



Caring for land, caring for people
making a safer world

Project SafeCom Inc.

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2007 Annual Report

October 2007



The UK-based Christian Aid Report "*Human tide: the real migration crisis*", published in May 2007, is a wake-up call also for Australians to "*get real*" about refugee issues, in that it estimates that as many as one billion people may become displaced persons in the next few decades. The report confirms what was always part of Project SafeCom's long-term expectation and its vision for promoting sustainable practice and its strong links to environmental issues, which stand central to the human factors of 21-century living (Photo: Dereig refugee camp outside Darfur)
See <http://www.safecom.org.au/human-tide-report.htm>



In December 2007 we start on our sixth year of operations and we still experience growth, expansion and development in our methods of operation. The fact that Project SafeCom created its first online movie, where participants and speakers were interviewed during our 2007 World Refugee Day event, represented a milestone in our development as well as a natural progression in our online presence.
See <http://www.safecom.org.au/wrd2007-readings.htm>

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From the Chair



Another year, with its events, hopes raised and dashed, disappointments and minor triumphs. I write this message with a Federal Election due in six weeks and with the hope that the possibility that Australia's most divisive, deceitful, mendacious and manipulative Prime Minister since forever will soon fall into his political grave. I am old enough to remember a hated Malcolm Fraser weeping on TV after he lost the 1983 election – not that in retrospect Malcolm was that bad a guy, just arrogant, but mainly he was hated for how he came to power ... actually it's only John Howard who made him look good, in reality he was pretty divisive too. I want to see Howard weep the same way, and above all, I want to see him lose his seat,

which is entirely possible. Not that I think there will be much to choose other than style and rhetoric between Kevin Rudd and Peter Costello; I do not subscribe to the idea that the ALP is part of the solution, but rather part of the problem. What we need is more independents and stronger minor parties.

I also want to express my strong endorsement of the introductory sections to Jack's report. My academic speciality is world-systems theory. This is a perspective that seeks to unite sociological, anthropological, historical and economic history approaches and studies the world as not a collection of independent countries, but as one unified, overarching, holistic and coherent system, which has existed in its essentials for about 500 years. The dynamic of this system is the capitalist world-economy, with its motivating logic being the endless accumulation of wealth through the

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commodification (conversion into a sellable product) of everything – products, relationships, culture, human interactions. Our analysis is that this system reached its peak in the second third of the twentieth century is now coming apart and will collapse in the next 20 to 50 years, as it hits the ecological and economic limits (nothing left to commodify). This places special obligations on those of us who live now, as the things we do will help to shape the world our descendants inherit,

more so than at any time since the first generations of the system in 1450 – 1550. Of course the power and wealth elites, increasingly globally united, will do all they can to perpetuate their plunder of the world, and as resources restrict, will have to resort to more and more force and less and less bribery with the crumbs, to hold power. A form of global neo-fascism, extracting tribute through violence – is a real possible outcome, and there are many who will support that option rather than accept a reduction in lifestyle and greater equality. We live in a time of *kairos*¹, the time that is the right time for change, but also a fearful time, when there will be much suffering and upheaval. How long this time will last, and if it can be curtailed in favour of a better world will require hard work, much activism and sacrifice from all of us.

Enough philosophy. In the last year we have achieved some milestones, of which I am very proud. Our finances are sound and increasing. We have commenced a pledge program to pay Jack some income – while still woefully inadequate, it is a start, and I urge all of you to consider a

¹ ***Kairos*** (καιρός) is an ancient Greek word meaning the "right or opportune moment". The ancient Greeks had two words for time, *chronos* and *kairos*. While the former refers to chronological or sequential time, the latter signifies "a time in between", a moment of undetermined period of time in which "something" special happens. What the special something is depends on who is using the word. While *chronos* is quantitative, *kairos* has a qualitative nature.

- from Reference.com at location <http://www.reference.com/search?r=13&q=Kairos>

regular pledge² (even \$10 per week helps) towards this. We have developed a state of the art, automated financial management system. We have nearly doubled our membership. We maintain our vigorous work in breaking through the media exclusion walls, and Project SafeCom keeps manifesting its voice in the press. We have proven our ability through the timeliness and topicality of our press releases, based in sources not always available to journalists, to both raise and amplify issues. We have developed a trusted and well used website, with an excellent number of visitors. All in all it has been a successful year, and both Jack and the committee deserve congratulations for a job well done.

On the website, let me share how well respected it is. This year I toured the US for some weeks and spent a delightful weekend enjoying the marvellous hospitality and delightful company of Project SafeCom member Maria Cook and her wonderful husband Lance in *Ithaca*, New York state - the most beautiful place I have ever seen in the world. Maria is professor of migration studies at *Cornell University* and uses Project SafeCom's Daily News and Updates as well as our website as a teaching resource. The site is well respected and used among US academics and as a consequence students over there are very well informed - and often horrified - at the policies of the Australian Government towards refugees and practical human rights. Project SafeCom's impact is felt well beyond our borders.

"The site is well respected and used among US academics and as a consequence students over there are very well informed - and often horrified - at the policies of the Australian Government towards refugees and practical human rights."

Other very worthy milestones of this past year were the World Refugee Day project, for which we received enormous and generous support from the *Fremantle Herald* in the form of a dedicated wrap around cover, with the promise of a repeat in the coming year. We thank the proprietor Andrew Smith for his support and commitment. We also acknowledge the generosity of the ACT Refugee Action Committee who so readily sponsored Jack's trip to Canberra in March to attend the Manning Clark Weekend of Ideas, and RAC's Jane Keogh's hospitality - as well as her support for a time as our 'remote committee member'. And, not for the first time, our warm thanks goes to Larry Stringer and Liana Christensen for the use of the Scott Street House in South Fremantle as our premises, even as this agreement is likely to come to an end soon. And finally, we recently appointed our very first honorary member, Dr Carmen Lawrence on the occasion of her retirement from Federal Parliament, for her consistent support of our project.

I will be stepping down from the chair at the coming AGM, for three reasons. My PhD is approaching final stages and I need to focus intently from here on in; simultaneously my academic career is developing with overseas visits to speak at conferences, opportunities to publish and participation in three international research projects and not least because I personally believe it is bad practice for people to occupy the same position in an organisation for more than two years. It has been a privilege to chair Project SafeCom in this time, to work with Jack and our wonderfully dedicated committee members, and I thank you all for the support you have so generously tendered.

Here's to a successful year of promoting meaningful social change!

October 2007

C. S. Beidatsch
Cedric Beidatsch, Chair

² Salary account: Account name Project SafeCom Inc, account number 130035587, BSB 633 000

Co-ordinator's Report

Introduction: Reconnecting Australia

To someone who is prepared to carefully observe population trends connected to economic and environmental developments in Australia, it may rapidly become clear, that on some level a considerable number of autochthonous Australian *displaced people* live amongst us, and, more disturbingly, that the number is on the rise.

While Indigenous people living in cities and towns have long been one of the primary groups to experience forced displacement³ when suburban property prices become subject to rapid increases with the ensuing effect that rental prices rise steeply, often aided by the *boutiquification* of walkways, road verges, shopping centres, parklands and public spaces, the phenomenon is now spreading to many other people, and not just to typical single-income or low-income people.

Internal displacement

The *totally mad* soaring of real estate prices to exorbitant levels, the fact that rents are 'going through the roof' and that companies offering tenancies are in a luxurious position to demand

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– even extort – 'extra's' from prospective tenants, has a worst-case scenario effect of many people simply being forced to move to the cheapest areas of cities or towns, or move into country or regional areas. Add to this the real threat that several major Australian cities may be starting to run out of water, and there will be taking place for many people, for many families, a forced internal migration, a forced relocation, an 'internal displacement' in the true classical sense of the word, for

environmental and economic reasons. People are being forced to move because of '*capitalism having gone rampant*' and because of environmental factors. Add to this the widely expected considerable increase of the cost of public utilities such as water and electricity when we start adding the cost of carbon pollution, and our nation's cities may well find themselves quietly developing into communities that exhibit a range of serious core problems in their social functioning.

This introduction to our *2007 Annual Report* is intended to do a couple of things. Firstly, it hopes to focus your attention on to some new factors that contribute to the making of refugees and displaced people – and there's perhaps no better way to do this than to lead you into our own backyard rather than to point to a country other than Australia, and immediately talk about *refugees over there* than about *refugees over here*; secondly, it intends to stress that environmental factors in a capitalist society, driven by lots of financial greed and its connected agendas, may well more frequently than we expect form the foundation for the

³ At the time of writing, the UN's Secretary-General Representative to Australia, Abdullah Mbamba, stated that Australia should be prepared to acknowledge the making of climate refugees in Australia itself, from its Indigenous population. See *Warning on climate refugees from within Australia*, ABC News 4 October 2007, at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/10/04/2050480.htm> (accessed Oct 4 2007)

making of refugees and displaced people in the 21st century; and thirdly, it hopes to also focus your attention to the way Project SafeCom was set up, the way its particular vision, direction and mandate has been formulated. Just last month the opportunity arose to redefine our vision when the Refugee Council of Australia asked for a summary – you can find this definition in Appendix 1⁴ at the end of this Report.

Wisdom politicians

Project SafeCom clearly is not a party-political organization, but this has never had major implications for any form of silence or toning down of our vigorous government critique. Under John Howard the Liberal Party has been dominated by his personal stamp and small-minded and controlling policy directives, and we all know how most, if not all, policy initiatives under his government contain some shocking wedges, how by far the most of them pit different population groups up against each other, and how all of them split asunder population unity in our country. Perhaps the fact that the coalition government's environment and climate change policies carry such a strong underlying mantra of '*climate scepticism*' – as per usual in tandem with the US Bush Administration – will be an important part of the undoing of Howard's reign. It is essential that Australia in its precariousness over climate change issues is governed with great care and compassion by politicians with great wisdom, politicians who display a deep connection with the issues so clearly outlined in a rapidly growing number of scientific climate status reports, and with an honest set of policies that pro-actively promote social equity and justice platforms, and, in the context of financial ruin for many Australians as a result of *internal displacement*, that these policies contain a significant aspect of income and wealth redistribution to assist the many of us who will be seriously affected.

Responsible world citizen?

The fact that under Kevin Rudd's Labor we will sign the Kyoto protocol, and once again become a better global citizen, gives a more optimistic outlook – but let me hasten to add to this that Australia, in its disturbingly limited political two-party system where the opposites



must move ever closer or face electoral annihilation, is in great need of a balance of power provided by the minor parties and decent independents: the recent "me-too" blabber by the ALP and its now virtually castrated former environmental campaigner Peter Garrett over the Tasmanian Gunns' Tamar Valley pulp mill approval shows that Labor is entirely happy to feed the economic bandwagon and silence the cries of the planet – major party politics still governs and manipulates, and murders if need be, environmental ethics, and still prostitutes what should have been an uncompromising honesty of protecting the planet. Under a new post-Howard government we will need to demand from politicians a pro-actively taming of the monster destroying the planet

⁴ See Appendix 1 - (Re)defining vision, goals and purpose

and insist that they bind in chains the beast of the economy, and remind them that the economy is there to serve us, and that we do not exist to serve the economy. Even while the ALP can be criticised heavily in this context, Kevin Rudd has also positioned himself 'in words' about Labor's role in the taming of the economy in his 'Howard's Brutopia' article in *The Monthly* last year,

There are no more corrosive agents at work today, on the so-called conservative institutions of family, community, church and country, than the unforgiving forces of neo-liberalism, materialism and consumerism, which lay waste to anything in their path. This deep split within the Right provides new opportunities for the Labor Party to argue for a comprehensive set of values that intelligently harnesses both the importance of the market and the importance of the family, community and society which markets ultimately serve.⁵

while retiring ALP Member for Fremantle Dr Carmen Lawrence, who recently accepted our offer for an honorary Project SafeCom membership, notes in her valedictory speech in the House of Representatives in September this year:

The contemporary position of many governments, including this one, is that Adam Smith's 'invisible hand' should be allowed almost unfettered operation to allocate goods and services in our community, including health and education. What that view of the world fails to understand is that Adam Smith himself was a very strong proponent of the need for institutional controls and the insertion of humane values into the operation of the economy because he recognised the limitations of market forces. The marketplace, competition, efficiency-such concepts underestimate the necessary human dimension to our lives. We continue to allow this agenda to dominate our policies at the cost of our humanity, our inventiveness and equality in our society.⁶

Behold the planet

While it seems that most of the world has already declared a *planetary emergency* (I used these very words at the e-launch of our Climate Justice flyer⁷), Australian politicians of the major parties, similar to many other countries' governments, have largely failed to see the issues this plainly and openly, let alone start an appeal to the population to reach out and assist. It is however only when this happens, when we learn to 'hold' – in the sense of the word 'behold' – the danger the planet, our very own world, finds itself, and learn to hold this realisation, and when we can also be assured that our country is governed by our parliamentary representatives with the greatest of care, a great deal of compassion and a great deal of mercifulness towards those who will be affected, that we once again learn to develop a sense of wholeness in relaxation, and learn to restore the sense of compassion and inclusion we so urgently will need to care for those in our own country as well as in the rest of the world who are displaced, and for those who need our help, whether they knock on our doors or not.

The inclusive society

This state of balance could be called *the inclusive society*, and I believe that nothing less than this consciousness is what we need in the next 4-5 decades, where we are bound to

⁵ See *Howard's Brutopia*, in *The Monthly* (Nov 2006), reproduced on the Project SafeCom website: <http://www.safecom.org.au/rudd-brutopia.htm>

- See also Rudd's *Faith in Politics* from *The Monthly* (Oct 2006) here: <http://www.safecom.org.au/dream-team.htm#rudd-monthly>

⁶ <http://www.safecom.org.au/lawrence-vaedictory.htm>

⁷ <http://www.safecom.org.au/climate-change-cta.htm>

experience, as well as witness, massive disturbance, a great deal of dislocation, many scattered or vanishing communities, and a great deal of deep, deep distress on the part of the world population. In the last decade we have experienced just a few days where *the inclusive society* was activated, strongest during our response at the end of 2004 to the Asian earthquake and the ensuing tsunami in Aceh, when we spontaneously gave many millions of

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dollars, because it was the only thing we could do. Perhaps we also had a similar experience during the Sydney Olympic games' opening ceremony, where we showed so proudly of the best of Australian talent and Australian culture, or in the weeks following the Beaconsfield mine disaster in Tasmania – but just some moments of this beautiful collectiveness is not enough to keep filling us. The fact that we have experienced such a long period of *'materialistic, individualistic, excluding, manipulating, and mean-spirited'* government under John Howard is one of the main contributing factors to the spiritual desert we have experienced in recent years; we may be well burnt out in our *'democratic enactment spontaneity'*, and our skills to respond appropriately to injustice may well have worn out.

During the last 11 years Australia has had a Prime Minister, who by playing a game of manipulation and acting out in the role of a *"smart-arse"*, while getting the answers to the radio quiz all wrong or not knowing them, won the quiz anyway, walking off with 100 bars of soap:

In 1955 a 16-year-old John Howard appeared on a radio broadcast of Jack Davey's *Give it a Go* quiz show. It is mighty revealing. The Prime Minister is exposed as a cocky kid with absolutely no clue about the answers, but a cheeky confidence in going for it, anyway ... The prize was 10 cakes of Velvet soap for every correct answer. Howard didn't answer questions correctly, but it didn't matter, he walked off with 100 cakes.⁸

Recently someone suggested that he was bullied a lot during his school years, and my conjecture tells me, that if this is so, he learnt very early on to split his enemies into two camps by introducing an argument they would fight about, so they would divert their energy away from their original target and start attacking each other. That's my fantasy of John Howard's modus operandi, the wedge policy he has tried on our country, time and again, not born from mature wisdom and a desire to build our nation, but born from determination and coping strategies as a bullied, not overly bright, but very *smart* child.

My deepest desire for Australia as a nation, is that she gets a leader, a team, or a group of leaders, who unite us, build us up, and heal the scars inflicted on its psychological and social landscape. The sooner this happens, the better it will be for me, for you, for the nation, and for the rest of the world we engage with.

⁸ See <http://landownunder.blogspot.com/2006/07/john-howard-answers-questions.html> - the audio file (Real Player format) is here:
http://www.australianpolitics.com/sounds/2002/06/02-06-09_howard-and-jack-davey-1955.ram

This year's events

an apology

Last year's Annual Report included reports on a number of events that should not have been there: they fell outside the scope of reporting for the year 2005-06. In my enthusiasm I included them, and my committee never picked me up on it. Consequently, some event report summaries below are repeats of last year's Report. My apologies for the slip-up!

women in black on white man's business

Cnr Barrack St & Hay St, Perth, 11 July 2006 - It was pure delight to have a supporting role - in doing the media work and acting as the convenor of the farewell ceremony in front of their usual 'stall location' at the corner of Hay and Barrack Street (50 people, including Indigenous representatives) - in the walking pilgrimage to Parliament House of *Women in Black* Pam Morris, Jane Paterson and Kathryn Newmar. Not only was it lovely to receive so much appreciation from the women for so little work, but it was also terrific to see how the well-worn activists have maintained a sharp discernment throughout the ongoing ordeals for activists during the Howard years. The women reported that my media work resulted in dozens of radio and TV interviews, print news reports and press conferences.

<http://www.safecom.org.au/women-in-black-walk.htm>

orisha and sedition

Kulcha, Fremantle, 6 Sept 2006 - Once again Rina and Omar, theatre and puppet theatre artists from Brisbane's *Orisha International*, were in Perth, and like last year, they generously donated their time for a fundraiser for us. The wrapper of Forum Theatre, combined with themes reminiscent of the Anti-terrorism legislation and the sedition laws in the title of the event (Fun, Laughter and other Seditious Causes), gave light relief for about 45 people at Kulcha who attended. <http://www.safecom.org.au/orisha-sedition.htm>

climate justice brochure

Online event, 19 Sept 2006 - It could be argued that the core concepts summarised in our Constitution say more about our climate crisis than about refugees. Perhaps that's an oppositional argument that's not really needed, but it has always been the intent that Project SafeCom would engage with policies that concern displaced people also in terms of *climatological, ecological and geological upheaval* (our constitutional formulation), so the 'launch' of our Climate Justice brochure had always been on the cards - and its 'birth', coinciding with the visit to Australia by former US vice-president Al Gore and the season's opening of *An Inconvenient Truth* was perfectly timed, and deliberately so. See the page for the flyer at <http://www.safecom.org.au/climate-change-cta.htm>

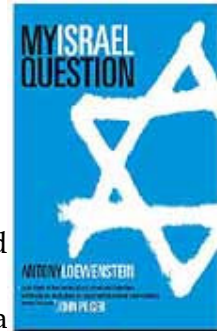
supporting adam janali - Ozala

Kulcha, Mon 9 Oct 2006 onwards - Our role during the Art exhibition - *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, by Adam Janali (Ozala) was a promotional one and a supporting organization at the opening of the exhibition of his art dating back to the time he was a 'resident' in the Port

Hedland detention centre. His exquisite yet agonising artwork, depicting the incarceration and its influence on the psyche of detained asylum seekers remains highly relevant, and the quality of his work has gained him already many accolades in Australian society. See the page for this event during 2006 Refugee week at <http://www.safecom.org.au/ref-week2006.htm>

antony loewenstein

Kulcha, Fremantle, Wed 11 Oct 2006 - Jewish blogger, journalist and author Antony Loewenstein just released his critique of Zionism, *My Israel Question*, and given the fact that I regularly communicate with him, my discovery that his publisher, Melbourne University Press, had no intention to organise a book launch in Western Australia, the opportunity arose for Project SafeCom to organise one. Antony proved keen, the subject material is, as a major social issue connected to the middle east and the seeming unresolvable conflict, where major world powers, including the Howard government and the international as well as Australian media are clearly partisan in a seriously biased way, in line with some of our purposes and intent - and the event could also give a healthy financial boost to us. My accepted invitation to *The Social Justice Network* to co-sponsor and broadcast the event was partially the reason that the book launch and Forum at Kulcha was attended by about 110-120 people. Linda Briskman (Curtin Human Rights), Gavin Mooney (Social Justice Network), Samina Yasmeen (UWA Social and Cultural Studies) were joined by moderator Giz Watson MLC in a forum attended by people from the Jewish, Lebanese, Palestian and Muslim community. - <http://www.safecom.org.au/israel-question-forum.htm>



inconvenient truth down under

Russell Square, Northbridge, Sat 4 Nov 2006 - Logically following from the just published Climate Justice brochure was our support for and promotion of the *2006 Walk against Warming*, one of the many events around Australia that assisted in building climate change issues becoming 'common good' in the media and the population, following on from several international reports having been published. We look back on a great stall, a sunny day and the presence of about 7,000 people at the rally, a considerable turnout for Perth. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/walk-against-warming.htm>

canberra in march oh seven

Canberra ACT, March 2007 - My yearning to once again connect on an interstate level with many in the human rights movement around the country "*flared up dangerously*" when news reached out into the West about the Manning Clark House 2007 Weekend of Ideas, "*A Fair Go for Refugees?*", and thanks to RAC Canberra the ticket to the ACT eventuated. The Canberra trip gave me the opportunity for a dinner talk at the exquisite *Vivaldi's* at ANU, the presence to spend a few weeks connecting with many MP's, Senators and backbenchers on all side of politics, and connect in person at Parliament House's *Aussies Café* with a considerable number of Press Gallery reporters. The trip was an invaluable investment in public relations and personal-professional connecting for a purpose. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/canberra07.htm>

petitioning burke and rudd

Online website action, 20-28 April 2007 - The online petition, sent via our website form page software, to ALP leader Kevin Rudd and Immigration spokesman Tony Burke in the lead-up to the April 2007 ALP National Darling Harbour Conference was a good forum for people to express both their concerns with ALP policies and apply due pressure over the ALP's planned use of Howard's Christmas Island detention centre, the party's maintenance of the (softer and smaller than Howard's) excision zone, and sounds coming from Burke that a '*stopping the boats policy*' would not just be acceptable, but a growing part of an ALP platform in a post-Howard world. Hundreds of people sent their sometimes vigorous comments to the ALP within the first week (total number almost 900), and the petitioning frenzy drew out both Tony Burke and Kevin Rudd in televised remarks prior to the party's conference (ABC News, Friday 27/4) about the need to have 'safe' policies combating people smuggling to prevent a maritime disaster. These rather lame remarks to justify '*boat-stopping policies*' were made in addition to responses to the just announced 'US refugee swap' deal. Apart from this, and the general trend by Labor all through 2007 to stubbornly maintain a small (*read invisible*) target policy prior to the 2007 election, the petitioners were well and truly heard and noticed. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/alp-petition1.htm>

2007 world refugee day

Fremantle NAVY Club, 22 June 2007 - If there was a highlight differentiating this year's *World Refugee Day* event from other years, then that must clearly go to the endorsement and support by *The Fremantle Herald*, which went to great expense to publish a wrap-around for the paper in its weekend edition leading up to our event, featuring contributions by our presenters at the evening and an announcement of the *Why the Boats Must Come* event. But, in addition to the generous sponsorship of *The Herald*, we were also able to create our first promotional movie from a 15-minute TV News report featuring our WRD event by *Perth Community TV*. The event was also one of the first public appearances for the new ALP candidate for Fremantle, UN lawyer Melissa Parke, who is set to replace retiring MHR Carmen Lawrence if Labor retains Fremantle. We showed the movie *We Will Be Remembered For This*, and the event drew about 150 people to the Club who braved stormy weather and showers on a Friday night. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/wrd2007.htm> and other linked pages for the event.

paddling the excision zone

Kulcha, Sunday 5 August 2007 - Latrobe's Dr David Corlett, author of *Following Them Home: the fate of the returned asylum seekers*, and Simon Keenan from *Paddling For Refugees*, while passing through on their sea kayaking journey in and around Australia's '*excised zone*' - those parts of Australia's north that have been legislatively cut off from the migration zone in order to prohibit any asylum seeker arriving there from applying for protection in Australia - were our guests while travelling through Perth starting their trip from Coral Bay, kayaking at significant sections of the excised zone along the WA coast. In another first, this was an event supported by two bands (*blac blocs*, *airport city shuffle*) and by well-known activist poet *Allan Boyd*. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/paddling-excision-event.htm>

Website

Below is the table with the June 2007 website traffic statistics. It tells, if held against the records of the last year, the story of a steady increase in daily visits and the number of pages accessed each day. With the last day of June ranking amongst the handful of highest days for the year, with almost 5000 pages read (highest day shows 7167 pages on 21 February), these steadily growing figures are for a great deal due to our shift to Network Solutions' Hong-Kong based subsidiary ICDSOFT, who provide a highly professional, stable, low-cost and high bandwidth service on a shared server to us since November 2006. On my last count there were about 895 stand-alone html (website-language) pages on the website, including all press releases.

Of note are the improvements we made to online product order processing, where the website software now can return automatic order confirmation messages to our clients, eliminating a significant workload for any Product Manager; secondly, all web-based product and other payments can now be made via our PayPal online payment system, offering increased professionalism as well as online security and trust. Both changes have contributed to increases in orders, also from overseas clients, both individuals and institutions, such as university libraries. Finally, the log-in section for our members - promised for so long without it eventuating - provides for a more private space for the membership, for minutes and member-only documents and for discount credit card payments.

Daily Statistics for June 2007												
Day	Hits		Files		Pages		Visits		Sites		KBytes	
1	26080	3.43%	20103	3.30%	3352	3.28%	1932	2.92%	3371	5.88%	371019	3.47%
2	18561	2.44%	15203	2.50%	2715	2.66%	1624	2.46%	2746	4.79%	290090	2.71%
3	21887	2.88%	17774	2.92%	2478	2.43%	1686	2.55%	2658	4.63%	302278	2.83%
4	24909	3.28%	20912	3.44%	3152	3.09%	2033	3.07%	3077	5.36%	341420	3.19%
5	27380	3.60%	22508	3.70%	3870	3.79%	2640	3.99%	3999	6.97%	438177	4.10%
6	27586	3.63%	22548	3.71%	4228	4.14%	2613	3.95%	3563	6.21%	464226	4.34%
7	27123	3.57%	22399	3.68%	4227	4.14%	2729	4.13%	3538	6.17%	422231	3.95%
8	22653	2.98%	18315	3.01%	3245	3.18%	2223	3.36%	3129	5.45%	349916	3.27%
9	16873	2.22%	12798	2.10%	2915	2.85%	2061	3.12%	2889	5.04%	268576	2.51%
10	22613	2.98%	15493	2.55%	2829	2.77%	1819	2.75%	2759	4.81%	387874	3.63%
11	23614	3.11%	18804	3.09%	3288	3.22%	2226	3.37%	3200	5.58%	339155	3.17%
12	35457	4.67%	27091	4.45%	3882	3.80%	2505	3.79%	3715	6.47%	391585	3.66%
13	28129	3.70%	22822	3.75%	3601	3.53%	2445	3.70%	3488	6.08%	377034	3.53%
14	25666	3.38%	21467	3.53%	3486	3.41%	2184	3.30%	3164	5.51%	359597	3.36%
15	21854	2.88%	16744	2.75%	2965	2.90%	2061	3.12%	3005	5.24%	303764	2.84%
16	20989	2.76%	16357	2.69%	3685	3.61%	2268	3.43%	3115	5.43%	297264	2.78%
17	20847	2.74%	16616	2.73%	2793	2.73%	1809	2.74%	2904	5.06%	293989	2.75%
18	24205	3.19%	19872	3.27%	2963	2.90%	1975	2.99%	3122	5.44%	338606	3.17%
19	27061	3.56%	22278	3.66%	3636	3.56%	2334	3.53%	3553	6.19%	377971	3.54%
20	22790	3.00%	19445	3.20%	3129	3.06%	2153	3.26%	3154	5.50%	326085	3.05%
21	23853	3.14%	19216	3.16%	3185	3.12%	2156	3.26%	3114	5.43%	350596	3.28%
22	21039	2.77%	16242	2.67%	3247	3.18%	2307	3.49%	3023	5.27%	315335	2.95%
23	16715	2.20%	13523	2.22%	3023	2.96%	1841	2.78%	2696	4.70%	300137	2.81%
24	15101	1.99%	12215	2.01%	2951	2.89%	1726	2.61%	2557	4.46%	265109	2.48%
25	23189	3.05%	19189	3.15%	3353	3.28%	2068	3.13%	3194	5.57%	341615	3.20%
26	28352	3.73%	17657	2.90%	2690	2.63%	1885	2.85%	2994	5.22%	329080	3.08%
27	26050	3.43%	19939	3.28%	3668	3.59%	2475	3.74%	3404	5.93%	383062	3.58%
28	39068	5.14%	31373	5.16%	4140	4.05%	3008	4.55%	3731	6.50%	413266	3.87%
29	38686	5.09%	31918	5.25%	4442	4.35%	2632	3.98%	3336	5.81%	443626	4.15%
30	41256	5.43%	37632	6.18%	4990	4.89%	2783	4.21%	3486	6.08%	506632	4.74%

Financial Report

While the request for an early resignation by the 2006-07 treasurer Rod Mitchell created a hiatus, the electronic records were, also with his help before he left, adjusted so monthly reconciliations were almost an automatic process, and thanks to the smartness of the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet this left little room for complicated and compounding errors to creep into the daily bookkeeping.

Our warm thanks goes to committee member Trish Bevan, who consistently gave of her time as a volunteer to complete cross-checks between the electronic records, the paper invoices and receipt files and the printed bank statements. Trish's assistance kept the tally at the end of the year to just a *'one-day exercise'* before the books could be presented for an audit.

The annual summary statement reproduced on the next page of this Report follows the format presented in the audit report by our Accountant Ray Woolley Pty Ltd – this format has been adopted as a new worksheet, linked to the column totals in the records, making an audit for subsequent years almost an automatic process.

The audit declaration statement from Ray Woolley Pty Ltd is included in this report as Appendix 2⁹.

This year we also opened in addition to our main working account¹⁰, a secondary account as a salary account for the Co-ordinator¹¹, while calling for periodic pledges from members and supporters, accepting a growing number of member and supporter contributions with many thanks. The humble monthly amount that comes is does not as yet constitute a salary, but beginnings are beginnings... No payouts were as yet actioned during the year, allowing the contributions to stabilise and the funds in this account to build up.

Our annual income increases steadily, and is up by more than \$5000 compared to the previous year, for a significant part being driven by improved website performance and increased Google Page rankings, so more new and unknown visitors come by the website and order our products. Annual income from Membership fees also increased nearly threefold as a result of a large increase in our membership, where supporters wanted to maintain their subscription to the Project SafeCom News and Updates, which became a member-only newsletter during the year. This is also the first year where we have been able to generate an income from Google through website advertising, which slowly approaches the *one-dollar a day* mark for every day of the year.

*Cedric Beidatsch, Chair
Jack H Smit, Project Coordinator*

⁹ See page 18

¹⁰ Main account: Account name Project SafeCom Inc, account number 115643900, BSB 633 000

¹¹ Salary account: Account name Project SafeCom Inc, account number 130035587, BSB 633 000

Income

Interest	\$0.95	
Admin	\$150.00	
Membership Fees	\$2,982.46	
Donations & Gifts	\$7,338.82	
Sales & Promotions	\$11,835.21	
Website income	\$276.00	
Total General income		\$22,583.44
Salary Account	<u>\$2,495.00</u>	
Total Income		\$25,078.44

Expenditure

Postage	\$1,145.98	
Office equipment	\$910.58	
Printing and Stationery	\$1,305.13	
Bank charges	\$9.85	
Website	\$154.86	
Internet access	\$934.46	
Phone	\$3,998.60	
Public Utilities	\$481.08	
Mobile phone	\$610.51	
Travel	\$1,520.13	
Expenses Reimbursement	\$2,001.59	
Promotion costs	\$7,334.95	
Administration	\$1,345.89	
Donations OUT	\$0.00	
Transfers to Cash Account	\$2,550.00	
Corporate Memberships	<u>\$108.50</u>	
Total Expenditure		\$24,225.52
Surplus for the year		<u>\$852.92</u>

Cash Account

Postage	\$49.70	
Printing and Stationery	\$217.15	
Internet access	\$29.10	
Travel	\$403.64	
Expenses Reimbursement	\$1,487.46	
Promotion costs	\$258.15	
Sundry Expenses	<u>\$73.80</u>	
Total cash expenses		\$2,519.00
Cash Transfers from main account		<u>\$2,550.00</u>
Cash in hand		\$31.00
Cash on Hand Brought Forward	\$0.00	
Cash at Bank Brought Forward	\$2,458.66	
Salary Account balance	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total Funds		<u>\$2,458.66</u>
		\$3,342.58
Cash on Hand Carried Forward	\$31.00	
Cash at Bank Carried Forward	\$816.58	
Salary Account balance Carried Forward	<u>\$2,495.00</u>	
		<u>\$3,342.58</u>

List of members

The listing of members below by State is a listing of those members who are or were current during the 2006-07 financial year, as well as of members who joined since the end of the year.

The list does not distinguish between membership types.

Western Australia

Dr Carmen Lawrence, Fremantle (honorary membership)
Janine Abbott, Wembley Downs
Ian Alexander, White Gum Valley
Veronica Anderson, North Fremantle
Cedric Beidatsch, Doubleview
Patricia Benjamin, Subiaco
Trish Bevan, North Fremantle
Carmel Boyce, Eaton
Justine Brosnan, Mount Lawley
Chilla Bulbeck, Cottesloe
John Carroll, Subiaco
Hugh Charlesworth, Narrogin
Liana Christensen, Hilton
Ross Copeland, Carine
Jo Darbyshire, Maylands
Andy Dent, Gwelup
Paul Desmond, High Wycombe
Paul Dobson, East Fremantle
Yvonne Duffield, Beechboro
Colin Edwards, Subiaco
Pamela May Etccl, Rockingham
Andrew Gill, Bassendean
Lee Green, Redcliffe
Nathalie Haymann, Denmark
Victor Hoisington, Fremantle
Wendy Hudson, St James
Rosemary Hudson-Miller, Perth
Melissa Hurd, Wembley
Suzanne Ingelbrecht, Darlington
Sheila Jessop, Maylands
Sr Mary Keely, Cannington
Mandy Kiely, Bullcreek

Australian Capital Territory

Jane Keogh, Hackett
Madeleine Bullock, Watson
Judy Poulos, Griffith
Werner Padarin, Woden
Claire Bruhns, Rivett
Marion Lè, Belconnen

Fiona Logan, Bicton
Mick O'Loughlen, White Gum Valley
Joe Loss, North Fremantle
Theo MacKaay, Fremantle
Lynn MacLaren, East Fremantle
Ria Martens, West Perth
Loretta Martella, Fremantle
Pauline Masters, Wembley
Steve Mellor, Woodvale
Marcelle Meyer, Como
Rosalie Miles, Gwelup
Rod Mitchell, Guildford
Gavin Mooney, East Fremantle
Pam Morris, Como
Anne Parker, Cowaramup
Jane Paterson, White Gum Valley
Jeanette Richards, Nedlands
Dennis Ryle, Wembley Downs
Darryl Seward, Dunsborough
Jack Smit, Narrogin
Mary-Anne Spalding, East Fremantle
Jon Strachan, South Fremantle
Jeff Strahan, Fremantle
Larry Stringer, Hilton
Peter Swanson, Victoria Park
Marta Szedlak, Bullcreek
Dianne Tavakoli, Victoria Park
Tony Troughton-Smith, Glen Forrest
Michael Wearne, Fremantle
Sally Wearne, East Fremantle
Del Weston, East Fremantle
Maureen Yates, Cottesloe

Tasmania

Sue Anderson, West Hobart
John Biggs, Sandy Bay
Helen Tait, Launceston
Sara Ann Strong, Lilydale

New South Wales

Linda Anchell, Burra Creek
Colleen Angove, Sutton
Laurie Berg, Enmore
Martin Bibby, Beecroft
Oskar Booth, Redfern
Steve Cram, Croydon
Nanna van Dam, Tuncurry
David Dignam, Bullabulla
Tami Ebner, Maroubra
Ann El Khoury, Sydney
Maree Ford, Waratah West
Kate Gauthier, Croydon
Lisa Goodman, Surry Hills
Diane Gosden, Bundeena
Janet Grevillea, Wangi Wangi
Bruce Haigh, Mudgee
Margaret Hetherton, Balmain
James Higgins, Mollymook Beach
Bradley Hughes, Coogee
Isabella Jeans, Moruya
Sky de Jersey, Petersham
Beatriz Leoncini, Connells Point
Laurel Lloyd-Jones, Bermagui
Connie McNamee, Coogee
Jonathan Milford, Randwick
Louise Megaloconomos, Congo
Melanie Morrison, Undercliffe
Marty Morrison, Forster
Jim Norman, Orange
Paul Power, Surry Hills
Bruce Robertson, Randwick
Genevieve Slattery, Drummoyne
Tony Simons, Henley
Elaine Smith, West Haven
Meg Stewart, Lake Conjola
Nura Wendy Tashiro, Mullumbimby
Jane Vincent, Sutton

Queensland

Maggie Barszczyk, West End
Anni Bliss, Shorncliffe
Gary Blond, Joyner
Sue Bond, The Gap
Kerri Browne, Hawthorne
Gwen Gorman, Camp Hill
Ann Jarman, Bargara
Karen Lee, Fortitude Valley
Bronwen Lloyd, Woolloongabba
Freddie Steen, Chapel Hill
Ronald Webb, Kenilworth

South Australia

Jenny Bourne, Port Augusta
Lyn Coleman, Prospect
Sarah Haq, Kensington
Ron Hoenig, Hawthorn
Daphne Lascaris, Athelstone
Tom Mann, Gawler East
Denise MacKay, Mount Gambier East
Angela McDonagh, Port Noarlunga Sth
Jan McInerny, Rose Park
Jean Oates, Whyalla Norrie
Stan Potter, Whyalla
Eva Sallis, Alberton
Helen Sage, Malvern

Victoria

Brigid Arthur, Albert Park
John Ball, Melbourne
Colleen Bartolomei, West Brunswick
Kevin Bracken, Port Melbourne
Margaret Cassidy, Springvale
Pamela Curr, Brunswick
Margaret Dahlstrom, Parkville
Clifford Dubery, Frankston
David Dyer, Ballarat
Christine Fabel, Foster
Peter Farago, Churchill
Linda Gale, South Melbourne
Kate Gillespie-Jones, Canterbury
Joan Good, Traralgon
Antony Helm, Tootgarook
Judith Houston, Ballarat
Brenda Hubber, East Melbourne
David Hunt, Walwa
Jean Jordan, Eltham
Leah Kaminsky, East Brighton
Ben Leeman, Surrey Hills
Helen Lewers, Napoleons
Marg Lynn, Berry's Creek
David MacIlwain, Sandy Creek
Andrew McPhee, Wodonga
Wendy Morris, Eltham
Rosemary Nairn, Thornbury
Amy Nethery, Elsternwick
Dr Klaus Neumann, Hawthorn
Victoria Quinton, East Melbourne
Moirra Rayner, East Melbourne
Barbara Rogalla, Springvale
Erika Stahr, Clayton South
Heather Stock, North Fitzroy
Jessie Taylor, East Melbourne
Savitri Taylor, Bundoora
Margaret Tonkin, Box Hill

International

Maria Cook, Ithaca NY (USA)
James S Huggins, Dallas TX (USA)

Appendix 1 - (Re)defining vision, goals and purpose

- **Ambitious Vision of Values**

Project SafeCom is a community development project and an incorporated non-profit association based in Western Australia. Project SafeCom has marked its values, directions and ethical positioning to refugees, displaced people and various other vulnerable population groups by defining a vision of a rural, farm-based sustainable community in [Western] Australia which would act as a safe community for people of any race, gender, creed or nationality, who are displaced as a result of wars or political, social, climatological, ecological and geological upheaval and/or disaster.

- **No Implementation Timeline**

By capturing a community vision in this practical way - without stipulating a timeline for its implementation - Project SafeCom has defined its values of adherence to relevant International Conventions, environmental sustainability and, as its logo alludes to, values of care for land and care for people, while at the same time this notion of "intentional community" alludes to what may to a greater or lesser degree become a future community life form and community practice in an era where Australian city life and ecological/societal cohesion and equilibrium may be seriously affected by climate change.

- **Convention(s)**

Project SafeCom is committed to be a host to people who come to Australia from any country determined as 'at risk' under UN Guidelines and offer asylum seekers the opportunity to become part of a transient and working farm and eco-community.

Whilst they await processing of their claims for refugee status, asylum seekers at Project SafeCom could enrol in courses conducted on-site, secure a place in English language classes under the entry scheme for migrants and refugees and start to heal from what in most cases can be proven to have been lifelong traumatization through the political and social persecution in their countries of origin.

- **Activities/Advocacy work**

Project SafeCom opposes the Australian Government's mandatory detention of asylum seekers and refugees and the restrictions placed on their basic freedoms and sense of dignity.

Since its implementation in 2001, Project SafeCom has opened up and refined its contribution to the national debate on human rights issues, aspects of the anti-terrorism legislation, asylum seeker/refugee treatment and policies through frequent and impassioned media work, submissions to Parliament, communication with many individual MPs and Senators of all parties and sides of the House and Senate, and through regular community-based events, forums, debates between key stakeholders, and through movies, performing arts events and dramatised readings. It has also represented detained asylum seekers and availed itself as a bridge between their interests and mainstream Australian media, and has been successful in achieving change of circumstances, and release from detention, for several individuals and families, using the method of bringing a previously untold story to the attention of the Australian public as well as the Federal government.

Through its web-based "shop" it brings relevant literature and movies to the attention of the public while at the same time using these sales as a form of revenue raising to assist its operations.

Project SafeCom's highly valued Daily News and Updates, a subscriber-based emailed newsletter, links many people in Australia's Human Rights lobby and sources them with the flood of print- and other media in its relevant mandated areas of refugee issues, anti-terrorism legislation, environmental and climate change policies, and indigenous issues.

Appendix 2 - Accountant's Audit Declaration

RAY WOOLLEY PTY LTD ABN 30 056 227 297

ACCOUNTANTS

PRINCIPAL:
RAY WOOLLEY F.C.A. (UK), B.Sc. (Hons)
TELEPHONE: (08) 9322 7455
FACSIMILE: (08) 9481 8025
EMAIL: rayw@opera.iinet.net.au

UNIT 1, 20 PROWSE STREET
WEST PERTH WA 6005
PO BOX 1788
WEST PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6872

2 October 2007

Project Safecom Inc.
PO Box 364
Narrogin
WA 6312

Dear Jack

We have audited the books and records of Project Safecom Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2007. We conducted an independent audit and found that the records are in good order.

Yours sincerely



Ray Woolley