

AVP WA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025



September and October Workshops

Sept 2 – 4: Karnet Prison Farm T4F
Sept 9 – 11: Bunbury Regional Prison PRU Advanced
Sept 13, 20: Community T4F
Sept 16 – 18: Bunbury Regional Prison Basic
Sept 20 – 22: Acacia Prison Mainstream Basic
Oct 6 – 8: Wooroloo Prison Farm T4F
Oct 11 – 13: Acacia Prison Mainstream Basic
Oct 18 – 20: Acacia Prison Protection T4F
Oct 27 – 29: Wooroloo Prison Farm Basic



Australian National Gathering 2025

just Jacob

The AVP Australian National Gathering of 2025 was held in Rathmines, NSW, in August, and was a rip-roaring success.

Catalina, an old World War Two hospital on the bank of Lake Macquarie, was hired out for four days, and 42 participants stayed there together, which was very practical and a lot of fun.

Carmen was head cook, and we all pitched in to help her with food preparation, serving, and dishes. Heaps of yummy food ensured there was plenty of work to do, and we did it in great spirits.

Caretaker Dave, and his team, did a wonderful job of having the whole place clean and organized for us, and we couldn't have found a better venue. Living together was a great way of getting to know each other, and the beautiful surroundings were conducive to some very deep and meaningful discussions.

A few hybrid sessions also allowed people to join us on Zoom. 5 states were represented, and each brought their own little nuances and ideas to 'pack more punch' into workshops. Several new exercises were presented, and the three WA facilitators who attended; Selene, Tracey, and myself, showcased some at our September Facilitator Day.

A couple of teachers and students joined us at the Gathering too, and to see the next generation having such zeal for peaceful conflict resolution gives us hope for a better future. All in all, it was an awesome experience!

Many thanks to AVP-NSW, and to all who contributed to this wonderful event; the future of AVP Australia looks bright indeed!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Would you like to contribute to AVP WA, but don't have time or desire to facilitate workshops? Maybe newsletter editor might be your thing!

*If this sounds like something you could contribute, please contact Selene
avp.wa1@gmail.com and she can talk you through what is involved.*

Selene would be VERY grateful!

Facilitator Day Saturday 6th September

Jim Thom

Our Facilitator Day on Saturday 6th September was well attended. There were two main themes.

The first was a report from the Australian National Gathering in Newcastle. Three of our facilitators attended this and found the gathering fun, rewarding and educational.

The inclusion of a number of hybrid sessions over the four days of the ANG was an added bonus for those who were unable to be physically present, although sometimes the IT was rather distracting and challenging.

At the Facilitator Day, we were shown two new exercises. One was called “HOW CAN I...” on re-visiting Transforming Power in the form of a carousel brainstorm. The other used roots and fruits tree diagrams labelled “I CAN’T” and “I CAN” to explore Expect the Best in terms of our mindset. We also did a pair share using restorative practices queries, which was very interesting.

Interestingly, our facilitator attendees reported that WA is the only state currently doing prison workshops, which some were very surprised to hear.

The second Facilitator Day session was planning for the future of AVPWA by building up our team of facilitators through improved marketing. This was facilitated by Lauren Pemberton who has a lot of experience in this area.

Lauren took us through some of the theory of marketing with ideas on how to focus attention on relevant groups. It was a fascinating session which made us more hopeful for the future as we realized that we could promote the workshops in the community in a more strategic manner.

Lauren harvested quite a bit of information and ideas from the participants through various exercises which will be more closely scrutinized over the coming weeks, and a strategy for publicity and marketing devised.

With our next Community Basic workshop scheduled for November, our initial strategy will include marketing specifically for that workshop.

We are very grateful to Lauren for her expertise and generosity in working with us to devise an ongoing sustainable plan.



Photo by Generous Jim...edited by Parcour Pete to include our wooden mandala (beautifully painted by an inmate facilitator at Bunbury Regional Prison)

United Nations International Day of Peace

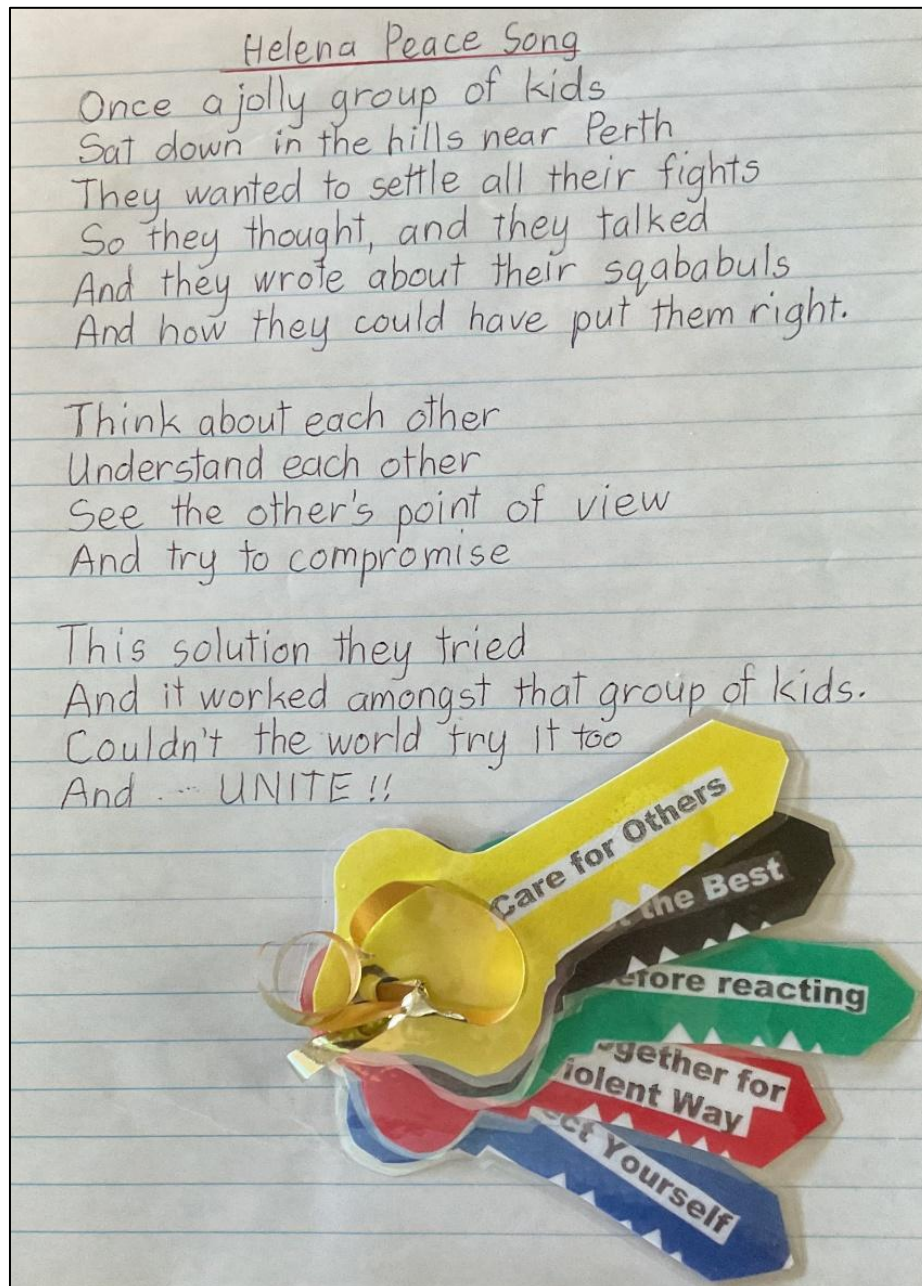
Sally Herzfeld

A celebration of the International Day of Peace will be held at the Darlington Hall on the 21st of September from 3.00 until 4.30 pm. There will be entertainment inside the hall and, if it's not raining, we'll do the Maypole, the Tug of Peace and Circle Dancing outside. We'll also plant a tree and take a photo of everyone holding their banners.

If school children would like to contribute to a booklet called 'Our Kids Care' they could write or draw about a problem or disagreement they solved peacefully.

Please send these and any item ideas to Sally. alisonherzfeld@gmail.com

Sally's Peace Song (to the tune of Waltzing Matilda)



Editor's note

An AVP WA newsletter is published monthly.
If you have any news, photos, inmate contributions or
new things you've tried in workshops, please send
them to our newsletter editor Selene.

selenemoonbeams@gmail.com

Need more information?

For details of upcoming workshops or facilitator
days, to volunteer to help facilitate a workshop, or
just to find out more about AVP, please contact
our administrator Selene.

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