waste in neighbouring Northern Marianas was exposed. Japan severely underestimated a united furore from political leaders, non-governmental groups and grassroots activists from the Northern Marianas, Micronesia and the Pacific.

Read More:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/26/if-its-safe-dump-it-in-tokyo-we->

[in-the-pacific-dont-want-japans-nuclear-wastewater?  
utm\\_term=f9f9b87d6f7ab768ad2fddd5c1c13566&utm\\_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/may/21/school-strike-for-climate-may-21-2021?utm_term=f9f9b87d6f7ab768ad2fddd5c1c13566&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU_email)



## SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE MAY 21ST 2021

*School Strike 4 Climate Australia was started in October 2018 by three teenagers from Castlemaine, inspired by Greta Thunberg's weekly strikes outside Swedish Parliament. Since then, we have grown into one of the biggest movements in Australian history.*

Just over a week ago, world leaders met at a global summit hosted by US president Joe Biden to discuss climate action. While the United States of America and the United Kingdom announced that they were increasing their emissions reductions targets by massive percentages, Scott Morrison once again embarrassed the country by announcing that we were 'leading the world' in emissions reductions by reducing our emissions by 20% based on 2005 levels. In other words, we're sticking with our current weak, inadequate 'targets'.

Scott Morrison says that future generations will "thank us not for what we have promised, but what we deliver. And on that score, Australia can always be relied upon." Mr Morrison, future generations will not thank you for putting our futures at risk by continuing to refuse to take meaningful climate action.

From the unprecedented torrential flooding that we witnessed only a month ago to some of the worst bushfires in Australian history over the 2019-2020 Summer, the country is being impacted by the climate crisis now. But our government is refusing to set targets and making empty, self-serving promises.

Will you join us on May 21 to pressure the government to  
#FundOurFutureNotGas?

The Federal Budget is being delivered in just over a week. It will be devastating, yet unsurprising to see millions of dollars funnelled into the gas



sector. It is irresponsible for Scott Morrison to continue with his current trajectory of a gas-led “recovery”. Here are four reasons why you need to say NO to gas:

- Gas is terrible for the environment. It consists mostly of methane, which is an element over 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Extracting and burning gas will see more extreme weather events such as bushfires, heatwaves, flooding, droughts and cyclones.
- Gas has been resisted by Traditional Owners for years. It is critical that our solutions to the climate crisis guarantee land rights for Traditional Owners and care for country.
- Gas does not create that many jobs. A report from The Australia Institute also found that for every dollar spent, the gas sector is one of the least job intensive industries. The Australian Bureau of Statistics found that only 0.2% of Australian workers are in the gas industry, in comparison to over 11% of Australian workers in the health and education sector. It is critical that big renewable energy projects are supported, which will thus create more jobs and cheaper power.
- Gas is not required as a ‘transition fuel’ to renewable energy. It is not safe given our current trajectory towards 1.5°C and technology has advanced rapidly for the storage of renewable energy.

More details:

[www.schoolstrike4climate.com](http://www.schoolstrike4climate.com)



**PACIFIC ISLANDS CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK - PIKAN**



***Climate targets from U.S. Climate Summit are not ambitious enough to save the Pacific.***

Whilst welcoming the U.S government's step into the right direction of increasing its climate targets, the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network states that the climate commitments are not ambitious enough to save Pacific Island nations from the threat of climate change.

The Summit which was convened by the U.S on the 22nd and 23rd of April as part of the Biden administration's 100-day pledge saw key major economies such as the U.K, Canada, Japan, and the U.S. announcing new climate targets.

"The climate targets announced are not sufficient and are not aligning to what the scientific community as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has been calling for, which is to reduce emissions and limit global warming to 1.50 celsius. The Pacific communities are already knee or waist-deep in experiencing this existential threat and the economic costs alone are already in the billions - a burden that is now being borne by Pacific Island governments and their taxpayers. Our governments are having to dig deeper into their treasury to fund for climate adaptation and loss & damage, which is something the U.S. and other industrialized nations should be doing, and these countries must set up a new window for financing loss and damage", says Lavetanalagi Seru, the Climate Justice Project Officer for the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network.

The UN Environment Programme 2020 Emissions Gap Report warns that the current climate pledges will limit global warming to no less than 3.2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, whilst the NDC Synthesis Report released by the United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate Change had highlighted that the emission reduction ranges to meet the 1.5°C temperature goal should be around 45 per cent lower than current targets. Globally, the top four emitters, China, the USA the EU27 + UK and India contribute 55% of total emissions, while the Group of 20 [G20] accounted for 75% of total emissions.

"The re-engagement of the USA in the global fight against climate change is warmly welcomed. However, the lack of new climate finance commitments coming from the summit is alarming given the urgency of addressing climate change impacts in vulnerable countries in the Pacific. The Pacific countries right now are fighting a battle on two fronts; COVID-19 and climate change, and without urgent and scaled-up support from developed countries such as the USA, Canada, Japan and others, the chances of our economies, surviving really looks bleak. We need the USA and its developed country parties' allies to

step up now and fulfil their obligations as per the Paris Agreement not only in terms of cutting their emissions but also in providing the necessary financial support to vulnerable countries”, says Dr. Jale Samuwai, the Climate Finance Advisor for Oxfam in Pacific.

.....  
.....  
.....  
For more information about the PICAN climate justice program, or about the campaign for an International Court of Justice opinion on climate change and human rights, contact [lavetanalagis.pican@gmail.com](mailto:lavetanalagis.pican@gmail.com) or [lraplili.pican@gmail.com](mailto:lraplili.pican@gmail.com)

Read More:

<https://www.facebook.com/CANPacificIslands/posts/1901845843319581>

## **Australian Government must ban imports made with forced labour: Senate committee to hear**

*Michelle Bennett, [hrlc.org.au](http://hrlc.org.au), 30th April 2021*

Evidence of mass internments, widespread forced labour and other atrocities against Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang provide an urgent case for action by the Australian Government to ensure businesses are not complicit in serious human rights abuses, the Human Rights Law Centre will tell a Senate inquiry today.

“There is credible evidence that products made with Uyghur forced labour, particularly in the apparel sector, are ending up on Australian shelves,” said Freya Dinshaw, a Senior Lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre.

“Australia should immediately move to introduce import controls to ensure that companies are not profiting from these abuses.”

Dinshaw added however that the Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced by Uyghur Forced Labour) Bill 2020, the subject of the inquiry by the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee, should be broadened to target all goods made with forced labour, not just those from China.

“Our response should target the crime, not the country. There are 25 million people trapped in situations of forced labour globally, and almost two-thirds of them are in our region. Each of these people, whether they are trapped on a Thai fishing vessel or in bonded labour in an Indian factory, is being abused. The law shouldn’t single out imports from just one country or region.”

Dinshaw said that countries like the US and Canada had already implemented a global imports ban on forced labour and Australia should do the same.

“The US system enables confiscation of goods where investigations reveal reasonable evidence of forced labour - such as with cotton and tomatoes from Xinjiang - and pushes the onus back onto importers to show their goods are slavery-free. And it works. We’ve seen significant pressure pushed back onto suppliers to lift their game.”

The Human Rights Law Centre has also called on the Federal Government to:

- Establish a special investigations unit within Australian Border Force to enforce the ban;
- Strengthen Australia’s existing modern slavery laws through the addition of penalties for non-compliance and an independent anti-slavery commissioner; and
- Require Australian companies sourcing from high-risk locations like Xinjiang to undertake human rights due diligence to ensure they are not profiting from abuse.

Read More:

[https://www.hrlc.org.au/news/govt-must-ban-imports-made-with-forced-labour-senate?fbclid=IwAR240aeCHD3hOGdUtc7-ipan\\_eWSkWYWNJCho7efXUvq8RTBIEFOXhWC2JA](https://www.hrlc.org.au/news/govt-must-ban-imports-made-with-forced-labour-senate?fbclid=IwAR240aeCHD3hOGdUtc7-ipan_eWSkWYWNJCho7efXUvq8RTBIEFOXhWC2JA)

## **REFLECTIONS**

# *Traveling with the Turtle*

*A Small Group Process in  
Women's Spirituality and Peacemaking*



Cindy Preston-Pile and Irene Woodward

***Pace-e-Bene***

***Daily Non-violence Inspirations***

**Sunday April 25, 2021**

"We make peace with each other as we discover new ways of being together. Using our creative power in our relationships with others expands our vision of what it means to make peace. The power of creativity is that it opens an infinite number of ways to be a peacemaker. How do you use your creative power to make peace in your ordinary, everyday life? How do you create peace, make peace, live peace, be peace?"

—Cindy Pile and Irene Woodward, [Traveling with the Turtle](#)



# I Worried

*Mary Oliver*

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers  
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn  
as it was taught, and if not how shall  
I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,  
can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows  
can do it and I am, well,  
hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,  
am I going to get rheumatism,  
lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing.  
And gave it up. And took my old body  
and went out into the morning,  
and sang.



**Pace-e-Bene**

**Daily Non-violence Inspirations**

**Saturday May 1, 2021**

***"Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change is the experience of love. It is that inherent experience of love that becomes the engine of change."***

**—Richard Rohr**

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia as the traditional owners and custodians of the land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside them for reconciliation and justice. We pay our respects to the Elders; past, present and future. As we take our next step we remember the first footsteps taken on this sacred land.

The Edmund Rice Centre wholeheartedly supports and endorses the  
ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART  
and urges all Australians to get behind this wonderful statement.

**Our mailing address is:**

\*|HTML:LIST\_ADDRESS\_HTML|\* \*|END:IF|\*