

News

Gala dinner announced for 2012

On October 25, the Castan Centre will again be holding a gala dinner at Carousel on Albert Park Lake with Noel Pearson AM as the keynote speaker. Mr Pearson will talk about the proposed constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians.

Following on from the success of 2010's 10th anniversary dinner, which was attended by 350 people and featured Michael Kirby and Patrick McGorry, the evening promises to be a fantastic event. It will be another great opportunity for the human rights community to come together to enjoy some great food and wine, laugh along to the antics of the MCs, and maybe even place a bid in the charity auction...

Details are still being finalised, but invitations will be sent out soon. Be sure to put the date in your diary!

Centre Alumnus Wins Monash Medal

The 2012 Sir John Monash Medal for outstanding achievement has awarded to Cara Bredebusch. The award, originating in 2009, is given each year to an undergraduate law student who is judged to have an excellent academic record and to have demonstrated a significant commitment, while at Monash, to advancing the University's goals of social justice, human rights and a sustainable environment.

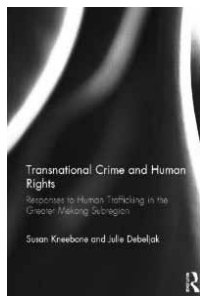
Cara has been dedicated to social justice throughout her academic and professional career. She developed her interest and understanding in human rights through study, extra-curricular activities and volunteer work. Cara studied various human rights law subjects and participated in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Mooting Competition in 2010, researching and advocating the application of the Charter in Victoria.

As a university student, Cara tutored

refugee students and volunteered as a paralegal at various Community Legal Centres. She was also a member of her local council's Youth Advisory Group. She built on her passion by completing the Castan Centre's Global Internship in 2010-2011 where she worked with a refugee legal centre in South Africa. The internship was supported by the Monash-Oxfam program. Upon her return to Australia, Cara was an in-house intern at the Castan Centre and continued to contribute to the organisation's goals.

Cara is currently completing a traineeship with a law firm, whilst still pursuing her personal interest in human rights. She continues to volunteer at Community Legal Centres and is also a part of the Starlight Foundation as a 'wish granter'. Whichever direction Cara's career may take her, she is dedicated to contributing to society and will continue to follow her passion for human rights.

New Book on Human Trafficking



Recent decades have seen an alarming increase in human trafficking, through sex trafficking, labour trafficking, forced marriages and forced adoptions. Over the past few years Professor Susan Kneebone and Dr Julie Debeljak have conducted intensive research in this field, particularly in the South East Asian region. As a result of that work, they have just published a new book, *Transnational Crime and Human Rights: Responses to Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion*, which explores this very issue.

Through a case study of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) – Cambodia, the Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam – this book provides an evaluation of national, regional and international responses to the transnational crime of human trafficking. Drawing observations from the findings of a three year study conducted in the region, involving on-the-ground interviews with more than 60 individuals from relevant organisations and agencies, the book examines the

social, political and historical factors which form the background to human trafficking in the GMS.

Prof. Kneebone, a former Deputy Director of the Centre, and Dr Debeljak, a Deputy Director, consider issues of competing mandates, and gaps in the strategies devised for protection. They also look to the broader lessons that can be learned from the situation in the GMS, providing valuable suggestions as to how governments and non-governmental institutions can attempt to end human trafficking.

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