

## NCTC GOES TO AUSTRALIA!

We are pleased to announce that the Australian Alumni Fulbright Scholars are replicating our program “Frayed Lives: The Global Refugee Crisis.” They found our salon format and materials so compelling, that they are organizing similar programs in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Dr. Mara Adelman, an NCTC Board Member and US Fulbright Scholar (Ethiopia, China) will assist in curating the programs. We will keep you posted on the events.

\*\*\*\*\*

LETTER FROM DR. IAIN BUTTERWORTH, President of the Australian Alumni Fulbright Association.

Dear Napa Center for Thought and Culture Board Members and supporters:

The Australian Alumni Fulbright Association is Australia’s national professional membership for Fulbright Alumni whose mission is to make significant and unique contributions to the overall vitality, creativity, equity and quality of life in Australia, the United States and around the world. Our goal is to harness the collective power of alumni contributions and connect Fulbright Alumni with the broader community. We aim to share ideas, to inspire action and challenge the status quo.

We hold a wide range of events across Australia, including public Salons. Recent Salons have included *the Future of the Australian-American Relationship*; *Finding a voice in a post-truth world*; and *Remaining democratic in extreme times*.

We found your program, “Frayed Lives: The Global Refugee Crisis” incredibly compelling. We have long recognized Dr Adelman’s salon format as providing a strong fit with the mission and goals of our group---promoting civic discourse on critical local and global issues. The salon format of engaged audience members, provocative questions and a next step in taking action far exceeds the “Talking Heads” model. We are most grateful that your materials in planning this event will help move these programs to fruition. Brisbane just joined Sydney and Melbourne in creating the 3-hour salon program in their respective cities. Our dates in November and venues are secured as we work on identifying key speakers, local activists and obtaining funding.

The Australian refugee crisis.

As documented by our partners at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre,

- No country in the world has greater control over its borders than Australia. While most countries share at least one border with another country and usually many more, Australia is an island continent with vast amounts of surrounding sea
- Australia has an overwhelming capacity to deal both with the disadvantaged at home and those who arrive seeking protection from overseas.
- Despite this, approximately 800 men and women have been detained for years in Australia’s offshore processing on Manus Island and on Nauru. They have lost 6 long years of their freedom, health and dignity to detention, just for seeking asylum. Self-harm and despair are at epidemic levels.

- In spite of government policy, we have a strong community response to supporting asylum seekers.

Again, our deepest appreciation for furthering the refugee crisis in our communities and for making the “Invisible, Visible.”

Warmly,

Dr. Iain Butterworth

President of the Australian Alumni Fulbright Association.