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Club President  
**Karen Groves**

9383 1137  
starr@ca.com.au

Area 3 Director  
**Dianne Bryant**

9245 5551  
diannebryant@hotmail.com

District 23 PR Chair  
**Nan Martella**

9721 7067  
martella@bigpond.net.au

## Club Meetings

Second Thursday of the month.

**No meeting in January!**

**Apologies by 8pm**

**Previous Monday**

To: Lori Grech  
0407 424 302  
loriql@iinet.net.au

## INZERT

Please send any articles or photos for InZert to:

**Carole Theobald**  
theobald@powerdsl.com.au  
8 Cormorant Cross  
WILLETTON WA 6155



## Peace and the new corporate liberation theology

by Arundhati Roy

*This is an edited extract from the 2004 Sydney Peace Prize lecture delivered by Arundhati Roy. The full speech is available on a number of web sites including [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com), [www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au) and [www.usyd.edu.au](http://www.usyd.edu.au).*

Sometimes there's truth in old cliches. There can be no real peace without justice. And without resistance there will be no justice. Today, it is not merely justice itself, but the idea of justice that is under attack.

The assault on vulnerable, fragile sections of society is so complete, so cruel and so clever that its sheer audacity has eroded our definition of justice. It has forced us to lower our sights, and curtail our expectations. Even among the well-intentioned, the magnificent concept of justice is gradually being substituted with the reduced, far more fragile discourse of "human rights".

This is an alarming shift. The difference is that notions of equality, of parity, have been pried loose and eased out of the equation. It's a process of attrition. Al-

most unconsciously, we begin to think of justice for the rich and human rights for the poor. Justice for the corporate world, human rights for its victims. Justice for Americans, human rights for Afghans and Iraqis. Justice for the Indian upper castes, human rights for Dalits and Adivasis (if that.) Justice for white Australians, human rights for Aborigines and immigrants (most times, not even that.)

It is becoming more than clear that violating human rights is an inherent and necessary part of the process of implementing a coercive and unjust political and economic structure on the world. Increasingly, human rights violations are being portrayed as the unfortunate, almost accidental, fallout of an otherwise acceptable political and economic system. As though they are a small problem that can be mopped up with a little extra attention from some non-government organisation.

This is why in areas of heightened conflict - in Kashmir and in Iraq for example - human rights professionals are regarded with a degree of suspicion. Many resistance movements in poor countries which are fighting huge injustice and questioning the underlying principles of what constitutes "liberation" and "development" view human rights non-government or-

*After winning the Booker Prize for 'The God of Small Things' in 1997, Arundhati Roy has become a campaigning political journalist providing a voice to the poor and oppressed, covering issues such as the threat of nuclear weapons, the promotion of equal rights, the Narmada Dam Project and more recently, the war on terrorism. Over the Christmas break, sit down, relax and appreciate the crafting of her words.*

ganisations as modern-day missionaries who have come to take the ugly edge off imperialism - to defuse political anger and to maintain the status quo.

It has been only a few weeks since Australia re-elected John Howard, who, among other things, led the nation to participate in the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq.

That invasion will surely go down in history as one of the most cowardly wars ever. It was a war in which a band of rich nations, armed with enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world several times over, rounded on a poor nation, falsely accused it of having nuclear weapons, used the United Nations to force it to disarm, then invaded it, occupied it and are now in the process of selling it.

I speak of Iraq, not because everybody is talking about it, but because it is a sign of things to come. Iraq marks the beginning of a new cycle. It offers us an opportunity to watch the corporate-military cabal that has come to be known as "empire" at work. In the new Iraq, the gloves are off.

As the battle to control the world's resources intensifies, economic colonialism through formal military aggression is staging a comeback. Iraq is the logical culmination of the process of corporate globalisation in which neo-colonialism and neo-liberalism have fused. If we can find it in ourselves to peep behind the curtain of blood, we would glimpse the pitiless transactions taking place backstage.

Invaded and occupied Iraq has been made to pay out \$US200 million (\$270 million) in "reparations" for lost profits to cor-

porations such as Halliburton, Shell, Mobil, Nestle, Pepsi, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Toys R Us. That's apart from its \$US125 billion sovereign debt forcing it to turn to the IMF, waiting in the wings like the angel of death, with its structural adjustment program. (Though in Iraq there don't seem to be many structures left to adjust.)

So what does peace mean in this savage, corporatised, militarised world? What does peace mean to people in occupied Iraq, Palestine, Kashmir, Tibet and Chechnya? Or to the Aboriginal people of Australia? Or the Kurds in Turkey? Or the

*We know who benefits from war in the age of empire...but...who benefits from peace...*

Dalits and Adivasis of India? What does peace mean to non-Muslims in Islamic countries, or to women in Iran, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan? What does it mean to the millions who are being uprooted from their lands by dams and development projects? What does peace mean to the poor who are being actively robbed of their resources? For them, peace is war.

We know very well who benefits from war in the age of empire. But we must also ask ourselves honestly who benefits from peace in the age of empire? War mongering is criminal. But talking of peace without talking of justice could easily become advocacy for a kind of capitulation. And talking of justice

*What does peace mean to the poor who are being actively robbed of their resources?*

without unmasking the institutions and the systems that perpetrate injustice is beyond hypocritical.

It's easy to blame the poor for being poor. It's easy to believe that the world is being caught up in an escalating spiral of terrorism and war. That's what allows George Bush to say, "You're either with us or with the terrorists." But that's a spurious choice. Terrorism is only the privatisation of war. Terrorists are the

free marketeers of war. They believe that the legitimate use of violence is not the sole prerogative of the state.

It is mendacious to make moral distinction between the unspeakable brutality of terrorism and the indiscriminate carnage of war and occupation. Both kinds of violence are unacceptable. We cannot support one and condemn the other.



### **GNARINYIN EXHIBITION IN GENEVA - July 2004**

*Margaret Medcalf*

When Lennie and I were on our recent trip to Europe we spent a few days in Geneva with my nephew and his family.

When we walked into the house we were delighted to see a poster advertising the Gnarinyin exhibiton largely in evidence on the study door. They had gone to the function at the UN and said it was tremendous.

Lennie and I also visited the UN headquarters and took note of the place where the banners and paintings would have been mounted. We could visualise what an exciting occasion it must have been. We brought the poster home for members to see.

**Next club meeting:**

**Thursday**

**10th February 2005.**



## In the news...member profile

Those of you who live outside the circulation of the Western Suburbs Weekly would have missed out on this recent article that was recently forwarded to me. It is reproduced with kind permission of the Western Suburbs Weekly. If you come across any 'interesting' articles—please share them! This article provides a small insight into Lori's life as a personal business coach.

YOUR STREET, NOT WALL STREET business weekly

# Balancing a business

by louise fisher

SUBIACO businesswoman Lori Grech is considered by many as a personal trainer, however, her inspirational tips will not help you get your body into shape.

She is a personal business coach and claims she can help business owners turn a company from sluggish and non-productive into dynamic and prosperous.

Ms Grech is managing director of Subiaco-based company QL Coaching – A Quantum Leap Forward and she has more than 20 years' experience in corporate coaching, management training and specialist management consulting.

She combats issues such as structural downsizing, stress and emotional problems at work and time management.

She also teaches business owners and staff how to work flexibly and creatively.

However, Ms Grech said one of the most common problems she had to deal with was helping business owners balance both their personal and career demands, or in her words "getting a life".

"Many people who open their own small business do not realise how hard it is and often don't admit they need help," she said.

"They often work too hard and burn themselves out, meanwhile, forgetting why they want-

ed to run their own business in the first place."

Through her Dynamic Needs Analysis checklist, Ms Grech said she focused on creating new systems and strategies to create sustainable, profitable enterprises. She uses three main styles of coaching.

Executive coaching assesses current leadership styles and recommends new solutions to motivate staff. Business coaching identifies business needs and priorities and the group presentation service aims to motivate and inspire staff by assessing personal strengths, identifying development needs and strategies to enhance work-and-life balance.

However, Ms Grech admits it is not easy to make a business successful as well as living a fulfilling personal life.

Therefore, she works in partnership with the owner for about six to 12 months.

"There is no magic wand to just turn businesses around," she said.

"It is a slow process and we are in it for the long haul – to nurture and support.

"We measure our success by the success of the business."

Ms Grech recently launched her Success Action Group, which is a six-month business-coaching workshop for individual business owners to share the costs of a personal business coach.

She said the monthly gather-



Personal business coach Lori Grech.

ings helped small businesses to implement strategies and learn how to run a successful company.

"Many business owners are frightened to admit and expose

their flaws," Ms Grech said.

"The group workshops allow them to realise they are not alone and many businesses have similar problems."

Visit [www.qlcoaching.com.au](http://www.qlcoaching.com.au)

# WHAT'S UP IN THE KIMBERLEY?



At the November meeting Angela Fisher's presentation covered three main topics: local news from Mt Barnett, how the Kimberley region is administered and the possibility of establishing a cultural school at Mount Barnett. The following is a summary of her fascinating presentation.

## Local news from Mt Barnett

Pleased to announce the arrival of 4 baby girls in the last couple of months. This includes one set of twin girls and another baby is due at the end of November. Sadly, a 39 year old man recently died of rheumatic heart disease and his family will now be moving into the community. At the annual sporting meeting held at Fitzroy Crossing, Mount Barnett put together and entered a footy team and the community were delighted when the team won a match. Two family groups will soon be moving back to their lands and one of the groups includes Lucy Ward who some members met during the recent camp. Lucy is an artist, whose specialty is sugarbag and she will be moving to the Beverley Springs region.

It is coming up to initiation time and the communities are deciding which young boys will be ready to go. The boys will learn to hunt and eat tradi-

tional foods during this time.

The position for Administrator at Mount Barnett is still vacant and the salary has been raised in the hope of attracting suitable candidates.

The wet season has started and there is some concern that without an administrator to manage things that there may not be enough food or fuel to last through the season when the roads are impassable. Last year Mary Jane was cut off for four months and this year it is expected to be similar if not worse than last year.

## How is the Kimberley administered?

The administrative infrastructure is quite different in the Kimberley to that in the city. Angela explained the roles and responsibilities of some of the key players in the region.

### Administrators

These used to be appointed by ATSIC, but since ATSIC was dissolved it is not sure how they will be appointed in future. Administrators are usually found in larger communities of over 100 people. The largest Aboriginal community is Gidjiganga which has a population of 800. There may be stations and family groups operating as satellites to the main community.

None of the four communities of the Ngarinyin people, Mt Barnett, Gibb River Station, Imigi and Dodenham have an administrator. Currently, Mt Barnett has an accountant who does the books part time. This means that the communities are administered by people in Derby who have less understanding of community needs.

### Project Officers

Project Officers are the Administrators "right hand person". They oversee the Community Development Employment Projects which are an alternative to the dole. Again, they

were mostly appointed by ATSIC, however, some are appointed by the community itself. Project Officers have to motivate the community.

Sometimes there is an Art Project Officer that oversees art in the area.

### Store Managers

There are three types of store:

- Privately owned stores such as the one in Imigi can do very well and Imigi has a good range of fruit and vegetables. Angela tries to encourage people to shop at Imigi as the owner arranges for the food to be sent directly to the store so the food is fresher.
- Small stores run by communities such as the one at Gibb River Station often have limited supplies and not a good range of fruits and vegetables.
- Stores run through a private agreement between the store manager and the community such as the store at Mount Barnett. The Mount Barnett store is currently dysfunctional and not working well. The manager does not live in the community. The store caters a lot for tourists with fatty takeaway foods, ice creams but lacks variety in fruit and vegetables.

### Power and water supply

This is managed through an organisation called "KRISP" based in Broome. One man maintains the power for 4 communities, supervises people working on the CEPD projects and is excellent at motivating people and improving confidence. The big question this year is "Will there be enough fuel to maintain power during the wet?"

### Schools

- Mt Barnett has a State School with 4 teachers and teaches



- from K to year 12.
- Gibb River has a private catholic school with 2 teachers.
  - Imigi children attend Mt Barnett school one hour's drive away. A bus and driver are provided by the Imigi store.
  - Dodenham has no transport service so the kids don't get to school.

#### Health service

At first the Gibb River Road area had no health service and a man called Alex Fernandes rallied to get funding for a nurse/aboriginal health worker. The service is now provided via Jurruk Health which originally operated from Broome through the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS) but now comes under the Derby Aboriginal Health Service.

From 2001 there has been sufficient funding to support the placement of a nurse at Gibb River Station (Mary Jane Lynch) and one at Mt Barnett (until recently, this was Angela Fisher). The nurse from Mt Barnett also covers Imigi.

Angela and Mary Jane recounted incidences where they have had to borrow boats to float people across rivers during the wet so they can get medical help. Sometimes local politics preclude access to equipment necessary to move people around. For example, there is boat at Mt Barnett but it is locked up and it is not always possible to obtain permission to use it – so they have to rely on passing tourists to help out.

Last year the wet lasted for four months. Mary Jane explained that it is not uncommon for families to run out of food as you don't know how long the community will be cut off.

Mail is delivered once a week by plane. If the plane cannot land, no mail is delivered.

Members asked where women have their babies. Angela explained that the government does not permit them to have babies on their tradi-

tional lands. This is mainly a duty of care issue – if something went wrong there is no help nearby. Sadly, in Aboriginal culture the place you are born is of major significance as this determines your totems and place in the world. Nowadays, women have to go to Derby or Perth to have their babies. The maternity unit is being moved from Derby to Broome soon and this may cause problems as the women are reluctant to go to Broome for a number of reasons. Many have relatives in Derby who can visit them in hospital and with whom family members can stay. In addition the hostel at Derby is quite good and the one in Broome is very small. Broome was only recently considered to be part of the Kimberley and the Ngarinyin aboriginals consider the Broome Bardi people to be more westernised and not have an indigenous lifestyle.

Angela is involved with Dr Lindsay Adams' project to enable Aboriginal people to regain their cultural practices with newborns, which will hopefully improve newborn's health. Dr Adams is very keen to come and talk to the club about the project and can be contacted on 0427 089 101. His work was recently featured on the Catalyst program on the ABC.

#### Cultural school

Pansy has a dream to create a cultural school for the young people in the community. She would like to see the young people have a strong sense of culture and be able to hunt, partake in bush crafts and identify traditional foods. In addition, she would like to pass on spirituality by taking young people to sacred sites.

Traditionally these skills were passed on to young people through a mentoring process by elders in the community. However the process used to get these skills is rapidly disappearing.

For example, boys over the age of 12 usually move out of home and go to live with another male, who has been designated to mentor the young men based on skin group.



*Pansy and Karen June 2004*

Sadly, there are not enough men to take on the mentoring role and see the young men through to adulthood. Pansy would like to see a cultural school established to overcome this problem.

As can be appreciated, there is not a lot of infrastructure at the moment to support a scheme and funding would be required to create it. It may be possible to submit a funding submission and identify a project leader from among the project officers and health workers in the Derby region. Mr Jarrad, principal of Mt Barnett School may be able to support school being used for this purpose and the network of people associated with the CEPD may be able to help motivate people to participate in it.

Finally, Angela encouraged members who want to learn more about indigenous cultures to read the book "Secrets of the Talking Jaguar" by Martin Prechtel. She wished she had read it years ago as it clarified so many issues for her.



*Pansy painting Angie's face using traditional ochres.*

*Many thanks Angie for the update—we hope the fuel lasts the wet and there are no power cuts! Ed.*



**ZONTA CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING**

**December 9th 2004 from 6.30pm  
Mt Eliza House in Kings Park.**

Complimentary champagne on arrival  
BYO favourite wine

*Please bring a donation (unwrapped gift)  
for the Zonta House Refuge.*

**What a cracker!**

And finally, if you're not happy with the joke in your Christmas cracker—they could be worse, try these!

**What beats his chest and swings from Christmas cake to Christmas cake?**

Tarzipan !

**Mum, Can I have a dog for Christmas ?**

No you can have turkey like everyone else !

**What did the eskimos sing when they got there Christmas dinner ?**

"Whalemeat again, don't know where, don't know when " !

**What did the big cracker say to the little cracker ?**

My pop is bigger than yours !

**Who is never hungry at Christmas ?**

The turkey - he's always stuffed !

**What bird has wings but cannot fly ?**

Roast turkey !

**What's the best thing to put into a Christmas cake ?**

Your teeth !

**We had grandma for Christmas dinner ?**

Really, we had turkey !

**Whats happens if you eat the Christmas decorations ?**

You get tinsel-itus !

**Diary Dates**

**9th December—Christmas Dinner Meeting, Mt Eliza House in King's Park, 6.30pm.**

Food and champagne provided but BYO favourite wine. Please bring an unwrapped donation for the Zonta House Refuge.

**January—no meeting.**

Happy holidays!

**10th February 2005—Dinner Meeting.**

Venue to be confirmed so check your emails or the web site for location.

Make a note in the diary now for these special events:

**26th March 2005—Birthing Kit Workshop, 9-12, St Alban's Church Hall, Highgate.**

We hope to prepare 1,000 kits. Remember one baby dies every minute of every day in childbirth—these kits can really make a difference.

**9th April 2005—Area Workshop hosted by Zonta Club of Swan Hills**

Our club will be providing a presentation of the Ngarinyin project.

**1st-3rd October 2005—District Conference, Glenelg South Australia.**

The conference theme is Zonta Action through Partnership (ZAP) . Conference will be held at the Stamford Grand Glenelg Hotel.

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year*



WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLUB?

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [www.zontaperth.org.au](http://www.zontaperth.org.au)

Email: [zontaperth@yahoo.com](mailto:zontaperth@yahoo.com)