

# Humanist Viewpoints

NEWSLETTER OF THE HUMANIST SOCIETY OF NSW INC.



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## Senator Lyn Allison Australian Humanist of the Year 2008



Lyn Allison has been an active member of several Senate Committees, successfully negotiating improvements to legislation as well as additional funding for a number of programs in the areas of environmental protection and education. Senator Allison has been vocal on environmental issues, she chaired the Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts References Committee from 1998 to 2003 during which time the committee conducted ten key environment inquiries and made hundreds of recommendations. She led the Democrats in confronting the Government over its lack of performance in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The findings of inquiries into uranium mining initiated by Senator Allison played a crucial role in the decision not to proceed with Jabiluka Uranium Mine in the heart of Kakadu. Senator Allison is a supporter of the public school system, a non-religious secularist she has spoken against religious instruction and the Howard government's recent chaplaincy funding proposal. In 2005 Senator Allison challenged Brendan Nelson's comments that he would not oppose the teaching of intelligent design. Senator Allison is herself a product of the public school system and has a Bachelor of Education from Melbourne University. Her interest in education has no doubt been influenced by her experience as a teacher and a councillor on the Port Melbourne Council. Senator Allison regularly visits schools around Victoria and continues to lobby the Government for a fairer schools funding framework. Senator Allison's most notable achievements to date include negotiating almost \$1 billion of 'Measures for a Better Environment' programs in 1999, hundreds of amendments to Federal environment and heritage laws and initiating the National Safe Schools Framework to tackle abuse and bullying in schools. Senator Allison has shown a compassionate approach to health affairs, recently drawing attention to health issues affecting indigenous Australians. Senator Lyn Allison was at the forefront of lobbying to remove the Health Minister's veto over RU486, the House of Representatives voted to remove the veto in February 2006. "There are too many Christians in parliament and they don't reflect the makeup of modern Australia". Lyn Allison said in a speech in August 2007. She said that people with very strong religious views were "heavily overrepresented" which lead to distinct differences between the politicians and the wider community on issues such as abortion and reproductive health. She also said that Australians' secular attitude has slowed the importing of US style fundamentalist Christian politics. Senator Allison's respect and understanding of the democratic process, her support of and continual reference to the secular nature of our society, along with her reasoned and clear headed approach in dealing with a wide range of issues shows her to be an exemplary individual and a true Humanist.



Dr. Alan MacPhate (CAHS President) presenting the AHOY 2008 certificate to Sen Lyn Allison at Convention



Bruce Barry entertaining Australian Humanist Dinner guests on Saturday night at Rydges Camperdown



John August (HumSocNSW President), Dr. Affie Adagio (Convenor CAHS Convention), Senator Lyn Allison (AHOY 2008) and Eva Cox (AHOY 1997) panel leader for Sunday's discussion

**HuVAT (Humanist Viewpoints Afternoon Talk) 4pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month**

**13<sup>th</sup> July – Dr. Victor Bien: *Feminism, Humanism and Science***

**10<sup>th</sup> August – No HuVAT because of AGM (Notice to be sent under separate cover)**

**14<sup>th</sup> Sept – Yao Ruiz: *World 13 Moon Mayan Calendar?***

*Opportunity for Humanists to socialise together over refreshments*

**PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY JULY**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE BY THE 1ST OF JULY EVERY YEAR as follows:**

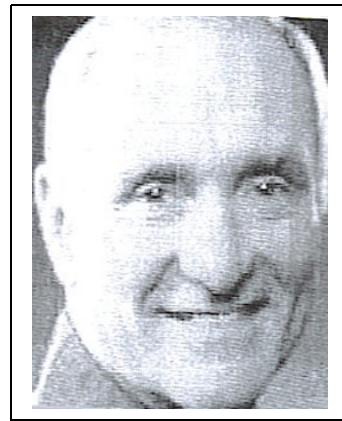
**Single \$30, Double \$40, Pensioner/Student \$15, Viewpoints only \$20**

**Please send to Humanist Society of NSW Inc., 10 Shepherd Street, Chippendale NSW 2008**

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<b>Humanist House Bookings:</b>	David Duffy 4782 1130 (a.m. only)
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<b>"Open Forum"</b>	David Duffy 4782 1130 (a.m. only) 9212 2122 (programme)
<b>Peace &amp; Env:</b>	Ron Leverett 9869 7006
<b>HumSocNSW Chaplains</b>	Joyce Edmonds (Newcastle) Charles Foley (Canberra) James George Vicki Potempa
<b>Philosophy for Children:</b>	Ann Young 9211-1303
<b>Blue Mts. Group</b>	John Dillon 4787 5786 Joan Vaughan-Taylor 4751 4941
<b>Canberra Group</b>	Dierk von Behrens 6254 1763
<b>Newcastle Group:</b>	Jim Bright 4942 5197
<b>House Manager:</b>	Fred Flatow
<b>Humanist Celebrants Network</b>	Charles Foley 6297 9596
<b>Marriage, Naming and Funeral Celebrants:</b>	<b>Double Bay – Fran Gartrell</b> 0414 951 808 <b>Eastern Subs.- Affie Adagio</b> 9214 7529 <b>Newcastle – Joyce Edmonds</b> 4973 2768 <b>Queanbeyan – Charles Foley</b> Humanist Chaplain, Canberra Hospital 6297 9596 <b>Ryde- Susanne Hurst (English, French, Hungarian)</b> 9808 3473 Pam Hollebhone 6553 9383 <b>Warners Bay – William Robb</b> 4956 5020

**OUR PATRON**



**Robyn Williams AM**  
*Australian Humanist of the Year 1993, Member of the Order of Australia 1988, a talented actor, science journalist and broadcaster, Robyn, presents Radio National's Science Show, Ockham's Razor and In Conversation. Robyn has written more than 10 books and received an Honorary Doctorate in Science from the Universities of Sydney, Macquarie and Deakin.*

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LONGEVITY OF THE  
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AND HUMANISM**

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