

# e-Deliverance

A PEACEFUL DEATH IS EVERYBODY'S RIGHT

June-July-Aug 2012

An Exit International publication • [www.exitinternational.net](http://www.exitinternational.net)

## 35 LETTERS

### A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT WRITING, LOVE & SAYING GOOD-BYE

*“Let words be as feathers I shall gather unto myself these paper wings and soar to you. Such wings were not made to fly too close to the sun but nearer the moon. For night is the realm of magic.”*

On 19 August 2008, Melbourne writer/ poet Angelique Flowers died of colon cancer. She was 31 years old. As Exit wrote at the time, Angelique died the most miserable death possible. In the arms of her brother Damian, a complete bowel obstruction caused her to choke on

her own faecal matter. The doctors predicted it would happen and they told Angelique there was nothing that modern medicine could do to prevent it. Luckily, Angelique was a member of Exit and had her bottle of Nembutal at home in the cupboard. Unluckily, she was bedridden in a hospice in her hour of need.

Angelique joined Exit shortly after she was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. With Dr Philip Nitschke she prepared a video for Youtube in which she pleaded with then Prime

Minister Kevin Rudd to change the law. She wrote:

‘We finally have in Kevin Rudd a Prime Minister who is a person as well as a politician, a man who had the conscience to say sorry to our indigenous people, who had the integrity to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. I beg the Labor government to continue beating with the heart it has shown and to ensure euthanasia is made legal once again’. Angelique’s pleas fell on deaf ears with Kevin Rudd failing to reply.

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Four years after her passing, award-winning filmmaker Janine Hosking has started a new documentary project entitled ‘35 Letters: A Documentary about Writing, Love & Saying Good-bye’. The film centres on

To view the trailer to ‘35 Letters’ visit: <http://bit.ly/NUeu0R>

## I CALLED HER 'AUTUMN HEART' SHE CALLED ME 'SISTER WIND'

a bundle of letters which Angelique mailed to her sister Michelle who lives in Canada. The letters were intended as Michelle's 35th birthday present.

Angelique wrote: 'I cannot grant you 35 wishes but I can give you 35 letters, a letter for every year'.

Of her as-yet-unfinished documentary ('35 Letters' will be Hosking's 4th feature length film - previous documentaries include 'My Khmer Heart' (which won Documentary of the Year at the Hollywood Film Festival 2000; the unforgettable 'Mademoiselle and the Doctor' & 'Gunja Queen' about Schapelle Corby) - Janine says 'the life and death story of Angelique Flowers is as powerful as it is moving'.

'Angelique's plight first came to our attention when Philip Nitschke posted her plea to Kevin Rudd on Youtube. Here was a young woman who was eloquent, poignant, insightful and with a wisdom beyond her years. She was also a young woman being robbed of her life. As anyone who has worked in the media will tell you, a human story of this magnitude is a most effective means by which politicians' minds can be prised open.'

### TO MAKE A DONATION

#### Go to:

<http://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au/films/details/1595/35-letters>

- Click 'Make a Grant'
- Follow the prompts to set up an Account
- Click 'New Grant Application form'
- Select film '35 Letters'
- Select funding pledge amount
- Click 'submit'
- Wait for Email from DAF to payment

If you wish to donate by cheque (also tax deductible), please send to:

iKandy Films, PO Box 111, Enmore NSW 2042



*The last photo taken of Michelle & Angelique Flowers*

'Since Angelique's death I have been granted exclusive access to members of the Flowers' family, as well as to private family videos and photographs. To date, we have shot footage with Damian at his home in the UK when he sprinkled Angelique's ashes in the river at Stratford Upon Avon (the home of Shakespeare) and also with Michelle in Canada.'

'Angelique's story is important to tell for so many reasons. It is very rare that a family is prepared to talk so candidly about their loss. Angelique enjoyed an especially close relationship with both siblings. It makes compelling viewing having both of them prepared to talk on film. Angelique also left a valuable legacy of letters to her sister. In these 35 letters she talks about the meaning of life and gives a very personal insight into the panic, distress and the heart-wrenching reflections which come when one faces a terminal illness, knowing that their dying will cause heartbreak to those they love.'

'As a film maker and journalist, I have long had an interest in voluntary euthanasia. One of the first programs I produced on this subject was for Channel 7 TV which involved the Broken Hill taxi driver, Max Bell. I was present when Max died back in 1996. Since that time I have directed 'Mademoiselle and

## '35 LETTERS' CONT

the Doctor' about the extraordinary decision of 79-year old retired French academic, Lisette Nigot, who decided she would rather die, than turn 80. 'I might as well go while the going is good' Lisette told me. This is a point of view that continues to resonate with many Exit members today.



*Philip Nitschke with Lisette Nigot at her home in Perth in 2002 - 'Mademoiselle & the Doctor' Documentary -*

'As with all documentaries, it is funding which determines whether or not a film gets completed. The cost of making a feature documentary can run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Although the international funding environment is extremely competitive, over the years I have been lucky to build a solid reputation as a documentary maker and, as a result, have been able to consistently source funds through bodies such as Screen Australia. In recent years, an increasingly important source of funds has been public and community contributions' says Janine.

'To this effect, I am hoping to make use of the Documentary Australia Foundation. This organisation (and website) allows members of the public to make *tax free* donations to film projects (a process known as 'crowd-funding'). This is an obvious boon where films on social issues (such as voluntary euthanasia) are concerned. I am pleased to say the '35 Letters' project is now listed with the Foundation, making all donations to '35 Letters' tax deductible through the Australian Tax Office.

'The current budget of '35 Letters' is \$365,400, of which \$280,000 has been already raised. We are left, however, with a critical short-fall of AUD\$84,500. One source which we approached and which elected not to support the project was the Clem Jones Trust. It seemed common sense to approach the trustees for a small contribution. You can read my application to them on the Exit website. (If you are not online the Exit office can mail you a copy, along with their reply). Naturally, I was terribly disappointed and confused as to why a project such as this documentary was considered such an unsuitable recipient of Clem Jones' largesse. Perhaps the trustees don't understand how public debate on a topic such as VE can be influenced and even framed through films of this nature.

Continuing, Janine says 'In any case, Exit has now firmly backed the project, making an initial \$500 donation. I would like to invite the Exit community to contribute towards the remaining funds needed; both in memory of Angelique Flowers and in the rightful and full expectation that legislating for dignity at the end of life *is* possible. The aim of '35 Letters' is to capture the imagination of law-makers and the public alike. Angelique's story - as common yet as rare as it is - lends itself to the making of a powerful and unforgettable documentary. If you would like to talk with me personally about the project please call me, on 0411-275-112 or email: [janinehosking@bigpond.com](mailto:janinehosking@bigpond.com)

*Thank you. Janine Hosking*

## **AUGUST 2012 - UPDATE PEACEFUL PILL EHANDBOOK**

**[www.peacefulpill.com](http://www.peacefulpill.com)**

**The August update which is OUT NOW features:**

**News & Updates on Chinese Nembutal -**

**This is a fast-changing field with new players emerging & previous sources dropping away. Who can you trust?**

**All about Insulin -**

**While Insulin is more widely available than ever before, it is less than ideal for the perfect peaceful & reliable death. Find out why?**

## EXIT MOBILE LABORATORY - ON THE ROAD & READY TO GO



*Exit's new mobile laboratory that will take to the Australian roads in September 2012*

Thanks to a very generous, yet wholly unexpected, bequest from a recently-deceased Exit member in Sydney, Exit's mobile laboratory program has been given a timely boost. With all necessary equipment now purchased, including a specially fitted out 3-tonne van, the Laboratory will launch in Melbourne in September.

The Exit Mobile Lab marks an important turning point in Exit's long-established workshop program. Rather than just informing members about their end of life options, the Mobile Lab will enable members, Australia-wide, to come along and test their drugs (powder and liquid) for themselves, under in-house supervision.

A total of four unique verification tests will be able to be conducted in the mobile lab on a user-pays basis. All requisite chemicals, equipment and hands-on training will be provided by Exit. At the conclusion of the testing, Members will receive a computer print-out of the results, providing valuable peace of mind.

The van will also provide Dr Philip Nitschke with a very special space to consult with Exit members more widely. To date, the Exit Clinic program (known also as 'private visits') usually take place in a person's home. With privacy always an issue, the van is spacious enough for private consultations. To register your interest in participating in a test session, please call the Exit office on 1300 10 3948.

## ACU DEBATE FINDS NO WINNER

In mid June, Dr Philip Nitschke took part in a debate as part of the Australian Catholic University's 'The Voice' series. Held at the Australian Museum in Sydney, the debate featured Dr Nitschke alongside three Catholic speakers; Dr Bernadette Tobin (Ethicist), Dr Fran McNerney (Nurse Academic) and Father Frank Brennan (Catholic priest and lawyer).

The chair of the evening was Catholic ABC journalist Geraldine Doogue. (Doogue came to Exit's attention when she censored 90 seconds of the 'Mademoiselle and the Doctor' documentary when it was due to be shown in the Compass timeslot on ABC TV back in 2005).

With such an unbalanced audience there was bound to be little agreement. The debate can be viewed at:  
<http://bit.ly/NfM7tI>



*ACU: The Voice Debate in Sydney  
Topic - Should we have the right to decide our own life & death?*

# EXITORIAL

## *e-Deliverance*

### QUESTION OF THE CLEM JONES MILLIONS

When Janine Hosking approached the Clem Jones trustees in her mission to raise the final \$84,000 for her documentary '35 Letters' she did not expect to be summarily dismissed. Indeed, Marshall Perron had given her the entree to the top in the hope that a dialogue could be established. As Exit learnt many years ago, the media has the power to open hearts and change minds. Indeed it was the *4 Corners* program titled 'Road to Nowhere' that caused a senior surgeon to break ranks with the medical establishment and sign his name on Bob Dent's papers: papers that would ultimately allow him to use the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act*. And there are many other examples.

In my mind, there is no doubt that once complete, '35 Letters' will have precisely that type of impact. Angelique was an extraordinary young woman. Her suffering was inhumane especially since modern medicine had no answers for her. Her experience and that of her family and loved ones represent the most powerful argument imaginable for changing the law. Angelique's story will have national and international significance for the years to come.

In his will Clem Jones wrote that he had 'become appalled that human beings can impose on their loved ones days, months and years of terrible pain and misery ...[and] to suffer too the mental anguish that comes with it'. He continued 'I instruct my Executors to provide Five Million Dollars to use in whatever way they see fit to help those who are fighting to enable those who have suffered as I have described ... to choose to end their lives, to do so and to make it lawful and to provide within our laws, the ways and means for this to happen ...'

Since this bequest was announced over four years ago (see: <http://bit.ly/NvRC1Y>), Exit has wondered quietly how the funds have been dispersed. Any meeting that Exit has attempted with the Trustees has fallen on deaf ears. 'Why,' our members ask? We don't know. We do know, however, that other groups - take the South Australian VE Society as an example - have made it their business to suggest that Exit advocates the Peaceful Pill for depressed teens. While I expect such nonsense from right-to-life groups when smaller, lesser known groups from *within* the VE movement peddle the same, I find their behaviour contemptible. The pursuit of money should not divide and conquer the movement but it is. And that leads to

another question, should the executives and administrators of the movement - those funded by Clem Jones - pull in annual salaries in the hundreds of thousands of dollars? Is that how Clem envisaged his legacy? Paying pigs at the trough? I would have thought the recent controversy of the Health Services Union (East Branch) was a warning to all who work for social change on the dangers of squandering dollars tagged for social good on personal payments and perks. Of course, the trustees can elect to use Clem's legacy in any way they want. It is more than a pity, however, when other politically important and potentially paradigm-shifting projects as '35 Letters' are so readily dismissed.

### MOVE OVER NASA

This month sees Exit launch our very own new mobile laboratory. The Mobile Lab has been in my mind's eye for many years. The aim of the lab is to provide Members with the means to reliably, and with guidance and supervision, ensure that their end of life choices are beyond doubt.

To this end, the Lab will take to the road in September, eventually visiting all Australian capital cities (and some regionals). Dates for testing (in small groups) will be coordinated at Chapter level (to ensure privacy and confidentiality) so make sure you have your ear to the ground and attend your local meetings. Details and dates will follow next *Deliverance*.

### PEACEFULPILLSTORE.COM

If every cloud has a silver lining, Exit's was the decision of Paypal to suspend our account. Instead, Exit US now has a brand new store which accepts Mastercard and Visa for a range of Exit publications. In the store are the books: *Killing Me Softly: VE and the Road to the Peaceful Pill*, *I Bequeath the Python* (Funeral planning by Elaine Arch-Rowe) as well as the *Mademoiselle & the Doctor* DVD (uncut - Pal & NTSC).

### ADELAIDE LIBERALS SHAPE UP: DEBATE

*When:* 5.30pm, Wednesday 16 August (all welcome)

*Where:* Harry Medlin Sth Room, University of Adelaide

*What:* Philip Nitschke @ University Liberal Club.

### A DISLOCATED SHOULDER

A trip while jogging is meaning a 3-month convalescence. Thank-you for all well wishes. *Philip Nitschke*

## EXIT WORKSHOPS: NOV/DEC 2012

### Sydney

9am - 1pm

Wednesday, 28 November

Dougherty Community Centre  
7 Victor St Chatswood

### Canberra

1 - 5pm

Saturday, 1 December

COTA ACT Hall (NEW VENUE)

Hughes Community Centre

Wisdom St

Hughes, Canberra

### Melbourne

10am - 2pm

Tuesday, 4 December

Murumbeena Hall (NEW VENUE)

Gerald St, Murrumbena (next door to bowls club)

Melway Reference: 69: B7

**Cost:** Free to Exit Members

Public: \$88

Existing PPeH Subscribers: \$44

**To Book:** Call the Exit office on 1300 10 3948 or email [contact@exitinternational.net](mailto:contact@exitinternational.net)

## UK NEWS



Exit's UK members can now contact Exit for the cost of a local stamp.

**OUR NEW UK MAIL ADDRESS IS**

**Exit International**

**BM Box 6681**

**London**

**WC1 N3AX**

THE PEACEFUL PILL HANDBOOK (2012 EDITION) IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON UK FOR £23.80.

**amazon.co.uk**

*Deliverance & e-Deliverance  
are published by Dr Philip  
Nitschke.*

## PAYPAL FREEZES EXIT FUNDS

In mid May, Exit International US was surprised and angered when Paypal decided - out of the blue - that the sale of *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* constituted a breach of their community guidelines. This unilateral decision came after almost six years of Paypal making hefty commission fees on each and every sale of Exit books. In addition to suspending Exit's account, the Internet giant has frozen over US\$3000 in Exit US funds until November.

With no appeal process there is little Exit can do other than vote with our feet. This is why Exit US now has its own secure store at:

[www.Peacefulpillstore.com](http://www.Peacefulpillstore.com)

Exit books & Videos can now be purchased securely online using Visa & Mastercard.



## CHAPTER NEWS N MOVES

### BENDIGO

John writes: 'I am pleased to report that the inaugural meeting of the Bendigo Exit Chapter was held in Lockwood South on the 6th June. It comprised a small but enthusiastic group of people. We had constructive discussion with a little humour thrown in and everyone agreed that we should certainly arrange to meet again. So hopefully we may get a few more starters next time.'

'It would be great to hear from any other Exit members in our region so I would be grateful if you could "spread the word" that we are looking to meet fresh faces. Members are welcome to call me - John Froehlich - on: 5435-3147.'

### HOBART

Sadly, Kay Scurr has stepped down as Hobart Chapter Coordinator. If a small group of members is interested in continuing Kay's good work, please contact the Exit office on 1300 10 3948 (EXIT).

In addition, Dr Philip Nitschke will host a special chapter meeting immediately following the Public Meeting at Wrest Point. If you are interested in the Hobart Chapter, please come along.

### CENTRAL COAST

A meeting was due to be held on Saturday 25 August at the Kincumber Neighbourhood Centre. If members would still like to meet to take the group forward please call the Exit office. Exit will keep the room booking open until we hear from you. It would be a great legacy to Bettina (see article right) if her hard work and dedication were to carry on in spirit and practice.

## HOBART PUBLIC MEETING

With the Tassie Government's plans to introduce Voluntary Euthanasia legislation into the State Parliament before year's end, Exit International is excited to announce it will be holding a free Public Meeting in Hobart.

**When: Tues 2 October at 10.30am**

**Where: Riviera Room, Wrest Point Hotel/ Casino**

**Speaker: Dr Philip Nitschke**



*In 1996 Philip became the first (& only) Australian GP to practise under an Australian Voluntary Euthanasia law. Come & hear Australia's leading advocate for VE law reform.*

### VALE - BETTINA O'MEARA

Exit was very sad to hear that the Founder of our Central Coast Chapter, Bettina O'Meara, died in her sleep on 30 May at her home in Davistown. At 85, Bettina was Exit's 'most senior' coordinator. She was head-strong, feisty and committed. Rarely one to bite her tongue, at the time of the Government's Clean Feed policy, Bettina is fondly remembered being interviewed on ABC TV's *4 Corners* saying 'tell the Government to leave old people alone'. Bettina, we miss you.



## MAX DOG BREWING

With the first shipment of Max Dog Brewing (MDB) Nitrogen cylinders quickly sold out, a second batch is now due late September.

Unlike the first deliveries which were sold only within Australia, MDB will now be shipping the cylinders to countries such as New Zealand, the US, Canada and the UK.

To contain costs, MDB will ship outside of Australia in lots of 10 or more. Exit suggests that members band together into small groups, establish a central collection point (a member's house) and place their orders jointly. If members are not able to collect their orders in person from the joint collection point in their country, they will be able to organise final destination domestic road shipping - something which is much easier to contract locally than internationally). The Exit office will be able to assist members to network with one another as required.

The cost of the cylinders, with regulators is: AUD\$690. This price includes freight within Australia (only). Freight is additional for orders from all other countries. Note - shipping is by sea as the cylinders contain compressed gas and cannot fly. Delivery time is an estimated two months from dispatch. To place an order please use the form enclosed with this newsletter.

	<i>Cylinder</i>	<i>Freight</i>
USA	US\$690	US\$95
Canada	CA\$690	CA\$125
UK	GBP£480	GBP£35
NZ (Auckland)	AUD\$690	AUD\$80
NZ (Wellington)	AUD\$690	AUD\$100



Max Dog Brewing manages orders directly.

Payment: Max Dog Brewing accepts checks in Australian, NZ, US, & Candian dollars, Euro & British pounds. 'Bitcoins' coming soon.

### Max Dog Brewing Contact Details

**Web:** [www.maxdogbrewing.com](http://www.maxdogbrewing.com)  
**Email:** [sales@maxdogbrewing.com](mailto:sales@maxdogbrewing.com)

**Phone**  
**Australia:** +61(0)8 8121-8080  
**Fax:** +61(0)2 8905-9249

**Max Dog Brewing**  
**GPO Box 400**  
**Adelaide SA 5001**  
**AUSTRALIA**

## NEWS FROM ZURICH EXIT DIRECTOR GIVES KEYNOTE AT WORLD FEDERATION CONFERENCE

The recent Zurich conference of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies marked the fourth occasion Exit Director, Dr Philip Nitschke, had been invited to speak (the first occasion was also in Zurich in 1997). Never one to blend into the crowd of lawyers and lobbyists, this time saw Dr Nitschke present a keynote speech provocatively titled 'Technology or Law Reform. Which will ultimately provide end of life choices?'

Taking the current ideological split of the global VE movement as his focus, Philip proffered the following. 'On the one hand, there are advocates who believe the only advancement of the VE cause is the passing of laws, regardless of when or how this will occur. On the other hand there are those of us who beg to differ. Laws will change to be sure, but history long reveals that reform is both an incremental process (jurisdiction by jurisdiction) and one that is extremely slow' he said.

'Exit Members are always telling us that they don't have time on their side. A focus on laws is well and good but it has nothing to offer the elderly and the seriously ill today, tomorrow or even next year. In this sense, the law reform agenda is unrealistic - and should be recognised as such - in the short to immediate term.



*Exit RN Dee Keijzer & Dr Philip Nitschke with American Author Dick Cote. Dick's new book is titled *In Search of Gentle Death & provides an historical/ political analysis of the global right to die movement.* The book is available at [Corinthianbooks.com](http://Corinthianbooks.com).*

*Photo courtesy Richard N. Cote.*



*Dr Nitschke taking a media phone call while visiting the Exit Book Table. The conference venue was the Swiss Hotel in Zurich.*

In explaining why he had felt the need to examine the split, Dr Nitschke said 'For too long, the pipe-dreamers have stymied our much more immediate (and pragmatic) DIY agenda. If the legal dreamers had alternative solutions terrific, but they don't. Their one-eyed focus leaves a significant dearth about what to do and what to offer in the here and now. And this is the rub.'

'As activists we all acknowledge that there are very few jurisdictions who will succeed in VE law reform in the coming few years. Of course, this is no reason to give up but it does show why a reality-check is in order. When an elderly or seriously ill person asks 'what are my options today? Our answer cannot be 'mañana'.

In closing Dr Nitschke. said 'Until the World Federation of Right to Die Societies stops dreaming of Neverland and becomes more realistic for those with current needs, my support for the group will be tempered.'

**Dr Nitschke's speech is at: <http://bit.ly/Nc4cYl>**

**PEACEFULPILLSTORE.COM**

Phone: 1-248-809-4435



Print Edition (Oct 2010) - *The Peaceful Pill Handbook* (ONLY available from Exit US)  
Within US: US\$30 (includes shipping)  
Rest of World : US\$48 (includes shipping)



*The Peaceful Pill eHandbook (online edition)*  
Price: US\$85 (incl 24 months of updates)  
**INSTANT ACCESS - Updated 6x year**



*I Bequeath the Python*  
(a fun look at funeral planning)  
Price: US\$10 (exc shipping)



*Killing Me Softly: VE & the Road to the Peaceful Pill* by Dr Philip Nitschke  
Within US: US\$30 (includes shipping)  
Rest of World : US\$48 (includes shipping)

## PEACEFULLPILL.COM WEBSITE\*



*Exit Gas Flow Controls + Plumbers Tape + Plastic Tube- ship as one unit*

Price: Australia USS\$151.70  
(US\$143 + \$8.70 shipping (inc gst)  
Rest of World: US\$180  
(US\$140 & \$40 DHL express courier)



*Exit Drug Test Kit*

Price: Australia US\$65 (incl GST \$5) Rest of World: US\$80 (incl shipping worldwide)

\* Note the two products above sell by Hushmail & not via the new Exit US store.

## Join Exit International

I wish to join/ rejoin/ donate to Exit International  
(12 Months: Aust - AUD\$110 inc GST \$10; (couples \$165 inc GST \$15); US/Canada US\$100; UK/ Irel £62/ €73)  
Life membership - \$1000

Please send me the paperwork to consider Exit International in my Will

First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Post/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
eMail @ \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment Options: Visa /Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card No \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



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