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# STOP THE VIOLENCE - ALICE SPRINGS

Bob Gosford, September 3, 2010



**“Stop The Violence - the march up Gap Road to the Council lawns**

Earlier today I witnessed the most powerful and (hopefully) effective public event I’ve yet seen in my short stay in Alice Springs.

Alice Springs is a town where men – particularly Aboriginal men – rarely make mass public statements that address the issue of greatest concern to most people living in Alice Springs – domestic and inter-personal violence. But thanks to the concerted efforts of a determined group of men that is changing.

The “Stop The Violence” march held today saw several hundred men and boys march through the centre of Alice Springs to join a large group of women and supporters to rally at the Alice Springs Town Council lawns. The march stopped the traffic in town and hopefully lifted just a little of the malaise and downheartedness that often seems to be the dominant sentiment in this troubled town.

Domestic and inter-personal violence pervades too many areas of life in the Northern Territory and the last week of the recent Federal election campaign for the two NT lower house seats was marred by an undignified spat centered on



**John Liddle rallies the marchers**

allegations of domestic violence against candidates from both sides of NT politics.

And in a horrible coincidence just yesterday the NT Supreme Court in Alice Springs sentenced Joachim Golder to life imprisonment for

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beating his wife to death in an attack that Justice Judith Kelly described in her sentencing remarks as:

...a cowardly and vicious attack on a defenceless woman who should have been able to look to you for protection. You have offered no explanation at all for attacking her, other than that your counsel says you were very drunk at the time. You have a lengthy criminal history, including a conviction for manslaughter in March 1993 for the unlawful killing of your brother and a conviction for unlawfully causing grievous harm in 2005, when you stabbed your then de facto wife. Both of these crimes were committed when you were intoxicated.

And just last night NT Police had been called out to a fracas at a local town camp:

Police were called to Walpiri Camp just before midnight following reports of a disturbance. When they arrived they found a group of up to 30 people involved in an argument, and a 21-year-old man with a stab wound to his leg. The man was taken to Alice Springs Hospital where police discovered another victim of the disturbance who had already been taken to hospital.

One of the key initiatives in the apparent reduction of the overall rates of violence has been the response of Aboriginal men living in central Australia. In June 2008 a large group of men met at Inteyerrkwe outside of Alice Springs and released the following joint communique after the meeting:

### ***Inteyerrkwe Statement***

“We the Aboriginal males from Central Australia and our visitor brothers from around Australia gathered at Inteyerrkwe in July 2008 to develop strategies to ensure our future roles as grandfathers, fathers, uncles, nephews, brothers, grandsons, and sons in caring for our children in a safe family environment that will lead to a happier, longer life that reflects opportunities experienced by the wider community. “We acknowledge and say sorry for the hurt, pain and suffering caused by Aboriginal males to our wives, to our children, to our mothers, to our grandmothers, to our granddaughters, to our aunties, to our nieces and to our sisters. “We also acknowledge that we need the love and support of our Aboriginal women to help us move forward.”





**Alice Springs traditional owner Jan Edwards with Kerry Le Rossingual, Peggy Campbell, fellow TO Bubbo with sign, Betty Carter & Donna Ah-Chee**

The success of the 2008 meeting was followed by another earlier this year at the conclusion of which John Liddle, Male Health Manager at the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, said:

“Like most Aboriginal males in Central Australia I am sick of going to funerals and seeing our courts, jails, health clinics and hospital filled with brothers and sisters who have been involved in family violence. It is time that Aboriginal males stood up both morally and culturally, taking positive action and a zero tolerance approach to stop the excessive violence in families, communities and towns, a crisis that is having a devastating effect on community members of all ages and genders, especially the children.”

Today’s march and rally follow on from those meetings and are the start of a schedule of events that will culminate on Australian Human Rights Day in December 2010.

Local blogger Dave Richards over at Alice Online reports that John Liddle told the rally on the Council lawns that: “We need to get across to

the world, our community, black and white, that we are against violence,” Mr Liddle told the crowd.: “What these T-shirts are saying is we don’t want to condone it; we don’t want to put up with it; we want to stop the bloody violence. We’ve got very strong cultural men here today. They are our leaders. They are right behind this program we’ve got going now.”

There is a lot more to come in this movement and I look forward to having a closer look at this quite remarkable movement and the work of people like John Liddle of the Ingkintja Male Health program at the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Baydon Williams of Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Services based in Alice Springs.



**Bruce Petrick of Palya Outstation**



## *The College of Provincials*

20 September 2010

### **Attention: Brothers of the District of Melanesia**

Dear Brothers,

The members of the Senate for the District of Melanesia met recently to consider the results of the consultation with the Brothers of the District concerning the appointment of the District Leader.

We were grateful to you all for participating so fully in the consultation. In accord with the Statutes of the District (6.3.3), the College of Provincials acting collegially with the other members of the Senate (Br John McMahon and Br Graham Neist), decided to invite Br Ken McDonald to continue to be District Leader from 1 July 2011 to 1 July 2014. Ken has formally accepted this invitation.

It is clear that there is significant and strong support for Ken and that he has your trust as leader of the District, in promoting Melanesian Marist identity, in developing local leaders and encouraging steps for the District to take its rightful place in Oceania.

We are grateful to Ken for taking on the responsibility for another three (3) years. It is at a most significant time as the District continues to develop from strength to strength, now in the context of Oceania.

We have encouraged Ken to take a few months Sabbatical in order to prepare himself for the next three years and this will take place early in 2011. Thank you again for your participation in the consultation and we join with you in thanking and congratulating Ken for accepting this appointment.  
Yours fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Br Julian Casey".

Br Julian Casey

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Br. Jeff Crowe".

Br Jeff Crowe

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# PARAPROSDOKIANS

A paraproisdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of the sentence is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part.

It comes from the Greek meaning “beyond” and “expectation”.

*If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.*

*War does not determine who is right - only who is left.*

*The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.*

*Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.*

*The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.*

*How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?*

*A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.*

*I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.*

*A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.*

*The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!*

*A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.*

*Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.*

*I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather. Not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.*

*Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.*

*Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.*

*Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.*

*You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.*

*Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?*

*Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR".*

*Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.*

*A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.*

*Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.*

*Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.*

*Don't argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.*

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