



Photo: Orford Tas (Colin Etter). Sadly, the tree has been cut down.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

This is the 17th annual report of Civil Liberties Australia Inc, registered association no. A04043, trading as and known as Civil Liberties Australia, or CLA. This annual report covers the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Registered office and register of members:

The registered office of CLA is 51 Ardlethan Street Fisher ACT 2611, where the register of members is kept. The public officer is Bill Rowlings of that address. Further information about CLA and its activities, including its Constitution, policies and its office-bearers, is available at: www.cla.asn.au (see *About CLA*)



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Office-bearers:

Dr Kristine Klugman	President
Timothy Vines	Vice-President
Bill Rowlings	CEO/Secretary
Sam Tierney	Treasurer
Frank Cassidy	Director
Richard Griggs	Director
Rajan Venkataraman	Director
Mark Jarratt	Director
Jennifer Ashton	Director
Margaret Howkins	Director
Eloise McLean	Director

Highlights

Objectives for 2018:

- People's liberties and rights in aged care
- Justice/legal system reform in Australia; Carry Better Justice campaign forward
- Campaign for more Human Rights Acts; Right To Appeal laws
- Improve CLA's own electronic capabilities
- Publish 'Civil Liberties in Australia' online

One of the most pleasing aspects of 2018 was that involvement of members in CLA work increased considerably throughout the year. More members contributed to submissions, more members provided ideas and suggestions in response to requests in the monthly CLArion newsletter, and we began a section in the newsletter which ran member's letters above the 'CLA Report' for the month.

In taking the initiative to consult members more frequently, a decision of the February 2018 Board meeting reflected the Directors wanting to get 'on the front foot', both internally and externally. Often – in fact most of the time – we are forced to respond to the active agenda-setting of politicians, police, bureaucrats and the media. In a perfect world, we would set the agenda at least a quarter of the time.

The CLA 10-year Better Justice program, launched in 2016, was a bold attempt along those lines. Sometimes, it's harder to maintain the effort on an "old" program when new problems are consistently popping up which need a response. However, we are keeping the Better Justice program simmering, as our Australia Day letters showed.

Australia Day letters 2018:

Judges: We asked the federal Attorney-General what he planned to do to improve the quality of judicial practice in Australia. We pointed out that CLA's 10-point, 10-year Better Justice project, under the heading 'Quality', states a national aim should be to introduce mandatory extra qualification training for magistrates and judges, at least equal to a Graduate Diploma or, for higher courts, a Masters degree. We received a wishy-washy reply saying that judicial training already exists. It does, but it's not mandatory, and comes nowhere near the standard of a Graduate Diploma, Masters or PhD, which magistrates and judges – eventually – should have. Sometime in the next 50 years they must.

Parliamentary Committees: We highlighted to the Presiding Officers (President of the Senate, Speaker of the House) that the entire committee structure and processes of federal parliament needs a thorough review and overhaul. We proposed that they engaged the Productivity Commission for a year to produce a full report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the committee process. The 'dead bat' response was that Civil Liberties Australia Inc, A04043

outside bodies could not evaluate Parliament (we knew that: it was the process we wanted evaluated, just like you might evaluate how effectively local council committees were working). This is an important issue for the long term, which we will keep plugging away on.

The parliamentary committee system can be powerful, but one problem with it, for example, is that governments have just plain stopped responding to the committee recommendations, as they used to have a responsibility to do. Also, there are too many committees: 66 current committees, holding 111 current inquiries as at February 2019. Senators and Members do not have the time to meet this demand in the way they should, and the way they would like to.

The two Australia Day letters in 2018 were large contributors to our ongoing efforts for justice/legal system reform, one of the main objectives for the year.

DFAT-NGO forums

The annual forum with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is one of the main ways civil society organisations can provide input to government deliberations before policy is finalised. CLA has been attending these forums for 15 years, and has made strong contributions in the past, drawing on the experience of the President, Dr Kristine Klugman, and in later years Director Jennifer Ashton, who has decades of experience in the migration field as a UN officer.

During 2018, we started to transition Elly McLean into being a representative for CLA to this important gathering by her attendance as an observer.



Above: Director Jennifer Ashton (left, President Kristine Klugman and (then future) Director Elly McLean get ready for a special DFAT-NGO forum on Iran in 2018. Jennifer is our refugee issues expert, and Elly brings links to uni students, particularly law and from ANU, to the Board.

In the past two years, the quality of the forums has declined. They were becoming more one way, outgoing communications from the department, rather than being two-way informing and listening exercises. CLA President wrote to the Secretary of DFAT, Frances Adamson, to point out the dangers of allowing the forum's quality input from NGOs to slip. We hope that forums from early 2019 will revert to their customary quality and usefulness.

Human Rights Acts

A federal Bill of Rights is currently highly unlikely as the ruling party's policy is dead set against having one. For that reason, CLA has been concentrating for years on encouraging states and territories to bring in their own BoRs to supplement

those of the ACT and Victoria. In Tasmania, CLA is the clear leader of the movement (see 'Tasmania'). There are also positive prospects in WA and, particularly, in Queensland, where a Bill was introduced to state parliament late in 2018, with a committee inquiry (to which CLA contributed a submission) also held. It is likely Australia will get its third BoR in 2019.

Right to Appeal

'Right to Appeal' is shorthand for an amendment to the law which allows people convicted of major crimes to get another chance of appeal if they can show 'fresh' and 'compelling' evidence that their conviction was wrong. South Australia introduced the law in 2013, and CLA was instrumental in having it 'mirrored' in Tasmania in 2015. In SA, Henry Keogh has been freed from jail under 'Right to Appeal' after 19 years of wrongful imprisonment; further cases in SA are in train.

CLA is hoping that Sue Neill-Fraser (a CLA member), whom we believe was wrongfully convicted of murdering her husband Bob Chappell on Australia Day night 2009, will be freed under 'Right to Appeal' in 2019. A judge is due to decide in early 2019 whether she can have a full appeal before three Supreme Court judges: this initial appeal phase has dragged over two years, as a classic example of 'justice delayed'.

As with the Bill of Rights, we are working nationally to extend the reach of 'Right to Appeal' law. There are strong prospects for it to be introduced into WA, Victoria and the ACT, where it must be brought before cabinet in 2019 as part of a shared government agreement between the jointly ruling Labor Party and The Greens. In Queensland, the Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath has promised by letter to CLA that the issue would be seriously considered in that state once their Bill of Rights had been finalised, which was imminent at year's end.

Regulations

In late 2018, the Board decided to add 'Regulation Reform' as a second prime focus to the existing 'Better Justice' 10-year program.

While laws govern us all, regulations more frequently impact, and sometimes in a major way, on our civil liberties and, sometimes, lives. For example, the June 2017 Grenfell Tower fire in London killed more than 70 people. People died because of two different regulations, one not adhered to, the other followed to the letter. The building cladding did not meet building regulations, which is why the fire engulfed the building so quickly. Fire brigade 'standard policy' was to tell people to stay put in high-rise fires, but that 'regulatory' advice has now been abandoned for another 100 similar buildings in London.

Likewise in Australia, the Opal Tower building in Sydney appears to have failed due to building regulations not being followed properly. To some extent, it is easier to monitor building rules than it is other types of regulations. For exam-

ple, what if a government is not enforcing the rules about security company employees: if one company can therefore employ cheaper labour, another company is disadvantaged in tendering for contracts.

Equally, there are serious civil liberties and equity questions about some of the most stringent 'rules' in Australia: Army Regulations. There are about 45,000 personnel in the Army, with about 7000 officers. When the Army Regs are revised every few years, the officers are consulted about the changes...but the troops are not. Doesn't seem like a fair go.

Aged care

We continue to monitor the aged care developments, but the announcement of a Royal Commission has meant that the problems that we had intended to bring to public notice will now get a thorough formal investigation.

Electronic capabilities

The Treasurer's and Webmaster's reports outline the progress made in 2018. During the year, we investigated options for a major database/member system change in 2019, which we expect to implement by the middle of that year.

Publish 'Civil Liberties in Australia' online

This project is proceeding steadily. There are now nine chapters online – <https://www.cla.asn.au/News/history-of-civil-liberties-in-australia/> – and the remaining four chapters are expected to be posted online in 2019. They are: Queensland, WA, Attempts to Form A National Body, and Conclusion.

Submissions, etc:

We were responsible for a total of 35 submissions, influential letters or attendance at hearings and key meetings during 2018.

We concentrated on the national parliament and national issues raised in parliamentary hearings. As well, in the states and territories, we looked usually to make submissions on matters with more than local significance. For example, debates about bail reform, religious freedom, organised crime laws and police body-worn cameras which arose first in Tasmania will be repeated throughout Australia.

When we make a submission to one jurisdiction, when we can we copy it to the appropriate people in other jurisdictions to get on the front foot in the debate when the matter arises there. For example, we might copy a submission to the AGs, the relevant committee chairman of other parliaments, the libraries or the departmental officers, usually from the Justice Department, with the relevant responsibility.

The spread of activities in 2018 was: Federal 20; Tasmania 6; Queensland 3; WA 3; ACT 2; NT 1. We try to NOT get bogged down on making too many federal submissions, as they are inevitably reactive: however, in some instances, such

as when other liberties/rights groups are unlikely to put in a submission, we make sure CLA does.

In relation to Queensland, Director Rajan Venkataraman has built a strong relationship with the Law School of Qld University, whose students have prepared excellent submissions in conjunction with CLA. He is in the process of exploring similar relationships with unis in other jurisdictions.

In the list below, if a state/territory is NOT identified, the submission/activity was federal/Commonwealth.

Rajan manages CLA's submissions program, with all subs being presented under the signature of President Dr Kristine Klugman. The people in brackets in the list below are those who had most to do with preparing the particular presentation. However, in many cases there was input from other CLA members and, in particular, from other Directors, some of whom it is prudent not to name in some circumstances.

January 2018

Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform Bill 2017, Joint Standing Cttee on Electoral Matters (Klugman/Rowlings);
Bail Reform, Department of Justice **TAS**, (Venkataraman, Griggs);

February 2018

Quality of Residential Aged Care Facilities, Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport (Klugman/Rowlings);
Termination of Pregnancy laws, Queensland Law Reform Commission, **QLD** (Venkataraman);
Religious Freedom, Expert Panel on Religious Freedom PLUS Attendance at hearing, Expert Panel on Religious Freedom, **TAS** (Venkataraman);

Model Litigant Obligations Bill 2017, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (Rowlings);

March 2018

Letter, Right to Appeal, Attorney-General, **QLD** (Pro Bono Centre UQ/Venkataraman);
End of Life Choices in the ACT, Select Committee Inquiry on End of Life Choices, **ACT** (Klugman/Rowlings);
Identity-matching Services Bill 2018 (Vines);
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (Rowlings and others);

Organised Criminal Gang legislation, Dept of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, **TAS** (Venkataraman, Rowlings);

May 2018

Body worn cameras: submission commenting on Tasmania Police draft policy and guidelines, Strategic Review by Tasmania Police, **TAS** (Griggs);

June 2018

Extended formal interview, Proceeds of Crime laws (several states and federal), Uni of WA researchers, **WA** (Rowlings);
Independent accountability of police, Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, **WA** (Howkins, Rowlings);
Hearing, Parl. House, Religious Freedom, Human Rights Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Klugman, McLean, Rowlings);
Meeting, Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture implementation (inspection of prisons and detention facilities), Australian Human Rights Comm. (Venkataraman);

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Hearing, Judiciary Amendment (Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations) Bill 2017: Appeared (by telephone) before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee sitting in Sydney (Klugman and Rowlings);

Hearing, Inquiry into the human right to freedom of religion or belief: before the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Klugman, Rowlings and McLean);

Police Offences Amendment (Prohibited Insignia) Bill 2018: submission to the Tasmanian Minister for Police on the government position paper, **TAS** (Griggs);

Open Government: submission to the public consultation on the Second National Action Plan (Klugman);

July 2018

Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill 2018: submission to the Senate Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee (Venkataraman and Rowlings);

Independent Review of the Australian Public Service: submission to the Independent Review (Rowlings);

Meeting, CLA Directors met with new Tasmanian Attorney-General Elise Archer, **TAS** (Griggs and Venkataraman);

Modern Slavery Bill 2018: Submission Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Legislation Cttee, (Felicity Gerry QC);

Unexplained Wealth Review – Crime (Confiscation of Profits) Act: Sub to the Tasmanian Dept of Justice (Venkataraman);

Defence Amendment (Call Out of the Australian Defence Force) Bill: Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (Rowlings and others);

August 2018

Australia-Iran Human Rights Dialogue: Submission to DFAT (McLean);

Royal Commission into the Financial Sector, Model Litigant Obligations proposal (Rowlings);

September 2018

Inquiry into the Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2018, **ACT** (McLean);

Photo: Klugman and McLean (rear) with ACT MLAs Bec Cody and Elizabeth Lee at the Consent hearing.



October 2018

Review Panel of the Identity Information “consultation” by Minister Dutton and Home Affairs Department, (Rowlings, Vines);

November 2018

Inquiry into legislative exemptions that allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers and staff, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (Venkataraman);

Queensland Human Rights Bill 2018, QLD (Griggs);

Independent (Wayne Martin) review of the WA Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000, **WA** (Coten);

December 2018

NT Parliament Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee inquiry into retirement age of judges and magistrates NT (Rowlings);
Senate Select Committee on a National Integrity Commission (Rowlings).

Western Australia:

In three years, we have gained significant ground in WA, thanks particularly to the work of WA Director Margaret Howkins. While membership is up, it is the political and public recognition of CLA and the hard-won credibility that are more important. Because of difficulties with a previous civil liberties organisation in Perth (caused by the WA Police), to establish a positive presence for fighters for liberties and rights was especially hard in a one-newspaper town dominated by police and politicians not used to systemic scrutiny.

Margaret has championed the campaign for independent investigation of complaints and allegations against police. Her focus is on WA, but her work is laying the groundwork for campaigns in other jurisdictions, and nationally.

The Independent Investigations (II) campaign has allowed her entree to a broad range of WA MPs, in both lower and upper houses, to bring on board as supporters as well as to spread the word about the 'responsible, active and achieving' civil liberties organisations – CLA – now operating in the West.

We are fortunate in Perth in having a young law student, Sam Coten, as a member who is prepared to take on submissions, such as on religious freedom and the inequities of property forfeiture laws. During 2018, Sam became our prime youth spokesperson in the West and it is expected he will be an integral part of a national joint arrangement for spreading the CLA word among uni students in the future.

Director Margaret has also involved herself with promotions and prisoners. She has held numerous 'clinics' at events and malls, with table, chair and tabletop CLA banner, to spread the word and attract new members. There also seems to be a particular need in WA in the prison population generally, and CLA is starting to become active in that area: even communicating at the most basic level with prisoners is difficult, in WA and in other states. With Indigenous and juvenile detention, the need is huge: CLA expects to be more involved in these areas in future.

Tasmania:

The campaign for a Human Rights Act in Tasmania is one of CLA's major activities in the state. The campaign comprises a 20-group consortium led by CLA and Director Richard Griggs. In 2018, the Liberal Party was elected to power: they oppose a Bill of Rights (though individual MPs do not necessarily agree). Richard had already secured the support of the Labor Party and the Greens to bring in a Human Rights Act if either party or both jointly had gained power.

For the first part of 2018, Richard stood down from Board duties to contest the election for the Upper House seat of Hobart. He was unsuccessful, but campaigning learned on the HR Act campaign, and on the bid for the Hobart UH seat, has got into his blood. He is to stand aside for the first five months of 2019 to contest the adjacent UH seat of Denison.

It seems that Tasmania is where putative national anti-protest laws are introduced to be tried out for how draconian they can be. The state lost out on one version of such

laws in the High

Court, but continues to try to push unreasonable restrictions and punishments, based on the fear of those in power around logging and other protests. Both CLA's Tasmanian directors take part in consultations on laws, protocols and guidelines, such as with the police on possible anti-consorting laws and rules around body-worn cameras.

Rajan Venkataraman has done an excellent job as Tasmanian spokesman and go-to person over the past year. These expanded duties with Richard 'away' are on top of the major national CLA activity which Rajan directs, that of managing CLA's entire submissions process...and that's not to mention that he is also the go-to-Director for keeping our Facebook entries up-to-date and interesting.

Northern Territory

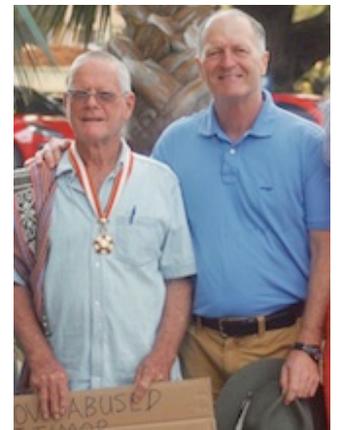
We have small but strong presence in Darwin in the NT. Our link person is community lawyer Caitlin Perry who draws on an extensive breadth and depth of knowledge of community issues to advise the CLA Board.

Barrister Alistair Wyvill contributes his specialist expertise to a range of CLA activities, particularly in criminal matters and particularly troubling areas like forfeiture laws, where people can suddenly lose their house and possessions...in some cases without being convicted of any crime.

Rob Wesley-Smith is our Darwin-based expert on matters to do with agriculture (his profession before spooks apparently ended his career) and Timor Leste. For decades he was one of the most influential people in Australia in keeping alive the small, flickering flame that eventually grew into freedom for the East Timorese.



Director Richard Griggs strikes a Human Rights Act bargain at Salamanca Markets, Hobart.



Above: Rob Wesley-Smith and Alistair Wyvill at a 2018 Darwin protest over Witness K and Bernard Collaery's charging with crimes because Australia bugged the ET cabinet.

Board report:

The CLA Board has operated harmoniously and smoothly, as per usual, during 2018. We are fortunate to have a diverse group of leanings and attitude, with a very wide spread of life experiences, skills and abilities. Some are full-time employed people, some in semi-retirement with still important roles in the national and international community.

Late in the year, Eloise (Elly) McLean, in her early 20s, joined the Board to aid our understanding of what matters to young people, and extended our national coverage by being from Victoria. She is enrolled in Law/Finance as a combined degree at ANU, has a strong background in community service work, and is also studying Chinese. For six months before her appointment to the CLA Board, she actively learned what CLA was about by attending a Board meeting as an observer and accompanying CLA representatives to a DFAT-NGO forum, contributing to a submission to parliament, and representing CLA at a hearing before a federal parliamentary committee. (CLA members are welcome to attend Board meetings as observers, though space limits how many can attend at one time).

Usually, the Board has at least three (and sometimes more) Directors attending its meetings via Skype (or similar, such as phone links, with the speaker system bought for CLA as a donation in 2018 by Director Frank Cassidy). In 2018, for the first time, the Board tried to gather all members in the one physical location for one Board meeting. We intend to try to do so once every two years, or for one in eight meetings.

The photo below shows the Board at its May 2018 meeting in Canberra, without Richard Griggs of Tasmania who was unable to attend, and before Elly McLean had become a Board Member.



L to R: Rowlings, Jarratt, Cassidy, Ashton, Venkataraman, Klugman, Howkins, Vines, Tierney.

Webmaster's report

This year a major revamp of the CLA website was undertaken to improve its readability, usability and the look of the website. This represented a significant change to the basic design introduced some ten years earlier.

The membership system also underwent a major software upgrade to ensure it continues to conform with current payment standards even though CLA keeps no credit/debit card details on its servers. Also, procedures were re-introduced to ensure that all membership processes interact efficiently.

Effort has also been directed at prototyping a new membership system to improve the administration for all memberships. The Board is expected to consider proposals for change to make further improvements by mid-2019.

During the year there were 96 articles published on the website including 34 comments submitted by members; your comments on articles are always welcomed. The CLA website now contains some 2500 articles with some 700 comments by members and visitors. The website also attracted some 30,000 visitors in 2018.

The electronic Annual General Meeting (eAGM) 2018 had a 52% participation rate with the eAGM format enabling all members across Australia to participate in the eAGM and election of office bearers every second year.

– Lance Williamson, Webmaster (and former CLA Director)

Treasurer's report

CLA ended the 2018 financial year with another year of steady growth in its net financial position of around 10% over the 12-month period.

CLA's stated aim at the end of 2017 to conduct a review of the membership database with a view to increasing and ensuring members were being given the opportunity to renew was achieved. This has resulted in a pleasing 6% increase in membership revenues for the financial year.

In terms of expenses, the biggest increase was in website and database costs. This arose from the comprehensive website and membership database review and overhaul. Travel expenses were also up significantly for the period and related mainly to expenses for interstate CLA Board members to attend one meeting in person. Other expenses have remained largely stable over the 12 months; however, there was a reduction in printing expenses given the extra commitments applied in the 2017 year for the Tasmanian marketing campaign.

As indicated in the 2017 end of year reporting, CLA was successful in largely offsetting the increase in expenses over the year with an increase in membership revenues through CLA's online platforms, social media and revamped website. CLA will be undertaking further database and website work in the coming 12 months and will also explore the possibility of offering members the option of longer-term membership packages. It may be possible, with a new membership and database system, to offer forward paying for three or five years at a time, which many members have inquired about.

It is expected that travel expenses will increase in the coming year as the Board and executive continue to maintain, pro-

mote and grow the organisation's contacts with its increasingly important interstate links in both the private and public spheres. It is expected that CLA will also be represented at key conferences and speaking engagements as part of those travel expenses. The Board is also considering whether to move to part time (maybe one day a week) secretariat support.

An error was detected in the 2017 CLA end of year reporting as a result of \$390 of expenses not being accounted for in the Treasurer's summary. The error has been corrected and the balance brought forward in the 2018 accounts to reflect the correct financial position. We have left the 2017 accounting as it was previously reported to ensure continuity.

Overall, we are pleased to report that CLA has yet again finished the 12 months in a sound financial position. This is particularly as a result of the hard work, dedication and vision of the CLA executive and Board. CLA's thanks also go to CLA's members for their continued support, without which the organisation could not operate. We look forward to our members continued support in 2019 as CLA continues its important work in promoting and protecting the freedoms and rights of all Australians.

– Sam Tierney, Treasurer

Financial statement: see P10

Membership

Membership since CLA's inception (10 Dec 2003):

Year	Financial Members at 31 December
2004	17
2005	62
2006	121
2007	169
2008	224
2009	244
2010	304
2011	259
2012	267
2013	302
2014	264
2015	297
2016	329
2017	269
2018	280

In hindsight, the figure of 269 given for the 2017 year may have been understated. A change of database system during the year produced a year-end figure which omitted members who hadn't paid their subs on 31 Dec, but who could still pay in January and remain members. Roughly, that would add about 21-22 (1/12th) of figure, so that a membership of 290 Civil Liberties Australia Inc, A04043

for 2017 may have applied. Either way, we are reviewing our membership 'rules' as we consider a major upgrade to join-renew and membership-database systems during 2019.

Media report

2018 opened with a kerfuffle when CLA Director – and smoker – Mark Jarratt supported people's right to free choice about smoking. His un-politically correct comments in the Daily Telegraphy drew wrath from the 'if it moves, ban it' brigade. While tobacco is a legal product, it ranks with other legal products as being able to be bought and used. CLA's policy stance reflects the legal position: CLA Policies: see under: <https://www.cla.asn.au/News/who-we-are/>

During the year, CLA made media comment on these issues:

- Workplace privacy laws
- Proposed mandatory drug rehabilitation
- Stun gun use
- Secret committee wants more power
- Foreign interference and press freedom: interview with graduate student from ANU National Security College
- Proposal to give security operatives police powers
- Defence Call Out bill: demand ID, shoot to kill provision
- My Health Record
- Proceeds of Crime and Unexplained Wealth laws
- ID at airports
- Should magistrates and judges be required to obtain an extra qualification?
- Stun use in ACT
- Out of hours surveillance of employees by bosses

Territory rights/euthanasia: President Dr Kristine Klugman and CEO/Secretary Bill Rowlings featured in *The Australian*, on *ABC TV*, and on *ABC Online* in relation to the Senate vote on territory rights – which was lost by one vote (36-34, with an ACT Territory Senator voting AGAINST Territory rights!). The bill would have allowed territory parliaments to legislate without interference from the federal government.

As CLA Vice-President and National Media Spokesperson, I also presented on the use of national security language in Australian biosecurity laws to the 59th Convention of the International Studies Association, San Francisco (article with academic journal for review). As part of my PhD studies, I authored an academic article on Australia's national security laws and scientific freedom, which was published.

I presented my PhD mid-term review on the 'securitisation of infectious diseases', which looks at how Australian laws such as the Defence Trade Controls Act are seeking to increasingly control over public health research in the name of 'national security'.

I delivered the Annual Marg Barry Memorial lecture for Inner Sydney Voice on 25 October 2018.

In many cases during 2018, we worked with Paul Gregoire, a freelance journalist who writes for Sydney Criminal Lawyers, where his articles appear. This has been a productive partnership and we thank him and the firm's principal, Ugur Nedim. This year we have provided significant input into articles on the Foreign Interference Bill; Defence Call Out legislation and Unexplained Wealth legislation. <https://www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au>

– Tim Vines, VP and National Media Spokesperson



Publicity materials

During the year, the Board decided to create some promotional items as a test case. We selected a T-shirt, general greetings card, and bookmarks for trialling.

We produced only 30 T-shirts... but the 'marketing' of even that small number convinced us that, at this stage, CLA is not

suited to getting into the clothing merchandising business.

The bookmarks, in four different varieties, are a giveaway item. Members are welcome to email or write for a dozen or so to be sent for distribution to family, friends and work colleagues. The greeting cards, which cost roughly \$2.50 each for 10, but \$2 each for 25 or more, feature the CLA-initiated National Liberty Tree, at the National Arboretum, on the front. There is not specific greeting, so they can be used for birthdays, Christmas, etc...and there's plenty of room to write personal messages.



Selected feedback during 2018

I did very much appreciate your Australia Day letters, both oriented to reform of processes. They made me think about how hard it is to turn media or public attention to such issues. – Jill Sutton, ACT, Feb 2018

My monetary contribution seems small and my intellectual contribution less. However I am a member because I believe in CLA and everything it stands for and support all CLA's endeavours. It is absolutely imperative an organisation such as CLA exists and is supported. Yes it is a chaotic world we live in. It is becoming an increasingly scary world also. I am scared for our future, Australia's future and the future of our children. Best regards and may all your efforts this year be fruitful. – Terrence Holt, Victoria Feb 2018

Thank you for inviting me to join. Living in a small country town, it is wonderful knowing there are others working for what is right. – Rosalind Byass, Stawell Vic, Feb 2018

Thanks for your comprehensive and enlightening newsletter/report. How do you do it? – Philip Bell (former Prof. Media and Communications, UNSW) Sydney April 2018

I thought the Spook Special was indeed rather special and a particularly good issue of the CLArion – Kevin Popple, former Treasurer CLA, ACT June 2018

It's a good newsletter. Australia is shredding its "humanity" not only in Nauru but also in Australia. Successive governments are looking after the top end of the town because most of the politicians live there. – Anonymous SA

Hope things will change in favour of the asylum seekers in Nauru and Manus. When both Labor and the Coalition are determined not to bring them in Australia there is little hope. – Sankar Chatterjee, ACT (July CLArion)

Wonderful (though depressing) issue (July 2018) yet again. Congratulations on getting it all together. It's hard to believe Australia has descended to a nation where civil liberties means so little. – Paul Wilson, Gold Coast Qld

Every year my wife chooses worthwhile causes for her Christmas present and CLA keeps making the cut: keep up the great work! – Jeremy Riley, husband of member, ACT

It does give me a chance to congratulate you for the fine work you and others at HQ do. – Ron Witton, after sorting out a subs payment issue, South Coast, NSW

(The Board apologises for problems with wrong notices, about being overdue with payments, that have accompanied some monthly CLArion emails. We're working on the database issues, and expect to bring in an improved system in 2019)

Objectives for 2019:

- Carry Better Justice campaign forward
- Human Rights Acts, and Right to Appeal laws, in more states
- Initiate 'Regulation Reform' in 1 state, 1 territory and federally (in the Army)
- Put genes issues – law back on the agenda

History:

An organisation concerned with civil liberties (Council for Civil Liberties of the ACT Inc) existed in the ACT in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Mostly, it was organised and managed by Mr Laurie O'Sullivan, a barrister at the Sydney and Canberra bars who also had extensive involvement with the Australian Public Service Board over many years.

In the late 1990s, the organisation's management changed and Mr Jon Stanhope became prominent as president. He went on to a political career, and to be Chief Minister of the ACT for a decade. After Mr Stanhope went into politics, the organisation lapsed, being formally de-registered by the ACT Registrar-General in the early 2000s period.

A new organisation with a different name to distinguish it from the earlier body – Civil Liberties Australia (ACT) Inc. – was created when a properly constituted meeting of the interim board resolved to apply for registration under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 of the ACT.

The Certificate of Incorporation was stamped by the ACT Registrar-General on 10 December 2003. Dr Kristine Klugman OAM was the inaugural President.



At the 2004 AGM, Mr O'Sullivan was voted the first honorary life member and patron of CLA. He died in October 2004. Mr John Marsden (photo), a former president of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties and of the NSW Law Society, later became patron. He died in May 2006.

In March 2007, the AGM agreed to change the organisation's name to Civil Liberties Australia Inc. (dropping 'ACT' from the name) to reflect the reality that the organisation was having an impact and drawing a response in other States and the Northern Territory of Australia. The AGM also agreed that voting on important issues like board positions and constitutional change could be handled electronically. CLA was therefore one of the first organisations to come to grips with the electronic age for membership/voting.

In 2009, an electronic Annual General Meeting (eAGM) was held for the first time. In 2010, the organisation moved to a fully electronic database for membership and financial management, which was consolidated and became fully operational in 2011. In the same year, CLA held its second (two-yearly) e-ballot for Board positions, and the third eAGM, making us probably the leading incorporated entity in managing its formal business electronically.

The year 2012 saw appointment of the first non-ACT-based Director, Rex Widerstrom of WA, and consolidation as the enterprise began to enter its first 'matured' phase. Also, the Board planned for an expansion phase through 2013 by way of marketing and promotion.

VALE:

Ann Symonds AM died in November 2018. She was a longtime member of CLA and a Labor Member of the NSW Upper House from 1982 to 1998. Her passion was drug law reform, and she helped create the Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform, which continues to operate in Australian parliaments. She was also involved in helping women escape domestic violence and in caring for children of prisoners.



Evan Whitton, not a CLA member, but a supporter, friend and legal journalist-historian extraordinaire: see <http://netk.net.au/WhittonHome.asp> and the August 2018 edition of CLArion.

In 2013, CLA's second director from outside Canberra, Richard Griggs, joined the Board, and the Tasmanian CLA group was refreshed and reinvigorated. On 10 December 2013, CLA celebrated its first decade in existence. That same month, for the second time, the organisation reached more than 300 members throughout Australia (with a few overseas). In June CLA's official Secretary, Public Officer and CEO, Bill Rowlings was awarded an OAM for 'services to civil liberties and human rights'. Mr Rowlings was also honoured as ACT Senior Australian of the Year in 2010, in both cases for his work with Civil Liberties Australia. The webmaster, Lance Williamson, entirely revamped the CLA website, giving it an improved 'look and feel' while converting to a software system easier for non-specialists to work with.

In 2014, fees increased for the first time in 10 years. This move launched CLA on to a firmer financial footing, allowing planning for bigger projects. In 2015, a second Director from Tasmania, Rajan Venkataraman, joined the Board, which suffered the loss of eight-year-Director and founding Webmaster Lance Williamson. In 2015 also we succeeded in the solely-CLA-inspired campaign to 'mirror' South Australian Right-To-Appeal provisions in Tasmania, (the start of a round-Australia campaign) and the President and CEO received the National Award for Civil Justice, accepting it on behalf of all CLA members. Two CLA members, Ann Symonds in NSW and Brian Tennant in WA, received national AM honours for their work in the liberties and rights field.

The year 2016 was noted for CLA's launching the 10-year 'Better Justice' campaign. In 2017, we shared in the success of the first 'end-of-life' law in Australia being passed in Victoria. CLA member Lesley Vick led the campaign as President of Dying With Dignity Victoria, and Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, Fiona Patten, who is also a CLA member, was crucial in rallying enough support in the parliament for a positive vote. We made submissions on the same topic to the ACT and WA.

Summary of CLA Finances (\$)

		2018	2017	2016	2015
BALANCE B/F		44,718.35	40,357	36,731	23,979
INCOME					
Memberships		10,266.00	9,720	8,537	10,520
Donations	General	3,625.00	2,040	3,095	3,273
		3,625.00	2,040	3,095	3,273
Interest	Working	9.63	6	5	8
	Cash reserve	136.58	156	252	263
	Term Deposit	264.81	136	433	250
	Total				
Total		411.02	298	689	521
TOTAL INCOME		14,302.02	12,058	12,321	14,314
EXPENDITURE					
Communications	Ink & Stationery	85.00	414	764	657
	(with members	899.80	2,171	326	125
	& public)	3,335.09	784	365	725
	Website		359	997	1,126
	Postage	-	267	126	115
	PO Box	254.00	442	128	106
	Parking fees	-	1,050		
	Travel	4,832.72			
	Functions	-	-	12	38
	Other Admin	127.00	-	4,038	370
	T-Shirts	577.50	1,655	1,214	68
		10,111.11	7,141	7,970	3,329
Sponsorships		-	-	500	nil
General Administration	Bank Charges	383.40	166	226	256
		383.40	166	226	256
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		10,494.51	7,307	8,696	3,585
Surplus/Deficit		3,807.51	4,751	3,625	10,728
BALANCE C/F		48,525.86	45,108.05	40,356	36,731
Comprising					
Bank Balances					
Working Account		10,430.24			
Maxi Direct		26,847.56			
Term Deposit		11,848.80			
Total Bank Accounts		49,126.60			
	<i>add Moneys not Credited</i>				
	<i>less Moneys not Debited</i>	-			
Net Financial Position		49,126.60			

Statement by Auditor:

I have examined the books of Civil Liberties Australia Inc. and report that they appear to be a true, honest and fair reflection of the financial dealings of the organisation for the period of the organisation's financial year, calendar 2018.

Signed:

(Phil Schubert) Date


 28/2/19