

Queensland Humanist

Monthly Newsletter of the Humanist Society of Queensland

May 2010

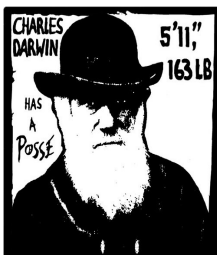
A SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION: Thank you to everyone who attended the Australian Humanist Convention, we hope you enjoyed the opportunity to mix with like-minded people.

We were honoured to have as our guest Australian Humanist of the Year (AHOY) 2010 - Senator Bob Brown. Senator Brown provided a rousing address in which he saluted Humanists for espousing progressive views on separation of religion and state, the environment and social justice issues.

Margaret Baxendell who along with her husband Tup received the AHOY award in 1994, attended our Saturday night dinner as a VIP guest. Margaret has been a member of HSQ since its' formation in 1968 and was as active in the campaigning for abortion law reform and opposing conscription for the Vietnam War. We enjoyed the opportunity to honour the work done by Margaret and her late husband.

Attendees were particularly impressed with our speakers at the Sunday session - John Todd, Hugh Wilson, Cait Calcutt, Ron Williams, Warren Bonnet and Fiona Patten. Thank you to our speakers for making our convention memorable. For HSQ members unable to attend there will be a DVD of convention highlights available soon.

VOLUNTEERS: Thanks to HSQ members Bernie and Bobbie Doran, Robert Heard, Cliff Stembridge, Clyde Roberts, Frank West von Heiden and Nic Dixon for the work you put in to make our convention successful. Bernie set the tone for our Sunday session with a brilliant opening address which can be read online at: <http://www.hsq.org.au/Articles/>



OUR NEXT MEETING: Darwin Day held annually on the 12th of February is used by Humanists to promote an understanding of the theory of evolution. Some Christian groups are very successful at spreading misunderstanding regarding evolution and we would like to do whatever we can to counteract their campaign of misinformation. If you have ideas for YouTube videos or public lectures, come along to our next meeting to discuss plans for Darwin Day 2011. Meeting date: Sunday, 30 May. Meeting time: 1pm - 3pm. Location: Brisbane Square Library, George St, Brisbane.

Maria Proctor (President)

Secular Voice

Follow-up workshop

To follow up on the interest in church-state issues sparked at our convention, HSQ in conjunction with the Griffith University Skeptics and Freethinkers will be hosting a one day workshop on secularism. Dr Max Wallace has kindly offered to conduct a workshop to be held sometime from mid August to early September. It will be a must attend event for anyone interested in becoming active in campaigning on secular issues. Details and booking forms will be posted on the HSQ website by late June.



HAVE YOUR SAY: Anna Bligh is running a People's Question Time on Thursday 27 May, 12 - 1pm. Please spare a moment to send in a short, to the point question about a topic relevant to any of HSQ's various campaigns - Religious Instruction, Chaplaincy, prayers on assembly, the nature of our non-secular Education Act or abortion law reform.

Visit the website to submit questions and suggestions now, and then watch the panel answer and discuss these issues during the live webcast on Thursday 27 May at 12 noon. Everyone is invited to take part in the discussion about issues that affect the future of all Queenslanders.

<http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/government/peoples-question-time.aspx>



BURQA WARS: Are calls to ban the burqa motivated by a concern for human rights or xenophobia? Go to HSQ's facebook page to read two opposing views and join in the debate:

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=52028529716&ref=ts>

For the latest news stories on this topic go to:

<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/the-burqa-is-a-war-on-women-20100520-vnp3.html>

<http://media.theage.com.au/national/selections/why-its-wrong-to-ban-the-veil-1461533.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8691087.stm>

KEEP IN TOUCH

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FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=52028529716&ref=ts>