

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES AUSTRALIAN NETWORK INC

Gpo Box 9830, Adelaide 5001

Tel: (03) 9251 5277 Fax:-(03) 9654 2136

Email: australia@icbl.org Web Site: <http://australia.icbl.org>

MEMORANDUM
72



may 2005

LANDMINE ACTION WEEK 2005

The Australian Network of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and AUSTCARE invite you to participate in an exciting program of events that will be held during **Landmine Action Week** from **May 23 - 29, 2005**. The theme for the week will be '**Landmines - A Disaster We Can Prevent**'.

The theme was chosen to highlight the fact that, unlike the Boxing Day tsunami, landmine disasters are preventable and that the Australian Government needs to make an ongoing commitment to Mine Clearance within our region .

Although there were no large scale displacement of mines due to the tidal wave, there are still some specific concerns. Antipersonnel mines were a threat to civilians and aid workers before and are still one now. What is needed is caution and continued awareness, ongoing mine action and pressure to ban mine use forever in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India. There remain concerns for the safety of returning refugees as they move through or settle in unfamiliar areas that may be mined or are no longer marked. Educating displaced communities about the ongoing risks of mines and the importance of reporting suspicious objects will be important, as will re-fencing and marking and ongoing mine clearance. (Information source www.icbl.org)

The Australian Government's \$100 million dollar Mine Action assistance program is due to end in May 2005. By participating in Landmine Action Week you can make the Australian Government aware that mine clearance, and other issues connected with this terrible weapon must remain a high priority and that a new pledge of \$150 million for the next ten years is a necessary commitment to Mine Action.

For further details on Landmine Action Week visit the LAW web site: www.landmine-action-week.org

NSW Events

A Photographic Exhibition by John Rodsted Date: Monday, May 23-Friday May 29

There will be an exhibition of photographs taken by John Rodsted to illustrate the impact of landmines on communities around the world. The exhibition will be held at the Sydney Town Hall Library, located just below Sydney Town Hall Square.

Youth Symposium Date: Thursday May 26 St Josephs College - Hunters Hill

AUSTCARE and TAYALA will hold a Youth Symposium at St Josephs College in Hunters Hill. The symposium will increase the awareness of young people about landmines issues in the region.

Odd Socks Day Date: Friday May 27 Sydney Town Hall Square

There will be a display of odd socks in the Sydney Town Hall Square to symbolise all those people who have lost limbs due to accidents caused by landmines. There will be speakers, information and letter writing stalls.

Go to page 2 for more Landmine Action Week events around the country.

AUSTRALIAN NETWORK TO BAN LANDMINES

More Landmine Action Week Events Around the Country

SOUTH QUEENSLAND

The Southern Queensland Branch of Australian Network of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines is encouraging people in workplaces to wear odd socks/stockings for one day during the week starting 23 May to raise both awareness and monies to support the international landmine campaign. It's such an easy and fun thing to do. If you want to participate, please contact Alison Francis at the Social Action Office at project@sao.clriq.org.au or phone (07) 3891 5866 to register or for more details.

ACT

Thursday May 26

Australian National University Stall

Friday May 27

Manufacture 2, The second Canberra Punk Gig Against Landmines at the Church Bar.

S.A.

INFORMATION AREA & PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

On Friday the 27th May the SA Branch of the Australian Network of the Landmines Campaign has arranged for a Public Information Area and Exhibition of Photographs by Warren Clarke and Charles Page in the south western corner of the Central Market Adelaide, between 1:00pm and 6:30pm.

Volunteers will be present to hand out information material and answer questions about the Campaign.

For information on many further events to be held in SA, QLD., W.A and TAS visit :

www.landmine-action-week.org

AUSTRALIAN NETWORK TO BAN LANDMINES

PAGE 3

Meet Annette Arnold



In late 2004 Annette Arnold took up the role of Queensland south coordinator for the Australian Network. Annette is a Josephite Sister and has worked for five years in the Social Action Office (SAO) where she is currently the Director. The Social Action Office is an independent Brisbane based organisation that educates, organizes and lobbies on social justice issues. The SAO is sponsored by the Leaders of the catholic religious orders in Queensland and is their only joint project. It grew out of the need to work for structural change as well as responding to the grass-root needs of education, charity and mercy. The SAO has previously been involved in the landmine campaign especially through previous Director Coralie Kingston's involvement.

Annette has worked specifically in the social justice area for ten years now and prior to that was a community development worker in an indigenous community. Annette's earlier working life included both Primary and Secondary teaching, adult education and counselling. The "balancing things" in her life include fishing, walking and various crafts.

Annette's work with the landmine campaign is contained in the work of the SAO and being new to the coordination role is in the process of establishing a southern Queensland network. The exciting prospect is the capacity to build a network among secondary schools students with one school keenly interested in starting a *Bombs Begone* campaign. This will happen through networking with the Methodist Ladies College in Melbourne and should be launched in July 2005.

LANDMINES A LOVE STORY

Dennis O'Rourke, an Australian filmmaker travelled to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos researching material for a film about landmines. But it was his time in Afghanistan after the defeat of the Taliban that crystallised his thoughts and gave him the inspiration for *Landmines A Love Story*. The film centres around the lives of 19 year old Habiba and her husband Shah, a former soldier. Both Habiba and Shah have lost a leg each to landmine explosions. Habiba now begs in the street for money for them to live on.

Landmines a Love Story is showing at the following cinemas around the country. The screenings have been organised by AUSTCARE.

SYDNEY: Chauvel Cinema Cnr Oxford St & Oatley Rd Paddington.

BRISBANE: Schonell Cinema Union Rd, University of Qld, St Lucia.

CANBERRA: Electric Shadows Akuna St, City

MELBOURNE: Cinema Nova 380 Lygon St, Carlton.

A study guide for schools and more details of the film can be found at
<http://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/2411726459>.

AUSTRALIAN NETWORK TO BAN LANDMINES

The Work of MiVAC

MiVAC stands for Mines Victims and Clearance Trust, and was an initiative of Australian Vietnam Veterans in Tasmania. It now has many members and is spreading throughout Australia. The National Patron of MiVAC is Colonel Alex "Sandy" MacGregor who is a former Officer in the Royal Australian Engineers, is a Vietnam Veteran and now lives in Sydney.

MiVAC has already undertaken projects in Cambodia, to assist landmine victims. In brief these are:

- funding and tools for the Sunrise Children's Village in Phnom Penh;
- a perimeter fence has been built around a school bordered by a minefield;
- a number of water wells have been dug and water storage containers provided;
- an aquaculture farm project in Cambodia situated in the Kampi district;
- money raised to purchase wheelchairs for landmine victims;

In addition to the work in Cambodia MiVAC has also participated in donation-matching with the Royal Commonwealth Society to help rebuild a school in Sri Lanka following a de-mining project in the area.

MiVAC believes that it is important to select projects carefully and plan and budget well. MiVAC's Mr. Brendan Boucher has committed much of his time and effort in Cambodia in pursuit of these goals. MiVAC has asked Brendan to reconnoitre and report on possible projects in landmine and tsunami affected regions of Sri Lanka. He will report on the nature of projects available, their probable cost, their political implications, their diplomatic consequences and the priorities that should be placed on them.

ING Takes One Step Forward, More to Go

ING, the largest private financial institution in the Benelux countries, and the 11th largest in the world, has decided to no longer invest in companies producing controversial weapons. The types of weapons excluded by ING are: anti-personnel mines, cluster bombs, depleted uranium weapons, biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. Netwerk Vlaanderen, Forum voor Vredesactie, For Mother Earth and Vrede have been campaigning since 2003 for an end to investments of Belgian banks in the arms trade. Their campaign "My Money. Clear Conscience?" has put pressure on ING to make this important step in the direction of a peaceful investment policy.

After KBC, which last year withdrew from a number of controversial weapon systems, ING is the second bank group to take a clear standpoint on this issue.

There are still some important omissions in the policy of ING. Netwerk Vlaanderen and its partners regret that this new policy is not valid for indirect investments made by ING. This means that producers of controversial weapons will not be removed from the investment funds that ING offers to its customers. For the customer that invests in ING funds, nothing has changed. Their money can still be invested in producers of these highly controversial weapon systems.

This extract is taken from a Press Release issued by Netwerk Vlaanderen vzw, Belgium, 24 March 2005

May 2005

**AUSTRALIAN NETWORK
TO BAN LANDMINES**

Dear Supporter

The Australian Network has completed eleven years as a formal campaign to ban landmines. We are deeply appreciative of the many people and organizations that have supported our work and encouraged our endeavours. Thank you for your support.

Since the international Treaty prohibiting landmines took effect five years ago use of the weapon around the world has fallen dramatically. 152 countries including Australia have signed the Treaty and compliance has been impressive. 42 countries remain outside the Treaty including China, Russia, India, Pakistan and the United States.

83 countries are still mine affected and it is estimated that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 new casualties annually of whom 80% are innocent civilians. Regretfully in many mine affected countries there is a desperate need for additional funding to help victims get back into society.

Currently the Australian Network faces the challenge of promoting a ban on landmines among non-signatory countries especially in the Asia-Pacific region while reminding Australians of the need for support for mine clearance and victim assistance programs.

The Network's work is carried out on a voluntary basis relying on financial support from our supporters to cover necessary day to day expenses.

Any help you may provide to assist us would be most appreciated. Unfortunately we cannot provide tax deductibility for your gift but we can assure you that any donation will be put to good use.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Mark Zirnsak National Coordinator

✂.....

Yes, I/we wish to support the campaign for a global ban on landmines

I/we enclose a donation of \$..... to the ICBL-Australian Network Inc

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....