

e-Deliverance

A PEACEFUL DEATH IS EVERYBODY'S RIGHT

June - August 2017

An Exit International publication • www.exitinternational.net

EXIT WORKSHOPS

RECORD SERIES WORKSHOPS PLANNED

A record number of Exit Workshops are planned for Australia (& Canada) in the coming months, commencing in Darwin on Saturday 12 August and ending in Perth on Monday 4 September 2017. Canadian workshops are set for October/November.

The first workshop for the year was held in London in June and was attended by more than 100 Exit members from the UK and Europe. Other workshops confirmed for this year include private sessions for NVVE in

Utrecht (Netherlands) in October, as well as two meetings for Canada in early November (Toronto & Vancouver).

For many years now, Exit's workshop program has been the organisation's flagship activity. Workshops are a concrete way that members can come together in a face-to-face setting to get their end of life questions answered.

Exit workshops first started in 1997 after the *Rights of the Terminally Ill Act* was overturned. Dr Philip Nitschke found himself contacted

by elderly and seriously ill people who still wanted information on their end of life options. Their interest was not only in issues such as advanced health directives and living wills, but in the more tangible aspects of how to have a peaceful and reliable death.

Over the past 20 years, Exit has seen tens of thousands of people attend its meetings.

If you plan on attending a workshop in 2017 you are advised to book immediately on 1300 10 3948 (EXIT).

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Exit 2017 Workshop Tour Commences
- 2 New Euthanasia Film: Fade to Black
- 3 NuTech Toronto Conference
- 4 MND Patient Book Seized
- 4 Triple Suicide on the Gold Coast
- 5 Exitorial
- 6 The Spectator Infiltrates Workshop
- 6 Suzy Austen Update
- 7 Calling All Gold Coast Members
- 7 Workshop Tour Dates & Bookings
- 8 Join Exit & Peaceful Pill Store



Exit Meeting in London, June 2017

NEW EUTHANASIA FILM: FADE TO BLACK

While at first glance, Australian - UK documentary maker Jeremy Ervine's new film *Fade to Black* may not have much to say (that has not already been said) about voluntary euthanasia in Australia, the film should not be so easily dismissed.

On its surface, the film follows the life and death of Melbourne man Peter Short. Mr Short had no time for Exit, and even less time for Exit's founder, Philip Nitschke, refusing to meet or talk, and being publicly critical of Exit as 'dangerous and irresponsible'.

This ridiculous hostility aside, Philip was recently fortunate to attend a preview of the film in Amsterdam. His response has been to commend it for its courage in showing all sides of the VE debate.

Despite the objections of Dr Rodney Syme and Mr Andrew Denton to the film canvassing the Exit approach, *Fade to Black* is one of the first films to recognise that the cutting edge of the voluntary euthanasia debate lies not with the medical model, but with the civil rights model of individual empowerment.

A good death is a fundamental human right for the taking, rather than a privilege that is saved for the few (who are sick enough and who can beg convincingly enough to get a 'kindly' doctor to help them.)

If Australia's experience in the Northern Territory taught Philip anything, it is that it is neither moral nor just, nor is it necessary, to make dying people beg for permission for help.

It would be laughable were it not so cruel for a dying person to have to front to a panel of doctors, followed by some politician-mandated cooling off period, and then need to grovel some more to gain access to reliable end of life drugs.



Meanwhile, doctors who claim to be willing to dispense Nembutal to 'patients' whom they deem are deserving, demonstrate breath-taking paternalism. In Exit's view, it is not for another person (whether a doctor or not) to sit and judge the worthiness of another rational adult's decision to end their life.

These are complex issues. *Fade to Black* has a good go at picking them up, and picking them apart.

Fade to Black debuts around Australia in August.

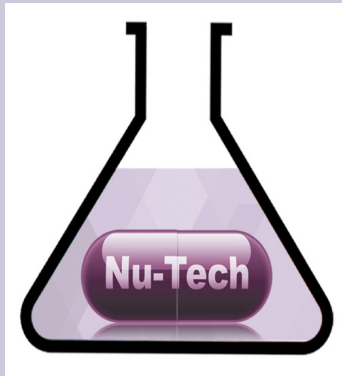
Dr Philip Nitschke will be the guest speaker at the film's screening in Darwin at 6.30pm on Friday 11 August at the Mitchell Street Cinemas.

Sadly, this is the only date that Philip was able to attend due to the very hectic August Exit workshop tour.

Other dates can be found at the **Demand.Film** website at: <https://au.demand.film/fade-to-black/>

Exit volunteers shall attend each screening and will be available for follow up after the film has aired.

NUTECH 17 MEETING IN TORONTO: UPDATE



Judging the NuTech 2017 Prize

US\$5000 donated by Exit International for the most innovative use of technology to provide better means for an elective (DIY) death



Derek Humphry
US Right to Die Pioneer and NuTech founder



Tom Curran
Irish based Exit International Europe Coordinator



Miriam de Bontridder
NL judge and Dutch right to die activist

The 2017 NuTech (new technologies in dying) conference will be held in Toronto Canada on 28 - 30 October.

The conference will be attended by technology experts from around the globe. In order to ensure the best minds are brought together, participants from the women's movement as well as creators of altogether new ideas have been invited.

One new addition to the speakers' list is mechanical engineer cum artist, Julijonas Urbonas. Hailing from Lithuania, Urbonas came to global prominence in early 2016 when he designed (although it was never built) a **ethanasia rollercoaster** designed to kill as he says "with elegance and euphoria".



Julijonas Urbonas

A doctoral candidate at the Royal College of Art in London, Urbonas' rollercoaster has inspired others, and has even become the subject of a short film 'Insane Coater' by 'Omeleto.com'. As intriguing as this short film is, it is also confronting. As the narrator says "I don't want barbiturates in my blood when I die, I want pure adrenalin!" The film generates many questions that are relevant to the NuTech gathering, and is illustrative of the

bounds of technology to provide a reliable, peaceful and lawful death. ('Insane Coaster' can be viewed on Youtube at: <http://bit.ly/2tH2efi>)

As coordinators of this year's conference, Exit has also taken the initiative of establishing a USD5000 prize for innovation in end of life technologies. A recent bequest to Exit International has made this possible.

With a growing number of entries being received for consideration of the prize, an expert judging panel has been established comprising Derek Humphry, Tom Curran and Miriam de Bontridder (see above).

The program for the meeting will run from 10am - 5pm on Saturday. Sunday is a day for technological reflection and networking. A reconvening session is scheduled for Monday morning with an Exit workshop being planned for Monday afternoon.

Inventors/ Creators interested in having their idea considered for the NuTech prize, or in presenting their ideas at the NuTech gathering (presentations via Skype video will be possible), are invited to submit a short (<500 word) summary of their proposal, with any relevant diagrams, to nutech@protonmail.com.

The winner will be announced at the conference. Conference convenor Philip Nitschke may be contacted at philipexit@protonmail.com or on +31 6309 66992.

TRIPLE SUICIDE ON THE GOLD COAST

In late June, Australia was shocked by the very unusual triple suicides of Margaret, Heather & Wynette Cummins on Queensland's Gold Coast.

Seventy-eight year old Margaret and her two daughters (both in their 50s), had purchased the *Peaceful Pill eHandbook* earlier in the year and, it seems, methodically planned their own deaths together. The Police are currently investigating the deaths but it has been reported that there were no suspicious circumstances.

The women used Max Dog Brewing nitrogen and died a peaceful hypoxic death. Each would have needed to have made a plastic Exit bag. This option is also very technique-dependent, requiring a certain level of expertise. However, the method is reliable and it is very, very peaceful (despite the equipment required).

Mother Margaret was suffering from the usual health conditions of a woman of her age. Heather was suffering from early onset dementia, while Wynette had major cerebrovascular problems from an earlier accident.



*Margaret, Wynette & Heather Cummins
Grand Canyon, 2015*

Rather than seeing this multiple family death as a tragedy, Exit prefers to see it as an example of rational suicide; each woman took responsibility for the planning of her own death, at a time and place of her choosing. A peaceful death is everybody's right!

MOTOR NEURONE MAN HAS HANDBOOK SEIZED

Have you ever wondered how the Australian Government actively works to prevent seriously ill & elderly Australians from accessing end of life information? MND/ ALS sufferer Grant McKenzie of Perth found out last month when his *Peaceful Pill Handbook* was confiscated at the border by Australian Customs.

Facing increasing paralysis, Mr McKenzie knows he's on borrowed time. No ice bucket challenge is going to save him. What might have given him some peace of mind in his final months of life, and some dignity is his death, has been denied him by Australian Border Force.

Exit's blog and Grant's detailed emails to and from ABF's 'Legal Division' are at: <http://bit.ly/2gZVByK>



Grant McKenzie at home in Perth, WA

EDITORIAL

e-Deliverance

EXIT'S LEGAL SEMINARS

In recent months, Exit's Legal Director, Tasha Russell has travelled Australia presenting seminars for Exit members on all things legal. To date, these special members-only meetings have been held in Sydney, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Adelaide, Canberra and Perth.

The seminars have been universally well attended with members showing broad interest in being fully briefed on their legal rights and obligations. A graduate of Charles Darwin and Adelaide University Law Schools, Tasha Russell says that questions have focused upon the grey area of being with a loved one when that person dies, the rights of entry of police, should they show up unannounced at a private home as well as advance directives.

Exit is pleased that a similar session is planned for London on 30 October when UK Solicitor, Mr John Martyn, will address the UK Chapter of Exit. Mr Martyn will speak to the UK *Suicide Act* and be able to take Q&A from the audience.



Tasha Russell answering members' questions in Sydney

VICTORIAN LAW PENDING?

As this edition of *eDeliverance* goes to press, it seems the Victorian Parliament is sharply divided on the issue of 'voluntary assisted dying'. With MPs having (proudly) drafted the world's most restrictive law with no fewer than 60+ safeguards, politicians on both sides are getting nervous. As is routine, groups such as the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) are pulling out the stops to put the fear of their God amongst the pollies.

It's clearly a stupid, self-defeating approach but that's what radical Christian groups such as the ACL are funded to do: generate moral panic so nothing changes! All the while, politicians jump to their tune proposing more and more restrictive laws to allay the critics. The middle ground in this debate never looked quite so extreme. That said, the Victorian law may constitute an important 'first step'. Although you would have to question the value of the step, if it sets off in the wrong direction.

I say this because the bill leaves no room for those who are not likely to die within 12 months. Cath Ringwood has been suffering from leukaemia for 20 years and breast cancer for 8 years. Because no doctor can adequately predict when Cath will die, she is excluded under the Victorian proposals. Likewise, my poor mother Gwen would have been excluded, had she lived in Melbourne.



Catherine Ringwood supports voluntary assisted suicide legislation in Victoria but believe the plans don't go far enough. Picture: Aaron Francis

For those who might remember, Gwen died 18 months ago in an Adelaide nursing home. However, she had wanted the choice to exit a good five years earlier when she was forced to move into institutional care. Gwen's problem was that she was never sick. She was just old. She was frail, bored with life and hated living in an institution. Her friends had all died. She long felt she had had enough and now was the time to go.

So, if you are old and frail with a decreasing quality of life, then don't expect the proposed Victorian law to help you. Even if it does pass, it will be of no help to you.

Is *any* law better than *no* law you may ask? Undoubtedly yes, for those few who will a) qualify to use it and b) have enough time left to them and sufficient stamina, to jump through the hoops.

My opinion article in *The Australian* (28 July) on this bill can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/2uBok1z>

MEANWHILE IN THE NETHERLANDS

In the Netherlands the euthanasia debate is also currently raging. However, the Dutch proposal could not be further removed from the Victorian bill. In Holland, political party D66, has put forward a bill for voluntary euthanasia for the elderly. If the law passes, elderly Dutch men and women (over 75) will be able to ask a doctor to give them euthanasia when they are not sick. D66 want old age and a diminishing quality of life be included as a criterion. Now this to Exit is a great leap forward!

Philip Nitschke

THE SPECTATOR INFILTRATES UK MEETING

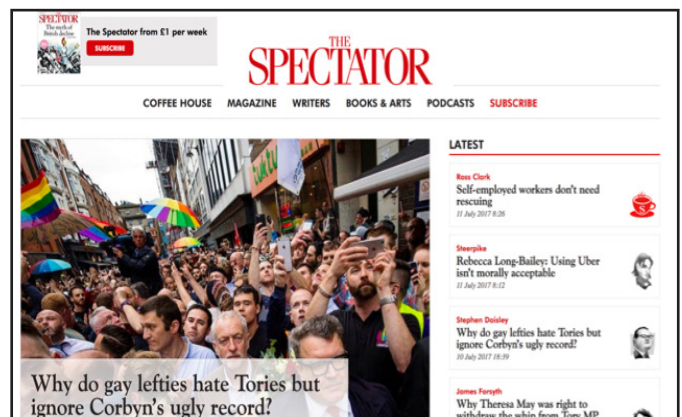
Historically, Exit has been very careful about accepting media attendance at our workshops.

While our public meetings are open affairs, and often attract school students, pro-life opponents and journalists, workshops are much more intimate affairs, given the sensitive nature of what is discussed.

This is why Exit was so surprised to find 58-year-old Jessican Berens of *The Spectator* among the audience at Exit's recent London meeting at Dragon Hall.

Ms Berens came not in a private capacity, but to report on the meeting for the conservative UK magazine. Interestingly, this was not the first time that Berens had sought an Exit meeting. In 2008, she flew into San Diego from London to discuss a planned non fiction book on voluntary euthanasia.

Despite some quirky remarks about Philip Nitschke's choice of shirt (pale pink linen), the size of his glasses



(Paul Smith) and the ocker tone of his Australian accent, Beren's article was on the friendly side. After all, it would be hard to file a hostile report when the room was filled with 100 enthusiastic, over-70s acutely desperate to know more of their end of life options.

The Spectator article is now available on the Exit website. While her infiltration into the Exit meeting was a little unethical, her reporting of the meeting was balanced and fair. See: <http://bit.ly/2uxAjuE>

SUZY AUSTEN UPDATE

Former Wellington Exit Chapter Coordinator, Suzy Austen, was back in court this month to receive a trial date. Suzy's trial will begin 12 February 2018.

In May, Suzy pleaded not guilty to both drug importation and an assisted suicide charges.

To help Suzy with her legal expenses, Exit was quick to mount a crowd-funding campaign on the **Gofundme.com** website. To date Exit has raised over \$43,000 for Suzy's legal defence.

But more is needed.

In speaking to the *Dominion Post* newspaper, Dr Philip Nitschke said Suzy's trial by jury looks like being the show trial of the decade. The trial only came about after the New Zealand Police faked a

road block to gather intelligence about Exit members who had attended a casual Sunday lunch at Suzy's house in Wellington.

Operation Painter, as this covert operation was named by the Police, not only breaches the civil rights of the private citizens who attended a private lunch in a private home, but it challenges the basic right of Exit International members to even associate.

New Zealand has never had, and seems unlikely to have, end of life laws any time soon. This means that elderly and seriously ill New Zealanders have very little choice and control in how they die. Suzy's trial may well bring the issue to a head. Let's hope so.

Donations can be made at:
<https://www.gofundme.com/suzyausten>

CALLING ALL GOLD COAST EXIT MEMBERS

At 1pm on Saturday 19 August, Exit will be holding a very special FLASH MOB event on Queensland's Gold Coast. Everyone is invited.

The Flash Mob - a gathering of people who come together suddenly (and seemingly spontaneously) in a public space for a dance - is a double celebration of Exit's 20th Birthday and Philip Nitschke's 70th Birthday!

Choreographer Rochelle Wilson has developed a dance routine with a move for every age and ability. Anyone in a wheelchair, a walker or with a walking stick is especially welcome.

A special rehearsal will be held immediately after the Gold Coast workshop on Wednesday 16 August at the Robina Community Centre.

Everyone who takes part in the Flash Mob will be rewarded by Exit with a free copy of a very special book.

To take part (and receive your free book) please contact Gold Coast Chapter Coordinator, Elaine Arch-Rowe, on 0421-796-713 or email Elaine on:

elaineexitgc@bigpond.com

MOB DETAILS

Where: Beach end of Cavill Ave, Surfers Paradise

When: 1pm, Saturday 19 August 2017

Exit has booked a nearby cafe for an After Mob Birthday lunch for Philip. All Exit Members welcome.



FINAL NOTICE - EXIT WORKSHOPS 2017

Darwin

1-4 pm, Saturday 12 August

Townsville

1-4 pm, Monday 14 August

Gold Coast

11am - 2pm, Wednesday 16 August

Brisbane

2.30 - 5.30, Thursday 17 August

Adelaide

1 - 4 pm, Tuesday 22 August

Canberra

1 - 4pm, Thursday 24 August

Sydney

12.30 - 3.30pm, Saturday 26 August

Hobart

10am - 1pm, Monday 28 August

Melbourne

1 - 4 pm, Thursday 31 August

Perth

10am - 1 pm, Monday 4 September

Toronto ON Canada

1 - 4 pm, Monday 30 October

Vancouver BC Canada

1 - 4 pm, Wednesday 1 November

Bookings

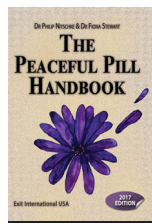
Phone: Australia - 1300 10 3948

Canada - +1 360 961 1333

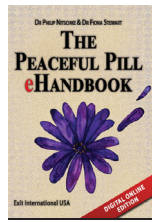
Email: register@exitinternational.net

Details: www.exitinternational.net/meetings/workshops/

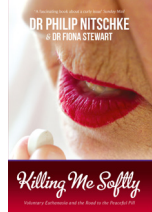
PEACEFULPILL.COM



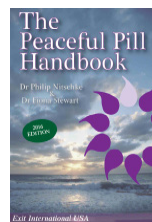
The Peaceful Pill Handbook (2017 edition)
US\$80 (ex shipping)



The Peaceful Pill eHandbook
(online edition) 24 month subscription:
US\$85 **Continuously Updated* *



Killing Me Softly: VE & the Road to the Peaceful Pill by Dr Philip Nitschke
Within US: US\$33 (inc shipping)
Rest of World : US\$48 (inc shipping)



The Peaceful Pill Handbook
Black White 2016 Edition:
US\$40 (ex shipping)
Color 2016 Edition:
USD\$50 (ex shipping)

EXITINTERNATIONALSTORE.COM



Exit He Gas Flow Controls
(with Plumbers Tape + Tube)
Price: AUD \$200
(ships DHL express courier/ express mail)



Exit Drug Test Kit (Qualitative)
Price: AUD\$35 (incl shipping globally)



Max Bromson Quantitative Barbiturate Test Kit
Price: AUD \$275
(ships DHL express courier/ express mail)



DVDs: 35 Letters or Mademoiselle & the Doctor
AUD \$50 each (incl shipping globally)

Join Exit International

I wish to join/ rejoin/ donate to Exit International
(12 Months: Aust - A\$110 inc GST \$10; (couples \$165 inc GST \$15); US/Canada US\$100; UK/ Irel £62/ €73)
Life membership - A\$1100 (inc GST \$100)

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 _____ / _____

