



# The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP

Newsletter No. 68 - January/February 2016

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## AFSAAP Newsletter – January/February 2016

### AFSAAP 2016 conference

The 39th Annual AFSAAP Conference will be held on December 5-7 at the University of Western Australia, organised by Dr. David Mickler and the Africa Research Cluster at UWA. More details soon.

Bookmark [www.afsaap.org.au](http://www.afsaap.org.au) and join us on Twitter and Facebook for regular updates.

### AFSAAP / Monash Postgraduate Prizes 2015

The AFSAAP Executive are pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 conference postgraduate essay prizes.

**The winner of the \$3000 AFSAAP / Monash University Postgraduate Prize** is Charlotte Mertens for her paper “Sexual violence in the Congo Free State: Archival traces and present reconfigurations”. Charlotte is enrolled in a PhD at the University of Melbourne and will travel to Africa for further research.

AFSAAP wishes to acknowledge Monash University for the special sponsorship of this prize since 2010.



*\$3000 AFSAAP / Monash University Postgraduate Prize winner Charlotte Mertens*



**The winner of the \$500 Cherry Gertzel / AFSAAP Postgraduate Prize** for 2015 is Naomi Thompson, for her paper “Surviving vs. Living: The importance of resilience in the transformative redefinition of Ghanaian breast cancer survivors”. Naomi is enrolled in a Masters of Research in Anthropology at Macquarie University.



*\$500 Cherry Gertzel / AFSAAP Postgraduate Prize winner Naomi Thompson*

Congratulations to both of the winners!

### **‘Law and governance in sub-Saharan Africa’ Masters Course offered at ANU is open for enrolments**

The course is offered intensively over 4 days in Canberra in Spring (September). Through online portals we distribute readings etc. Note that people can enrol in this course without needing to be enrolled in a Masters programme. They receive certification from the ANU (and credit towards any eventual Masters in the law, governance and development area). This link explains the course overview and details - <http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/2016/course/LAWS8071>

**Contact:** Associate Professor Jolyon Ford ([jo.ford@anu.edu.au](mailto:jo.ford@anu.edu.au))

**Further details:** <https://law.anu.edu.au/staff/jolyon-ford>

### **8,000 Guinean songs now available online**

[The British Library has officially launched ‘The Syliphone archive’](#), a collection of nearly 8,000 songs archived at Radio Télévision Guinée by AFSAAP member Graeme Counsel. This is the first of the British Library’s [Endangered Archives Programme](#) projects to be made available on the internet, through the [British Library Sounds website](#).

A highlight of the collection is the complete Syliphone catalogue of vinyl recordings. This catalogue was believed lost, and Endangered Archives Project funding enabled it to be gathered, preserved and digitised. The archival collection also features thousands of songs transferred from their original reel-to-reel magnetic tape to digital format. These songs, like their Syliphone vinyl counterparts, were recorded in the Voix de la Révolution studios in Conakry, and they encompass the entire spectrum of Guinean music.



### The Eco-Guinea Foundation

[The Eco-Guinea Foundation](#) is a non-profit NGO based in Guinea and Australia. In Guinea it addresses basic issues such as water catchment, permaculture, composting toilets and self-sustaining homes built with local materials. The foundation is supported by the Guinean government, who recently offered one hectare of land in the capital, Conakry, to build a base and cultural/community centre, a working permaculture farm, and several sustainable structures based on the principles of self-sustaining homes. During the recent Ebola outbreak the Eco-Guinea Foundation also provided material assistance to hospitals and information resources to the public, as reported in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#). A summary of the Eco-Guinea Foundation's projects is attached.

The Director of the Eco-Guinea Foundation, Mardi Kendall, seeks AFSAAP members' assistance. The next step for the foundation is the widespread introduction of composting toilets, similar to a program called [EcoSan](#) which is thriving in Haiti. Mardi is currently raising funds to commence the project that will see composting toilets installed in Guinean households.

Mardi requests that AFSAAP members can assist Eco-Guinea by forwarding her the contact information of companies and individuals who she might approach for sponsorship, including any advice from within academia.

EcoGuinea is also expanding their team. If you are interested in being part of this venture, please contact Mardi. Fundraising experience, web design and project management skills are needed. It would be volunteer work initially, then paid as funds come in.

#### For further information contact:

**Mardi Kendall**

**Email:** [mardiwkendall@gmail.com](mailto:mardiwkendall@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.ecoguinea.org](http://www.ecoguinea.org)

### Latest issue of the Australasian Review of African Studies

Now available ONLINE for FREE for all AFSAAP Members.

Please visit - <http://afsaap.org.au/ARAS/volume-36-2015/>

Read the Editorial "Reflections on Africa and African Studies: In Memory of Cherry Gertzel"

[http://afsaap.org.au/assets/editorial\\_lyons\\_marlowe\\_thornton\\_pp8-21.pdf](http://afsaap.org.au/assets/editorial_lyons_marlowe_thornton_pp8-21.pdf)



**Little  
Mardi**

**EcoGuinea**  
FOUNDATION



*Fostering Healthy, Thriving and Sustainable Communities in the Republic of Guinea*

**EcoGuinea Foundation** (called **EcoGuinea-AGET** in Guinea. AGET is *Guinean Association for the Environment and Tourism*) is a non-profit NGO that works in Guinea, West Africa. We believe that by building simple, local and inexpensive eco-technologies that the primary human needs of sanitation, power and water can be greatly improved. Officially born in 2009, we became a non-profit in Australia and Guinea in 2015.

The founders are Mardi Kendall in Australia and Lamzo Toure in Guinea. Mardi, a yoga teacher since 1988, was inspired to go to Guinea in 2000 after being blown away by the West African 21-string indigenous harp, the kora. (*If God played an instrument it would be the kora*).

There she met Lamzo, a young man living with eight others on the concrete floor of a tiny room, newly escaped with his life from the Sierra Leone Civil War. He went out of his way to help her with translations and when she helped him, he fell on the floor weeping. A lifelong friendship was born. His daughter (“little Mardi”) is named after her and his son for her father. Together they started a movement to transform Guinea. Guinea is 179th out of 187 countries in the UN Human Development Index (HDI). It is also a country bursting with spirit, music, warmth, dance and a spellbinding history.

Since then Lamzo has been Mardi’s eyes and ears in Guinea, overseeing the EcoGuinea team while they have cleaned hospitals, trash and debris from public areas and undertook a six-week Ebola education trip deep into the countryside to at-risk villages during the height of the epidemic (after training with the Red Cross). As well, since 2000, dozens of people have been helped; safe births, families fed, children put into school and job trainings given under the EcoGuinea banner. Lamzo took three Ebola orphans into his family. EcoGuinea currently supports six children in school.

**EcoGuinea team giving out soap in Forécariah during the Ebola epidemic**

