



**Edmund Rice Centre**  
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

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## **ERC JUSTICE UPDATES**

### **June 2022 No.71**

Dear Friends,

This 71st Edition of ERC Justice Updates, our regular newsletter from the Edmund Rice Centre, on matters relating to human rights, first nations and environmental justice.

Each day in this ever changing, complex and sad world gives us the opportunity to live our lives filled with Blessed Edmund Rice's three main tenets:

**COMPASSION LIBERATION & PRESENCE**

**You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have decide what kind of difference you want to make. Jane Goodall**

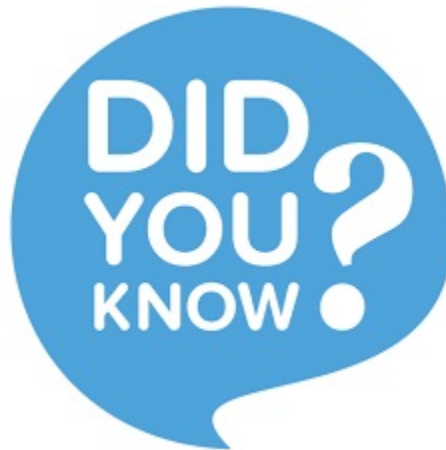
Please note that if you come up against a paywall in any of the articles below - please contact me at: [mmcinerney@edmundrice.org](mailto:mmcinerney@edmundrice.org) and I will send you the full article.

Previous editions are available at <https://www.erc.org.au/newsletters>

**Peace & Blessings**

**Marita**  
**Communications Project Officer,**  
**Marita McInerney**

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that there may be articles in this publication with names and images of deceased people.*



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released its '*State of the Global Climate 2021*' report in early June 2022. The Secretary-General of the WMO stated that this report provides an update on the annual state of the climate observed in the year 2021. and shows continued trends (also reported in the Intergovernmental Panel (IPCC) reports.

Some of the Key Messages to emerge from this report are:

- The global mean temperature in 2021 was around 1.11 + or - 0.13 C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average. This is less warm than some recent years due to the influence of La Nina conditions at the start and end of the year. The most recent seven years, 2015 to 2021, were the seven warmest years on record.
- Global mean sea level reached a new record high in 2021, rising an average of 4.5mm per year over the period 2013-2021.
- The Antarctic ozone hole reached a maximum area of 24.8 million km squared.
- Exceptional heatwaves broke records across western North America and the Mediterranean. Death Valley, California reached 54.4 C on 9th July, equalling a similar 2020 value as the highest recorded in the world since at least the 1930's, and Syracuse in Sicily reached 48.8C.
- Deadly and costly flooding induced economic losses of US \$17.7 billion in Henan province of china, and Western Europe experienced

some of its most severe flooding on record in mid-July. This event was associated with economic losses in Germany exceeding US \$20 billion.

- Drought affected many parts of the world, including areas in Canada, United States, IRAN, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. In Canada, severe drought led to forecast wheat and canola crop production levels being 35%- 40% below 2020 levels, while in the US, the level of Lake Mead on the Colorado River fell in July to 47 m below full supply level, the lowest level on record.
- The compounded effects of conflict, extreme weather events and economic shocks, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, undermined decades of progress towards improving food security globally.
- Hydro-meteorological hazards continued to contribute to internal displacements recorded as of October 2021 were China (more than 1.4million), Vietnam (more than 664,000) and the Philippines (more than 600,000).

**Full Report:**

[https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice\\_display&id=22080#.YgvOmexBy3A](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=22080#.YgvOmexBy3A)



**Guests to descend on Myall Creek to commemorate 1838 NSW frontier massacre**

*Giovanni Torre, National Indigenous Times, 10th June 2022*

A memorial commemoration marking 184 years since the Myall Creek Massacre will be held on Sunday at the Myall Creek Hall and Massacre Memorial Precinct.

The massacre took place on Sunday June 10, 1838, at Myall Creek, near the Gwydir River, in northern New South Wales.

Squatter John Fleming and a group of convict stockmen rode onto Myall Creek Station and massacred about 28 unarmed Wirrayaraay people in an unprovoked and premeditated attempt to remove them from what had become pastoral land.

The horrendous attack ultimately proved to be a rare example of colonialists being held to account for an attack on Aboriginal people, with a number of whistleblowers exposing the crime and demanding justice.

Station manager William Hobbs, local police superintendent Thomas Foster, and settler Frederick Foot reported the massacre.

Some 11 men were arrested, while Fleming escaped, and a trial went ahead.

A group of racist colonialists calling themselves the Black Association colluded to intimidate jurors and pervert the course of justice and the first trial found the men not guilty after 20 minutes of deliberation.

A second trial was held, at which the Supreme Court of New South Wales, with a new judge presiding, found the seven men on trial guilty and sentenced them to death.

The four remaining defendants were to be prosecuted at a trial at which Yintayintin, a young Aboriginal stockman, would give eyewitness testimony.

Yintayintin disappeared and the trial never went ahead, allowing the four surviving perpetrators to walk free in February, 1839.

Today, a memorial stone stands near the site of the heinous crime.

The commemoration is an annual event on the Sunday closest to the anniversary of the massacre.

**Read full story:**

[https://www.nit.com.au/guests-to-descend-on-myall-creek-to-commemorate-1838-nsw-frontier-massacre/?fbclid=IwAR2O2uJzeUFmLA95eax5kRa\\_zAOAuZFMcrcGX\\_ntlGvVe5JCpeE7l3fre2M](https://www.nit.com.au/guests-to-descend-on-myall-creek-to-commemorate-1838-nsw-frontier-massacre/?fbclid=IwAR2O2uJzeUFmLA95eax5kRa_zAOAuZFMcrcGX_ntlGvVe5JCpeE7l3fre2M)



'The fact that we now have 10 First Nations members of federal parliament, and more in state and territory governments, means we are inspiring the confidence of the communities we live in.' Photograph: Lukas Coch/AAP

**Blak MPs give First Nations women hope we might be listened to**  
*Antoinette Braybrook, IndigenousX, The Guardian, 9th June 2022*

***There is a big job ahead, but we have the solutions. Politicians just need to hand back the power to us***

I am writing this article after a week in isolation with Covid, two years of the pandemic, nine years of a Coalition government and over 250 years of colonisation, dispossession and First Nations' resistance. I, like many of you, am tired. But I am also hopeful and determined that now is the time for change.

This election was meant to be the election on violence against women.

Last year, we saw thousands of women pour on to the lawns of Parliament House to rail against sexual assault and demand real action. The then prime minister, Scott Morrison, refused to meet them on the lawns and hear their concerns, instead offering to meet with organisers in private and saying he shared the concerns of the marchers. In September we came together for the former government's National Safety Summit. Again, our message was clear: we need real action, with real solutions – designed for us, and by us.

We launched our national roadmap, Pathways to Safety, and campaigned for the systemic reform we need to end violence against First Nations women. That means governments freeing First Nations women from punitive and ineffective bail laws, reforming a cruel child protection system that tears families apart, ending the housing affordability crisis, and fixing a social security system that drives women into poverty instead of offering them a safety net when we need help.

Our calls were largely ignored by the previous government. Our demands are not new, but this Albanese government is. We stand ready to engage and build



a better future for First Nations women – if the political will is there.

### **There is cause for hope**

An unprecedented number of Blak politicians have been elected to federal parliament. The first Aboriginal woman, Linda Burney, has been appointed minister for Indigenous Australians. And the Labor party promised \$3m to our family violence prevention and legal services peak body, the Forum, to carry out its crucial national advocacy.

The Labor government has committed to ending the punitive and discriminatory cashless debit card, and made some (albeit, not enough) commitments to invest in more affordable housing in remote Northern Territory communities. They have promised to hand over the reins so we can design our own First Nations National Safety Plan – for and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

***This is cause for hope – but we are a long way from being able to celebrate.***

### **Read full story:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/09/blak-mps-give-first-nations-women-hope-we-might-be-listened-to>



Worawa Aboriginal College principal Lois Peeler and students arrive at the launch of the Aboriginal Change Makers

resource.Credit:Joe Armao

## **How students will be taught Victorian history through Aboriginal eyes**

***Adam Carey, The Age, 7th June 2022***

When Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung man Tiriki Onus was a schoolboy, he recalls a year 10 teacher telling the class “that the Aboriginal people of south-east Australia were extinct”.

“That was the word that was used,” Onus said.

“I remember looking around the room during history class, looking at all of my student colleagues, all of them looking very sorry for me, and I sat there and I thought, ‘I’m terribly sorry for you all’.

“Because I knew who I was, I knew my story. I had amazing aunties and uncles and people who told me who I was on a daily basis. I had those stories, but they didn’t.”

They were the stories of Yarmuk, who was taken to the Maloga mission at age three in the 1880s and passed on language to her descendants, even though it was against the law; of William Barak, who helped to set up a self-sufficient refuge for displaced central Victorian Aboriginal tribes near Healesville in the 1860s; of Jack Patten, who instigated the Cummeraganja mass walk-off in protest against poor living conditions and was arrested for the criminal offence of “inciting Aborigines”.

Their lives, and the lives and legacies of several other prominent past Victorian Aboriginal leaders will be studied in Victorian classrooms as part of a new history resource for students in years 7 to 10.

The resource, called Aboriginal Change Makers, prompts students to consider Victorian history through the eyes and experiences of Indigenous people who fought against long odds to keep their culture and language alive.

It details subjects including life on Aboriginal missions, the policy of removing children from their families at age 15 to work as household or farm labour, and 20th century campaigns for recognition and self-determination.

It has been developed by Victoria’s only Aboriginal-run school, Worawa Aboriginal College, in partnership with the Victorian parliament, which has also committed to provide professional resources for teachers to make best use of the material in their classrooms.

**Read full story:**

[https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/how-students-will-be-taught-victorian-history-through-aboriginal-eyes-20220601-p5aqb2.html?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3qkto01fLzHvtSTIB0PM2FDJ2Q7\\_VL5lop7Ssj2mR\\_I9bbEJS6nGHUHI8#Echobox=1654589639](https://www.theage.com.au/politics/victoria/how-students-will-be-taught-victorian-history-through-aboriginal-eyes-20220601-p5aqb2.html?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR3qkto01fLzHvtSTIB0PM2FDJ2Q7_VL5lop7Ssj2mR_I9bbEJS6nGHUHI8#Echobox=1654589639)

**The kindest people are not  
born that way, they are made. They  
are the souls that have experienced much  
at the hands of life. They are the ones who  
have dug themselves out of the dark, who  
have fought to turn every loss into a lesson.  
The kindest people do not just exist, they  
choose to soften where circumstance  
has tried to harden them. They choose  
to believe in goodness, because they have  
seen firsthand why compassion is so  
necessary. They have seen firsthand  
why tenderness is so important  
in this world.**

*Bianca Sparacino*



Refugee  
Week



Coordinated by  
Refugee Council of Australia



To all those  
who've come  
from far and wide,

We're happy you're safe  
We're happy you're free  
We're happy you're here

**Happy Refugee Week**  
**19 – 25 June 2022**

[refugeeweek.org.au](http://refugeeweek.org.au)  
[@OzRefugeeCounc](https://twitter.com/OzRefugeeCounc)  
[#refugeeweekau](https://twitter.com/refugeeweekau)



## Refugee Week 2022 Theme: Healing

### Why does Refugee Week have a theme?

*The Refugee Week theme has a number of important functions:*

- It raises awareness of the issues affecting refugees. The theme aims to highlight aspects of the refugee experience and help the broader community to understand what it is like to be a refugee.
- It helps to make Refugee Week a national celebration. The theme provides a focal point for events across Australia, uniting separate activities into a single nationwide celebration.
- It promotes harmony and togetherness. The theme unites individuals, communities and organisations from many different backgrounds behind a common cause. The common theme is a reminder that, regardless of our differences, we all share a common humanity.
- It broadens the impact of Refugee Week. The theme provides a common, cohesive message which can be promoted across the country, helping to maximise the effectiveness of awareness-raising activities.

### 2022 Theme – Healing

#### *Healing*

Australia and the rest of the world have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hit the reset button on how we behave towards one another. The importance of human connections has been underscored by the pandemic and such lessons can help us in so many ways. Mainstream and refugee communities alike can draw upon shared hardship to heal wounds, to learn from each other and to move forward. Healing can occur through storytelling, through community and also through realisation of our intrinsic interconnectedness as individuals.

In 2022, we encourage organisations and individuals to utilise our website for Refugee Week resources and events that will facilitate this healing and subsequent rejuvenation. Let us make 2022 much more than just a footnote in the pandemic years, let us heal together and emerge a more fulfilled and connected society.

#### **Further Resources:**

<https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/rcoa-fact-sheet-refugee-myths-facts/>

<https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/resource-kit-2022/>



## **Back to Bilo: The Murugappan family and Australian refugee policy**

***Binoy Kampmark, Eureka Street, Vol.32, No.11, 9th June 2022***

There are times when the singular should punch its way through and become the norm. In Australia's treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, notably those arriving by boat, compassion and fairness have rarely threatened a policy deemed cruel, costly and ineffective.

A modification of sorts to this Fortress Australia approach was briefly permitted in the form of Medivac legislation, which allowed those detained in Australia's offshore concentration camps some respite in seeking medical care in grave circumstances on the mainland. The legislation operated for eight months but was repealed by the Morrison government in December 2019.

The fate of the Murugappan family has been a continuous, scandalising flashpoint about the nature of Australia's border protection policies. The parents, Nadesalingam Murugappan (Nades) and Kokilapathmapriya Nadesalingam (Priya), respectively arrived by boat in 2012 and 2013. In Australia, they married. Two children, Kopika and Tharnicaa, followed, as did a move to the central Queensland town of Biloela. Through this time, their claims for protection were assessed.

Despite immaculate credentials – hard working, locally adapted, and appreciated by the small community – the Department of Home Affairs found against the claims for asylum. The family was removed from Biloela in 2018, spending over 1,000 days in detention in Melbourne and Christmas Island.

In June 2021, the family were moved into community detention in Perth after the youngest child, Tharnicaa, fell ill with a blood infection. On 23 June, then Immigration Minister Alex Hawke announced that bridging visas had been issued to enable the 'three members of the family to reside in the Perth

community' as Tharnicaa's medical needs, and the family's legal matter, were dealt with. In doing so, he refused to change her status.

The general assumption in Australian policy since the 1990s is that maritime arrivals who lack authorisation will be mandatorily detained. Since then, an assortment of extravagantly cruel initiatives have been implemented, including the blanket refusal to settle any such arrivals in Australia. Offshore detention centres were created and justified as places of salvation for those who did not drown. The living were left to suffer psychological and physical ruin at the hands of a sadistic system.

***'The campaign, whilst a remarkable example of community mobilisation, is as much a testament to human kindness as it is about the lack of fairness in a beastly policy that gave birth to it.'***

**Read full story:**

[https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/back-to-bilo--the-murugappan-family-and-australian-refugee-policy?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Eureka%20Street](https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/back-to-bilo--the-murugappan-family-and-australian-refugee-policy?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Eureka%20Street)



David Panuelo, president of the Federated States of Micronesia, signs an agreement with Fiji's prime minister Frank Bainimarama about the future of the Pacific Islands Forum, in Suva, 7 June 2022. Photograph: Supplied

**Pacific leaders reach crucial deal to restore political unity, as**



## **China's interest in region accelerates**

***Lice Movono, The Guardian, 8th June 2022***

***The agreement, which stops the region's key diplomatic body, PIF, from splitting, lifts a 'big dark, dark cloud that has been hanging over the Pacific'***

Pacific leaders have reached a crucial deal to prevent the region's key diplomatic body from breaking up, ending a painful impasse that has threatened unity in the region for more than a year.

The deal, which was sealed after talks among key Pacific leaders in Fiji, restores unity for the Pacific Islands Forum at a crucial time, as China's interest in the region has undergone an "uptick in tempo", placing the region at the heart of a geopolitical tussle.

The agreement, which will see Micronesian countries remain in the forum, rather than exit it as scheduled at the end of June, lifted the "big dark, dark cloud that has been hanging over the Pacific", said David Panuelo, president of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The restoration of unity to PIF comes as the Pacific has been a site of intense geopolitical attention, after visits to Fiji, Samoa and Tonga by Australia's new foreign minister Penny Wong in her first two weeks in the job and a marathon visit to the region by China's foreign minister Wang Yi.

On his visit, Wang signed a swag of deals with Pacific nations but failed to get Pacific countries to sign on to a sweeping regional economic and security agreement.

Pacific leaders rejected the deal, with Samoa's prime minister Fiaame Naomi Mata'afa saying that it should have been raised at PIF, not at a sub-meeting. It is expected that China might attempt to raise a revised version of the deal at the PIF meeting next month.

However, it faces stiff opposition at PIF, including from the Micronesian bloc, home to three of the four Pacific countries that recognise Taiwan diplomatically and do not have relations with China.

The Pacific Islands Forum, currently chaired by Fijian prime minister Frank Bainimarama, has been fractured since February 2021 over the selection of the head of its secretariat body.

**Read full story:**

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/08/pacific-leaders-reach-crucial-deal-to-restore-political-unity-as-chinas-interest-in-region-accelerates?utm\\_term=.62a002a346a7900435206936278a3dea&](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/08/pacific-leaders-reach-crucial-deal-to-restore-political-unity-as-chinas-interest-in-region-accelerates?utm_term=.62a002a346a7900435206936278a3dea&)



### **'Part of a Pacific family': Australia to re-focus aid budget**

***Joe Zabar, Eureka street, Vol. 32 No.11, 7th June 2022***

Rarely has the issue of Australia's commitment to aid and development been so critical to a government's first term agenda. Australia's Foreign Minister, Senator Penny Wong has visited the Pacific region twice since being sworn in, demonstrating the intentions of the newly elected Albanese Labor government to strengthen Australia's relationship with its nearest neighbours. While senior level engagement between the Australian government and its neighbours is essential, so too will be the action the Albanese government takes to help its neighbours address the many well publicised concerns of climate change, regional security, social and economic development.

As a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI), Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2021 was around 0.22 per cent, well short of the UN target of 0.7 per cent. The falloff in Australia's ODA over the past decade from a high of 0.36 per cent of GNI in 2012, together with an absence of leadership on issues of importance to its neighbours has impacted Australia's influence in the region.

The previous government's 'Pacific Step Up' initiative was unfortunately too little and too late. More critically it had the appearance of desperation, a government realising that its position in the region was under threat. Former Prime Minister, Scott Morrison told journalists in 2019 that the 'Pacific Step Up' was part of 'refocussing our international efforts on our own region, in our own backyard and making sure we can make the biggest possible difference'.

The problem with that narrative was that it reinforced a perception with our

neighbours that our engagement with them occurs when it is in our interest to do so. And clearly this wasn't missed by Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama who tweeted that 'Fiji is not anyone's backyard — we are a part of a Pacific family', during Penny Wong's recent visit to the country.

Prime Minister Bainimarama's tweet about his nation being part of the Pacific family is instructive as to how we must see and use Australia's \$4.5b aid budget. ODA, often viewed as soft diplomacy, is an important feature of international relations. However, to think of ODA as merely a financially-based relational transaction is to misunderstand its true value and purpose.

*'There are many NGOs actively supporting communities in areas of health, education, skills development and nutrition who with better funding could do more to improve the wellbeing of people across the Asia/Pacific region.'*

**Read full story:**

[https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/-part-of-a-pacific-family---australia-to-re-focus-aid-budget?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Eureka%20Street%20-%20Thursday%209%20June%202022&utm\\_content=Eureka%20Street%20-%20Thursday%209%20June%202022+CID\\_edc727ca66a96477d5431b3f996a6b20&utm\\_source=Jescom%20Newsletters&utm\\_term=READ%20MORE](https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/-part-of-a-pacific-family---australia-to-re-focus-aid-budget?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Eureka%20Street%20-%20Thursday%209%20June%202022&utm_content=Eureka%20Street%20-%20Thursday%209%20June%202022+CID_edc727ca66a96477d5431b3f996a6b20&utm_source=Jescom%20Newsletters&utm_term=READ%20MORE)



Shock and disbelief after dozens killed in church attack in Ondo state, Nigeria

**Nigeria: gunmen kill dozens in 'satanic' attack on Catholic church**  
*Emmanuel Akinwotu and agencies, The Guardian, 6th June 2022*

***At least 50 people killed and dozens more injured in assault during Sunday mass in Ondo state***

Gunmen launched an assault on a Catholic church in Ondo state in Nigeria during mass on Sunday, killing more than 50 people in a “satanic attack”, local officials and volunteers said.

The attackers targeted the St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in the town of Owo as the worshippers gathered on Pentecost Sunday, according to local officials. They gunned down parishioners and detonated an explosive device, local media reported.

Ogunmolasuyi Oluwole, state legislator, said children were among the dead. Videos appearing to be from the scene of the attack showed church worshippers lying in pools of blood while people around them wailed.

The governor of Ondo state, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, condemned the “vile and satanic attack” on Sunday and pledged to find the assailants.

Rev Augustine Ikwu, a secretary of the Catholic Church in Ondo, said in a statement that the attack had “left the community devastated”.

“We turn to God to console the families of those whose lives were lost,” he said.

The bishop and priests from the parish had survived the attack unharmed, he said.

Nigeria’s president, Muhammadu Buhari, whose government has been widely condemned for overseeing a sharp rise in insecurity across the country, also condemned the attack.

“No matter what, this country shall never give in to evil and wicked people and darkness will never overcome light,” he said.

The identity and motive of the attackers was not immediately clear. Doctors, local officials and volunteers helping the injured said the death toll was at least 50, with dozens being treated for injuries in overwhelmed local hospitals.

### **Read Full Story:**

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/05/several-dead-in-nigeria-as-gunmen-attack-catholic-church?utm\\_term=629d5fa209aefabecbb76389e16c6978&utm\\_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/05/several-dead-in-nigeria-as-gunmen-attack-catholic-church?utm_term=629d5fa209aefabecbb76389e16c6978&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU_email)

### **That feeling you have is called ‘moral injury’**

***Rod Bower, The Saturday Paper, No.42, June 4-10 2022***

On the Monday following the 2019 federal election, I spoke at a conference in Melbourne where hundreds of people gathered, all of whom had a passion for a



more just society. The atmosphere was funereal. A pall of hopelessness covered the assembly, many of us questioning whether our quest for social justice was a pointless endeavour. Given the Australian electorate's vote of confidence in the Morrison government, deep despair was expressed by those present that the majority of Australians did not care about a just society. Were we like Don Quixote, tilting at windmills? And if so, what was the point in continuing if we were only opposing an imaginary evil? I began to ask myself why would I continue to do what I had been doing.

On reflection, I came up with the usual answers to these questions. As a human being, let alone a Christian priest, I had a responsibility to advocate for and help the poor, the marginalised and the refugee. As a citizen of Earth, our only home, I was responsible for prolonging the viability of our habitat for as long as possible. As a grandfather, I found this imperative even more pressing. While these are all authentic and valid reasons for continuing, I now realise there was another, profoundly interior, motivation: the abiding need to mitigate the burden experienced by simply being part of this particular Australian society and culture at this specific time. I was experiencing moral injury.

Moral injury is not a new concept. Theologians, ethicists, philosophers and poets have deliberated it for millennia. The term itself emerges from the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Psychiatrist Jonathan Shay argues that "moral injury is present when there has been (a) a betrayal of 'what's right' " either by a person in legitimate authority or by one's self "in a high stakes situation". Shay further defines this kind of betrayal as "leadership malpractice". Those experiencing moral injury may suffer feelings of shame and guilt, remorse, outrage and despair, even if they are not personally responsible for or survivors of the events that lead to the injury. We can experience moral injury by simply being part of a society, agency or organisation that behaves unjustly or by being subject to corrupt, unethical or immoral leadership.

***Inevitably this manifestation of moral injury becomes endemic when a democratically elected leader begins to act out of the delusion that he has been called by his God rather than elected by the people. For that leader, accountability to the people and the expectation of truthfulness becomes nothing more than a minor irritation.***

Australians have a long history of this kind of betrayal. For us, the foundational event of moral injury was the great lie of "terra nullius". This abiding untruth has not only diminished the legacy of those who perpetrated it but, so much more devastatingly, it has irreversibly harmed the spiritual, social and economic existence of First Nations people. The untruth on which the foundations of this nation are built has inflicted a moral injury on our corporate psyche that continues to perpetuate abuse, denying us the opportunity to evolve into wise and mature people. That is

what moral injury does.

**Read Full Story:**

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/opinion/topic/2022/06/04/that-feeling-you-have-called-moral-injury>

## REFLECTIONS

## **INNER AWAKENING**

*Facebook Post 12th June 2022*

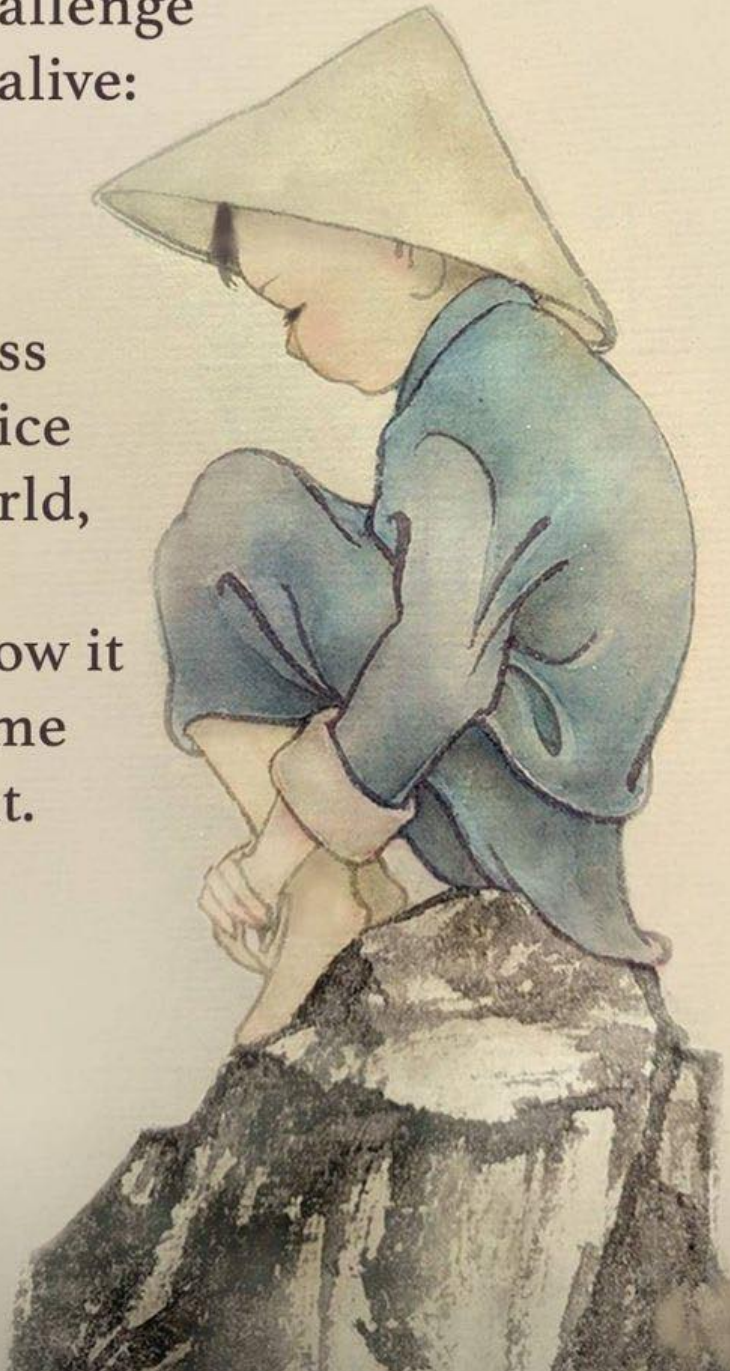
### **USE ME**

*May I always  
Be an instrument  
Of your peace  
Let me not  
Be remembered  
For frivolous  
Accomplishments  
Rather for  
Extending a hand  
To help others in need  
For sitting in silence  
Holding the hand  
Of those crying out in pain  
For folded hands  
In prayer  
Awaiting the whisper  
Of Holy inspiration  
For hands opened wide  
In willingness and supplication  
Waiting to enfold  
My brothers and sisters  
In compassion  
Love  
And kindness  
Amen*

**Jeanette Martin**

“This, my dear, is the  
greatest challenge  
to being alive:

To witness  
the injustice  
of this world,  
  
and not allow it  
to consume  
our light.





***"I think if there is one truth that people need to learn in the world, especially today it is this: the intellect is only theoretically independent of desire and appetite in ordinary, actual practice. It is constantly being blinded and perverted by the ends and aims of passion and the evidence it presents to us with such a show of impartiality and objectivity is fraught with interest and propaganda. We have become marvelous at self-delusion."*** Thomas Merton

***"The nonviolent person does not seek an impossible compromise with the times, nor a prior, intemperate synthesis for the times. The nonviolent person sees life in terms of a choice toward change, involving a re-ordering of life."***

Daniel Berrigan

***"Real security can only be found, if at all, in a world without the injustices that now exist, and without arms."*** Kathleen Lonsdale, *Is Peace Possible?*

***"Listening to Jesus entails complete attention, full commitment, and steadfast devotion. We have to go to the fringe places, to the beat-up people, to the edge of the culture and the world. . . . We can hear Jesus: in all those who differ from us; in human variety with no regard for race, creed, nationality, gender, class, orientation, ability, or age; in the stranger at your door, in the vision of a forgiven, reconciled humanity."***

John Dear, *Transfiguration*

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia as the traditional owners and custodians of the land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside them for reconciliation and justice. We pay our respects to the Elders; past, present and future. As we take our next step we remember the first footsteps taken on this sacred land.

The Edmund Rice Centre wholeheartedly supports and endorses the  
ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART  
and urges all Australians to get behind this wonderful statement.

**Our mailing address is:**

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