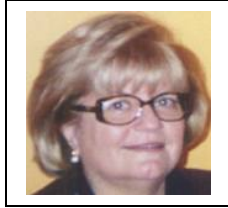


## **EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

*Affie Adagio*

I will be your editor again until another comes forward because Max and Meg Wallace have relinquished their roles. Many thanks to both for their efforts.



By the time you read this edition I will have my PhD in hand. Many thanks to all those who were supportive throughout and have congratulated me on the outcome.

More good news – the takeover bid I warned you about has failed, thanks to your coming together and fighting it at the AGM. Dierk von Behrens was our returning officer and his professional approach was much appreciated. Now, I happily advise you of the Management Committee for the next year.

## **HUMSOCNSW COMMITTEE: 2007-8**

**President:** John August  
**Vice Presidents:** David Duffy  
Ann Young  
**Treasurer:** Victor Bien  
**Hon. Secretary:** Affie Adagio  
**Minutes Sec:** Angela Drury  
**Vpts Editor:** Affie Adagio

**Committee:** Tony D'Angiolillo, Hugh Drewitz, Sturt Duncan, Brian Edwards, Gillian Ellis, Fred Flatow, Noelene George, Harry Giann, Waratah Gillespie, Robin Hall, Ian Jones, Mark Pavic

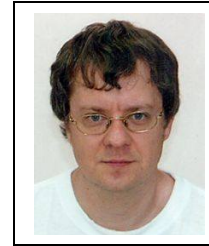
## **CAHS CONVENTION 2008**

The next convention is in Sydney and we are working on having a memorable weekend. As yet we have not finalised the arrangements, so look out for that information in the first Vpts edition in 2008.

## **PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

*John August*

As incoming President, thanks to the support that people have shown me in being willing to vote for me and supporting me after becoming President.



During my campaign it became clear that there are many Humanists who have been members for some time. You rose to the call, and myself and others appreciate it. At the same time, I welcome all recent members.

I have only been a member a few years; I suspect that you, like me, see a need to articulate a secular view - one that emphasises the ability to lead our own lives independently of a belief in God, and while we would grant others the freedom to believe what they will, problems arise when people try to develop laws or impose their religiously based views on others. It is clear that religion's hold on society has become a greater concern in recent years. Several decades ago, it was difficult to become a school teacher if you were an atheist, and access to abortion was illegal. Atheists were discriminated against.

The world has changed - in Australia, atheists are no longer much discriminated against - but new challenges have arisen. New laws, masquerading as "family values" are a religiously inspired intervention in our lives - and when the intervention is not direct, a range of tax benefits and other pressures direct people to lifestyles which the religious irrationally favour. Creationism and irrationality generally are on the increase. Creationists are more politically active, lobbying for everyone to be taught creationism. Creationism being indoctrinated to those in religious schools

is bad enough - but its even worse that it be taught to everyone, including non believers. But this is the push that some believers have at present. There are many other issues - voluntary euthanasia and others, which I can't consider here in any detail.

But, apart from reacting and defending against these threats - the joy we have in knowing who we are and sharing those values with each other - are also important. Not only will we lobby for change - but so too will we share each other's company. Humanists have tried to change the nature of religious and other education in schools, by introducing Humanism or ethics lessons as a replacement to Religious Instructions in Schools. The Queensland Humanists pushed for this recently; it was quashed by the religious lobby, with support from Canberra. Religious instruction has recently become more pernicious with Howard sponsoring religious counsellors in schools.

But, moving to practical matters - the business of Ann and Steve is now behind us, and

The new committee has decided to rescind the previous committee's decision which led to the Special Meeting in August. Therefore, there will be no need for the Special Meeting which had been set for November 2007. Many thanks to those who had participated in the meeting held in August regarding this matter and apologies for any inconvenience caused.

I've communicated with the Rationalists, and they indicate a willingness to financially support activities. Much as I did (and still do, in an abstract fashion), support the idea of a merger, the unfortunate reality is that we are too susceptible to a takeover at present, and it

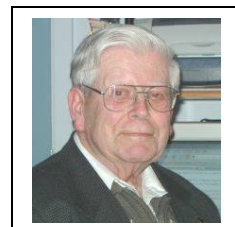
makes sense to (metaphorically) spread our eggs between different baskets.

It is a challenge we need to address. We need to both increase our membership and get to know each other. Compassion is an important foundation, but we don't have to agree on everything - in fact, disagreement is healthy. Then, hopefully the flame of humanism can be passed from the old custodians to the new. At some time in the future, when we can see ourselves as sufficiently cohesive, we might then seek a merger. But we don't need to worry about that in the reasonable future. What we do need to worry about is turning around our financial situation, *doing* things (like Darwin Day, for example), and sharing with our members - though the Newsletter (Vpts), and Humanist Viewpoints Afternoon Talk (HuVAT). These will be the priorities of myself and hopefully the committee.

As President, I want to facilitate activities and support members. I found my previous position in the committee limiting, and it was part of the reason I sought the presidency. But now that I am President, I see my task as helping others along with setting direction - I do not plan to hold tightly to the privileges of President. Let us all look forward to a bright new future !

### **CLIMATE ISSUES**

**From Dick Clifford**  
Last Friday I went to see "A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash".



It is a comprehensive doco which sets out the Peak Oil theory, the history of oil, dramatic pictures of oil wells in Venezuela and other places showing a field of rusting derricks - they were in full capacity in the 70s now abandoned and you realise that all the fields working now will be reduced to

the same putrid condition in 30 - 40 years time. This film is now showing at the Palace, Adelaide and I thoroughly recommend it. It is probably showing in other states but you will have to hurry it may only last a few days. The Saturday Advertiser ran an article on Holden's car losses and I thought about their stupidity in not building economical cars so I wrote the following letter to the Editor. Of course they won't print it, so I am sending it to you. Please pass it on to all your contacts and one to your paper signed by yourself and amended as you feel fit.

====LETTER TO EDITOR====

Industry must Change

The report "Holden blames car launch for losses" - the Advertiser 16 6 07 - gives little assurance that they understand the position. They should instruct a compulsory viewing for management and workers of the film "A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash". (now showing at the Palace)

They should be designing a crash proof electric car supplied with batteries and solar panels to fit on your home roof. 50% of us should be driving them by 2015. They should be combining with the coal and oil industries to create a new battery and fuel-cell industry, invest in Geothermal power and build very large Concentrating Solar Thermal plants using parabolic troughs or power tower arrays with 12 hour heat storage capacity. Heat exchangers and turbines could be integrated with the Geothermal plants. Such a program would ensure full employment. It is said that oil may only last 35 years, less if we go to war, and the price will be prohibitive for most of us before then. By changing over to solar power now, oil will be saved for manufacturing plastics, pharmaceuticals, paints and much else.

**From Victor Gunasekara**

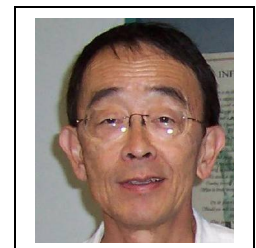
Solar generated electricity and electric cars which Dick Clifford is advocating in his Letter to the Editor are things which are under serious consideration by Governments and Industry even now. The problem is that with existing technology power derived from the sun, wind, waves etc. will not generate enough power to meet even base load let alone in addition power an entire transport system. Unless practical ways of how this can be done are shown merely arguing in the abstract will not be sufficient. Nuclear power is a possible alternative but proving difficult to get past environmental considerations. The long-term solution may lie in fusion not fission technology. But this has not even been demonstrated to be feasible in the laboratory.



Of course if small electric cars become feasible and cost-efficient there will be massive congestion on the roads which will require massive investment on transport infrastructure that will cancel any of the gain made by switching to smaller cars. In a capitalist economy it is consumer demand that will determine the direction of innovation and production. While government regulation can make changes it can rarely bring about a radical change such as has been advocated.

**From Victor Bien**

Sea levels and ice sheets:  
Ray Evans points out that Prof Nils Axel-Morner, head of the Paleogeophysics and Geodynamics Dept Stockholm U and past president of INQUA



Commission on Sea Level Changes and Coastal Evolution debunks sea level claims. Satellite measurements show no change in sea level over the past decade.

Morner and his team did an exhaustive investigation of the claim made by the IPCC that the Maldives in the Indian Ocean are at risk from sea level rise accelerated by AGW (Anthropogenic Global Warming). "What is rarely mentioned is that many of the islands are near the boundaries of the earth's crustal plates whose movement is responsible for their uplift or sinking relative to global mean sea level".

Evans states that melting ice sheets in the arctic should not affect sea level much because the ice is floating in the sea anyway. I thought this was true in the Antarctic not in the Arctic?

Anyway he writes: snow is falling on the Antarctic ice sheet thousands of metres above sea level; satellite observations show the Antarctic ice sheet thickness is roughly in balance; the Greenland ice sheet is thickening.

The computer models:

Evans writes, Reid Bryson, Emeritus prof at the U of Wisconsin wrote, a model is nothing more than a formal statement about how the modeller believes the part of the world of his concern actually works ... it may be years before computer capacity and human knowledge are adequate for reasonable simulation.

This brings flooding back a concern I had back in the 70s when I first came across concerns about rising CO2 and AGW. I remember an article in the New Scientist I think where the author questioned the magnitude of the effect of CO2 (if I remember rightly). When I tried to follow the argument up I essentially got nowhere. There weren't many people interested back then but with someone who was interested the argument was dismissed because some

"computer model" incorporated "all the relevant factors" - hardly a satisfactory answer. The answer had an arrogant "keep out" quality about it. It was an opaque lumpy answer. I knew something about computer models because a couple of fellow PhD colleagues were working with them to model molecular behaviour. When they talked about their work at colloquiums they had to give an account of the details of their models. I never got that sort of detail from the climate modellers.

That personal background makes me inclined to acknowledge to people like Ray Evans that "swifties" can conceivably be pulled by climate change cognescenti motivated by Kuhnian paradigm reasons.

So I have special interest to read and inclination to accept this citation by Evans, "Australia's Bill Kininmonth, director of the National Climate Change Centre from 1986 to 1998 writes, 'The apparent ability of the computer models to simulate the global surface temperatures of the 20th century comes with too many assumptions and shortcomings. Despite the IPCC advocacy, it is not possible to isolate anthropogenic greenhouse gases as the cause (or even the major cause) for the observed warming of the last two and a half decades of the 20th century...' ".

Tropical diseases:

The gist of this section is that the people putting forth this view are not scientists who have worked in this field or one who is only published an obscure article.

Alternative energies:

Evans supports the continued use of coal and when necessary nukes. However, his arguments against solar options are not well informed and not worth mentioning here.

***A JUST AUSTRALIA, OXFAM &  
OXFAM NOVIB:  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

**A price too high: the cost of Australia's approach to asylum seekers** August 2007. The Australian Government's policy of offshore processing of asylum seekers on Nauru, Manus Island and Christmas Island - a research project funded by A Just Australia, Oxfam Australia and Oxfam Novib

Authors: Kazimierz Bem, Nina Field, Nic Maclellan, Sarah Meyer, Tony Morris

**Executive Summary**

In the six years since the Tampa crisis in August 2001, Australian taxpayers have spent more than \$1 billion to process less than 1,700 asylum seekers in offshore locations - or more than half a million dollars per person. Most, if not all, of these asylum seekers have paid a substantial personal toll through poor mental and physical health and wellbeing. There have also been detrimental impacts on Australia's democratic and legal system, Australia's regional relationships and the international system of protection of refugees and asylum seekers.

This report - a joint project of A Just Australia and Oxfam Australia, with support from Oxfam Novib in the Netherlands - analyses the costs of the policy known as the 'Pacific Solution'. It critiques government claims that the policy is an efficient and effective means of achieving refugee protection and immigration control.

The costs examined in the report are human costs, financial costs, cost to Australian rule of law and democratic system, costs to the region and the cost to the international system of protection.

**Human Cost:**

Detainees held in offshore locations often bear the brunt of the policies through

poorer mental health and general well-being, both in the immediate and longer term.

There are also higher costs borne by the broader Australian community as a result of having to integrate people who have been damaged by prolonged isolation in offshore processing centres. Longer processing times in more isolated locations tend to hinder the integration of asylum-seekers when they do finally resettle in Australia, and often cause loss of skills and livelihood opportunities and hence a heavier reliance on community and government care.

Medical studies, figures from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), testimony from staff and former asylum seekers on Nauru all paint a shocking picture of psychological damage for the detainees - including 45 people engaged in a serious hunger strike, multiple incidents of actual self-harm and dozens of detainees suffering from depression and other psychological conditions each year and being treated with anti-depressants or anti-psychotic medication.

In October 2005, Immigration Minister Vanstone agreed that 25 of the remaining 27 detainees on Nauru should be brought to Australia 'on the expert advice of health professionals because of serious mental health concerns.' The fact that their detention on Nauru had caused mental health problems was recognised to a limited degree by the Australian Government when it requested the Red Cross to deliver six weeks of initial settlement support including casework, information and referral, assistance with housing and referral to mental health support as required.

A lack of hospital infrastructure and a lack of timely access to adequate physical health care saw at least 40 people airlifted

to Australia from Nauru for medical treatment. A 26-year old asylum seeker with no known physical or mental health problems died on Nauru in August 2002.

The detention of over 1,500 asylum seekers on Nauru has placed extra burdens on a community of only 10,000 people that was already facing major economic and political problems. The hunger strike on Nauru in December 2003 placed unacceptable burdens on Nauru's health system and medical staff. Similarly, the small Christmas Island community of 1,200 could not meet the complex physical and mental health needs of asylum seekers, nor did it have adequate resources to provide community detention and other services to the detainees.

This section also documents the long delays in resettling people found to be refugees, with case studies of Palestinian Aladdin Sisalem in Papua New Guinea, and two Iraqis Mohammed Sagar and Muhammad Faisal on Nauru. The majority of detainees have spent two years on Nauru, with a smaller number being held for up to six years. As one Iraqi refugee told the authors: Two years? It was 2,000 years. Every moment was like a year.

#### **Financial Cost:**

Offshore processing in Nauru, Manus Island and Christmas Island has amounted to **at least \$1 billion** since 2001. By comparison, the latest estimates from DIAC suggest that to process 1,700 asylum seekers for 90 days each at Villawood detention centre in Sydney would have cost around \$35 million - around 3.5 per cent of the cost of processing them offshore.

## **LIVING WITH THE INVADER**

Gordon Frederick Syron

[Paper Presented at National Museum, Canberra, - a 20 minute paper with questions and answers: 6 Jul 2007 to Forum 70% Urban.]



*Forum: Who you calling Urban?  
I wish to discuss why Aboriginal People  
are angry?*

The Australian people have taken so much culture from us, Aboriginal people that soon there will be none left to take. Howard refuses to say *sorry* because he is not genuinely *sorry*. He and his government have been sitting on 12 long years of reports. All Howard cares about is getting control *over all aboriginal land*. Do you think that Bennelong was angry? Yes, he was angry and they didn't even tell him that they were going to take all the *land* and then in the year of 1967, well the Australian people voted to make him a citizen in his own *land*. Aboriginal people get shuffled to the bottom of the deck all the time. Why can't there be an Aboriginal statue by an Aboriginal sculptor near Bennelong Point, say in Elizabeth Bay Park which is being re-developed right now?

I saw books for sale at auctions that tell a different history to the one taught to me at school. Why can't these early books be in a whole library in every school? They tell about the way the *land* was taken and the severe and horrible way that Aboriginal people were treated. Unless people know the truth about Terra Nullius and the settlement of this continent by modern man, they will never change their stereo-

typed views. This early history needs to be available to Aboriginal people and Australians generally so that we can fit into this urban society and feel good about our history. I had a dream that I did not have to sell my paintings so cheap to collectors, to gallery owners, to the white boss.

JUDGEMENT BY HIS PEERS is "The Real Australian Story". I painted this in 1978 while serving a life sentence in prison. I believe I would not have been sentenced at all, had I been judged by an Aboriginal jury. In British law each man is judged by his "peers". When I asked to have one or more Aboriginal people on the jury well one lawyer said, I wasn't black enough to be black, and another lawyer said, I wasn't white enough to be white. This was so disrespectful to my family, especially to my 2 Aboriginal Grandmothers. So now when someone says to me, "You don't look white, or you don't look black", I just say **"are you calling me a half a WOG, are you??"** JUDGEMENT BY HIS PEERS, oil on canvas, painted in year 1978 is for sale now on my Web Site. I had a dream to keep my best paintings, then somehow I couldn't stand to sell other Black Fella's paintings cheaply in my gallery and I tried to keep the best of their work and it turned into Black Fella's Dreaming Museum. The name is Black Fella's Dreaming = one Black fella, me. It was my dream.

Well my gallery and my museum was a financial failure.

So now I am selling the most precious artwork of my museum: JUDGEMENT BY HIS PEERS. In 1995, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Robert Tickner called JUDGEMENT BY HIS PEERS, a national icon

I have this in writing. I need a studio, a place to paint, I need to pass on my dreams

to the next generation, to fight for our basic rights to have our true history told, to have a free-standing museum, with real history books and artworks that has a lot of Aboriginal curators, Aboriginal storytellers, Aboriginal dancers and Aboriginal security guards, and a whole lot of trainees coming through graduating from our programs, a job for every Aboriginal that wants a job.

If the Iraq War never happened well think how much money could have been put into supporting the arts in this country.

If I am successful and sell JUDGEMENT BY HIS PEERS then I will create an Artists & Writers Retreat out of my home and large shed on 10 acres on Magnetic Island, Qld. Artists and writers need support so it will not just be for Aboriginal people, so it will be multi-cultural.

I hope it will be a place where Aboriginal people can have a lot of jobs and be able to exchange ideas and techniques. Where we can have a bush boxing ring, and families are welcome. Magnetic Island is the next island to Palm Island. Some of my paintings are about Redfern, a link from the country to the city. Redfern is a stepping-stone for THE DREAMING MAN, about an Aboriginal man that comes to Redfern "the big Smoke" from the bush to look for a job. He is surprised that Redfern is not as nice as the place he is from and there are no jobs, no money to get back home. His chances of being stranded, on alcohol, drugs or the police is great. He dreams of London or New York. But most of all he dreams of home. He is stuck and cannot get anywhere.

Well that is me, a self-portrait except now I have been invited to exhibit my paintings in Paris in Sept - and in Dubai in Oct. of this year, 2007.

I paint about Aboriginal history and the black/white relationship. What causes

Aboriginal Deaths in Custody? Why are the jails full of Aboriginal men and women? Why are Aboriginal people so angry? Some jails are more than 50% Aboriginal, yet Aboriginals are only 1 or 2% of the population.

Through my paintbrush, I can tell stories.  
Titles like:

*The poisoning of the waterholes of Australia*

*Living conditions*

*It's a white man's world  
Eveleigh st I, II, III*

*The gender of god*

*The death of Nita Blankett*

*Protest at old Parliament House*

*The black bastards are coming*

*A toast to the federation 2000*

*The successful taking of the land by Queen Elizabeth & prime minister Howard  
where the wildflowers once grew*

*Here comes the judge*

*Aboriginal fairies for Aboriginal kids*

*Summer dreaming*

The 2 paintings of mine at the Beijing Olympics are titled *Terror nullius & Invasion day*

I paint portraits of the Emu. The Emu is very special to Aboriginal people. I found Bill Harney, an Aboriginal author and storyteller in Katharine, Northern Territory and he told me about other names Aboriginal people call Emus. One was *featherfoot* and I also remember my Grandmother's stories about the *featherfoot*. It was about an emu that could

change and was very clever like a *cleverfoot*. These emus carried messages and warnings. Gadachi Men are very wise and cover their tracks. They wear emu feathers on their feet. The male emu sits on the eggs and then raises the young while the female goes off to breed again. In times of drought they drop their eggs and do not hatch them.

The emu has been pushed back away from where the urban centres are just like the Aboriginal people. The emus had to live and survive with the invader. ...I just don't paint dots and I don't feel comfortable with it. My paintings are urban or contemporary as they tell the true stories what is happening and what I remember about the past. As an Aboriginal artist, I feel a responsibility to paint the truth and these paintings reflect the society I live in. LIVING WITH THE INVADER is an urban problem that Aboriginal people had to deal with and cope with. LIVING WITH THE INVADER is now, living with turning on the news and listening to our Prime Minister invading our Aboriginal communities. Every time I listen to the news I feel like re-writing this speech. LIVING WITH THE INVADER is something that all of Australia needs to come to grips with. We still have a long way to go. Urban Aboriginal Artists are at the forefront to expose the continuing plan to usurp our culture, to take our *land*. So hopefully through our *art* then *our stories* and our *voices* will be heard. Thank you for inviting me and listening to me.

#### **IHEU NEWS**

This is a monthly update of news from **International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU)**. You can find the full versions of these news on the IHEU website.

**IHEU appeals to UN again: condemn calls to kill in the name of god.** IHEU has



appealed to the United Nations Council on Human Rights, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN High Commissioner Louise Arbour to condemn calls to kill in the name of god

**Humanism provides alternatives for scavengers in India.** IHEU member organization Social Development Foundation (SDF) held a Humanist workshop at Ghazipur, India with the Dalit community on 15 and 16 of August 2007. SDF's project in Ghazipur has provided education and training for over 60 girls who would otherwise have been condemned to a lifetime of demeaning manual scavenging. SDF's director, V B Rawat writes: "The issues we discussed included inculcating the spirit of critical analysis in our life, Humanism, rationalism and how we can use these practices in improving our life. We honoured the girls who were part of our scholarship scheme as well as learning computer skills and sewing at our centre."

**Creationists censor blogs in Turkey.** In the August 2007 International Humanist News, Taner Edis wrote about creationism in the Islamic world and in particular "Harun Yahya". Now we hear that the man behind the Yahya franchise has obtained a legal block on Internet access to all Wordpress blogs from Turkey. (However, a number of technical workarounds have been suggested.)

**Taslina Nasreen attacked in Hyderabad, India.** Bangladeshi writer-in-exile Taslina Nasreen was attacked at the Hyderabad Press Club today (Babu Gogineni reports), where she was launching the Telegu translation of her book Shodh ("Getting Even"). The attackers were members of the radical political group Majlis Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (MIM), led by three elected members of the Legislative Assembly. She responded, "Come what may, I will never be silenced." Both missiles and obscene

threats were launched against Taslima, but fortunately she was not injured as the attackers were unable to get very close to her. The Humanist activist Dr Innaiah was injured on the face by objects thrown by the protesters: they were throwing whatever they could lay their hands on, including flower bouquets, handbags and other items. They were even picking up chairs to threaten Taslima.

**Dalits, Humanism and Human Sacrifice**  
In the latest article in his series The Human Angle, Babu Gogineni reports from Suryapet, India on a leadership training camp for Dalits and alarming talk of human sacrifice in rural India. In his illustrated article, he brings news from the front line of the war against superstition and charlatans.

International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) is the world umbrella organisation for humanist, ethical culture, rationalist, secularist and freethought groups. Based in London, it is an international NGO with Special Consultative Status with the UN (New York, Geneva, Vienna), General Consultative Status at UNICEF (New York) and the Council of Europe (Strasbourg), and it maintains operational relations with UNESCO (Paris). Its mission is to build and represent the global Humanist movement, to defend human rights and to promote humanist values world-wide. IHEU sponsors and runs the triennial Humanist World Congress. Forward this message to a friend, - to sign up for IHEU newsletters, or to read more about these articles please visit <http://www.iheu.org/newsletter>

***A MESSAGE FROM MALCOLM FRASER, FORMER PRIME MINISTER of AUSTRALIA***

*Relayed by Dorothy Buckland-Fuller*

Dear GetUp Members,  
The situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate with more loss of lives, with

even more hardship to Iraqi civilians. The serious divisions within Iraq, unleashed by the war itself, have not been reduced. The Iraqi government has made no significant steps towards reconciliation and accommodation between the warring parties.

**This is a situation that cannot be controlled by military force.** The troop surge, such as it was, failed. There were over half a million Americans in Vietnam. They failed. With only a fraction of that number in Iraq it should be no surprise that continued reliance on military means is not succeeding. More and more Americans are coming to accept that withdrawal must take place. Senior and highly respected Republican Senators are deserting President Bush on this issue.

**The original objectives are almost entirely forgotten.** There is no talk of Iraq establishing a benign, American style democracy that will spread to the rest of the Middle East.

**Our withdrawal must be carefully planned,** as a precipitous withdrawal in a week or a month would add to the chaos. And as the Baker-Hamilton Committee reported to Congress, all regional players, including Iran and Syria, must be drawn into discussions before we leave. Diplomacy now offers the only chance of a withdrawal accompanied by relative calm and peace. **One of the things we should say to the Americans, quite simply, is that if the United States is not prepared to involve itself in high level diplomacy concerning Iraq and other Middle East questions, our forces will be withdrawn before Christmas.** I encourage you to support GetUp's campaign for a change in policy. Add your voice below to the thousands who have spoken already. **If enough speak, the Government has to listen.**

<https://www.getup.org.au/campaign/OurOvnPlanForIraq>

## MEMBER NEWS

Angela Drury

**Great Fundraiser:** Thank you to all who have purchased “*Off my Shoulders*”, the Vicky Potempa autobiography. Copies still available from Humanist House for \$35.



A great fundraiser for the Humanist Society of NSW. We thank Vicky for her donation and for her fascinating story.

**New Members:** A warm welcome to Robin Holliday, Marcus Butler, Robert Henry and Margaret McNiven, Colin Lamerton, Dean Hainsworth, Peter Campbell, Rebecca Murray, John Mckenna, Scott Mullins and Karl Lehman.

**Generous Donations:** Sincere thanks to these responses to our special appeal letter: Max and Meg Wallace, Fred Flatow, Lorraine Crane, Michael J Shegog, John Dillon, H. Grifiin, Angela Jones, Joan Vaughan-Taylor, Barry Barnett, Vincent Phelan, Alice Volans, David & Elva Blair, Lyne Harsanyi, John Wilkes, B. Beiboer, Trynte Bostick, Lola Archer, Corbett & Helen Shaw, Fiona Galbraith, Mollie Campbell, Joy Edmonds, F. Diehl, Geoff Stowell, Susan Molesworth, Dierk & Rosemarie von Behrens, Brendan Kavanagh, David Jenkins, Alistair Emmett and non member John Goldbaum (**Secular Party**). This was a magnificent response which raised a total of \$3520 to date for Humanist Society funds and projects.

**Farewell to Stanley Badcock.** Heather London, his step daughter, writes “it is with deepest regret that I must inform you of the passing of Mr Stanley Herbert Badcock on 16/5/07. he was a long standing member of your society and an avid believer.” We have sent her a message of sympathy from the Society.