



The African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific

Habari kwa ufupi - AFSAAP
Newsletter No. 62- July 2015

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AFSAAP Newsletter – July 2015

Obituary - Peter Alexander 1949-2015

AFSAAP would like to extend sympathies to the family and friends of Peter Alexander, Former President of AFSAAP 1993-1994, and member of the International Editorial Board of the Australasian Review of African Studies. <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/obituaries/peter-alexander-masterly-biographer-was-an-appealingdedicated-teacher-20150130-130wa0.html>

AFSAAP CONFERENCE 2015

[2nd and final Call for Papers – AFSAAP Conference 2015 “21st Century Tensions and Transformation in Africa”.](#)

Deadline August 14th 2015

Expressions of Interest – AFSAAP Office Bearers for 2016

In accordance with the AFSAAP constitution, all Office Bearing positions will be declared open at the AGM at the forthcoming conference in Melbourne. All AFSAAP members are invited to nominate for one of the positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Postgraduate Representative. Please see the Position Descriptions attached to this email.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please send a short description of why you believe you would be suited to the position, and what you can bring to AFSAAP, to secretary@afsaap.org.au by September 1st. Nominations will be disseminated in advance of the AGM. Please note that if you would like to nominate another person, you must get their written approval.

Please note - AFSAAP's current Treasurer, Dr Jean Burke, will not be re-nominating for the position of AFSAAP Treasurer. The AFSAAP Executive therefore particularly invites expressions of interest in the Office Bearer role of Treasurer.

Australasian Review of African Studies - Back issues update

All back issues from 1979 Volume 1 – 2015 Volume 36 are now available open access from <http://afsaap.org.au/publications/aras/>. A volunteer is needed to create a word document with the Table of Contents from each issue within 1979 Volume 1 – 1983 Volume 5. Please contact Tanya Lyons on president@afsaap.org.au if you can spare an hour to go through the PDFs and type up the contents. Join the other amazing volunteers who keep AFSAAP running! Thank you.



Read and Cite the articles from the Vol 36 No 1 June 2015 issue of ARAS

[Editorial - Denizens, Artivists, and Terrorists- Disarmament, Development and Diagnosis: Understanding Africa in Australasia and the Pacific](#) - **Tanya Lyons, Jay Marlowe, David Mickler and Alec Thornton**

[Marginality and Linguistic Cartographies of African Denizens as Spheres of Possibility in Regional Australia](#) - **Finex Ndhlovu**

[Public Artworks: Creative Spaces for Civic and Political Behaviour in Kenya](#) - **Mokua Ombati**
[Rethinking Islamism in Western Africa](#) - **Mohammed Sulemana and Govand Azeez pp. 51-67**

[Gendered Reintegration in Liberia: A Civilised '\(Kwi\)' Failure?](#) - **Christopher Hills**

[Married to Freedom? The Importance of Marriage for African Methodist Episcopal Missionary Women in South Africa, 1900- 1940](#) - **Claire Cooke**

[Proposal for Compulsory Land Acquisition for Economic Investment in Uganda](#)- **John Mugambwa**

[The Introduction of Rapid Diagnostic Test for Malaria in Mozambique: Local Appropriation and Complementary Therapeutics](#) - **Ana Rita Sequeira**

Submitted by Dr Tanya Lyons

Reminder – re-subscribe to AFSAAP

A final reminder to members that any late membership subscriptions to AFSAAP for 2015 are now very overdue and unpaid members will no longer receive the newsletter, emails, or the journal ARAS. Please PAY your membership for 2015 NOW via the “Join AFSAAP” page - <http://afsaap.org.au/about/join-afsaap/>. New Members are welcome, and renewing members can also pay for 2016 and 2017 in advance. If you come to the 2015 conference, the conference fee includes AFSAAP membership for 2016.

The 2014 Monash/AFSAAP Postgraduate Prize report

By Chris Hills, June 24 2015

From the relatively freezing conditions of my Sydney office I write this blog on reflection of a wonderful three months away...

“I was lucky enough to be awarded the AFSAAP/Monash University prize for best postgraduate paper presented at the 2014 AFSAAP conference held in Dunedin, New Zealand in December of 2014. I received the good news in January, just as I was planning fieldwork for my PhD – some of which took place in South Africa – so the timing was great! My trip to SA was my sixth during the past decade, but the first where I have had the opportunity to talk about the nature of my research and conduct interviews for my thesis, which I did at multiple institutions. In South Africa I spent time travelling from Cape Town to Bloemfontein, Johannesburg and back to the Cape and enjoyed every minute of it. March to May in SA this year was a particularly frenetic one on campuses and in some of the cities as an upsurge in xenophobic violence, the likes of which had been unseen since 2008 occurred, and huge protests were held at universities around the country surrounding the need to decolonize higher education. I spent a particularly riveting week at the University of the Free State attending multiple lunchtime seminars with University management, student representatives and academics on the issue of



statues, memorials and decolonization. The students were particularly forthright in putting forward their ideas and all the discussions surrounding race, education, transformation and memorials were absolutely fascinating and – at times – heated and emotional.

The day at Monash ZA Campus at Roodeport on the outskirts of Johannesburg was one of the most enjoyable days of my entire three months away. Recently (2001) established, Monash has four schools, around 2,600 students and with the campus being on the outer edge of the city of Johannesburg means that it doesn't have the cramped feel of many of the other places of higher education I had visited. Many of the buildings are painted a bright yellow and combined with disposition of many of the staff and students, meant that I was made feel very welcome. My host, Kevin, who was the head of the Monash Society of Politics, gave me the grand tour whereby following I gave my presentation on post-conflict Liberia in a medium-sized lecture theatre to approximately 40-50 students and a few staff. The reception was great, I sensed that everyone was quite engaged and I received some valuable feedback and questions on my approach and the nature of my research. Following the talk and lunch with the Politics Society I was lucky enough to meet with both the senior members of the School of Social Sciences and the Monash South Africa Research Manager, both of whom showed a great interest in my work and who talked to me about the history of the university, Monash's ongoing relationship with AFSAAP and the complexities of work in the academy in a South African context. I left Monash that day vowing to return and to see how this impressive small institution flourishes in the years to come.



After my day at Monash, my fieldwork took me to other universities within South Africa, but also later to Kenya, Uganda and Ghana. Many of these places I had been before, however without such a strict timeframe, and without having to meet so many deadlines for interviews. Though South Africa was definitely logistically the easiest of all four, I enjoyed my time in all the different countries, for different reasons. East Africa was great to see old friends, revel in the busy nature of Kampala and Nairobi; Ghana was memorable for being able to soak up the history of the Nkrumah mausoleum and spend time at a super impressive West African University; and South Africa for the chance to speak at Monash, UCT and UFS, to see the Comaroffs speak in Bloemfontein, to interview some of my academic idols during the course of my fieldwork and to once again walk up and enjoy a beer at the top of Table Mountain.



Sitting back in the familiar surrounds of Sydney Uni campus on reflection the three months seems to have passed by in an instant. Yet this fleeting trip was one which was full of great memories, some really valuable empirical research and one that also helped to boost my confidence by putting my research out there in an African setting. Being able to double up the AFSAAP/Monash talk with my interviews made it all so much easier financially and I thank both AFSAAP and Monash University for this. I would implore upon any and all postgrads thinking of applying for the prize this year to absolutely go for it. I didn't think I would be in with a chance, however as the one lucky enough to win, I can assure you it is not only great for your C.V., but also is the perfect way to get your research out there in a supportive and exciting academic setting on the continent."

I wish you luck this year.

Best,

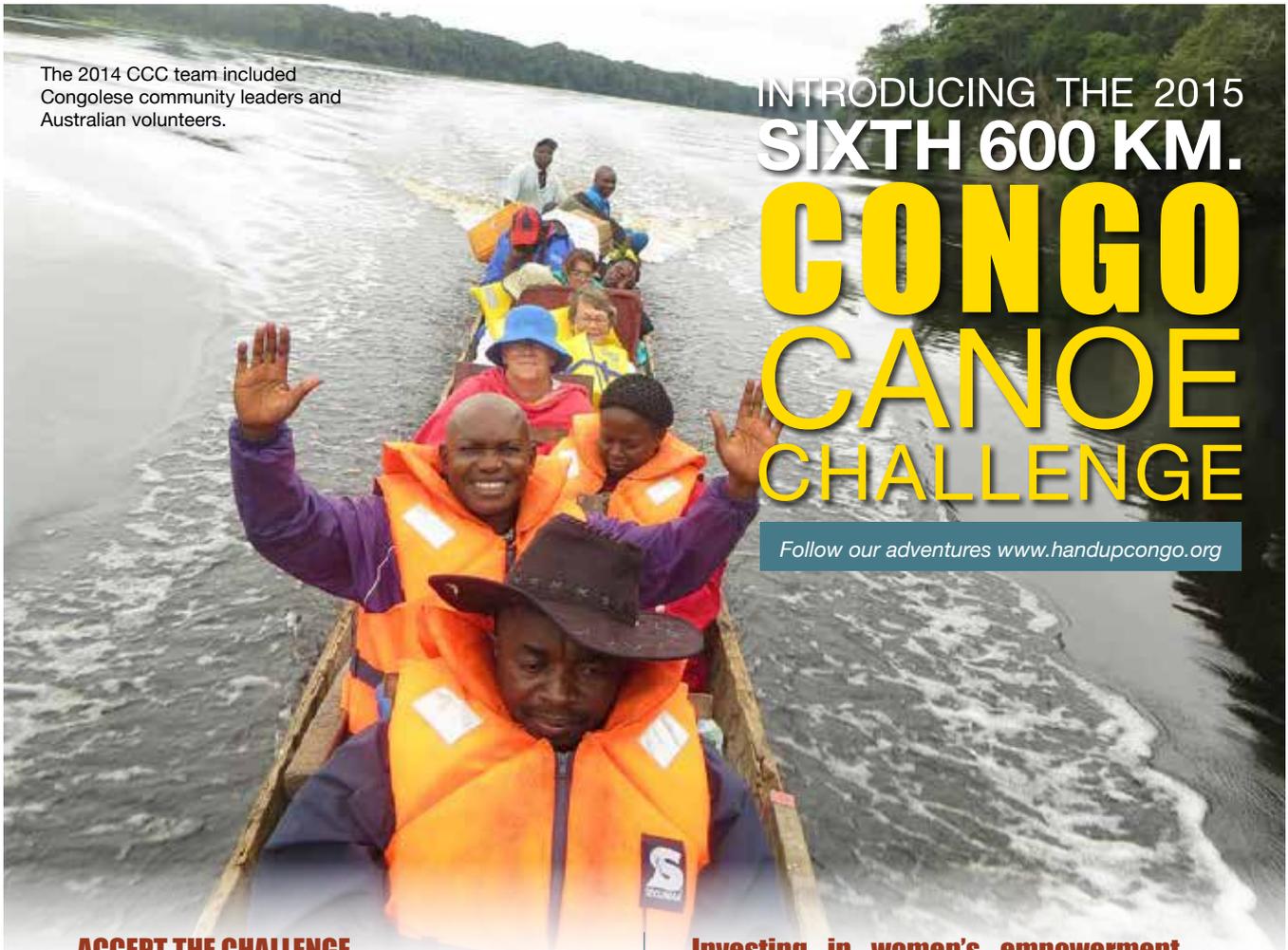
Chris

[Click here for details of the 2015 Monash/AFSAAP PG Prize](#)

The 2014 Congo Canoe Challenge

Support a team of Australian volunteers, including two Rotarians and two doctors, who are making a 600 km river journey in August 2015. The team is focused on providing medical training to a remote community of 6000 people, accessible only by canoe. The team will navigate three rivers in a motorized dugout canoe to work side by side with Congolese community leaders on health projects. Please find attached a flyer. You can help by donating any amount to benefit grassroots medical care in the remote Equateur Province communities. 100% goes to charitable, non-profit projects. Also, stay informed on the team's efforts by visiting www.handupcongo.org ... See more information on page 5.

Submitted by Lucy Hobgood-Brown



The 2014 CCC team included Congolese community leaders and Australian volunteers.

INTRODUCING THE 2015 SIXTH 600 KM. CONGO CANOE CHALLENGE

Follow our adventures www.handupcongo.org

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

Support a team of Australian volunteers, including two Rotarians and two doctors, who are making a 600 km river journey in August 2015. The team is focused on providing medical training to a remote community of 6000 people, accessible only by canoe. We will navigate three mighty rivers in a motorized dugout canoe to work side by side with Congolese community leaders on projects we've helped build since 2005.



Training will include:

- Neonatal emergency care
- Ebola prevention
- Family planning
- Trauma management

OUR TEAM

Cheer on Maureen Burdynski, Chris Coombes, Lucy Hobgood-Brown, Dr Grace Maano and Dr Vera Sistenich! Follow our adventures on www.handupcongo.org and facebook.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate any amount to benefit grassroots medical care in remote Equateur Province communities. **100% goes to charitable, non-profit projects.**

Investing in women's empowerment in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



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Australian donors: Please donate online to Rotary Australia World Community Service - <http://bit.ly/1BnkMPQ> Designate to "Congo Canoe Challenge - Project 20 2013-14".

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Email us to receive more information and updates on HandUp Congo initiatives at handupcongo@gmail.com. Stay informed on our efforts by visiting www.handupcongo.org.