



Hello all ARAN members.

Hopefully you have had a break and a chance to recharge the batteries. We have a lot of work to do this year, with a looming election that looks set to further demonise refugees and people seeking asylum. We are keen to hear from you if you have particular ideas about the focus for campaigning this year.

Palm Sunday 2018

We are calling for info you have about Palm Sunday events which are being planned. Email here and we will post details on the ARAN

Facebook and Billboard.



Upcoming Conferences

Rural Australians for Refugees

National Conference in Albury -April 6-8. A great line up of speakers and presentations. See details here.



ARAN Conference 2018

Planning has commenced for an ARAN conference in July in Melbourne - stay tuned for more detail.



Links to recent articles which might be of interest:

Kaldor Centre - updates on the situation on Manus Island, Nauru and other current news items here.

Article by Tim Costello re his recent visit to Manus Island here.

Stories an video clips from Manus Island - refugees and locals - their point of view on the current situation here.

REGATTA OF HOPE

Facebook link here.

Adam Richards is a lawyer from Adelaide who previously walked with his son Ned from Adelaide to Canberra to raise awareness and demand an end to offshore detention of the refugees and asylum seekers on Manus and Nauru. This year Adam and his 14 year old son will be walking from Sydney to Parliament House in Canberra in the Refugee Regatta 2018, which runs from Feb 24 to March 11. "This is an event we can all get involved in. As well as the main walk, organisers are asking people in other areas to hold their own walk (even a short one around their town) sometime between today and March 11. If you are organising a walk in solidarity with the Regatta don't forget to ask local media to attend - and send through your photos to the hashtag. Invite other groups to join you. It would also be great if they were able to encourage local prominent people to join the walk

- 1) Take a photo of yourself or your group holding a sign with #RegattaOfHope and #RefugeeRegatta2018. Anyone in a group photo who is not holding a sign can cross their arms above their head symbolising peaceful protest against offshore detention.
- 2) *Post* it to this Facebook event page along with your message of support to encourage the men, women and children on Nauru and Manus. We will get the messages through.
- 3) Hold your own walk during the fortnight of the Sydney to Canberra walk (24 Feb to 11 March). Consider taking your signs and going on your own walk in your local area. Get together with a group, make it a huge event, and walk for whatever distance you'd like. Take photos and videos of your walk and post those with the distance you covered. Kilometres will be tallied to demonstrate literally how far Australians all over the country and people internationally will go to bring the folk on Manus and Nauru to safety. We will not stand for offshore detention, and we can all walk to end it! *sign up* for the Regatta of Hope by commenting on the event page and telling the organisers what you'll do a photo or a walk.

4) Share, like, promote this page and the Regatta of Hope and get everyone you can to do the same. Follow on twitter (@refugeeregatta). Tag your friends, send emails, use your networks. Send this event viral.

SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH CAPTION!

Send via FB or email ARAN

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