



Caring for land, caring for people

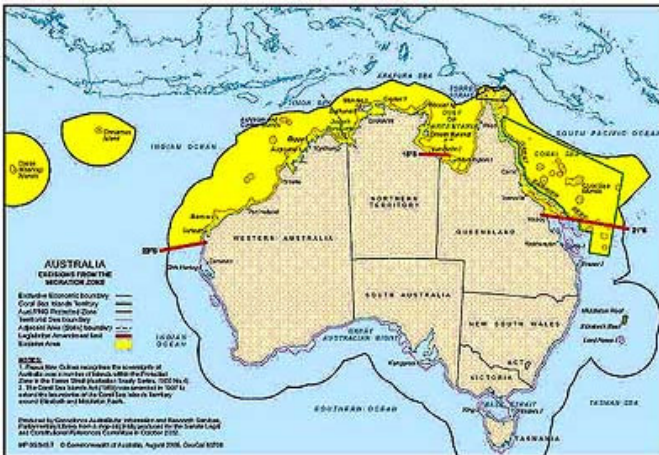
making a safer world

Project SafeCom Inc.

Project SafeCom Inc.

2008 Annual Report

January 2009



The Rudd-Gillard “dream team” may well have won the election, but the improvement in treatment of refugees and asylum seekers left much to be desired since Rudd won office. Neither Rudd nor Gillard, or for that sake the new Immigration Minister Chris Evans, were keen to ‘rock the boat’ on this issue, in the typical Australian style of ambivalence around the reception of those running away from their countries. The draconian ‘excision zone’ established by Howard, scolded by Labor while in opposition, was left in place, the Christmas Island ‘gulag’ was still there, and the inferior exclusion from the full human rights legislation for boat arrivals was only partly changed.

See <http://www.safecom.org.au/excisionzone-backflip.htm>



Perhaps the sweetest victory of all for those who yearned for an Australia without John Howard where a sense of social justice could return, was his defeat in Bennelong by former ABC reporter Maxine McKew, who soundly kicked him out of his seat, a symbolic battle fiercely fought by thousands of volunteers with support from *GetUp!*, one that equalled the US election campaign won by Barack Obama a year later. Here’s the link to Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s Motion of Apology – the marker of his start in government:

<http://www.safecom.org.au/apology-motion.htm>

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Introduction

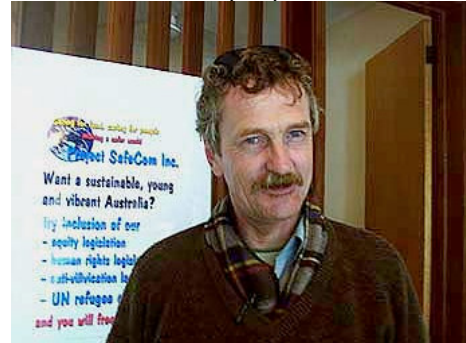
Sally Wearne, Chair & Jack Smit, Co-ordinator



With the common enemy in sight, an enemy who happens to be a hostile power to many people, it's easy to strengthen the bond in common purpose, but once that enemy is defeated, the bond replaces itself and another vision or direction develops.

Perhaps this is the lesson we learnt, or had to learn, during the period under consideration for this 2008

Annual Report. After all, after the Howard government was defeated by Kevin07 slowly a shift in direction and purpose emerged in Australia during 2008.



After the election had changed Canberra, the question became more relevant than during the Howard years, who our supporters were and are: were they 'refugee activists' or 'refugee advocates', and in this distinction, were they adhering to a universal rights perspective or to a welfare perspective?

Could it be assumed that our supporters also would be human rights advocates who would welcome a call for a Bill of Rights for Australia, or could it be assumed that they had supported us because of the 'citizen-driven' nature of our organisation, or because they had expected us to do more case-driven lobbying or case-based advocacy or case-based intervention – and had already abandoned us, and would more follow them?

Or, would most of our supporters, now that the Howard government had been thrashed during the 2007 election, abandon us and think – incorrectly or not, and however they would define it – that “the problem was now over and done”, even if they would not express this view to us?

Posed in a wider context of how Project SafeCom was formulated, the question became whether we could take our audience with us to, in preparation for serious climate change impacts, to look at the issue of climate change and *climate refugees*? After all, while the media right around the world happily uses the term '*climate refugees*', UNHCR, and consequently those NGO's that strictly follow the mandate springing from the parameters of Convention refugees, sternly frown upon the – inevitable, but in their eyes inappropriate – use of this term, arguing that the UN definition of '*refugee*' precludes its use for people driven from their homes *when it's the wrath of the planet and its climate*, and not their governments or political groupings in their countries that “persecutes” them and drives them out.

The Germans have a well-worn phrase that tells us about human beings being affected by events that are still to come, sometimes long in advance of any of these events, sometimes even invisible to themselves. The saying goes “*Große Ereignisse werfen ihre Schatten voraus*” (important events throw their shadows ahead), and from a sociodramatic perspective, a

perspective that looks at the unfolding dramas in society and its impact on individual lives, the first half of 2008, while marked by Kevin Rudd's *2020 Summit* and his *Motion of Apology to the Stolen Generations*, may well be said to already have thrown the shadows ahead of the global financial crisis, the resulting crisis in personal employment perspectives, while the overall confidence of *serious climate impact events* expectations is still growing beneath the surface of human consciousness.

We are all impacted by these forces – the shifts around and following the 2007 Federal election as well as those economic and climate change forces still at work and affecting our daily lives. Perhaps they are all factors working their way in the background when we consider shifts and changes in the committee – we had several during the year. Thanks should go to those who left us: former chair Jeff Strahan, and (acting) treasurers Vic Hoisington and Cedric Beidatsch.

While a number of members did not renew their membership for the year, there's plenty of evidence that this did not mean they stopped supporting us in other ways, for example by sending donations or purchasing some of our promoted and marketed products. In fact, their contributions as well as the many contributions by others, made this year our best year in financial terms, showing consistently that Project SafeCom, starting from nothing more than seven years ago, has continued its growth. We're still here, and there are no plans to change all that.

Fremantle, January 2009

*Sally Wearne, Chair
Jack H Smit, Co-ordinator*

Coordinator's Report

Dear members,
Dear committee members,

"I've started painting my lounge and kitchen, and I have installed additional shelving, the garden and backyard still needs loads of intensive work, but the start is there..."

Of course, this has nothing to do with this Annual Report – or has it?

I think it does, because these adjustments to my personal life are marked by a relaxation after the thrashing of the Howard administration by Labor's *Kevin07* in the 2007 Federal election, and they are very much in sync with changes felt by many people around Australia: the adjustments are a sign of relative relaxation. As I get my personal space back after frantically working on the issues of mandatory detention and the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers during the Howard years, working most of the time for up to 80 hours a week since Tampa in 2001, without allowing myself any breaks, I can be assured that there has been a change in Australia. *As I get my life back, Australia gets a life too.*

It took me considerable time to adjust to an Australia without John Howard: for almost 5 months I experienced a slight but distinct panic jolt whenever the ABC news started a sentence with *"the prime minister said this morning..."* wrongly thinking that Howard would get an *audio newsgrab* following the newsreader's intro.

Note: this report was written in January 2009, and some remarks inevitably include some developments that came about since the conclusion of the 2007-08 financial year.

immigration, asylum seekers

This is not to say that the defeat of the radical and manipulative neo-conservative government of John Howard has resolved all problems overnight. Labor arbitrarily and mandatorily imprisons boat-faring asylum seekers with a smile and with many friendly gestures – *they were the inventors of the policy* – and while Kevin Rudd's Immigration Minister has employed his portfolio with charisma and excellent manners, there will be no end to the control of movements of asylum seekers by locking them up in maximum security facilities. As I write these pages, reports reach the media that Labor still locks up children, no matter what label is tacked on this "form of detention" by Immigration Department (DIAC) *spin meisters*, while two asylum seekers who vanished from the centre on Christmas Island for an entire day last month were named as "having escaped detention" – *as if anyone can escape the island!* – and up till now DIAC has failed to clarify to the media (while all media outlets have failed to confront DIAC with the question) whether this *escapade* will indeed result in criminal charges being brought against the two men for "escaping legal custody": legally this is within the Immigration Minister's range of possible responses.

Chris Evans and Kevin Rudd have also brazenly maintained the spin around the mode of transport boat-faring asylum seekers are usually forced to use – even while Labor does not

maintain the farcical notion of “illegality” of sailing to Australia to seek asylum, a farce invented by Howard and Ruddock as part of the 2001 election campaign – Rudd and Evans keep calling this form of usually inferior transport “*people smuggling*” to keep the electorate happy and to stop the screams of the xenophobic nationalists and conservative right-wingers. Both the *UN’s International People Smuggling Convention* and our national laws have been manipulatively implemented to make this construct of untruths possible. If it’s not illegal to sail to a Convention country to seek protection, then *the transporteur* is not a people smuggler but a transport provider, but no lawyer is challenging this farce in any court, and no journalist or reporter takes up the cause of debunking this spin: it doesn’t sell papers, and it doesn’t give the lawyer jobs or esteem.

Project SafeCom is not in the business of applauding politicians, but we hope to *keep them honest, responsive and accountable*. While it is true that during the first year of *Kevin07* we saw the end of the *Pacific Solution*, the end of *temporary protection visas*, and a further retreat of some of the excesses of the Howard years, including an increasingly better attitude in some sections of the Immigration Department, it should not be forgotten that Labor is not retreating to the position it held in 1996 before the Howard years – let alone to a position of the pre-1992 years, where Australia had open reception centres for asylum seekers, regardless of their mode of arrival. Retreating from evil does not constitute *doing good*.

John Howard’s shocking *excision zone*, where our international responsibilities do not need to be adhered to on more than 4,600 islands off our coast, Julia Gillard’s 2003 *pushing the boats back policy*, where any vessel that is seaworthy will be pushed back to Indonesia – or wherever it came from – remain in place; no newly introduced laws prohibit the mandatory detention of asylum seekers who arrive by boat, and the purpose-built Christmas Island Gulag, designed at a cost of more than \$400 million, with an annual operating cost of more than \$25 million, even if it’s empty, was declared open for business just in December 2008.

While the speed of processing claims generally seems to be in line with Labor’s stated promises on party-political level and during national party conventions (“*Labor will process 90% of the claims within 90 days*”), its promise to return the running of Australia’s Immigration detention centres to the Australian public service, loudly proclaimed around the 2004 ALP Convention by the now Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith MP during public speeches, was brazenly broken when Evans announced in December 2008 that the operator would remain as before: a subsidiary of the notorious US jailhouse corporate giant, so often having been under a cloud, Group 4 Falck, GSL – now renamed G4S – has just won an extension to its immigration detention operations contract.

indigenous issues

The last politically opportune act by former PM John Howard, who was faced with a predicted and inevitable election loss during the spring of 2007, was his ghastly act of ‘John Howard-style Reconciliation’: sending in the troops and the coppers into the Northern Territory to fix indigenous inequality, to raid communities, make life uncomfortable in many towns, forfeit Aboriginal lands and to make it easier to send in mining and exploration companies without encumbrances by indigenous interests – all in preparation for the complete undoing of the Northern Territory Land Rights Act.



While Kevin Rudd was feted right around the world in the media for his first symbolic Act in Parliament – his motion of apology to the Stolen Generations – his failure to roll back The Northern Territory Intervention, even to the point where his Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin refused to adopt essential recommendations of the Review into the Intervention as conducted as an initiative of the Rudd government, and his refusal to move on from the symbolism of the Apology to formal and financial compensation to those who had been stolen from their families, reduced him to the normal size of any Labor politician: promise one thing, then do another.

The Rudd government has just become the next government in a long series – a government that keeps indigenous disadvantage on the cards, so as to enable some political acts to make everyone around the country feel better, preferably before an election. As social justice and human rights advocates we are and ought to be deeply embarrassed and thoroughly ashamed over so much political manipulation and opportunism continuously poured out over Australia’s first peoples, Australia’s first occupants, and its original and continued traditional owners.

climate change

Kevin Rudd also considerably raised Australia’s expectations by signing the Kyoto Protocol, and his announcement at the Bali Conference in the beginning of the year caused the audience to erupt into thunderous applause when Australia finally came on board with the rest of the world. It was a truly impressive moment for those who were there.

Yet also on this issue – one that should be the most important issue of all time for Australia as well as the rest of the world, given the state of the planet and many wholly unambiguous scientific climate change reports – the performance of the Rudd government was so disappointing so as to unashamedly constitute a blunt betrayal of Australia, of Australians, and of the planet itself.

The early signs warned those with eyes wide open: first there was the Environment Minister Peter Garrett, whom I have called “*Latham’s Last Liability*”. Of course he should not have accepted *Latham’s choice* but instead have joined Parliament either as an independent or as a candidate for The Greens, given his uncompromising position on sustainability issues and the environment before entering politics. Insider opinion has now become well established that Garrett has been muted and sidelined by the Rudd government, and while his portfolio became a minor one, Senator Penny Wong became the main spokesperson for climate change as the Minister for this portfolio.

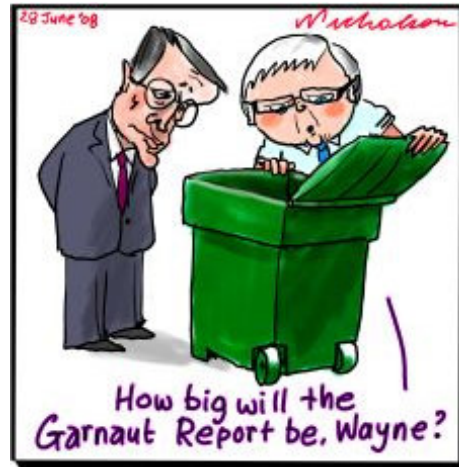


Secondly, and more significantly, the climate change section at the 2020 Canberra Summit in April 2008, touted as a kind of *People's Congress*, showed a concerning trend in the result of all those present having been selected by Kevin Rudd and Melbourne University's Professor Glyn Davis: just one representative from dozens of Australia's NGO's and community groups (including the state-based sustainability and environment agencies) concerned about climate change issues – Anna Rose – made it to the conference, while the chiefs of XStrata and Shell were amongst the many industry representatives. It did not auger well for our climate change policies that *'the polluters'* were stacking Kevin's Canberra Climate. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/summit2020-coal.htm>

Then there was Ross Garnaut, Rudd's climate change advisor, who initially was feared to become a conservative factor, more interested in economic outcomes than in assisting to truly avert, armed with the well-documented evidence of expectation patterns in climate change disasters, the destructive events we all dread. He presented his Interim Report, then, at the end of the financial year his Draft Report, and as soon as that was published, Greens Senator Christine Milne commented in reference to his support for as yet unproven 'clean coal' technology:

"...Garnaut clearly has a blind spot on coal. He has been taken in by "fool's coal" and believes that geosequestration will be the saviour of the Hunter and Latrobe Valleys ... like the politicians, he seems incapable of envisioning Australia beyond coal."

See <http://www.safecom.org.au/garnaut-draft.htm>



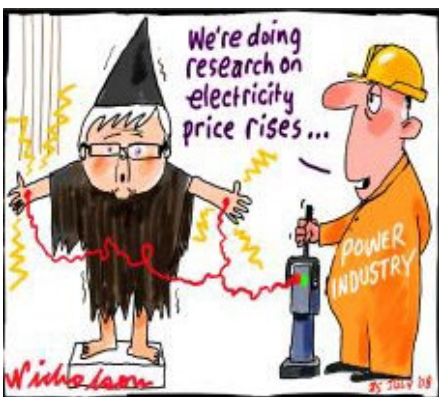
Soon things would get even worse for Kevin Rudd, when the government finally announced their carbon reduction targets for 2020. Garnaut would be furious and accuse Rudd, while NASA Scientist James Hanson would write an open letter to US presidential candidate Barack Obama, accusing Australia with its coal industry of potentially "guarantee destruction of much of the life on the planet".

See <http://www.safecom.org.au/rudds-climate-troubles.htm>

So, while Kevin07 may well have made a flying start – entirely compatible with the make-up of his personality, as someone who works long hours and who doesn't stop to relax – it's not thanks to him or his government that the polls still prefer the government to the opposition, which remains beholden, and therefore immobilised, to their "former and absent guru and leader", John Howard. When the polls will start turning, we'll see the beginning of the end of favours for Labor, and a radical decline in Rudd's popularity will be on its way all too soon, I expect.

During the year 2007-08 I consolidated, resourced, and developed many aspects of the material summarised above in various sections of the website, not in the least the 'green' sustainability section. Both the unfolding of Kevin07's story and the development of the Rudd government's climate change policies, the pressure of the 'old' and polluting companies on his government and the policy failure to set credible carbon reduction

targets by 2020 are now well documented on our website – and the pages are accessed and keenly read by hundreds of visitors every day.



I hope that with that work I've set the scene for Project SafeCom, in the coming years, to increase its focus on climate change issues, highlighting the intersection where human rights meet with climate change and climate change events, in order to keep its attention on the issues of those who will be increasingly caught up in the ever-heating crossfire of climate change events, both here and internationally.

We've learnt during the years 2001-08 that citizen groups can have a considerable influence within conservative politicians' circles on future policy outcomes. While we already successfully completed some online letter writing campaigns to Rudd's Immigration Minister Chris Evans, the scene is now set – and the time is urging us – to keep linking with many other groups and organisations and make our dissatisfaction felt and heard with a government that's been "all too slick" in its machinery, while not producing enough substance in policy outcomes, thus putting citizens, our habitat, our national population, and – following from Professor James Hanson's letter to Barack Obama – the world population, at a great risk, because it is politically compromised by the most powerful ones amongst those who do not want to change their industry practices that damage the Earth.

This year's events

paddling the excision zone

Kulcha, Sunday 5 August 2007¹ – (sponsored by Kulcha Multicultural Arts of WA) Latrobe's Dr David Corlett, author of *Following Them Home: the fate of the returned asylum seekers*, and Simon Keenan from *Paddling For Refugees*, on their sea kayaking journey in and around Australia's 'excised zone' - those parts of Australia's north that have been legislatively cut off from the migration zone in order to prohibit any asylum seeker arriving there from applying for the full range of refugee protection laws in Australia - were our guests while travelling through Perth starting their trip from Coral Bay, kayaking at significant sections of the excised zone along the WA coast. In another first, this was an event supported by two bands (*blac blocs*, *airport city shuffle*) and by well-known activist poet Allan Boyd. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/paddling-excision-event.htm>

porkbarreling human rights

Fremantle Town Hall, Thursday 8 November 2007 – (sponsored by the City of Fremantle and the Fremantle Herald) Following a screening of Michael Winterbottom's *The Road to Guantánamo*, we showcased the Federal candidates for the Federal Seat of Fremantle and the WA Senate candidates in a structured debate moderated by Edith Cowan University's Human Geography lecturer and researcher Dr Nancy Hudson-Rodd under the title

¹ Reprinted from the 2007 Annual Report

“Porkbarreling Human Rights”, asking the candidates how they would defend and advocate the full range of human rights in Canberra if elected to Parliament. While the event was well attended, feedback also told us that the documentary, although appropriate material, was too long for the evening forum.

Regrettably, but rather predictably, no Liberal, National party or Family First candidates turned up for the forum. Absence was declared for them with or without apologies.

See <http://www.safecom.org.au/freo-forum07.htm>

andrew bartlett and a nun's new habit

Fremantle Film and TV Institute, Saturday 21 June 2008 – *(sponsored by Kulcha Multicultural Arts of WA and the Fremantle Herald)* For this 2008 World Refugee Day event we secured the presence of Democrats Senator Andrew Bartlett, who was in his last week as a Senator before retiring following the 2007 election. Following the screening of the Robyn Hughs’s documentary *“A Nun’s New Habit”* about Sr Carmel Waucope, the Port Pirie advocate, Bartlett gave an outline and overview of his work in the Senate. We were graced with the presence of the filmmaker who had flown over from Victoria for the screening, and a range of advocates, activists, NGO representatives and politicians were at hand to personally fete and thank Andrew Bartlett for his work during his time in Parliament. Fremantle Mayor Peter Tagliaferri opened the event, hosted by our then chair Jeff Strahan. See <http://www.safecom.org.au/wrd2008.htm>

e-event: there's an elephant in my backyard

June-July 2008 : There's an Elephant In My Backyard – *(a letter writing campaign from our website)* The Christmas Island detention centre, built by Howard at a tax-payer cost of more than \$400 million, had just been the subject of questions by Greens Senator Kerry Nettle in sittings by the Parliamentary Legal and Constitutional committee (nicknamed *“Estimates”*), when we ran this online campaign in the form of a letter to Immigration Minister Chris Evans in the lead-up to 2008 World Refugee Day.

Senator Nettle had been successful in prising answers from the Immigration Department, confirming that the centre’s presence itself, even if empty, would cost the Australian taxpayer in excess of \$25 million per year. The disturbing news provided a good trigger to mobilize our audience into action while informing them at the same time of several outstanding issues, which they brought to the attention of the Minister (*Excision Zone, the ‘pushback’ policy, billing for detention, the contracting of detention services to GSL, and Labor’s back peddling on an Immigration Royal Commission*)

See <http://www.safecom.org.au/petition-chris-evans.htm>

The website

A separate discussion of our website is appropriate, because it's one of our central *tools of trade*, and traffic as well as the comprehensive information resource it now is, justifies giving it this attention.

About 65-70 new pages were added to the website during the year, bringing the total amount of stand-alone web pages to over 1,000.

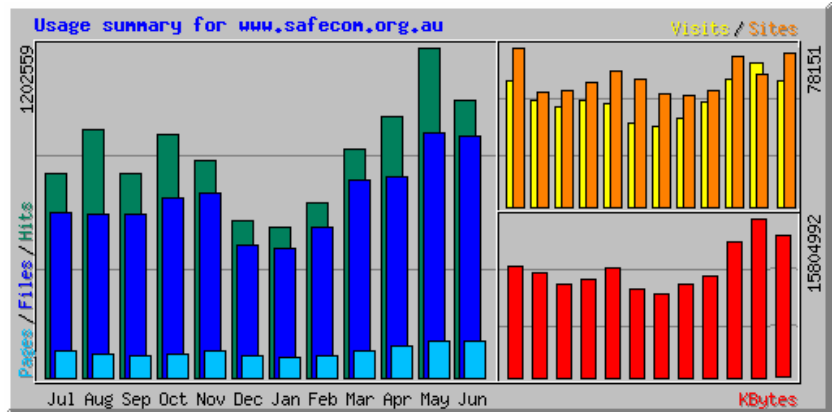
In a major initiative, the co-ordinator, who also maintains the website, started on a major editing and '*renovation*' program of the site as soon as the 2007 Federal election saw the Federal government change hands.

There were several reasons for this major website renovation. First, the site had to be adjusted to account for the change of government, and yes, making these changes constituted a "*sweet relegation of John Howard*" to an era of the past. Secondly, many pages had been created during 'frantic' times of incidents and crises in detention, in a great hurry – and no time had been available for sufficient checking of errors in coding.

And finally – and perhaps most importantly, the website was written in the HTML coding language of the period around 1998, and this coding language has long been superseded by better and more advanced HTML language versions.

It was determined that the first change would be to 'translate' the coding into HTML 4.01 *Transitional*, the language especially developed for this 'transitional phasing out' of older coding, to then do a second round of adjustments as an upgrade to HTML 4.01 *Strict*, in preparation for the final translation in this project to Extensible HTML (XHTML 1.0)

This project will take considerable time, and will probably be completed by the end of 2010.²



Month	Daily averages		Monthly totals	
	Pages	Visits	Visits	Pages
June 2008	4375	1945	58369	131266
May 2008	4332	2269	70341	134302
Apr 2008	3768	2080	62404	113041
Mar 2008	3066	1670	51781	95076
Feb 2008	2801	1503	43598	81230
Jan 2008	2477	1282	39747	76813
Dec 2007	2596	1324	41059	80480
Nov 2007	3248	1689	50673	97464
Oct 2007	2857	1689	52365	88592
Sep 2007	2736	1636	49081	82097
Aug 2007	2799	1685	52238	86788
Jul 2007	3167	1992	61775	98191
Jun 2007	3404	2204	66131	102128

Website statistics table for 2007-08
Daily averages and monthly totals of number of pages viewed and number of visitors accessing the Project SafeCom website.

² At the time of writing the first phase is almost completed, while around 500 pages are completed in phase 2.

From January to April 2008 the co-ordinator threw himself head-first into the first stage, and about 700 pages were upgraded to HTML 4.01 transitional. When *Google* started picking up the changes a few weeks later, the number of visitors per day (see table and figure) as well as number of pages viewed by these visitors, increased markedly (see May 2008).

The high-quality and low-cost (around \$AUS100 per year) US owned, Hong-Kong based web hosting service, ICDSOFT, owned by NetworkSolutions.com, is well suited to our demands: maximum disk space is more than 1,000Mb while we occupy around 230Mb, providing us with a free space of 790Mb – enough for future growth. Transfer quota per month (upload incl. download of pages to visitors' computers) is 20,000Mb, while on average we experience around 12-14,000Mb of traffic. The customer service platform is responsive, helpful and almost immediate, around the clock, and staffed by 'real humans'.

One of the most attractive aspects of our web hosting service is the availability of an unlimited number of email addresses in the domain safecom.org.au, all of them equipped with individual autoresponder and auto-reply features. This feature has made it possible for all messages, submissions, letters to politicians and product orders, sent to us from the website, to be followed with an immediately issued auto-reply or thank-you message, while the original submission or message is sent back to the website visitor or client, attached to the reply or following it. The feature is now the backbone of our communication with the many visitors and with our ordering clients, and it has eliminated much of the work, for example in the area of product orders.

The form messages sent through the around 60 individual email addresses each connected with one form page, are all forwarded in turn to '*catch-all email addresses*' for the various operational sections, such as "memberships", "products", "inquiries", "newsletter queries" and "coordinator". This set-up enables various jobs to be reset to different volunteers or members of the committee with a simple resetting of one central email address. Without this, we can no longer imagine managing all the operations as a result of our growing website.

The growth in traffic and the increasing effectiveness of the website for search engines made it worthwhile to install *Google* advertising on the site. This was the first year where *Google Inc* returned around one dollar per day to us for click-throughs on their adverts, placed in a targeted and intelligent way by the company, and at all times of a "family-friendly" nature.

Website traffic is expected to steadily increase as the renovation and upgrade of the site progresses, and following the work during 2007-08, an initial target of 2,000 visitors per day, who access up to 5,000 pages per day, can reasonably be set for the year 2008-09, while the daily *Google Advertising* returns can be expected to increase to around \$2 to \$3.

Financial Report

We should praise ourselves lucky that after seven years our financial electronic and documented record keeping has risen to such a standard of professionalism, that it would almost run by itself without anyone doing anything, because on two occasions there was a changing of the guard: first Cedric Beidatsch, who had accepted the role of treasurer after his stepping down as the chair, resigned at the beginning of the year, only to be followed before the end of the year by the resignation from his casual acting role as treasurer by Vic Hoisington.

Because of the overriding electronic nature of Project SafeCom, daily bookkeeping falls to the full-time co-ordinator, and the role of treasurer is not so much one of 'paying the bills' as of supervision and checking of documentation, receipt and records against the entries in the electronic records in Excel – in many ways an easier and less demanding role than a treasurer in a pre-electronic age.

So, by the time the end of the year approached, the books were able to be sent to our 'usual' auditor and accountant, Ray Woolley Pty Ltd. He also checks all records for accuracy as a matter of course, and he was able to fix some of the 'usual' bloopers that had slipped into the books but that were overlooked.

The 2007-08 financial report in this chapter includes two Annual summaries for the year: the first summary is from our own electronic records, followed by the Auditor's summary. A comparison of both record shows no variations or deviations in totals for reasons other than bookkeeping methods.

2007-08 was our best financial year so far, increasing our gross income once again, as the table shows. The marked increase in income this year compared to 2006-07 is due to three main factors.

year	income
2001-02	\$1,091.62
2002-03	\$8,084.16
2003-04	\$17,600.49
2004-05	\$23,300.00
2005-06	\$18,478.05
2006-07	\$24,928.44
2007-08	\$30,870.30

First, after successfully polling all News and Updates subscribers (in March 2006), who had received our highly valued text-only newsletter as a free service since our establishment in 2001, we had learnt that our audience was prepared to pay for the service, and we upgraded it to a Members-only news service: the \$30 Membership fees were below the amount several subscribers had declared they would be prepared to pay for the service. This transition, which had been handled slowly and sensitively over a



period of almost 18 months, resulted in a healthy increase in membership numbers, and consequently a rise in our income from membership payments. See the Readership Poll: <http://www.safecom.org.au/poll-results.htm>

Secondly, we were so lucky to have several products available for online orders that were available to us at higher than usual margins. Both of the products were DVD movie documentaries: the Baxter visit movie 'We Will Be Remembered for This' and the Victorian Fabians' Melbourne Town Hall filmed theatre piece

'*The Trial of John Winston Howard*'. Both items sold over a hundred copies in a short time. The results are visible in the Annual Summary statement below by comparing expenditure item *Promotion costs* (which includes the merchant rate purchase of all books and products) with the income item *Sales & Promotions*.

2007-08 was also the first year that the co-ordinator received formal compensation for work performed. While the monthly Expenses Reimbursement of \$10 for each day of the year – *note that the co-ordinator short-changed himself by one day during the year!* – was in place, a decision was also taken to call for regular pledges specifically designed to remunerate the co-ordinator and open a separate Pledge account, and a mailout was initiated from the Chair's email address (during 2006-07, by former chairman Cedric Beidatsch). On the advice of our Accountant Ray Woolley these payments were made, and reported to Centrelink as "ex-gratia payments" and "once-off donations" to circumvent the notion of payment of salaries, which would have attracted a raft of rules and taxes. Paying out in this way would also keep the Committee free from obligations to pay if income for this purpose would decline at any given time.

Accounts at Bendigo Community Bank Fremantle

Account name Project SafeCom Inc

- Main account: number 115643900, BSB 633 000
- Pledge account: number 130035587, BSB 633 000

In the Income Statements the *Surplus for the Year* is reported as a negative value of \$-2,160.30. While on first impression this may not "*look good*", it includes funds (\$2,495) paid out from the Non-cheque account established for remunerations of the Co-ordinator during the last few months of the 2007-07 year. While these funds were generated in the previous year, they were paid during the current year. Subtracted, the surplus of the year is a positive total of \$334,70.

This year, as during previous years, the co-ordinator was registered with Centrelink as a "full-time volunteer" working for Project SafeCom, which attracts the equivalent of unemployment benefits. Because of the tightening of Centrelink's eligibility criteria during the Howard years, it was seen as appropriate to have Project SafeCom listed as a *registered volunteer organisation* with Centrelink, a request which was put into action, and duly approved, after Project SafeCom took out an NGO insurance (Rural and Insurance Brokers) to cover volunteer employees and assistants (AFA Insurance, \$500,000) and a Public Liability Cover (Commercial Pacific Insurance, \$5,000,000).

Annual Summary Statement for the year ending 30 June 2008

Income

(Internal Transfers)	\$5,120.00	
Interest		\$0.55
Membership Fees		\$3,588.50
Donations & Gifts		\$7,022.35
Sales & Promotions		\$15,673.88
Website income		\$445.02
Total General income		\$26,730.30

Salary Account		\$4,140.00
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Total Income **\$30,870.30**

Expenditure

	Main Acct	Cash Acct	Total
(Transfers to Cash Account)			\$2,667.00
Postage	\$1,219.30	\$117.50	\$1,336.80
Office equipment	\$281.94		\$281.94
Printing and Stationery	\$721.67	\$583.69	\$1,305.36
Bank charges	\$82.04		\$82.04
Website	\$119.18		\$119.18
Internet access	\$805.45	\$64.60	\$870.05
Phone	\$3,445.49		\$3,445.49
Audit	\$788.50		\$788.50
Insurance	\$1,100.00		\$1,100.00
Public Utilities	\$878.15		\$878.15
Travel	\$1,268.26	\$1,518.35	\$2,786.61
Expenses Reimbursement	\$3,640.00		\$3,640.00
Promotion costs	\$7,035.03	\$406.95	\$7,441.98
Administration	\$2,200.00		\$2,200.00
Donations (incl Co-ordinator)	\$5,120.00		\$5,120.00
Corporate Memberships	\$134.50		\$134.50
Total Expenditure	\$28,839.51	\$2,691.09	\$31,530.60

16/07/07 Salary Account Co-ordinator payout		\$1,500.00
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Total Expenditure **\$33,030.60**

Surplus for the year **\$2,160.30-**

Cash Account

Total cash expenses		\$2,691.09
Cash Transfers from main account		\$2,698.00
Cash in hand		\$6.91

Funds on July 1, 2007

Cash on Hand Brought Forward		\$31.00
Cash at Bank Brought Forward		\$816.58
Salary Acct Balance Brought Forward		\$2,495.00
		<u>\$3,342.58</u>

Total Funds **\$1,182.28**

Funds on June 30, 2008

Cash on Hand Carried Forward		\$6.91
Cash at Bank Carried Forward		\$1,160.37
Salary Acct Balance Carried Forward		\$15.00
		<u>\$1,182.28</u>

Project SafeCom Inc.
Auditor's Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2008

Ray Woolley Pty Ltd, PO Box 1788, West Perth WA 6872

Income	30/06/08	30/06/07
Donations & Gifts	11,162.35	10,333.82
Interest	0.55	0.95
Membership Fees	3,588.50	2,982.46
Sales & Promotions	15,673.88	11,335.21
Website Advertising	445.02	276.00
Total Income	30,870.30	24,928.44
Expenditure		
Administration	2,200.00	1,345.89
Audit	1,100.00	0.00
Bank Charges	82.04	9.85
Corporate Memberships	134.50	108.50
Donations	6,620.00	0.00
Expense Reimbursement	3,640.00	3,489.05
Insurance	788.50	0.00
Internet	870.05	963.56
Office Equipment	281.94	910.58
Postage	1,336.80	1,045.68
Printing & Stationery	1,305.36	1,522.28
Promotion Costs	7,441.98	7,593.10
Public Utilities	878.15	481.08
Sundry Expenses	0.00	78.80
Telephone	3,445.49	4,609.11
Travel Expenses	2,786.61	1,923.77
Website Expenses	119.18	154.86
Total Expenditure	33,030.60	24,236.11
Surplus for the year	-2,160.30	692.33
Cash on Hand Brought Forward	31.00	191.59
Cash at Bank Brought Forward	816.58	2,458.66
Cash at Bank Non - Cheque Account Brought Forward	2,495.00	0.00
	<u>3,342.58</u>	<u>2,650.25</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$1,182.28</u>	<u>\$3,342.58</u>
Cash on Hand Carried Forward	6.91	31.00
Cash at Bank Carried Forward	1,160.37	816.58
Cash at Bank Non - Cheque Account Carried Forward	15.00	2,495.00
	<u>\$1,182.28</u>	<u>\$3,342.58</u>

RAY WOOLLEY PTY LTD

ABN 30 056 227 297

ACCOUNTANTS

PRINCIPAL:
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TELEPHONE: (08) 9322 7455
FACSIMILE: (08) 9481 8025
EMAIL: rayw@opera.iinet.net.au

UNIT 1, 20 PROWSE STREET
WEST PERTH WA 6005
PO BOX 1788
WEST PERTH
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6872

23 August 2008

Project Safecom Inc.
PO Box 364
Narrogin
WA 6312

Dear Jack

We have audited the books and records of Project Safecom Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2008. We conducted an independent audit and found that the records are in good order.

Yours sincerely



Ray Woolley

List of Members

Note: this list includes those members who were financially current during the year 2007-08 and those who became members since that financial year, and new members accepted at recent steering committee meetings.

<p>Western Australia</p> <p>Janine Abbott, Wembley Downs Ian Alexander, Fremantle Veronica Anderson, North Fremantle Simon Barnett, Mosman Park Cedric Beidatsch, Doubleview Sheila Blundeel-Wignall, Maylands Carmel Boyce, Eaton Justine Brosnan, Dianella Chilla Bulbeck, Cottesloe Adele Carles, South Fremantle John Carroll, Subiaco Hugh Charlesworth, Narrogin Liana Christensen, Hilton Ross Copeland, Carine David Coulter, Claremont Jennifer Cramer, West Perth Andy Dent, Gwelup Paul Desmond, High Wycombe Michelle Dimasi, Christmas Island, Indian Ocean Yvonne Duffield, Beechboro Colin Edwards, Subiaco Kim Gibson, Hamilton Hill Jodie Goodman, Beaconsfield Natalie G Haymann, Denmark Jennifer Hoskins, Northlands Rosemary Hudson-Miller, Perth Mary Keely, Carlisle Mandy Kiely, Roleystone Carmen Lawrence, North Fremantle Fiona Logan, Fremantle Theo Mackaay, Fremantle Lynn MacLaren, East Fremantle Ria Martens, West Perth Steve Mellor, Woodvale Marcelle Meyer, Como Rosalie Miles, Gwelup Rod Mitchell, Guildford Gavin Mooney, East Fremantle Anne Parker, Cowaramup Jane Paterson, White Gum Valley Jeanette Richards, Nedlands Anne Ross, Redcliffe Dennis Ryle, Wembley Downs Darryl Seward, Dunsborough Jack H Smit, Narrogin Jon Strachan, South Fremantle Jeff Strahan, Fremantle Larry Stringer, Hilton Marta Szedlak, Bullcreek Joanne Thurman, Hamilton Hill Tony Troughton-Smith, Glen Forrest Sally Wearne, East Fremantle Michael Wearne, Fremantle</p>	<p>Victoria</p> <p>Brigid Arthur, Albert Park John Ball, Melbourne Colleen Bartolomei, Brunswick West Kevin Bracken, Port Melbourne Teresa Cannon, Ferntree Gully Margaret Cassidy, Springvale Pamela Curr, Brunswick Margaret Dahlstrom, Parkville Ivan Dimitrov, Toorak Clifford Dubery, Frankston David Dyer, Ballarat Christine Fabel, Foster Peter Farago, Churchill Linda Gale, South Melbourne Frank Golding, Kensington Joan Good, Traralgon Anthony Helm, Tootgarook Judith Houston, Ballarat Brenda Hubber, East Melbourne David Hunt, Walwa Kate Jeffery, Canterbury Jean Jordan, Eltham Peter Laycock, Castlemaine Ben Leeman, Surrey Hills Helen Lewers, Napoleons Marg Lynn, Berry's Creek David Macilwain, Sandy Creek Wendy Morris, Eltham Rosemary Nairn, Thornbury Amy Nethery, Elsternwick Klaus Neumann, Hawthorn Joan Power, Balnarring Barbara Rogalla, Springvale Liz Shield, Thornbury Elaine Smith, Narre Warren South Erika Stahr, Clayton South Heather Stock, North Fitzroy Jessie Taylor, Hawthorn Savitri Taylor, Bundoora</p> <p>USA</p> <p>James S Huggins, Dallas TX Maria Cook, Ithaca New York</p> <p>Tasmania</p> <p>Sue Anderson, West Hobart John Biggs, Sandy Bay Sara Strong, Lilydale Helen Tait, West Launceston</p>
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New South Wales

Linda Anshell, Burra Creek
Colleen Angove, Sutton
Pattie Benjamin, Glebe
Laurie Berg, Enmore
Martin Bibby, Beecroft
Lesley Bond, Pampoolah
Oskar Booth, Bywong
Fabia Claridge, Castlecrag
Steve Cram, Strathfield
Sky de Jersey, Petersham
David Dignam, Bullabulla
Tami Ebner, Maroubra
Kate Gauthier, Glebe
Rachel Gleeson, Narrabri
Lisa Goodman, Surry Hills
Diane Gosden, Bundeena
Janet Grevillea, Wangi Wangi
Margaret Hetheron, Balmain
James Higgins, Mollymook Beach
Bradley Hughes, Coogee
Isabella Jeans, Moruya
Beatriz Leoncini, Connells Point
Connie McNamee, Coogee
Louise Megaloconomos, Congo
Jonathan Milford, Randwick
Marty Morrison, Palm Beach
Melanie Morrison, Undercliffe
Jim Norman, Orange
Paul Power, Surry Hills
Bruce Robertson, Randwick
Tony Simons, Henley
Genevieve Slattery, Drummoyne
Meg Stewart, Lake Conjola
Sherryl Stratford, Forster
Nanna van Dam, Tuncurry
Jane Vincent, Sutton

Australian Capital Territory

Annick Bourvéau, Kambah
Claire Bruhns, Rivett
Zahira-Madeleine Bullock, Watson
Jane Keogh, Hackett
Marion Lê, Fraser
Werner Padarin, Woden
Judy Poulos, Griffith

South Australia

Jenny Bourne, Port Augusta
Lyn Coleman, Prospect
Ron Hoenig, Hawthorn
Eva Hornung, Alberton
Daphne Lascaris, Athelstone
Denise MacKay, Mount Gambier
Tom Mann, Gawler East
Angela McDonagh, Port Noarlunga
Jan McInerney, Rose Park
Jean Oates, Whyalla
Claire O'Connor, Millswood
Janet Phillips, Cherry Gardens
Helen Sage, Malvern
Vera Shaul, Burnside

Queensland

Bronwyn Bell, Tanawha
Gary Blond, Joyner
Sue Bond, The Gap
Gwen Gorman, Camp Hill
Bronwen Lloyd, Woolloongabba
Paul McKinnon, Kangaroo Point
Freddie Steen, Chapel Hill
Ronald Webb, Kenilworth