

RESOURCE KIT

20 years on from the Tampa Election 20 years of suffering, 20 years of shame



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What's in the Resource Kit?

This Kit has been compiled by the Australian Refugee Action Network (ARAN) to provide a range of accessible material and resources to support community groups to mark the 20th anniversary of the events which culminated in the 'Tampa election' in 2001. In the 3 months from 26 August to the federal election in November the Howard Government made decisions, passed legislation and engaged in propaganda which set the direction of refugee policy and resulted in 20 years of suffering for people seeking asylum, and 20 years of shame for Australians.

- ❖ Articles about these events with links to various reports and articles providing comprehensive background information
- ❖ Video clips of people speaking about the impact of these events
- ❖ Memes you can use on social media
- ❖ Political cartoons and photographs from protest actions
- ❖ Actions you can take – sample letter to local MPs and Senators

Suggested Activities

Use the information provided here to raise awareness in your community about the Tampa Affair, the Children Overboard scandal, and the SIEVX tragedy 20 years ago, and the ongoing consequences for refugees and people who have sought asylum in Australia.

Here are a few suggestions for marking 20 years of suffering, 20 years of shame, and to show how it could all have been so different – if our politicians then and since had stood up for just and compassionate policies.

- Host an information night/ conversation session about the Tampa Election and how this event set the direction for 20 years of punitive treatment and the scapegoating of refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Hold a discussion about the UN Refugee Convention and the obligation to provide protection to people who seek asylum - regardless of how they arrive in our country.
- Hold a mock debate exploring the pros and cons of the decisions taken to demonise and exile people seeking asylum in the lead up to the Tampa election

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- Focus on 20 Years Since Tampa – 20 Years of Suffering, 20 Years of Shame at your regular information stalls and regular vigils – through your signs and stall material
- Find out what is happening elsewhere to mark this event – share and participate in online events
- Send out emails to your local community support base and via your social media platforms to raise awareness of what occurred in 2001 and the damaging consequences – promote more compassionate and just treatment of refugees.
- Send a letter to your local MP and state Senators – see sample email/letter in the Kit

[Click here for instructions on how to download items from this document.](#)

[Click here for a complete Table of Contents to help you find any item in this document](#)

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Articles

What was the Tampa Affair and how did it influence Australia's treatment of refugees?



On 26 August 2001, a routine surveillance flight by Coastwatch revealed the presence of a fishing boat approximately 80 nautical miles northwest of Christmas Island. The vessel was carrying 433 asylum seekers en route to Australia before it broke down. The following day Australian Search and Rescue (AusSAR) broadcast a call to any merchant ships in the vicinity to render assistance to the stricken vessel. A Norwegian freighter, the **MV Tampa**, responded to the call, intercepting the vessel and bringing its

passengers aboard. The Australian Government refused to allow the Tampa to dock at Christmas Island. You can hear some reflections from David Looker, a former executive of the Wilhelmsen Lines the company that owned the Tampa [here](#). See [Julian Burnside's article](#) below outlining the legal challenge at the time by the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties brought an action seeking to compel the Government to perform its duty under the Migration Act and bring the asylum seekers to the migration zone where their applications for asylum could be processed.

The Tampa 'crisis' lasted for 6 weeks concluding with the transfer of the asylum seekers to makeshift accommodation on Nauru, and the terrible regime of offshore detention had commenced, referred to at the time as the Pacific Solution.

The Tampa Affair brought international attention to Australia's harsh deterrence approach and will be recorded in Australian history as a very significant turning point in our response to refugees and people seeking asylum. The Tampa Affair was closely followed by the [Children Overboard scandal](#) on 7 October, and the [sinking of the SIEVX](#) on 19 October with the loss of 353 lives. This was a volatile time, with the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre creating high anxiety and fuelling islamophobia.



The federal election in November 2001 was dubbed 'the Tampa election', as the then unpopular Howard government exploited fears and played the politics of division and race throughout the election campaign. The 'strong man' response to refugees and people seeking asylum became a key focus, and some enduring untruths about refugees became embedded in the public discourse at this time. The Government portrayed refugees as potential terrorists, they implied poor character by peddling a lie about refugees throwing their children overboard (a claim that was later thoroughly debunked), and they claimed refugees were illegally entering the country (denying their right to seek asylum under the UN Refugee Convention). Having demonised innocent and desperate people, they sought to justify the punitive treatment as 'saving lives' while consigning people to desperation in shocking conditions in detention camps on Nauru, and later Manus Island in PNG. The campaign fed the worst aspects of racism in Australia, and the Howard Government was re-elected. Prime

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Minister Howard will be remembered for his declaration that ‘We will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come.’ Julian Burnside OA QC describes the Howard government’s handling of the Tampa “crisis” as a triumph of electoral cynicism over humanitarian need.

Border protection and deterrence-based refugee policies continue as potent forces in Australia politics – a vigorous Stop the Boats campaign by the Coalition opposition resulted in the Rudd Government engaging in ‘a race to the bottom’ by reintroducing offshore detention, and declaring that no refugee who arrives by boat will ever be resettled in Australia. The Coalition won the election.

Suddenly, under the direction of Minister Morrison, now Prime Minister, ‘on water matters’ became top secret classified information – we were not to be told about how many boats were turned back under Operation Sovereign Borders, and how many lives were lost. We were not to think about the lives lost to despair in transit countries as Australia put up the ‘No Entry’ sign. However, [the Guardian reported](#) on a recent UN report which suggests that around 800 people been subjected to ‘push back’ since Sovereign Borders was instituted in 2013. *Forcibly pushing back migrant boats is a “cruel and deadly practice” that violates international law, and risks sending people back to death, torture or persecution, a senior UN official has said, warning countries that militarised borders and boat interdictions were contributing to deaths, not saving lives.*

We were not to think about the huge cost of our ‘naval defence’ against Indonesian fishing boats carrying people desperate for safety. In September 2001 legislation was passed to ‘excise’ certain islands from the Migration Zone of Australia – to make it impossible for refugees landing on these islands to exercise their right to seek asylum. Further legislation was passed in 2013 [to excise the mainland of Australia from the “migration zone”](#). The effort to repel people who seek our protection does not get more absurd than this legal contortion.

Ever since the Tampa election, there has been a sustained effort by government to [dehumanise refugees](#), and to silence their stories of suffering, including seeking to silence advocates. The treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum who arrive by boat has been calculated cruelty to destroy their hopes of resettlement in Australia, and to ‘send a message’ to others who might otherwise seek asylum in Australia. For two decades refugees have suffered the incredible cruelty of long-term detention, mental and physical abuse, and family separation - all designed to destroy hope and persuade refugees to give up their claims for protection. This is not treating refugees with compassion.

While thousands of refugees have suffered trauma, there have also been consequences for the Australian population. The very soul of our nation is tainted as we permit the vilest treatment of vulnerable people. Cruelty has been normalised, secrecy and a lack of transparency has become acceptable, and we no longer hold our politicians to account - politicians who lie are no longer sanctioned, and fudging the truth has become an integral part of daily political life.

Our Australian society, which once proudly stood for a fair go, has become more selfish, mean-spirited, mistrusting, and insensitive to cruelty. So long as we tolerate the mistreatment of refugees and people seeking asylum, we cannot live proud as Australians. Our national reputation as a good global citizen has been compromised – Australia’s treatment of refugees has been consistently and criticised by the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner.

The saddest part of all is that it did not have to be this way.

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It could have been so different

Back in the late 1970s Australia had its first “boat people” crisis and the response led by the Australian government was one of compassion and providing safe resettlement. At the end of the Vietnam War hundreds of thousands of people fled Vietnam, mostly in [boats](#) – just over 2,000 refugees arrived in Australia in small boats. Over a period of 10 years, the Australian government accepted over 80,000 Vietnamese refugees, mostly from refugee camps in Malaysia and Indonesia. They were provided safe passage to Australia so they did not have to make the very risky boat journey.

[The Fraser Government made hard decisions](#) at this time, resisting the negative community sentiment towards boat people, including some politicians within the government. This values-based political leadership demonstrated that Australia has the capacity to welcome refugees, and provide the support required to provide a safe and secure place in our community. Those Vietnamese refugees and their children and grandchildren are now very valuable Australian citizens. Listen to the story of one of those Vietnamese refugees [here](#).

Let’s imagine a different ending to the Tampa incident. What if the refugees rescued by the Tampa were brought to Australia to have their claims for refugee status fairly assessed, and then offered resettlement? Like the Vietnamese refugees, they would have quickly become valued Australians contributing to our community.

Imagine the joy of families reuniting, and finding a safe home here in Australia with us. We know there are many communities around Australia who are actively welcoming refugees. Hear from members of the Rural Australians for Refugees community here, [Ali Cooke](#) and [Louise Redmond](#).

Think of the billions of dollars that have been spent on holding thousands of people for years in detention in squalid conditions on Nauru, in PNG, in Australian deserts, and also in our cities. Imagine the difference if this had been spent on significantly increasing our refugee intake to include many waiting in Indonesia for a safer resettlement option. This would truly save lives at sea.

Imagine if some of the wasted billions had been spent to supporting the UNHCR to assess refugee claims in transit countries, and to support more resettlement options. This would have saved lives and given hope to thousands.

Until we succeed in our demands for refugee policies that are compassionate and just, we will remain a much lesser country. Be one of the Australians calling for justice for refugees.



The SIEVX Memorial – Canberra <https://www.sievxmemorial.com/>

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The following article published by The Conversation is an excellent summary of the MV Tampa Incident. It is part of a series of explainers on key moments in Australian political history, looking at what happened, its impact then, and its relevance to politics today.

Australian politics explainer: the MV Tampa and the transformation of asylum-seeker policy

Author: Alex Reilly: Deputy Dean and Director of the Public Law and Policy Research Unit, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide Published April 27, 2017

Sometime before August 23 2001, a small Indonesian fishing boat, the KM Palapa 1, left Indonesia en route to Christmas Island with 438 asylum seekers aboard.

Like many before them, the asylum seekers hoped to reach Australia and apply for permanent protection visas. The Palapa's engines failed in international waters between Indonesia and Australia, and it lay stranded for many days.

On August 26, the MV Tampa, a Norwegian cargo ship en route from Fremantle to Singapore, answered a call from the Australian Coast Guard and rescued the crew and passengers of the Palapa. Makeshift accommodation and bathrooms were organised on the open deck. Pregnant women were among the passengers.



A delegation of five asylum seekers was taken to see the Tampa's captain, Arne Rhinnan. They pleaded to be taken to Christmas Island (four hours away) and threatened to jump ship if they were returned to Indonesia (11 hours away). Rhinnan told the coast guard he planned to take the rescuees to Christmas Island, which was duly noted.

However, some hours later, Neville Nixon of the Department of Immigration contacted Rhinnan to inform him that the Tampa was not to enter Australian waters – and if it did so, Rhinnan risked imprisonment and fines of up to A\$110,000.

It was the prime minister, John Howard, who **decided** to prevent the Tampa entering Australia. The decision heralded the beginning of a new, executive-led change in policy, which has been the underlying basis of the approach to asylum seekers attempting to reach Australia by boat ever since.

When the 438 asylum seekers left Indonesia on the Palapa, Australia's policy was to rescue asylum seekers at sea and detain them in Australia while their claims for protection were processed. If their claims were successful, they would be released into the community on permanent protection visas. If they weren't, they would be returned to their country of origin.

On October 8, six weeks after the Tampa was told it could not enter Australian waters, the Palapa survivors were **forcibly removed** from the HMAS Manoora onto Nauru. In the intervening period, the Australian government had introduced a policy of boat turnbacks.

The ability to construct and implement this policy less than three months out from an election was an extraordinary achievement of the Howard government, particularly given it involved complex negotiations with a foreign country (Nauru).

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Also in this six-week period, ten more boats (now labelled Suspected Illegal Entry Vessels, or SIEVs) attempted to reach Christmas Island. It was a period of high drama. The Australian Navy was under orders to forcibly return boats to Indonesia under [Operation Relex](#) (this became, and continues as Operation Sovereign Borders)

Several boats sank under navy observation. Despite the best efforts of navy personnel to rescue asylum seekers flailing in the open sea, many people drowned. In the case of SIEV-4, cabinet ministers seized on a navy communication feed that children were being thrown overboard. They immediately made the allegation public; Howard and his immigration minister declared these were not the type of people Australia wanted. (The government's account of what happened was found to be fabricated, and it is now known as the [Children Overboard scandal](#).)

The government maintained its reliance on unverified naval intelligence right up to the federal election on November 10, without providing the navy with an opportunity to correct the record. This politicisation of navy information was the subject of a Senate inquiry in the next parliament.

Boats ceased arriving altogether after SIEV-10 sank on October 19, killing more than 350 of its 400 passengers. The exact circumstances of the sinking of SIEV-10 remain uncertain. There can be little doubt, however, that its sinking had a significant deterrent effect on asylum seekers in Indonesia considering the journey to Christmas Island by boat.

What are its contemporary implications?

At the time of the Tampa incident, the government's new policy of boat turnbacks seemed extreme.

However, the government ran a highly successful campaign claiming that the policy was necessary to control Australia's borders and keep the nation safe, particularly in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. The government kept strict control of information. It withheld information about navy operations involving asylum seekers at sea and restricted the access of journalists to Nauru and Christmas Island. It also downplayed the effect of offshore detention on the mental and physical health of asylum seekers, and cast rescues as undeserving of Australia's protection – and potentially a risk to security.

The Rudd Labor government ended the Howard government's asylum-seeker policy in 2007. Offshore detention centres were closed; boat turnbacks ceased. But, from 2010 to 2013, boats began arriving in unprecedented numbers, and Tony Abbott and the Coalition were elected on a platform that included "stopping the boats".

The Abbott government introduced a new policy mirroring the post-Tampa policy – which included an added sting introduced by the Rudd government prior to the 2013 election that no asylum seeker arriving by boat and processed in an offshore detention centre would ever be resettled in Australia.

This present-day asylum-seeker policy has bipartisan support. It is a direct legacy of the Howard government's decision to refuse entry to the Tampa in August 2001.

The original article is available at:- <https://theconversation.com/australian-politics-explainer-the-mv-tampa-and-the-transformation-of-asylum-seeker-policy-74078>

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Let them land: remembering Tampa



Tampa View is a short, quiet street on Christmas Island. Less than two hundred metres long, it ends at a sharp cliff descending into the Indian Ocean. When you stand at the end of the street you can see peaceful Flying Fish Cove, one or two boats dotting the ocean and, in the distance, Ta Jin House, which once accommodated the island administrator but is now a small museum. Eight years ago, standing at Tampa View was a different story. If you gazed out to the ocean, the MV Tampa and its human cargo were visible. You would have seen the transformation of Ta Jin House into a SAS military base. The Cove during this time was flooded with international media while Christmas Islanders protested over the Howard government's treatment of the

asylum seekers on board the vessel and detained on their own island. Disgusted with the Howard government's handling of the Tampa affair, Christmas Islanders renamed one of their streets Tampa View. The memories of this event remain etched on the minds of those who protested against this pivotal event in Australia's political history. Recollections of the stand-off between the rescue endeavours of the Tampa captain and the hard-heartedness of the Howard government are still raw. See the full article: **Let them land: remembering Tampa** <https://apo.org.au/node/18664>

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Cross Reference Links from the Section Above

The following links are all references found in the articles section above and are included here to make them easier to find.

Wikipedia – Children Overboard Affair

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children_Overboard_affair

ABC News – Sinking of the Sievx Ten Years On.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-10-17/hutton-sievx-ten-years-on-the-questions-remain/3574870>

The Guardian – Human Rights Expert Decries Boat Turnbacks.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jul/08/un-human-rights-expert-decries-boat-turnbacks-as-australia-criticised-for-secrecy-of-on-water-matters>

UN Human Rights Commission- Deadly practice of migrant ‘pushbacks’ must cease

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27200&LangID=E>

The Conversation – Out of Site Out of Mind

<https://theconversation.com/out-of-sight-out-of-mind-excising-australia-from-the-migration-zone-14387>

Senate Report – Chapter 2 Operation Relex

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Former_Committees/maritim_eincident/report/c02

Wikipedia- Vietnamese Boat People

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnamese_boat_people

SBS – Vietnamese Refugees who change white Australia

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-vietnamese-refugees-who-changed-white-australia>

The SIEVX Memorial – Canberra

<https://www.sievxmemorial.com/>

The Guardian- Soldiers frog-march asylum seekers off ship

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/oct/02/immigration.uk>

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Additional Articles and Research

This section provides web page links to a number of additional documents, along with brief descriptions of each, which will provide you with an accurate information about the MV Tampa Incident that began on 26th August 2001. This event, and the government's response to it, was a very significant turning point in the way Australia treats refugees, especially those arriving by boat.

It is well worth reading some, or if inclined, all of these documents as they explain how the past two decades of ignoring Australia's obligations to refugees came about.

Asylum Seekers and the UN Refugee Convention

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BriefingBook44p/AsylumSeekers

This briefing document raises the question about whether offshore processing breaches the Refugee Convention – as it is a punitive response directed at people who arrive by boat. The Convention says that people should not be penalised because of the way they arrive in a country to seek asylum.

University of NSW- The Tampa affair: 15 years on

<https://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/news/tampa-affair-15-years-1>

This is an excellent article with extensive cross-references to source material that was written for the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law.

Wikipedia- MV Tampa Incident Details

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tampa_affair

This document is a very good summary of the Tampa Incident, covering the rescue of 438 people from a boat designed to carry 27, their denial of entry into Australia, the involvement of SAS (an elite army unit) and the flow on political ramifications. This event was the start of the Nauru and Manus Island offshore camps, which was the fate of the refugees rescued by the MV Tampa.

National Museum Australia- The Tampa Affair

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/tampa-affair>

This document provides a factual summary of the MV Tampa incident from a reliable source. There are also links at the end of this document to the Museum's Digital classroom that provides additional material which you may also find very useful.

Let them land: remembering Tampa

<https://apo.org.au/node/18664>

Reflections on the Tampa incident, including how the residents of Christmas Island reacted, given the Tampa was anchored just off Christmas Island for weeks awaiting approval to land. Christmas Islanders' support for the asylum seekers was unequivocal. Community leaders issued a public statement, which they faxed to the Tampa, criticising the Howard government's inhuman behaviour and expressing sympathy for the vessel's human cargo, and there were other protests on the island.

Refugees: The Tampa Case

http://www.futureleaders.com.au/pdf/Julian_Burnside.pdf

This document looks at the legal cases that were part of the Tampa Incident and was written by Julian Burnside. Julian also discusses the aftermath of the policies that grew out of this event. Published undated but most likely in 2002

Scotch College Library

<https://library.scotch.wa.edu.au/mediaproductionandanalysis/year11/chasingasylum/tampacrisis>

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This document provides a lot of additional links to other documents and news articles that would be very helpful for a deeper dive into the details for the Tampa and Children Overboard events that shaped our current refugee policies.

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jul/08/un-human-rights-expert-decries-boat-turnbacks-as-australia-criticised-for-secrecy-of-on-water-matters>

This document is an article about a recent UN Report on the current government policy of turning back refugee boats to probable danger. The policy derives from the Tampa Incident.

Senate Report “Border Protection: A New Regime”

https://www.aph.gov.au/~media/wopapub/senate/committee/maritime_incident_ctte/report/c01/pdf.ashx

This document is a Senate report which mostly focuses on the legislation that arose from the Tampa Incident. This link will download a PDF file of the report. Published around 2008

The Mandarin- A new look at the boat people policy challenge

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/40900-tony-kevin-boat-people-policy-challenge/>

By Tony Kevin Wednesday June 24, 2015

This article discusses the success and failures of both Labor (pre 2013) and LNP (post 2013) policies on refugee boats and argues that Manus and Nauru are no longer justified.

Boat arrivals in Australia: a quick guide to the statistics

https://www.aph.gov.au/about_parliament/parliamentary_departments/parliamentary_library/pubs/rp/rp1314/QG/BoatArrivals

This document lists refugee boat arrivals in Australia from 1976 until 2013.

The Sinking of the Sievx

www.sievx.com.

SIEVX.com is a comprehensive archive of all aspects of the SIEVX incident - the grossly overloaded asylum seeker vessel which foundered in the Indian Ocean en route to Australia on 19 October 2001, drowning an estimated 146 children, 142 women and 65 men. The website has been online since 2002 and contains a wealth of information, including news articles written at the time of the tragedy, the evidence and report of the Senate Committee that investigated the sinking in 2002, Parliamentary Questions on Notice from 2002 onwards, notes and articles on Abu Quassey, Khaleed Daoed and Maythem Radhi, the men who allegedly organised the smuggling venture as well a collection of audio files connected with the incident and commentary exclusive to this site.

National Museum Australia Vietnamese refugee boat arrivals

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/vietnamese-refugees-boat-arrival>

This link is provided because it details the dramatic contrast in government response to refugees arriving by boat. This is a brief summary of the action taken by a previous LNP Government that was a human and compassionate solution to the same problem faced with the Tampa Incident. Australia would be a much better society today if this solution had been applied in 2001.

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Sydney Morning Herald – A Book Review “Why people smugglers are not so criminal”.

<https://www.smh.com.au/culture/books/why-people-smugglers-are-not-so-criminal-20210628-p584ym.html>

A book review of “Smuggled: An Illegal History of Journeys to Australia” by Ruth Balint and Julie Kalman. Smuggled recounts the journeys to Australia of refugees and their smugglers since the Second World War – from Jews escaping the Holocaust, Eastern Europeans slipping through the Iron Curtain, 'boat people' fleeing the Vietnam War, to refugees escaping unthinkable violence in the Middle East and Africa.

University in Indonesia- Securitization of Australia Policies in Managing Unauthorized Boat Arrivals After the Tampa Incident (2001-2007)

<https://www.ejournal.warmadewa.ac.id/index.php/sintesa/article/view/1392>

This a research document issued by a University in Indonesia.

Published 2019 by the Universitas Warmadewa, Denpasar, Bali-Indonesia

This paper provides a very detailed review of the events following the Tampa Incident and should be regarded as a reliable source of information.

This link takes you to a page with an abstract of the paper with an option to download the whole document as a PDF file.

Cruel, costly and ineffective: The failure of offshore processing in Australia

https://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/sites/kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/files/Policy_Brief_11_Offshore_Processing.pdf?mc_cid=5922cb1c30&mc_eid=f111d8f659

This is the new policy brief from Kaldor Centre scholars Madeline Gleeson and Natasha Yacoub. They demonstrate that offshore processing does not work, based on the government’s own data and its stated policy aims. Nor is it a benign failure. The human toll is evident but incalculable. Discover why offshore processing should be ended in Australia and not replicated anywhere. Published July 2021

Herald Sun Front Page 21 August 2001

Herald Sun

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2001 NEWS PICTORIAL FORECAST: SHOWERS, PAGE 52 \$1* (Inc. GST)

INSIDE COLOUR MAGAZINE

OUR PLACE IN SPACE

PART 7

COLLECT ALL 12. IF YOU HAVE MISSED ANY OF THE SERIES, SEE PAGE 2

KEEP OUT

Captain refuses Howard's order to return 438 boat people to Indonesia

By MICHAEL MADGON and JIM DICKINS



Going nowhere: the Norwegian cargo vessel the Tampa is now anchored off Christmas Island with 438 illegal immigrants on board.

Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Wahid Supriyadi said, "Norway said it had no duty to offer asylum and urged Australia to meet its regional and international responsibilities. There was a danger Australia's actions could lead to other countries taking similar actions." Mr Howard said Australia was communicating with both governments to resolve the standoff. "There are exchanges going on and I don't see any sign of any more," he said. "The boat people, from Pakistan, Iraq and Sri Lanka, include 30 women — two pregnant — 43 children and 369 men. Some have threatened to kill themselves if they are turned away by Australia. The Tampa was on its way from Singapore to Fremantle in heavy seas when it responded to Australian requests to assist to the SOS call by the sinking ferry. Captain Ignace said he set course for Indonesia after the rescue but a group of men threatened to turn for Christmas Island. "They just told me they would jump overboard. They were speaking in an excited, aggressive and set. It was a tense moment."

Desperate: the last boatload to arrive at Christmas Island this month.

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JEFF HINTS AT CANBERRA

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YOUR CLUB'S TRADE LIST

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The Age – Refugees stranded at sea August 2001, but exact date is not known

■ Boat people get refuge in containers ■ PM sends a message to the world

Refugees stranded at sea

A Norwegian vessel is awaiting instructions on where to sail.

By LOUISE DODSON, SIMON MANN and KERRY TAYLOR

More than 430 refugees were stranded at sea last night after the government took the unprecedented decision of refusing the asylum seekers permission to land and two other countries signalled a reluctance to take responsibility for them.

The boatload is the biggest group yet to attempt entry into Australia, and Prime Minister John Howard said last night there were fears 300

more asylum seekers could follow.

The stranded refugees — most of them from Afghanistan, with others from Pakistan and Sri Lanka — were last night aboard a Norwegian container vessel that more than 24 hours earlier had rescued them from their sinking boat about 75 nautical miles (140 kilometres) north of Christmas Island, their presumed destination.

The ship was last night about 11 miles off Christmas Island, the refugees housed in five containers with sufficient food and water for a week, and awaiting a decision on where it should sail.

Mr Howard said he had taken the unusual action of refusing the 438 asylum seekers entry to Australia because he wanted to send a strong message to people smugglers around the world.



tentatively put in place by the Indonesians to receive them".

"Whilst this is a humanitarian, decent country we are not a soft touch and we are not a nation whose sovereign rights in relation to who comes here are going to be trampled on," he told parliament.

He also said there were particular circumstances never encountered before that had prompted the government to turn the boat away — that the captain of the Norwegian vessel, the Tampa, had been under duress to take the asylum seekers to Australia.

In Indonesia, from where the boat people had set sail, the government signalled last night that it might be reluctant to accept the asylum seekers and the Norwegian Government, caught up in the crisis through the involvement of a

flagged ship, indicated that Australia and Indonesia could not resile from their responsibilities.

Last night Opposition Leader Kim Beazley said Labor supported the government's actions.

Meanwhile, cabinet's national security committee last night commissioned intelligence reports on what the Howard Government believes is a new wave of illegal immigrants, senior sources said.

The captain of the Tampa, Arne Runnan, said last night he would not sail anywhere until he received word from the Norwegian Government.

"We are still drifting off Christmas Island and the people are very calm, they're sitting on deck and waiting for the final word. I understand that that case is still pending. I really don't know what to do for the moment," he said.

Earlier, Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Wahid Supriyadi was quoted by AAP as saying that asylum seekers would not be allowed to return to Indonesia, the most recent departure point.

But contacted later by The Age, he said: "There is a procedure that should be followed but at the moment we have no information to act on."

The Refugee Council of Australia's Margaret Piper said Australia was abrogating its responsibility to the asylum seekers by "pushing" them elsewhere.

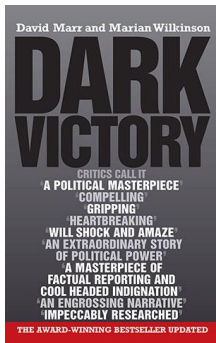
Continued page NEWS 2: Influx of boat people OPINION 16: Editor

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Recommended Tampa Books

Dark Victory: How a government lied its way to political triumph

David Marr and Marian Wilkinson, two of the country's most accomplished investigative journalists, burrow deep into the ways of the Howard government. They reveal the secret history of the campaign against boat people that began with the Tampa and ended ten extraordinary weeks later with the Australian people giving John Howard his third, most daring election victory. *Dark Victory* is a thrilling and provocative account of events that shattered many of the myths Australia had about itself and changed profoundly how Australia is seen in the eyes of the world. It is also a potent reminder of the fleeting nature of truth in politics.



Available here: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/academic-professional/politics-government/Dark-Victory-David-Marr-and-Marian-Wilkinson-9781741144475>

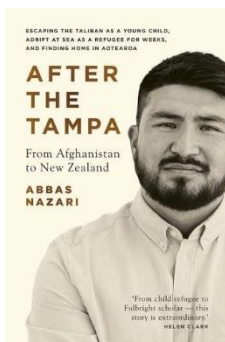
After the Tampa

When the Taliban were at the height of their power in 2001, Abbas Nazari's parents were faced with a choice: stay and face persecution in their homeland, or seek security for their young children elsewhere.

The family's desperate search for safety took them on a harrowing journey from the mountains of Afghanistan to a small fishing boat in the Indian Ocean, crammed with more than 400 other asylum seekers. When their boat started to sink, they were mercifully saved by a cargo ship, the Tampa. However, one of the largest maritime rescues in modern history quickly turned into an international stand-off, as Australia closed its doors to these asylum seekers.

The Tampa had waded into the middle of Australia's national election, sparking their hardline policy of offshore detention. While many of those rescued by the Tampa were the first inmates sent to the island of Nauru, Abbas and his family were some of the lucky few to be resettled in New Zealand.

Twenty years after the Tampa affair, Abbas tells his amazing story, from living under Taliban rule, to spending a terrifying month at sea, to building a new life at the bottom of the world.



Available here: <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/other-books/After-the-Tampa-Abbas-Nazari-9781988547640>

RESOURCE KIT

Reluctant Rescuers

An Exploration of the Australian Border Protection System's Safety Record in Detecting and Intercepting Asylum-seeker Boats, 1998-2011

Tony Kevin has become a voice of conscience for fellow citizens. He exposes the shameful loss of life on the boats bringing refugees to Australia. He appeals to our human duty to the vulnerable. But also to the mariners' instinctive tradition to rescue 'those in peril on the sea'. It is astonishing, but reassuring, that one trained as a senior public official should have found this insistent voice.

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG



This book is self-published by Tony Kevin

RESOURCE KIT

Video Clips

The following are short video clips from various people who have stories to tell that are pertinent to the Tampa Incident and the related government refugee policies.

Watch the clips individually and share on social media. Share links with friends, and/or organize a discussion group

You can watch the full program on YouTube, and follow up with a discussion.

<https://youtu.be/gBQOvplhOD0>

Lateline 2001- ABC Program

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ryaofu54r4vwwpt/2001_Tampa.mp4?dl=0

This Lateline report from the lead-up to the 2001 Federal election analyses the electoral impact of the Tampa crisis. It provides a short history of Australia's response to asylum seekers and refugees

The original ABC link: https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/archives/80days/video/2001_Tampa.mp4

Thiet Huynh – Arrive in Australia from Vietnam as a refugee

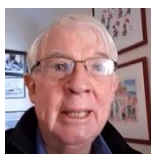
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3godpz63z20hhnn/Thiet%20Huynh%20with%20captions.mp4?dl=0>



Thiet is a Vietnamese refugee who settled in Australia in 1979 describing how he got to Australia and the support he and his family received.

David Looker- Reflections on the Tampa 'moment'

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/06ou63o0rjf9unu/David%20Looker%20Tampa.mp4?dl=0>



David Looker is a former Vice President Operations USA for the Norwegian shipping company, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, and he shares his memory of the Tampa Incident and his company's attitude to always save lives at sea.

Louise Redmond- Rural Australians for Refugees

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qpqiezavxxhkrsg/Louise%20Redmond.mp4?dl=0>



Louise gives a brief overview of the activities for RAR and its aims to assist refugees.

RAR web page is <https://www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au/>

Julian Burnside – OA QC – The Tampa 'moment' as a turning point

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/atlfbp92n7vnoqp/Julian%20Burnside.mp4?dl=0>



Julian gives brief description of the Tampa incident and the impact on refugees since. He mentions the financial cost of indefinite detention and suggests that it would have been cheaper for the government to give each detained refugee \$1 million. A absurd situation.

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Ali Corke- Rural Australians for Refugees – How fear drives our refugee policy

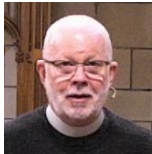
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/bxib2uwaaixcj9y/Ali%20Corke.mp4?dl=0>



Ali Corke, founder of Rural Australians for Refugees in Apollo Bay, Victoria, speaks about the Tampa as a key moment when our government chose the politics of fear. Ali is the author of *Take Shelter*, and *The Power of Good People*, both drawing on her experiences of getting to know refugees and becoming part of their journeys to safety and security in Australia. Ali can be contacted on ali@alicorke.com

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt- Dean of St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/czsd63rh2ww0odd/Peter%20Catt.mp4?dl=0>



The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt is Dean of St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. Dr Catt holds a Bachelor of Divinity and a PhD in Evolutionary Microbiology. He is Chair of the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce and President of A Progressive Christian Voice. He also serves on Anglican and Ecumenical Social Justice Committees at a Diocesan and national level.

Peter has long been a voice in support of refugees and comments in the impact of the Tampa Incident on the Australian community.

Full Video Available on YouTube

<https://youtu.be/gBQOvplhOD0>



This video on YouTube is all of the above videos available as a video. This is provided as an alternative access to this information.

RESOURCE KIT

Memes for Social Media

Please use these memes and/or your own to raise awareness of the significance of the Tampa election, and to call for welcoming refugee policies.

Also feel free to use any of the clips above on your social media and/or use either or both of these short clips:

Video Memes

Ali Corke – Fear

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5fm1v9x0gf4lbug/Ali%20Corke%20-%20Fear.mp4?dl=0>



A short extract of Ali reading a poem by her daughter on fear. It is ideal for Social Media being 27 seconds long.

Ali Corke – How we can once again be proud to be Australian

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gt80gvkn67estr8/Ali%20Corke%20-%20Can%20be%20proud.mp4?dl=0>



Another short extract, 49 seconds, on the fear we should reject to again be proud of our treatment of the vulnerable.

Peter Catt – There is a way forward

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/j5l3do67wtglz61/Peter%20Catt%20-%20There%20is%20a%20way%20forward.mp4?dl=0>



A short extract, 70 seconds, from Peter the there is a way forward from the damage done by the Tampa Crisis.

Graphic Memes

The following memes can be downloaded using the links below each one.



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<https://www.dropbox.com/s/iwkb6xhnedcoa6b/act%20justly%20mercy.png?dl=0>



REFUGEES are WELCOME.....

BENVENUTO. خوش آمدی. SOO DHAWAADA.

Varavēṛpu. BEM-VINDA. Svāgata cha.

أهلا بك . Ji ā'ī'ām nū. Wilujeng sumping

VO WOYN. BI XÊR HATÍ. Bagrisung.

KALOS IRTHATE. HOAN NGHÊNH.

Huānyíng. BIENVENIDOS. KARIBU.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gcvk8co7kxt78rt/Cruel%20OZ%20benevenuto.jpg?dl=0>



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nh1z87u4zqkjq1/refugiati.jpg?dl=0>

**Kindness
Not
Cruelty
For
Refugees**



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0b80r2dadatnbvd/room%20in%20heart.jpg?dl=0>

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20 years since Tampa
20 years of suffering
20 years of shame



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/izp8oy1rw92tdq1/20%20years%20of%20shame.jpg?dl=0>

Fair go for
Refugees



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/o902gdab9pjmzp1/fair%20go%20for%20refugees%20no%20link%20message.jpg?dl=0>



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/dzdxypm33b8pe3/remember%20tampa%20no%20link%20message.jpg?dl=0>

RESOURCE KIT



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4jgdem9b16ejoeo/we%20welcome%20refugees.jpg?dl=0>



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vzm613w0duftkxh/LET%20THEM%20CALL%20AUSTRALIA%20HOME.jpg?dl=0>



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/xx5d8mj1t5x2jzz/360K%20PER%20PER%20PERSON%20PER%20YEAR.jpg?dl=0>



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/asm2vcsg0mk9f85/FREEDOM%20not%20detention.jpg?dl=0>



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/8ysmwqrnsjmr6ke/sAFE%20RE%20SETTLEMENT%20FOR%20REFUGEES.jpg?dl=0>

Memes with a link message

The two memes contain the message “Click here to send a message to your local MP” and are intended to encourage people to take action.

If you use these two memes on Social Media make sure you post them with this link to download the letter writing kit.

<https://aran.net.au/actions/20-years-since-tampa/#take-action>

RESOURCE KIT

Fair go for Refugees



Click here to send a message to your local MP

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5ljh2zhl3v3j7pq/fair%20go%20for%20refugees%20with%20link%20message.jpg?dl=0>



Click here to send a message to your local MP

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fxa2jj2tfn53a31/remember%20tampa%20with%20link%20message.jpg?dl=0>

RESOURCE KIT

Take Action – write to your local MP and your local media

Write a letter or email to politicians

See below a sample letter/email to send to your local MP and the Senators in your state. It's important that our local politicians and senators who vote on all legislation, are reminded that many Australians disapprove of the current policies of deterrence, and want to see Australia treating refugees and people who seek asylum with compassion, and respect their right to seek protection here.

Find electorate postal and email addresses for your local MP

https://www.aph.gov.au/senators_and_members/members. Find the emails for the Senators in your state below the sample email/letter.

Sample letter

(This letter can also be copied from <https://aran.net.au/actions/20-years-since-tampa/>)

Suggested Subject line / title Time for change on refugee policy

Dear (name of MP or Senator /surname)

Did you know that August 2021 marks 20 years since the Tampa election. As we all know, the decisions taken back in 2001 set the course for 20 years of unnecessary suffering for people who sought safety here in Australia.

Thousands of people fleeing from war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and persecution in Sri Lanka and Myanmar have exercised their right to seek asylum since 2001. Instead of recognising this right by processing their claims for protection in a timely and orderly way, we have punished them - in offshore detention centres where conditions were reported to be worse than refugee camps in impoverished countries, in long term detention in Australia, keeping them separated from loved ones for decades, and allowing them to languish in limbo with no resolution of their claims.

Australia is now recognised internationally as having one of the harshest detention regimes for refugees, and incredibly just recently further cemented in our domestic law the right to arbitrarily and indefinitely detain people including refugees. This legislation is truly shameful, and in absolute contravention of international law, our international treaty obligations, and our espoused commitment to freedom and fairness.

It is time for change. We cannot continue on this path of calculated cruelty - it harms refugees and people seeking asylum, and our international reputation has been badly tarnished by this wilful abuse of human rights. Quite rightly the UN Human Rights Commission has consistently criticised Australia's unlawful treatment of people who seek our protection.

We can no longer tolerate this cruelty, and the erosion of our commitment to a fair go for all.

It's time to speak up for justice and compassion for refugees. Australia can easily welcome many more refugees, and embrace them as citizens together with us.

Yours sincerely

(Name)

Address)

RESOURCE KIT

Letter to editors

Once you have written your letter, it's a good idea to review it and send a short version to your local news outlet.

And.... **Don't forget to post one of your key messages on your social media.**

Senators Email Addresses

Email addresses for all **ACT** senators:

senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au; senator.seselja@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **NSW** senators

senator.ayres@aph.gov.au; senator.bragg@aph.gov.au; senator.davey@aph.gov.au;
senator.faruqi@aph.gov.au; senator.fierravanti-wells@aph.gov.au; senator.hughes@aph.gov.au;
senator.keneally@aph.gov.au; senator.mcallister@aph.gov.au; senator.molan@aph.gov.au;
senator.oneill@aph.gov.au; senator.payne@aph.gov.au; senator.sheldon@aph.gov.au;

Email addresses for all **NT** senators

Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au; senator.mcmahon@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **Queensland** senators

senator.canavan@aph.gov.au; senator.chisholm@aph.gov.au; senator.green@aph.gov.au;
senator.hanson@aph.gov.au; senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au; senator.mcgrath@aph.gov.au;
senator.rennick@aph.gov.au; senator.roberts@aph.gov.au; senator.scarr@aph.gov.au;
senator.stoker@aph.gov.au; senator.waters@aph.gov.au; senator.watt@aph.gov.au;

Email addresses for all **SA** senators

senator.antic@aph.gov.au; senator.birmingham@aph.gov.au; senator.farrell@aph.gov.au;
senator.fawcett@aph.gov.au; senator.gallacher@aph.gov.au; senator.griff@aph.gov.au;
senator.hanson-young@aph.gov.au; Senator.mclachlan@aph.gov.au; senator.patrick@aph.gov.au;
senator.ruston@aph.gov.au; senator.marielle.smith@aph.gov.au; senator.wong@aph.gov.au;

Email addresses for all **Tasmania** senators

senator.abetz@aph.gov.au; senator.askew@aph.gov.au; senator.bilyk@aph.gov.au;
senator.carol.brown@aph.gov.au; senator.chandler@aph.gov.au; senator.colbeck@aph.gov.au;
senator.duniam@aph.gov.au; senator.lambie@aph.gov.au; senator.mckim@aph.gov.au;
senator.polley@aph.gov.au; senator.urquhart@aph.gov.au; senator.whish-wilson@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **Victorian** senators

senator.carr@aph.gov.au; senator.ciccione@aph.gov.au; senator.henderson@aph.gov.au;
senator.hume@aph.gov.au; senator.kitching@aph.gov.au; senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au;
senator.paterson@aph.gov.au; senator.rice@aph.gov.au; senator.ryan@aph.gov.au;
senator.thorpe@aph.gov.au; senator.walsh@aph.gov.au; senator.van@aph.gov.au

Email addresses for all **WA** senators

senator.brockman@aph.gov.au; senator.cash@aph.gov.au; senator.dodson@aph.gov.au;
senator.lines@aph.gov.au; senator.matt.o'sullivan@aph.gov.au; senator.pratt@aph.gov.au;
senator.reynolds@aph.gov.au; senator.siewert@aph.gov.au; senator.small@aph.gov.au;
senator.smith@aph.gov.au; senator.steele-john@aph.gov.au; senator.sterle@aph.gov.au

RESOURCE KIT

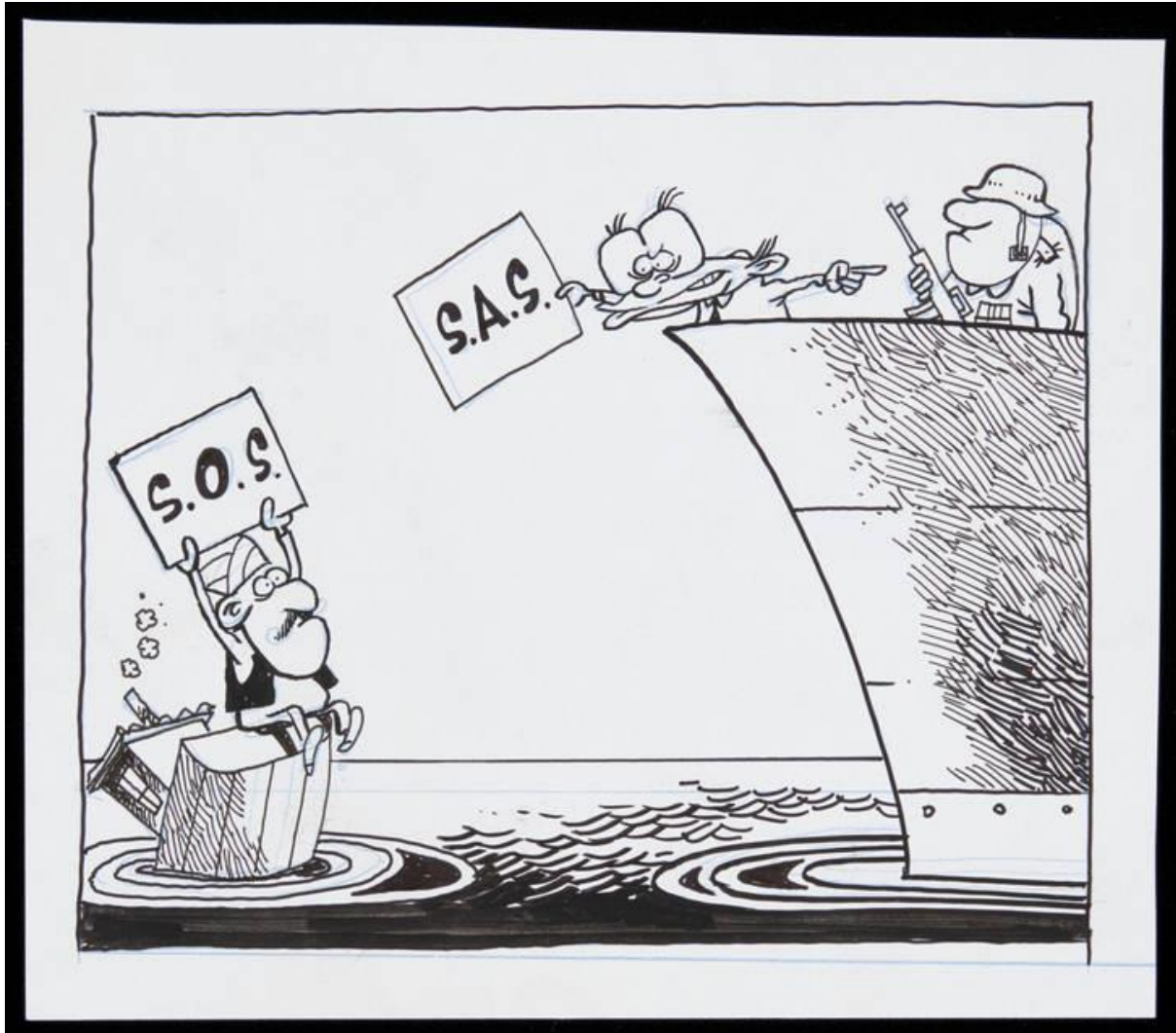
Images, Cartoons and Photographs

Cartoons from NMA

We acknowledge that the following cartoons were provided by the NMA (National Museum Australia).

SOS vs SAS

<http://collectionsearch.nma.gov.au/object/66521>



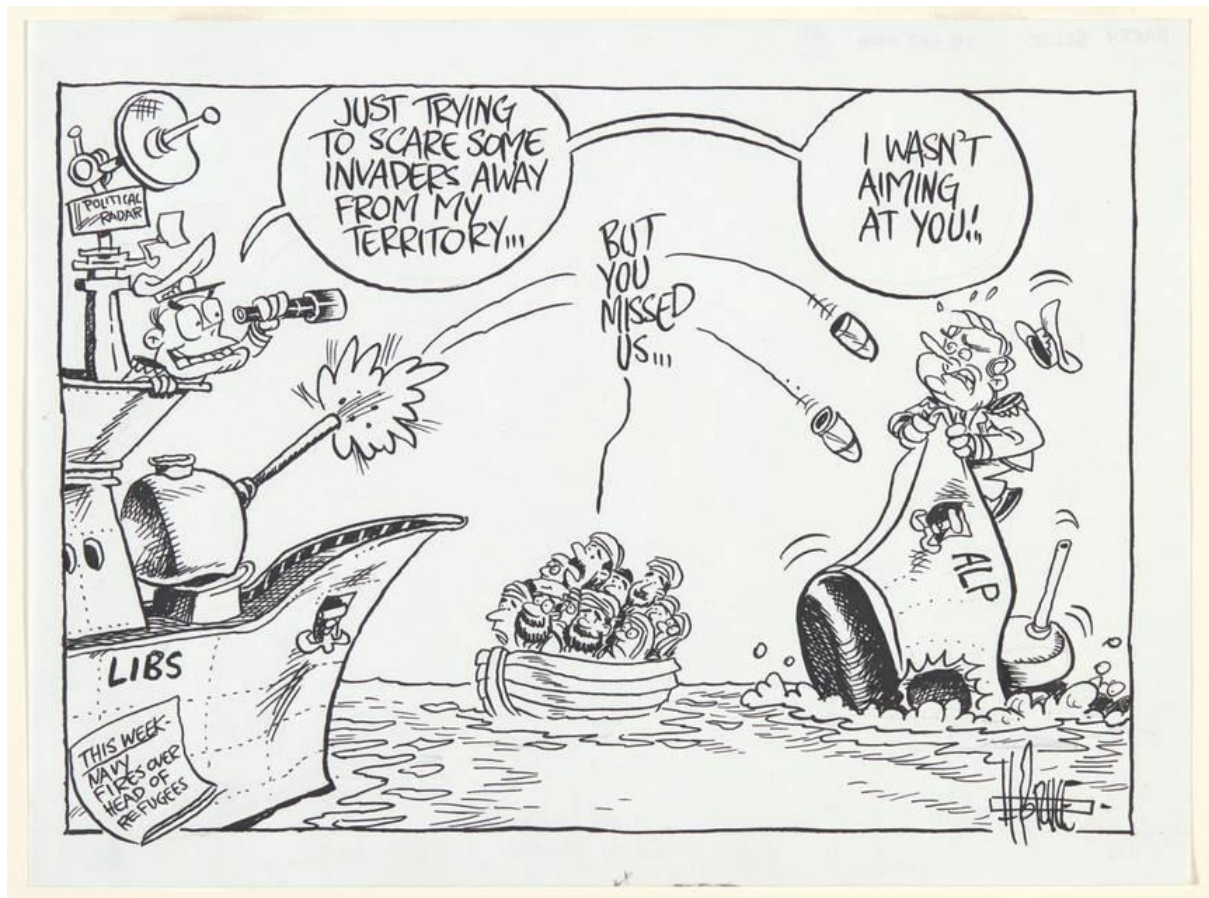
Physical description

A black and white line drawing cartoon titled 'S.O.S.'. The cartoon shows a caricature of John Howard on the bow of a ship holding a sign in one hand that reads 'S.A.S' and pointing to a soldier figure behind him. Below him in the water is a man in a turban on the stern of a sinking ship holding up a sign that reads 'S.O.S.'

RESOURCE KIT

The Warning Shot

<http://collectionsearch.nma.gov.au/object/66386>



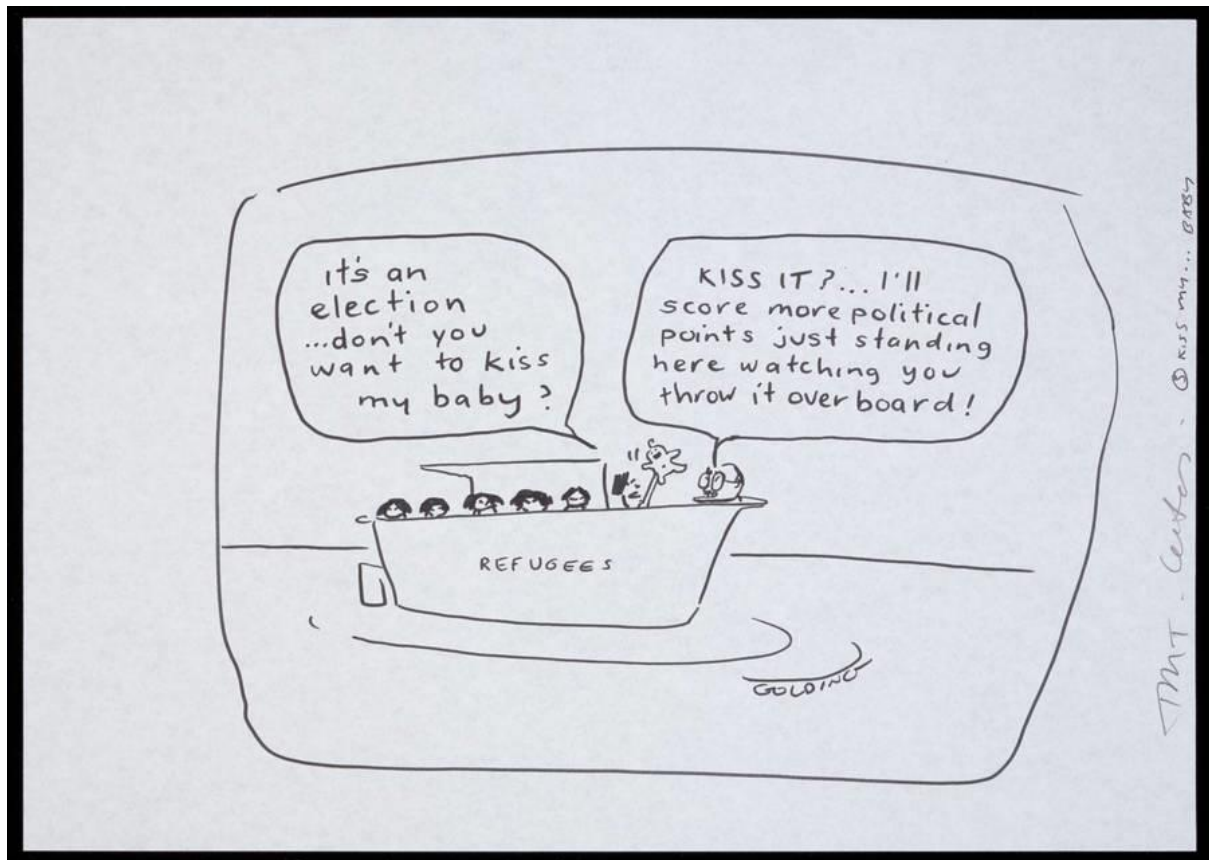
Physical description

A black and white line drawing cartoon entitled 'The Warning Shot'. The cartoon features a caricature of John Howard in a navy uniform holding a telescope, on a ship with the text 'LIBS' on it. This ship is firing missiles at another half sunken ship with text 'ALP' on it and a caricature of Kim Beazley clinging to the bow. In between the two ships is a small boat with a group of men and women in it. A speech bubble from Mr Howard reads 'JUST TRYING / TO SCARE SOME / INVADERS AWAY / FROM MY / TERRITORY...'. Text above the small boat in the middle reads 'BUT / YOU / MISSED / US...'. and a reply speech bubble from Mr Howard reads 'I WASN'T / AIMING / AT YOU!!!'. Text in a small box in the lower left corner reads 'THIS WEEK / NAVY / FIRES OVER / HEAD OF / REFUGEES'. The artist's signature is in the lower right corner.

RESOURCE KIT

Kiss My Baby

<http://collectionsearch.nma.gov.au/object/66461>



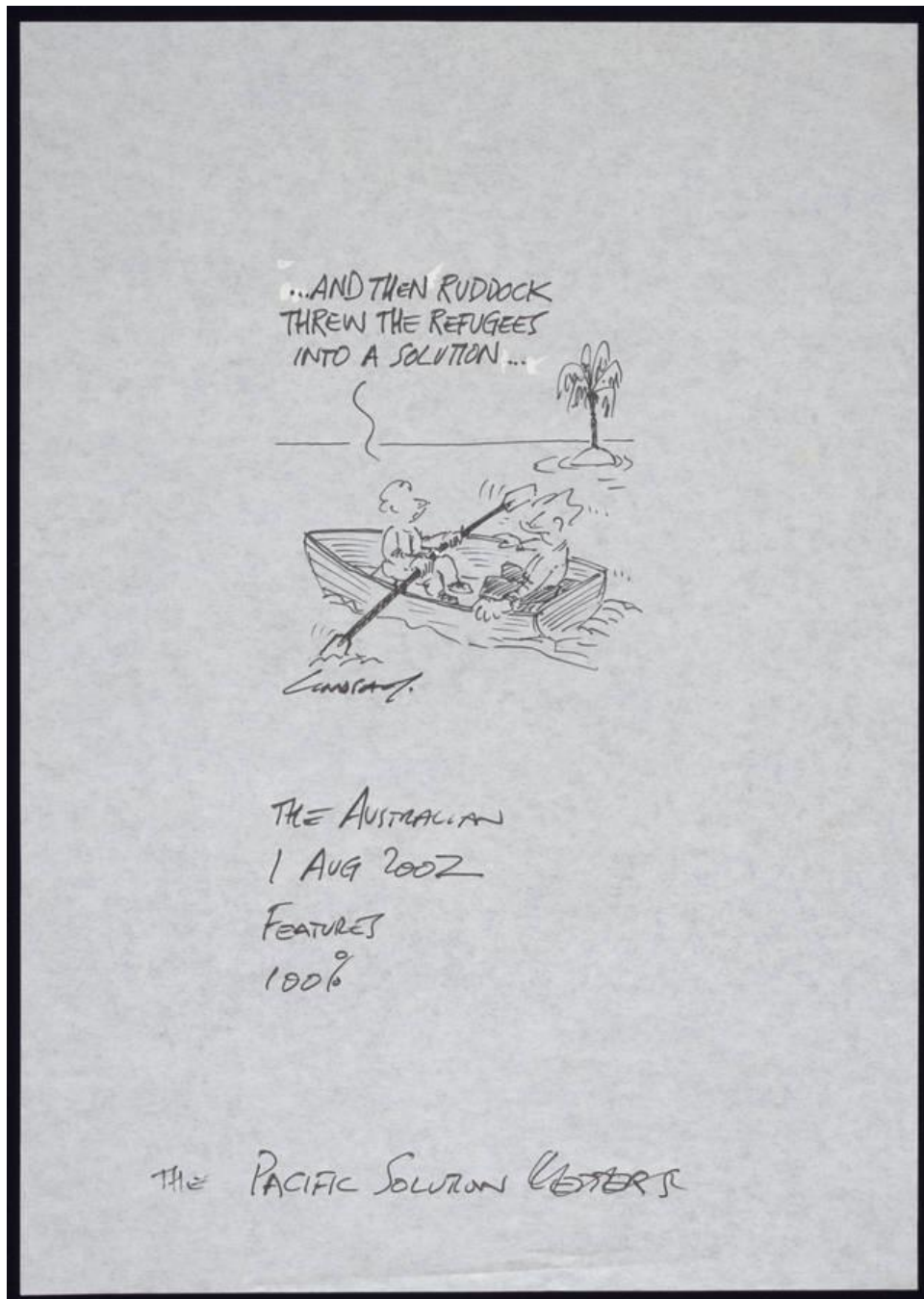
Physical description

A black and white line drawing cartoon entitled 'Kiss My... Baby'. The cartoon features a boat with the label 'REFUGEES', containing a group of people and a caricature of John Howard at one end. A person holds a baby in the air and has a speech bubble that reads 'it's an / election / ...don't you / want to kiss / my baby?' The speech bubble linked to Mr Howard reads 'KISS IT?...I'll / score more political / points just standing / here watching you / throw it overboard!' The artist's signature is in the lower right, and there are annotations along the edge of the cartoon.

RESOURCE KIT

The Pacific Solution

<http://collectionsearch.nma.gov.au/object/211715>



Physical description

A black and white hand drawn cartoon showing two people in a row boat in open water with a small one tree island near them, entitled 'THE PACIFIC SOLUTION'. One of the people in the boat is holding oars and has a speech bubble that reads '...AND THEN RUDDOCK / THREW THE REFUGEES / INTO A SOLUTION...'. The artist's signature is at the bottom left of the cartoon and the details of publication and specifications are at the bottom of the page.

RESOURCE KIT

Halftime at Australia vs Refugees Match

<http://collectionsearch.nma.gov.au/object/211720>



Physical description

A grey and white hand drawn cartoon showing a playing field with a goalie net at one end with people contained inside it. Text above the image reads 'HALFTIME AT THE AUSTRALIA V REFUGEES MATCH.' The artist's signature is in the bottom right corner.

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Children Overboard Deniability

<http://collectionsearch.nma.gov.au/object/69945>



Physical description

A black and white hand drawn cartoon showing a caricature of John Howard sitting at a desk with microphones in front of him, and people in a doorway behind him. A speech bubble from Mr Howard reads 'To the best of / my knowledge I was / completely ignorant / and no one / advised me / otherwise.' A paper on the desk has the text 'CHILDREN / OVERBOARD'. There are also scrunched papers in a bin nearby with text on. The artist's signature is in the bottom right corner.

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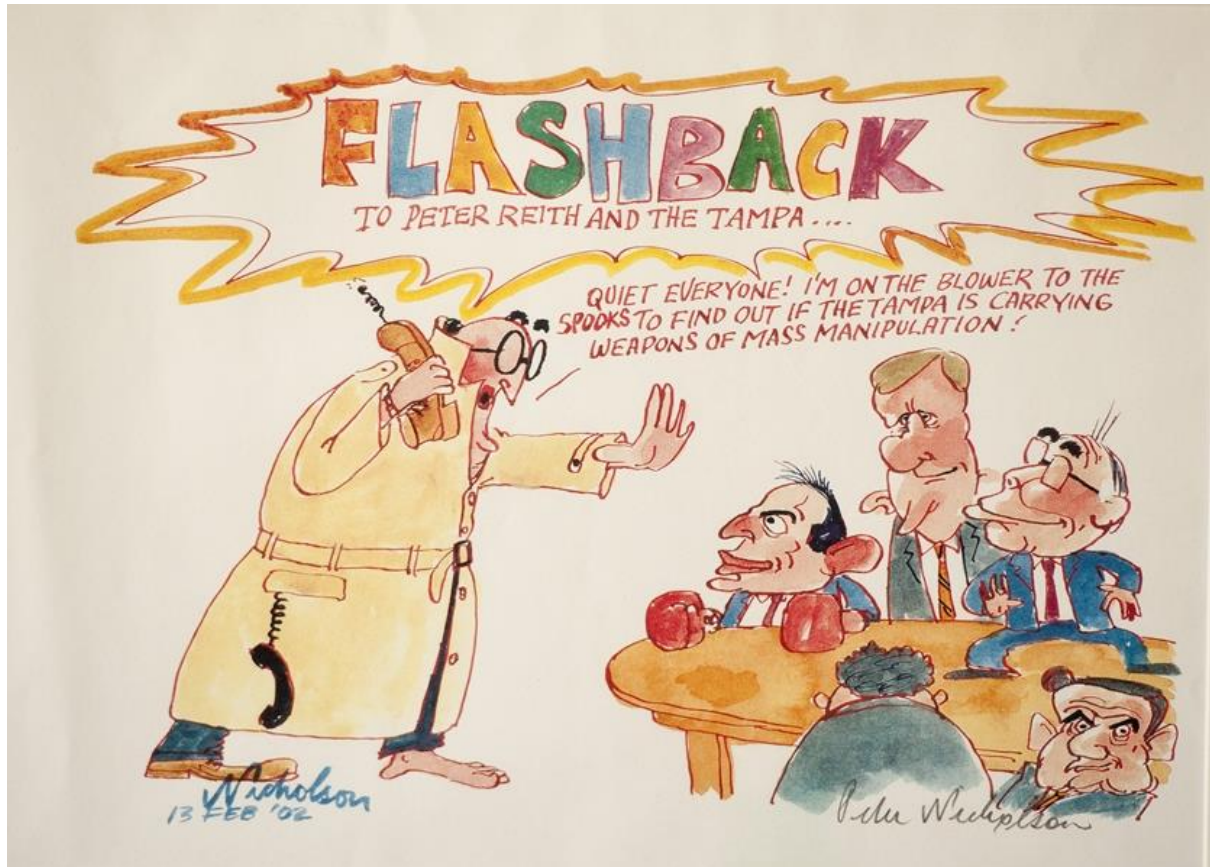
Cartoons by Peter Nicholson

The following cartoons are from David Looker's collection of Tampa cartoons that were drawn by the Peter Nicholson.

If you would like to look for more of Peter Nicholson's cartoons his web page is:-

www.nicholsoncartoons.com.au

Flashback – To Peter Reith and the Tampa



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MV Tampa – Howard describing Nauru



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Images and photographs



RESOURCE KIT

Acknowledgment: Our thanks to Paul Dunn for the protest photographs below.



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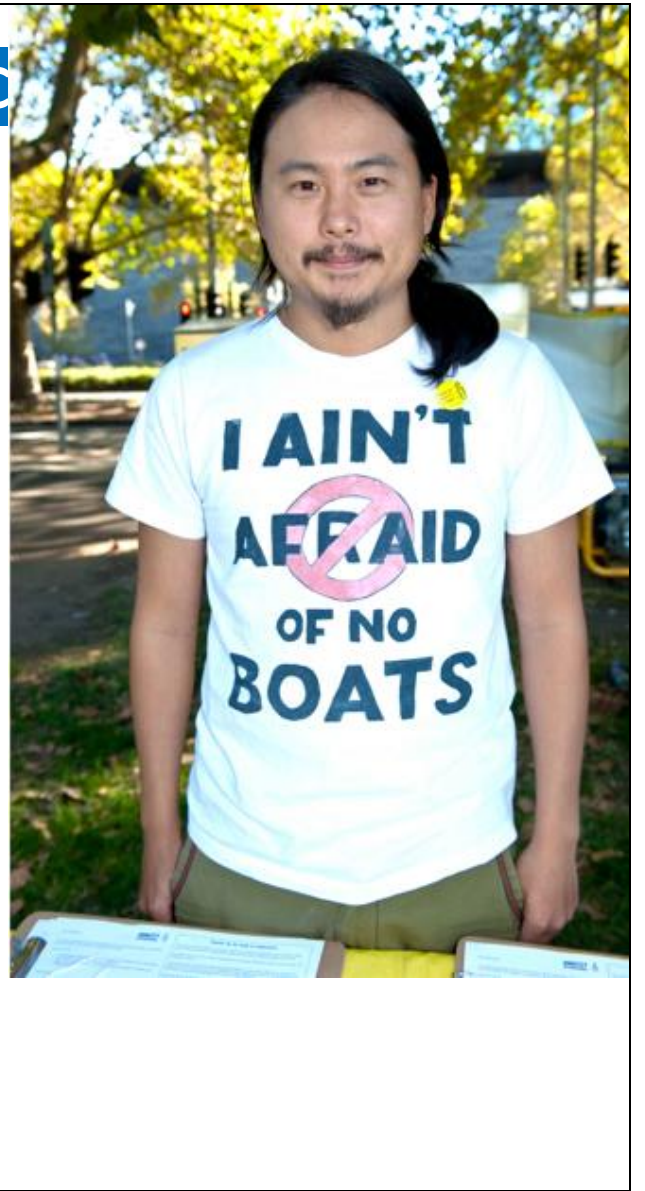


RESOURCE KIT



RESOURCE KIT

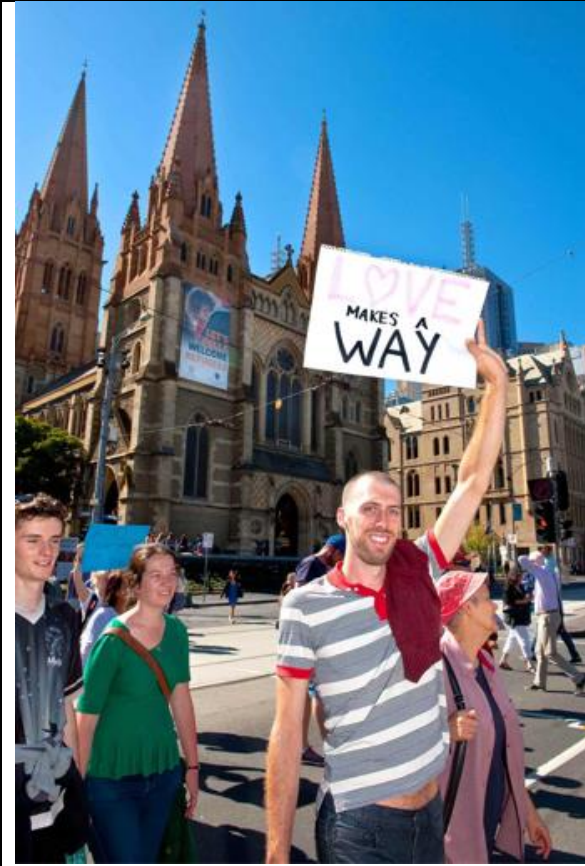




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Using Links in this document

There are three types of link in the document being internal links, links to external web pages and links to Dropbox.

Internal Links

These are links, such as the table of contents, or cross references in articles, that will take you to a specific place in this document. In most cases that location will include an external link to the source material.

External Web Page Links

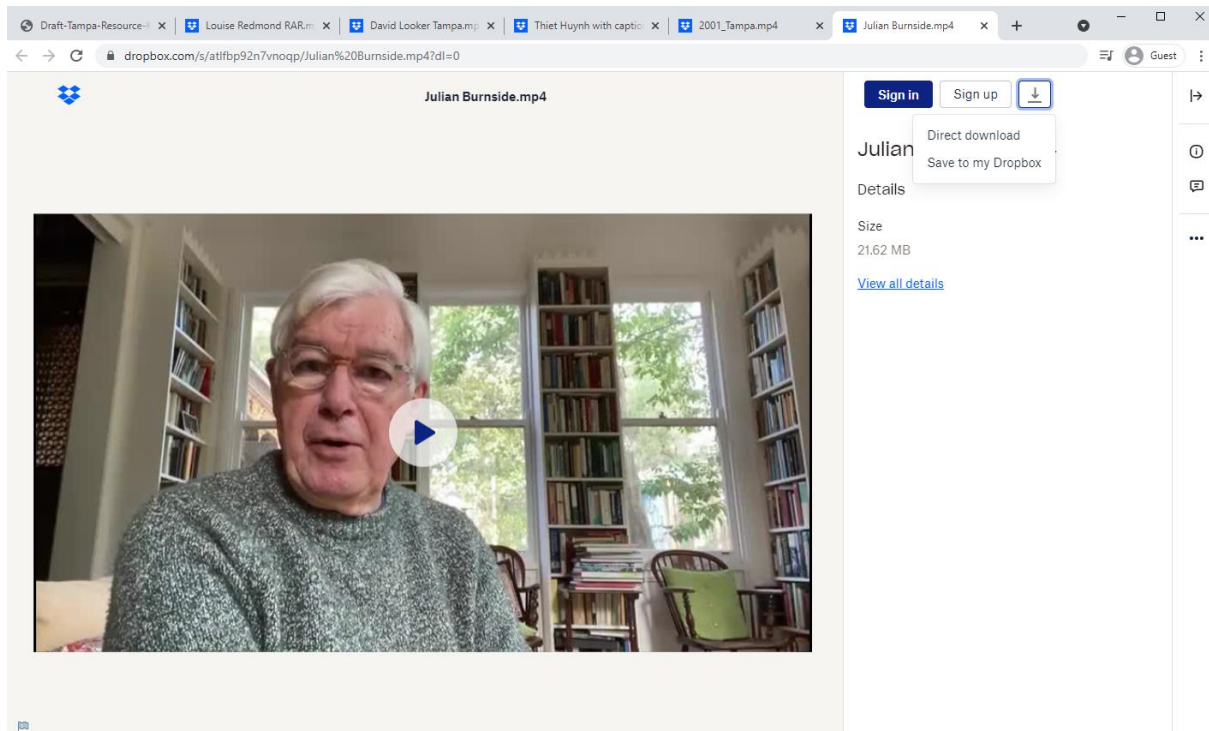
Most of the material in this document has been sourced from various web sites and links to these sites are provided throughout the document. If you want copies of this material it can be downloaded from these sites based on their rules and functions.

Dropbox Links

These can be identified by the start of the link which is always “https://www.dropbox.com”. These links are used for videos and memes so that you can both view and download them for use in social media or any other activity.

You do not need a Dropbox account, or to sign on, to use these links.

If you are not a Dropbox user you will see a screen like this. You DO NOT need to sign in. Just click on the down arrow and select “Direct download”



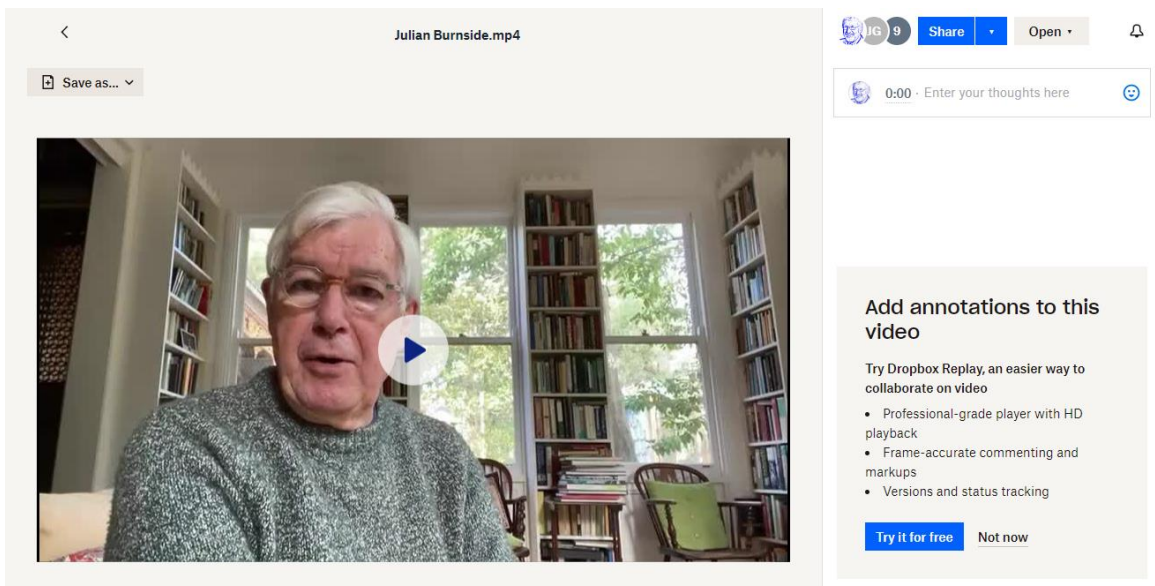
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If you are a Dropbox user and depending on how your device functions the link may open like this. If you want to download the video then click “Save as”.



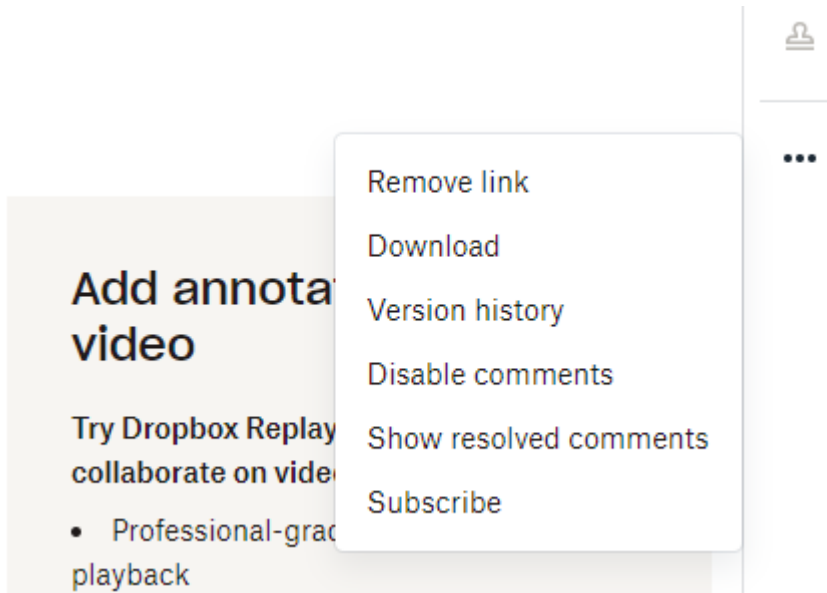
Clicking “Save as” above will give you this view and on some devices this will be how it originally displays.

To download click on the three dots on the far right of the screen.



RESOURCE KIT

This will then give you an option to download the video, or meme, to your device for future use.



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