



Human Rights are Aussie Rules Newsletter Autumn 2011

Harmony Football begins!

For many people March 21 marks the beginning of the 2011 AFL Premiership Season! However it also recognized as being Harmony Day across Australia. Indeed the 21st of March marks the beginning of Cultural Diversity Week in Victoria. From the 21st—27th of March, Victorians are able to celebrate the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity that is inherent in our community.

Harmony Day itself is designed to celebrate cultural diversity by commemorating what makes each Australian unique whilst also sharing what we have in common. Like FRED, the occasion encourages the notion that everyone belongs!



Sport has an incredibly important role in not only helping to promote Cultural Diversity Week, but also promoting cultural diversity and respect in our community.

“The AFL is proud to support Harmony Day because we believe our game reflects Australia’s cultural diversity. As the son of migrants, Australian football gave me an opportunity to connect with the community. It brings together people, young and old, regardless of their cultural background. Football gives them a common cause, a common pursuit and a common language.”

- Andrew Demetriou



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Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project

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Human Rights are Aussie Rules is a project of Eastern Community Legal Centre





Human Rights are Aussie Rules

Commonwealth Government Funding!

We are happy to announce that our application to receive Commonwealth Funding has been approved. This money will directly be used to help promote and establish Fred's Fair Play and Workshops across remote Australia.

"The funding of our project across three years will see the Human Rights are Aussie Rules Project collaborate with CLC's in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and New South Wales to deliver our project to young people in other states" said Michael Smith, CEO of the Eastern Community Legal Centre which manages the project.

Through our already existing partnership with DLA Phillips Fox and our growing relationships with other community centers nationally, we are excited by the opportunity of extending the program initially to WA, N.T and NSW.

Online Social Network

Did you know we are on Facebook and YouTube
Tell your fans and expand our fan base today!



Smartphone Apps

Make Poverty History Iphone App

Human Rights Arts Film Festival

Fred's Fair Online Game!

The Human Rights are Aussie Rules project is happy to announce that Fred's Fair Game is coming online! We are currently in the process of designing a game to be incorporated into our website and smart phone. The game will incorporate game theory to convey the messages of Freedom, Respect, Equality and Dignity. In January we sent out the Expressions of Interest prospectus to a number of gaming organizations and received several applications. We are now considering those application, and are currently assembling an expert consulting team to help us in the deliberations of an online game. We are hopeful of having the game operational by the end of the year. In order for this to occur however, we must ensure that the educational game is of the highest caliber and is able to maximize the educational value and enjoyment.

Online Human Rights

Games

Our project will be cutting edge. But check out these rare games already promoting peace and human rights!

Can you keep the peace?

<http://www.peacemakergame.com/index.php>

Experience what its like to survive in Darfur!

<http://www.darfurisdying.com/>

Close your eyes... How does it feel?

<http://www.youth-egames.org/games/blind/blind.htm>





Human Rights are Aussie Rules

Peace Team 2011



By Danny Brill

In 2008, a select group of 26 Israeli and Palestinian men (13 of each) trained for 9 months, learning how to tackle, handball, pass, and kick goals for the Australian Rules Football International Cup. The International Cup is a gathering of amateur leagues from across the world. (Australian football is currently played professionally only in Australia.) Upon hearing of the idea, the Australian Football League (AFL) jumped at the opportunity to showcase its sport in one of the most conflict-ridden parts of the world. The Peace Team, as it is now called, was the brainchild of Tanya Oziel, who is the Executive Director of the Peres Centre for Peace in Australia, and from personal experience, is also a power not to be messed with. In 2008 these 26 men did not realize that those 9 months would change their lives forever.

Being involved with “footy” is what hooked me in the beginning, but after a few weeks of shlep-ping out to the kibbutz where training was being held, I started to ask myself some serious questions.

Fast-forward 3 years. Now in February 2011, the International Cup is again upon us, and again we are starting to get the Peace Team ready to give some fight, but this time things are different.

For a start, I no longer believe that all Muslims should be removed from the State of Israel, I no longer believe that violence is the only solution, I no longer believe that there is no one who wants real peace on the other side, and I no longer believe that I am powerless to do anything about the current situation

After meeting, playing, defending and living with my team-mates 3 years ago, the questions I ask myself this time are very very different. Instead of asking myself whether I fear for my life at training, I now ask myself whether I can learn Arabic within 6 months. I have replaced questions about my insecurity of being around “these people” with questions as to how I can learn more about a situation I know nothing about, and teach someone else about my own situation.

I open my eyes to a brand new day of understanding that living in Israel and believing in a lasting peace does not need to come at the cost of abandoning my people, my tradition, my religion and my friends, but rather must be used as a tool to try and make some sense of this G-d-awful mess of a situation. A society that involves people with different beliefs, opinions and religions is the first step to peace. Do I have the power to decide if a people aching for peace or even just some peace and quiet should have their own state? Do I have the power to say whether they should have their own government? Clearly there are some things over which I may not yet have influence, for better or worse.

What I can tell you is that I’m more pumped this time around than 3 years ago, and the Peace Team is on a mission!

Danny Brill is an oleh from Melbourne, living in Jerusalem, who was Assistant Coach/player in the first Peres Peace Team, in 2008.

(Article provided by the AFL Multicultural Program)



Human Rights are Aussie Rules

Performances and Bookings!

Bookings for 2011 will begin commencing shortly. For more information on the program and possible dates in early 2011, please contact the Eastern Community Legal Centre, (Boronia Office) on 9762 6235.

Please note that this is a FREE program offered to primary schools across metropolitan and inner regional Melbourne. For more information please contact :

Tanja Kovac - HRAAR Coordinator

Ali Abachi – HRAAR Community Education Officer

Would you like to donate to ECLC?

For more details on how to donate and how your donation will be used, please visit ECLC's website. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can now be made

What Did You Learn From FRED's Fair Play?

- Always play fair and everyone's a winner
- Well she said that everyone can play games even if they are different
- I learnt that people's lives are very different, and sometimes hard, so you have to work together to make it better for everyone.
- That it doesn't matter whether you're boy/ girl, black/white, it matters that you're proud of it.

What did you learn about Freedom, Respect, Equality and Dignity?

- That I have all those things and I can help teach others too
- To respect people and not bully. Not that I do bully all the time, and much more.
- Freedom means you have the right to wear or dress how you want and that you have rights. Dignity means you can find your in-

Thanks To

The ongoing support of these financial and other partners is gratefully acknowledged.

